

Calf of Man Bird Observatory



Annual Report **2018**

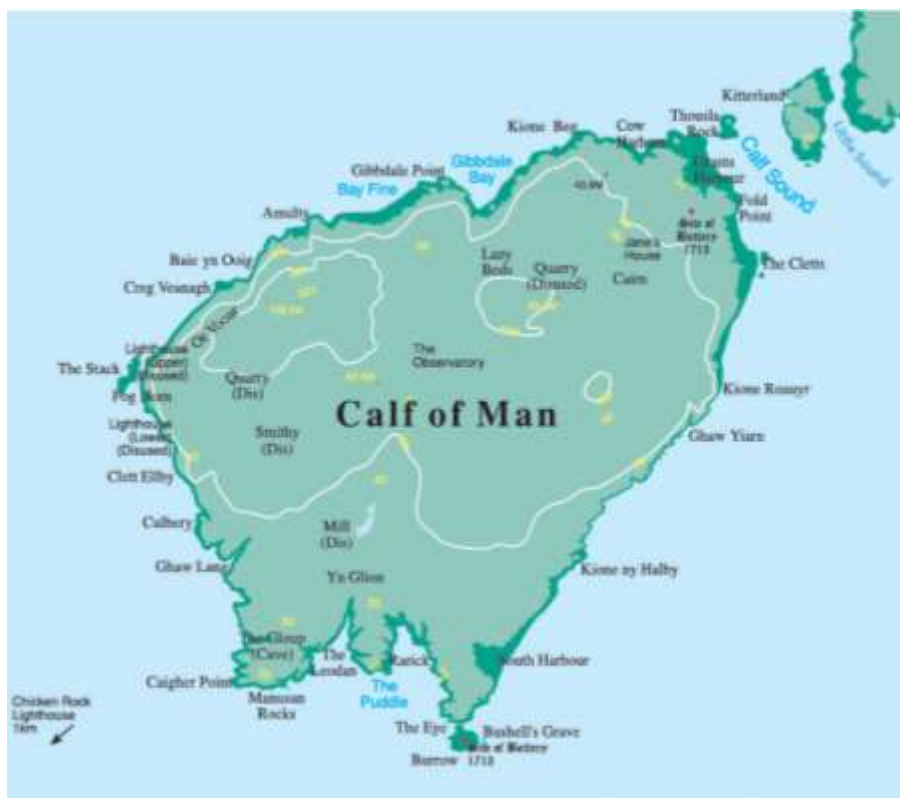


Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

Published by Manx National Heritage. Copyright © Manx National Heritage
Produced by Manx National Heritage in association with



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 2018, 265,441 birds (164 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.



*The 'New' Crow Trap
(Photo: Aron Sapsford)*

Visitor Information

The Estate Warden and Ornithological Warden oversee the day to day running of the islet and visitors and staying guests 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 take any rubbish away with them and ensure they 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 overnight visitors must pre-book accommodation through Island Escapes (from 2020 season). See www.islandescapes.im for availability Tel: 01624 830200.

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 & Steven Clague – Port St Mary Boat Excursions (Scraayl)
Tel: (01624) 834307 Mob: (07624) 490615

Chris Burton & Jason Fleming – Shona Boat Trips
email: shonaboattrips@manx.net
Tel: (07624) 322765 or (07624) 480682

Caroline & Phil Roriston – Isle of Man & Calf Boat Trips (Vagabond)
Tel: (07624) 490488 or (07624) 466522

Calf of Man
Bird Observatory Report
2018

Ornithological Warden - Aron Sapsford

Estate Wardens - Nathan Wilkie – March to August

Daniel Woollard – September to November

CONTENTS

Warden's Report	8
Monthly Summaries	22
Systematic List	60
Breeding Bird Totals	154
Ringing Report	156
Recoveries and Controls	170
Manx Shearwater Report	197
Non-avian Reports	210
• Butterflies	221
• Moths	229
Photographic Credits	234
List of Contributors	236

Wardens' Report

The season started on 11th March, when we arrived on the Calf, landing in South Harbour during the late afternoon, along with volunteers Paul Corrin and Mike Prior. Sunny and unseasonably warm weather over the next couple of days allowed the opening process and checking of how things had held up to the winter, to progress well. Lara Howe (MWT) joined us on 13th bringing a boat-full of supplies including a new kitchen, which Mike and Paul duly set to installing in the old storeroom, which was to be converted into a new Wardens' kitchen. The weather deteriorated over the next few days and Lara's departure was somewhat delayed; however, there were plenty of indoor jobs to keep busy with and over the next week the 'office' was cleared out and redecorated as the new 'volunteer warden's' bedroom, the wardens' lounge re-decoration was completed, and the kitchens and general accommodation cleaning was started. The cold conditions that had been experienced over winter returned, and we woke up to the rare sight of a dusting of snow



lying over the Calf on the 18th. Freezing conditions and strong north-easterly winds over the next couple of days created the phenomenon of an icefield above the Cletts, as water from a stream was blown back off the cliff edge and froze in mid-air creating

amazing icicles on fronds of Bracken and other vegetation. The weather improved sufficiently that the supply boat could run on the 20th, which allowed Lara to finally get off and for Oscar Adedeji to arrive and take up his role as volunteer fieldworker for the spring and summer seasons.

The first monitoring trip to Kitterland was made on 25th March, to assess the impact that baiting has had on the numbers of Longtails (Brown rat) that were present in 2017, and it is pleasing to report that this and subsequent visits during the summer of 2018, found no further evidence of infestation. Unfortunately, evidence of bait take was found on the Calf itself and during the season a total of seven sightings of Longtails were captured by camera trap around the Observatory, Cow Harbour and the Millpond. This is the largest number of sightings recorded in any one season since the Manx Shearwater Recovery Project was instigated and the baiting and annual monitoring was started in 2012. This worrying increase in activity illustrates the importance of maintaining the on-going monitoring programme and the need to continually review control methods and bio-security measures. It is essential to avoid a re-infestation and a reversal in the fortunes in the recent breeding success of the Manx Shearwater and other ground nesting species.

During autumn 2017, Storm Ophelia had caused wind-blown damage to one of the conifers at the end of the trapping area and ABC Tree Surgery were the first contractors to come out this season to make safe and remove the part-fallen tree. This also allowed some much needed 'topping-out' work to be carried out in the Plantation, with the additional removal of several of the largest conifers. It is planned that replacement trees, that will have greater benefit for feeding and migratory birds and insects, will be planted in this area.

At the end of March, Kirsty Franklin, and Steven Vickers, two volunteer ringers arrived to assist with spring migration, before heading on their own migration around several other bird observatories. During their stay, as well helping with the



daily census and ringing work, they helped with the building and initial siting of several Manx Shearwater nest boxes; the materials for which had been purchased with funds raised by a Facebook funding page which had been set up over winter by long-term Calf supporter Mark Fitzpatrick. We are particularly thankful to Mark for the initiative and for those that gave so generously to the project which has allowed an initial 12 boxes to be sited among the shearwater colonies at South Harbour and Kione ny Halby. It is hoped that the shearwaters will take to their new 'homes' which will then enable us to monitor the breeding behaviour of this nocturnal seabird more effectively.



Winter storm damage had taken its toll on the store buildings at both harbours, and we are most grateful to Ben of Manx Flat Roofs for volunteering to come out for the day and carry out some much-needed repairs. The cold and very wet winter was also creating issues in the Glen,

with water pouring down along the track. Significant ditching work was carried out to channel the water away from the track and into a low-lying area of the Withy to improve the habitat of that area. Kirsty and Steven left us on 4th April, and we were then joined by Olivia Pargeter, returning for a month after being with us during autumn last year, and also Sylwia Zbijewska who was taking up the second long-term volunteer fieldwork position for the spring and summer.

Spring migration, at times, seemed almost non-existent with the cold weather clearly delaying the arrival of some summer migrants, such as Sand Martin, Swallow and Willow Warbler. In defiance of the weather, however, earliest ever arrival dates were recorded for Common Sandpiper and Pied Flycatcher, whilst 11 other migrant species arrived ahead of their 20-year (1998-2017) mean arrival date. Goldcrests dominated the early part of spring migration, whilst a very

strong passage of Goldfinch through April and May resulted in record numbers being ringed.

Further new arrivals were Daniel Woollard to take up the position of Volunteer Warden for the season and a group of 10 Chickens that were generously donated by Close Leece Farm, Patrick. It is



fantastic for us to be more sustainable, and the chickens turned out to be great characters. In preparation for their arrival, we constructed a lovely coup in the old piggery but typically, the chickens decided that they preferred the log store! We tried our best to persuade them that the coup provided superior accommodation, but they were adamant and so adjustments to the log store were duly made.

Habitat management around the Observatory and in the Glen is an on-going task and we were fortunate to have a working party of volunteers that made great progress with coppicing at the Top Withy



and in the northern section of Willows at the Millpond during the spring. The Millpond is another site that requires considerable management time. Extensive work during 2017 to clear invasive Horsetail from the pond was continued during this season, with the help of work parties from Thomas Miller Investment and the Civil

Defence. The Millpond is an important feeding area for many migrant birds, but perhaps more important is the population of Eels that are present. It was rewarding to find 11 individuals during one working party session. Due to the agricultural past of the island, there has been

substantial efforts made to keep the fields dry and additionally to get as much water channelled into the Mill Pond. To manage these habitats for the benefit of wildlife, we are often working against these past efforts - a good example of this is the culvert that runs underneath the Lighthouse Fields and subsequently drains water from the fields out to sea. The exit of the culvert was temporarily blocked this season resulting in more water being held in and around the new scrape that had been dug in autumn 2017.

Work was also started at the Dub with the aim of increasing the length of time that water is retained into the spring and summer. The height of the dam wall at the seaward end of the Dub was increased during the spring, and in autumn we used the transport box and tractor to remove topsoil and increase the depth of the Dub. More work is needed, but this under-watched body of water has already produced some interesting sightings this year, such as the Calf's first ever Red Knot to be ringed and which was caught there this spring.

The first staying guests arrived on the Calf at the beginning of May and heralded the start of a very busy season. With excellent weather conditions throughout most of the summer months, the numbers of day visitors coming to the Calf were probably the highest in Calf history. Getting to the Calf is often very much weather dependant but we also rely heavily on the services of the local boatman and during this season we were admirably served by Steve and Juan Clague of **Port St Mary Boat Excursions** on the Calf supply boat 'Scraayl', Jason and Chris of **Shona Boat Trips from Port Erin** on the 'Shona', Caroline and Phil Roriston of **Isle of Man and Calf Boat Trips** on 'Vagabond' and Tom and Mike Keggen of **Boat Trips Isle of Man** on Kirree Varrey.

Over the past couple of seasons advertising by local boat crews and an increased profile of the Calf on social media has created considerable interest in the islet, both locally and abroad and this is undoubtedly contributing to the increase in visitors. Another first for the Calf occurred in mid-May when the cruise ship 'Ocean Adventurer' moored

off South Harbour and their fleet of 'zodiacs' brought 111 guests and crew ashore. Various guided walks were provided, and we received enthusiastic feedback on their time ashore - it is hoped that this may become an annual event in their itinerary. Another 'different' event was the climbing of the Burroo which was undertaken by Darren Giddins in mid-July as part of a challenge to reach the peak of the 52 'hills' on the Isle of Man, as listed in the database of British and Irish hills.

With such numbers of visitors coming to the islet, it is important that the harbours are well maintained and during May and July this season a team organised by Shaun Murphy of Manx National Heritage worked on repairing and improving the Cow Harbour slipway, as well as carrying out some routine maintenance tasks at the Lighthouses and around the Observatory.



Maintenance at the Observatory is an on-going task and with the new kitchen being created, required some electrical and gas work which was completed most efficiently by the team from A to Z plumbing, who were also able to provide an upgrade to the battery bank which provides the electricity supply to the farmhouse. During this process they were able to 'tidy up' some of the pipework at the back of the Observatory and this then allowed the rear of the farmhouse to be lime-washed and some new covers to be built and fitted along the rear trench. Originally scheduled for spring, the re-roofing of the tractor store was eventually completed in September by Brian Kneale and his team. The new 'water-tight' roof with translucent panels makes a huge difference when trying to work on the machinery kept in this area.



The summer months were somewhat 'mixed' in terms of success for the many species of bird that breed on the Calf. A continuing rise in the numbers of Manx Shearwater recorded is encouraging. However, despite increases in breeding numbers of the

three 'large' gull species, their productivity was significantly impacted by a period of strong winds and heavy rain, which occurred about a week after many of the young had hatched. The continuing downward trend in breeding numbers of Shag is of particular concern, whilst the presence of a group of 'summering' Cormorant in a suitable breeding location suggests that the species may re-colonise the Calf once more. Encouraging signs of breeding were shown by both Puffin and Black Guillemot, however the lack of regular access to a boat to undertake surveys of their potential breeding locations meant that disappointingly nothing was proven.

It is disappointing that there were no successful breeding raptors this season with the cold, wet spring considered to have caused the failure of their early breeding attempts. Ravens were similarly affected with just one of the two pairs being successful. The cold winter had clearly had a significant impact on the survival of small insectivorous birds and both Wren and Stonechat numbers were considerably reduced. In contrast other resident species such as Meadow Pipit, Rock Pipit and Blackbird seem to have been unaffected. Summer migrants appear to have benefited from the warm dry summer with a record number of 40 pairs of Wheatear, whilst one or two pairs of Swallow, Whitethroat and Chiffchaff were all successful. Breeding numbers of Chough

remain relatively stable, but productivity was thought to be very low this season, with the dry summer causing low survival rates among recently fledged young. Since it bred on the Calf for the first time in 1992, the fortunes of the Eider have gone from strength to strength and whilst the secretive nature of this species makes it difficult to survey, a considerable amount of time and effort in finding nests during this season gave an all-time high estimate of 70 pairs on the islet. Other successes during this season were the first breeding record of Woodpigeon for 10 years and the first ever breeding record of Pheasant, brings the total number of species recorded as having bred on the Calf to 65.

Summertime is also the period when we carry out repairs to the various traps that are used to catch migrants moving through the Calf



and following the successful replacement of Heligoland One during last season, it was the turn of the Crow Trap and Heligoland Two to receive transformations. Both were major jobs and many volunteers assisted with various parts of the projects. As part of the process of dismantling HG2 it was necessary to undertake the removal of a considerable amount of Fuchsia from along the front wall. This process exposed a considerable amount of damage to the dry-stone wall, which had been caused by the fuchsia growing through the stones and causing sections to become undermined and in places fall down.



Dry-stone walling is very much an on-going task and 'volunteering' on the Calf is likely to involve this activity. Considerable work has been conducted over the past decade in repairing and making stock proof the walls surrounding

the Glen field system and it is particularly pleasing to report that during May, David Fisher and Pat Griffiths, achieved their long-standing goal of completing the Seafeld walls and the final piece of the Glen system jigsaw. During the season, further work was carried out in repairing sections of wall in the Back Field, the Lighthouse and Smithy fields and along the Front Field.

The Loaghtan flock continue to flourish, although it was evident that the harsh winter had an impact. Lambs began to appear in mid-March with most ewes having just single lambs, with fewer twins present than in 2017. Once again, the flock was looked after by Jim Middleton and we are grateful to him and 'Lassie' for their efforts during the season with the spring round-up, summer shearing and removal of lambs during the autumn. Around 75 ewes and five rams were left on for the winter.

Bracken control is another time-consuming land management activity that both volunteers and staff are involved with and a number of 'control' methods were utilised, with bruising and mowing being employed on the field systems and tracks that are more accessible with the motorised vehicles and hand cutting with scythes being used on the steeper slopes and areas of rocky outcrops. After the disappointing results of spraying with 'Assulux' in 2017, efforts were more focused on manual control methods during this season, with

new areas cut at Mill Giau and at various locations around the Observatory and Back Field to create better access at these locations. Pathways and tracks along the East coast and access to the Cletts were maintained and the path from the Quarry to Jane's House was improved and developed, so that there is now an easy and marked pathway which



continues down to Cow Harbour. Improving access to these locations also required the building of a couple of sections of boardwalk which now allow fieldworkers to negotiate crossing Mill Giau and the boggy area above Jane's House with relative ease.

Having experienced a relatively 'poor' spring migration, it was hoped that the breeding season would be productive, and we could look forward to a bumper autumn. Early signs were positive and the numbers of juvenile Willow Warblers moving south through the Calf



exceeded the average of recent years. Several large 'falls' occurred and ringing interest was provided by three Wood Warbler, four Pied Flycatcher and a Melodious Warbler being trapped during the first half of August.

Seawatching was the focus of volunteer birdwatcher, Ed O'Connor when the weather was suitable, and his efforts were well rewarded with a series of unusual records. These sightings included both Balearic and Sooty Shearwaters, a Common Tern, a nice run of Sandwich Tern and Arctic Skua records as well as a host of waders passing by the islet, including the largest flock of Black-tailed Godwit ever recorded from the Calf. Visible migration can be spectacular on the Calf during autumn, with large numbers of pipits, wagtails and finches passing overhead. The creation of an 'outside' ringing room to help monitor these movements was made possible with the conversion of a temporary unit in the open section of the tractor shed. It is hoped that funding for a more permanent solution can be found some time soon, but this initiative proved particularly successful on several counts. Firstly, being outside, rather than inside the farmhouse ringing, meant that we are more aware of the volume of birds passing over and autumn 2018 subsequently turned out to be the best year on record for Tree Pipit for nearly 50 years. Ringing in this more open environment also means that visitors to the Calf can observe our work more readily and this helps to engage those that perhaps would not otherwise be aware of the bird ringing that we do.

Educating visitors to the Calf about our unique and magical wildlife is an important element of our work, particularly in inspiring the next generation that will inherit and look after this fabulous island.



September began a significant period of change, with the long-term volunteers having finished their time on the Calf and the Estate Warden, Nathan Wilkie, moving on to take up a permanent position as warden on Skomer Island. I am particularly grateful to Nathan for his help, friendship, and support that he has given over the past season and a half, and we wish him all the best in his new position. Daniel Woollard stepped up to take on the role of Estate Warden for the remainder of the season.

The month began well with a stunning Long-eared Owl trapped at the Observatory on 5th, which coincided with the last day-visitors of the season. However, a period of moderate to strong south-west winds quietened things significantly and culminated with storm force winds on 19th. Whilst taking shelter from the storm, I was involved in a fall which resulted in being air-lifted off the Calf and a four week stay in hospital. As I write this review (Nov 18) I am still recuperating but hope to be fit enough for next season. Fortunately, Olivia Pargeter was due out for the remainder of the season, although the strong winds delayed her arrival until 27th, eventually arriving along with Mike Haigh, who also stepped up to help during my absence, and the MWT seal surveyors.

October proved to be an exciting month with several good arrivals and included highlights of four Yellow-browed Warbler and a Great Spotted Woodpecker being trapped at the Observatory and two Little Egrets flying over the Island on 20th. The largest number of Great Tits ever recorded on the Calf were very much a feature of the month and these were accompanied by a well-above average 'invasion' of Coal Tits. Mike Haigh left the Island on 23rd October and Alex Dodds arrived to help look after the ringing until the end of the season.

Once again, a good number of volunteers helped over the last few weeks of the season, which is a busy time as we start to pack everything up for the winter and try to compete against the deteriorating weather, completing as many of the habitat

management and maintenance tasks as possible. Ditching work to channel water away from the track leading down to Cow Harbour was carried out during the last few weeks, as was further coppicing in the Withy and an increase in Longtail bait checking, following recent sightings.

Overall, 2018 was a very successful year for the Calf. The fantastic support shown by our many volunteers and supporters has allowed an un-paralleled level of conservation management, infrastructure improvements and scientific research to be achieved. The total of 145 species of bird recorded during the year is the 3rd highest in the past decade and compares favourable as a 10% increase on the 10-year mean. A total of more than 73,000 observations were made during the season, which compares to just 35,120 in 2017. This increase is purely attributable to the numbers of fieldworkers present on the Island throughout the year.

Acknowledgements:

Living and working on the Calf requires the support of many other people and organisations. Once again Shaun Murphy (MNH) and Lara Howe (MWT) have always been there to provide advice and supplies as necessary. Lara also spent a significant period 'doing our shopping' following the cancellation of the arrangement with Port St Mary Co-op which has supplied the Calf Wardens with their supplies for many years.

Juan and Steven Clague continue to provide a safe and secure passage on 'Scraayl' for our many volunteers and we are always pleased to receive our weekly supplies and goods that are needed to be brought out to the Calf. We are also grateful to Caroline & Phil Roriston and George Platt for providing additional nautical transport on several occasions during the season.

Life on the Calf could be a relatively lonely experience. However, the many volunteers and guests that have stayed with us during 2018 made it an exciting and friendly place to work and we are grateful to each and every one for their support, friendship and any food they left us! Jim Middleton continues to provide fantastic assistance with the Loaghtan flock and along with his dog 'Lassie' achieved a hassle-free round-up and successful day's shearing before the surplus lambs were taken off in September.

During the season, several contractors helped with various projects, as did Geoff Mitchell and Howard Osborne and we are grateful for their expert assistance and problem-solving abilities.

Aron Sapsford, Nathan Wilkie & Daniel Woollard

2018 Monthly Summaries

January/February

Several camera traps were left active over the winter months, and these provided a number of notable sightings, which included three **Mallard** on the Millpond on 28th January, four on 5th & 28th February and two on 21st; a single **Grey Heron** on 5th & 20th February and **Snipe** on 28th February. Coinciding with periods of snow lying on the ground during February, both **Fieldfare** (4th) and **Redwing** (28th) were recorded visiting the Millpond indicating that high numbers of these species may have been present on the Island. Large 'cold weather' movements of thrushes were noted at other west coast observatories and migration sites at these times.

Monthly species comparison:

Year	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
2018	65	93	87	90	81	93	81	89	61
10-year mean	63	80	83	68	67	68	80	87	57

March

Weather: Predominant winds were from the East or North bringing colder than average temperatures, with snow falling on 18th and frosts overnight on 19th, 21st & 26th.

Nathan Wilkie and I arrived at South Harbour late on in the afternoon of 11th March to begin the season, so observations were limited by the fading light but included 72 **Fulmar** around Giau Yairn and 23 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** seen along the East coast from the boat, with a further 15 on Caigher, a **Curlew** at South Harbour and a **Woodpigeon** at the Observatory. A **Woodcock** was flushed from the mouth of HG1 early on 12th and a few passerines including two **Goldcrest**, a male **Great Tit**, **Starling**, **Redwing**, three **Robin**, five **Stonechats** and a **Siskin** were added. Non-avian highlights included a count of 176 **Grey Seal**, a

Common Seal at Cow Harbour, and a **Small Tortoiseshell** butterfly at the Observatory. Light NW winds on the 13th produced a small passage of six **Skylark** and a **Pied Wagtail**, with **Dunnoek**, 15 **Blackbird**, five **Song Thrush** and two **Jackdaw** at the Observatory; three **Eider** were in the Leodan, the male **Pheasant** (from 2017) was seen in the Withy area, a **Water Rail** was calling from the Front Field and both **Hen Harrier** and **Merlin** were seen around the islet. Strong easterly winds and persistent rain meant very little of note was seen on 14th, but a slight improvement on 15th produced a **Snipe** and **Reed Bunting** as new species for the year, the Water Rail was again heard calling from the Front Field and a small arrival of four Great Tits occurred. The first 'true' summer migrant, a **Chiffchaff**, arrived on 16th along with 10 Fieldfare, eight Song Thrush, seven Redwings and a Skylark. The 17th produced 'bird of the month' with a lone **Long-tailed Tit** at the Withy and the first **Wheatear**, a female, at Cow Harbour with another Woodcock seen around the Lower Twin Fields. A male Wheatear was the only new bird of the 18th. Two further



Wheatear were recorded on 19th, when Robin and Goldcrest numbers increased to 12 & 14 respectively, while five Great Tits were also present, and two **Kestrels** were new for the year. Light northerly winds on 20th produced ideal conditions for birds to 'wander' over from the main island with both Grey Heron and **Rook** being added along with **Linnet**. Other species of note included three Kestrels, Hen Harrier, Merlin, and a new Great Tit. Calm conditions at dawn on 21st failed to bring any significant migrant passage, although a party of six

‘intruding’ **Raven** were escorted away by one of the resident males. Two new Great Tit arrived, along with a Skylark and 12 Linnet. A Grey Heron was seen flying down the Glen, the Water Rail was again heard in the Front Field and Snipe were flushed from the Millpond and the Dub, whilst the first auks were seen, with four **Razorbills** off Culbery. Stronger SW winds on 22nd produced a handful of Fulmar and **Gannet** off South Harbour, along with 12 **Guillemot** flying west and a Merlin was flushed from near the Lighthouses. Small numbers of auks were again seen passing offshore on 23rd along with two **Kittiwake** being added to the year list. The peak monthly count for **Herring Gulls** of 525 was reached and two more Snipe were flushed, this time from the Big Park and below Jane’s House. Light NE winds on 24th produced a flurry of activity with **Sparrowhawk**, **Buzzard**, and a male **Ring Ousel** seen around the Observatory during the morning and a trip out to Chicken’s Rock around lunchtime recorded a total of 29 **Purple Sandpipers** in two caves below the Lighthouses. The day was rounded off when the earliest ever Calf record of **Common Sandpiper** was seen and heard flying west over the Back Field during the late afternoon. New species continued to arrive on 25th with a fly-over record of **Grey Wagtail** and **Lesser Redpoll**, the latter trapped at the Observatory. A **Red Knot** was a surprise find at the mouth of South Harbour as we returned from a Longtail activity monitoring visit to Kitterland, and both male and female **Teal** were seen separately on the Dub. Calm conditions on 26th brought a few migrants, with 25 Goldcrest, two each of Chiffchaff, Redwing, and Wheatear, along with two more new Great Tits, 30 Goldfinch and a **Greenfinch**. A Rook put in a brief visit and the first of a series of **Greylag Goose** records occurred when two were seen flying north past Caigher. Elsewhere on the island, Hen Harrier, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard were seen and the Water Rail in the Front Field was again heard. Goldcrest numbers reached a peak on 27th when 60 were recorded and a single Greylag Goose was heard calling as it apparently circumnavigated the island. Goldcrest numbers had decreased to 35 by 28th but included very few new birds, but the main ornithological highlight was a flock of 400 **Great Black-backed**

Gull roosting on Caigher. Numbers of gulls had decreased slightly to 250 the next day and a surprise find at the Observatory was a male **Firecrest**, whilst two Buzzards were seen over the Twin Fields. The camera traps also came up trumps again with a fine **White Wagtail** recorded at the Lighthouse fields. Light NE winds on 30th produced probably the best arrival of birds in the month with eight Chiffchaff, 50 Goldcrest, a female Ring Ousel, two Song Thrush, 25 Robin and 150 Meadow Pipits. Finches were also in evidence with 10 Chaffinch, 30 Goldfinch, seven Siskin and two Reed Buntings, whilst the Firecrest from 29th was present at the Withy. The final day of the month produced another Greylag Goose, with a single flying north over Mill Giau.



A total of 65 species were recorded in the month.

April

Weather: Winds were again predominantly from the North or East for first half of the month continuing the low temperatures experienced in March and bringing significant rainfall. A change to southerlies from 17th brought some much-needed sunshine but then westerlies from 23rd – 26th brought back the precipitation. Light northerly winds during the last four days of the month provided some resemblance of spring.

The month opened with **Magpie** and **Brambling** being new for the year, with other notable records including the second records of Greenfinch and White Wagtail. A day of constant rain meant observations were considerably limited on 2nd but did produce the first evidence that the female Pheasant had also over-wintered, with images being caught on the Millpond camera trap. Three **Shelduck** on Cagher were new for year on 3rd, whilst Lesser Black-backed Gulls



increased to 74 individuals and a small passage of Meadow Pipits was recorded with 141 present. A visit to the shearwater colonies after dark produced the first **Manx**

Shearwaters of the year with at least 30 birds ashore between South Harbour and Kioneny Halby. Light easterlies on the 4th brought the first real tastes of spring migration, with a small 'fall' of 100 Goldcrest, 30 each of **Willow Warbler** and Chiffchaff along with 10 **Blackcap** and two **Yellowhammer** that were present around the Observatory garden. Continuing light winds on the 5th saw a flock of seven Greylag Geese fly west over the Observatory and a spring peak count of 33

Hooded Crow from around the islet, including a flock of 17 at Kione Roauyr. Goldcrest numbers had decreased to just 40 and Chiffchaff to 15, although Wheatear numbers increased to 45 and the first **Swallow** and seven **Razorbill** were seen; a single Yellowhammer remained and was present through to 12th. Strong winds on 6th produced little except



another Swallow, eight Blackcap and 25 Goldcrest. However, examination of camera trap footage from the Dub revealed the presence of the Knot that was originally ringed in late March. Lighter winds on the 7th

produced several new species, including five **Black Guillemot** at Baie Fine, a **Collared Dove** around the farmhouse and the remains of recently killed **Lapwing** near the Lower Lighthouse. A Fieldfare was seen near Bushell's House, a fine White Wagtail was in the Front Field and 135 Meadow Pipit around the islet. The first numbers of 'auks' appeared on the 8th, with 107 Razorbill below the lighthouses and a further 53 at Gibdale, the Fieldfare was again seen near Bushell's, whilst around the Observatory a Merlin, 35 Goldcrest, 20 Chiffchaff and two Redwing were present. Favourable winds on the 9th produced a small fall of migrants with 100 Goldcrest, a male Firecrest, 50 Chiffchaff, 30 Willow Warbler, seven Blackcap, 22 Wheatear and a male **Black Redstart**. A much quieter day on the 10th produced another **Magpie**, near the Smithy which remained until the 14th and the female Pheasant was again captured on the Witherby camera trap. A return to light easterly winds on the 11th produced a good day for birds of prey, with at least three Hen Harriers and single Sparrowhawk and Buzzard being present. Gull numbers were also high with 88 Lesser Black-backed Gulls counted, along with a spring peak of 1060 Herring Gull and a monthly peak of 172 Great Black-backed Gulls. A

rare spring record of three **Whooper Swan** flying north past the Lighthouses was the highlight on the 12th, whilst a Merlin and a female Ring Ousel were elsewhere on the islet and a small arrival of warblers included 18 Chiffchaff, 12 Willow Warbler and 15 Blackcap. A calm day on 13th produced some good wader records with nine Purple Sandpiper on Chickens Rock and seven Snipe around the islet. In addition, a male Ring Ousel was around the Observatory, along with five Fieldfare and warbler numbers increased to 30 Willow Warbler and 45 Blackcap. The final Fieldfare of the spring was seen on 14th along with four Redwing, a Merlin and Goldfinch passage increased to 75. Goldfinch increased to 85 on 15th with a further small arrival of warblers including 20 Chiffchaff, 17 Willow Warbler and 30 Blackcap and a Grey Heron was in the Puddle. The Grey Heron was still present on 16th and the final record of Merlin for the spring occurred, whilst a night-time visit to the east coast shearwater colonies produced at



least 20 birds ashore. A strong south-westerly wind on 17th did not hold out much hope of migration, although 15 Blackcap were present and persistence paid off when a fine male **Pied Flycatcher** was found behind the back garden wall, representing the earliest spring Calf record by one day. Despite the generally late spring, several early arrivals

occurred and a **House Martin** on 18th was three days earlier than the 20-year average. A small arrival of 40 Willow Warbler on the 19th also coincided with the beginning of an excellent spring passage of Lesser Redpoll when 10 were recorded. Light and variable winds on 20th brought both **Sand Martin** and **Whitethroat** as new arrivals for the

year and the third Firecrest, a female, was trapped at the Observatory but most notable was the arrival of 10 **Chickens** that were to spend the season scratching around the back yard. Continuing light winds on 21st brought further new species with a male **House Sparrow** and **Tree Pipit** both trapped at the Observatory, whilst the female Firecrest remained (to 22nd) and other migrants included 15 Chiffchaff, 45 Willow Warbler and 43 Wheatear. Birds of prey were in evidence with three 'ringtail' Hen Harrier, a Sparrowhawk and two Buzzard and the highest auk counts of the spring occurred with 101 Guillemot and 228 Razorbill. A count of 18 Purple Sandpipers was made in the west coast caves during the afternoon and Goldfinch numbers reached a peak with 120 birds present Goldfinch numbers continued at a high level with 100 on both 23rd & 24th but little else of note was present other than an unexpected **Long-eared Owl** that was flushed from the back garden conifers on 23rd. One hundred Goldfinch were again present on 25th along with a small arrival of 18 Willow Warblers. The second Common Sandpiper of the year on the 26th was a more typical arrival date and the highest spring count of 161 Lesser Black-backed Gulls was achieved with the first **Great Skua** of the year seen patrolling the east coast. Finch passage continued at pace on 27th with another 120 Goldfinch, 60 Linnet, 30 Lesser Redpoll and the first **Tree Sparrow** of the year but coupled with two **Sedge Warbler**, three Whitethroat, 28 Blackcap and 80 Willow Warbler provided an exciting day that was topped by the 9th record of **Northern Goshawk** for the islet. Two Greylag Geese flew south during the morning of 28th and finch passage remained high with 75 Goldfinch, 69 Linnet, 50 Lesser Redpoll and the 2nd Tree Sparrow in as many days. The highlight of the day, however, was an early **Swift** seen flying north-east over the Observatory during late morning. Light easterly winds on 29th produced an excellent array of spring migrants with no fewer than six new species for the year with a **Jack Snipe** in the Glen, a **Cuckoo** in the Front Field, three each of **Whinchat** and **Redstart** and single **Grasshopper Warbler** and **Lesser Whitethroat**. Other notable records were eight Greylag Geese flying south, a Lapwing in the Seafeld, presumably the same Great Skua

from the 26th and the third Tree Sparrow for the month. These were joined by an arrival of commoner migrants that included 32 Swallow, 50 Wheatear, seven Sedge Warblers, five Whitethroat, 30 Blackcap, 65 Willow Warbler, 65 Goldfinch and 30 Lesser Redpoll. A much quieter day on 30th finished off the month with 20 Willow Warbler and the 2nd and last Grasshopper Warbler of the spring.

A total of 93 species were recorded in the month.

May

Weather: A moderate westerly air flow dominated much of the first half of month and seemed to somewhat curtail spring migrant passage. A switch to south or easterly winds from 17th – 25th was followed by three days of northerlies before the wind backed light easterly for the remainder of the month. Rain was recorded on just seven days, although thick fog was prevalent from 6th-8th.

A quiet start to the month saw an island count of 149 Lesser Black-backed Gulls and the last Dunnock of spring was trapped at the



Observatory. A Common Sandpiper was present on the 2nd and the first of a series of **Emperor Moth** records were seen at the Observatory. A small arrival of 45 Willow Warbler occurred on 3rd and a **Whimbrel**

was new for the year. An overnight visit to the east coast shearwater colonies produced at least 50 birds ashore and seabirds continued to be a feature of the 4th with two Great Skua flying north over South

Harbour, 82 Kittiwake moving west offshore and a spring high count of 207 Lesser Black-backed Gull. Ten Sand Martin was the first double-figure count of the spring and along with 41 Swallow and a House Martin proved a good hirundine day. Small numbers of the commoner warblers were also present along with 70 Willow Warbler and the first three **Spotted Flycatcher** of the year. A relatively quiet day on 5th saw a continued small passage of common warblers with **Feral Pigeon** being the only new record. Little change in numbers was evident on 6th, although a Redstart was new and two Whinchats were in the Glen. Elsewhere a Whimbrel was seen above South Harbour, a Great Skua was again seen around the islet and the first two **Puffin** were on the sea between Spanish Head and the Big Head. Despite light easterly winds migrant passage continued to be slow with only hirundines passing through in any numbers, with a spring peak of 17 Sand Martin, 127 Swallow and nine House Martin on 7th. A few waders were seen with a fly-over **Ringed Plover** and a **Turnstone** at Cow Harbour both being new for the year and a Lapwing was in the Seafield. A round-island boat trip also produced counts of 75 Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) for Fulmar and 100 Eider. Hirundine passage continued on 8th with 200 Swallow along with eight Sand Martin and four House Martin and a brood of 11 Mallard ducklings were recorded by camera trap on Kitterland. A roosting flock of 200 Great Black-backed Gulls on Caigher was the only record of any note on 9th and similarly a **Garden Warbler** trapped at the Observatory on 10th was new for the year. Light northerly winds on 12th produced ideal conditions for birds of prey with two ringtails and an adult male Hen Harrier and a Calf record of four Buzzards. A Puffin was seen below the Lighthouses and the Raven pair managed to fledge four young, whilst the Great Skua was again around the islet. Spring passage was more evident with a fly-over Skylark, four Sand Martin, 73 Swallow, 17 House Martin, 40 Wheatear, seven Whitethroat, a male House Sparrow, 35 Linnet and 22 Lesser Redpoll. Three Hen Harriers, including an immature male, were again on the island on 13th, whilst five Rook and a Tree Sparrow flying west were the only other records of note. A small arrival of warblers on 15th

included six Whitethroat and seven Chiffchaff although bird of the day was a **Greenshank** seen flying past the Puddle during the morning. Once again, at least three Hen Harriers, including an adult male, were on the island on 16th with a small passage of 51 Swallow and 12 House Martin, while a Tree Sparrow was trapped at the Observatory. Small numbers of migrants were present on 17th with eight Sedge Warbler, 10 Whitethroat, a Garden Warbler, six Blackcap, eight Chiffchaff, seven Willow Warbler, a male Firecrest (the 4th of the spring) and a female Pied Flycatcher (the 2nd of the spring). Two Rook were seen flying over as was another Tree Sparrow. A quieter day on 18th saw the male Firecrest still present and four Jackdaw fly west. The male Firecrest was still around the Observatory on 19th, along with a stunning adult male Black Redstart and a House Sparrow. A Turnstone at Cow Harbour on 20th was only the 2nd record of the year and the last of spring.



Two sub-adult **Black-headed Gulls** spent much of the 21st feeding in the Glen and Front Field, whilst a Whimbrel, two Jackdaw and a Rook were seen elsewhere on the islet. One of the Black-headed Gulls remained in the 2nd field on 22nd when the pair of Shelduck from the south of the island were seen behaving aggressively towards the local Herring Gulls, which suggested they had young hidden amongst the rocks and boulders in South Harbour. Light north-easterly winds on



23rd produced a small arrival of warblers with eight Sedge Warbler, 11 Chiffchaff, 13 Willow Warbler, along with a female Goldcrest and three Spotted Flycatcher, although bird-of-the-day was an adult male, **Red-breasted Flycatcher** that was trapped in the Top Withy. A further arrival of migrants on 25th included only the 2nd Cuckoo and

Tree Pipit of the spring, plus a male Redstart, six Sedge Warbler, 15 Willow Warbler and 12 Spotted Flycatcher. Spotted Flycatchers were the main species on 26th with at least 70 present around the islet with a supporting cast of a Whinchat, 20 Sedge Warbler, six Whitethroat, 45 Willow Warbler and a male House Sparrow, whilst the first two Eider ducklings of the season were seen in Mill Giau. Numbers of Spotted Flycatchers had reduced to just 30 on 27th, although ringing records indicate most birds were new in and a spring peak of 18 House Martin was counted. Small numbers of warblers continued to move through with the 3rd Garden Warbler and 4th Redstart of spring being trapped at the Observatory, with another 20 Spotted Flycatcher and two Tree Sparrows also being present. Elsewhere on the islet a female/imm Black Redstart was present around the lighthouses. The run of 'good' birds continued on 29th with two **Reed Warblers** trapped at the Observatory, another Garden Warbler and a Lesser Whitethroat trapped at the Withy and an immature **Crossbill** that landed briefly in the front garden Sitka. Elsewhere, the Great Skua was seen around the south of the island, a spring peak of four Collared Doves occurred, a Skylark flew north, a male Redstart was at the Smithy and the final two Purple Sandpipers of the spring were seen in the cave below the



Lighthouse. An arrival of 25 Chiffchaff on 30th was rather unexpected, perhaps more so than the female or immature **Eastern Subalpine Warbler** that was trapped at the Observatory mid-morning, which represented the 22nd Calf record. Other

migrants included two Cuckoo, the Garden Warbler from 29th, 10 Spotted Flycatcher and another two immature Crossbill. Collared Dove numbers had reduced to just three birds, whilst four Puffin were seen offshore from the Stack. Another arrival of 15 Spotted Flycatcher brought the month towards a close, although a **Dunlin** was new for year when heard at South Harbour at 2330hrs bringing the year's species tally to 111.

A total of 87 species were recorded in the month.

June

Weather: Light and variable winds dominated the first 12 days of the month with mostly dry, bright and warm conditions. A period of moderate to strong south-west or north-west winds from 13th – 23rd was followed by light southerlies from 24th-26th then light easterlies to the month's end. Overall, there was little significant rainfall and the month was generally quite warm.

An overnight **Storm Petrel** netting attempt at South Harbour produced just three birds, whilst the calm weather conditions proved excellent for cetacean watching with the first **Basking Shark**, **Minke Whale** and five **Risso's Dolphins** being seen offshore during the afternoon of the



1st. A count of the Ghaw Yairn Guillemot colony produced 72 adults ashore on 2nd and on 3rd a Ringed Plover flew north over the Observatory and the beginning of an unprecedented run of Reed Warblers began when the 3rd bird of the year was trapped at the Observatory. Smaller numbers of Spotted Flycatchers and other migrants continued to pass through and on 4th included a male Black Redstart in Mill Giau and two more Crossbill. Bird of the day, however, was a **Turtle Dove** that was originally found near to the tractor shed but which later relocated to the

Top Withy and another overnight netting session at South Harbour produced six more Storm Petrels. The 5th produced a fourth Reed Warbler and at least eight Spotted Flycatchers were present and the male Black Redstart remained in Mill Giau. Possibly the same male Black Redstart was found singing from the roof of the 1968 Lighthouse on 6th but the highlight of the day was three Basking Shark present offshore from Baie Fine. Fifteen Risso's Dolphins and two **Harbour Porpoise** provided the entertainment for the 7th, although a high count of 68 Wheatear on the islet included many juveniles. Small numbers of warblers were continuing to move through and on 8th included two Sedge Warbler, two Blackcap, six Chiffchaff and a Willow Warbler. Another Crossbill was seen at the Observatory on 9th, but most interest came from the sea with seven Black Guillemot including two at the Lighthouse Stack where four Puffin were in residence. However, no-one would have predicted the events of the afternoon when we headed down to Cow Harbour for an afternoon swim in the sea. A feeding frenzy of mostly Herring Gulls was present in the Sound and whilst watching the activity we noticed a Black-headed Gull appear, followed by another and then a third. Next was a couple of

Kittiwakes and a **Common Gull**, then two **Sandwich Tern** flew through the Sound, but nothing prepared us for the sub-adult **Sabine's Gull** that suddenly appeared in front of Thousla, did a single circle of the gull flock before flying off purposefully east through the Sound. Four



Puffin and a Black Guillemot were again seen in the vicinity of the Stack on 10th and the long-staying Great Skua was seen displaying to a Herring Gull in the Seafield. A juvenile Song Thrush was trapped in Mill Giau and another couple of Crossbill appeared at the Observatory. A small arrival of warblers included three female Blackcap, single Whitethroat & Sedge Warbler and yet another Reed Warbler but the biggest surprise of the day was a 2nd Red-breasted Flycatcher for the year. The Reed Warbler bonanza continued on 13th with the sixth bird of the year trapped at the Observatory.

With strong west-south-west winds on 14th little migration was seen although a seawatch from Cow Harbour produced a small movement of 74 Manx Shearwater, 154 Guillemot and an adult Common Gull. Seabirds were again the order of the day on 15th, with a flock of 256 Shag off South Harbour and whole island counts of 278 Guillemot and 238 Razorbill. A Grey Heron was new for the month on 16th and a count of **Early Marsh Orchids** on the islet was completed revealing a total of 148 spikes at six locations. A feeding flock of 300 Shag were in the Sound on 17th, when two Black Guillemot were around Gibdale with another four at the Lighthouse Stacks. At least 50 Goldfinch, including many juveniles, were present on 19th with another Crossbill being seen at the Observatory. Netting at the Withy produced two interesting records with a retrap female Dunnock originally ringed in 2017 as a locally bred young and a female Whitethroat that hadn't been encountered since it was originally ringed on 31st May. Returning

waders were evident on 22nd, with eight Curlew on Caigher and a Lapwing in the Seafield. The Lapwing had increased to two by 23rd when a combined boat and land count produced 124 Fulmar AOS, 456 Shag, 294 Guillemot, 253 Razorbill, two Black Guillemot and three



Puffin. A high count of 18 **Rock Pipit** was also achieved whilst the first flock of 20 juvenile Starlings arrived, and two more Crossbill were seen at the Observatory. Starling numbers increased to a summer high of 68 on 24th and the first (three) juvenile Robins arrived. Three Grey Heron were along the east coast, six Puffin were seen at the Lighthouse Stack and the 2nd Turtle Dove of the year

was seen at the Withy. However, the surprise of the day was a 3rd Red-breasted Flycatcher for the year trapped at the Observatory. Return migration of waders continued on 25th with 11 Curlew and a Common Sandpiper, a monthly peak of seven Swift was recorded, and the first **Short-eared Owl** of the year was seen flying over the heath above Gibdale. The first Grey Wagtail and Greenfinch of autumn was seen, although the status of a female Redstart, exhibiting a brood patch, trapped at the Observatory is less clear and a female Mallard with a brood of young was seen at the Millpond. Single Greenfinch and Grey Wagtail were again recorded on 26th, when at least five Grey Heron were present on the islet and a Turtle Dove was seen again in Mill Giau. A netting session at South Harbour produced four Storm Petrel and another Dunlin was heard during the night. Waders were again evident on 27th with three Lapwing, four Curlew and a Snipe present on the islet. Offshore, seven Black Guillemot included one carrying fish towards a nest site at the Stack, a monthly peak of 12 Puffins was recorded from around the islet included five birds seen alighting at Kione ny Halby and over 400 Manx Shearwater were seen rafting offshore from the Puddle during the evening. Cetaceans were also

very much in evidence with two Common Porpoise, 12 Risso's Dolphins and a Basking Shark being seen during the day. Not to be out done, passerines were represented by the 7th Reed Warbler of the spring trapped at the Withy. The first Redshank of the autumn was at Cow Harbour on 28th and a flock of 26 Starling were around the Observatory. However, most action was again at sea with two Harbour Porpoise and six Risso's Dolphin, as well as a rafting group of 200+ Manx Shearwater off South Harbour in the late evening. A working party clearing out the silt in the Millpond also found an excellent number of 11 Eel. Autumn passage continued to creep in with a juvenile **Treecreeper** being trapped at the Observatory, a peak count of 12 Lapwing, an adult **Hobby** was reported from near Big Head and a Cuckoo was seen in Gibdale in the evening. Five Lapwing were still present on Caigher on 30th, with a Common Sandpiper seen at the Cletts and at least three Buzzard were present.

A total of 90 species were recorded in the month.

July

Weather: Light easterly winds at the beginning of the month gave way to a brief south-westerly airflow on 7th-8th before settling in the north up to the 13th. Other than brief south-easterlies on 14th & 18th the wind was predominantly south-west to the end of the month. The month was generally dry and warm, although some inclement weather during the final week of the month brought a day of thick fog on 23rd and a few days with heavy rain, with at least 16mm on 28th alone.

The month started quietly with the Great Skua that had been present throughout much of spring being seen around the island on 1st and the Treecreeper from June was seen around the Observatory garden. Nine Curlew were recorded, and a Common Sandpiper was at South Harbour. Ten Lapwing were present on 2nd, whilst the focus was at sea on 3rd with 14 Puffin, which included four at the Stack and 10 along the east coast. The first evidence of any return hirundine passage was 12 Swallow and singles of both Sand & House Martin and the first

juvenile Blackcap of the autumn was trapped. Waders and seabirds again featured on 4th with a Redshank and two Black-headed Gulls at Cow Harbour, whilst single Lapwing and Common Sandpiper and 10 Puffin were also seen. More waders on 5th included 2 Lapwing, 11 Curlew, a Common Sandpiper and at least four Snipe, whilst new passerines included three Song Thrush, two Grey Wagtail and a Reed Bunting. A single Snipe was still present on 7th, whilst new was a Redshank on Rarick, as were two Black-headed Gulls off South Harbour along with six Puffin. Seven Lapwing, 11 Curlew and a Snipe were seen on 8th whilst autumn passerine passage began to show promise with the first Redstart and Grasshopper Warbler. Meanwhile, an overnight netting session produced 12 Storm Petrel. Offshore, the calm conditions meant a good showing of cetaceans with six Common Porpoise and 14 Risso's Dolphin recorded. Single Lapwing and Common Sandpiper were present on 9th, with the first signs of a summer gathering of Linnet with 50 present at South Harbour. The Great Skua was continuing to be seen regularly around the island and waders once more featured with a Snipe in Mill Giau and nine Curlew on 10th and a Common Sandpiper and two Snipe on 11th. A Lesser Redpoll on 12th was the first of autumn and the only movement noted. Seabirds were predominant on 14th with nine Black Guillemot at the Lighthouse Stack, three Puffins at Ghaw Yairn where the Guillemot colony contained 82 adults and nine chicks. However, perhaps the most important record was of a male Storm Petrel heard singing 'inland' from above South Harbour. A netting session there also yielded 11 individuals including a suspected 'gravid' female. Dispersal



of juvenile warblers was continuing with a further two Blackcap and the first two Whitethroat of the autumn plus a juvenile Reed Bunting was also trapped at the Withy. The first two juvenile Willow Warblers arrived on 16th and a count of six Whitethroat included a female seen feeding several young at the Withy. At sea, a pod of between 20-30 **Bottle-nosed Dolphin** were the first of the year. A juvenile Cuckoo near the Observatory on 17th was the most notable record of the day, although a monthly peak of 123 Linnet included a flock of 100 on Caigher.

Waders again featured on 18th with a Common Sandpiper and the first Whimbrel of the autumn found on Rarick where a flock of 70 Kittiwake were roosting on the rocks. A Storm Petrel catching session yielded 12 birds with another session on 19th providing a further seven. Waders



were very much a feature of the day with a fly-over Golden Plover, five Redshank at the Cletts and four Common Sandpiper at South Harbour, whilst an autumn peak of 51 Sand Martin represented the highest count of the species for several years. A few seabirds were moving on 21st with 79 Gannet west off the Lighthouses, 45 Kittiwake east

off South Harbour and a total of 331 Shag recorded. Six juvenile Willow Warblers heralded the start of their autumn passage, whilst a single Turnstone was at Cow Harbour and a Common Sandpiper was heard calling at 2330hrs in South Harbour as we arrived for an overnight Storm Petrel session that yielded 10 birds in the early hours of the 22nd. Willow Warbler numbers increased to 15 and the first juvenile Sedge Warbler of the autumn was trapped at the Withy. Calm conditions on 23rd saw another 12 Willow Warbler, singles of Blackcap,

Whitethroat and Sedge Warbler trapped at the Observatory. The first signs of visual migration included 15 Meadow Pipit over at dawn, along with two Grey Wagtail and three Crossbill that landed briefly in the front garden Sitka before heading off west. A Woodpigeon was seen flying away from its nesting site carrying the remnants of an



eggshell and thus confirmed our suspicion that the pair which had been resident for most of the summer were indeed breeding – the first breeding occurrence since 2010. Thick fog from 0900hrs curtailed any further passage, although a brief seawatch in the evening delivered 76 Kittiwake, 62 Guillemot and 43 Razorbill all heading west. Willow Warbler passage began ramping up on 24th when 35 arrived along with four Sedge Warbler and a couple more Grey Wagtail. A single Golden Plover flew west over the islet and a Black-headed Gull was in the Sound. Sedge Warblers increased to six on 25th although Willow Warblers decreased somewhat to just 12. Hirundines were in evidence and locally bred young could be found feeding in the Glen with at least 48 Swallow and three House Martins recorded. A surprise find were a pair of House Sparrow amongst a flock of Linnet at the Withy and a Greenfinch was seen at the Observatory. Swallow had increased to 56 on 26th but the main interest was two Lapwing in the Front Field and a Whimbrel and an adult Black-headed Gull at the Sound. Little of note was seen on 27th although four Risso's Dolphin were offshore, and 189 Kittiwake were found roosting on Caigher. Strong west-south-west winds on 28th meant that seawatching was the order of the day and a 50-minute watch from Gibdale yielded 256 Manx Shearwater south. A further watch from Cow Harbour produced

1241 Manx Shearwater in 90 minutes but also produced a flock of 35 **Bar-tailed Godwit** and the last four Swift of the year flying south. The last few days of the month were relatively quiet with an adult Black-headed Gull at the Sound and a juvenile Cuckoo at the Observatory on 29th and a Lapwing at South Harbour on 29th.

A total of 81 species were recorded in the month.

August

Weather: Relatively light and predominantly south-west winds prevailed for much of the first half of the month, with brief spells of easterly winds on 5th, 11th & 12th. From the 15th, the south westerly winds increased in strength until a brief respite of light easterly on 20th. From 21st moderate westerly winds continued towards the end of the month when it dropped in strength and swung to the north-east on 30th and south-east on 31st. Generally, a dry and warm month.

A quiet start to the month with little of note until a Whimbrel flew over the Observatory on 3rd and a small arrival of 15 Willow Warbler



occurred. Light and variable winds on 4th brought the first fall of the autumn with 130 Willow Warbler, a **Wood Warbler**, 10 Sedge Warbler, single of each Whinchat, Spotted Flycatcher & Pied Flycatcher and the first three Tree Pipits of the autumn. Hirundines were also moving through with eight Sand Martin and 120 Swallow and waders were well represented with

a Lapwing, eight Curlew, four Snipe on the Millpond and a **Green Sandpiper** that flew in over the Withy during the late afternoon before heading west. The excitement continued on the 5th and whilst Willow Warbler numbers had decreased to only 21, another juvenile Wood Warbler and two new Pied Flycatchers were trapped at the

Observatory. A much quieter day on 6th managed to produce a fourth Pied Flycatcher of the autumn, which remained into the 7th when a further arrival of 40 Willow Warbler occurred, a count of 39 Chough was made and the first **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** was seen around the Observatory. A further 25 Willow Warbler arrived on 8th along with five Whitethroat, a Whinchat, 11 Pied Wagtail and a further three Tree Pipit. Similar numbers of warblers were again present on 9th but bird of the day was a **Spotted Redshank** found at South Harbour and photographed by visitors before it flew off towards the Puddle. Waders were again a feature of 10th with a Golden Plover flying north and a Common Sandpiper at Cow Harbour. A further three Golden Plover flew west on 11th with a small arrival of warblers seen around the Observatory including 25 Willow, three Sedge and two Whitethroat. A Whinchat was seen in the Glen and passage included 11 House Martin, a Grey Wagtail and an astonishing 16 Tree Pipit. The next couple of days were fairly quiet with just the Whinchat remaining until 14th when 18 Willow Warbler arrived, and a juvenile male Hen Harrier was a surprise catch in one of the mist nets. An overnight session at South Harbour produced just five Storm Petrel. A strong westerly on 15th provided good seawatching conditions and a 90-minute watch early morning produced 220 Manx Shearwater, 183 Gannet, 40 Kittiwake and an **Arctic Tern** all flying south off Culberty. Further seawatching conditions on 16th produced 1500 Manx Shearwater south past Culberty in 4 hours plus a **Sooty Shearwater** and 150 Gannet, whilst on 17th 140 minutes watching produced three **Common Scoter**, 474 Manx Shearwater, a **Balearic Shearwater**, 125 Gannet, nine Dunlin and a pale-phase **Arctic Skua**. Despite the poor conditions for passerine migration, some birds were still battling through with a third Wood Warbler and another Tree Pipit trapped at



the Observatory. Once again, seawatching was most productive on 18th and a brief 30-minute watch off South Harbour at 0930 produced very little other than a single Common Scoter flying west. More productive however was a 200-minute watch off Culberty which delivered 1848 Manx Shearwater, 225 Gannet, two Ringed Plover, two Whimbrel, a Turnstone, eight Dunlin, a Greenshank, 59 Kittiwake, two Sandwich Tern, an Arctic Tern, two Great Skua, an Arctic Skua and two Puffin all heading south and proves that whilst the Calf isn't renowned for its wader records, due to lack of suitable habitat, there is indeed a movement past the islet that can be monitored given the ability to have the manpower available to undertake sea-watches at this time of year. With winds reducing in strength on 19th less seabirds were moving but a 150-minute watch from Cow still produced nine Common Scoter, 204 Manx Shearwater, 113 Kittiwake, a Black-headed Gull and six Sandwich Tern.

With the decreasing wind strength, passerines became more evident with a dozen Willow Warbler, three Chiffchaff and the Wood Warbler from 17th re-trapped at the Observatory. Light easterly winds on 20th produced the 2nd fall of the autumn with 250 Willow Warbler, nine Sedge Warbler,



a **Melodious Warbler**, 12 Whitethroat, three Grasshopper Warbler, nine Spotted Flycatcher, 10 Robin and a staggering 40 Tree Pipit. Elsewhere on the islet a **Moorhen** and a Teal were seen at the Millpond and waders included singles of Lapwing, Redshank, Whimbrel and Snipe. A quieter day on 21st with just 40 Willow Warbler present with a supporting cast of single Whinchat, Sedge Warbler, Blackcap, Whitethroat and the first Garden Warbler of the autumn. Four more Tree Pipit were recorded and a Starling in the Seafield

looked rather out of place. A single Snipe was seen, and a Dunlin was heard flying over but bird of the day was a **Black-tailed Godwit** which was on the rocks at South Harbour and represents just the 13th Calf record. A return to stronger south-west winds encouraged further seawatching on 22nd However, relatively little was moving and only two Common Scoter and an Arctic Skua were of note. Another Dunlin was heard flying over the Withy and a small arrival of chats was evident with 10 Robin, a Redstart and four Whinchat plus the first two



White Wagtails of the autumn were seen. An overnight netting session at South Harbour provided the highest number of Storm Petrel recorded this season with a total of 24 trapped. A small arrival of migrants was evident in the morning of 23rd with 12

Willow Warbler, four Whitethroat, three Whinchat, a Grey Wagtail, 17 Pied Wagtail and two Tree Pipit.

However, an increasingly strong westerly wind during the day encouraged a 260-minute seawatch off Culbery during the afternoon which was well rewarded with 121 Fulmar, 1425 Manx Shearwater, 276 Gannet, four Whimbrel, a Curlew, a flock of 13 Black-tailed Godwit, two Great Skua and an Arctic Skua. Despite the continuing strong westerly winds seas passage was considerably reduced on 24th with just three Common Scoter, four Arctic Skua and two Puffin of note in a 145-minute watch from Culbery. Little warbler migration was evident although two Goldcrest arrived whilst visual migration recorded 10 each of Pied and 'alba' Wagtails, which may have attracted an adult Hobby that made a couple of sorties across the Front Field. A fresh north-westerly wind with clear skies encouraged some visual migration on 25th with eight Sand Martin, 70 Swallow and

four House Martin along with seven Pied Wagtail, eight White Wagtail, 66 'alba' Wagtail, five Tree Pipit and six Siskin. Moderate south-



easterly winds on 26th produced a few passerine migrants with 10 Willow Warbler, a Garden Warbler, three Goldcrest, a Spotted Flycatcher, 16 Robin, a Whinchat, seven Pied Wagtail, 10 White Wagtail, 12 'alba' Wagtail and seven Tree Pipit but the most noteworthy record was the encounter of the male Pheasant with at least four female/imm birds. This confirmed the

first ever breeding record of Pheasant on the Calf. With the wind swinging to the west during the afternoon, a 220-minute seawatch from Culbery produced a southerly movement of two Common Scoter, 334 Manx Shearwater, 369 Gannet, 289 Kittiwake, six Black-headed Gull, two Sandwich Tern (N), a **Common Tern**, an Arctic Skua and a Puffin (N). Little visual migration was evident on 27th except a few wagtails with 12 White and 11 Pied in the Front Field. Sea watching from Culbery produced a few birds with three Common Scoter, 63 Fulmar, 393 Manx Shearwater and 86 Kittiwake all south, whilst two Arctic Skuas were seen off the east coast. Lighter winds on 28th encouraged the first real visual migration passage of the autumn with a good westerly movement of 56 'alba' Wagtail, 13 Grey Wagtail, two Tree Pipit, 243 Meadow Pipit, four Chaffinch, 11 Goldfinch and six Siskin. Passage was lighter on 29th but included six Sand Martin, 52 Swallow, 15 Grey Wagtail, 21 'alba' Wagtail, 107 Meadow Pipit and two Tree Pipit and the first Merlin of the autumn. The last petrel session of the season overnight on 29th/30th produced 10 Storm Petrel and three

Redshank trapped at high tide during the early hours of the 30th. An excellent arrival of migrants that morning included a fly-over Golden Plover, four Blackcap, three Whitethroat, six Goldcrest, six Song Thrush, four Spotted Flycatcher and 26 Robin whilst visual migration provided westerly

movement of the first Skylark of the autumn, 22 Sand Martin, 242 Swallow, seven House Martin, 29 Grey Wagtail, 37 'alba' Wagtail, 43 White Wagtail, 203 Meadow Pipit, an extraordinary 56 Tree Pipit, 33 Goldfinch and 17 Siskin. The final day of the month continued the westerly visual migration with three Sand Martin, 94 Swallow, 18 House Martin, a Tree Sparrow, 20 Grey Wagtail, 92 'alba' Wagtail, 41 White Wagtail, 243 Meadow Pipit, two Tree Pipit, two Greenfinch, two Siskin and 18 Goldfinch. Elsewhere on the islet, three Snipe were seen and a flock of 32 Jackdaw flew east over Big Head before returning to the main island.

A total of 93 species were recorded in the month.



September

Weather: A moderate southerly wind brought a period of thick fog for the first couple of days of the month, before the wind veered to the northern quarter and then settled to a moderate to strong westerly from 7th – 16th. An increasingly strong southerly on 17th was the forerunner of a south-west gale that continued through to the 19th when winds reached force 9 – 10. A brief respite of a decreasing north-easterly wind on 20th was replaced by a strong north-westerly on 21st which backed more westerly and reduced in strength from 22nd to the month's end, when the wind strength increased as it backed north-west on 30th.

The presence of thick fog at the beginning of the month meant that relatively few migrants were present, although 'alba' wagtails continued to move through with 101 on 1st and 47 on 2nd when slightly clearer conditions allowed two Grey Heron, a Buzzard, Whimbrel, two Snipe and 16 Lesser Black-backed Gulls to be recorded. A bright and clear day on 3rd brought the first Teal of the autumn with a female taking up residence on the Millpond (until 10th) and a flock of seven flying south off Culbery during an early morning seawatch which also produced four Common Scoter, a Snipe, two Sandwich Tern, a Black-headed Gull and an Arctic Skua flying south. On land a flock of nine Snipe flew around Caigher, 44 Swallow, a House Martin and 22 White Wagtail were recorded. Slightly calmer conditions on 4th saw a good visual passage which started with a flock of 20 Raven heading north at dawn and also included 136 Swallow, two Skylark, five Tree Sparrow, 16 Grey Wagtail, 356 Meadow Pipit, 35 Goldfinch and five Siskin all moving west. Around the Observatory a small arrival included 45 Robin, seven Willow Warbler, five Chiffchaff, single Sedge and Garden Warblers, five Whitethroat, the 8th Reed Warbler of the year, two Tree Pipit and 19 White Wagtail. Good passage conditions continued on 5th with a westerly visual migration including three Skylark, six Sand Martin, 144 Swallow, eight House Martin, 176 Meadow Pipit, 18 Linnet and 16 Goldfinch, whilst elsewhere on the island a Snipe and the last



Whimbrel of the season were seen. Forty Robin and 10 Goldcrest arrived but bird of the day was a stunning Long-eared Owl that was seen at dawn and later trapped in a mist net behind the back garden. A quieter day on the 6th saw just 18 Robin around the islet and the Reed Warbler from 4th re-trapped at the Withy. Wagtails continued to move through with 19

Grey, 12 White and 17 'alba'; plus 135 Meadow Pipit. A moderate west wind over the next few days stifled migration and other than two Tree Pipit on 7th, the first Dunnock of autumn and the retrap Garden Warbler (from 4th) on 8th and the remaining Teal on the Millpond, little else of note was reported. The 10th brought a small arrival of 12 Chiffchaff and visual migration included 26 Grey Wagtail, two Tree Pipit and two Siskin. A mid-morning seawatch from Culberty produced a southerly movement of 16 Manx Shearwater and a Great Skua, whilst 98 Gannet and two Black Guillemot moved north. Continuing moderate to strong westerly winds on 11th meant seawatching was again the focus of the morning activities and produced a southerly movement of 46 Fulmar, 162 Manx Shearwater, 52 Gannet, 39 Kittiwake, 29 Guillemot and a Great Skua. On land things were fairly quiet, although the Garden Warbler remained and a flock of 20 Turnstone were seen at the Cletts. A slight drop in the wind strength on 12th produced a small visual migration during the first few hours with 18 Grey Wagtail, 14 'alba' Wagtail, 131 Meadow Pipit, 12 Linnet and 10 Siskin moving west. Similar conditions on 13th saw another westerly movement of 17 Grey Wagtail, 141 Meadow Pipit, 28 Goldfinch and eight Siskin with a small arrival of 10 Chiffchaff and

seven Blackcap around the Observatory. An early morning hour's seawatch from Culbery was reasonably productive with eight Common Scoter, 23 Fulmar, 46 Manx Shearwater, 33 Gannet, two Great Skua and an Arctic Skua moving south, however bird of the day was an **Osprey** seen flying over Mill Giau at 1355hrs. A small arrival of migrants on 14th saw five Swallow move west plus nine Chiffchaff, 10 Blackcap around the Observatory and a Spotted Flycatcher at the Top Withy. Calmer conditions on 15th again saw an 'unkindness' of 17 Raven move north just after dawn and a visual movement west of six Skylark, 36 Grey Wagtail, 30 'alba' Wagtail, 79 Meadow Pipit, the last Tree Pipit of the autumn, 75 Chaffinch, 61 Linnet, 124 Goldfinch and 149 Siskin. Five Golden Plover were in the Seafield, the Spotted Flycatcher was still at the Top Withy and a



male Ring Ousel was present on the hill behind the Tractor shed. A small arrival of migrants also included 27 Robin, 11 Wheatear, five Willow Warbler, 16 Chiffchaff, seven Blackcap, 22 Goldcrest, five Lesser Redpoll and a Garden Warbler plus the retrap from the 4th. Stronger winds on 16th meant passage was again significantly reduced, although the last Whitethroat of the season was recorded, and single Golden and Ringed Plover flew over the islet. Visual migration on 17th produced a southerly movement of 19 Swallow and one House Martin plus a westerly movement of 11 'alba' Wagtail, 115 Meadow Pipit, 13 Chaffinch & 106 Goldfinch and the final Spotted Flycatcher of the year was present. Increasing strong south-westerly winds on 18th meant seawatching was the order of the day with a southerly movement of 20 Fulmar, 183 Gannet, and 46 Kittiwake, whilst on land a Turnstone

was at Cow Harbour and a Snipe was flushed from the heath above the Dub. The strong south-westerly winds increased to storm force on 19th and a 75-minute seawatch from the 1968 Lighthouse produced just 117 Gannet battling their way south. With the wind backing north-west on the 21st a 90-minute seawatch from Culbery in the afternoon produced seven Common Scoter, four Manx Shearwater, two **Leach's Petrel**, an Arctic Skua, a Great Skua, 46 Guillemot & 74 Kittiwake moving south, whilst 33 Great Black-backed Gull flew north. A further hour's seawatch from Culbery on 22nd produced another seven Common Scoter flying south plus nine Manx Shearwater, a Great Skua, 213 Guillemot and 82 Kittiwake. Slightly lighter winds and brighter conditions on 23rd produced some visual migration with 56 Swallow, seven House Martin, four Starling, six Grey Wagtail, 32 'alba' Wagtail and 73 Chaffinch. A drop in the wind speed on 24th failed to produce very much with just a flock of 14 Raven, 12 Swallow and 16 Robin being the only sightings of note whilst on the 25th two Teal were on the Millpond and five Common Scoter were on the sea off the Cletts. An



hour's seawatch on 26th produced the only notable records of the day with 93 Gannet, 27 Kittiwake and 17 Great Black-backed Gull moving south off Culbery whilst five Manx Shearwater were seen offshore on 27th when five House Martin, 14 Pied Wagtail and 15 'alba' Wagtail were seen over land. Light northerly winds on 28th brought an excellent array of species with the first three **Blue Tit** of the year and the first two Great Tit and Magpie of the autumn. Birds of prey were well represented with two Sparrowhawk, three Buzzard and a Merlin, whilst visual migration of birds moving north-west included 58 Skylark,

75 Swallow, 101 House Martin, 64 'alba' Wagtail, 350 Meadow Pipit and 17 Reed Bunting. Grounded migrants included 29 Robin, three Wheatear, 20 Dunnock, 30 Pied Wagtail, 66 Chaffinch and 12 more Reed Bunting. Robin had increased to 36, Dunnock to 28 and Goldcrest



to 20 on 29th when the first signs of an 'invasion' of Great Tit continued when a further 13 arrived. Smaller numbers were present on 30th with just 10 Dunnock, eight Robin & six Goldcrest but four Blackcap were new, and a Merlin was trapped at the Observatory. An hour's seawatch from Culbery in the afternoon produced a southerly movement of 28 Gannet, 43 Guillemot and 87 Kittiwake plus the last two Manx Shearwater of the season.

A total of 81 species were recorded in the month.

October

Weather: A period of moderate northerly winds started the month swinging to the west and increasing in strength from 7th - 9th. Brisk south-easterlies on 10th & 11th were replaced by a near gale force southerly on 12th which decreased on 13th and swung to the north-west on 14th. A brief spell of light easterly winds on 15th was replaced by a period of moderate south-westerlies from 16th – 21st, then settled in the north-west until 27th. Light easterly winds on 28th & 29th were replaced by light south-westerlies to the month's end.

The month started relatively quietly with a Golden Plover flying over the Observatory and a Merlin around the islet. Grounded migrants included 50 Pied Wagtail, 20 Goldcrest, 18 Robin, seven Dunnock, six Great Tit, five Blackcap and a Wheatear whilst visual migration included 24 Skylark, 23 Swallow and four House Martin. Five Lesser Black-backed Gull on 2nd was the highest count of the month. Goldcrest was the main species recorded during the 3rd and 4th with 32 & 30 respectively, whilst the 3rd also produced 20 Pied Wagtail, 176 Meadow Pipit, 52 Chaffinch and 60 Linnet. Chaffinch were the key species on 5th with 70 recorded, together with 60 Goldfinch, 31 Swallow, 15 Great Tit, nine Wheatear. Three

Coal Tit were seen, including two trapped at the Observatory and another in Mill Giau, whilst an 'Owl spp', probably Short-eared, flew high over the Observatory towards Caigher. The 6th was one of those classic



autumn migration days with large numbers of birds passing over, as well as many grounded migrants. The 'tit' invasion continued with 10 Coal, four Blue and 30 Great whilst other grounded migrants included 75 Goldcrest, six Chiffchaff, three Ring Ousel, two **Mistle Thrush**, 15 Robin, three Wheatear and 20 Dunnock. Visual migration was immense with 1000 Chaffinch, 150 Skylark, 40 Swallow, 13 Starling, a further 80 Dunnock, three Grey Wagtail, 200 'alba' Wagtail, 456 Meadow Pipit, a Greenfinch, 80 Linnet, 250 Goldfinch, 21 Siskin and six Tree Sparrow. A much quieter day on 7th saw just six Dunnock, 21 'alba' Wagtail, 59 Chaffinch, 132 Goldfinch and another 29 Great Tit present. Strong south-westerly winds over the 8th & 9th reduced migration considerably and even seawatching failed to produce much,

other than a 'Commic' Tern on 8th and a Purple Sandpiper in South Harbour on 9th. Moderate south-easterly winds on 10th brought the change required and migrants began to move through again with 40 Skylark and 104 Goldfinch passing over, whilst grounded migrants included nine Robin, a Wheatear, 13 House Sparrow, eight Greenfinch and 173 Chaffinch. Five 'female/imm' type Pheasants were seen in the Withy and three Golden Plover that were originally seen in the Seafield later flew over the Observatory. Waders again featured on 11th with two Lapwing, a Snipe and a Purple Sandpiper again feeding in South Harbour. Five Black-headed Gull were the start of a series of records this month and 22 Jackdaws made the journey across from the main Island whilst the first Redwing (19) and Fieldfare (12) of the autumn arrived. A small amount of visual migration took place with 19 Skylark, six Swallows, seven House Martin and 133 Starling were seen. Near gale force southerly winds on 12th brought migration to a halt and just two Purple Sandpiper at Cow Harbour and a single Fieldfare were of note. A slight decrease in wind strength on 13th brought very little new with just two Redwing and a Grey Wagtail but calmer conditions on 14th brought a good autumnal arrival which included the first **Yellow-browed Warbler** of the year. Visual migration included 13 Jackdaw, 41 Hooded Crow, 52 Skylark, 17 Swallow and 90 Starling whilst grounded migrants were 15 Goldcrest, three Blue Tit, 19 Great Tit, 30 Blackbird, 15 Robin, three Wheatear and 17 Dunnock. Another two Yellow-browed Warbler were trapped on 15th when a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was initially seen in the end Sitka's and later trapped in the back garden. Visual migration included 625 Jackdaw, 35 Rook and 17 Skylark whilst grounded birds included 89 Goldcrest, nine Blue Tit, 66 Great Tit, eight



Coal Tit, five Chiffchaff, four Blackcap, a Treecreeper, a Ring Ousel, eight Fieldfare, 30 Song Thrush, 24 Redwing, 14 Mistle Thrush, 23 Robin, a Redstart, 19 Dunnock, 20 House Sparrow, two tree Sparrow, the 1st three Brambling of the autumn, 152 Chaffinch, 25 Greenfinch and 55 Goldfinch. Also of interest were five Black-headed Gulls seen flying south off South Harbour with a further 13 flying north off Cow Harbour the next day. Two more were seen heading north towards Cow Harbour from Baie Fine where several flocks of Kittiwake, numbering around 400 in total, were seen rafting on 17th. A small amount of visual migration was evident with 22 Skylark, 14 Swallow and 105 Starling, whilst 36 Redwing, 12 Song Thrush and 15 Robin were around the Observatory and a single Wheatear was at the Lighthouses.

Light northerlies on 18th again encouraged overhead passage with four Magpie, 208 Jackdaw and a flock of 29 Raven making the trip across



from the main Island, whilst a lone Whooper Swan flying west over the Observatory was however likely to have come from much further afield, along with visual passage of 39 Skylark, 35 Swallow, the final House Martin of the season

heading west over the Observatory, 132 Starling and 25 House Sparrow. Grounded migrants included 16 Goldcrest, 15 Blue Tit, 59 Great Tit, four Coal Tit, a Wheatear, eight Chiffchaff, five Fieldfare, 28 Song Thrush, 35 Redwing, two Mistle Thrush, three Brambling and 32 Greenfinch. Elsewhere on the islet, two each of Merlin and Sparrowhawk were seen, a Snipe was flushed from the Seafield, 11 Purple Sandpiper were in the west coast caves, a Short-eared Owl was seen flying along the east coast and five Black-headed Gulls flew south through the Sound. A much quieter day on 19th saw four Lapwing seen at various locations around the islet, two each of Merlin and

Sparrowhawk were again seen, four Lesser Black-backed Gull were in Gibdale, and a light sea passage south past the lighthouses produced 15 'Auk' spp, 61 Kittiwake and eight Black-headed Gull with another five seen flying east through the Sound. A small number of grounded migrants were present on the 20th with a Blue Tit, 15 Great Tit, 14 Coal Tit, 16 Song Thrush and 47 Chaffinch around the Observatory, whilst the last Wheatear of the season was seen at the Cletts. However, the main excitement of the day came from two **Little Egret** seen initially flying along the east coast and later heading towards the Puddle and a Whooper Swan which flew south across the Sound. Poor weather on 21st meant that relatively little was seen, although the 4th Yellow-browed Warbler was trapped during the early morning before the rain set in. A clearer day on 22nd encouraged some visual migration with 46 Skylark, three Swallows and 555 Starling, whilst around the Observatory were 12 Great Tit, two Coal Tit, 37 Song Thrush, 10 Fieldfare, 44 Redwing and 65 Chaffinch. A small southerly passage off the west coast included three Black Guillemot, two Guillemot, 24 'Auk' spp, 10 Kittiwake and nine Black-headed Gull. With moderate to strong north-west winds on 23rd seawatching was the main activity, although relatively little was seen except the only **Great Northern Diver** record of the season, heading north across the Sound and a further three Black-headed Gulls flying west off South Harbour. Fifteen Great Tit and a Coal Tit were the only records of note on 24th whilst the 25th produced a greater variety with five Golden Plover flying over the Puddle towards the Lighthouses, a Lapwing in the Front Field, a Common Gull on rocks at Cow Harbour and a Black-headed Gull flying north across the Sound. A few grounded migrants included 17 Great Tit, six Coal Tit, 22 Song



Thrush, 12 Redwing, 12 Robin & 199 Chaffinch with just 22 Skylark moving overhead. Four Whooper Swans flew west over the Observatory on 26th and four Greylag Geese were initially seen heading along the west coast from Cow Harbour where three Black-headed Gulls headed north across the Sound. The Greylags were subsequently seen passing South Harbour where a Water Rail was skulking amongst the rocks. Visual migration involved 423 Starling with a small arrival of thrushes including 27 Fieldfare, 49 Redwing and 15 Mistle Thrush. Clear conditions on 27th encouraged another 'invasion' of corvids, with single Magpies seen at the Withy and on Kitterland, 521 Jackdaw, 11 Rook, 28 Carrion Crow and 24 Hooded Crow making the trip across from the main island. A further arrival of 40 Great Tit and three Coal Tit were amongst grounded migrants that included 42 Blackbird, 61 Song Thrush, 47 Redwing, eight Mistle Thrush and 13 Robin with 297 Starling, 121 Woodpigeon and 70 Linnet moving overhead. Bird of the day, however, was a **Stock Dove** which hung around the end Conifers, whilst other records of note included a Buzzard, a Snipe flushed from the Millpond, three Turnstone on Rarick and a Black-headed Gull that flew north across the Sound. Calmer conditions on the 28th encouraged even more overhead movement with 736 Jackdaw, 34 Rook, 10 Carrion Crow, seven Hooded Crow, 442 Starling, 70 Blackbird, a Mistle Thrush, 173 Chaffinch and nine



Greenfinch. Grounded migrants were also plentiful with two Blue Tit, 12 Great Tit, eight Coal Tit, 27 Long-tailed Tit (1st of autumn), 180 Blackbird, 20 Redwing and 12 House Sparrow. Passage was somewhat reduced on 29th with just 200 Jackdaw, seven Rook and 136 Starling moving over,

whilst 72 Blackbird, a Fieldfare, 13 Song Thrush, 18 Redwing, four House Sparrow and 60 Chaffinch were around the Observatory. A few seabirds were also seen with two Black Guillemot and single Guillemot and Razorbill were seen off Cow Harbour. A Black Guillemot was again seen in the Sound on 30th with a Magpie initially seen around Cow Harbour but later appearing at the Observatory. Visual passage included just 150 Jackdaw and 132 Starling, and another five Long-tailed Tit arrived at the Observatory. Elsewhere, a Redshank was seen from the 'Scraayl' at Kione ny Halby and a Snipe was flushed from the Seafield. Waders again featured on 31st with the 1st Woodcock of the autumn being flushed from the willows behind the back garden, another Snipe was flushed from the Millpond where a female Teal was present. The Magpie (from 30th) continued to hang around the Observatory where grounded migrants included 28 Blackbird, 15 Robin, seven Song Thrush, three Redwing and a Grey Wagtail.

A total of 89 species were recorded in the month.

November

Weather: The first eleven days of the month were dominated by mainly moderate to strong south-westerly winds, except for a short period of south easterlies on 4th & 5th. Rain was recorded on most days and at times was prolonged and heavy.

Passage of Starlings continued on 1st with 277 moving west over the islet, although grounded migrant numbers were low and main interest came from seabirds with two Black Guillemot off Cow Harbour and a small southerly movement of six Kittiwake and 11 Guillemot off the Lighthouses. A Snipe was flushed at Big Head, three Magpie appeared at Cow Harbour and a 'Rail' spp was briefly seen at the Top Withy. A Water Rail calling at the Top Withy on the 2nd solved the identification question from the previous day. Starling passage continued with another 245 moving west, along with 14 Jackdaw and grounded migrants including 2 Blue Tit, 19 Great Tit, 27 Blackbird, 17 Redwing and 13 Robin. A Snipe was again flushed from the Millpond, two

Purple Sandpipers were at Cow Harbour and four Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen near the Lighthouses. Gale force south-westerly winds and constant rain on 3rd meant very little was seen except a Grey Heron, but improved conditions on 4th saw another 199 Starling move west and the last two Skylark of the season flew over the Withy. A few seabirds were of note, with two Black Guillemot in the Sound, 39 Kittiwake flew south off the Lighthouses and 13 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were along the west coast between the Puddle and the Lighthouses. The 5th saw a small increase in grounded migrants with 25 Blackbird, 14 Fieldfare, five Redwing and 28 Chaffinch, whilst overhead passage with 237 Starling continued. Elsewhere a Snipe was flushed from the Millpond and single Black-headed Gull and **Goosander** flew south through the Sound. Strong south-westerly winds over the next few days brought migration almost to a halt with the only notable sightings being a Snipe and two Mistle Thrush on 6th, a Short-eared Owl flushed from near the Quarry at dusk on 7th and five Pheasant in Mill Giau & 101 Starling flying west on 8th. A Purple Sandpiper was at Cow Harbour on 9th and a few thrushes arrived around the Observatory with 25 Fieldfare and seven Redwing present. A westerly passage of 240 Starling again occurred on 10th, eight Lesser Black-backed Gull were again seen along the west coast and two individual Woodcock were flushed from behind the Observatory and near the Lighthouses. The season ended on 11th when three Kittiwake and 19 Fulmar were seen from the 'Scarayl' on the journey back to the main island.

Two 'red-head' Red-breasted Merganser were reported flying east through the Sound on 18th and a female Wigeon was recorded by camera trap on the Millpond on 18th and 19th November. Although not recorded during 'the season' these records have been included in the report given the species' rare status on the Calf.

A total of 61 species were recorded in the month.

2018 Systematic List

The nomenclature and taxonomic orders follow that of the ninth edition of the British List published by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) 2017 in *Ibis* 160: 190-240 and subsequent BOURC reports (available online at <http://www.bou.org.uk/british-list/bourc-reports-and-papers>). When the vernacular British name differs from the vernacular International English one (IOC), the international name is given in brackets. The local Manx name is given in grey when known.

Bird-days are the number of birds recorded in total. They take no account of the number of individuals. For example, five Blackbird bird-days could be five birds on one day or the same single seen on five dates.

A brief statement regarding the previous status of a species is given in italics and the following scale is used to describe its regularity of occurrence:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • Very rare vagrant | < 5 records |
| • Very rare migrant | 5-10 records |
| • Rare migrant | Less than annual |
| • Scarce migrant | 1-10 records annually |
| • Uncommon migrant / visitor | 10-100 records annually |
| • Common passage migrant / visitor | Occurs regularly, more than 100 annually |

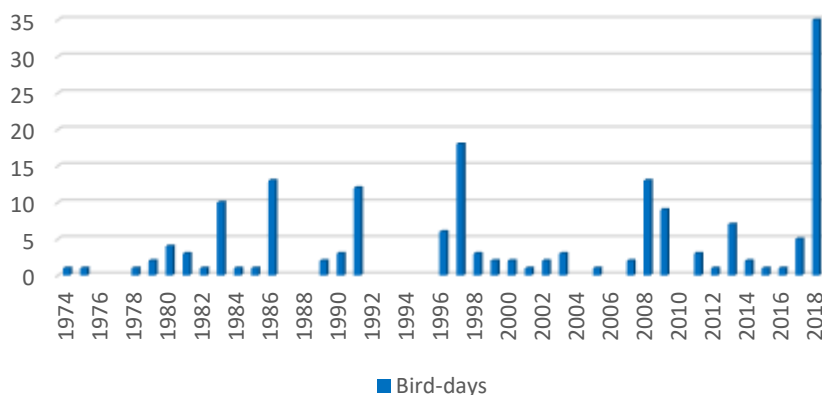
A total of 145 species were recorded on the Calf during 2018.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Guiy Feie

Scarce visitor, most probably originating from feral populations on the Isle of Man; 43 previous records since the first in 1974 involving 137 individuals.

An above average series of spring records saw two on 26th and singles on 27th and 31st March, followed by flocks of seven on 5th, five on 9th, two on 28th and eight on 29th April. Additionally, five were seen flying off Caigher during the morning of 17th July. In autumn, the only record was a group of four seen flying along the west coast from Cow Harbour and seen by second observer as they passed South Harbour on 26th October.



Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Ollay Chiaullee

Scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor; 70 previous records since the first in 1966, involving 256 individuals with records in Mar (1), Apr (1), Sep (1), Oct (40) & Nov (27).

With only two previous spring records ever (17th March 1966 & 15th April 2005), three flying south off the lighthouses on 12th April are particularly noteworthy. A good series of autumn records began with a single heading west over the Observatory on the 18th, another single flying along the west coast on 20th and herds of four on both the 26th & 27th October. The group on the 26th were flying west over the Observatory, whilst the four on the 27th were initially seen heading south past the Puddle.

[Common] Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Thunnag y Scape

Resident during April – May with one or two pairs breeding annually; otherwise a scarce passage migrant.

Three at Caigher Dub on 3rd April were the first records of the year, with at least one pair becoming established around the Puddle area later in the month. A second pair also became established during mid-April between Cow Harbour and The Dock and both pairs remained through to the end of May. Although no nests were located and no young seen, the behaviour of two adults at South Harbour on 22nd May suggested that they had young hidden amongst the rocks and boulders. Records became more sporadic during June with pairs being seen on just five dates up to 23rd and there were no further records for the remainder of the season after that date.

[Eurasian] Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Rare migrant; approximately 94 previous records involving 401 individuals.

A female was recorded by camera trap on the Millpond during the night-time of the 18th & 19th November. Records of this species have declined dramatically with only eight records from six years in the last decade.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Thunnag Feie

Fairly common spring & winter resident, breeds in small numbers most years.

Up to seven birds were seen almost daily from the start of the season, with pairs and small groups regularly seen at Cow Harbour and South Harbour, the Millpond and Dub. Breeding was confirmed on three occasions, with a female and at least eight ducklings appearing on the Millpond on 25th April. At least nine ducklings were present on 27th & 28th but had reduced to seven ducklings by 29th but none were seen after this date. A female and 11 ducklings were recorded on camera trap footage on Kitterland on 8th May and a second brood of young appeared at the Millpond on 25th June.

Regular records continued through to the end of June, with two also present on 1st July. Records then became scarce during the summer months with a further single on 18th July, two on 9th and a single on 19th and 20th August. September produced just one single on 22nd, but records became more frequent during late October with a pair present on the Millpond daily from 24th – 31st October. A pair were recorded, by camera trap, almost daily from 18th November to 28th December.

[Eurasian] Teal *Anas crecca*

Thunnag Laaghag

Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant.

A female at the Dub on 24th – 25th March, with a male present on the latter date were the only spring records.

In autumn, a flock of seven seen flying south off Culbery on 3rd September, when a female/immature bird also took up residence on the Millpond, remaining until the 10th. Two were also present on the Millpond on 25th September and a single there on 30th October. Camera trap footage revealed that three were present on the Millpond on 17th November, with a single on the 18th.

[Common] Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Laagh Loughlinagh

Formerly a rare passage migrant prior to 1992; now common breeding resident from mid-March to end of June, although records are scarce after July.

First of the season were three females in the Leodan on 13th March, then seen almost daily through to the end of the first week of July; numbers built gradually with monthly maxima of 17 on 29th March, 79 on 25th April and 110 on 13th May. The first nests were located on 10th May, with a total of 36 nests being monitored during the season. Breeding success would appear to have been pretty good with an 81% success rate for nests hatching young. Thereafter, it is difficult to assess success with crèches and females dispersing quickly after leaving their nests. It is thought that the breeding population may now be in excess of 70 pairs. From mid-June daily records reduced to mostly single figure counts through to 15th July, with a single on 17th and four on 21st July being the last records of the summer.

There were only a couple of autumn records, with a pair at Cow Harbour on 6th and two flew north across the Sound on 14th October.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon passage migrant, recorded mainly in autumn.

A typical series of autumn records with small flocks, of up to nine, seen on seven dates in August (from 17th) and on five dates in September, up to 25th. All records were of birds seen off the west coast with the majority being seen during sea-watches from Culbery.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

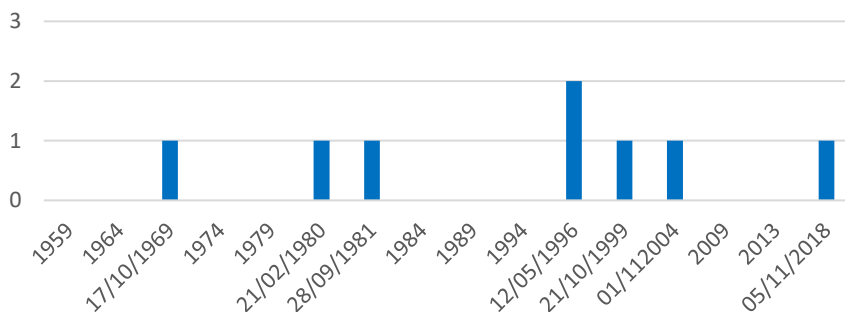
Rare migrant; 38 previous records, involving 80 individuals with records in Apr (4), May (4), Jun (2), Jul (4), Aug (3), Sep (5), Oct (12) & Nov (4). Only three records have occurred in the last decade, being a single on 1st October 2008, two on 6th October 2011 and a further single on 1st November 2013.

Two 'red-heads' flew east through the Sound on 18th November (NM). These birds were recorded after the close of the season but owing to the species rarity are included in this report. This is the first record for five years.

Goosander [Common Merganser] *Mergus merganser*

Very rare migrant; six previous records involving seven individuals, with records in Feb (1), May (1), Sep (1), Oct (2) and Nov (1).

A female or immature type bird flew south across the Sound on 5th November, representing just the seventh Calf record.



[Common] Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Scarce visitor; first recorded in 1976 there were nine records up to 2011. Records have been annual since 2015, involving up to ten individuals including both male and females that have been present for long periods.

The male and female present during 2017 over-wintered, with several images of the birds captured on camera traps left set around the Millpond area during the winter months. Both were seen fairly regularly during the early part of the season, particularly during the first half of April when the pair often frequented the area close to the quartz stone on Caigher. The female then became more typically elusive with only the calling male being reported, almost daily, through the spring and early summer. The first ever confirmed breeding of the species for the Calf was made on the 26th August, when the male was seen in the company of the female and three juvenile birds. The 'family' party were seen around the Glen area on several further dates during September and early October, with a peak count of five females and one male seen on 24th October.

Great Northern Diver [Common Loon] *Gavia immer*

Arrag Vooar

Scarce passage migrant; mostly recorded in autumn.

A single heading north across the Sound on 23rd October was the only record in a rather disappointing season that failed to provide any other diver records.

[European] Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Kitty Varrey

Regularly recorded night-time visitor during summer months of May - August; breeding has yet to be confirmed but some circumstantial evidence exists.

The only records were, typically, from birds seen ashore during night-time between the period 1st June to 30th August. Tape luring was conducted at South Harbour on 14 nights with a total of 103 birds being caught, including 93 new birds, eight controls from elsewhere and one re-trap that was originally ringed on the Calf in July 2017. Catches during June were relatively small with one to five birds trapped on seven dates, whilst numbers increased in July with double figures caught on four nights including a maximum of 12 on 8th and 18th July. Catches in August comprised five on 13th/14th, a season maximum of 24 on 22nd/23rd and 10 on 29th/30th August.

Once again there was no definitive breeding evidence found, although a male heard calling 'inland' from above South Harbour on 14th July, and a 'gravid' female caught the same night, gives further hope and indication that the species may indeed breed on the Calf.

Leach's [Storm] Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare migrant; 54 previous records involving 942 individuals, with records in Jul (1), Aug (5), Sep (28), Oct (18) & Nov (2). Peak counts were 129 on 29th September 1963 and 92 on 15th September 1985.

Two seen off Culbery on 21st September were the only records for the year and the first since 2013.

[Northern] Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Eean Croymmagh

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Birds were already present on the cliffs at the beginning of the season with 72 counted from the 'Scraayl', between Ghaw Yairn and Kione ny Halby, as we made our journey to South Harbour to begin the season. Almost daily counts continued through the spring, although no significant passage was recorded. A boat trip from Cow Harbour to South Harbour via Big Head on 25th March allowed a further count of birds occupying ledges along the East coast with 92 seen. Birds were present around their breeding ledges throughout much of the season and a combined land and sea count of the Calf's coastline revealed 98 AON's on 6th June and 124 AON's on 23rd June. A breeding survey of the Fulmar nesting in Ghaw Yairn was undertaken during June and July, with visits made every other day to record the presence of adults or any nest contents. A total of 34 AON's were identified and monitored, although it proved very difficult to ascertain nest content for many. Productivity was fairly low with only three chicks believed to have reached the fledging stage. Breeding birds continued to be seen daily around the Calf throughout August and the first half of September, although some autumn passage was evident, with 121 south off Culberty on 23rd August being the highest count of the autumn. As for many seabird species, autumn passage was very poor and October and November only produced three single figure records each. The final record of the season was a count of 19 birds along the East coast around Ghaw Yairn, which was seen from the 'Scraayl' as fieldworkers left the islet at the end of the season.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

Scarce autumn passage migrant; 190 previous individuals recorded with one spring record (24th April 2011) and in autumn, Jul (1), Aug (29), Sep (141), Oct (17) and Nov (1).

A single flew south past Culbery on 16th August during a day of heavy Manx Shearwater passage (EOC).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Scraayl

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

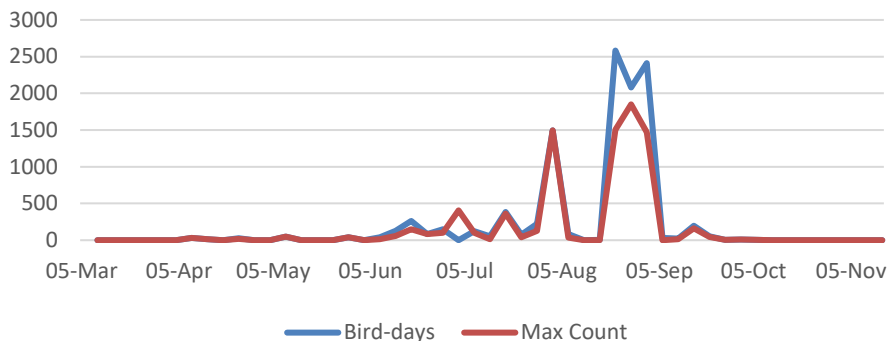
First of the season were 30 birds seen after dark on 3rd April from the South Harbour and Kione ny Halby colonies. Further night-time colony visits yielded 15 at the Cletts on 6th and 20 on 16th, again between South Harbour and Kione ny Halby. Birds were seen ashore along the East coast regularly from May to the end of August, with up to 50 birds seen on some nights.

Call-back surveying was undertaken in South Harbour, Gibdale and Baie Fine during 1st – 10th June, with varying results. It is evident that the population along the East coast is continuing to expand and a 'full' burrow count at South Harbour on 9th June yielded 93 responses from 392 burrows; this compares to 70 AOB's in 2017 and 41 AOB's in 2016.

Populations at Kione ny Halby and Kione Roauyr were not surveyed during this season, although night-time activity would suggest that similar numbers to 2017 were present. The species fortunes would appear to not be so good along the north and west coasts with only eight responses from 35 burrows surveyed in Gibdale and zero responses from 15 burrows at Baie Fine.

The Cletts was not surveyed but the presence of birds at night during the early part of the season would suggest breeding does occur here and between three – five pairs were present in the Puddle.

The presence of birds offshore during daytime became a fairly regular feature from early June, although generally only in double figure counts and monthly peaks of 406 on 27th June and 361 on 9th July involved birds rafting offshore during the evenings.



Autumn passage began with a southerly passage of 1497 past Culbery on 28th July and peaked during the second half of August with notable southerly passage counts of 1504 on 16th, 1850 on 18th and 1469 on 23rd. Passage was considerably reduced during September with records from just 13 dates in the month, the only three-figure count and peak of 162 on 11th and the final two birds of the year seen on 30th September.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Very scarce autumn passage migrant: approximately 44 previous records involving 64 individuals since the first record in 1968, with records in May (2), Jun (2), Jul (2), Aug (10), Sep (18), Oct (8), Nov (2).

One flew south past Culbery on 17th August (EOC).

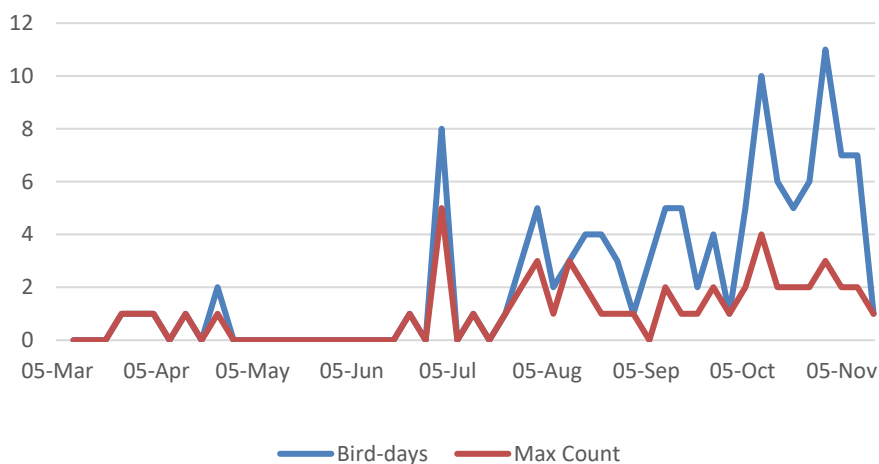
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Coayr / Coayr ny Hastan / Coayr Glass

Fairly regular non-breeding visitor.

Spring records were rather scarce with just singles recorded on three dates in March and three in April up to 16th.

There were then no records until a single arrived on 16th June, followed by three on 24th and five on 26th. Records became slightly more frequent in July with one or two on eight dates plus a maximum count of three on 26th July. From August, up to three birds were regularly recorded with records on 15 dates in August, 19 dates in September and 27 dates in October plus an autumn maximum of four on 4th October. A single was recorded by camera trap on the Millpond on 24th November.



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Very rare vagrant; four previous records with singles on 11th June 1998, 9th November 2010, 14th June 2011 and 23rd May 2013.



The fifth Calf record concerned two birds seen and photographed flying along the east coast between Cow Harbour and South Harbour on 20th October. The birds were then seen by a second observer to drop down towards the Puddle before heading back towards the Isle of Man.

Given that the species has now become almost ‘resident’ on the Isle of Man, it is hoped that records will become a more regular occurrence on the Calf.

[Northern] Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Gant

Common passage migrant; feeding flocks present offshore during April to August.

Recorded almost daily throughout the season, with feeding flocks off the south and west coasts being a regular sight during the summer months. There was no significant spring passage and numbers present during summer were relatively low, with peaks of just 154 on 17th May and 142 on 27th July.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	150	387	960	539	634	2901	2135	1281	32
Days recorded	13	23	31	30	30	28	30	29	5

Autumn passage began on 15th August and peaked during the second half of the month with no fewer than 12 three-figure counts and a high of 417 on 26th August. This relatively light passage continued through September and October, with no significant movements recorded during the autumn and monthly peaks of 329 on 3rd September and 471 on 9th October.

[European] Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Fannag / Feeagh Varrey

Common breeding resident.

Present throughout the season, with breeding birds already having active nests, with both eggs and young, before we arrived on the islet in mid-March.

Location	AON
Big Head / Cletts	5
Giau Yairn	14
Kione ny Halby (main colony)	31
Kione ny Halby (south)	7
Burroo	2
Lower Lighthouse Field (Cliffs below)	1
Amulty / Baie n' Ooig	17
Baie Fine	7
Gibdale Bay	14
Gibdale Point	2
Total	100

The breeding total of 100 AON's is a further reduction on the 107 recorded in 2017 and represents an overall population decline of 75% from the hay-day of 400 pairs in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Counts of 50 – 100 birds during May & June largely reflect the breeding population on the Calf and local movements of feeding birds from other breeding sites around the southern coastline of the Isle of Man.

From mid-June the adult birds are joined by recently fledged young and large feeding flocks are a regular sight, particularly in the Sound and sometimes off the south and west coasts of the Calf, with peak counts being 456 on 23rd June, 331 on 21st July and 406 on 18th August. Numbers of birds were somewhat reduced during September and October with counts of up to 50 being regular, but occasional larger flocks occurred with maximums of 293 on 22nd September and 214 on 7th October.

(Great) Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Arragh Vooar

Formerly bred 1959 - 1974; fairly common resident, increasing numbers in autumn.

Most records came from the Sound area with one to three birds regularly seen feeding there or roosting on the rocks at the Cletts during spring. Records of one or two birds also occasionally occur around South Harbour, Caigher Point and the Lighthouses and these additional birds often contribute to monthly peaks, with six on 8th April and nine on 11th May. The first double-figure counts came at the end of June, with 10 on 25th & 27th and at this time up to six birds were regularly frequenting one of the cliff promontories at the Cletts. With a mix of adult and sub-adult birds present, this area could potentially be a site for recolonization as a breeding species on the Calf in future years.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	8	38	63	88	77	96	95	103	26
Max.	2	6	9	10	9	21	11	12	14

Counts of up to six birds around the Sound and Cletts area were relatively common throughout autumn, and with occasional records from other areas of the islet peak counts during autumn included 21 on 22nd & 12 on 30th August, 11 on 4th & 26th September, 12 on 18th October and 14 on 1st November.

[Western] Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant; 47 previous records since the first in 1961.

One was seen and photographed as it flew over Mill Giau and headed north-west towards the Lighthouses (DW) on 13th September.

[Eurasian] Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Shawk / Shirragh / Shirragh ny Giark

Fairly common spring and autumn passage migrant.

Spring passage consisted of one or two birds recorded sporadically during spring from 24th March to 2nd June.

Other than a single present on 27th & 28th July, autumn passage was evident from 10th August with one or two seen on seven dates in August, 15 dates in September and 19 dates in October, plus a maximum count of three on 4th September.

[Northern] Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

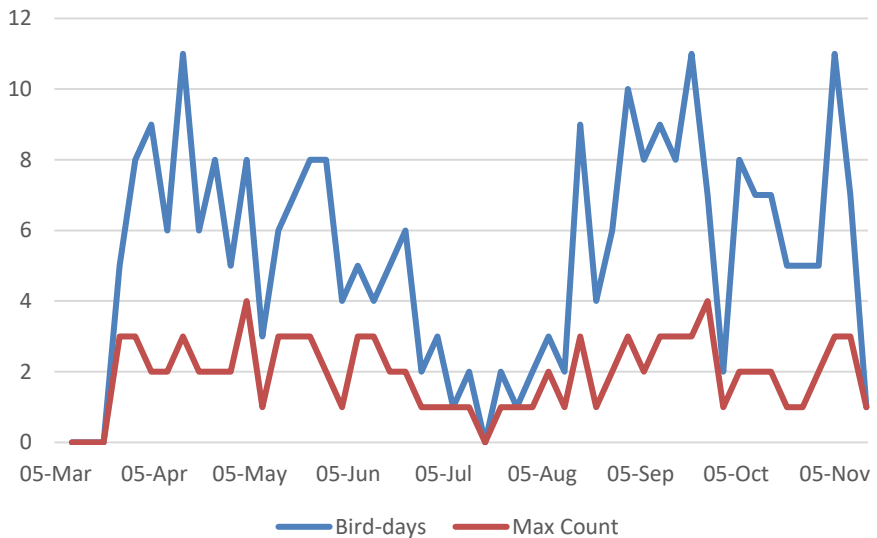
Very rare passage migrant; eight previous records occurred in March (1), May (1), October (4) and November (2).

A single on the 27th April was seen by several observers (NW, SMZ, OMP) and represents the ninth Calf record and the first seen in April.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Common resident and passage migrant, that occasionally breeds.

One or two birds were present throughout much of the season, with up to three birds seen occasionally and a season maximum of four on 28th April and 17th September. As in 2017 there was no evidence of breeding, although at least one female over-summered and several males were seen in spring. Passage through the island is difficult to detect and counts generally reflected the maximum number of birds seen at any one time and are likely to be an under-estimate of the actual numbers that may be present or moving through.

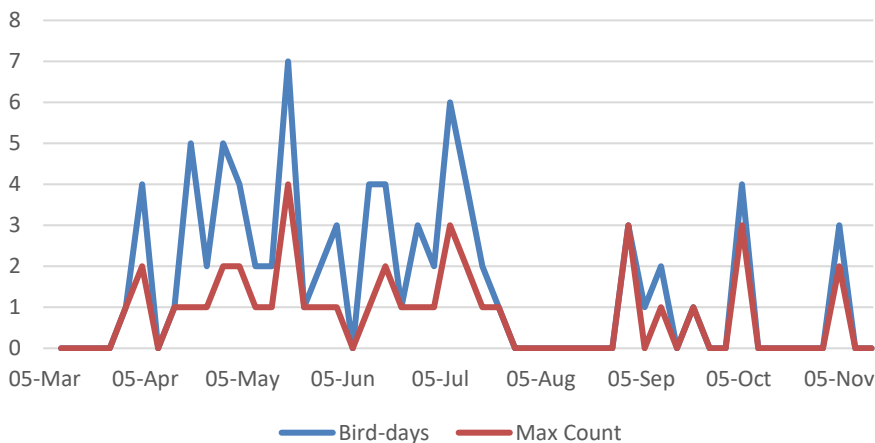


[Common] Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Formerly a rare passage migrant; fairly common spring and autumn visitor since 2015, most likely originating from the small breeding population now present on the Isle of Man.

Records of one or two birds were frequent throughout the first half of the season between 24th March and 14th July, with a count of four on 12th May equalling the previous highest ever count for the Calf (21st April 2016). Many of the records are likely to relate to one individual which was often seen along the west coast and around the lighthouses where it regularly came into conflict with the resident Ravens.

Autumn records were, as in 2017, much less frequent than those in spring which may reflect the relative lack of calm days experienced during the past two autumns. Peak counts of three occurred on 25th August and 28th September, otherwise singles were recorded on 30th August and 2nd, 4th, 16th & 29th September and 27th October with two on 28th October.



Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Drean Ushtey

Bred 1989 & 1990; scarce passage migrant, may over-winter some years.

What was presumably the same individual was heard calling from the Front Field *Juncus* on five dates between 13th – 26th March and it is possible that this bird may have over-wintered on the Calf.

The only records of the autumn were of a single seen on rocks at South Harbour on 26th October and another at the Top Withy on 1st and 2nd November.

[Common] Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Kiark Ushtey

Formerly bred; now scarce passage migrant with only one record since 2008.

A single was present on the Millpond on 20th August. The 2nd record since 2008, following a single in the Puddle on 22nd July 2017.

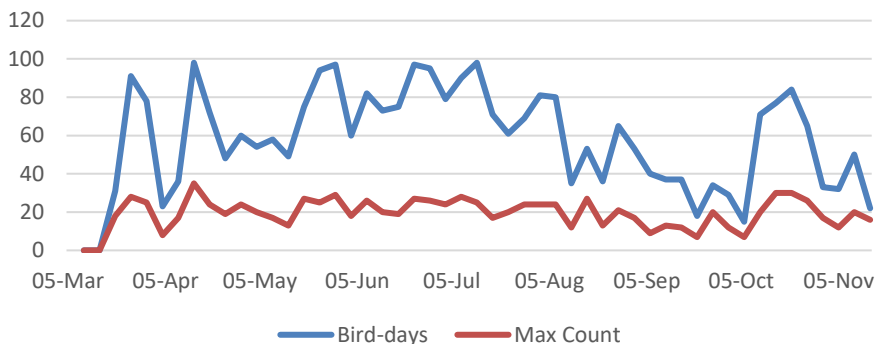
[Eurasian] Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Garee Breck / Bridgeen

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Present around much of the southern half of the Calf coastline throughout most of the season, with Cow Harbour also hosting wintering and passage groups.

At least 11 pairs bred on the Calf with a further two pairs on Kitterland. Counts of 15 – 25 birds were relatively common throughout the season, although peaks of 35 on 5th April and 30 on 8th & 16th October may well represent some passage birds.



[Northern] Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Earkan

Formerly bred; occasional passage migrant.

The remains of a relatively recent (Peregrine?) kill were found at Creg Vennagh on 7th April. Live birds were seen in the Seafield on 29th April & 30th May and in the Withy Field on 7th May.

Records became more frequent in June & July with one or two on 11 dates plus larger groups of 12 on 29th, five on 30th June and 10 on 2nd & seven on 8th July. Singles were seen in August on 4th & 20th but there was then a gap in records until



October when two were seen on 11th, four on Caigher on 19th and a single heard in the Front Field on 25th.

[European] Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Ushag Reeast/Fedjag Reeast

Occasional passage migrant.

Unusually there were no spring records.

The first records of the year were singles heard calling as they flew over the islet on 19th and 24th July. Further singles occurred in August on 10th & 30th, with three in the Seafield on 11th. Five were present on 15th September, with a single the following day and six on 21st. October again produced a couple of records with a single on 1st, two on 5th, three on 7th & 10th and five flying over the puddle towards the lighthouses on 25th.

[Common] Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Feddag Ainnit

Occasional passage migrant.

There were two spring records, both involving single fly-over birds heard on the 7th May and 3rd June.

In autumn, two flew south during a seawatch from Culbery on 18th August and a lone bird spent ten minutes circling above Gibdale and the Front Field on 16th September.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Fairly regular passage migrant, mostly in spring.

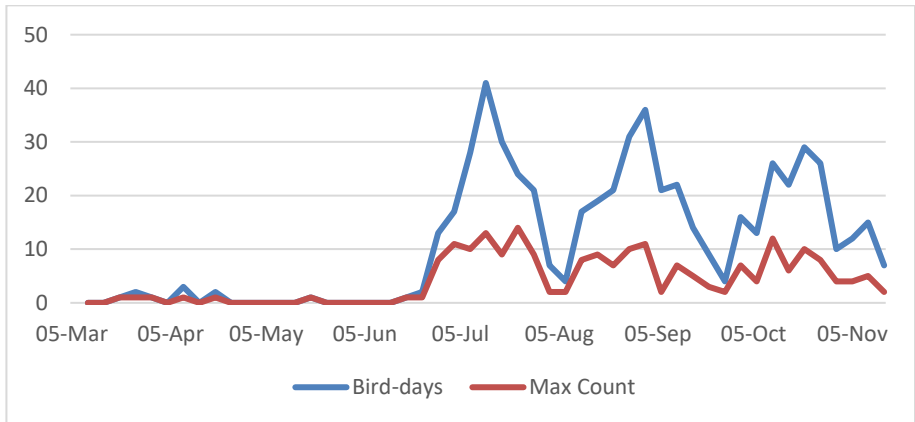
As in recent years, spring records were relatively few with the first two seen on 3rd May and just further singles on 6th, 18th & 21st May. The first returning bird was flushed from the mouth of Mill Giau on 18th July, with a further single seen on 26th July. August produced most records, with singles on 3rd & 20th, two south off Culbery on 18th and four south on 23rd. The final records were again involving single birds on 2nd & 5th September.

[Eurasian] Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Crottag

Up to three pairs formerly bred prior to 1982; now common passage migrant in reducing numbers.

Spring records involved just singles on four dates in March and five dates in April up to the 14th. The only other record was a single on 12th May.



Autumn passage began slowly with singles on three dates from 13th – 17th June, with numbers increasing to a monthly maximum of 11 on 25th. Daily counts during July to October rarely exceeded single figures with just four double figure counts in August and two in October, with a maximum of 14 on 15th August.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Rare passage migrant; 31 previous records involving 108 individuals. Most records involve single figure counts, with high counts of 24 on 16th & 44 on 23rd August 1974 and nine on 8th September 1998.

A large flock of approximately 35 birds were seen flying at height towards Cow Harbour from the north-west on 28th July; this represents the 2nd largest count for the Calf and occurred at a time when several other west coast observatories also recorded passage movement of this species.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Rare passage migrant; 12 previous records involving records in Apr (1), Jul (5), Aug (2) and Sep (4). Most records involve single birds although larger groups were three in the Glen on 8th – 9th July 1983, two at Fold Point on 17th September 1983, four flying through the Sound on 30th July 1994 and five south-east of Kione Roauyr on 30th August 2008.

The first records for 10 years involved a single on rocks at South Harbour on 21st August and a flock of 13 flying south off Culbery on 23rd August. The latter record represents the largest group ever recorded on the Calf.

[Ruddy] Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Goblaghan

Fairly common passage migrant and common winter visitor.

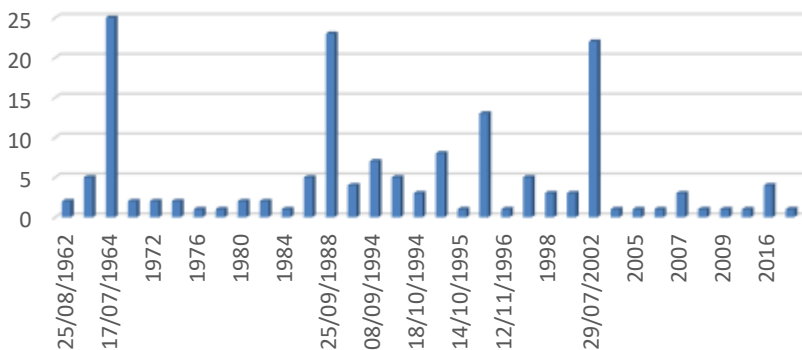
Singles on the 7th and 20th May continue the disappointing trend of low numbers recorded in recent springs.

Autumn passage involved singles on 21st July and 18th August and 18th September, a flock of 20 seen near to the Cletts on 11th September and three on Rarick on 27th October.

[Red] Knot *Calidris canutus*

Rare migrant; 44 previous records since the first in 1962 involving 161 individuals with records in Apr (1), May (1), Jun (1), Jul (6), Aug (11), Sep (19), Oct (4) & Nov (1)

A single initially seen on the rocks outside South Harbour on the afternoon of 25th March, represents the first ever record for the month. Presumably the same individual was trapped, on the Dub, later the same evening and was subsequently recorded (by camera trap) feeding around the Dub on 6th & 7th April.



Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Breck ny Traie

Scarce passage migrant.

The first record of the year was of a single flushed from South Harbour at 2330hrs on 31st May, with further singles being recorded on the 9th & 26th June. Autumn passage involved flocks of nine and eight flying south off Culbery on 17th & 18th August respectively and singles heard flying over the islet on 21st & 22nd August.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter resident.

A small number of wintering birds are known to frequent the cave below the Lower Lighthouse with four being present on 24th March and six on 21st April. However, larger groups were also located in 'Kittiwake Cave' on the same dates with a further 25 and 12 recorded respectively. Nine were seen on Chicken's Rock on a particularly calm day on 13th April and the last two of the spring were in Kittiwake Cave on 29th May. The first autumn records were of a single feeding in South Harbour on 9th & 11th, two feeding at Cow Harbour on 12th and a flock of 11 in the west coast caves on 18th October. The final record of the year was two at Cow Harbour on 2nd October.

[Eurasian] Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Ushag Rennee

Fairly regular autumn passage and winter migrant.

Spring records are relatively infrequent on the Calf, so singles recorded on the 12th & 17th March are noteworthy and most likely attributable to the cold weather conditions that were being experienced during the early part of the 2018 season. First of the autumn was a single flushed from the willows in the back field on 31st October followed by another in the same area on the 9th November, when a second bird was seen near the Lighthouses.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Rare passage migrant.

A single was flushed several times from the Upper Withy Field on 29th April. The first record since October 2016 of this secretive and, likely, under-recorded species.

[Common] Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Coayr Heddagh

Fairly regular passage migrant.

One or two recorded on five dates in March from the 15th, plus singles on 1st, 21st & 27th April and seven on 13th April which included five flushed from the Millpond.

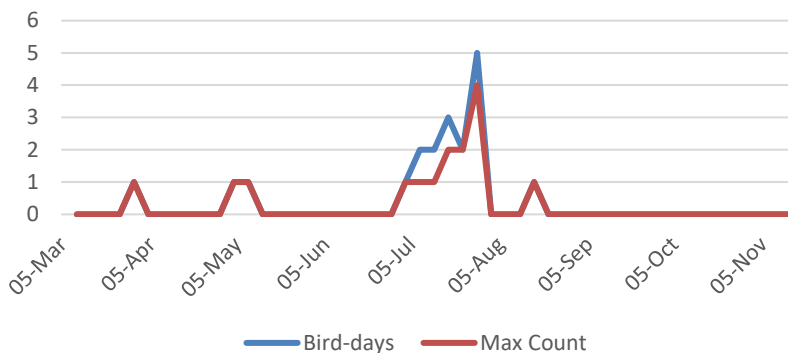
Rather disappointingly there were no May records and what was, presumably, the first autumn bird was seen on 27th June. There followed a small passage of birds during early July with four seen on the 6th, singles on 7th, 8th & 10th and two on the 11th. Four were present on the Millpond on 4th August, with singles recorded on 20th, 21st & 29th and three on 31st. Early September saw a peak in passage with two on 2nd and ten on 3rd, with further singles on 5th, 18th & 30th. Two on 6th October were followed by a further six singles during the month and four singles in November.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Looyran

Uncommon spring migrant and common autumn passage migrant.

The earliest ever spring record was seen and heard on 24th March as it flew over the trapping area and back field. Further singles on 26th April & 2nd May represented more typical dates for spring passage.



Autumn passage began with singles on 25th & 30th June, followed by up to two on eight dates in July plus a maximum count of four on 19th. The final records of the year were singles on 2nd & 10th August.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare migrant; 49 previous records involving 55 individuals with records in Apr (3), May (1), Jul (8), Aug (21), Sep (11) and Oct (5).

A single was heard flying over the Millpond on 4th August; it tried to land before heading off west over Caigher. This is the first record since 2007.

[Common] Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

Goblan Marrey

Fairly common passage migrant.

A single on the 9th April was the only spring record.

Autumn passage began early with a single present at Cow Harbour from 28th - 29th June, further singles at Cow Harbour on 4th and at Rarick on 7th were followed by five at the Cletts on the 19th July. In August, two individuals were seen on the 19th, with one remaining until 20th and three juveniles were trapped at South Harbour during the night of 30th. Late autumn records were very sparse with just a single seen at Kione ny Halby on 30th October.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Rare migrant; 10 previous records involving 11 birds with records in Apr (1), May (2), Aug (3) and Sep (5).

A single was seen and photographed at South Harbour and later flew towards the Puddle on 9th August (Bowers). The 11th Calf record and the first record since 2004.

[Common] Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Rare spring and uncommon autumn passage migrant; 95 previous bird-days recorded with records in Mar (3), Apr (1), May (9), Jun (3), Jul (9), Aug (47), Sep (21) and Oct (2).

A single seen flying over the Twin Fields on the 15th May is a typical spring date for this species.

The only autumn record was a single that flew south off Culbery on 18th August.

[Black-legged] Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Perragh

Formerly bred pre-2013; common passage migrant and summer visitor

Sightings were scarce during the first part of the season with two on 23rd March & 3rd April and three on 16th April. Records remained scarce through May and despite 82 seen moving west on 4th, the only other records for the month were two on 7th and a single on 18th May. Observations became more regular from 10th June, with almost daily counts through to end of July. These records, of normally up to 75 birds, are likely to involve small feeding parties from nearby breeding colonies, with occasional larger groups occurring, with several rafts totalling 200 off Gibdale and Burroo on 11th June, 270 on 9th & 238 on 23rd and 189 roosting on Rarick on 27th July.

Southerly autumn passage began from mid-August with seawatching off the west coast producing only three notable movements, with 114 on 19th, 136 on 24th and 289 on 26th August.

Disappointingly there was no significant late autumn passage with just double-figure counts on 17 dates in September and eight dates in October, plus a flock of 400 around Baie Fine on 17th October that appeared to be roosting. There were just two records in November when birds were recorded flying south off the Lighthouses, with six on 1st and 39 on 4th November.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare migrant; 53 previous individuals with records in Apr (1), May (2), Sep (22), Oct (22) and Nov (6).

A most unexpected record of a 1st or 2nd summer individual that appeared amongst a feeding frenzy of gulls in the Sound during the late afternoon of 9th June (AMS, NW, OA, SMZ). The bird was only present for about 20 seconds before it flew purposefully east and was the first record since 2011.

Most Calf records occur during autumn gales, with only three previous spring records of singles on 9th May 1983, 31st May 1993 and 11th April 1997.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Pirragh

Fairly common passage migrant.

Spring records were scarce with just two sub-adults taking up residence in the Glen field system on 21st May, with one remaining until 22nd and three birds joined a feeding frenzy of larger gulls in the Sound during the afternoon of 9th June.

Early autumn passage saw two at Cow Harbour on 4th July and another two off South Harbour on the 7th. Further singles on 24th, 26th & 29th July and 19th August and 3rd September plus a movement of six flying south past Culberty on 26th August. October produced a considerable upsurge in records which began with five on 11th. However, from 15th October, records occurred on 10 dates in the remainder of the month and included high counts of 13 on 16th & 19th and nine on 22nd, with a total of 58 bird-days for the month. The final record of the year was a single that flew south off Cow Harbour on 5th November.

Common [Mew] Gull *Larus canus*

Foillan Vane

Uncommon passage migrant.

Single adults were seen in the Sound on the 9th & 14 June – these records may well have been the same bird.

Late October is often the time to find this species on the Calf and a first winter bird seen on rocks at Cow Harbour on 25th is a typical record.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Juan Mooar

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Present throughout and from the start of the season with counts of up to 75 being regular and reflect the resident breeding population. Strong south-westerly or westerly winds often bring larger flocks ashore, seeking shelter from the gales with 400 on 28th and 250 on 29th March being the spring maximum, with smaller peaks of 172 on 11th April and 219 on 9th May.

Location	AON
Gibdale Point / Amulty	2
Lower Lighthouse	1
Caigher	16
Rarick / Puddle/ Burroo	4
Lower Twin Field	1
Upper Withy Field	1
Seafield	2
Central Heath	2
Big Park	3
Cletts	1
Cow Harbour / Grants Harbour	2
Kione Beg	2
Kitterland	19
Total	56

The breeding population of 56 pairs represents a 36% increase on breeding numbers present in 2017, although the population remains at only a quarter of the breeding population that was present on the Calf during the late 1970's. Dispersal of juvenile birds from natal sites began to swell numbers present on the islet from mid-July and three-

figure counts became more frequent, with 130 on 24th July and 282 on 10th August. As with the other 'larger' gull species, numbers were significantly reduced during September with counts of 20 – 55 being most normal and only two dates when counts exceeded double-figures, with 119 on 6th and 137 on 7th. October saw numbers increase again as autumn gales pushed birds onto the islet looking for shelter, with eight dates of three-figure counts including a peak of 185 on 6th October.

[European] Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Foillan

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Present throughout and from the start of the season with counts of up to 350 being regular. Numbers built gradually during spring with 525 on 23rd March to a spring maximum of 1060 on 11th April. Thereafter, counts of 450 – 750 largely represented the breeding population, with little passage or interchange noted.

Location	AON
Gibdale Pt - Lighthouses (West Coast)	20
Ghaw Laing	20
Caigher Heath (Dub) and Caigher Point	80
Kittiwake Cave	12
Rarick	81
Burroo / Burroo Neck - South Harbour	28
Central Heath	42
Kione ny Halby	50
Fold Point / Cletts	4
Cow Harbour	141
Kione Beg - Gibdale	11
Kitterland	41
Total	530

The breeding population of 530 AON's represents an 80% increase on breeding numbers present in 2017. Dispersal from the breeding colonies was evident from early August with daily counts reducing to less than 300 birds and from 8th September reduced further to low double-figure counts on 13 dates and single-figure counts on nine dates in the month, with the exception of 152 on 16th, when rafts of birds could be seen between Cow Harbour and Port Erin Bay. Numbers increased slightly during October with daily double-figure counts and a peak of 109 on 22nd.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Foillan Saggyrt

Common breeding resident and fairly common passage migrant.

Birds were already present on the breeding sites at the beginning of the season with 23 on the slopes above Kione ny Halby and 15 on Caigher on 11th March, with similar numbers seen through March and the first part of April. Eighty-eight on 11th April was the forerunner of a significant increase in the numbers of birds present through the spring months with three-figure counts being regular during the second half of April and throughout May, with maximums of 161 on 26th April and 207 on 4th May. This increase in adult numbers was reflected in a return to breeding numbers witnessed in 2016/17 but was made more evident from a greater level of daily coverage achieved during 2018.

Location	AON
Amulty	2
Ghaw Laing	1
Caigher Heath (Dub)	8
Kittiwake Cave	1
Central Heath	6
Kione ny Halby	28
Kitterland	8
Total	54

The breeding population of 54 AON's represents a 93% increase on breeding numbers present in 2017, although mirrors population counts in 2016 and 2010. Counts remained relatively high during June with daily counts of up to 100 and a peak of 111 on 27th June. Dispersal from the breeding sites was evident during July and from mid-month counts from 20 – 60 were more normal, although 75 were seen on 31st. Daily counts continued through August, although single figure counts were prevalent and this continued into September when sightings became more sporadic with records on only 19 dates in the month, as the last few birds lingered around the breeding haunts. October produced one or two birds around the coastline on six dates, plus five on 2nd, four at Gibdale on 19th and three at Cow Harbour on 27th. During November four were near the Lighthouses on 2nd, a remarkable 13 were counted between the Lighthouses and the Puddle on 4th and a single on 6th was the last record of the season.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Uncommon passage migrant.

The only spring record was of two birds flying east through the Sound on 9th June.

A small southerly passage was noted past Culbery during the autumn with two on 18th & 26th and six on 19th August.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Gibbyn Gant

Rare migrant; approximately 36 previous records involving 115 individuals, with records in May (4), Jun (1), Jul (4), Aug (6), Sep (11) & Oct (5).

A single flew south off Culbery on the 26th Aug (EOC).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
Scarce migrant.

Singles flew south off Culbery on 15th & 18th August.

'Commic' Tern *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

A single seen flying south past Culbery on 8th October.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*
Maarliagh Marrey
Uncommon passage migrant.



An excellent series of spring records began with a single that spent much of the afternoon of the 26th April hanging around near the gull colony at Kione ny Halby. What was probably the same bird was seen again on 29th April and then two flew over South Harbour on 4th May. A

single was near the Lighthouse fields during the evening of the 6th and further records of singles came from along the east coast on 12th, 19th, 29th & 30th May. It is probable that many of these records refer to the same individual, which took up residence throughout the summer being seen on 20 dates in both June and July and on 14 occasions in August up to 28th. More typical are records of birds seen during autumn sea-watches, with two birds flying south off Culbery on each of 18th & 23rd August and 13th September. A further four singles were seen during September and the last record of the year was one at Baie Fine on 16th October.

Arctic Skua [Parasitic Jaeger] *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Shirragh Varrey

Uncommon autumn passage migrant.

Southerly passage was recorded during August, with singles passing Culbery on 17th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd and 26th and four were seen on 24th and in September with singles on 3rd, 13th & 21st.

Common [Murre] Guillemot *Uria algae*

Stronnag / Chennell

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

The first record of the season was 12 flying west on 22nd March followed by two on 23rd and a single on 24th. Records were quite sporadic in both April and May with mostly single figure counts, occasional low double figure counts from 18 – 61 and peaks of 101 on 21st April and 90 on 31st May. Almost daily counts were made



through June and July, with birds being present at four main breeding sites around the islet – Big Head, Ghaw Yairn, below Lower Lighthouse field and Amulty. Gaining accurate breeding counts from land is impossible and without regular access to a boat, the ability to carry out sea-based surveys again relied on the generosity of several local boatman.

Peak breeding counts of individual adults ashore (IA's) were made during the first three weeks of June with 260 on 6th June, including 142 at Big Head, 278 on 15th, 289 on 16th and 294 on 23rd June, including 253 at Big Head. The mean count for this period would indicate that there are approximately 216 IA's or 145 breeding pairs. As the only

colony visible from land, an attempt to monitor breeding productivity at Ghaw Yairn was made during July with an average count of 74 AI's being achieved from five counts between 12th – 17th July and a maximum of nine young seen on 14th July. Breeding birds and young dispersed very quickly during the second half of July and there were no records in August. Autumn sea passage was very poor with just nine counts of less than 50 in September plus a peak passage count of 213 south on 22nd. October was even worse with single figure counts on six dates, plus a monthly peak of 28 on the 8th October and the final record of the season being 11 flying south off the lighthouses on 1st November. Three 'bridled' individuals were noted amongst the birds at Big Head on 6th June.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Coltrag

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

The first records of the season were four on 21st and three on 23rd March followed by records on 10 dates in April, when calm weather conditions provided peak counts of 160 on 8th, 118 on 14th and 228 on 21st April. Records were then made daily from 1st May to 24th July with peak breeding counts (IA's) being 267 on 6th, 244 on 13th & 238 on 15th, 287 on 22nd & 253 on 23rd June; whilst in July 200 on 1st and 237 on 6th July perhaps indicated a late breeding season. The mean count for the first three weeks of June would indicate that there are approximately 183 IA's or 123 breeding pairs.

Breeding sites are more scattered than the previous seabird species and counts from land are more indicative of the likely breeding population, although there are some breeding sites that are not accessible or visible from land. The following table shows an estimated breeding population for known breeding haunts.

Location	Pairs
Gibdale	30 - 40
Amulty / Baie n' Ooig	30 - 40
Lighthouses / Stack	10
Burroo	5
Kione ny Halby	10
Ghaw Yairn	3
Kione Roauyr	40 - 50
Total	128 - 158

Unidentified large “auks” *Uria / Alca spp.*

Records refer to either Guillemots or Razorbills that were too distant to specifically identify. Given the lack of any significant passage movements for either of the two former species, it is unsurprising that there were generally few records throughout the season.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	7	30	62	115	1	2	20	39	0

Black Guillemot *Cephus grille*

Caillagh Ghoo

Fairly common breeding resident and scarce passage migrant.

Five at Baie Fine on 7th April was the first record of the year, with a further three on 14th and a single on 26th, followed by five singles from 12th – 30th May. Records became much more frequent during June and July with breeding suspected around the Lighthouse Stack area, with several birds seen flying towards potential nest sites carrying fish. Counts of up to six birds were most regular, although higher counts occurred with seven on 27th June, nine on 14th, 22nd & 23rd July, 10 on 10th & 16th July and 11 on 21st July, which also included birds seen

around the Gibdale area where breeding has been recorded previously.

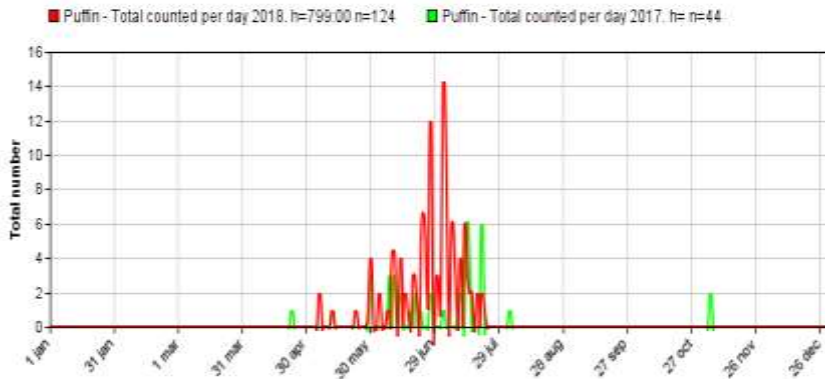
Unfortunately, the potential breeding sites are not viewable from land, and it would be necessary to watch the areas from the sea to establish the actual locations and numbers of pairs present. Breeding birds disappeared rapidly at the end of July and there were no records until several sightings of birds during sea-watches, with four on 9th & two on 10th September, plus three on 22nd, two on 29th and a single on 30th October.

[Atlantic] Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Pibbin / Poltrag

Formerly bred pre-1997; now uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first birds of the summer were seen between Spanish Head and Big Head on 6th May and there were three further singles during the month and four seen on the 30th May. Sightings of up to six birds, off the Lighthouses and Stack, became regular throughout June and up to 22nd July, with high counts of 12 on 27th June and 14 on 3rd July. Although regular sightings were made from land, many records were contributed by the local boat crews and day visitors making trips around the Calf. Due to the steep cliffs to the north of the Lighthouses it is not easy to view birds coming ashore and therefore it was not possible to ascertain if any breeding attempt was made. However given the regularity of records in this one area throughout the summer, it suggests that breeding may have occurred. Occasional records of birds around the Big Head and East Coast probably refer to birds that may be breeding around the Black Head area of the Isle of Man, although five seen landing at Kione ny Halby on 27th June raises hope that breeding may occur once again in this area sometime soon.



- Comparison of Puffin numbers recorded during summer 2018 vs 2017:

Autumn passage was recorded from 23rd July with up to three birds seen on six dates up to 26th August, with the majority of sightings being of birds moving south off Culbery.

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Calmane ny Creggey

Uncommon visitor

All records are thought to relate to racing pigeons, with one or two birds being seen regularly on the islet between 5th May and 24th June and larger groups noted with five on 3rd June, four on 4th, 11th, 17th and 20th June. The absence of any breeding Peregrines during 2018 seemed to favour the survival of pigeons that would otherwise not usually last more than a day or two on the islet. Final records of the autumn were two on 19th July and singles on 19th August and 10th September.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Formerly bred 1973 & 1974; now a rare visitor occurring less than annually

A single present around the end Conifers on 27th October was the first record since two individuals in spring 2016.

Woodpigeon [Common Wood Pigeon] *Columba palumbus*

Calmane Keylley

Formerly bred 1969 – 1975 & 2010; fairly common passage migrant.

One to three birds were seen regularly throughout the spring and summer, with peak counts of five on 26th & 28th June. The presence of at least two birds around the Observatory for much of the summer suggested that breeding may be occurring and the observation of an adult carrying eggshell away from the nest site on 23rd July confirmed this. The absence of any breeding Peregrine this season was undoubtedly an incentive for pigeons to spend more time on the Calf than they normally do and up to three birds were seen regularly through to mid-September.

Autumn passage was particularly poor with three singles in October plus 121 moving north on 27th & three on 28th and finally three more singles between 5th – 8th November.

[European] Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Formerly scarce passage migrant up to 1985; now rare migrant with 33 records from 1986-2005 and a single in 2008.



A single was present around the Observatory during the morning of 4th June before relocating to the Upper Withy for much of the rest of the day. This represents the first record in a decade which unfortunately illustrates the demise of this once common species due to illegal shooting and

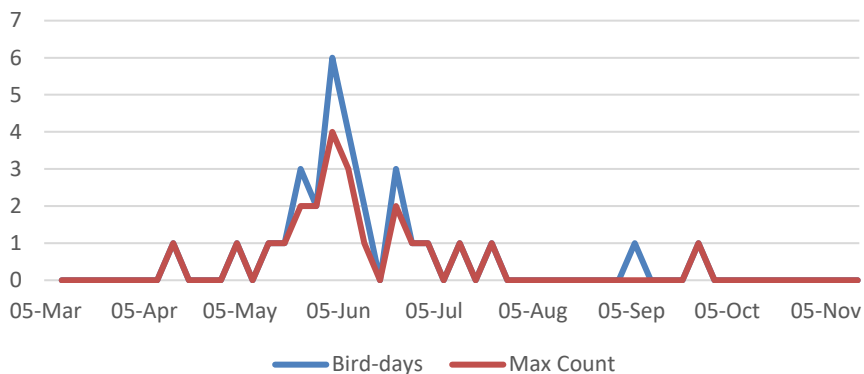
trapping across much of the Mediterranean. The same or a second bird was present at the Withy and Mill Giau on 24th & 26th June.

[Eurasian] Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Formerly bred in 1984, 2008, 2010 & 2012; uncommon passage migrant.

Records of this species are highly erratic and their occurrence on the Calf does not follow any real pattern, except for a general increase in records through late May.

Most records refer to one or two individuals with four on 29th and three on 30th May being peak counts for the season.



[Common] Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Cooag

Uncommon summer passage migrant.

As with most other sub-Saharan migrants, spring passage was very late and generally poor with singles on 29th April & 25th May and two on 30th May.

Mid-summer records are unusual on the Calf, so a single present in Gibdale on the evening of 29th June is noteworthy, as were juveniles seen around the Observatory on 17th and 29th July.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Rare migrant.

A single was flushed from one of the conifers in the back garden early on the morning of 23rd April and represents the first record since October 2015.

A second individual seen flying around the Observatory just before dawn on 5th September and was later trapped in a mist net in the back field and was the first ringed at the Observatory since 2010.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Formerly bred pre-1980 & 2009; now uncommon to rare passage migrant.

A single was seen flying over Gibdale towards the Heath during the afternoon of 25th June. It is possible that this was a wandering breeding bird from



the main Island making a brief visit to the Calf.

There were two confirmed autumn records with a single seen flying along the east coast from South Harbour on 18th October and one flushed from the quarry track at dusk on 7th November.

In addition, an owl seen flying high over the Observatory towards Caigher on 5th October is most likely to have been of this species. An encouraging increase in records after just one in April 2017.

[Common] Swift *Apus apus*

Gollan ny Greg

Irregular summer passage migrant.

The first record of spring was on the relatively early date of 29th April and was followed by the highest count for the spring of eight on 8th May, singles on 9th & 22nd and two on 31st May.

Records were more regular in June with up to four on eight dates and a monthly maximum count of seven on 25th. Early July produced up to three on four dates to the 8th with a further single flying over the

Upper Withy on 24th and four passing South during a seaway from Culbery on 28th, being the last record of the year.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*

Snoggeyder

Very rare migrant; ten previous records occurred in April (1969), May (2004), August (1988), September (1968 [2], 2012) & October (2003, 2010, 2012, 2017).

A single first seen in the end conifers on 15th October, was later trapped in the back garden.

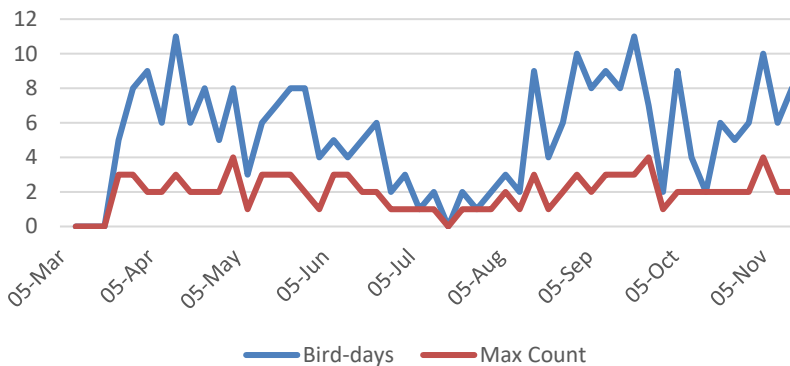
This represents the 11th Calf record, although it is the fifth record in the last decade, which may reflect the recent colonisation of the species in the Isle of Man.

[Common] Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Stannair Ruy

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Up to three individuals were seen regularly throughout the season, although fewer records occurred during late June and through July.

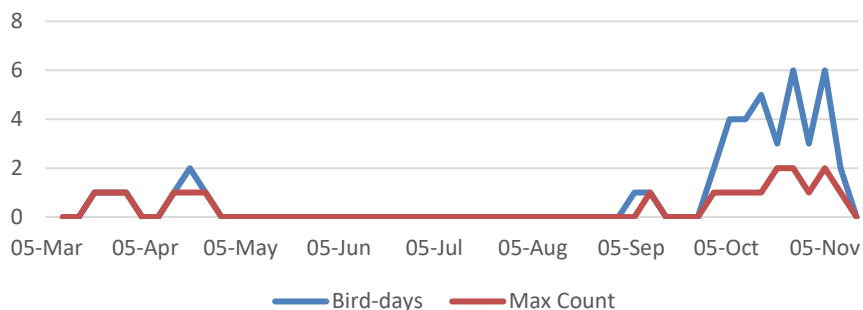


There was no evidence of breeding, although at least one pair was thought to be initially holding territory around Gibdale. Maximum counts of four were recorded on 17th September and 28th October. As with other birds of prey, it is likely that passage goes largely unnoticed, as it is difficult to distinguish migrating birds.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Fairly common spring and autumn passage migrant; common winter visitor.

Spring records involved singles on three dates in March and on four occasions in April up to the 16th.



The first records of autumn were singles on 29th August followed by another on 6th September. Records became more regular from 22nd September, with a further five singles during the last week of the month and one or two birds recorded on 25 dates in October.

[Eurasian] Hobby *Falco Subbuteo*

21 previous records occurring since the first in 1974, with records in Apr (2), May (9), Jun (3), Jul (1), Sep (3) and Oct (3).

A single was reported from near to Big Head on 29th June (OA), whilst an adult made several passes across the Front Field on 24th August (AS).

These are the first records of this species since 2013.

Peregrine [Falcon] *Falco peregrinus*

Shirragh y Ree

Common breeding resident.

One to four birds were seen regularly throughout spring and early summer, with pairs frequenting the normal breeding haunts along the north-west and east coasts. Despite the presence of these birds, little if any definitive breeding activity was recorded and sightings became much less frequent from mid-June and through July. Records of one or two birds became more regular again from August and continued through to the end of the season.

[Eurasian] Magpie *Pica pica*

Pieanat/ Piannad

Formerly bred; uncommon dispersal visitor.

April produced a series of records, perhaps all involving the same bird, with records on 1st, 9th – 14th and 21st-22nd. Two on the 28th September were the first of the autumn and were followed by small parties of six on 15th and four on 18th October which flew towards the Observatory before returning towards the Isle of Man. Two singles were seen on 27th, with one at the Withy and another seen on Kitterland, whilst a further single, originally seen flying over Cow Harbour on 30th was latter seen at the Observatory, where it remained until 31st October. The final record of the season was three at Cow Harbour on 1st November.

[Red-billed] Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Caaig

Common breeding resident.

Present throughout the season with regular counts of 15 – 25 birds being made. At least nine definite breeding pairs were located, with a further two possible pairs located in areas that are difficult to survey. The long dry summer would appear to have severely affected juvenile

survival and the only pair known to have raised young to independence was the 'Silo' pair.

The highest count of the season was 44 on 17th June, which included several recently fledged young from several nest sites. Other high counts were 33 on 15th July, 39 on 7th August and 11th October.

[Western] Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Caaig/ Juan Teayst

Uncommon dispersal visitor.

Two on 13th March and a single on the 29th April were the precursor of a good spring showing of this species with up to three birds seen on seven dates, between 18th May to 7th June, plus peak counts of four on 18th and six on 22nd May.

A flock of 36 made a brief visit over the north-east coast of the islet on 31st August, before heading back towards the Isle of Man. Passage during autumn was notable, with a total of 2475 bird-days from just eight dates from 11th – 30th October. Six dates involved three figure counts, with 625 on 15th, 521 on 27th and 731 on 28th being the maximum. Final records of the season were nine on 1st and 14 on 2nd November.

Rook *Corvus ferrugineus*

Trogh

Uncommon dispersal visitor.

The first wandering individuals from the main Island were recorded on 20th & 26th March, with further sporadic records of one or two birds on five dates in April and seven dates in May, plus monthly maximum counts of three on 26th April and five on 13th May. A single on the 3rd June was the last record of spring.

Autumn passage coincided with movements of the previous species, with 35 on 15th, 11 on 27th, 34 on 28th, seven on 29th and four on 30th October.

Carriion Crow *Corvus corone*

Uncommon breeding resident and autumn dispersal visitor.

Counts of up to six birds were regular throughout spring and summer, with peak counts of seven on 30th May and nine on 6th July. At least one bird was paired with and bred in a mixed pair with a Hooded Crow in the centre glen area.

Autumn counts were maintained at similar levels to those of spring with an increase during October resulting in four double figure counts, with 10 on 6th, 12 on 10th, 14 on 15th and 28 on 27th October.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Fannag Ghlass

Common breeding resident and autumn dispersal visitor.

With seven or eight resident pairs on the islet, counts in the mid-teens are commonplace. Evidence of some passage through the Calf in both spring and autumn comes from higher counts, with 33 on 5th April and 41 on 14th October. Twenty-two on 6th and 21 on 15th July probably relates to recently fledged young beginning to gather into flocks with the adults.

Hybrid Crow *Corvus spp.*

One or two hybrids were seen sporadically throughout the season.

[Northern] Raven *Corvus corax*

Feeagh/ Feeagh Vooar

Common breeding resident.

With two resident breeding pairs on the islet, counts of up to four were regular throughout the season. Occasional 'wandering' birds from the main Island made it across, but during spring were "seen off" back towards the Island fairly swiftly, with seven on the 21st March being the highest count. Both breeding pairs had active nests when we arrived in mid-March, however, the pair at Amulty failed in early April, following the prolonged cold spell experienced at the beginning of the season. The pair below the Lighthouses were more successful and fledged four young on 13th May, thereafter up to eight birds were seen regularly around the islet throughout the summer months.

From early September, several large flocks of 'wandering' groups, presumably from the main Island, visited the Calf occasionally, with 24 on 4th, 17 on 15th, 14 on 24th and 15 on 29th; whilst in October 20 on 15th and a year maximum of 32 on 18th October were the largest groups recorded.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant.

An above average autumn passage began with a single in Mill Giau and two around the Observatory on 5th, followed by an arrival of at least 10 birds on the 6th October. This was followed by eight on 15th, then one to four birds seen almost daily to the end of the month, with peak counts of 14 on 20th, six on 25th and 15 on 28th October. Final records of the season were singles on 1st and 8th November. The total of 80 bird-days during the autumn represents one of the best annual totals for this species.

[Eurasian] Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Drean Gorrym

Rare spring and uncommon autumn passage migrant.

Given the larger arrivals of other 'tit' species during October, it is surprising that there were not more records of this species, which occurred on just two dates in September, 16 dates in October and one date in November. Three around the Observatory on the 28th and a single at the Withy on 29th September were the only records for the month. Then four on 6th October, with one to three then present till 11th. Three more arrived on 14th, with nine being present on 15th and a monthly peak of 15 on 18th, whilst singles were present on 17th and 19th- 22nd. Final records of the month were two on 28th and 30th October. The final record of the season was two on 2nd November.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Drean Mooar

Uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant.

Spring passage was recorded from 12th March with up to five birds seen daily through to 26th, then a single was present until 10th April. Three arrived on 11th April and up to two were seen almost daily though to 29th April, with a monthly maximum of four on 20th. A total of 16 new birds were trapped with recapture data showing individuals remaining on the islet for two, six, seven and 41 days. A further two unseasonal records occurred during May, with a single on 21st and three in Gibdale glen on 27th May.

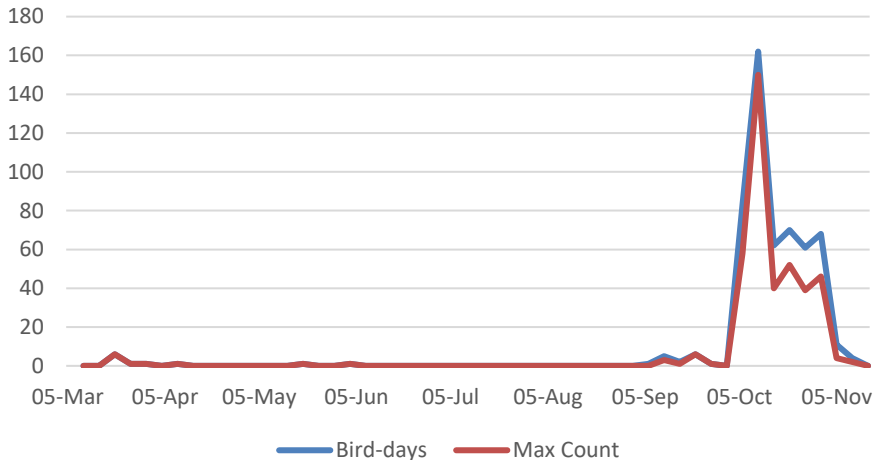
Autumn passage began with two on 28th & 30th, with at least 13 present on 29th September. During October birds were recorded daily with double-figure counts occurring on 16 dates, with peaks of 30 on 6th, 29 on 7th, 66 on 15th, 59 on 18th and 40 on 27th October. Records continued into November with six on 1st, 19 on 2nd then single figure counts daily to the end of the season. The total of 82 bird-days in spring and 520 in autumn represents the best year for this species.

[Eurasian] Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Ushag Tappagh/ Ushag y Tappee / Usagh Happagh / Ushag Cabbagh

Formerly bred; Scarce spring and reasonably common autumn migrant.

A very light spring passage involved six on 13th March, singles on 16th & 21st March and 3rd April and 12th & 29th May.



The first of autumn was a single on 30th August, although passage during September was rather slow to get going with only up to three on six dates during the month, plus six on 15th and the first notable movement of the autumn, 58 moving north-west on 28th September. Numbers improved during October, although there were only records on 18 dates in the month, with the highest count of 150 on 6th being the only three-figure count of the autumn. November produced just a handful of records with singles on 1st & 2nd and two on 4th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Gollan Geinne

Uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant.

Once again spring arrival was late with the first two on 20th April, some 25 days later than the previous 20-year average. Up to three were recorded on four more dates in the month. Peak passage occurred during the first half of May, with 46 bird-days from six dates and a maximum spring count of 17 on 7th. Ones and twos were then seen on six occasions during the last ten days of the month.

The first records of autumn were a single on 3rd, followed by two on 4th & 9th before 51 were seen on 19th and a further single on 24th July. Passage continued through August with singles on 3rd & 13th, eight on 4th & 25th, two on 19th, six on 29th and 22 on 30th. Final records of the season were six on 4th and four on 6th September.

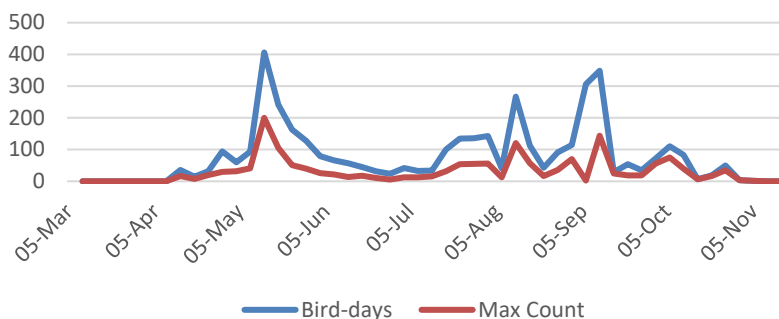
[Barn] Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Gollan Geayee

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

As with many sub-Saharan migrants, spring arrivals were late with three on 5th April being four days later than the 20-year average. Spring passage started, stuttered, stopped and restarted with daily passage not happening until after 18th April. Main passage occurred during early May with the peaks being on 7th - 8th and 12th – 13th with 127 & 200 and 75 & 105 respectively.

At least two pairs bred on the islet with a pair at the Observatory raising one brood and a pair at Jane's House raising two broods. Additionally, two pairs prospected around the Upper & 1968 Lighthouses but didn't complete nest building.



Numbers of birds present on the islet began to build from mid-July, although this is likely to have been due to arrivals of dispersing young from the Isle of Man and the presence of young fledged on the Calf forming small feeding flocks. The first peak of autumn passage came on 4th & 5th August with 120 and 87 recorded, followed by 142 and 94 on 30th & 31st August and 136 and 144 on 4th & 5th September. Further counts during September were mostly of low double figures, with 56 on 23rd and 75 on 28th being the peak monthly counts. The regularity of records diminished somewhat during October, with records on just 13 dates although this included respectable counts of 40 on 6th and 35 on 18th, with the last record of the year being a single seen feeding around South Harbour on 30th.

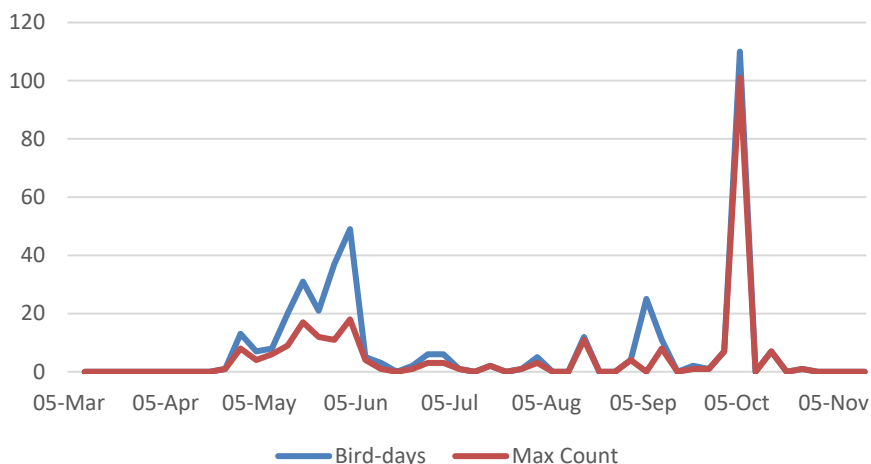
[Common] House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Gollan Thie

Irregular spring & autumn passage migrant and summer visitor.

The first of spring on 18th April was three days earlier than the previous 20-year average. This was followed by up to four birds on five further dates in the month and a monthly peak of eight on 22nd. May provided records on 24 dates, mostly in single figures, with maximum counts of 17 on 12th and 18 on 27th. The end of spring passage is difficult to determine with the presence of occasional records of birds wandering from the main Island, with up to three birds seen on 12 dates in June, plus a maximum of four on 3rd.

Occasional records of one or two wandering birds occurred during early July, but autumn passage is likely to have begun from 25th when three birds were seen associating with congregations of Swallows, with two the following day. Passage was strongest, but still very sporadic, during August and September with singles on 9th & 31st, 11 on 11th, four on 25th and seven on 30th August and singles on 3rd, 15th & 16th, two on 4th, eight on 5th, seven on 23rd and five on 27th September, although no one would have predicted the 101 that moved north-west during the early hours of the 28th. Four on the 1st, 7 on 11th and a single flying west over the Observatory on 18th October were the final records of the season.



Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalus caudatus*

Rare spring and scarce autumn passage visitor.

A single at the Millpond, being blown along on a strong north-easterly wind, on 17th March represents just the 8th ever spring record.

Late October is the typical time for this species to arrive on the Calf and light northerly winds on the 28th encouraged several flocks to make the day-trip with a total of 21 birds being seen around the Observatory, with a further six near The Dock. Similar weather conditions on the 30th produced another five around the Observatory.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

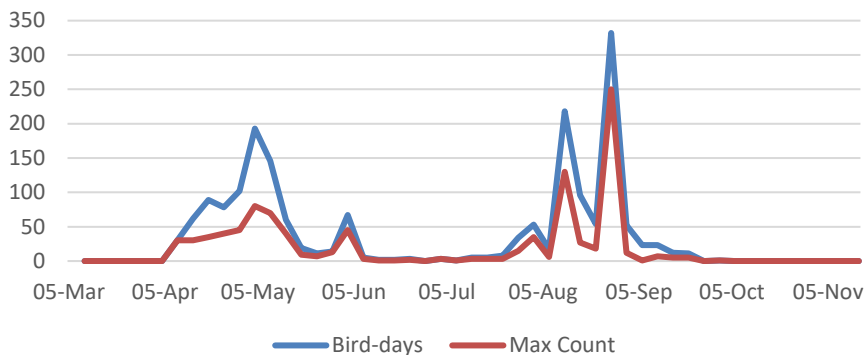
Drean Vane

Common spring and autumn passage migrant.

Spring passage, as with many migrants, was late and rather disappointingly low in volume. After 30 arrived on 4th April (a week later than the 20-year average), passage continued daily through to 6th May, with just 12 dates producing 30 or more birds and a peak of 80 on 27th April. Passage from 7th – 22nd May was almost non-existent with just single figure counts on 10 dates in this period.

Thirteen on 23rd May heralded a second, although brief, spring peak with a further 15 on 25th and 45 on 26th. Thereafter, single figure counts continued to the end of the month with a further six singles (plus two on 17th) recorded up to 18th June.

Three on 26th June was the start of a small dispersal movement of moulting adults, presumably failed or finished breeding birds from the Isle of Man which continued through to mid-July, when the first juveniles of the autumn began to arrive.



Autumn passage proper began on 21st July and continued daily through to the 16th September. Passage was above average on recent years, with counts from 10 – 40 occurring on 23 dates plus high counts of 130 on 4th and 250 on 20th August. Main passage ceased around the 26th August, with just single figure counts then to the end of the month and continuing through to the 16th September, with just one further single on 22nd September being the last of the year.

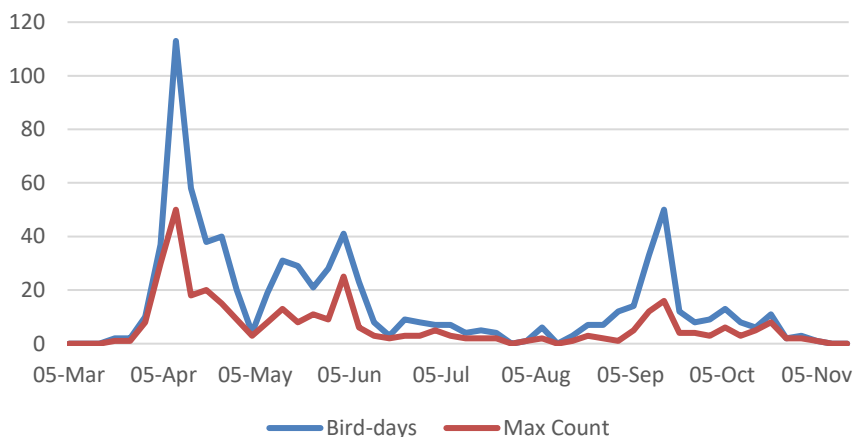
[Common] Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Beealerey

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasionally breeds.

As with most migrants, spring passage started slowly with one or two seen on just five dates in March from the 16th, plus an arrival of eight on 30th and three remaining on 31st. The arrival of 30 on 4th April heralded the strongest period of spring passage, with low double figure-counts on 11 dates up to 21st and including a peak of 50 on 9th April. From 22nd April, single figure counts continued daily to the end of the month and more sporadically through May, with occasional peaks in arrivals which included 12 and 13 on 12th & 13th, 11 on 23rd and 25 on 30th May. Small numbers of new birds continued to filter through up to 9th June and although almost daily counts of up to three birds were maintained though the month, ringing records show that these were attributable to seven individuals that summered on the

Calf. Although no nests were located, the presence of several summering adults and the trapping of three juveniles at the end of June and the beginning of July, suggests that breeding is likely to have taken place for the second consecutive year. Records of the summering birds continued sporadically throughout July and into early August, when a couple more juveniles were trapped suggesting a second or later brood of young had been raised.



Ringling records indicate that autumn passage began from 20th August and continued almost daily through to 10th October. Passage was fairly consistent with up to five birds daily being normal but also included higher counts of seven on 8th, 12 on 10th, 10 on 13th & 16th and 16 on 15th September. Records became more sporadic in the second half of October, although a monthly peak of eight occurred on 18th. The final record of the season was of single present in Mill Giau on 31st October and 1st November.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Scarce migrant pre-2006, now rare migrant; 110 previous records occurring in Apr (2), May (38), Jun (1), Jul (3), Aug (56) and Sep (10).

A return to a more typical series of records with three different juveniles trapped in the back garden on the 4th, 5th and 17th August, the latter bird remaining until 19th.

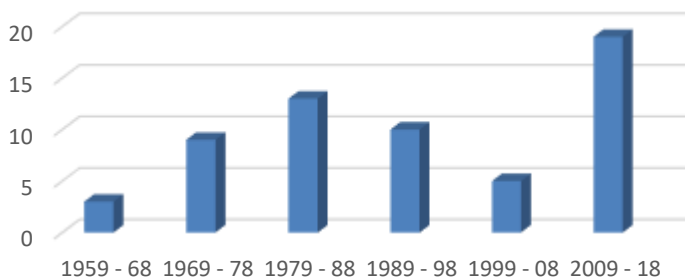
These are typical dates with 50% of the 'historical' Calf records occurring in August. However, since 2007 there have only been three records, with two singles in May (2009 & 2011) and only the 3rd ever July record on 26th July 2016.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare migrant; 55 previous records since the first in 1968 with records in Sep (13), Oct (45) and Nov (1).

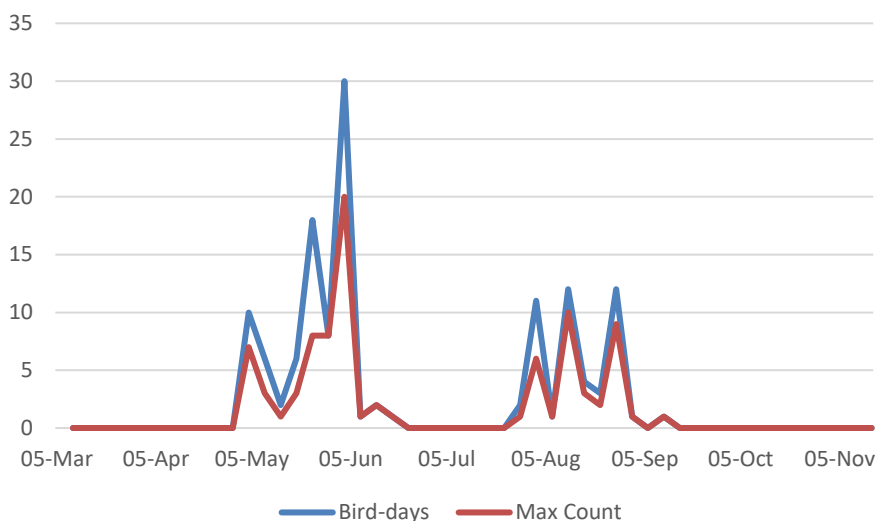
An excellent series of records, all involving birds trapped at the Observatory, with a single on 14th, two on 15th and a further single on 21st October. This equals the record number of individuals (four) recorded in 1985, 1986 and 2016.

Records by decade



Common spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn passage migrant.

Spring passage began some four days later than the past 20-year average, with the first birds being seen on 27th April. Passage was at best sporadic and generally light with low single figure counts occurring on 19 dates between 27th April and 29th May, plus a spring maximum of 20 on 26th May. Early June provided a few more records with singles on 3rd & 10th and two on 8th.



Autumn passage began on 22nd July with further singles on 23rd & 27th, plus four on 24th and six on 25th July. Passage during August involved one or two birds on eight dates plus 10 on 4th, three on 11th and nine on 20th. The last individual of the year was seen on the 4th September.

[Eurasian] Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

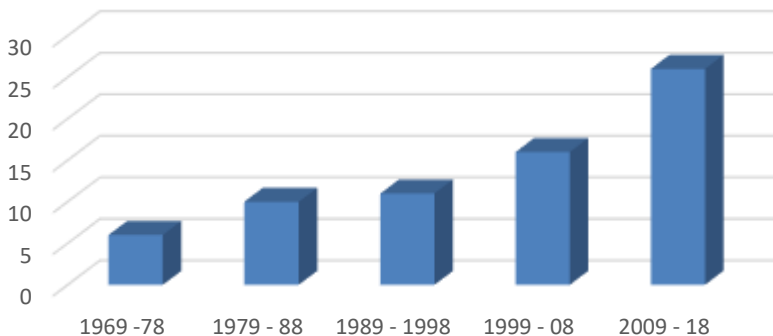
Scarce passage migrant; 56 previous records since the first in 1970 with records occurring in Apr (3), May (19), June (6), Aug (13), Sep (11), Oct (3) and Nov (1). Two additional records of un-streaked Acro's in 1996 & 1998 were most likely of this species.

An unprecedented spring passage began with two birds trapped at the Observatory on 29th May, followed by further singles on 3rd, 5th, 10th, 13th and a final individual at the Withy on 27th June. All seven individuals were trapped and ringed. The number of June records is exceptional considering that there had only been six previous records for that month.

The only autumn record was of a juvenile trapped at the Observatory on 4th September. What was probably the same bird had been seen earlier in the morning at the Top Withy and was re-trapped on 6th September at the Withy.

The total of eight individuals in 2018 easily exceeds the previous best year of five in 2017 and four in 2009 & 2016.

Records by decade



Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

Rare passage migrant; 30 previous records occurring in May (5), Jun (5), Jul (1), August (13) and Sep (6).

A single trapped at the Top Withy on 20th August was the first record since 2014 (EOC et al).



Common] Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Uncommon passage migrant.

An extremely poor spring passage saw just two individuals, both trapped, on 29th & 30th April.

Autumn passage began with a juvenile trapped on 8th July and ended with three trapped on 20th August.

[Eurasian] Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

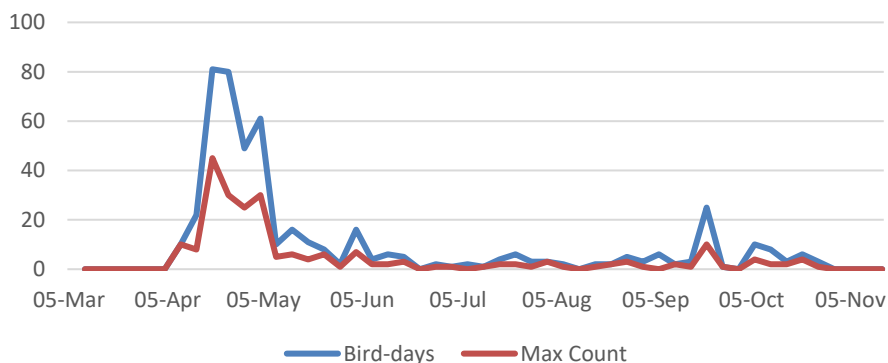
Bayrn Dhoo

Common spring and autumn passage migrant.

In contrast to most other warbler species, spring passage of Blackcaps in 2018 was probably one of the best ever witnessed on the Calf of Man. Spring passage got underway with the arrival of 10 on 4th April and continued almost daily through to the end of May. Peak passage occurred from 12th – 21st April when counts of 15 or more were made on eight dates, with a maximum of 45 recorded on 13th. A second peak occurred towards the end of the month, with counts of 28 on 27th and

30 on 29th April. Passage was consistent but more reduced in May with low single figure counts on 22 dates in the month, plus a maximum of seven on 29th. Records continued through June, with ones and twos recorded on eight dates up to the 24th, plus a monthly maximum of three on 10th.

Ringed records show that during the second half of the month there is a predominance of females caught, most of which are exhibiting brood patches. The species has never been recorded breeding on the Calf and one can only speculate that these birds are likely to be 'failed breeders' from the main Island that are beginning to wander.



Autumn dispersal was evident from early July, with the first juvenile trapped on the 3rd and one or two birds were recorded on 14 dates in the month, plus a maximum of three on 25th. Passage during August continued at similar levels with one to three on 11 dates, plus a maximum of five on 30th. September saw the peak of movements around mid-month, although inclement weather at either end of the month undoubtedly reduced numbers recorded, with two on 4th, singles on 7th, 10th-11th & 16th, seven on 13th & 15th, ten on 14th and four on 30th. October started well with five on 1st then one or two were recorded on 11 dates up to 21st, plus four on 15th. The final record of the season was a male at the Observatory on 9th November.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Kiaulleyder Garee

Uncommon passage migrant.

Just four spring records with singles on 10th, 17th, 28th and 29th-30th May.

Four individuals were also recorded in autumn with singles on 21st & 26th August, a long-staying individual from 4th – 15th September, with a second individual also on 15th.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Scarce passage migrant.

Following the record spring of seven in 2017, there were just two spring occurrences with singles trapped at the Observatory on 29th April and at the Withy on 29th May.

For the second consecutive year, there were no autumn records.

(Common) Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

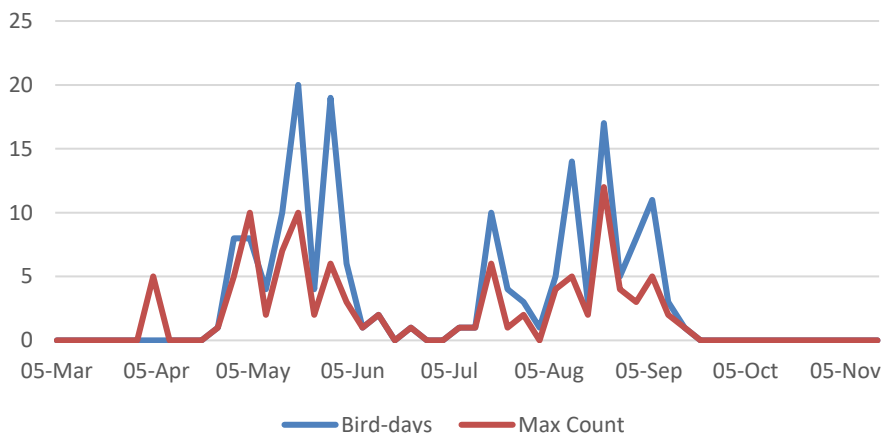
Fynnag ny Keylley

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; occasionally breeds.

A single trapped on 20th April was three days earlier than the past 20-year mean, however there were only two more April records with three on 27th and five on 29th. Passage during May was particularly poor with records on just 20 dates in the month including maximum counts of seven on 4th & 12th and the highest count of spring, 10 on 17th.

June produced just four records with a single on 6th, two males trapped on 10th and a female exhibiting a brood patch re-trapped at the Withy on 19th. The latter bird had originally been ringed at the Observatory on 31st May but wasn't encountered in between or after.

Other than singles on 6th & 12th July, autumn passage got under way from 14th; with the first juveniles beginning to move through in small numbers, with one or two recorded on eight dates to the end of the month plus a peak of six on 16th, when a female was seen feeding young at the Withy.



Passage continued at a slow and sporadic pace during August and the first half of September, with up to five recorded on just 18 dates in August and on seven dates up to 16th September, plus a high count for the year of 12 on 20th August.

[Eastern or Western] Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Rare passage migrant; 22 previous records involving 23 individuals.

A female/immature type bird of the 'eastern' race, *S.c.albistriata*, was trapped on 30th May (NW, SMZ et al).

This represents the 24th individual recorded on the Calf and the 21st to be ringed here.



[Common] Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Scarce migrant.

An excellent spring comprised of four individuals, with males on 29th-30th March and 9th April and 17th – 19th May and a female from 20th – 22nd April.

Disappointingly, there were no autumn records.

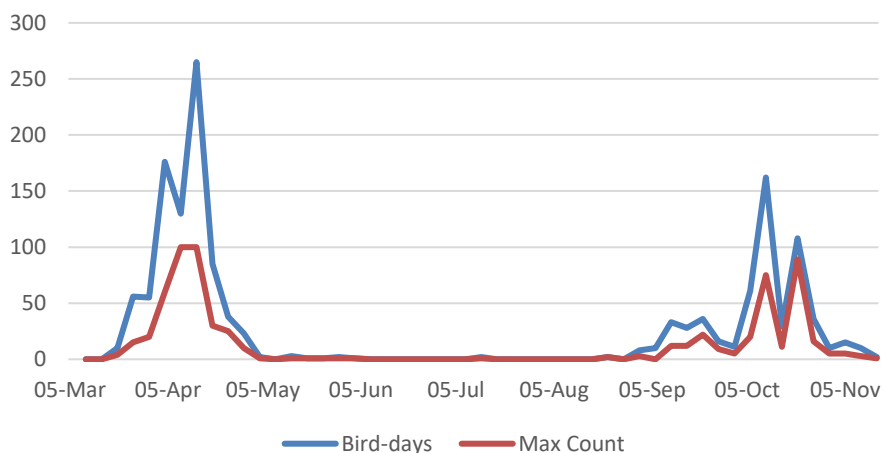
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Ushag y Fuygh

Very common spring and autumn passage migrant.

Spring passage began with two birds recorded on 12th March, then seen almost daily through until 23rd April. Passage was relatively light with double figure counts on just 12 dates in both March and April, plus maximum monthly counts of 60 on 27th March and 100 on 4th & 9th April. Further singles were recorded on 27th-28th April and 5th, 7th-8th, 14th-15th, 23rd-24th and 28th May.

The first dispersing juveniles were recorded on the early dates on 4th and 8th July, however, there were no further records until two arrived on 14th August.



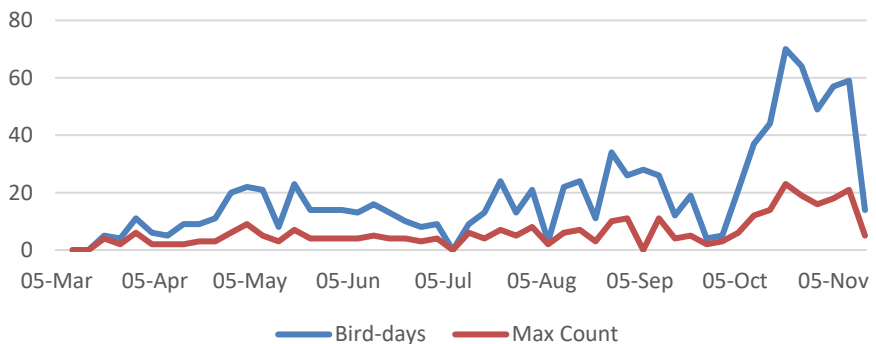
Autumn passage proper did not get underway until 24th August, after which daily but light movements occurred, with a monthly peak of just six on 30th. September saw a continued light passage with daily counts rarely exceeding single figures and just five double figure counts during the month including peaks of 22 on 15th and 20 on 29th. The first half of October provided the main period of passage with double figure counts on six dates on nine dates to the 18th, with peaks of 75 on 6th and 89 on 15th. After seven on 19th, counts of up to five were more normal and recorded almost daily to the end of the month. One to three were recorded in November up to the 9th.

[Eurasian] Wren *Troglodyte troglodytes*

Drean

Common breeding resident; some passage is likely to occur, although not always obvious.

The severe cold weather of winter 2017/18, had clearly had a significant impact on the Wren population of the Calf and counts during the first half of the year never exceeded six birds. Breeding numbers were subsequently reduced but the five - six pairs were not that much lower than the eight pairs recorded in 2017.



Notably, all the territories were situated around the farm buildings and Withy's and very few records were made from the coastline, which has typically held occasional pairs in the many caves and gullies. Juvenile birds were evident from early July and daily counts reflected this, with the first double figure counts of the year, with 10 on 18th August and 11 on 28th August and 4th September. Double figure counts became more common place in October, occurring on 16 dates in the month, with a peak of 23 on 14th and suggests some influx of migrating birds.

[Eurasian] Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Scarce dispersal visitor; 85 previous records involving records in Mar (2), Apr (5), June (11), Jul (36), Aug (18), Sep (9) and Oct (5).

A single trapped at the Observatory on 29th June remained until 1st July. A typical date for this species. A further single was initially seen in the end conifers before being trapped at the Observatory on 15th October.

[Common] Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Trutlag

Irregular spring passage migrant and post-breeding dispersal visitor; common autumn passage migrant.

Recorded fairly frequently during March from the 12th, with low counts on 14 dates in the month and a maximum of 29 on 24th March. Records were more sporadic in the first half of April, with single figure counts on six dates up to 13th, plus a monthly peak of 12 on 10th. Further records in the second half of the month were three on 23rd and a single from 29th – 30th April. Five on the 9th May were likely to be the last of any spring passage. Single adults on 29th May and from 9th – 11th June will possibly have been early dispersing failed breeders and the forerunners to the arrival of flocks of 'marauding' juveniles, which began with a single on 21st, followed by 20 on 23rd, 68 on 24th, a single on 25th, two on 27th and ended with 26 on 28th June. There were two additional records during the summer months with singles on 15th July and 21st August.

Autumn passage began with a single on 17th September, with two further records in the month of four on 23rd and 10 on 29th September. Main passage was slow to start and after 133 on 11th, daily records occurred from 14th with three-figure counts on 10 dates and a maximum of 555 on 22nd. Daily counts continued through to the end of the season, with a further six three-figure counts and a high count of 277 on 1st November.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*
Scarce passage migrant.

Four spring records, all involving singles, on 24th & 30th March and 13th & 14th April. A better than average spring showing compared to recent years, with the record on 24th March being nine days earlier than the previous 20-year average mean arrival date.

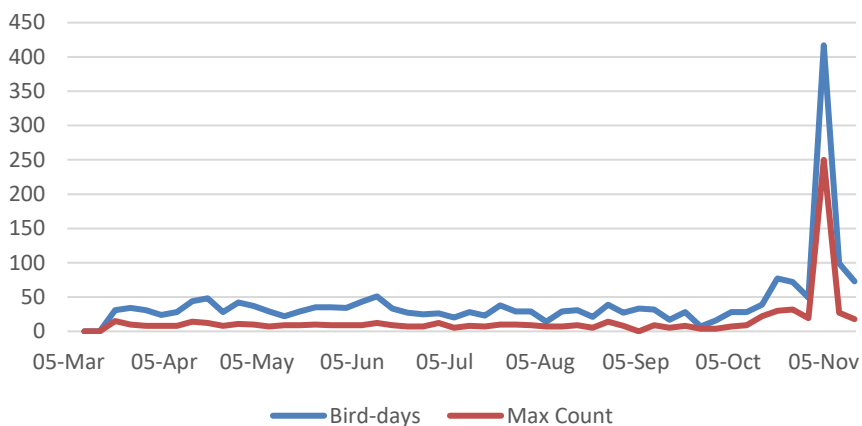
An early autumn juvenile male on 15th September gave promise of a decent autumn passage which unfortunately, did not materialise with the only other records being three on 6th and a single on 15th October.

[Common] Blackbird *Turdus merula*
Lhondhoo

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Recorded throughout the season, mostly in single figures although occasionally low double figure counts occurred. A spring high of 15 on 13th March included several migrant birds and ringing records indicate a small passage through the second half of March and up to 12th April, that isn't always evident from the daily census counts.

Breeding numbers were consistent with the past couple of years, with a total of seven to eight pairs, including three each at the Observatory and in the Glen area and singles at Jane's House and a possible pair at the Spaghetti junction / Smithy area. Productivity would appear to have been relatively low, with just 21 'locally' bred young being ringed, compared to 55 in 2017. This is likely to be due to the long dry summer of 2018 that will have made foraging for food difficult for adults provisioning young.



Autumn counts continued with mostly low single figures and occasional low double figure counts until the first signs of main migration with 22 on 11th October. From 14th October, double figure counts occurred on 14 dates up to the end of the month and included peaks of 42 on 27th, 250 on 28th and 72 on 29th. Daily records continued through to the end of season with mostly low double-figure counts, with a maximum of 27 on 2nd November.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilalris*

Ushag Sniaghtey

Irregular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Camera trap footage, captured over winter, indicated that large numbers of winter thrushes were present on the island during severe cold spells in February. This mirrors cold weather movements of this species that were witnessed at several other west coast observatories; unfortunately, as the Calf is not manned during the winter period it is not possible to know the extent of movement through the Calf at this time. By the beginning of our season, the species had become rather scarce with counts of 10 on 16th and 5 on 24th March, followed by singles on four dates up to 14th April plus five seen on 13th.

Autumn passage began with 12 on 11th October, with single figure counts almost daily to end of the month plus 10 on 22nd and 27 on 26th October. A small passage continued towards the seasons end, with two on 2nd November, then daily records from 5th – 10th, with a year peak of 31 on 7th November.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Lhon Geayee

Irregular winter visitor and common passage migrant.

As with the previous species, camera trap footage indicates that large numbers were present on the island during the severe cold weather experienced during February. Numbers were low during March with just ones and twos on eight dates during the month, plus a monthly peak of seven on 16th. There were just three records in April, with four on 4th & 14th and two on 8th.

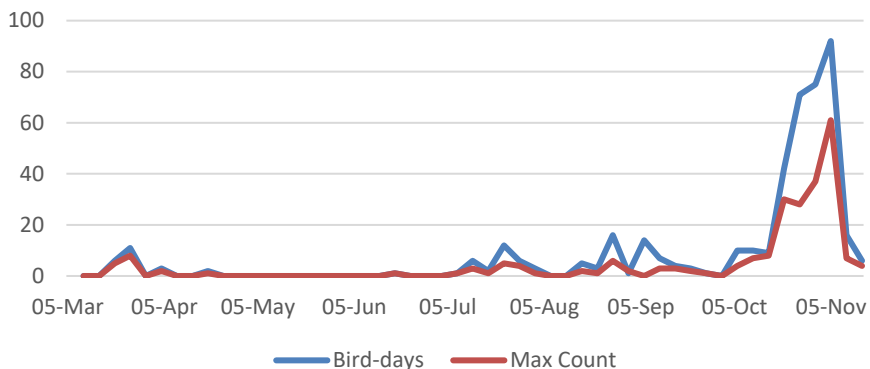
Autumn passage began with 19 on 11th October, with records almost daily to the end of the month. Double figure counts were fairly regular with 24 on 15th, 36 on 17th and 35 on 18th, followed on six consecutive days from 22nd – 29th, with a maximum of 49 on 26th. As with the other thrushes, numbers remained low during November, with single figure counts on eight dates, plus a monthly peak of 17 on 2nd November.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Lhon/Thresh Len

Common passage migrant.

A light spring passage was recorded during the second half of March, with five on 13th, singles on five dates, eight on 16th and two on 30th. The only other spring record was a single present on 13th & 14th April. A juvenile trapped in Mill Giau on 10th June, may suggest breeding occurred but no adults were seen, and it is likely that this bird had dispersed from its natal area on the Isle of Man.



Dispersing adults and ‘wandering’ juveniles began to appear more regularly on the islet from early July, with up to three recorded on 15 dates in the month plus high counts of five on 17th and four on 23rd. Similar numbers were recorded through August and September, with a peak of six on 20th & 30th August and this continued through the first half of October. Main passage began from 15th October when 30 arrived; this was followed by daily records through to the end of the month, including seven dates with double figure counts and a maximum of 61 on 27th October.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Lhon Keylley

Uncommon passage migrant; mostly occurring in autumn.

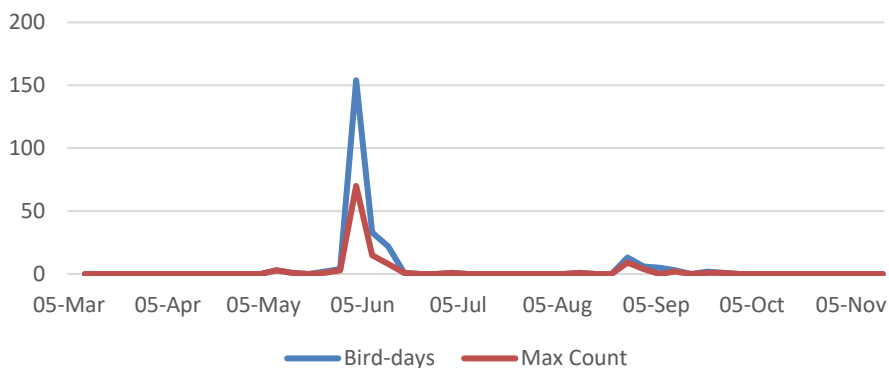
A typical autumn showing with two on 6th October being the forerunner of a series of records which included 14 on 15th, two on 18th, 15 on 26th, eight on 27th and finally two on 28th October and 6th November.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Skybbyltagh Breck

Common spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn passage migrant.

Spring passage started a little late and rather slowly, with the first three on 4th May and then just singles on 5th, 15th and 17th. Peak passage got under way from 17th and continued daily through to 6th June, with a total of 212 bird-days and a maximum of 70 on 26th May and 30 the following day. Further singles were recorded on 8th, 13th & 27th June.



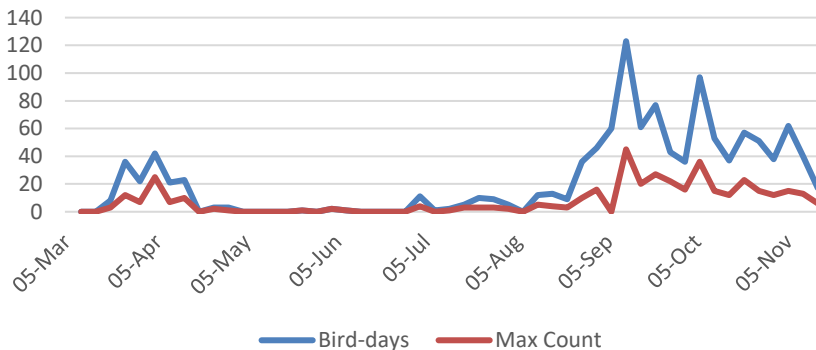
Autumn passage began with the first dispersing adult being trapped on 4th August, followed by one or two individuals on 11 dates to the 17th September, plus peak counts of nine on 20th and four on 24th & 30th August.

[European] Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Cleean Jiarg/ Spittag

Occasional breeding resident and common passage migrant.

Spring passage was evident from the start of the season, although was relatively light, with mostly single figure counts through to 9th April. Peak counts included 12 on 19th, 20th & 27th, 25 on 30th March and 10 on 5th April. The remainder of April produced two on 15th and four singles from 19th – 22nd. There were no further records until an adult arrived on 19th May, a male and a female on 25th and another female on 30th May. Both females were exhibiting brood patches and it is suspected that these birds are dispersing adults that were recently failed breeders from elsewhere. For the second consecutive year, there was no evidence of breeding occurring on the Calf.



The first dispersing juveniles, and further occasional wandering adults, began to appear from 24th June with four on 26th June being the monthly peak. A slow but steady passage continued through July, with up to three birds recorded on 18 dates. This level of passage continued through the first half of August, although with 10 on 20th numbers started to increase and low double figure counts became more regular through late August and through September, with peak counts of 26 on 30th August and 45 on 4th & 40 on 5th and 36 on 29th September. Passage continued, although on a slightly lower level, through October with a maximum of 23 on 15th October.

[European] Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Increasingly rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn passage migrant.

A rather fine male was found behind the garden wall on 17th April and represents the earliest ever Calf record, beating the previous record, from 1988, by one day. A second, female-type, was trapped on 17th May. This continues the good run of spring records during the past couple of years.

Autumn passage began well with a single on 4th, two on 5th and a fourth bird from 6th-7th August, however, rather disappointingly these appearances did not materialise into anything more.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Rare migrant; 26 previous records since the first in 1960, with records occurring in Apr (1), May (6), Jun (4), Sep (5), Oct (9) and Nov (1).

An exceptional spring for this species began with a fine adult male trapped at the Upper Withy on 23rd May (NW et al). Further female/immature types were trapped in the Observatory garden on 10th (AS et al) & 24th June (MDH et al). There had only previously been one other year (1990) when three records of this species occurred, although these were all autumn birds.

This is the 3rd consecutive year that the species has been recorded, despite there being an eight-year gap in records, prior to 2016.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant.

An above average spring passage began with a male trapped at the Observatory on 9th April. A full summer plumaged male was also present around the Observatory on 19th May and a female/immature was at the Lighthouses on 28th. Further records occurred in June, with

another male present at the mouth of Mill Giau on 4th – 5th and the same or a different bird was singing from the roof of the 1968 Lighthouse on the 6th June.

There were no autumn records.

[Common] Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Uncommon passage migrant.

A very late and poor spring passage didn't get underway until three arrived on the 29th April, nine days later than the past 20-year mean. Things didn't really improve in May with only four more singles recorded, on 6th, 25th, 28th and 29th.

A female, exhibiting a brood patch, trapped on 25th June may have been the final spring record of the year, but equally could have been the start of autumn passage! Given the record of a juvenile trapped at the Observatory in July 2017, one might speculate as to the possibility of this female having attempted to breed somewhere locally on the main Island?

Autumn passage was rather disappointing with singles recorded on 8th July and 22nd August and 15th October.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*
Formerly common passage migrant; now scarce passage migrant.

Three that arrived on 29th April, were the forerunners of the now typical light passage during May, which comprised a further two on 6th and singles on 8th & 26th May.

A reasonably good autumn showing, with singles on 12 dates between 4th August and 4th September, with peak counts of four on 22nd and three on 23rd August.

[European] Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Boid y Chonne / Kione Dhoo y Eeigyn

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

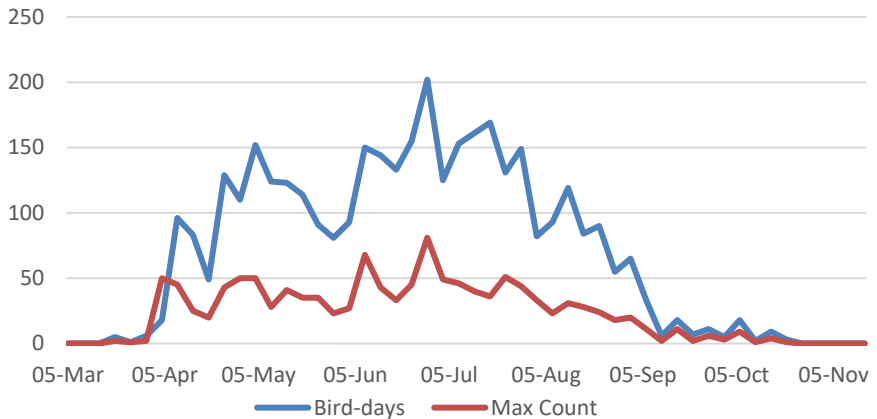
Spring passage was evident during late March, with a total of 23 bird-days (from just 21 days) compared to just 14 bird-days in the whole of April, with a peak spring count of five on 11th March. Once these birds had moved through, it became evident that the 'resident' breeding population had been depleted somewhat by the harsh winter and counts in April and May were only of one or two birds, except for three on 13th May. Two pairs bred on the islet with a pair between the Observatory and Gibdale and another pair along the East coast. Breeding productivity would appear to have been fairly high with 27 'locally-bred' young being trapped during the summer. The presence of young birds from mid-June increased daily counts slightly, although these remained in single figures except for 10 on 15th October.

[Northern] Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Claggan Cloaie

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Although the first returning migrant arrived on the 17th March, two days earlier than the previous 20-year mean, the level of passage was very poor with just one or two birds seen on 10 dates to the end of the month. Eleven on 3rd and 45 on 5th April were the first arrivals of any substance, with low double figure counts then almost daily until a month high of 50 on 29th April. Daily counts of up to 40 were standard during May and June and with a breeding population in the region of 40 pairs, occasional higher counts occurred with 47 on 4th May and 61 on 7th June. It is difficult to know if these higher counts reflect an increase due to migration or if greater level of observer coverage is responsible.



Juvenile birds began to appear in early-June, and this is likely to be the cause in the increase of daily counts, with between 35 – 50 being standard through June and July, including high counts of 68 on 7th and 81 on 25th June. From August, dispersal of young away from their natal sites became more obvious and daily counts began to reduce with counts between 12 and 25 being frequent and a high of 31 on 10th. After 10 on 2nd and 11 on 4th & 15th September, numbers decreased significantly, with just single figure counts on 11 dates in the month. Records continued well into October, with up to three seen on 11 dates up to the last single on 20th, plus peak counts of nine on 5th and four on 16th October.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Jallyn

Uncommon passage migrant.

A good series of spring records with single males trapped at the Observatory on 21st April and 12th & 26th May and another, unsexed, bird flying west on 19th May.

An unusual record of a male and a female/immature type were seen amongst a flock of Linnet, at the Withy, on 25th July (BR).

October produced an excellent series of records with several large flocks seen, including 13 on 10th, 20 on 15th, 25 on 18th, 12 on 28th and four on 29th.

[Eurasian] Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Scarce visitor.

As with the previous species, a good series of spring records with different individuals around the Observatory on 27th, 28th & 29th April. Further singles were observed flying west on 13th, 17th & 24th May, one was trapped at the Observatory on 15th and two were present on 28th May.

Autumn passage involved seven birds flying west on 30th and a single also flying west on 31st August. A small group of five birds landed briefly in trees at the rear of the Observatory, on 4th September, before heading north with a flock of Goldfinch and another bird was seen at the Top Withy. Finally, a flock of six headed north on 4th October, a day of heavy finch passage.

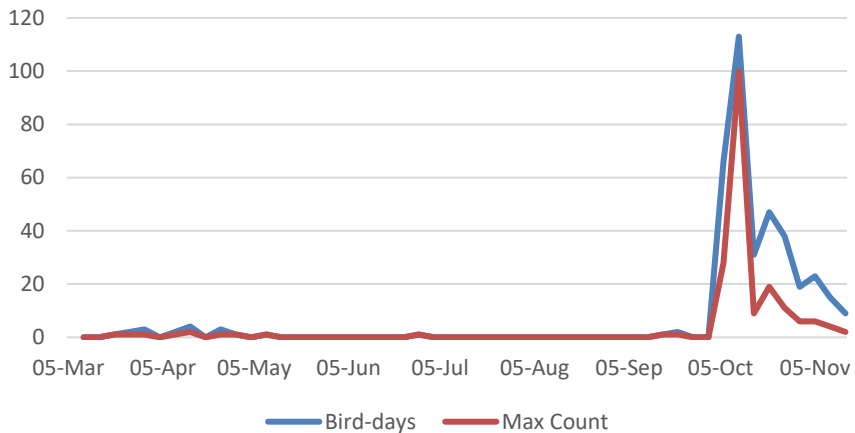
Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Drean Mollagh /Bogh Keeir

Formerly common breeding resident up to 1988; now occasionally breeding and regular passage migrant.

There were just six records of singles during March, all of which may have referred to the same individual that was caught and ringed on the 13th. A small passage was evident in early April with a new bird ringed on 1st and two trapped on 7th, a further single arriving on 17th and remaining until 20th, with the final new bird of spring on 1st May. Given that there hadn't been any records since early May, a retrap female exhibiting a brood patch was a rather unexpected catch at the Withy on 19th June. The bird was originally ringed at the Withy, as a bird-of-the-year on 18th June 2017 when it was considered to have been a bird raised on the Calf. Other than being retrapped on two

occasions in early July 2017 there were no further records of this bird until a year and 1 day later. There were no further records during the summer months, and it is believed that the species did not breed on the Calf during 2018.



Autumn passage began with singles on 8th, 12th & 15th then almost daily from 27th September, with significant arrivals of 20 on 28th, 28 on 29th and with at least 10 remaining on 30th September. Single figure counts occurred through the first week of October, with an exceptional arrival of 100 birds on 6th, which included 20 grounded birds and a further 80 that were seen actively moving north. Single figure counts continued throughout the remainder of the month, with additional peak counts of 17 on 14th, 19 on 15th and 11 on 18th October.

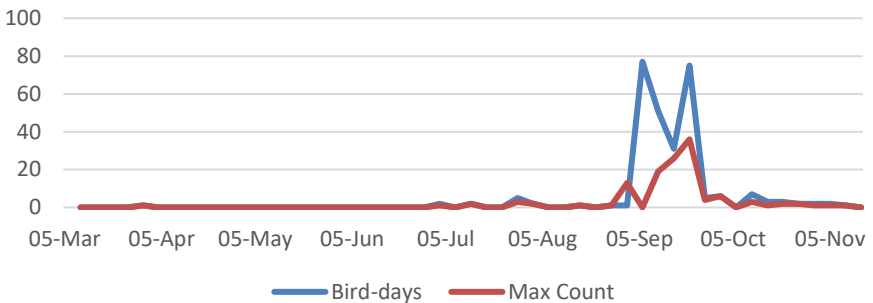
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Ushag Ghlass

Scarce spring passage migrant and common autumn passage migrant.

The only spring record was of a single flying over the Observatory on 25th March.

Early autumn dispersal began with singles on 25th & 26th June and two on 6th July. More frequent records began in the second half of July with three on 19th and two on both 23rd & 24th.



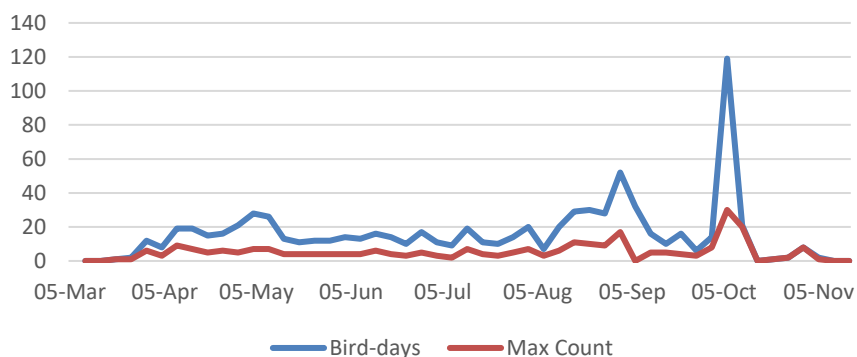
Passage was light during much of August with only singles on 11th, 20th & 23rd but increased significantly during the last week of the month with double figure counts on each day from 28th, with a peak of 29 on 30th. This level of migration was sustained through the first half of September with peaks of 26 on 10th and 36 on 15th, however there was a gap in records after the 18th, except for six on 23rd September. October produced singles on eight dates up to the 31st, with records of two on 3rd, 4th, 14th and 18th and a peak of three on 6th. The final record of the season was a single at Cow Harbour on 1st November.

Pied [White] Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Ushag Vreck/ Ushag Voltee

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Recorded sporadically during March from 13th, with a maximum of six on 25th. A small spring passage was evident during late April and early May, otherwise counts rarely exceeded four birds through to the end of July and these records reflect the two pairs that were resident through the summer. One pair bred successfully at Cow Harbour, with a second pair present around the Observatory although no evidence of breeding was found. Autumn passage began with 11 on 8th August with six further double figure counts in the second half of the month, including a monthly maximum of 17 on 23rd. Following 10 on 1st September, there were just single figure counts for the remainder of the month, until a peak in passage occurred from 27th September to 3rd October when 140 bird-days occurred with a maximum of 50 in 1st October.

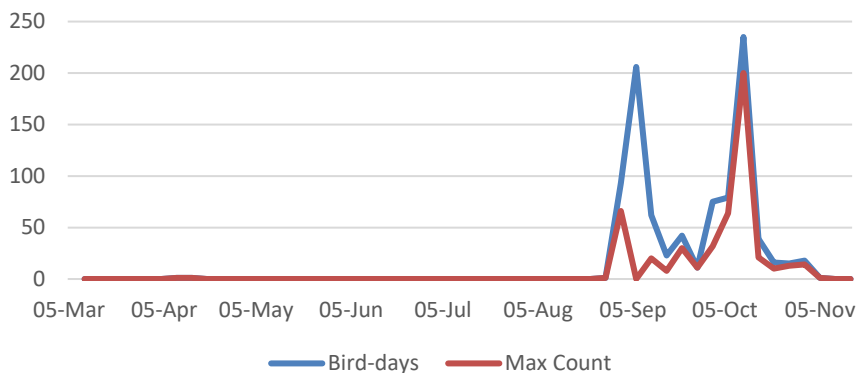


Alba Wagtail *M.a.alba/yarrelli*

Common passage migrant; the majority of records refer to 'fly-over' birds that could not be specifically identified to sub-species.

Other than two singles recorded during spring on 3rd & 5th April, all records occurred during the period 22nd August to 27th October. The two peaks in autumn records reflect the main passage periods for *M.a.alba* with 489 bird-days (22nd August – 13th September) and for

M.a.yarrelli with 410 bird-days (22nd September – 7th October). Other than 30 on 15th and 11 on 17th September which fell between the two main passage periods and are therefore difficult to attribute to a subspecies, the remaining records (68 bird-days) during 10th – 27th October are most likely to be *M.a.yarrelli*.



White Wagtail *M.a. alba*

Rare spring and common autumn passage migrant.

The first record of the spring was of an individual caught on camera trap footage at the new scrape in the Lighthouse Fields on 29th March and was followed by further singles on 1st and 7th April.

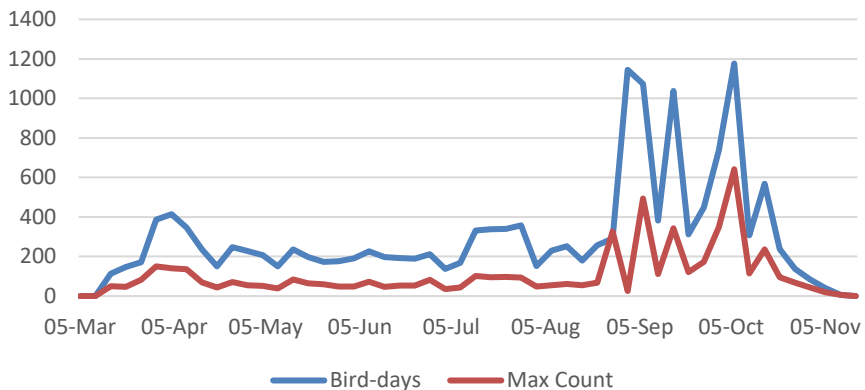
Autumn migration began with two on 22nd August and numbers increased steadily with 12 on 27th and 43 by 30th. Double figure counts were made on each of the first six days of September, with a maximum of 42 on 2nd but from 7th numbers decreased to just single figure counts and the last of the main passage was seen on 24th September. Finally, a single was seen at Cow Harbour on 18th October.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Tweet/Cheet/Ushag y Veet

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Spring passage was evident from late March and through the first week of April, with several three figure counts, including 150 on 30th March and 141 on 3rd April being monthly maximums. Otherwise, daily counts from 30 – 70 were commonplace and largely reflect the resident breeding population which was estimated at 50 pairs. Several higher counts, from 80 – 100, in late June and through July are likely to be the result of recently fledged young.

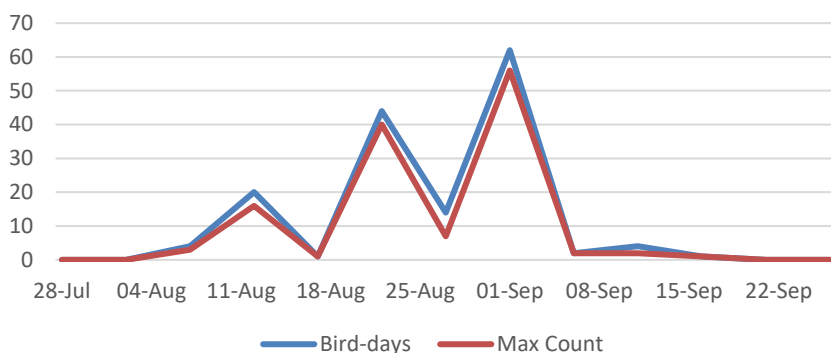


Autumn passage began during the last week of August with 327 on 28th, followed by 368 on 30th and 318 on 31st August. Passage continued in force through September, with no fewer than 12 days contributing three-figure counts and in October up to the 16th, with a total of six three-figure counts. Monthly peak counts were 494 on 4th September and 642 on 6th October, although numbers present decreased rapidly during the second half of October and into November.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Scarce spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn passage migrant.

There were just two spring records, with a single trapped on the early date of the 21st April and another bird seen around the plantation on 25th May. The April record, although not the earliest record by some way, was 10 days earlier than the 20-year average (1997-2017).



Autumn passage got under way with three on 4th and 8th August and singles on 5th and 9th, although 16 on 11th was the forerunner of what was to be an exceptional passage that saw counts more reminiscent of numbers recorded in the 1970's and early 1980's. Following a single on 17th, an exceptional 40 were recorded on 20th, then single figure counts were made daily to the end of the month with a count of 56 on 30th August eclipsing the previous high counts. Numbers decreased significantly in September with records on only four dates, with two seen on 4th, 7th and 10th and the last single seen on 15th.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Very rare vagrant; four previous records occurring on 8th April 1977, 21st March 1996, 15th April 1997 and 31st Aug 2004.

The 5th Calf record was of a single that was watched intermittently in the Front Field on 29th April (AS, NW et al). The bird initially showed well, down to a few feet but became elusive and only gave distant views to most observers present.

[Eurasian] Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Fushag Varrey

Common breeding resident.

Ever present around the coastline of the Calf, the species undoubtedly goes under-recorded during most daily census counts. The peak count of 28 on 7th June was achieved during a coastline survey for auks. Further high counts of 16 – 24 individuals during the period 11th -18th October were achieved during Grey Seal survey work which again targeted census work around the coastline. A Common Breeding Bird Census undertaken during 2018 only located eight breeding pairs, however, the transect routes were primarily non-coastal. It is thought that the population has not changed significantly from the 30 pairs estimated in 2017, although the status of this species should be the focus of a specific species survey.

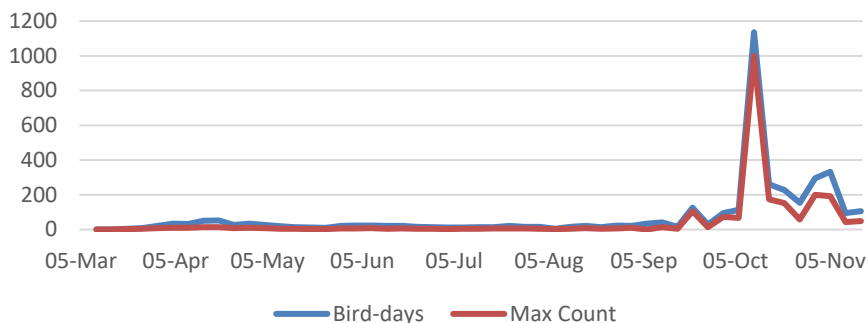
Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Ushag y Choan, Ushag veg Vreck

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

A couple of birds were present at the beginning of the season and a light spring passage was evident from late March and through to the second half of April. This can be seen with double figure counts on 30th and 31st March and on seven dates up to 14th April. Ringing records also provide evidence of this passage with 52 new birds ringed during March and April. Up to six birds were seen daily throughout the period

mid-April to mid-August, and this reflects the three pairs that were present around the Observatory trapping area. Breeding was successful with a brood of two appearing at the end of May and two broods (two and three young) at the end of June. Three other juveniles were caught during early July, but it is thought that these were likely to be dispersing young from the main Island.



A small level of movement was evident from the end of August with daily counts of 14 on 30th August and 5th & 6th September, however the first main passage came with 105 on 15th, 73 on 23rd and 66 on 28th September. October provided the main movement with an exceptional movement of 1000 on 6th, plus 173 on 10th, 152 on 15th, 199 on 25th and 193 on 28th October.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Scarce spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn passage migrant.

A single flying over the Observatory on 1st April was the only spring record.

A disappointing autumn with just two records, each of three birds at the Observatory on 15th & 18th October.

[European] Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Corkan Keylley Glass

Formerly bred; common passage migrant.

A slight improvement on recent years, with singles on 26th March and 1st April and three on 9th April made up the sum total of spring passage.

A single male was present from 25th – 26th June and early autumn dispersal provided a female on 25th July, two on 16th & 31st August and a single on 30th August.

The strongest autumn passage for a number of years was experienced during October involving 97 bird-days, with a single on 6th, eight on 10th, singles on 11th & 14th, 25 on 15th, 32 on 18th, three on 22nd & 25th, nine on 28th, eight on 29th and 4 on 30th and finally singles on 1st and 2nd November.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

Formerly uncommon passage and winter visitor; more recently a scarce migrant during late autumn passage.

Nine on the 29th October were the first recorded since autumn 2016.

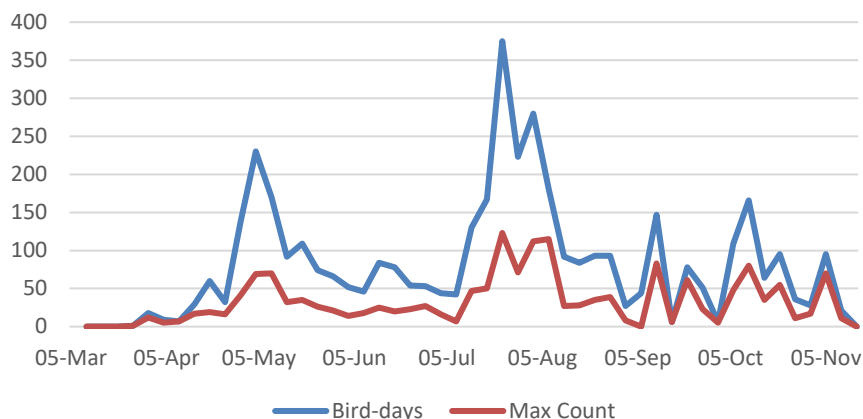
Common] Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Fillip ny Kempey / Ushag y Lien

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Small numbers began to arrive on the islet from 20th March, with main spring passage evident during the last week of April and early May with peak counts of 69 on 28th April and 70 on 3rd May. Thereafter, counts from 10 – 30 were more typical between mid-May and mid-July and represent the breeding population present on the islet. The Linnet is probably one of the most difficult species to accurately survey for breeding numbers due to their highly mobile nature and a Common

Breeding Bird Census during 2018 found just three possible pairs. However, the numbers of recently fledged young that were present around the Mill Giau / Withy area and around South Harbour during June and July would suggest a considerably higher population level. Ringing data would also support this, with 30 locally bred young trapped (mostly in Mill Giau) during June and July and an estimate of up to 20 pairs, similar to 2017 levels, would seem more realistic.



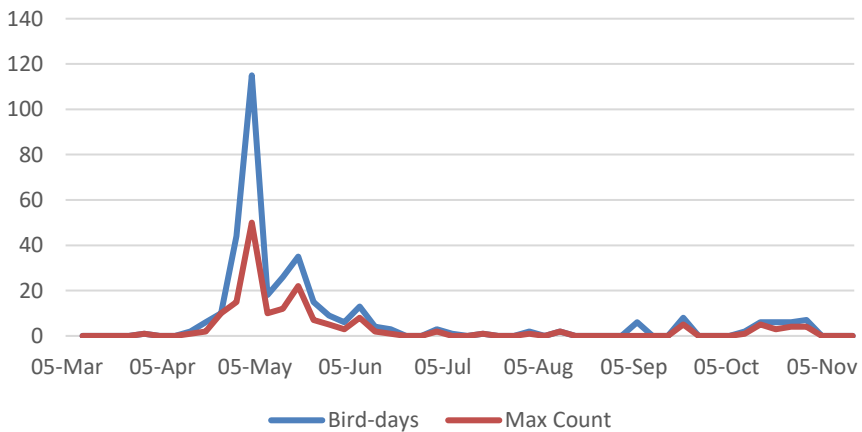
Once again, dispersing juveniles and adults began to gather around South Harbour during the second half of July, with high counts of 123 on 17th, 112 on 25th and 115 on 29th July. However, birds didn't remain long in the area and numbers reduced steadily from 57 on 2nd August to mostly single figure counts by the end of the month. Counts during September and October became much more erratic, with a lack of resident birds and counts reflect passage birds, with peak counts of 83 on 4th September and 80 on 6th October.

Lesser [Common] Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

Bytermmyn Dhone/Lossan Ruy

Common spring and autumn passage migrant.

A single on the 25th March and ones or twos on six dates from 5th – 14th April, were the forerunners of what was to be an excellent spring passage. Main passage got underway with 10 on 19th April, with records daily through to the end of the month with peak counts of 30 on 27th & 29th and 50 on 28th. Smaller numbers were recorded throughout May, with single figure counts on 21 dates, plus peak counts of 12 on 7th & 22 on 12th. Ones or twos continued to be recorded into June up to mid-month, with a maximum count of three on 3rd and towards the end of the month a single was seen on 25th and two on 26th. Mid-summer records were of singles on 12th, 24th & 25th July and two on 4th August.



A disappointing autumn passage began with two on 12th, five on 15th and a single on 16th September. October produced single figure counts on just 13 dates, with a maximum of five on 7th October.

[Red] Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular spring and autumn dispersal visitor / passage migrant.

An excellent series of late spring records, which appeared to largely involve juvenile birds presumably dispersing or wandering from the main Island. A single on 29th and two on 30th May were followed by singles on 9th & 19th June and twos on 4th, 10th & 23rd June.

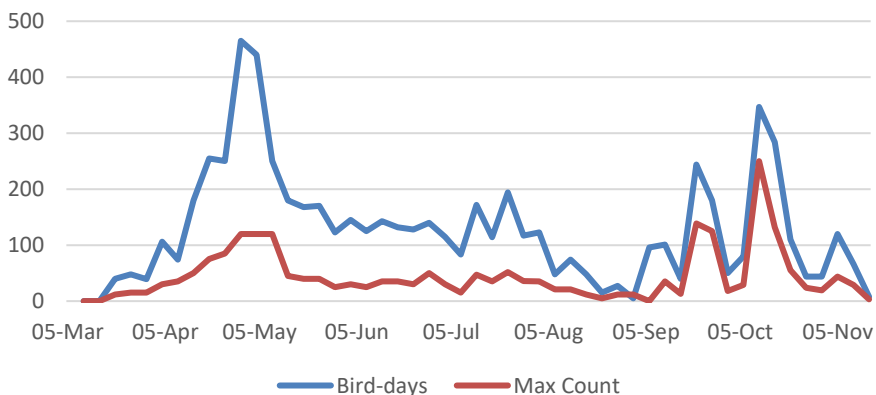
The only record of autumn involved a group of three that settled briefly in the 'tractor shed' Sitka before flying off west on 23rd July.

[European] Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Lossey ny Keylley / Kiark my Leydee

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Present in small numbers (five to 15) from the beginning of the season, numbers began to build from the end of March (30 on 30th) with no less than 23 dates in April with counts of 35 or more. Peak passage occurred during late April and early May with counts of 100 on 23rd, 24th & 25th and 120 on 21st & 27th April and 4th May. Thereafter, daily counts during May and June were mostly maintained in a range from 25 – 40 birds which represented the breeding population present around the Observatory.



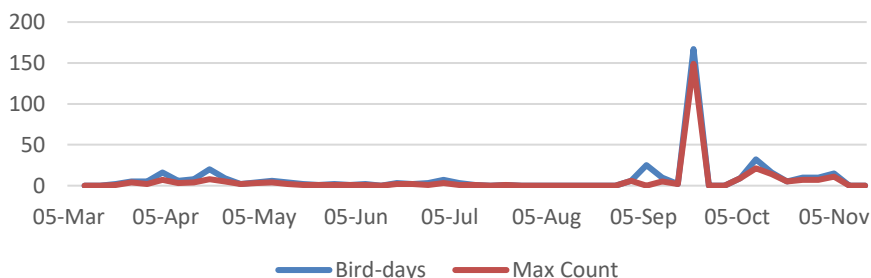
At least 20 pairs bred around the Observatory, with 80 locally fledged young ringed between June and mid-August.

Dispersal of both adults and young meant that daily counts decreased through August, with single figure counts becoming most regular from 7th August. Numbers increased at the end of the month, with 45 on 30th, as autumn passage began. Records remained erratic throughout September and October, with mostly single figure counts, except on days of passage, when higher counts of 139 on 15th & 125 on 17th September and 250 on 6th, 132 on 7th and 104 on 10th October occurred.

[Eurasian] Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Fairly common spring and autumn passage migrant.

Recorded in low single figures throughout much of the spring and early summer with counts of up to five on 13 dates in March, 16 dates in April and 12 dates in May, plus maximum counts of seven on 30th March and eight on 14th April. Records continued through June, with ones and twos on 11 dates in the month, plus a maximum count of three on 27th, with singles continuing into July, on 1st, 2nd, 4th and 16th.



Autumn passage began with six on 25th & 28th August, followed by 17 on 30th and two on 31st August. Records were rather sporadic during September and October, with single figure counts on five and 12 dates respectively. Peak counts were 10 on 12th and 149 on 15th September and 21 on 6th, 14 on 11th and 11 on 27th October.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*
Scarce passage migrant.

Two arrived on the 4th April, with one bird being trapped in the back garden. At least one bird remaining until 12th, often favouring the small patch of willows near the end conifers.

Records of this declining species have become quite scarce, with the most recent records being three singles in October 2016 and prior to then, two singles in March and one in each of April and May 2012.



[Common] Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Pompeo ny Guirtlagh
Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.

During early spring, records of one or two birds were regular and counts of five on 8th and three on 20th April may indicate a light spring passage. This is supported by ringing records which show an increase in new captures during late March and through April. After May, records became scarce with just one single recorded on 28th June but an increase in the frequency of records during July and August, particularly around the Spaghetti junction area, suggested that a pair might be breeding in the vicinity. This is likely to have been successful, with two young birds trapped at the Withy in early July.

Autumn records generally involved just one to three birds, with four singles in September prior to the only recorded 'passage' on 28th September when 12 birds were seen around the Observatory and Withy areas plus a further 17 birds seen heading west on visual migration. October produced singles on 1st, 17th and 30th, two on 14th & 25th and three on 22nd October.

Breeding Bird Totals

2018 Breeding Species	2018 Total	Count Unit	Previous status
Shelduck	2	Pair/s	1 - 2 pairs breed in most years
Mallard	3	Pair/s	1 - 4 pairs annually, with a maximum of 9 pairs in 1981
Eider	70	Pair/s	First bred in 1992 with previous maximum of 26 pairs in 2013
Pheasant	1	Pair/s	No previous breeding records
Fulmar	124	AOS	Average of 86 AOS during 2008 – 2017
Manx Shearwater	536	AOB	Average of 230 AON during 2008 – 2017
Shag	100	AON	Average of 154 AON during 2008 – 2017
Oystercatcher	13	Pair/s	Average of 12 pairs during 2008 – 2017
Great Black-backed Gull	56	AON	Average of 45 AON during 2008 – 2017
Herring Gull	530	AON	Average of 327 AON during 2008 – 2017
Lesser Black-backed Gull	54	AON	Average of 43 AON during 2008 – 2017
Common Guillemot	216	IA's	Average of 153 IA's during 2008 - 2017 / 102 pairs
	145	Pair/s	
Razorbill	183	IA's	Average of 188 IA's during 2008 - 2017 / 129 pairs
	123	Pair/s	
Black Guillemot	3	Pair/s	1 - 3 pairs occasionally breed - first recorded in 1972
Atlantic Puffin	(2+)	Pair/s	Last bred 1997.
Woodpigeon	1	Pair/s	1 - 2 pairs bred 1969 - 1975 & 2010
Chough	9 - 11	Pair/s	Average of 10 pairs during 2008 – 2017
Hooded Crow	7 - 8	Pair/s	Average of 7 pairs during 2008 – 2017
Raven	2	Pair/s	1 - 2 pairs breed annually

Swallow	2	Pair/s	Average of 5 pairs during 2008 - 2017; max 10 pairs in 2005 & 2007
Chiffchaff	1 - 2	Pair/s	1 - 2 pairs in 13 years since first in 1982
Whitethroat	1	Pair/s	1 – 3 pairs in 7 out of the past 10 years
Wren	5 - 6	Pair/s	Average of 30 pairs during 2008 - 2017; max 73 pairs in 1974
Blackbird	7 - 8	Pair/s	Average of 4 pairs during 2008 - 2017; max 22 pairs in 1979
Stonechat	2	Pair/s	Average of 5 pairs during 2008 - 2017; max 20 pairs in 1977
Wheatear	40	Pair/s	Average of 13 pairs during 2008 - 2017; max 35 pairs in 2017
Pied Wagtail	2	Pair/s	Up to 4 pairs annually; max 6 - 8 pairs in 2016
Meadow Pipit	50	Pair/s	Average of 43 pairs during 2008 - 2017; max 110 pairs in 1982
Rock Pipit	30	Pair/s	Average of 31 pairs during 2008 - 2017; max 48 pairs in 1967
Chaffinch	3	Pair/s	Up to 3 pairs annually; max 4 -5 pairs in 2017
Linnet	20	Pair/s	Average of 9 pairs during 2008 - 2017; max 50 pairs in 1982
Goldfinch	20	Pair/s	Average of 7 pairs during 2008 - 2017; max 20 pairs in 2016 & 2017
Reed Bunting	1	Pair/s	1-2 pairs in six out of last 10 years: max 19 pairs in 1980

2018 Ringing Report

The grand total of 7317 birds of 78 species were ringed during 2018 achieving the third highest total ever in the Observatories 60-year history. This was largely achievable due to the support provided by several visiting ringers and volunteers that



helped out at key periods during the season; I am particularly grateful to Mike Haigh for stepping up and covering my annual leave period during July and then helping out for most of October following my unscheduled accident.

Once again, Nathan Wilkie assisted greatly with running the Withy nets on suitable mornings and then going on to complete his main role, as Estate Warden, during the remainder of the day. This contribution of 15% of the overall ringing total, should not be underestimated, particularly as the Withy adds significantly to the diversity of species trapped, as well as providing a more accurate representation of the true ornithological passage through the Island. The Withy is particularly important for certain species contributing 50% of Sedge Warblers, 25% of Willow Warblers, 35% of Meadow Pipit and 88% of Linnet trapped during 2018.

As is normal, Goldcrest passage formed the main stay of ringing during the first couple of months, although no particularly large arrivals occurred, and overall numbers were 10% down on the 2017 spring total. This was somewhat made up for by a variety in 'occasionally' caught species with March producing Kestrel, Woodpigeon, Ring



Ousel, Firecrest, Yellowhammer and the first ever Knot ringed on the Calf. The latter, mist-netted on the Dub, being the only addition to the Calf ringing list.

As with the past few springs, April brought a heavy passage of Goldfinch which kept totals high despite a very cold and

late spring, which delayed many trans-Saharan migrants and at times it felt that spring passage was going to largely pass us by. Despite this, April held a few surprises which included Kestrel, Tree Pipit, Black Redstart, Lesser Whitethroat, Pied Flycatcher, two more Firecrest and one of the best spring passages ever recorded for Blackcap. April 2018 was also an exceptional month for 'controls' with a total of 19 birds from elsewhere caught on the Calf, including two Goldfinch from Brussels and a French Willow Warbler.



Goldfinch continued to be caught in high numbers, which made up for the relative lack of summer migrants during the first part of May. Considerable efforts were put into locating and recording Eider nests during the month and as a result, a record total of 23 new adult females were trapped along with six retrap birds, including a female ringed in 2005. Towards the end of the month, a few summer migrants began pushing through and the 3rd best ever passage of Spotted Flycatchers bucked the general trend. The last week of the month saw

a host of unusual species caught including Black Redstart, two Reed Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, a 4th Firecrest of the spring, a 2nd Pied Flycatcher and a stunning male Red-breasted Flycatcher.

June & July heralds the busiest time for seabird ringing on the Calf and in general, 2018 seems to have been a relatively productive year for Shag and Razorbill,

whilst gulls had another mixed season. Higher than normal numbers of Lesser and Great Black-backed Gulls chicks were ringed, partly as a result of both greater numbers of pairs and effort expended in finding



young. However, despite a 94% increase in breeding numbers, low numbers of Herring Gull chicks were ringed as the result of 'Storm Hector' sweeping through the island when most chicks were only a few days old and causing almost complete failure of some colonies.

June can often provide the odd surprise or two and although no 'mega' appeared in our nets, we were treated to an exceptional run of five more Reed Warbler and a further two Red-breasted Flycatchers. It was also the time to begin repairs on some of the traps and following the re-build of HG1 during 2017 it was the turn of both the Crow Trap and HG2 to receive a make-over.



Autumn got under way from mid-July with the start of a better than average Willow Warbler passage which continued into August, when a couple of large 'falls' occurred. These contributed to a monthly total that was double that of the past five-year average. The first few days of the month produced an excellent run of four Pied Flycatcher and three Wood Warbler, with a Melodious Warbler mid-month and a Hen Harrier and three Redshank to round it off. August also saw the largest number of Tree Pipits recorded and ringed on the Calf for almost 50 years and along with 151 Meadow Pipit, finished an excellent month.

September was dominated by several periods of moderate to strong winds that curtailed ringing activities somewhat, although the start of the month produced the first Long-eared Owl for eight years and good numbers of Meadow Pipit continued to be trapped. The monthly total was slightly below average, which is likely to be the result of the absence of a ringer on the island for a nine-day period towards the end of the month.



With up to three ringers back on the Island during October, numbers and variety were back to normal and despite some inclement weather and a relative lack of thrushes the month's total was above average. This was contributed to, by another good period for catching Meadow Pipit, resulting in the 3rd highest ever annual total for the species and the highest ever total of 190 Great Tit. Other notable species caught included only the 6th ever Great Spotted Woodpecker, a Merlin, four Yellow-browed Warbler, 22 Long-tailed Tit and nine House Sparrow.

Continuing inclement weather largely restricted activities during November with ringing only able to take place on four out of 11 days and hence the monthly total was somewhat short of the average, however, a Sparrowhawk and two more Kestrel rounded off another successful season.

Acknowledgements:

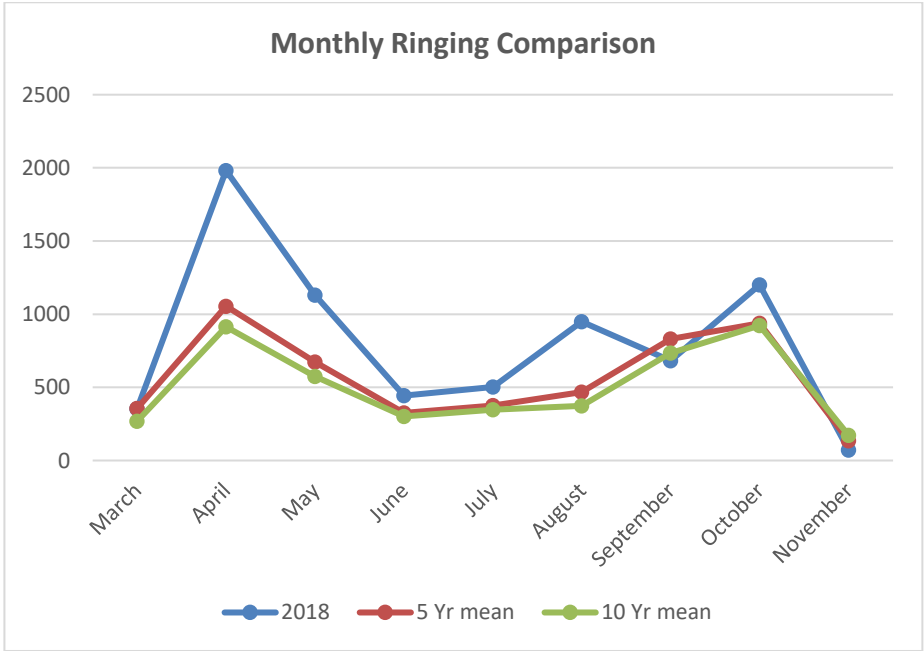
A total of 19 ringers participated and assisted with the ringing activities on the Calf during 2018. Most of these spent periods of time working as volunteers on the Calf and we are particularly grateful to all of those that gave their time and enthusiasm to assist with this work. In particular, I would like to thank Oscar Adedeji and Sylwia Zbijewska who both worked throughout most of the spring and summer as long-term volunteers and provided a great deal of enthusiasm and at times, entertainment to the process. Owing to an untimely accident that incapacitated me in September and meant my early departure from the island, I am particularly thankful to Mike Haigh, Olivia Pargeter and Alex Dodds who helped during October and November and maintained the ringing activities through the remainder of the autumn.

Species and/or numbers of note ringed during 2018. Species in **bold** denote a record annual total:

Species	No.	Ranking
Manx Shearwater	104	4 th highest annual total
Eider	23	Record annual total beating 11 in 2017
Merlin	1	1 st since 2015
Oystercatcher	10	Highest annual total since 1982
Razorbill	31	Highest annual total since 1989
Long-eared Owl	1	1 st since 2010 and only 23 rd ever
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	1 st since 2012 and only 6 th ever
Tree Pipit	25	Highest annual total since 1969
Meadow Pipit	645	3 rd highest annual total
Grey Wagtail	43	5 th highest annual total
Dunnock	80	2 nd highest annual total
Wheatear	129	4 th highest annual total
Reed Warbler	8	Record annual total beating three in 2009 & 2017
Blackcap	294	Record annual total beating 263 in 2012
Melodious Warbler	1	1 st since 2014 and only 19 th ever
Yellow-browed Warbler	4	Joint record annual total with 1985
Firecrest	4	Joint 3 rd highest annual total
Spotted Flycatcher	176	3 rd highest annual total
Red-breasted Flycatcher	3	Joint record annual total with 1990
Pied Flycatcher	6	Highest annual total since 2004
Coal Tit	34	5 th highest annual total
Great Tit	190	Record annual total, beating 153 in 2007
Magpie	1	1 st since 2010
Carriion Crow	1	2nd ever ringed
House Sparrow	12	6 th highest annual total
Goldfinch	1207	Record annual total beating 805 in 2017
Siskin	40	2 nd highest annual total
Linnet	86	7 th highest annual total
Lesser Redpoll	148	2 nd highest annual total
Yellowhammer	1	1 st since 2012 and only 15 th ever

The table below shows this year’s monthly ringing totals with the five and ten-year averages for comparison.

	2018	5-year average	10-year average
Mar	353	355	269
Apr	1982	1055	914
May	1131	674	574
Jun	443	325	301
Jul	503	376	347
Aug	948	467	373
Sep	683	831	734
Oct	1202	937	922
Nov	72	135	173
Total	7317	5155	4607



Season's Centuries:

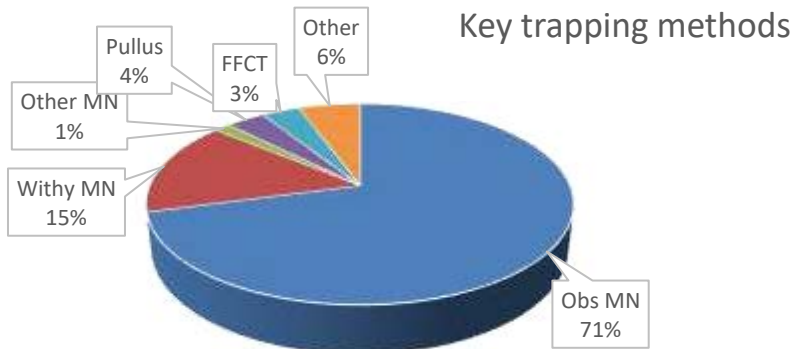
	No. / Species	Main species
4 th April	109 / 10spp	(Goldcrest 52)
7 th April	109 / 10spp	(Goldcrest 35, Goldfinch 33)
9 th April	134 / 13spp	(Goldcrest 59, Chiffchaff 27)
15 th April	104 / 8spp	(Goldfinch 44, Blackcap 20)
27 th April	179 / 11spp	(Willow Warbler 59, Goldfinch 54)
29 th April	146 / 15spp	(Willow Warbler 42, Goldfinch 28)
4 th May	133 / 15spp	(Willow Warbler 55, Goldfinch 43)
26 th May	130 / 13spp	(Spotted Flycatcher 55, Willow Warbler 38)
4 th August	122 / 12spp	(91 Willow Warbler)
20 th August	224 / 14spp	(187 Willow Warbler)
30 th August	115 / 17spp	(Meadow Pipit 60, Robin 12)
15 th September	115 / 12spp	(Meadow Pipit 36, Chaffinch 16, Goldfinch 16)
6 th October	117 / 11spp	(Goldcrest 42, Chaffinch 25)
15 th October	158 / 21spp	(Great Tit 43, Goldcrest 34, Meadow Pipit 19)
18 th October	125 / 15spp	(Great Tit 44, Blue Tit 13, Song Thrush 11)
28 th October	146 / 12spp	(Blackbird 77, Long-tailed Tit 19, Chaffinch 17)

Top Ten Species:

1	Goldfinch	1207		6	Chaffinch	302
2	Willow Warbler	1149		7	Blackcap	294
3	Goldcrest	670		8	Robin	240
4	Meadow Pipit	645		9	Blackbird	193
5	Chiffchaff	367		10	Great Tit	190

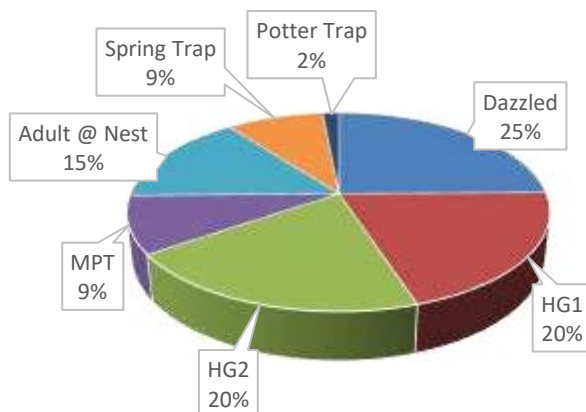
Trapping Methods:

The majority of birds were trapped using conventional methods, with mist nets accounting for 60% of all birds ringed. Other main methods used were Heligoland Traps (1 & 2) and the Front Field Crow Trap which after being re-built over the summer, contributed an impressive 250 new birds.



Other methods accounted for 24% of birds trapped of which 49% were nestlings (pulli) and 11% were caught in the Meadow Pipit Trap.

Other trapping methods



The table below shows re-traps from previous years caught in 2018.
The final column shows birds that were ringed prior to 2008.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Previous
Manx Shearwater	13	15	4	4	1	1	2			1	2000 x 1 2003 x 2 2005x 10 2007 x 2
Storm Petrel	1										
Shag					1						2007
Mallard	1										
Eider	4			1					1		2005
Sparrowhawk	1										
Herring Gull				1		1	2				
Great B-b Gull											2001
Razorbill	1										
Meadow Pipit	7	2	2	4							
Pied Wagtail					1						
Wren	2		1								
Dunnock	1										
Robin	2				1						
Stonechat											
Wheatear	3	5	4		1						
Blackbird	7	2	4		1			1			
Chough	1				1			1			
Chaffinch	4			1							
Goldfinch	14	9	3	4	1						
Linnet	2										
Reed Bunting	2		1								

2018 Ringing Totals

	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Fulmar	1	1	2
Manx Shearwater	104	0	104
Storm Petrel	93	0	93
Shag	17	91	108
Eider	23	0	23
Hen Harrier	1	0	1
Sparrowhawk	5	0	5
Kestrel	4	0	4
Merlin	1	0	1
Oystercatcher	2	8	10
Knot	1	0	1
Redshank	3	0	3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	8	9
Herring Gull	18	71	89
Great Black-backed Gull	5	36	41
Razorbill	11	20	31
Woodpigeon	2	0	2
Cuckoo	1	0	1
Long-eared Owl	1	0	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	0	1
Swallow	78	12	90
Tree Pipit	25	0	25
Meadow Pipit	644	1	645
Rock Pipit	3	0	3
Grey Wagtail	43	0	43
Pied/White Wagtail	42	0	42
Wren	57	0	57
Dunnock	80	0	80
Robin	240	0	240
Black Redstart	2	0	2

	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Redstart	8	0	8
Whinchat	8	0	8
Stonechat	33	0	33
Wheatear	129	0	129
Ring Ouzel	1	0	1
Blackbird	186	7	193
Fieldfare	2	0	2
Song Thrush	97	0	97
Redwing	32	0	32
Grasshopper Warbler	6	0	6
Sedge Warbler	110	0	110
Reed Warbler	8	0	8
Melodious Warbler	1	0	1
Subalpine Warbler	1	0	1
Lesser Whitethroat	2	0	2
Whitethroat	108	0	108
Garden Warbler	8	0	8
Blackcap	294	0	294
Yellow-browed Warbler	4	0	4
Wood Warbler	3	0	3
Chiffchaff	367	0	367
Willow Warbler	1149	0	1149
Goldcrest	670	0	670
Firecrest	4	0	4
Spotted Flycatcher	176	0	176
Red-breasted Flycatcher	3	0	3
Pied Flycatcher	6	0	6
Long-tailed Tit	22	0	22
Coal Tit	34	0	34
Great Tit	190	0	190
Treecreeper	2	0	2
Magpie	1	0	1

	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Chough	2	7	9
Carrion Crow	1	0	1
Hooded Crow	1	2	3
Starling	12	0	12
House Sparrow	12	0	12
Tree Sparrow	4	0	4
Chaffinch	297	5	302
Brambling	1	0	1
Greenfinch	14	0	14
Goldfinch	1189	18	1207
Siskin	40	0	40
Linnet	86	0	86
Lesser Redpoll	148	0	148
Yellowhammer	1	0	1
Reed Bunting	11	0	11
Total:	7030	287	7317

2018 Recoveries & Controls

The co-ordinates of the Calf of Man are: 54°3'N 4°49'W

Recoveries are of birds, which have been ringed on the Calf and have been subsequently found elsewhere. There were 110 reported recoveries received.

Capture type:

- V - Alive and released, not by a ringer
- R – Recaptured and released by a ringer
- x – Found dead, condition unknown
- xL – Found long dead; over a week
- xA – Found freshly dead; less than a week
- S – Metal ring and/or colour-rings read in the field

An increasing number of reports are received from the observation of birds wearing colour-rings. Where this is relevant, details of the colour-ring code are given, below the metal ring number, with the base colour of the ring shown incorporating the coloured alpha numeric code. Where more than one colour-ring is used the colour of each ring and position on the tibia(s) are shown using the following codes:

- B – Dark Blue
- G – Dark Green
- M – Metal (BTO) ring
- N – Niger (Black)
- R – Red

Ring Number	Age/Sex		Date	Details
Storm Petrel				
2563399	4	N	19/08/05	Calf of Man
	6	R	30/05/18	Mousa Isle, Shetland, Scotland 4667 days 695 km 19deg (NNE)
2591834	4	N	02/08/11	Calf of Man
	6	R	03/07/15	Lunga, Treshnish Isles, Argyll and Bute, Scotland 1431 days 290 km 340deg (NNW)
2633227	4	N	06/08/16	Calf of Man
	4	R	22/07/17	Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford, Eire 350 days 262 km 216deg (SW)
2718082	4M	N	19/07/18	Calf of Man
	4		21/07/18	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland 2 days 87 km 327deg (NNW)
2718105	4F	N	23/07/17	Calf of Man
	4	R	15/07/18	Gwennap Head, Porthgwarra, Cornwall 357 days 451 km 188deg (S)

A typical series of recoveries from the Irish Sea and Scottish Islands. 2563399 illustrates the longevity of this diminutive seabird, although at just 13 years it is somewhat short of the Great Britain & Ireland record of 33 years.

Shag

1328827	1	N	27/05/96	Calf of Man
		XA	17/04/18	Castletown Bay, Isle of Man
				7995 days 13 km 82deg (E)
1365039	8	N	06/04/00	Calf of Man
		XL	17/06/18	Blue Point, Isle of Man
				6646 days 43 km 31deg (NNE)
1379658	1	N	06/06/02	Calf of Man
		XL	19/01/18	Point of Ayre, Isle of Man
				5706 days 49 km 36deg (NE)
1468522	1	N	21/05/12	Calf of Man
		S	24/02/18	Langness, Isle of Man
				644 days 12 km 91deg (E)

Great Black-backed Gull

HT95003	1	N	01/07/07	Calf of Man
		XL	21/04/18	Douglas, Isle of Man
				3947 days 25 km 63deg (ENE)
HT95166	1	N	24/06/14	Calf of Man
T3YJ	10	S	24/11/18	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire
				1614 days 100 km (SW)
HT95182	1	N	24/06/14	Calf of Man
T2YK	7	S	21/06/16	Peel, Isle of Man
				728 days 20 km 20deg (NNE)
HT95187	1	N	24/06/14	Calf of Man
T4YK	10	S	16/07/18	Howlake Shore, Merseyside
				1483 days 110 km (SE)
HT95209	1	N	20/06/16	Calf of Man
		XL	12/04/18	Ardbeg Distillery, Argyll & Bute, Scotland
				661 days 196 km 336deg (NNW)

HT95230	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
S24:M	5	S	07/02/16	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co Louth, Eire 230 days 96 km 254deg (WSW)
	7	S	29/04/17	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co Louth, Eire 677 days
	9	S	08/10/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co Louth, Eire 1204 days
	9	S	10/10/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co Louth, Eire 1206 days
HT95232	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
S62:M		S	31/03/18	Bullock Harbour, Dalkey, Co. Dublin, Eire 1013 days 120 km (SW)
	9	S	14/05/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1057 days 58 km 293deg (WNW)
HT95247	1	N	24/06/15	Calf of Man
S76:M	3	S	29/08/18	Bullock Harbour, Dalkey, Co. Dublin, Eire 66 days 120 km (SW)
	9	S	01/08/18	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 1134 days 100 km (SW)
HT95255	1	N	01/07/15	Calf of Man
S01:M	5	S	05/12/16	Rosslare, Co. Wexford, Eire 523 days 227 km 208deg (SSW)
	7	S	28/06/17	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co Louth, Eire 728 days 96 km 254deg (WSW)
	7	S	24/10/17	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co Louth, 846 days
	9	S	31/03/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co Louth, Eire 1004 days
HT95279	1	N	26/06/17	Calf of Man
S42:M	5	S	03/02/18	Bardsey, Gwynedd, Wales 222 days 143 km (S)
	5	S	15/02/18	Bardsey, Gwynedd, Wales 234 days

HT95280	1	N	26/06/17	Calf of Man
S43:M	3	S	14/10/17	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 110 days 228 km (S)
	5	S	15/04/18	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 293 days
	5	S	22/11/18	Low Town, Fishguard Harbour, Wales 514 days

Also reported on 11 dates between October 2017 and November 2018

HT95281	1	N	06/07/17	Calf of Man
S21:M	3	S	19/11/17	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Louth, Eire 136 days 96 km 254deg (WSW)
	5	S	24/11/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Louth, Eire 506 days
HT95284	1	N	08/07/17	Kitterland, Calf of Man
S26:M	5	S	20/06/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 347 days 58 km 293deg (WNW)
	5	S	02/07/18	Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland 359 days
	5	S	29/07/18	Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland 386 days
HT95285	1	N	08/07/17	Calf of Man
S25:M	5	S	22/08/18	Skerries, Co. Down, N. Ireland 410 days 100 km (SW)
HT95287	1	N	08/07/17	Calf of Man
S29:M	5	S	12/10/18	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 461 days 57 km 302deg (WNW)
HT95289	3	N	31/10/17	Calf of Man
S08:M	3	S	03/11/17	Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 3 days 111 km (SW)
	5	S	09/01/18	Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 70 days 111 km (SW)

HT95327	1	N	23/06/18	Calf of Man
S18:M	3	S	12/10/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Louth, Eire 111 days 96 km 254deg (WSW)
HT95329	1	N	23/06/18	Calf of Man
S19:M	3	S	22/12/18	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 182 days 127 km (SW)
HT95333	1	N	23/06/18	Calf of Man
S49:M	3	S	15/11/18	Skerries, Co. Down, N. Ireland 145 days 100 km (SW)
HT95338	1	N	24/06/18	Calf of Man
S57:M	3	S	03/10/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Louth, Eire 101 days 96 km 254deg (WSW)
HT95339	1	N	24/06/18	Calf of Man
S58:M	3	S	01/12/18	Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 160 days 111 km (SW)
HT95348	1	N	09/07/18	Calf of Man
S70:M	3	S	03/11/18	Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 117 days 111 km (SW)

HT65209, 230 & 284 illustrate a westerly post-natal dispersal.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

GR64661	1	N	10/07/12	Calf of Man
T12F	10	S	10/10/18	Caleta de Velez, Andalucia, SPAIN 2283 days 1871 km (S)

GR64679	1	N	13/07/12	Calf of Man
T5ZH	7	S	16/01/14	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 552 days 1904 km (S)
	7	S	18/02/14	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 585 days
	9	S	29/01/15	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 930 days
	9	S	28/02/15	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 960 days
	9	S	04/03/15	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 964 days
	10	S	26/03/16	Ericeira, Lisboa, PORTUGAL 1352 days 1712 km (SSW)
	10	S	23/02/18	Sesimbra, Setubal, PORTUGAL 2051 days 1735 km (S)

GR99057	1	N	04/07/18	Calf of Man
T85:M	3	S	11/09/18	Mira Beach, Coimbra, PORTUGAL 69 days 1518 km (S)
	3	S	24/10/18	Costa de Caparica, PORTUGAL 112 days 1701 km (S)
	3	S	11/11/18	Jardim Amalia Rodrigues, Lisbon, PORTUGAL 130 days 1683 km (S)

GV61786	1	N	01/07/18	Calf of Man
T73:M	3	S	21/10/18	Mira Beach, Coimbra, PORTUGAL 112 days 1518 km (S)
	3	S	09/11/18	Eirol, Aveiro, PORTUGAL 131 days 1479 km (S)

Herring Gull

GN53063	1	N	25/06/07	Calf of Man
		X	11/07/18	Gansey, Isle of Man 4034 days 5 km 67deg (ENE)

GN53289	1	N	04/07/05	Calf of Man
		XL	15/08/16	Port Erin, Isle of Man 4060 days 4 km 61deg (ENE)

GN53345	1	N	25/06/11	Calf of Man
T8UF	5	S	15/07/12	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 386 days 127 km (SW)
	7	S	20/03/13	Ballycotton Pier, Co. Cork, Eire 634 days 327 km (SW)
	9	S	07/02/14	Ballycotton Pier, Co. Cork, Eire 958 days
	9	S	26/02/14	Ballycotton Pier, Co. Cork, Eire 977 days
	9	S	05/08/14	Ballycotton Pier, Co. Cork, Eire 1137 days
	10	S	14/01/15	Ballycotton Pier, Co. Cork, Eire 1299 days
	10	S	23/02/15	Ballycotton Pier, Co. Cork, Eire 1339 days
	8	S	27/06/15	Calf of Man 1463 days
	8	S	13/08/15	Calf of Man 1510 days
	10	S	27/03/16	Calf of Man 1737 days
	10	S	30/06/16	Calf of Man 1832 days
	10	S	07/07/17	Calf of Man 2204 days
	10	S	29/07/17	Calf of Man 2226 days
	10	S	01/01/18	Ballycotton Pier, Co. Cork, Eire 2382 days
	10	S	04/07/18	Cow Harbour 2566 days

A good example of juvenile dispersal to the south-west of Ireland, then returning to the Calf to breed. The return to Ballycotton in January 2018 may suggest that the bird still winters in that area.

GR64625	1	N	07/07/12	Calf of Man
T7UL	10	S	02/11/18	Skerries, Co. Down, N. Ireland 2309 days 100 km (SW)

GR64647	1	N	09/07/12	Calf of Man
T6UN	10	S	11/08/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 2224 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)

GR64719	1	N	23/06/13	Calf of Man
T4ZP	9	S	15/11/16	Peel, Isle of Man 1241 days 19 km 25deg (NNE)

GR64889	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
T2YA	8	S	09/07/17	Calf of Man 1112 days
	8	S	15/07/17	Calf of Man 1118 days
	10	S	27/06/18	Calf of Man 1465 days
	10	S	22/08/18	Skerries, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1521 days 100 km (SW)
	10	S	25/08/18	Skerries, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1524 days
GR64900	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
	xL		19/06/18	Kirk Michael, Isle of Man 1457 days 30 km (NE)
GR64918	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
T0ZV	10	S	19/11/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1610 days 58 km 293deg (WNW)
GR64929	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
T9YF	7	S	14/08/16	Sandyford Industrial Estate, Co. Dublin, Eire 783 days 127 km 227deg (SW)
	10	S	01/10/18	Sandymount Strand, Co. Dublin, Eire 1561 days 121 km (SW)
GR64932	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
T2YG	7	S	10/08/16	Peel, Isle of Man 779 days 19 km 25deg (NNE)
GR94850	1	N	25/06/17	Calf of Man
L03:M	3	S	15/11/17	Killough, Co. Down, Eire 143 days 59 km 293deg (WNW)

GR64972	1	N	28/06/14	Calf of Man
T1YL	5	S	16/11/15	Duncannon Beach, Co. Wexford, Eire 506 days 248 km (SW)
	9	S	10/02/17	Rosslare, Co. Wexford, Eire 958 days 225 km 207deg (SSW)
	10	S	16/08/18	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1510 days 57 km 302deg (WNW)
	10	S	18/10/18	Calf of Man 1573 days
GR94848	1	N	25/06/17	Calf of Man
L01:M	5	S	04/03/18	Bull Wall, Dublin Bay, Co. Dublin, Eire 252 days 113 km (SW)
GR94866	1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
R09:M	5	S	17/01/16	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 211 days 58 km 293deg (WNW)
	5	S	12/04/16	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 297 days 135 km 230deg (SW)
	9	S	11/08/18	Skerries, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1148 days 100 km (SW)
	9	S	01/12/18	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 1260 days 100 km (W)
GR94886	1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
R36:M	3	S	25/12/15	Peel, Isle of Man 188 days 19 km 25deg (NNE)
GR94896	1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
R14:M	9	S	05/03/18	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 989 days 100 km (W)
	8	S	08/09/18	Skerries, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1176 days 100 km (SW)
GR98803	1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
	xA		05/05/18	Ireland's Eye, Co. Dublin, Eire 1050 days 94 km (SW)

GR98814	1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
R67:M	5	S	17/02/16	Castletown, Isle of Man 242 days 10 km 80deg (E)
	9	S	19/06/18	Peel, Isle of Man 1095 days 19 km 25deg (NNE)
GR98837	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
R62:M	5	S	07/05/16	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 320 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	24/08/16	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 429 days
	9	S	27/10/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1223 days
GR98856	1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
R49:M	5	S	05/04/16	Peel, Isle of Man 287 days 19 km 25deg (NNE)
GR98878	1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
R03:M	3	S	07/11/15	Peel, Isle of Man 137 days 19 km 25deg (NNE)
	5	S	17/02/16	Peel, Isle of Man 239 days
	7	S	22/06/17	Peel, Isle of Man 730 days
	7	S	31/08/17	Peel, Isle of Man 800 days
	9	S	21/08/18	Peel, Isle of Man 1155 days
GR98884	1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
R17:M	7	S	16/11/17	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 877 days 57 km 294deg (WNW)
	9	S	16/08/18	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1150 days 57 km 302deg (WNW)

GR98885 R61:M	1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
	3	S	11/09/15	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 80 days 129 km 222deg (SW)
	3	S	10/10/15	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 109 days
	5	S	17/01/16	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 208 days
	5	S	21/01/16	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 212 days
	5	S	04/02/16	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 226 days
	5	S	11/03/16	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 262 days
	5	S	29/04/16	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 311 days
	5	S	23/07/16	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 396 days
	5	S	10/09/16	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 445 days
	5	S	11/09/16	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 446 days
	7	S	31/12/17	Newlyn Harbour, Cornwall 922 days 436 km (S)
	9	S	22/01/18	Swanpool Beach, Falmouth, Cornwall 944 days 436 km 183deg (S)
	9	S	27/06/18	Calf of Man 1100 days
GR98908 R39:M	1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
		S	01/01/18	Grangecastle Business Park, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin, Eire 923 days 137 km (SW)
	9	S	28/06/18	Calf of Man 1101 days
	9	S	04/07/18	Calf of Man 1107 days

GR99031	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
L38:M	5	S	29/07/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 392 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	22/08/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 416 days
GR99050	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
L58:M	3	S	05/09/17	Peel, Isle of Man 65 days 21 km 26deg (NNE)
	5	S	28/01/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 210 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	09/06/18	Peel, Isle of Man 352 days
	5	S	05/08/18	Peel, Isle of Man 403 days
GR99072	10	N	17/08/18	Calf of Man
T7VN	10	S	02/11/18	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 77 days 57 km 302deg (WNW)
GV61707	1	N	25/06/17	Calf of Man
L11:M	5	S	29/07/18	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 399 days 57 km 302deg (WNW)
GV61719	1	N	25/06/17	Calf of Man
L26:M	5	S	02/07/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 372 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	02/09/18	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 434 days 57 km 302deg (WNW)
GV61742	1	N	05/07/17	Calf of Man
L78:M	5	S	01/02/18	Dublin Zoo, Co. Dublin, Eire 211 days 126 km 232deg (SW)

GV61746	1	N	05/07/17	Calf of Man
L83:M	5	S	05/07/18	Bullock Harbour, Dalkey, Co. Dublin, Eire 365 days 120 km (SW)
	5	S	29/12/18	Biggar Bank, Walney Island, Cumbria 542 days 92 km (E)
GV61761	1	N	05/07/17	Calf of Man
L98:M	5	S	21/08/18	Kearney, Co Down, N. Ireland 412 days 89 km (NW)
GV61772	3	N	03/10/17	Calf of Man
	5	S	10/04/18	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 189 days 128 km 223deg (SW)
GV61797	3	N	02/07/18	Calf of Man
	3	S	22/12/18	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 173 days 127 km 222deg (SW)

Wheatear

ADB1058	3J	N	23/06/18	Calf of Man
		xA	05/08/18	Point of Ayre, Isle of Man 43 days 49 km 36deg (NE)
Z611604	3J	N	30/07/16	Calf of Man
A6D	4M	R	02/06/18	Uwchmynydd, Gwynedd, Wales 672 days 84 km (SW)

Great Tit

ADB2819	3JF	N	18/10/18	Calf of Man
	3F	R	24/11/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 37 days 6 km 50deg (NE)

Coal Tit

ADB2896	3	N	20/10/18	Calf of Man
	3	R	26/12/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 67 days 6 km 50deg (NE)

Chough

EL87811	1	N	05/06/13	Calf of Man
R,M Y,O	4	S	12/07/15	Calf of Man 767 days
	4	S	24/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 1967 days 7 km (ENE)
	4	S	31/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 1974 days
EY88155	1	N	15/05/16	Calf of Man
Y,R B,M	3	S	14/09/16	Calf of Man 122 days
	4	S	16/11/18	Langness, Isle of Man 915 days 13 km (E)
EY88462	6	N	18/05/17	Calf of Man
G,M G,W	4	S	31/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 531 days 7 km (ENE)
EY88469	1	N	23/05/17	Calf of Man
G,M G,Y	3	S	20/07/17	Calf of Man 58 days
	4	S	10/06/18	Langness, Isle of Man 383 days 13 km (E)
	4	S	06/07/18	Calf of Man 409 days
EY88470	1	N	23/05/17	Calf of Man
G,M N,B	3	S	20/07/17	Calf of Man 58 days
	4	S	10/06/18	Langness, Isle of Man 383 days 13 km (E)
	4	S	16/11/18	Langness, Isle of Man 542 days
EZ87072	4	N	07/07/18	Calf of Man
Y,M Y,N	4	S	31/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 116 days 7 km (ENE)
EZ87093	4	N	05/08/18	Calf of Man
B,R R,M	4	S	24/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 80 days 7 km (ENE)
	4	S	31/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 87 days

Willow Warbler

JLY924	4	N	07/04/17	Calf of Man
	4	R	09/08/17	Plaisance, Saint-Froult, Charente-Maritime FRANCE 134 days 944 km 164deg (SSE)
KND521	4	N	19/04/18	Calf of Man
	xA		20/04/18	Port Erin, Isle of Man 1 days 4 km 61deg (ENE)
KEX319	3	N	20/08/17	Calf of Man
	3	R	17/09/17	South Foreland, Kent 28 days 528 km 128deg (SE)
KNE394	3	N	19/08/18	Calf of Man
	3	R	29/08/18	Nanjizal, Land's End, Cornwall 10 days 451 km 188deg (S)

JLY924, KEX319 & KNE394 show the route of departure for birds moving south to their winter quarters. It is likely that JLY924 was moving north to its breeding grounds when trapped on the Calf, whilst the juvenile birds are moving south from their more northerly natal areas.

Goldcrest

9V1019	3M	N	26/09/89	Calf of Man
	2M	R	26/10/89	Dunster Beach, Dunster, Somerset 30 days 332 km 164deg (SSE)
KNE929	3M	N	11/10/18	Calf of Man
	3M	R	20/10/18	Frodsham Marsh, Cheshire 9 days 159 km 122deg (ESE)

Long-tailed Tit

KEY681	2	N	27/10/17	Calf of Man
	4	R	07/01/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 72 days 6 km 50deg (NE)

Song Thrush

RL65325	3	N	20/10/17	Calf of Man
		XA	15/03/18	Buncrana, Lisfannon, Donegal, Eire
				146 days 208 km 305deg (NW)

Blackbird

LC34845	4F	N	29/10/14	Calf of Man
	6F	R	23/03/18	Lista Fyr, Farsund, Vest-Agder, NORWAY
				1241 days 837 km 58deg (ENE)

LH81875	3F	N	27/10/17	Calf of Man
		XA	17/04/18	Douglas, Isle of Man
				172 days 24 km 62deg (ENE)

LC34845 illustrates the likely natal area of migrants moving through the Calf in autumn.

Chaffinch

ADB3024	3F	N	05/11/18	Calf of Man
	3F	R	24/11/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
				19 days 6 km 50deg (NE)

S9668851	5F	N	01/04/18	Calf of Man
	5F	R	07/04/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
				6 days 6 km 50deg (NE)

Z671535	3F	N	09/10/17	Calf of Man
	5F	R	13/03/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
				155 days 6 km 50deg (NE)

Z076180	3F	N	26/09/15	Calf of Man
	6F	R	06/03/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
				892 days 6 km 56deg (NE)

Z610087	3F	N	13/10/16	Calf of Man
	6F	R	30/01/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 474 days 6 km 56deg (NE)
Z611529	3F	N	08/10/16	Calf of Man
	4F	R	17/09/17	Glebe Farm, Salsburgh, North Lanarkshire, Scotland 344 days 208 km 18deg (NNE)

Siskin

Z610494	5F	N	06/04/17	Calf of Man
		XA	20/03/18	Crossway, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire 348 days 276 km 148deg (SSE)

Goldfinch

ADB0978	1J	N	09/06/18	Calf of Man
	3J	R	21/08/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 73 days 6 km 56deg (NE)
S965080	5F	N	27/04/18	Calf of Man
	3F	R	04/11/18	Sutton Weaver, Runcorn, Halton, Cheshire 191 days 163 km 121deg (ESE)
S965111	6M	N	16/04/18	Calf of Man
		XA	12/11/18	Ballymartin, Co. Down, N. Ireland 210 days 74 km 273deg (W)
S965303	6F	N	21/04/18	Calf of Man
	6F	R	24/04/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 3 days 6 km 56deg (NE)
S965365	5M	N	22/04/18	Calf of Man
	5M	R	24/04/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 2 days 6 km 56deg (NE)

S965765	5M	N	15/04/18	Calf of Man
	5M	R	23/04/18	Leswalt, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland 8 days 99 km 350deg (N)
Z075313	3M	N	09/11/14	Calf of Man
	4M	R	05/11/18	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire, Wales 1457 days 141 km 130deg (SE)
Z611882	3J	N	15/09/16	Calf of Man
	4M	R	06/09/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 721 days 6 km 56deg (NE)
Z610613	5M	N	09/04/17	Calf of Man
	6M	R	03/02/18	Chevetogne, Namur, BELGIUM 300 days 799 km 123deg (ESE)
Z611944	3JM	N	01/10/16	Calf of Man
	6M	V	15/04/18	Ballagarmin, Isle of Man 561 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)
Z671279	3-	N	26/09/17	Calf of Man
	5M	R	20/02/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 147 days 6 km 56deg (NE)
Z610730	5F	N	17/04/17	Calf of Man
		XA	19/10/18	Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland 550 days 101 km 30deg (NNE)

Although several Goldfinch from Belgium have been controlled on the Calf, Z610613 is the first Calf-ringed bird to travel in the opposite direction.

Controls

Controls notified during 2018 are listed below, controls are birds ringed elsewhere and caught on the Calf. There were 49 reported controls.

Ring Number	Age/ Sex	Condition	Date	Details
----------------	-------------	-----------	------	---------

Shag

1029607	1	N	21/06/97	Puffin Island, Isle of Anglesey, Wales
	8F	R	10/04/08	Calf of Man 3946 days 98 km 329deg (NNW)
	8F	R	16/04/11	Calf of Man 5047 days
	8F	R	10/04/12	Calf of Man 5407 days
(re-ringed	8F	R	18/05/18	Calf of Man 7636 days
1468984)	8F	R	12/06/18	Calf of Man 7661 days
	8F	R	28/06/18	Calf of Man 7677 days

Originally hatched in Wales, this bird has been breeding on the Calf for at least 11 years now. At the age of 21 it is still some way short of the Great Britain & Irish longevity record for the species, which stands at 30 years and 7 months.

Storm Petrel

2267551	4	N	24/06/96	Lundy Island, Devon
	4	R	04/07/96	Calf of Man 20 days 323 km 359deg (N)
2619173	4	N	13/08/16	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	4M	R	01/06/18	Calf of Man 657 days 87 km 147deg (SSE)
2619618	4	N	20/07/18	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	4M	R	2/08/18	Calf of Man 40 days 87 km 147deg (SSE)

2647854	4	N	06/07/18	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
	4M	R	22/07/18	Calf of Man 16 days 145 km 360deg (N)
2701200	4	N	01/08/16	Ballyreagh, Co. Londonderry, N. Ireland
	4F	R	09/06/18	Calf of Man 677 days 176 km 137deg (SE)
2706631	4	N	14/08/16	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
	4	R	23/07/17	Calf of Man 343 days 265 km 8deg (N)
2722531	4	N	05/08/17	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
	4M	R	18/07/18	Calf of Man 347 days 265 km 8deg (N)
2726767	4	N	26/07/17	Eilean nan Ron, Highland, Scotland
	4M	R	14/07/18	Calf of Man 353 days 501 km 184deg (S)
2736336	4	N	31/08/17	Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland
	4F	R	23/08/18	Calf of Man
				357 days 640 km 198deg (SSW)
2740324	4	N	25/07/18	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
	4	R	23/08/18	Calf of Man 29 days 265 km 8deg (N)

A typical series of controls from birds ringed elsewhere on the western seaboard of the UK and from the Scottish Islands. 2267551 & 2740324 show the fairly rapid movements the species is capable of.

Herring Gull

GR97473	6	N	08/07/15	Peel, Isle of Man
V18:M	10	S	16/07/17	Calf of Man 739 days 21 km 203deg (SSW)
	10	S	02/07/18	Calf of Man 1090 days
	10	S	08/07/18	Calf of Man 1096 days

Razorbill

M91387	1	N	21/06/98	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll and Bute, Scotland
	6	R	31/05/18	Calf of Man 7284 days 145 km 160deg (SSE)
	6	R	10/06/18	Calf of Man 7294 days

Another seabird choosing to re-locate from their natal area and favour the Calf as a breeding location. At 20 years old it is, however, a long way short of the Great Britain & Irish longevity record of 40 years.

Sedge Warbler

FRP

7622954	4	N	18/08/15	RNR des Pres de Rotz, Graignes, Manche, FRANCE
	4	R	18/05/18	Calf of Man 1004 days 590 km 335deg (NNW)

Reed Warbler

CIJ

AE13040	4	N	26/04/17	Mannez Quarry, Alderney, Channel Islands
	4	R	30/04/17	Calf of Man 4 days 515 km 340deg (NNW)
	4	R	01/05/17	Calf of Man 5 days

A rather baffling control of a species making a significant movement NNW at a time when it should be preparing to move in the opposite direction to its wintering quarters south of the Sahara Desert. However, it is known that the species often makes reconnaissance trips of 'potential' new breeding locations (Dave Leech pers comm) and given the species relatively recent colonisation of Ireland as a breeding location might suggest the purpose of its travels.

Chiffchaff

JJV670	5	N	01/04/18	Hilfield, Elstree, Hertfordshire
	4	R	15/04/18	Calf of Man 14 days 403 km 312deg (NW)
JVR226	3J	N	17/07/17	Sherpa Marsh, Velator, Braunton, Devon
	4	R	30/04/18	Calf of Man 287 days 333 km 353deg (N)
ESI				
RD4649	3	N	11/10/16	Embalse de Pedrezuela, Guadalix de la Sierra, Madrid, SPAIN
	4	R	08/04/17	Calf of Man 179 days 1479 km 357deg (N)
	4	R	10/04/17	Calf of Man 181 days
	4	R	12/04/17	Calf of Man 183 days
	4	R	26/04/17	Calf of Man 197 days
	4	R	06/05/17	Calf of Man 207 days

All records indicate the movement through the Calf towards presumably more northerly breeding sites.

Willow Warbler

3A6230	3	N	15/09/17	Trunvel, Treogat, Finistère, FRANCE
	4	R	27/04/18	Calf of Man 224 days 688 km 358deg (N)
CE1283	3	N	30/08/16	Blauberg, Antwerpen, BELGIUM
	4	R	21/04/17	Calf of Man 234 days 736 km 297deg (WNW)
JJB609	3	N	07/08/18	Shielhill, near Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, Scotland
	3	R	15/09/18	Calf of Man 39 days 388 km 206deg (SSW)
KJB392	4	N	20/04/18	Ballard Down, Dorset
	4	R	21/04/18	Calf of Man 1 days 429 km 333deg (NNW)

LCJ518	3	N	11/08/18	Ullock, Cumbria
	3	R	20/08/18	Calf of Man 9 days 109 km 236deg (WSW)

JJB609 & LCJ518 show a southerly movement of juveniles from natal areas to the north of the Calf, which is supported by 3A6230 & CE1283 of birds ringed to the south of the Calf during the proceeding autumn and controlled as they move north through the Calf towards breeding areas. Note the rapid northerly spring movement of KJB392.

Spotted Flycatcher

AFD1099	4	N	25/05/18	Nanjizal, Land's End, Cornwall
	4	R	20/08/18	Calf of Man
				87 days 451 km 8deg (N)

It is likely that AFD1099 was ringed in Cornwall during its northerly spring passage towards its breeding location, which is probably to the north of the Calf.

Blue Tit

S997362	3	N	06/09/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	3	R	28/09/18	Calf of Man
				22 days 6 km 230deg (SW)

Goldcrest

JVK988	3M	N	16/09/17	Kilnsea Clays, East Riding of Yorkshire
	5M	R	09/03/18	Calf of Man 184 days 327 km 279deg (W)
KNC366	3F	N	07/10/17	Billinge Hill, near Billinge, Merseyside
	5F	R	04/04/18	Calf of Man
				179 days 150 km 295deg (WNW)

Many Goldcrests pass through the Calf during spring migration and these are typical controls of juveniles ringed the previous autumn.

Chaffinch

S213749	5F	N	19/01/17	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	4f	R	30/10/18	Calf of Man 649 days 6 km 230deg (SW)
S997230	3M	N	14/08/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	3F	R	14/09/18	Calf of Man 31 days 6 km 230deg (SW)
S997347	3M	N	29/08/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	4M	R	30/10/18	Calf of Man 62 days 6 km 230deg (SW)
S997591	5M	N	06/03/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	5M	R	13/03/18	Calf of Man 7 days 6 km 230deg (SW)
	5M	R	28/03/18	Calf of Man 22 days
	5M	R	30/03/18	Calf of Man 24 days

Siskin

S144917	5F	N	19/04/16	near Orrell, Greater Manchester
	6F	R	14/04/18	Calf of Man 725 days 151 km 294deg (WNW)

Goldfinch

BLB

14692790	5	N	03/02/18	Wezembeek-Oppem, Brabant, BELGIUM
	5M	R	23/04/18	Calf of Man 79 days 721 km 300deg (WNW)
	5M	R	25/04/18	Calf of Man 81 days
AEB6909	5F	N	05/03/18	Lower Basildon, West Berkshire
	5F	R	27/04/18	Calf of Man 53 days 378 km 320deg (NW)
ATB5618	6M	N	11/02/18	Daisy Cottage, Hurst Green, East Sussex
	5M	R	29/04/18	Calf of Man 77 days 492 km 314deg (NW)
S156624	5M	N	18/03/16	nr Ysgyryd Fach, Monmouthshire, Wales
	6M	R	15/04/18	Calf of Man 758 days 279 km 335deg (NNW)

S162174	5	N	07/01/17	Geddington, Northamptonshire
	6	R	08/04/18	Calf of Man 456 days 329 km 304deg (NW)
S212743	3J	N	21/09/16	Point of Ayre, Isle of Man
	6M	R	26/03/18	Calf of Man 551 days 49 km 216deg (SW)
S562553	5M	N	15/01/17	near Hollesley Heath, Suffolk
	6M	R	09/04/18	Calf of Man 449 days 471 km 299deg (WNW)
S760607	5M	N	14/01/18	Iken Marsh, near Iken, Suffolk
	5M	R	24/04/18	Calf of Man 100 days 475 km 297deg (WNW)
S997320	3J	N	21/08/18	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	3J	R	14/09/18	Calf of Man 24 days 6 km 230deg (SW)

Lesser Redpoll

D281642	3	N	10/10/17	Landguard Point, Felixstowe, Suffolk
	4	R	28/04/18	Calf of Man 200 days 472 km 301deg (WNW)
S008520	3	N	23/10/16	Ripon Parks, North Yorkshire
	4	R	13/05/18	Calf of Man 567 days 214 km 267deg (W)
S101847	3	N	06/10/17	Kilnsea, East Riding of Yorkshire
	4	R	29/04/18	Calf of Man 205 days 327 km 279deg (W)
S102902	4F	N	18/10/17	Kilnsea Clays, East Riding of Yorkshire
	4	R	27/04/18	Calf of Man 191 days 327 km 279deg (W)
	4	R	29/04/18	Calf of Man 193 days
S589982	3	N	15/10/17	Lichfield Block, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire
	4	R	07/05/18	Calf of Man 204 days 234 km 308deg (NW)

S699704	3	N	27/10/17	Uskmouth, Newport, Wales
	4M	R	03/06/18	Calf of Man
				219 days 308 km 337deg (NNW)
S858491	4F	N	19/11/17	Eccles-on-Sea, Norfolk
	4M	R	29/04/18	Calf of Man
				161 days 445 km 289deg (WNW)
Z957913	3	N	27/10/16	Chobham Common, Surrey
	4M	R	04/06/18	Calf of Man
				585 days 411 km 317deg (NW)

A census of the Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* breeding on the Calf of Man in 2018

Abstract

The Calf of Man historically held significant numbers of breeding Manx Shearwater with as many as 10,000 young being harvested per annum in the 17th century. This 'persecution' appeared to have little or no detrimental effect on the numbers breeding on the Calf but the accidental introduction of the Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* (Longtails) to the islet, as the result of a shipwreck in 1781 caused a 'catastrophic' decline. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the shearwater colonies on the Calf were all but wiped out, however various efforts to eradicate or reduce the effects of the 'longtails' from 1979 onwards would appear to have some success and in 2000 breeding of shearwaters was again confirmed. In 2012 the Manx Shearwater Recovery Project was initiated, and a structured programme of baiting and monitoring was started, and which continues to date. Although eradication of the 'Longtails' has not been entirely successful, it has reduced the population sufficiently that only one or two sightings are made annually. This has allowed the Manx Shearwater population to gain a substantial foothold along the east coast of the Calf and at a couple of more isolated sites on the west coast of the islet. Monitoring of these populations was initially incorporated into the daily work of the Ornithological (Bird) Warden but as the colonies have grown and expanded the ability to maintain this level of work alongside their already busy daily schedule has not been possible and in recent years surveys have been conducted by MSc students from Bangor University (2016-2017) and by volunteer fieldworker in 2018.

Introduction

A variety of survey methods have been used during the past two decades which have evolved as the population has grown; initial monitoring through labour intensive burrow by burrow checking proved effective whilst the population was relatively small, however it became too time consuming given the growth and distribution of the colonies. Unfortunately, the sizes of the individual colonies and geographical layout of them does not really lend themselves to the study plot methodology practised elsewhere. During 2014 - 2017 quadrat sampling was trialled with varying results which suggested large changes in breeding population from one season to the next. This was more likely to be because of sampling differences than any actual change in population. It was also evident that the quality of results was somewhat dependant on the diligence and enthusiasm of the surveyor. During 2016 & 2017 students from Bangor University were tasked with undertaking fieldwork as part of their MSc thesis course studies, which provided quality data, if at times somewhat more focused on their MSc requirements. For the 2018 season, it was decided to utilise long-term volunteers to undertake the fieldwork and to adopt a sampling survey technique that was devised to estimate the breeding population of Manx Shearwaters on Lundy Island in 2013. This method is less labour intensive and can be repeated year-on-year at the main Calf colonies providing a comparative survey model that will identify any significant losses or gains within the individual colonies and overtime, as a population.

Methods

During 2018 surveying was undertaken in South Harbour, Gibdale and Baie Fine. Colony boundaries were determined by geographical features along with access ability, plus the presence or absence of potentially occupied burrows, and suitable habitat in areas known to have historically been occupied by shearwaters. Prior to Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum growth a ‘whole’ colony count of burrows was conducted in South Harbour on 28th April when 594 burrows were located. Each burrow was inspected to ensure that it extended beyond an ‘arm length’.

Prior to the main survey period, calibration plots were set up by marking a series of randomly selected burrows in each colony with numbered wooden pegs. Fifty burrows were marked in South Harbour, 35 in Gibdale and 15 in Baie Fine. During the ten-day survey period (1st – 10th June) each marked burrow was visited daily and daytime call playback was used. The recording was played for up to 15 seconds at the entrance to each marked burrow. Surveyors recorded the number of each marked burrow checked and when a response from a sitting bird was received. A duet recording of calls of male and female Manx Shearwaters was used, with surveyors using hand-held tape-recorders which can be held at arms-length down each burrow.

South Harbour

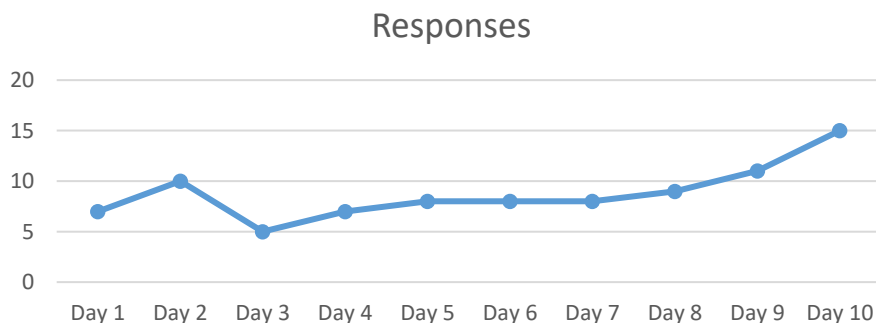


Figure 1. Number of responses per day (South Harbour)

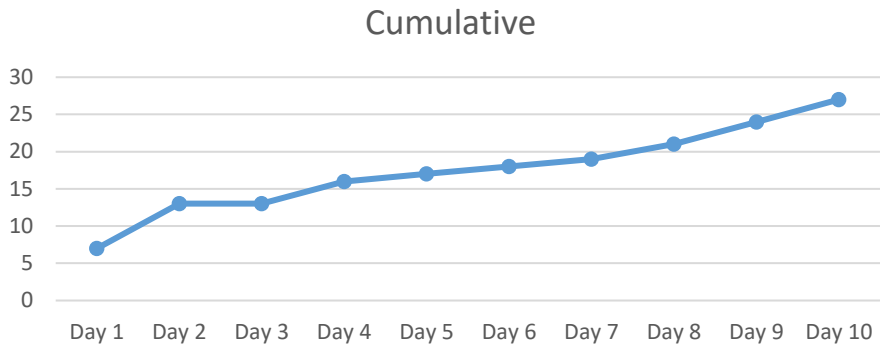


Figure 2. Cumulative number of occupied burrows detected (South Harbour)

On day nine a further complete burrow count of South Harbour was attempted, with surveyors using call playback at each burrow located within the colony perimeter. On this occasion a total of 392 burrows were surveyed and a total of 93 responses were achieved.



Photo – surveying shearwater burrows at South Harbour by Aron Sapsford

It is known that when burrows are checked. by playback, not all occupying birds will respond. To determine what proportion does respond, it is necessary to compare the calibration plot data with that achieved during the whole colony survey.

The calibration plot was set up a few days before the start of the main survey and each burrow was checked daily from 1st – 10th June. At the end of this period the average daily response rate from these burrows provides a percentage figure for the likelihood of a shearwater responding to the playback recording. Using this figure and applying it to the number of responses from the whole colony survey enables an overall population to estimate for the number of breeding Manx Shearwaters in that colony.

Table 1. South Harbour survey results:

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Male Response	7	9	3	6	7	3	4	8	6	6
Female Response	1	2	2	1	1	5	3	1	5	12
Undetermined Response	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Occupied Burrows	8	10	5	7	8	8	8	9	11	15
Cumulative Occupied Burrows	8	14	14	17	16	17	18	20	25	28
Daily Response Rate %	16	20	10	14	16	16	16	18	22	30

Overall daily response rate 17.8

The mean overall daily response rate of 17.8% would indicate that, when checking burrows, only one-fifth of the occupying birds are likely to give a response. The minimum number of occupied burrows that gave a response was 93 out of 392 burrows surveyed on 9th June, which converts to a 24% response rate. Using the mean daily response

rate and applying it to the minimum number of occupied burrows would provide a colony population estimate of 517. However if the minimum number of occupied burrows is extrapolated up to reflect the total burrow count ($594/100 \times 24 = 143$) then the population estimate increases to 794.

Table 2.

Burrow responses	Daily response rate %	Population estimates
93	18	517
	24	388
	30	310
143	18	794
	24	596
	30	477

Figure 3. Population estimates for South Harbour colony

The average daily response rate (figure 1.) was increasing throughout the survey period and that days 9 & 10 recorded the highest response rates. This may suggest that the survey period chosen was started too early and therefore did not incorporate the whole of the main response period, thus giving a 'false' lower response rate than may have otherwise been achieved.

Gibdale

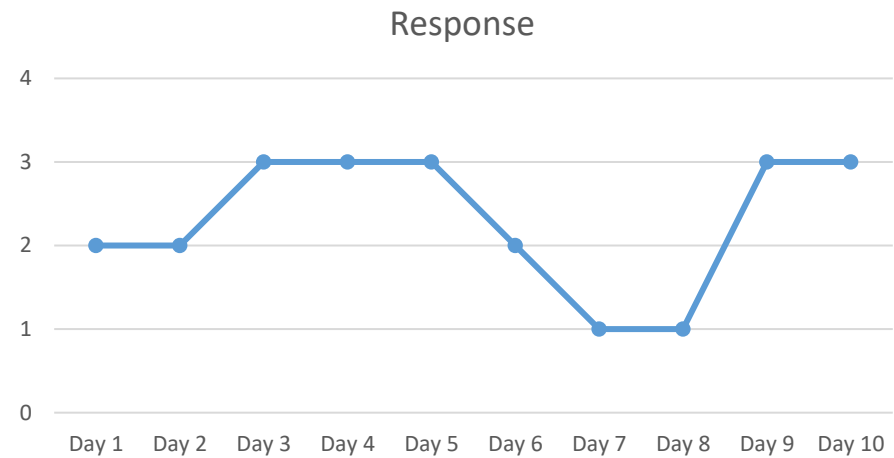


Figure 4. Number of responses per day (Gibdale)

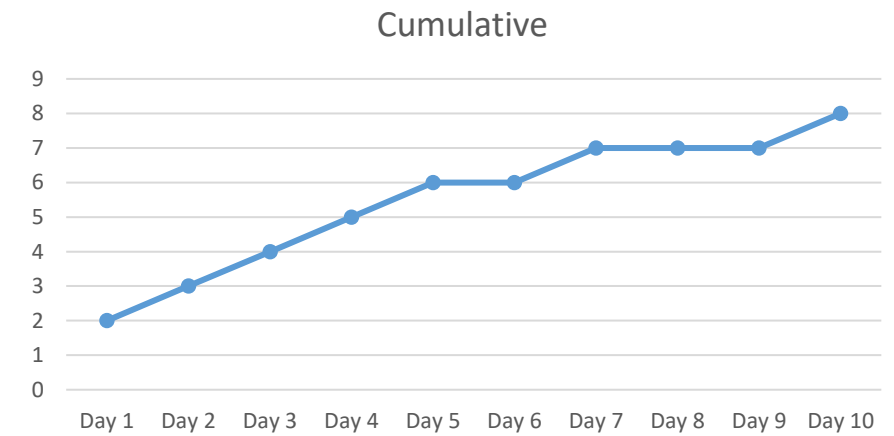


Figure 5. Cumulative number of occupied burrows detected (Gibdale)

Table 3. Gibdale survey results:

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Male Response	2	2	3	3	3	2	1	1	2	1
Female Response	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2
Undetermined Response	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burrow Responses	2	2	3	3	3	2	1	1	3	3
Cumulative Occupied Burrows	2	3	4	5	6	6	7	7	7	8
Daily Response Rate %	6	6	9	9	9	6	3	3	9	9

**Overall Daily response
Rate**

6.6

Baie Fine

There were no responses recorded throughout the survey period from the 15 burrows surveyed.

Conclusions

A similar study was undertaken on Lundy Island in 2013, when a calibration plot of 100 burrows yielded a mean daily response rate of 49.7% (Booker et al)ⁱ. The survey period used in 2018 was also based on the time frame chosen for the Lundy survey. As Manx Shearwaters nest under-ground and it is not possible to monitor the stages and timing of breeding, it is believed that the survey carried out in 2018 was undertaken slightly too early; this is supported by the evidence of the peak number of responses occurring during the last couple of days of the survey. Had the survey been continued or timed slightly later it is likely that the response rate would have been higher, perhaps closer resembling the results obtained on Lundy.

If we were to apply the Lundy mean daily response rate, then the results in Table 4 would be obtained for South Harbour.

Table 4.

Burrow responses	Daily response rate %	Population estimate
93	50	186
143		286

Table 5. Minimum number of occupied burrows

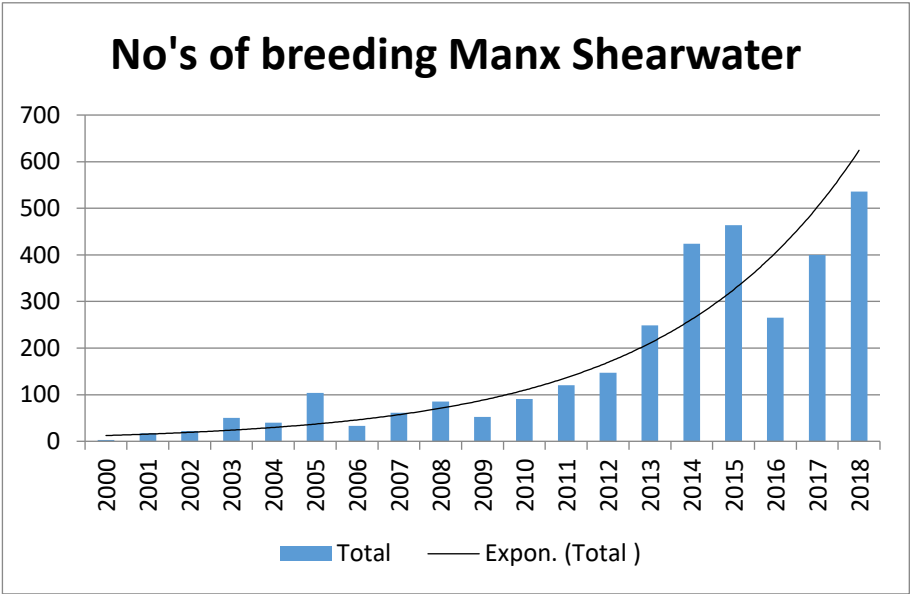
	South Harbour	Kione ny Halby	Kione Roauyr	Cletts	Gibdale	Baie Fine	Total
2005	13	12	14	6	4	0	59
2008	15	14	13	10	5	0	57
2016	41	25	26	28	8	0	124
2017	70	70	20	??	?	5	165
2018	93	70	20	10	8	0	201
% growth	715	583	142	166	200	0	340%

It is clear that the population of Manx Shearwaters on the Calf is continuing to increase with a minimum of 201 AOB's located during 2018. By applying the daily response rates to this figure, gives an indication of the potential population present on the Calf.

Table 6.

Burrow responses	Daily response rate %	Population estimate
201	30	670
	50	402

It would be fair to estimate that the Calf population is likely to be somewhere between the two of these figures, so taking the middle ground would provide an estimate figure of 536 AOB’s.



Ringling

The total of 104 new birds trapped represents the 4th highest annual total in the Observatories 60-year history, all of which have occurred since 2005. In addition, 89 encounters from 67 re-trapped birds were made, including an individual (FC93053) that is at least 21 years of age.

Table 7. Number of re-traps with original ringling year

2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2008	2007	2005	2003	2000
11	13	15	4	4	1	1	2	1	2	10	2	1

It is likely that the high number of re-traps from 2005 is due to the large number of birds ringed in that year, which at the time represented the highest annual ringing total.

Table 8. Location of birds trapped in 2018

	Retraps	New
South Harbour	76	73
Kione ny Halby	10	22
Puddle	2	1
Cletts	1	8
	89	104

The apparent bias in numbers of birds trapped at different locations is largely due to the ease of access with South Harbour being the closest and safest area to access at night-time. Kione ny Halby requires a further 20-minute walk to access the area and the terrain is more difficult to negotiate. Similarly, the Cletts requires a reasonable walk to access and the steep slopes make accessing the area at night more difficult than other sites. The Puddle is easy to access but only contains a very small breeding population.

It is notable that the number of re-traps and new birds is very similar for South Harbour and this 50/50 split would suggest that coverage of this area is achieving a high percentage catch of the birds breeding and/or visiting the site. As it is known that non-breeding 'prospecting' birds often visit potential breeding colonies it is not possible to draw any conclusions about the breeding numbers from these figures.

Recommendations

Given the current recorded increases in the Calf shearwater breeding numbers it would be tempting to assume that the population is very healthy and will continue to increase for a good while yet.

Undoubtedly the initial work of the Manx Shearwater Recovery Project (MSRP) and on-going monitoring by the Estate Warden and volunteers has been a major factor in enabling this increase to reach its current level. However, the continued presence of even a few 'long-tail' records provide a cause for concern and could very rapidly create problems again for the shearwaters (and potentially most other breeding seabirds). A full review of the current baiting and monitoring initiative should be undertaken to identify if there are any new systems that could be incorporated and that would be more successful in moving forward to being able to declare the Calf and Kitterland 'rat-free'.

In terms of monitoring, it is proposed that the methods used during 2018 are taken forward and adopted as the means of monitoring shearwater numbers on the Calf. It is clear that no one system is the best and there is a need for a flexible approach that will allow the most accurate results to be achieved for each site. Several of the current breeding sites are too small for the calibration plot system or quadrat methods to be effective and therefore full colony counts should be considered as the best fit method for the Puddle, Cletts, Gibdale and Baie Fine colonies. Whilst the three main colonies at South Harbour, Kione ny Halby and Kione Roauyr should be surveyed on a three-year rolling programme using the calibration method, with an increased number of marked burrows and extended survey period that ensures the peak response period is covered.

Proposal for 2019 onwards

Surveying should be undertaken at South Harbour and Kione ny Halby with 50 marked burrows monitored at each location for an extended survey period of three weeks. This will allow for a comparison between years (2018 – 19) in South Harbour and between colonies

(South Harbour and Kione ny Halby) during 2019. The extended survey period will ensure that the peak response period is identified and can then be used for analysis of the results. In addition, a full burrow survey should be conducted at either the Cletts or Gibdale.

Surveying 100 marked burrows at 3 sites during 2018 took about 2¼ hours surveying time plus travelling of 2 hours between sites on each day of the calibration survey for one surveyor. In addition, on Day 9 a full burrow count of the colony was conducted by seven surveyors in a period of 4 hours.

To ensure safety of fieldworkers whilst working in coastal locations it is suggested that two fieldworkers should work together in undertaking these surveys. This should help to reduce the overall daily survey time but will not make any difference to the travelling time between sites. It would therefore be envisaged that surveying would take around 3½ hours on each day of the main survey plus one and half days to conduct full burrow counts.

It is not feasible to incorporate this level of fieldwork into the current work programme without increasing the level of staffing. Assuming that there isn't sufficient budget to employ fieldworkers to undertake this essential survey work, then it is essential that high-quality volunteer fieldworkers are sourced that can undertake this fieldwork as well as contributing to the more general biological recording on the Calf.

¹ Manx Shearwater Recovery on Lundy: population and distribution change from 2001 to 2013. Helen Brooke & David Price

Non-Avian Reports

Mammals

Pygmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

There were 15 records from 25th March to 20th October. The species was only seen a few times within the Observatory – mainly within the workshop. Away from the Observatory it can be found almost anywhere on the island and there was plenty of evidence of Pygmy Shrew activity across the island on the non-toxic wax blocks used to detect Long-tail presence.

Brown Rat [Long-tail] (*Rattus norvegicus*)

A disappointing increase to seven records from 26th August to 31st October; only one individual was seen at any time, with all sightings recorded on camera traps. Four records around the Observatory compost bin are likely to have all been of the same individual, with a further two sightings at Cow Harbour and the last at the Millpond. Evidence of 'bait-take' was also found during the early part of the season with several wax blocks, which had been left out over-winter, having teeth marks.

On a more positive note, the baiting regime undertaken on Kitterland during 2017 would appear to have been successful with no further evidence of Long-tail activity recorded during monitoring visits made during spring and summer 2018.

Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

Four records from 7th July to 23rd August with a peak count of two on 7th July. Sightings were around Jane's House, Upper Lighthouse and at the Observatory.

Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

No records this year.

Bat sp.

Five records from 25th June to 30th October with all sightings at around the Observatory.

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

After last year's myxomatosis out-break and the potential 'viral haemorrhaging disease' (VHD) severely reducing the population in 2017, it is great to see they have bounced back. Along with Loaghtan Sheep, Rabbits plays a significant role in keeping the grass short, which benefits feeding Chough. It is



estimated the population is in the low thousands. There were numerous sightings of 'black' Rabbits throughout the year with 207 records from 16th March to 7th November. Black Rabbits occur as a result of inter-breeding with a peak count of four on numerous dates. Sightings are mainly focussed within the Central Glen with other regular sightings towards the Baie Fine area and near the Smithy.

Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

644 records this year is a massive increase from 15 in 2017. This could be the result of recent good breeding seasons and subsequent dispersal across the UK, although may also be partly due to an increase in observers and a greater knowledge of how to distinguish them from Grey Seal. The species was seen throughout the season with most sightings in the early months and relatively few sightings later on in the year. The first record was on 12th March with the last sighting on 5th November with a peak count of 23 on 10th July.

Grey Seal (*Halichoerus gryphus*)

As always Grey Seals are ever-present around the Calf with 12,971 records this season, with a peak count of 199 on 21st April. An increase of volunteers this year has allowed more regular counts of the main haul sites at low tide and this gives a better understanding of how

many are actually here on the Calf. The first record was on 12th March and the last sighting was on 11th November. The 'pupping' season would appear to have been a great success with at least 66 pups born during the autumn.

Cetaceans

Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

97 records from 6th April to 30th October with a peak count of 20 on 6th April. Sightings were seen from all vantage places on the island such as Cow and South Harbours and offshore from the Lighthouses.



Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)

Three records from 30th May to 9th June with a peak count of two on 9th of June. Common Dolphin remains a rarity here on Calf with only 21 sightings since 2006.

Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

42 records this season, although the species was only recorded on two days. A count of 30 on 16th July and 12 on 13th August were all made from Cow Harbour. The count of 42 makes this year the best year on record since 2006.

Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)

168 records from 7th May to 18th October with a peak count of 20 on 4th August. The count of 168 records makes this year the second-best year since 2006. Sightings were seen from all vantage places on the island such as Cow and South Harbours and offshore from the Lighthouses.



Dolphin sp.

21 records for the year from 9th May to 27th August. All of these unidentified sightings are when observations are too brief or distant to identify.

Fish

Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)

10 records all in June from 1st June to 27th, with a peak count of three on 5th June. This global declining species is reflected within the Calf waters by being the fourth worst year since 2006.

Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)

12 records on two dates with a peak count of 11 on 28th June and one on 17th August. All sightings were made in the Millpond with the excellent count of 11 being found by a work party digging out invasive Horse-tail (*Equisetum spp.*) at the Millpond.

Reptiles

Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*)



99 records from 20th March to 30th September with a peak count of 15 at around the Observatory. Most sightings come from around the Observatory, although they can be sighted anywhere across the island.

Odonata

Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

140 records from 8th June to 25th August with a peak count of 50 on 7th July at the Millpond. This species is mostly seen at the Millpond where they could be seen to be mating.

Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

One record of a female at Millpond on 9th June.

Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*)

One record at Millpond on 24th June.

Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

20 records from 20th August to 27th October with a peak count of two on three dates. Most of the sightings were made at the Observatory and along Mill Giau.

Hawker sp. (*Aeshna* spp.)

Seven records from 13th May to 18th September with a peak count of two on 2nd September. All of these records are thought to be Migrant Hawkers.

Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

10 records all seen at Millpond from 15th April to 8th October with a peak count of two on 7th June and 8th October.

Broad-bodied Chaser (*Libellula depressa*)

One record at Millpond on 24th June.

Dragonfly sp.

Four unidentified dragonflies were made during the season. Sightings were too brief to even assign to a family.

Beetles**Minotaur beetle (*Typhaeus typhoeus*)**

265 records from 15th March to 30th October with a peak count of 20 on 16th April. This species is common on Calf and can be found anywhere across the island.



Violet Ground Beetle (*Carabus violaceus*)

18 records from 13th April to 10th November. All sightings were of singles and mostly occurred whilst undertaking drystone walling.

Devil's Coach Horse Beetle (*Ocypus olens*)

Five records from 3rd September to 29th September with a peak count of two on 29th September. Four of the sightings were in the courtyard at the Observatory with the other single sighting along the Mill Giau.

Black Sexton Beetle (*Nicrophorus humator*)

39 records from 6th May to 23rd September with a peak count of 20 on 21st August. All sightings involved individuals attracted to the moth trap.

Common Sexton Beetle (*Nicrophorus investigator*)

142 records from 2nd June to 23rd October with a peak count of 54 on 7th August. All sightings involved individuals attracted to the moth trap.

Green Tiger Beetle (*Cincidela campestris*)

139 records from 2nd May to 21st July with a peak count of 15 on 29th May and 3rd June. A common, under-recorded beetle that can be seen anywhere across the island, especially on tracks.



Pterostichus nigrita

11 records from 26th March to 12th September with a peak count of two on 19th April. All sightings involved individuals attracted to the moth trap.

Carabus granulatus

Nine records from 5th April to 13th September with a peak count of two on 25th June. All sightings were seen whilst undertaking drystone walling.

Leistus spinibarbis

32 records from 14th September to 1st November with a peak count of 16 on 10th October. All sightings were made during darkness, within the Observatory courtyard, by torchlight when switching the generator off.

Willow Leaf Beetle (*Lochmaea caprea*)

A count of 40 was made on the 28th April and a single sighting on 14th June.

Black Snail Beetle (*Silpha atrata*)

Single sightings were made on 5th May, 7th July and 18th September.

Click Beetle spp. (*Elateridae spp*)

23 records from 25th May to 30th June with a peak count of four on 4th June.

Soldier Beetle spp. (*Cantharidae spp*)

23 records all in July with a peak count of seven on 6th July.

Bees

White-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*)

141 records from 26th April to 12th September with a peak count of 40 on 30th May.

Buff-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)

88 records from 8th April to 9th July with a peak count of 15 on 30th May.

White/Buff-tailed Bumblebee spp.

1650 records throughout the season from 24th March to 11th November with a peak count of 60 on 7th June. The White and Buff-tailed Bumblebee are well represented here on Calf, however, as they are quite difficult species to differentiate most records are therefore lumped into the two species. Sightings are mostly made from around the Observatory and at sites with Willows (*Salix spp*) such as the Top Withy, the Millpond / Withy and above Jane's House.

Red-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lapidaries*)

Singles were reported on 7th, 14th & 23rd May and 4th August.

Common Carder Bee (*Bombus pascuorum*)

114 records from 28th March to 22nd October with a peak count of eight on 14th and 30th September.

Brown-banded Carder Bee (*Bombus humilis*)

Six records from 21st May to 19th June with a peak count of four on 26th May.

Carder Bee spp. (*Bombus pascuorum* / *humilis*)

773 records from 22nd May to 29th August with a peak count of 65 on 6th June. Most of these records are probably Common Carder Bee, however, as it is difficult to differentiate between this species and Brown-banded Carder Bee, so records are recorded as Carder Bee sp. It was very common across the island, especially at around the Observatory.

Bumblebee spp. (*Bombus spp.*)

Six records with two seen on 13th March and four on 20th March.

Honeybee spp. (*Apis spp.*)

43 records from 26th July to 31st August with a peak count of 16 on 30th August. All records came from around the Observatory.

Leaf Cutter Bee spp. (*Megachilidae* spp.)

A single record on the 19th July.

Ruby-tailed Wasp (*Chrysis ignita*)

Four records with singles on 31st May & 29th June and two on 28th June.

Wasp spp. (*Vespidae* spp.)

Five records from 27th April to 18th May with a peak count of two on 14th May.

Hornet (*Vespa crabro*)

A sighting of a single was made on 2nd November at the Observatory.

Hoverflies sp. (*Syrphidae* spp.)

24 records from 4th September to 12th September with a peak count of 20 on 4th September.

Slugs

Common Garden Slug (*Arion distinctus/hortensis*)

Three records with two seen on 16th April and 1 on 24th April.

Tree Slug (*Limax marginatus*)

A single sighting on 7th May.

Large Red Slug/Black Slug (*Arion rufus/ater*)

96 records from 16th April to 21st October with a peak count of 30 on 5th May.

Flora

Early-Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnate*)

Counts of flowering 'spikes' were made during early June, with a total of 148 found at six locations. The Millpond is undoubtedly the main 'stronghold' for the species with 118 plants.

2018 Butterfly Report

The recording transect was shortened to five sections this season, in order to ensure the fieldworkers ability to complete the task each week.

The sections are as follows:

1. Starting at the Observatory heading towards Spaghetti Junction
2. From Spaghetti Junction to the Mill.
3. From the Mill follow the track around the Seafield and through the gate, closest to South Harbour, and up through Seafield to the gate to Withy.
4. From bottom of Withy through Withy and to the gate at the top of Top Withy
5. From the gate at the top of Top Withy and back to the Observatory

This shortened transect has allowed the completion of the survey each week and has made it much more manageable to undertake the survey for an hour once a week. The previous survey took up to four hours to complete and was unmanageable.

2018 was a great year for butterflies with 6,232 records throughout the season, making it the highest total for the past 13 years! (Figure 1) The three most numerous species were Dark Green Fritillary (2167), Meadow Brown (1656) and Green-veined White (1012) with a nice supporting cast of 13 other species (Figure 2). Whilst the warm and dry summer has undoubtedly contributed to the volume of records, these totals are also a result of the increase in volunteer fieldworkers with more people across the island resulting in more butterflies seen and recorded. Let's hope next year will be another successful year!

Systematic List

Figure 1
Annual Totals of Butterflies

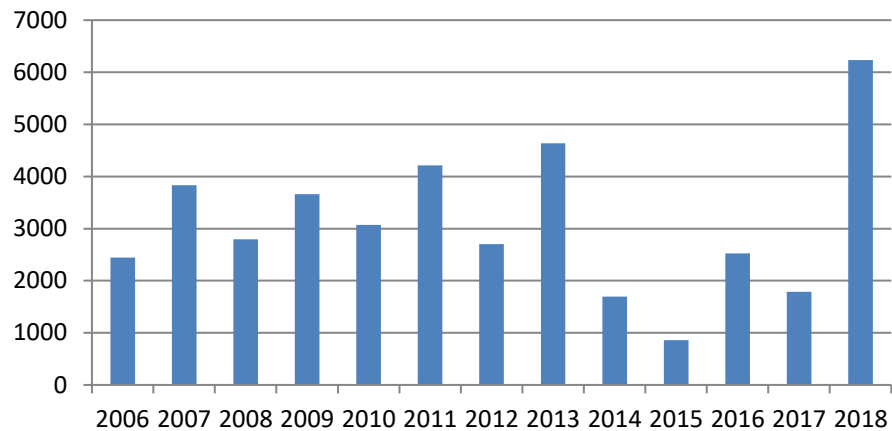
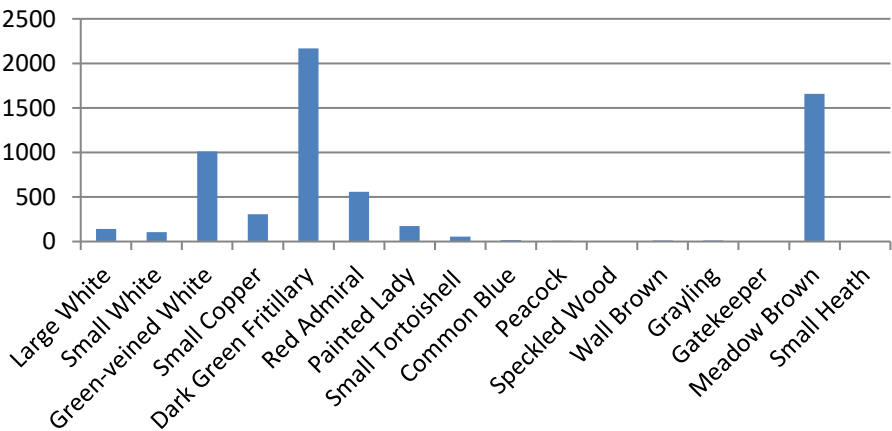


Figure 2
2018 Species Total



Large White *Pieris brassicae*

143 records between 4th May to 18th September with a peak count of 22 on 19th July.

This year is the second highest total since 2006 representing a good year for the species, with an increase of 131 from 2017. The peak count of 22 is the second highest following an extraordinary 173 in 2009. Sightings were mainly within the two Withy fields.

Small White *Pieris rapae*

104 records between 29th April to 7th September with peak count of six on 13th July.

This year is the second highest total since the exceptional year of 2006 and represents an increase of 78 records over 2017. The peak count of six is a little bit higher than the 10-year average of four. Sightings were mainly within the two Withy fields.

Green-veined White *Pieris napi*

1012 records between 19th April to 29th September with a peak count of 32 on 19th July.

This species was the third most numerous species of 2018 representing the best year on record since 2006. This is an increase of 540 from last year. The peak count of 32 is a little bit below the 10 year average of 37. Sightings were mainly within the two Withy fields.

The increase in records of the three 'white' species during 2017 & 2018 is potentially partly due to observer awareness of the key identification features and differences of the three species.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

308 records between 18th May to 22nd October with a peak count of 26 on 9th August.



This species was the fifth most numerous during 2018, representing the third best year since 2006 with an increase of 253 following a poor 2017. The peak count of 26 is above the 10-year average of 19. Sightings were mainly amongst the heather in areas such as the east coast and the track to Upper Lighthouse.

Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja*

2167 records between 4th June to 24th August with a peak count of 200 on both 24th June & 3rd July.

This species is always the most numerous species here on Calf and this year was no different with 2167 recorded all within 3 months (June, July and August). Once again, this year was the best year on record since 2006. This is an increase of 1955 from an exceptionally poor 2017. The peak count of 200 is way above the 10-year average of 133. The increase could be due to an increased abundance of feeding plants, such as thistles which were particularly numerous across the island this season. It was a beautiful sight to walk along the tracks and have clouds of Dark Green Fritillaries lift up to the sky.



Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

558 records between 12th May to 2nd November with a peak count of 21 on 9th August.



This year represents an average year for this species with the 10-year average total at 520. This is a decrease by 25 from last year. The peak count of 21 is way below the 10-year average of 60 however this does follow the exceptional peak count of 200 in 2008.

Sightings were mainly around the Observatory where there was an abundance of Buddleia to feed on.

Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

55 records between 12th March to 26th October with a peak count of five on 4th September.

This year has seen a relatively poor year for this species making it the fifth poorest year in 10 years. However, it is an increase from last year which saw the lowest total recorded since 2006 by an increase of only 29. The peak count of five is half of the 10-year average of 10.

Sightings were mainly from the Observatory feeding on Buddleia.

Peacock *Inachis io*

Eight records between 17th July to 28th September, with a peak count of two on 11th August.

This year represents a poor showing for this species which is mirrored in the past nine years with small number of records in each year. The peak count of two is consistent with the 10-year average. Sightings were mainly found at the Observatory with a couple at Mill Giau.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

175 records between 28th April to 30th September with a peak count of 9 on 9th August.

The Painted Lady is a long-distance migrant, which undergoes the most spectacular butterfly migrations observed in Britain. This means that numbers of this species can fluctuate greatly from year to year.

This year represented a relatively good year with the third highest count since 2006. This is an increase of 112 from last year. The peak count of nine is below the 10-year average of 16, following extraordinary peak counts of 50 and 49 in 2007 and 2016

respectively. Sightings were mainly fleeting fly-bys across the island,

although a few were regularly seen feeding on the Buddleia at the Observatory.

**Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus*

15 records between 30th May to 19th August with a peak count of four on 9th August.

It was recorded fairly infrequently, being seen at either the Observatory or Mill Pond. The Common Blue remains a rare species on the Calf with only 79 records seen since 2006. This makes 2018 a relatively good year for this species.

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

One record of a single on 16th September.

This is a rare species to Calf of Man with only 15 records seen since 2006. Considering their habitat is in and around borders of woodland, to see them on Calf is really unusual. Therefore to see one at Cow Harbour where there are no trees is definitely exceptional.

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*

13 records between 25th April to 2nd September with single on all 13 dates.

This year represents the joint third best year since 2006. This is an increase of two from last year. The peak count of one is consistent with the 10-year average. Sightings were at the Puddle and along Mill Giau.

Grayling *Hipparchia semele*

12 records between 26th June to 29th August with a peak count of two on 7th July.

This year represents a relatively poor year with the 10-year average of 28 usually seen each year. Again, the peak count of two is low compared to the 10-year average of five. Sightings were sporadic with a few seen along Mill Giau and around the lighthouses.



Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus*

Five records between 24th July to 22nd August with a peak count of two on 24th July.

This is the best year for this species with only one seen since 2006.

This could be due to the difficulty of identification, as the species is very similar to Meadow Brown. Sightings were at Top Withy and along Mill Giau.

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

1656 records between 4th May to 4th September with a peak count of 160 on 13th July.

This is the second most numerous species on the Calf and 2018 is the best year on record for the species since 2006. This is a massive increase from last year by 1346. The peak count of 160 is just under double of the 10-year average of 83. Sightings were spread across the island with the main bulk seen along the Twin Fields on brambles.

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Two records on 8th and 9th June with just singles recorded.

This species is a rarity on the Calf with only five seen since 2006 and this year represents the second-best year following three seen in 2009. This is an increase of one following a single sighting last year. It suggests that both records relate to the same individual being seen on consecutive days in the Front Field.

2018 Moth Report

Trap nights – 38

First trap night – 8th April

Last trap night – 29th October

Number of species recorded in 2018 – 91

Number of individuals recorded in 2018 – 4047

Number of individuals caught - 3946

A total of 91 species were recorded for 2018, which represents a fairly average year when compared to the average since 2006 of 116. This is an increase of 21 species from last year's 70. We have recorded more species this year due to operating the moth trap more frequently with 38 nights compared to 23 nights in 2017. This has happened because of an increase in volunteers throughout the year which has allowed the moth trap to be operated more frequently. 4047 individual moths were recorded in 2018 with 3946 caught in the moth trap and 101 daytime observations. 4047 individuals is a massive increase from last year's 720 which suggests 2018 has been a good year for some moth species. The results follow a calm hot summer which has no doubt benefited some species.

One new species recorded in 2018 was added to the Calf list; *Udea olivalis* which is a common moth across Britain according to The Butterfly Conservation's Micro Lepidoptera Report 2011. It is a moth that favours woodlands and gardens which is potentially why it has taken this long to reach Calf of Man.

The following table lists all the species recorded in 2018. The species account follows the nomenclature in 'Log Book of British Lepidoptera'

by J.D. Bradley and D.S Fletcher (2000). 'No.' refers to the number allocated to each species in this publication. The first and last dates the species was recorded are given, as is the number of days/nights the species were recorded and the maximum counts and what the date that this maximum count occurred. The species in bold are new species for the Calf.

No.	Scientific Name	English Name	First Date	Last Date	Days Recorded	Max Count	Total
2064	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	Ruby Tiger	2 nd June	5 th June	3	1 on 3 dates	3
2069	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	21 st May	26 th June	15	7 on 30 th May	40
2078	<i>Nola confusalis</i>	Least Black Arches	12 th June	12 th June	1	1 on 12 th June	1
2080	<i>Euxoa obelisca</i>	Square-spot Dart	7 th August	17 th Sept	5	24 on 30 th August	68
2087	<i>Agrotis segetum</i>	Turnip Moth	30 th May	6 th June	4	1 on 4 dates	4
2089	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Heart & Dart	5 th June	7 th July	8	9 on 5 th June	39
2090	<i>Agrotis trux</i>	Crescent Dart	7 th July	30 th August	6	100 on 9 th July	212
2091	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Dark Sword-Grass	11 th April	23 rd August	4	2 on 4 th June & 23 rd Aug	6
2102	<i>Ochroleuca plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	30 th May	7 th August	12	16 on 5 th & 10 th June	61
2104	<i>Standfussiana lucerna</i>	Northern Rustic	7 th July	7 th July	1	1 on 7 th July	1
2107	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	4 th June	4 th August	24	27 on 26 th June	149
2109	<i>Noctua comes</i>	Lesser Yellow Underwing	26 th June	26 th June	1	1 on 26 th June	1

No.	Scientific Name	English Name	First Date	Last Date	Days Recorded	Max Count	Total
2111	Noctua janthe	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	23 rd August	30 th August	2	9 on 23 rd August	10
2117	Eugnorisma glareosa	Autumnal Rustic	23 rd August	29 th Sept	8	24 on 30 th August	56
2118	Lycophotia porphyria	True Lover's Knot	2 nd June	7 th August	14	338 on 9 th July	1102
2120	Diarsia mendica	Ingrailed Clay	25 th June	7 th August	6	48 on 7 th July	80
2122	Diarsia brunnea	Purple Clay	26 th June	26 th June	1	1 on 26 th June	1
2123	Diarsia rubi	Small Square-spot	30 th May	7 th August	10	57 on 7 th July	200
2126	Xestia c-nigrum	Setaceous Hebrew Character	23 rd August	4 th October	7	3 on numerous dates	15
2134	Xestia xanthographa	Square-spot Rustic	12 th June	8 th Sept	5	11 on 30 th August	20
2135	Xestia agathina	Heath Rustic	5 th Sept	23 rd Sept	5	20 on 8 th Sept	36
2139	Cerastis rubricosa	Red Chestnut	8 th April	26 th May	3	2 on 8 th April	4
2147	Hada plebeja	Shears	26 th May	6 th June	5	4 on 30 th May & 6 th June	14
2158	Lacanobia thalassina	Pale-shouldered Brocade	25 th June	26 th June	2	1 on 25 th & 26 th June	2
2160	Lacanobia oleracea	Bright-line Brown-eye	26 th May	5 th Sept	16	63 on 5 th June	317
2163	Melanchra pisi	Broom Moth	21 st May	23 rd Sept	15	61 on 2 nd June	245
2166	Hadena rivularis	Campion	2 nd June	5 th Sept	4	2 on 4 th June	5

No.	Scientific Name	English Name	First Date	Last Date	Days Recorded	Max Count	Total
2167	<i>Hadena perplexa capsophila</i>	Pod Lover	21 st May	18 th October	10	3 on 26 th May & 4 th Oct	18
2171	<i>Hadena confusa</i>	Marbled Coronet	26 th May	12 th June	5	3 on 26 th May	8
2174	<i>Hadena caesia</i>	Grey	4 th August	30 th August	4	20 on 7 th August	27
2176	<i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>	Antler Moth	4 th June	12 th June	3	1 on 3 dates	3
2190	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	Hebrew Character	30 th May	9 th July	4	1 on 4 dates	4
2199	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	Common Wainscot	4 th August	29 th Sept	5	2 on 4 th Aug & 29 th Sept	7
2205	<i>Mythimna comma</i>	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	10 th June	10 th June	1	1 on 10 th June	1
2229	<i>Dasypolia templi</i>	Brindled Ochre	4 th October	18 th October	3	3 on 4 th October	7
2232	<i>Aporophyla nigra</i>	Black Rustic	8 th Sept	19 th October	12	76 on 29 th Sept	264
2241	<i>Xylena vetusta</i>	Red Sword-grass	8 th April	17 th October	2	1 on 8 th Apr & 17 th Oct	2
2243	<i>Xylocampa areola</i>	Early Grey	8 th April	11 th April	2	1 on 8 th & 11 th April	2
2050	<i>Blepharita adusta</i>	Dark Brocade	5 th June	5 th June	1	1 on 5 th June	1
2263	<i>Agrochola lotta</i>	Red-line Quaker	4 th October	4 th October	1	1 on 4 th October	1
2267	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	Beaded Chestnut	3 rd October	17 th October	4	5 on 4 th October	10
2270	<i>Omphaloscelis lunosa</i>	Lunar Underwing	15 th Sept	19 th October	11	75 on 4 th October	239
2273	<i>Xanthia togata</i>	Pink-barred Sallow	26 th May	17 th Sept	3	1 on 3 dates	3
2289	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass	30 th May	7 th August	9	13 on 4 th June	49

No.	Scientific Name	English Name	First Date	Last Date	Days Recorded	Max Count	Total
2305	Euplexia lucipara	Small Angle Shades	2 nd June	4 th August	9	7 on 10 th June	26
2306	Phlogophora meticulosa	Angle Shades	4 th June	1 st November	10	12 on 5 th June	37
2321	Apamea monoglypha	Dark Arches	23 rd June	8 th Sept	10	10 on 9 th July	30
2330	Apamea remissa	Dusky Brocade	4 th June	7 th July	2	2 on 7 th July	3
2340	Oligia fasciuncula	Middle-barred Minor	10 th June	10 th June	1	1 on 10 th June	1
2342	Mesoligia literosa	Rosy Minor	7 th August	7 th August	1	1 on 7 th August	1
2343	Mesapamea secalis	Common Rustic	9 th July	5 th Sept	4	9 on 23 rd August	13
2350	Chortodes pygmina	Small Wainscot	8 th Sept	17 th Sept	3	1 on 3 dates	3
2364	Gortyna flavago	Frosted Orange	5 th Sept	22 nd Sept	4	5 on 8 th Sept	9
2375	Rhizodra lutosa	Large Wainscot	3 rd October	3 rd October	1	1 on 3 rd October	1
2394	Stilbia anomala	Anomalous	5 th Sept	17 th Sept	3	1 on 3 dates	3
2434	Diachrysia chrysitis	Burnished Brass	4 th August	4 th August	1	1 on 4 th August	1
2439	Plusia festucae	Gold Spot	10 th June	23 rd August	3	6 on 23 rd August	8
2441	Autographa gamma	Silver Y	26 th May	17 th October	24	10 on 28 th August	63
2450	Abrostola tripartita	Spectacle	26 th May	30 th August	15	6 on 26 th May & 5 th Jun	53
2469	Scoliopteryx libatrix	Herald	24 th March	24 th March	1	1 on 24 th March	1
2477	Hypena proboscidalis	Snout	28 th June	7 th August	5	4 on 4 th August	9

Photographic credits

Front cover:

Red-breasted Flycatcher - Aron Sapsford

Warden's Report

Loaded Boat - Lara Howe
Ice Field - Paul Corrin
Nestbox building - Aron Sapsford
Ditch digging - Nathan Wilkie
Chickens - Sylwia Zbijewska
Pond diggers - Lara Howe
Cow Harbour repairs - Aron Sapsford
Shags - Paul Corrin
Front Wall - Aron Sapsford
Dry Stone walling - Paul Corrin
Mill Giau bridge - Aron Sapsford
Ringing Shed - Gill Watts
Releasing a Swallow - Lynsey Anne Graham

Monthly summaries:

Wheatear - Chris Kilpatrick
Firecrest - Aron Sapsford
Manx Shearwater - Mike Radcliffe
Knot - Camera Trap
Pied Flycatcher - Nathan Wilkie
Emperor Moth - Aron Sapsford
Black Redstart - Sylwia Zbijewska
Red-breasted Flycatcher - Aron Sapsford
Subalpine Warbler - Paul Corrin

Red-breasted Flycatcher	-	Mike Haigh
Rock Pipit	-	Dan Woollard
Reed Warbler	-	Aron Sapsford
Sand Martin	-	Dan Woollard
Grasshopper Warbler	-	Aron Sapsford
Crossbill	-	Aron Sapsford
Wood Warbler	-	Aron Sapsford
Hummingbird Hawk Moth	-	Dan Woollard
Melodious Warbler	-	Ed O' Connor
Storm Petrel	-	Paul Corrin
Tree Pipit	-	Aron Sapsford
Grey Wagtail	-	Dan Woollard
Long-eared Owl	-	Paul Corrin
Raven	-	Dan Woollard
Spotted Flycatcher	-	Dan Woollard
Merlin	-	Mike Haigh
Coal Tit	-	Olivia Pargeter
Yellow-browed Warbler	-	Olivia Pargeter
Whooper Swan	-	Elliot Jones
Great Tit	-	Aron Sapsford
Long-tailed Tit	-	Aron Sapsford

Systematic List:

Little Egrets	—	Elliot Jones
Lapwing	—	Elliot Jones
Great Skua	—	Dan Woollard
Guillemots	—	Paul Corrin
Turtle Dove	—	Oscar Adedeji
Short-eared Owl	—	Elliot Jones
Melodious Warbler	—	Ed O'Connor

Subalpine Warbler (tail)	–	Aron Sapsford
Red-breasted Flycatcher	–	Aron Sapsford
House Sparrow	–	Aron Sapsford
Yellowhammer	–	Nathan Wilkie

Ringling Report:

All photos	–	Aron Sapsford
------------	---	---------------

Non-avian & Butterfly Report:

All photos	–	Daniel Woollard
------------	---	-----------------

2018 List of Contributors

Staff & Long-term Volunteers

Oscar Adedeji (OA) – Volunteer Field Assistant
Colin Cowie - MNH (maintenance)
Alex Dodds (AMD) – Long-term Volunteer
Libby Fox – MWT Seal surveyor
Mike Haigh (MDH) – Long-term Volunteer
Lara Howe – Manx Wildlife Trust
Rachael Jarvis – MWT Seal surveyor
Geoff Mitchell – MNH (maintenance)
Shaun Murphy – Manx National Heritage
Howard Osborne - MNH (maintenance)
Olivia Pargeter (OMP) – Long-term Volunteer
Tony Radcliffe - MNH (maintenance)
Aron Sapsford (AMS) – Ornithological Warden
Rebecca White - MWT Seal surveyor
Nathan Wilkie (NW) – Estate Warden (Mar-Sep)
Dan Woollard (DW) – Volunteer Warden / Estate Warden (Oct-Nov)
Sylvia Zbijewska (SMZ) – Volunteer Field Assistant

Volunteer Ringers

Mark Fitzpatrick	Edward O'Connor (EOC)
Kirsty Franklin	Ben Rousseau (BR)
Stuart Heath	Stephen Vickers
David Neal	Gill Watts
Peter Norrie	Richard Watts

Volunteers

Dave Bellamy

Vic Bevan

Jason Bickle

Lana Burns

Cheryl Callister

David Cartmell

Paul Corrin

Ben – Manx Flat

Roofs

David Fisher

Robert Fisher

Pat Griffiths

Elliot Jones

Sandra Kaighin

Zofia Kutcha

Louisa Nodwell

Michelle O'Connor

Ally Prior

Mike Prior

Linda Qualtrough

Natalie Regan

Dan Reynaldson

Di Swayne

Hazel Walsh

Lydia Wort

Miscellaneous Observers

The Bowers family

Juan Clague – 'Scraayl'

Stephen Clague – 'Scraayl'

Anne Kaye

Neil Morris (NM) – Manx BirdLife

Caroline Roriston – 'Vagabond'

Phil Roriston - 'Vagabond'

Karen Sapsford

Kevin Scott

Bob Taylor – 'Gemini'

Contractors

abc Tree Surgery

A to Z Plumbing

Brian Kneale

Will Beal

Lee Graham

Andrew Compton

Daniel Jeff

Kane Cair



Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

Manx National Heritage,
Kingswood Grove,
Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LY
T: +44 (0) 1624 648000
E: enquiries@mnh.gov.im
W: www.manxnationalheritage.im
Isle of Man registered charity no.603

ISBN 0-901106-92-5

