

Calf of Man Bird Observatory



Annual Report **2020**



Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

Isle of Man Registered Charity No 603

Published by Manx National Heritage
Copyright text and images: Manx National Heritage
in association with



Manx
Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie
Vannin

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 2020, 278,942 birds (159 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.

Visitor Information

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

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

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

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



Ringling Great Black-backed Gull chicks

Visitor accommodation is available in the Observatory during the summer season – normally, from May to mid-September. The accommodation consists of self-catering hostel style accommodation for up to 8 people with a visitor kitchen, lounge and log burner. Intending over-night visitors must pre-book accommodation – see <https://manxnationalheritage.im/visit-2/stay-with-us/>.

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

Steve Clague – Port St Mary Boat (Scraayl)
Mob: (07624) 490615

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

CALF OF MAN

BIRD OBSERVATORY REPORT -

2020

Staff List

Ornithological Warden

Aron Sapsford

Estate Warden

Daniel Woollard

Volunteer Warden

Rob Fisher

Report Contents

Wardens' Report	-	Aron Sapsford	1
Juan Clague	-	Shaun Murphy	9
Monthly Summaries	-	Aron Sapsford	10
Systematic List	-	Aron Sapsford	29
Breeding Bird Totals	-	Aron Sapsford	106
Ringling Report	-	Aron Sapsford	108
Recoveries and Controls	-	Aron Sapsford	121
Non-avian Report	-	Daniel Woollard	176
Butterfly Report	-	Daniel Woollard	190
Moth Report	-	Daniel Woollard	198
Longtail (Brown Rat) Report	-	Daniel Woollard	212
List of Contributors	-	Aron Sapsford	214
Photographic Credits	-	Aron Sapsford	215

Wardens' Report

We arrived on the Calf on 6th March, quickly settling into the process of opening up the Observatory after its winter hibernation and beginning the array of tasks that lay ahead for us during 2020. The first couple of weeks



were dominated by a series of storms, as Ciara, Dennis and Ellen swept across the Irish Sea and one of our first tasks was clearing the track to Cow Harbour, of two large conifers that had been blown down during the winter. Despite the challenging

weather, there were several good birds seen during the first few days, with two Canada Geese at the Dubh and a Black Redstart at the Lighthouses. Weather conditions improved from mid-month and the first summer migrants began to arrive, just as we received the news that we were to leave the Calf, owing to coronavirus restrictions, not knowing if we would be able to return this season. Following a couple of hectic days of re-packing and dismantling everything we had done over the past few weeks we were collected and transported back to the main Island, on 26th March, and into a very different world of lockdown and uncertainty.

Dan Woollard (Estate Warden) made his way back to his family home in Essex, whilst Rob Fisher (Volunteer Warden) along with myself and Karen remained on the Isle of Man. Rob was able to stay with his in-laws in Laxey, whilst Karen and I were very kindly offered a property to live in Castletown for the time that we were off the Calf.

Frustratingly, we then experienced one of the best periods of spring weather in recent years, just at a time when we couldn't really get out and enjoy it – other than sitting in the back garden. However, we were able to use this period of confinement constructively and I set about creating a photographic copy of the Observatories historical ringing schedules. Once this task of taking 6516 photographs was achieved and having recruited and trained a small team of volunteers, we set about adding these records into our dataset. By the end of June, we had achieved the input of over 30,000 individual records covering some 85 species. There is still a long way to go before we can upload all the data into the BTO database, but at least the possibility of losing the data has now been avoided.

SCHEDULE				YEAR 1959				OBSERVER			
DATE	TIME	SEX	AGE	DATE	TIME	SEX	AGE	DATE	TIME	SEX	AGE
1	3.30-4	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.2	12	18	35.5	5.3	12.00	0.15
2	3.30-7.7	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.0	5	18	32	5.5	12.00	0.15
3	3.30-1.1	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10.8	18	32	5.5	12.00	0.15
4	3.30-7.7	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	11	18	32	5.6	12.00	0.15
5	6.10-7.7	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10.5	18	32	5.5	12.00	0.15
6	6.10-6.3	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10	18	32	5.6	12.00	0.15
7	6.10-6.7	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	11	18	32	5.5	12.00	0.15
8	6.10-6.9	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10.3	18	32	5.1	12.00	0.15
9	6.10-7.1	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10	18	32	5.1	12.00	0.15
10	6.10-7.3	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10.5	18	32	5.7	12.00	0.15
11	6.10-7.4	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	11	18	32	5.6	12.00	0.15
12	6.10-7.6	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	11	18	32	5.5	12.00	0.15
13	6.10-7.7	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	12	18	32	5.7	12.00	0.15
14	6.10-7.8	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	11	18	32	5.1	12.00	0.15
15	6.10-7.7	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10.1	18	32	5.2	12.00	0.15
16	6.10-7.0	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	11.2	18	32	5.1	12.00	0.15
17	6.10-7.4	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10	18	32	5.3	12.00	0.15
18	6.10-7.5	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10.8	18	32	5.7	12.00	0.15
19	6.10-7.9	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10.5	18	32	5.5	12.00	0.15
20	6.10-8.0	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10	18	32	5.0	12.00	0.15
21	6.10-8.1	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10.5	18	32	5.7	12.00	0.15
22	6.10-8.2	Ad	♀	14.4.59	5.1	10.5	18	32	5.6	12.00	0.15

Although Coronavirus had already reached the Isle of Man in March, the strict lockdown procedures and closure of borders instigated by the Manx Government meant that the situation was brought under control relatively quickly and by the end of May, life on the Isle of Man was beginning to return to some form of normality. In early June, we were allowed to make the first of several day trips to undertake seabird breeding counts around the

Calf coastline, as well as making a start on monitoring some of the Shag and Razorbill nests in Kione ny Halby and Gibdale. Finally, on the 18th June both Rob Fisher and I returned to the islet to re-start the season. Unfortunately, due to on-going border restrictions, it was not possible for Dan Woollard to return with us, however Rob Fisher stepped up and took on the Estate Warden duties until Dan was able to re-join us on 13th August.

Our return was just in time to be able to assess some of the breeding seabird populations, but unfortunately much of the spring had been lost and with it valuable data on migration and breeding numbers for many species. One consolation was the capture of a Red-breasted Flycatcher on 19th June – just the second bird caught after putting the mist nets back up around the Observatory. For the fourth consecutive year the islet hosted not one but two Great Skua and it would seem conceivable that this species may breed in the future. Buzzards were also present throughout the summer and would also be a likely contender to breed in future years. Overall, seabirds would appear to have had a relatively successful breeding season and we are particularly grateful to the skippers and crew of Scraayl and Vagabond for their assistance in undertaking boat-based seabird surveys and landing us safely on Kitterland.

A number of accommodation improvements to the farmhouse had been planned to start before lockdown interrupted our schedule and as these included essential improvements to the fire safety standards, the opening of the guest accommodation was delayed until late July allowing work to be carried out once we had returned to the Calf. Several weeks of complete upheaval ensued as a new bathroom suite was fitted, gas pipes and electrical systems were removed and replaced, whilst numerous





ceilings and walls were reboarded and skimmed. Whilst the schedule was quite tight, all was achieved thanks to the hard work of all involved and we were back to normal in time for us to welcome the Bowers family, as our first guests of the 2020 season and for their 22nd consecutive year of staying with us on the Calf.

On our return, it was noted that the invasive Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) in the

Millpond had taken advantage of our absence and had completely overtaken the surface water. A huge effort was needed to remove the Horsetail and on 15th August, a team of six volunteers from JTC helped kickstart this project. Throughout August and September, we gradually continued to clear the offending vegetation from the pond by digging out the roots/rhizomes of the plant and dumping it away from the pond. Hopefully by digging out the roots, next year should see a reduction in the density and numbers of these plants. We also attempted to dig out some of the silt that has accreted over the years and reduced the size of the water area since it was last dug out in 1989. Although a good start was made this will require either a huge team of volunteers or machinery capable of moving tonnes of material if we are to return the pond to its former size.

We quickly settled into the routine of hosting different groups staying at the Observatory and August proved to be a busy month as many islanders chose to visit the Calf, given that travel further afield was not permitted. Storm Petrels and Manx Shearwaters are very much a feature of summer nights on the Calf and numbers of the former gradually increased through July into August and it is a particular pleasure to be able to share the nocturnal activities of these two enigmatic species with those guests hardy enough to venture out with us during the wee small hours.

Summer is relatively short-lived on the Calf and with most breeding birds now giving way to autumn migration, we began to see the first returning migrants arrive, including a stunning Wood Warbler and a juvenile Long-eared Owl during the first week of August.

At this time, we also learnt of the passing of Juan Clague, skipper of the Calf's supply boat 'Scraayl'. Juan was a stalwart supporter of the Calf, bringing supplies over each week for over 40 years. He was often the only contact with the outside world for many wardens and will be greatly missed by many.

Each year the Calf's Loaghtan flock are gathered and this year most animals were brought into the fields during mid-July. This took several attempts, owing to some very stubborn ewes and a group of ten sheep which frequent the west cliffs evading all attempts at gathering. Owing to several external events it was not possible for the shepherd to get back out until 21st September to complete shearing and sorting, with 56 lambs and ewes taken off on 23rd, leaving around 70 animals on for the winter.

Early September saw the arrival of the MWT seal volunteers, Mollie Kirk and Breeshey Harkin, who worked tirelessly over the next couple of months



checking out all the coves around the islet, often requiring commando-style belly crawling through the bracken and heather, recording an excellent 61 pups and identify almost 50 adults. Pups were still being born during our last week on the Calf and it is likely that more will have been born after we left.



We were also joined by Christa Worth, as a long-term volunteer for the autumn and with her assistance, along with shorter terms of help from Sandra Kaighin and Di Swayne, we were able to tackle a large number of tasks, including extensive drainage ditching and track repairs, with quantities of stone transported from South Harbour and used to reinstate and improve vehicle tracks through the Glen and at the Triangle. Bracken control and Heather management was ongoing with further work undertaken to clear the Twin Fields, as well as several new firebreaks being created from the Quarry to the Central Wall and from the corner junction down to the Cletts, with another track leading towards Big Head to aid access to the north-east coast in the event of an emergency. These and other existing paths were flailed often throughout the summer to keep vegetation down. Flailing of Bracken was also carried out along the East Coast to clear areas that might

then be colonised by Manx Shearwaters. The cutting of Bracken in these areas, helps to remove the dense layers of Bracken litter that have accumulated over many years, and which is thought may be a deterrent to birds nesting in these areas. A mosaic pattern of cutting was used to clear areas but also leave patches of Bracken that are known to be favoured habitat for Eiders to nest.

Dry stone walling is another task which there is always the need to have assistance with and early in the season we discovered that parts of the wall running adjacent to the Front Field had collapsed during the winter. Work was carried out to rebuild this along with some additional walling at the Upper Lighthouse, which was completed by Dave Fisher and Pat Griffiths. The aim over the next few seasons is to completely rebuild the dry-stone walls which surround the Upper Lighthouse and put in gates to provide access.

A season on the Calf isn't complete unless something major goes wrong or stops working and whilst getting everything up and running on our first day back in mid-June the alternator on the main Mitsubishi generator caught fire. Quick action by Geoff Mitchell prevented a serious fire but this left us running on the 'old' Lister generator whilst a new alternator was on order and until Ian Kaighin could get out and install it. A couple of weeks later the driveshaft on the Polaris failed and after this was fixed, one of the joints became detached. A temporary fix was achieved to enable us to continue using the vehicle until Motors and Mowers could get out again and carry out a full repair. The tractor also had its share of problems, needing new battery connections and an overhaul of the handbrake and footbrake by James Mylchreest and John Collister. Towards the end of the season, both throttle cables snapped rendering it largely unusable for last few weeks. Unfortunately, the weather and salt spray that these machines endure on the Calf takes its toll and there is a need for constant maintenance to keep them running. It is hoped during 2021 to build a shelter in the courtyard which will be able to house the vehicles when not in use and protect them a little from the elements.

Non-toxic bait monitoring is one of the major tasks undertaken, with approximately 300 bait points, located around the island, being checked every month for evidence of Longtails. Maintenance was required

throughout the season, replacing plastic tubes that have been lost due to weather as well as putting out new marker canes. A trip to Kitterland in September was made to monitor the bait points there and for a second season, no evidence of Longtails were found. We were feeling hopeful that we would be able to go a whole season without signs of any Longtails when one was recorded by the compost camera trap on 25th October. Efforts to trap the animal before we left were unsuccessful, so this will be a high priority to deal with when we return.

There are many people involved in making life on the Calf as enjoyable as it is. The amazing volunteers and visitors make the Calf a great place to work and without them we would not be able achieve as much as we have. 2020 has been a particularly challenging year and the turmoil created by Covid-19 brought about many trials, not least the need for somewhere to stay during lockdown. Both Karen and I are extremely grateful to Tim Earl and Liz Charter who stepped up and allowed us to stay at 'Whitburn' during our exile from the Calf.

As ever we are indebted to Steve Clague who has continued in his father's footsteps of delivering our weekly supplies on 'Scraayl', as well as safely transporting various contractors, visitors and sheep to and from the islet. The need for support and essential provisions is a must on the Calf and as such, we are particularly grateful to Lara Howe (MWT) and Shaun Murphy (MNH) for doing their utmost to ensure we have everything we require.

Juan Clague (1944 – 2020)

In August, we were very saddened to hear that Juan Clague had passed away. Skipper of the Calf's supply boat 'Scraayl' for over 40 years, Juan was a familiar face to the people that have worked on the Calf, bringing supplies, guests and day visitors. His skill, dedication and support in maintaining the Calf's lifeline was vital to facilitate the valuable conservation work being carried out on the Calf and his presence is greatly missed by many. As a result of a lifetime navigating the passage from Port St Mary to the Calf, Juan could cast an expert eye over the sea conditions and if you heard the words "it's not looking good", it wasn't and you might just have to wait a day or so to make a safe crossing!

Sadly, Juan's inseparable canine companion Harley – a constant presence aboard 'Scrayll' and who had reached the grand old age of 18 – passed away in 2022. The inclusion of a photo of Juan aboard Scraayl, with his son Stephen and Harley, in the Isle of Man Post Office's 2021 Calf of Man stamp issue, reproduced below, was fitting recognition of Juan's long service and close connection with the Calf.



Reproduced by kind permission of Isle of Man Post Office

Monthly Summaries - 2020

Year	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
2020	74	COVID	COVID	58	69	81	91	92	69
10yr Ave	65	82	84	68	69	71	85	90	61

March

Weather: After a light north-westerly on 6th the wind backed medium to strong south-westerlies for next week. A short respite of calm weather on 13th was again replaced with a south-westerly airflow that remained medium to strong through to 19th, when the wind switched to the north and decreased before moving east from 21st then southerly on 24th – 26th.

The season began when Dan Woollard (Estate Warden) and I arrived at South Harbour at 10am on 6th March, we were accompanied by Rob Fisher who joined us as Assistant Volunteer Warden for the season and my wife, Karen. The boat trip from Port St. Mary yielded 85 **Guillemot** and 40 **Razorbill** between Big Head and Ghaw Yairn with 47 **Fulmar** at the latter site. A **Turnstone** was below Kione ny Halby and a **Purple Sandpiper** was on the rocks just outside South Harbour. On land, three **Pheasant**, singles of **Hen Harrier**, **Buzzard** & **Kestrel** and two **Magpie** helped the total along to 32 species recorded for the day. Strong south-westerly winds on the 7th very inspiring, but new species continued to be found with two **Canada Geese** on the Dubh during the morning and a pair of **Shelduck** there in the afternoon, plus four each of **Carrion Crow** and **Redwing**, a **Fieldfare** and a **Black Redstart**, the latter being seen at the Lower Lighthouse. Seabirds featured on 8th with 23 **Gannet**, three **Kittiwake** and two **Black Guillemots** at Cow Harbour. Elsewhere three **Great Tit**, a male **Goldcrest** and a **Dunnock** were trapped at the Observatory and the Black Redstart was seen again at the Lower Lighthouse. Little of note was seen on the 9th, although the three Great Tit remained and a flock of 17 Chough were seen. Continuing strong winds on 10th meant that there were few passerines seen, however a Buzzard was present, a Black Guillemot was off Cow Harbour, 39 Oystercatcher were counted around the islet and the first **Small Tortoiseshell** of the year was at the Observatory. A **Red Admiral** was found roosting in the tool barn on 12th, when **Cormorant**, **Snipe** and **Grey Heron** were all added for the year. Despite the continuing strong westerly winds, further new for year species on the 12th were **Collared Dove** and **Skylark**, whilst Bob Taylor reported both **Manx Shearwater** and **Great Skua** in the Sound, where up to 250 Gannet were feeding.

Calm conditions on 13th brought considerable relief and a few new birds with six **Starling**, a **Grey Wagtail**, two **Greenfinch** and 15 **Linnet**, with the Collared Dove remaining (to 19th) and a flock of 22 Hooded Crow at the Twin Fields. The first male **Eider** arrived at Cow Harbour on 14th and a **Jackdaw** landed briefly on the phone aerial at the Observatory. Birds of prey were a feature of the 15th, with a single Buzzard that had been seen regularly during the first



part of the month, a **Sparrowhawk** and **Merlin's** seen at South Harbour (male) and over the Central Heath (female). Eider had increased to three males and two females by 16th, when four Black Guillemots were at the Stack, the male Merlin was seen again, as were the flock of 22 Hooded Crow. The 17th

produced the first summer migrant with a **Chiffchaff** at the Observatory, as well as three **Siskin** and a small movement of 29 Starling. Meadow Pipit passage peaked on 18th with 459 flying west and 36 Hooded and nine Carrion Crows were recorded, along with a second Grey Wagtail of spring and single **Reed Bunting** and **Golden Plover**. Calm conditions on 19th encouraged some corvid movement with another Jackdaw, two **Rook**, five Carrion and 24 Hooded Crow, whilst a near record count of five Buzzard where in the Withy fields. Better numbers of migrants were present around the Observatory with five Chiffchaff, 15 Goldcrest, a Grey Wagtail, 10 Pied Wagtail and a **Blue Tit**. Two new Great Tit arrived on 20th, joining the three that had been present since 8th and a male **Wheatear** at the Smithy was new for the year. Moderate to strong easterly winds on 21st reduced the number of migrants seen, although the fourth Grey Wagtail of spring and the first **Lesser Redpoll** arrived at the Observatory. A small arrival of migrants on 22nd produced 16 Chiffchaff, 30 Goldcrest and two Wheatear, with Goldcrest increasing to 50 on 23rd, when a **Long-tailed Tit** arrived at the Observatory, a **Woodcock** was flushed from the back field and a **Redshank** was seen at Cow Harbour. Goldcrest numbers had decreased to 20 on 24th, when a **Woodpigeon** was

the only notable record for the day. A pleasant and decreasing southerly wind on 25th brought the first two each of **Sand Martin**, **Willow Warbler** and **White Wagtail** whilst the remains of a freshly dead **Feral Pigeon** were found at the Lighthouses. A male **Ring Ousel** was around the Observatory garden during the morning of 26th, with a small arrival of 50 Goldcrest and a second Blue Tit for the spring. A check of the caves below the Lighthouses produced a total of 37 Purple Sandpiper, whilst 32 Razorbill were at Ghaw Yairn and a total of 140 Guillemot were at their colony ledges at Big Head as we departed the Calf after just 18 days.

A total of 74 species were recorded during the month.

Unfortunately, due to the developing COVID-19 pandemic, the decision to close all Manx National Heritage properties and sites meant that our season came to an abrupt halt and it was not until 18th June that we were able to re-start the season.



April

During the time that we were absent from the islet, several trail cameras were deployed at key locations around the Calf and these were able to record some interesting and valuable sightings. In addition, a number of ad-hoc records were made by myself and several Manx Birders, of birds observed 'over' the Calf or in the Calf Sound.

Most of the action was recorded at the Millpond during April with up to four each of Pheasant and Mallard recorded almost daily, with broods of 12 Mallard young being present on 7th and 25th. Highlights were a **Greenshank** on 13th and a pair of **Teal** were present on 28th.

May

Again, Mallards were a feature at the Millpond with up to four seen daily and a third brood of ducklings (7) being seen on 31st. Pheasants visited slightly less frequently than in the previous month, with a maximum of three on 2nd & 27th and a female Eider was present on 29th. Buzzards were seen over the Calf on 9th & 16th May and a series of five Great Skua records during the month were the forerunner of a memorable summer for this species. The small colony of Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted on Kitterland, with 14 birds seen on both 16th & 20th.



June

Weather: A light south to south west airflow from the 18th gradually increased in strength and remained moderate to strong from 21st – 24th before switching to the east on 25th and then back to south-west and increasing in strength before backing more westerly to the month end.

As with the previous two months, sightings from camera traps and observations received from Manx Birders contributed the bulk of records for the first couple of weeks of the month. At least two Great skuas were regularly seen in the Sound and on Kitterland during the first week of the month and a Black Guillemot flew through on 1st.

As lockdown restrictions were being relaxed, several visits to check on livestock and arrange maintenance work at the Observatory, as well as carry out certain seabird monitoring were allowed prior to our full return to the islet on 18th.

A round-island boat trip to count seabirds on 8th produced 111 Fulmar (AOS), 199 Razorbill and 258 Guillemot (IA's). In addition, a Puffin was seen below the Lighthouses, pairs of Black Guillemot were present in the Sound and at the Puddle and a Great Skua was on Kitterland.

A landing trip on 9th produced the first proven breeding record for Magpie since 2007, when a recently-fledged bird was seen at the Withy. At least two pairs of Raven were present, the Lighthouse pair with four young and a second pair in the Glen with a single fledgling. A male **Blackcap** was singing in the Observatory back garden and male **Whitethroats** were present at the Triangle and at the Withy.

A second boat-based seabird count on 14th produced 98 Fulmar (AOS), a Great Skua through the Sound, 226 (IA) Guillemot and 256 (IA) Razorbill plus two Black Guillemot and three Puffin, whilst a landing trip to ring Shag young on 15th, also produced three Buzzard, single Puffin and Great Skua, 200 Razorbill, 150 Guillemot and a male Whitethroat singing near the Observatory. A Great Skua was again seen in the Sound on 16th.

We returned to the Calf on the 18th with the boat crossing providing a further opportunity to count the Guillemots at Big Head and Ghaw Yairn, with counts of 95 and 67 (IA's) respectively and a brood of ready-to-fledge Pied Wagtail were discovered in the rear yard during the afternoon, as we opened up the



Observatory. A surprise find on 19th was a female, **Red-breasted Flycatcher** trapped at the Observatory, where there were also two Whitethroat, seven Robin, including two juveniles and three Starling. A **Cuckoo** was present in the Front Field on 20th and two Great Skua interacted over the Observatory, whilst 11 **Storm Petrel** and 20 Manx Shearwater were recorded at South Harbour after dark. A fresh SW wind and rain for much of the

morning on 21st meant little of note was seen until a brief seawatch at South Harbour in the afternoon produced a single Puffin, 60 Guillemot and 20 Kittiwake all flying west. A Great Skua was also seen on Kitterland and a male Reed Bunting was holding territory at the Triangle. Continuing moderate SW winds with inclement weather over the next few days kept things relatively quiet, with single Puffin & Black Guillemot and 36 Manx Shearwater off the Lighthouses on 22nd and two Buzzard on 23rd.

An improvement in the weather on 24th brought a Collared Dove to the Observatory garden, a Black Guillemot was in the Sound and two Great Skua were present on Caigher. The Collared Dove remained to 25th when a Cuckoo was present in the Back Field and three **Swift** flew high over the Observatory – the latter being the only record of the species for the year!

A Song Thrush on the 26th was the start of a small passage of dispersing adults that continued through early July, whilst on the 27th two male Whitethroats were holding territory in the Glen and the male Reed Bunting was singing at the Triangle. The return to moderate SW winds brought a passage of seabirds with Manx Shearwater passing at a rate of 20 per minute. An hour seawatch from Cow Harbour produced eight **Common Scoter**, 25 Fulmar, 1424 Manx Shearwater, 14 Gannet, 43 Razorbill, 27 Guillemot and 13 Kittiwake flying south. Seawatching on 29th also produced the best birds with a 30-minute watch from Cow Harbour providing 27 Fulmar, 310 Manx Shearwater, 16 Gannet, a Puffin, 23 Razorbill, 19 Guillemot and 11 Kittiwake flying south.

Autumn wader passage started on 30th, with a Turnstone at South Harbour and Common Sandpipers seen at Cow Harbour and on Rarick. Elsewhere a single Great Skua was on Caigher, six Puffin flew west past South Harbour and a pair of Siskin arrived at the Observatory.

A total of 41 species were recorded during the month.

July

Weather: Overall the predominant wind direction was from the westerly quarter, often from the north-west and at a moderate speed. A generally pleasant temperature, but quite a wet month with rain or fog on 22 days. Autumn migration was evident from the 1st, with a female Blackcap, 31 Starling and two Grey Wagtail recorded. Other warblers were also present

with six Whitethroat and four Willow Warbler, although these were more likely breeding birds and included two locally-bred juvenile Willow Warblers. A night-time visit to South Harbour caught 12 Storm Petrel that evening. Four more Grey Wagtails passed through on 2nd and four Puffin were seen – two at Big Head and two past Chickens Rock. Moderate SW winds and rain on 3rd meant little of any note was recorded, but a reduction in wind speed on 4th brought another Grey Wagtail moving west, another female Blackcap and locally-bred juvenile Willow Warbler and Whitethroat were trapped. An increase in wind speed on 5th brought a reasonable passage of seabirds, and 30-minute watch at Cow Harbour produced 19 Fulmar, 345 Manx Shearwater, a Puffin, two Black Guillemot, 33 Razorbill, 17 Guillemot and five Kittiwake. The 6th proved to be a red (pink)-letter day with a Redshank and the two Great Skua seen on Caigher during the day and a, probable female, **Rosy Starling** near the Observatory in the evening. A flock of 25 Chough flew over at dawn on 7th and the Starling flock grew to 140, whilst an adult Chiffchaff and the first juvenile Blackcap of the autumn were trapped at the Observatory.

A (the) Redshank was at South Harbour on 8th and Starling numbers decreased to 100, whilst the first arrival of 10 Willow Warblers was noted. Two Sand Martin flew north on 9th, when two Grey Heron were at the Millpond and the Lower Lighthouse Choughs fledged. The Redshank was again at South Harbour on 10th and a pair of Reed Bunting were seen at the Triangle, where a male had been singing since the end of June. The 11th produced some local seabird movements including four Puffin and a Black Guillemot heading west off South Harbour whilst a night-time mist netting session there, on



12th, recorded seven Storm Petrel and 30 Manx Shearwater. At the Observatory, a **Treecreeper** was new for the year and juvenile Dunnock and Chaffinch were also trapped. Rain and moderate SW winds on 13th meant little of note was seen but a clearer day on 14th brought a Common Sandpiper at South Harbour and four Grey Wagtail flying over on passage. Peregrines were very much in evidence of the next couple of days with two active nests on the Island, with the west coast pair fledging their two young on 16th. A few Manx Shearwaters were offshore on 17th plus 146 Shag in the Sound and juvenile Blackcap and Song Thrush arrived at the Observatory. A Collared Dove was new on 18th and an overnight netting session into the 19th produced 13 Storm Petrel and at least 50 Manx Shearwater around the South Harbour colony. A light NW wind during the day encouraged some movement and a Jackdaw flew over, two Sand Martin and the first juvenile Swallows were noted along with 15 Willow Warbler, four Sedge Warbler and an early **Tree Pipit**. The feeding flock of Shag had increased to 300 by 20th when a Black-headed Gull flew south off Cow Harbour, a Snipe flew west over the islet, at least two broods of Whitethroat were present and a juvenile Reed Bunting was trapped, proving the Triangle pair had been successful. Another 11 Storm Petrel were trapped overnight into the 21st and the Manx Shearwater colony was again busy with at least 50 birds seen ashore. Grey Heron, Common Sandpiper and two Black Guillemot were seen at Cow Harbour, whilst two Great Skua flew towards the east coast past South Harbour, with four having been seen about 4-5 miles west of Chicken Rock from MV Gemini. A second Treecreeper was trapped at the Observatory along with the first Goldcrest of autumn passage and a second juvenile Reed Bunting. A **Whimbrel** was at Cow Harbour on 22nd along with a Redshank, a Great Skua on Kitterland and three Black Guillemot offshore. An overnight netting session produced three Storm Petrel on 23rd and another four in the early hours of 24th, whilst passerines included an arrival of 40 Willow Warbler, three Sedge Warbler and a new Goldcrest. Smaller numbers of Willow Warbler were present on 25th & 26th, however the latter produced the first **Garden Warbler** of the year, a Redshank at Cow Harbour and two Common Sandpipers. Heavy rain overnight into the 27th, clearly had not allowed any birds to move and most of the warblers' present were from the previous couple of days. Elsewhere, 23 Oystercatcher were at Cow Harbour along with a Common Sandpiper and the two Great Skua were on Caigher. Little had changed on 28th although Oystercatchers increased to 33. Twelve Willow Warbler arrived on 29th, whilst a Collared Dove appeared at the

Observatory on 30th and remained to 31st, when 10 Willow Warbler were around the islet.

A total of 69 species were recorded during the month.

August

Weather: Moderate winds from the westerly quarter dominated the first five days of the month, before becoming southerly on 6th & 7th, northerly on 8th then settling north-east from 9th – 19th. A return to strong south to south west winds from 20th – 24th, before switching between the east and north for the remainder of the month, except for a relatively light southerly on 31st.

A new arrival of warblers brought 35 Willow Warbler, five Whitethroat and two each of Sedge Warbler and Blackcap, whilst a 3rd Treecreeper of the year was trapped and two Common Sandpipers were present on 1st. Willow Warbler numbers decreased to 20 on 2nd but a juvenile **Long-eared Owl** trapped in the Top Withy, a fly-over **House Martin** and a **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** at the Observatory made up for it. A total of 33 Storm Petrel



were caught overnight into the 3rd whilst at the Observatory a **Wood Warbler** was trapped along with 15 Willow Warbler, Garden Warbler, six Whitethroat and a Tree Pipit flew over. Strong southerly winds over the next couple of days reduced passage considerably, although encouraged Oystercatchers to take shelter at Cow Harbour with 45 on 4th and two Common Sandpiper seen on both dates. Lighter winds on 6th brought the first **Spotted Flycatcher** along with 20 Willow Warbler, four Sedge Warbler and two Garden Warbler, whilst a Puffin was seen in the Sound. The two

Great Skua were back on Caigher on 7th and only the 2nd and last Whimbrel of the year was caught on camera trap on Kitterland. Light northerly winds on 8th encouraged some movement with a Snipe heading West as well as a Grey Wagtail and two Tree Pipit, whilst a boat trip round the Calf produced 310

Shag, a female Eider with two large young at Kione ny Halby, a Common Sandpiper at South Harbour and a total of 37 Chough. A night-time mist netting session at South Harbour on 9th produced 12 Storm Petrel, whilst a small arrival of passerines on 10th included 20 Willow Warbler, two Sedge Warbler and five Tree Pipit. Another two Tree Pipit were seen on 11th, along with two each of Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat, Grey Wagtail and Spotted Flycatcher. The female Eider and its two large young were at Cow Harbour, five Starling were in the Seafield and a Redshank was heard calling as it flew over the Observatory after dark. Up to 25 Chough were enjoying an emergence of flying ants on 12th, whilst an over-night mist netting session into 13th produced 16 Storm Petrel and a Common Sandpiper at South Harbour. Forty Willow Warbler arrived at the Observatory, a Great Skua was at Kione ny Halby and a Guillemot was off Big Head. Another over-night mist netting session, at South Harbour, into the 14th produced 21 Storm Petrel, whilst light NE winds brought the 4th Treecreeper of the year and five Tree Pipit were recorded at the Observatory. The Treecreeper was still present on 15th and a further 16 Storm Petrel were recorded overnight. The 16th brought a moderate fall of 60 Willow Warbler, with three Sedge Warbler, five Whitethroat, three Tree Pipit, four Spotted Flycatcher and an immature male Redstart also seen around the Observatory, whilst a season's high count of three Common Sandpipers comprised two at South Harbour and one at Cow Harbour. A quieter day on 17th saw the male Redstart still present, along with just nine Willow Warbler and a Starling that flew north. Another arrival of migrants occurred on 18th with 30 Willow Warbler, eight Whitethroat, six Tree Pipit and six **Crossbill**, which landed briefly in the tractor shed Sitka before heading off west. The Treecreeper from 14th was retrapped and five Turnstone were seen at Cow Harbour. Mist, fog and lengthy periods of heavy rain on 19th & 20th meant that little was recorded although two Turnstone were still at Cow Harbour on 19th. Drier conditions during the afternoon of the 21st allowed a couple of sea-watches with a Common Scoter, 21 Manx Shearwater and 160 Gannet south of Culbery in 60 minutes, then 119 Manx Shearwater and 64 Kittiwake west past South Harbour in just 20 minutes. Seawatching was again order of the day on 22nd with a 135-minute watch from Culbery producing a southerly movement of 72 Fulmar, 147 Manx Shearwater, 99 Gannet, four **Dunlin**, two **Arctic Skua**, and 652 Kittiwake. Another two Arctic Skua were seen moving south off Culbery on 23rd, whilst two Razorbill were in the Sound but greater focus on land-birds found the first 30 White Wagtails of autumn passage. This increased quickly to 85

White Wagtails on 24th, with a further 12 Alba's and 10 Grey Wagtails recorded along with other diurnal movements of six Sand Martin, 98 Meadow Pipit and three Tree Pipit. A male Redstart and a Collared Dove were the pick of the birds around the Observatory, although three Greenfinch were the only record for the species during the month. Elsewhere, a single flock of 40 Chough were seen, 133 Kittiwake were recorded off Chicken Rock, the two Razorbill were still off Big Head and a Turnstone was a surprise find as it flew over the Observatory calling. Despite a near gale force easterly wind and heavy rain for much of the day on 25th two new species were added to the year list with Cow Harbour hosting a **Green Sandpiper** and two **Ringed Plover**, along with 29 Oystercatcher, two Common Sandpiper and three Teal that flew south towards Gibdale. A (or another) female/imm Teal was at South Harbour on 26th when an hour seawatch from Culbery produced a northerly movement of 14 Manx Shearwater, 88 Gannet and an Arctic Skua, whilst 27 White Wagtails were seen around the islet. Wagtails were again on the move on 27th, with 24 Grey, 90 White, 13 Pied and 11 Alba's, however bird of the day was an **Osprey** seen flying south off the Lighthouses. Little of note was recorded on 28th but the following day produced a Sanderling at Kione ny Halby and more wagtails, with 17 Grey, and 31 White, whilst around the Observatory were a female Redstart, 25 Robin and three Tree Pipit. Robins had increased to 36 on 30th, with the first Chiffchaff of autumn and six Goldcrest present, whilst wagtail movement included 16 Grey, 31 White and 12 Alba's plus two Tree Pipit. Another three Chiffchaff arrived on 30th and wagtail passage continued with 19 Grey, 48 White and 18 Alba's.

A total of 81 species were recorded during the month.

September



Weather: The first half of the month was dominated by moderate south to south-west winds, before turning to the east from 15th – 20th and returning to the south & west for the remainder of the month. Over all the winds were moderate to light without any storms recorded and it remained relatively dry, with just ten days when rain or fog were recorded.

The 1st saw a continuing wagtail passage with 26 White and 17 Alba's moving through, with a further four Crossbill, including a fine red male, seen briefly in the tractor shed Sitka before heading off west. A strong southerly on 2nd produced a small number of seabirds off South Harbour, which included 10 Manx Shearwater and a Puffin flying west, whilst a night time visit to the wader roost at Cow Harbour found three Turnstone and a Purple Sandpiper. The continuing moderate southerly winds restricted most passage on 3rd. although two Sand Martin and 29 White Wagtails were recorded. With the wind moving more to the west on 4th brought a greater level of visible migration, with 267 Swallow moving west along with nine Grey Wagtail, 35 White Wagtail and 20 Alba Wagtails. Seabird movement was recorded off Culbery with a southerly passage including singles of Common Scoter, a **Red-throated Diver**, Great Skua and Arctic Skua. Sea passage continued off Culbery on 5th, with three Common Scoter, 109 Kittiwake and a Lesser Black-backed Gull heading south, with a flock of 29 Lesser Black-backed Gulls seen in the lighthouse fields later in the day. Swallows continued to move through with another 165 heading west, as well as 21 White Wagtail and another six Crossbill. Hirundine passage continued on 6th with 12 Sand Martin, 104 Swallow and six House Martin whilst the first real evidence of Meadow Pipit passage beginning with 291 moving west along with 35 Grey Wagtail, 41 Alba and 14 White Wagtails. Meadow Pipit passage increased to 310 west on 8th, along with 11 Grey Wagtail, 34 White Wagtail, three Sand Martin, 74 Swallow and 29 Siskin, whilst Robin numbers had increased to 42 around the Observatory where a Hummingbird hawk-moth frequented the garden. At least three Hen Harriers were present on 9th, presumably following the passage of diurnal migrants which included another 306 Meadow Pipit, 44 Swallow, 14 Grey Wagtail, eight White and 44 Alba Wagtails, 22 Pied Wagtails and a Crossbill. A 'fall' of Robin saw at least 100 present on 10th and Meadow Pipit numbers increased to 559 west, along with the first two Skylark of the autumn. Waders were in evidence with six Curlew around the islet and a Green Sandpiper flushed from Mill Giau, whilst three Grey Heron were present and a feeding flock of 342 Shag were in the Sound. An increase in wind strength meant that seawatching was most fruitful on 11th, with an 85 minute watch from Culbery producing a southerly passage including seven '**Pale-bellied**' **Brent Geese**, two Common Scoter, seven Manx Shearwater, 78 Gannet, 14 Razorbill, two each of Guillemot and Arctic Skua and a Great Skua. Seawatching on 12th produced another Great Skua south along with 104 Manx Shearwater and a female Teal was seen on the

Millpond. Passerine migration was rather limited but did include nine Grey Wagtail and a single Crossbill west. The female Teal was still on the Millpond on 13th, when a 135-minute seawatch from Culbery produced a southerly movement of 24 Fulmar, two Manx Shearwater and 366 Gannet, whilst a Great Skua was seen flying south off Gibdale later in the day. A drop in wind speed brought a greater diurnal movement on 14th with 32 Swallow, 10 House Martin, 17 Grey Wagtail, 475 Meadow Pipit, 75 Linnet, 31 Goldfinch and 43 Siskin. Waders were very much in evidence on 15th with three fly-over Golden Plover and four Snipe, whilst at Cow Harbour a Redshank, Dunlin and three Turnstone were present. At least five Buzzard were seen, including three migrating west and a Collared Dove arrived at the Observatory, along with the first four Blue Tits of autumn. Diurnal passage included 10 Skylark, 18 Swallow, 421 Meadow Pipit, 59 Linnet and 20 Siskin, whilst a **Whinchat** at the Smithy was a rather late addition to the year list. The continuing light easterly winds brought further birds our way on 16th with a flock of 50 **Pink-footed Geese** flying south and a **Black-tailed Godwit** which circled the Puddle being the highlights, but other observations included 167 Skylark heading west, 15 Swallow, a House Martin, 77 Robin, a female Redstart at the Triangle, 20 Dunnock, 14 Grey Wagtail, 394 Meadow Pipit, 85 Linnet and 15 Siskin. A stronger north-easterly wind on 17th reduced migration with just 42 Robin, one White Wagtail and 278 Meadow Pipit but a decrease in wind speed on 18th produced 20 Goldcrest, a male Ring Ousel, 18 Grey Wagtail, four White and 13 Alba Wagtails, 213 Meadow Pipit, 47 Linnet and 26 Siskin. The 19th saw a general decrease in numbers for most species, but two Spotted Flycatcher were present, and a Tree Pipit flew west. Calm conditions on 20th encouraged a flock of 17 Raven to make an early morning sortie over the Calf and new arrivals around the Observatory included two Willow Warbler, a Whitethroat, a Treecreeper and 54 Robin. Diurnal passage included 16 Grey Wagtail, 257 Meadow Pipit, two Tree Pipit and 78 Linnet. A visit to Kitterland produced 27 Oystercatcher and a Turnstone, whilst a boat trip around the Calf found a female Eider at Amulty, 212 Shag, four Purple Sandpiper in the Lighthouse Caves, 325 Great Black-backed Gull, eight Lesser Black-backed Gull, two Razorbill and 25 Rock Pipit. The 21st saw more visual migration with 28 Swallow, three House Martin, 23 Grey Wagtail, 334 Meadow Pipit, 61 Linnet, 27 Siskin and one Crossbill, whilst arrivals around the Observatory included three Willow Warbler, eight Chiffchaff, five Blackcap, 30 Goldcrest, 48 Robin and 21 Dunnock. New arrivals on 22nd included nine Blackcap, three Blue Tit and 30 Goldcrest, whilst on 23rd flocks

of 10 & 26 Pink-footed Geese were recorded and two **Great Northern Diver** flew south past Burroo. Another small arrival of Goldcrest (25) occurred on 24th and as has become more expected in recent years, the first **Yellow-browed Warbler** of autumn was trapped at the Observatory, remaining until 25th. At least five Golden Plover were present on 25th, with a reduced passage of diurnal migrants including



two House Martin, three Swallow, 10 Grey Wagtail, 12 Pied Wagtail, 104 Meadow Pipit, 53 Chaffinch and two Crossbill. A female Crossbill arrived at the Observatory on 26th along with 110 Chaffinch, 33 Linnet and 24 Goldfinch, whilst a Redshank was seen at the Cletts and seven Wheatear were around the islet. Calm conditions on 27th brought a large arrival of birds around the Observatory with four **Coal Tit**, nine Blue Tit, 10 Great Tit, 66 Skylark heading west, 16 Swallow, a retrap Willow Warbler, 30 Goldcrest, 48 Robin, a female **House Sparrow**, 43 Dunnock, 10 Grey Wagtail, 22 Pied Wagtail, 151 Meadow Pipit, 212 Chaffinch and 48 Linnet. Elsewhere, three **Whooper Swan** were on the sea near Chicken Rock, a male Eider was at Cow Harbour and a Guillemot was off Caigher. Another Yellow-browed Warbler was the highlight of 28th and was quickly followed by a third on 29th, when calm conditions brought a classic autumn day of birds, including Golden Plover 'over', 13 Jackdaw, eight Rook, 23 Great Tit, three Blue Tit, two Coal Tit, 58 Skylark, a Swallow, 11 Song Thrush, 54 Robin, a Wheatear, 43 Dunnock, 12 Grey Wagtail, 16 Pied Wagtail, 162 Meadow Pipit, 93 Chaffinch, 34 Linnet, 13 Lesser Redpoll, 19 Goldfinch and nine Siskin. A much quieter day on 30th saw a Snipe at the Lower twin Field, a flock of 130 Great Black-backed gull roosting in the Seafield and 10 Great Tit around the Observatory garden.

A total of 91 species were recorded during the month.

October

Weather: The first half of the month was largely dominated by moderate north-west winds, then from the 15th – 18th the wind switched to the north east and was generally light in strength. After a moderate southerly wind on 19th & 20th, the wind backed south-west where it remained for the remainder of the month, except for the morning of the 26th when it switched briefly to the northwest. A typically overcast month with rain on 15 days.

The month started where September left off - with a fourth Yellow-browed Warbler and a good passage of diurnal migrants including, two Golden Plover, three Jackdaw, 16 Rook, 24 Carrion Crow, 11 Blue Tit, 27 Great Tit, 62 Skylark, five Grey Wagtail, 205 Meadow Pipit and 87 Chaffinch. Similar but slightly lower numbers were recorded on 2nd, with 187 Meadow Pipit and 154 Chaffinch as well as four Snipe and the last House Martins of the season, with five seen over the sea near Chicken Rock. Light rain throughout the 3rd kept observations to a minimum, however a better day on 4th produced the first **Mistle Thrush** of the season. Rain for much of the 5th again reduced



observations, although at least 180 Chaffinch were grounded, and two more Coal Tit arrived. More blustery conditions on 6th brought our fifth Yellow-browed Warbler, closely followed by a sixth on 7th when the first Redwing of autumn was recorded. A further 11 Redwing arrived on 8th, however finch movements were the main highlight with 650 Chaffinch, four Greenfinch, 47 Linnet, four Lesser Redpoll,

53 Goldfinch, nine Siskin and two Reed Bunting. An increasing north westerly wind on 9th & 10th brought a southerly passage of seabirds off Culbery, with: 9th (105 mins) – seven Common Scoter, a Red-throated Diver, a Fulmar (N), a Manx Shearwater, 53 Gannet (+ 71 N), 101 Kittiwake (+12 N), two Great Skua, 18 Guillemot, 31 Razorbill and 162 Auks.

10th (140 mins) – six Common Scoter, two Diver spp, 81 Gannet (+29 N), 52 Kittiwake (+3 N), 32 Great Black-backed Gull, a Great Skua, an Arctic Skua, two Guillemot, eight Razorbill, and 174 Auks.

With the wind decreasing slightly on 11th encouraged diurnal migrants to move again with 380 Skylark, six Swallow, 85 Starling, 12 Mistle Thrush, 30 Pied Wagtail, 102 Meadow Pipit, 518 Chaffinch, two **Brambling**, 17 Greenfinch, 52 Linnet, 11 Lesser Redpoll, six Crossbill and 126 Goldfinch, whilst on the sea two Whooper Swans flew south-west past the Lighthouses, two Great Skua flew north and three Eider (MMF) were at the Cletts. A small arrival of 40 Goldcrest were around the Observatory on 12th, along with 18 Redwing and a flock of six Snipe were at the twin Fields. A moderate to light northerly wind on 13th encouraged more visible migration with 180 Jackdaw and 46 Rook making the trip across the water, whilst the 'tit invasion' gathered pace with 30 Coal Tit, four Blue Tit and 45 Great Tit arriving at the Observatory along with 38 Fieldfare,, 36 Song Thrush, five Mistle Thrush, three House Sparrow, three **Tree Sparrow**, 230 Chaffinch, three Greenfinch, 11 Lesser Redpoll, 22 Goldfinch and 28 Siskin. Elsewhere a Great Northern Diver was seen flying through the Sound, three adult and two immature Lesser Black-backed Gulls were roosting in the 2nd Field and a **Great White Egret** flew north along the east coast towards Spanish Head. Smaller number of Jackdaw (40) and Rook (12) were recorded on 14th, however at least 16 Carrion and 14 Hooded Crows were present and Starling movement increased to 310 heading west. A 6th Treecreeper for the season was the highlight at the Observatory amongst an arrival of 100 Blackbird, 110 Redwing, 47 Song Thrush, 26 Mistle Thrush, 447 Chaffinch, seven Greenfinch, 66 Linnet, 89 Goldfinch and 19 Siskin. Corvids were again a feature of the 15th with 616 Jackdaw, 13 Rook, 29 Carrion Crow and 18 Hooded Crow with other visible migration including 17 Woodpigeon, four **Lapwing**, seven Snipe, 31 Skylark, 359 Starling, 206 Chaffinch, a Brambling, 24 Greenfinch, 45 Goldfinch and 13 Siskin. 120 Blackbird were grounded along with 62 Fieldfare, 85 Redwing, 40 Song Thrush and four Mistle Thrush, whilst other passerines included six Long-tailed Tit, a Garden Warbler and three House Sparrow. Smaller numbers of thrushes were present on 16th with just 46 Blackbird, 10 Fieldfare. 14 Redwing and 28 Song Thrush and the Treecreeper from the 14th was still present. A **Short-eared Owl** flew south off Caigher on 17th, when thrushes again dominated the day, with 40 Blackbird, 66 Fieldfare, 20 Redwing and 27 Song Thrush and a 7th Treecreeper of the season was trapped at the Observatory. A much quieter day on 18th saw the last Wheatear of the year recorded, another Short-eared Owl, this time near to Gibdale just before dusk and a high count of 37 Rock Pipit around the islet. An increasing southerly wind on 19th reduced migration rather with an hour

seawatch of Culberty producing a southerly movement of 112 Gannet, six Kittiwake and 31 Auks, whilst waders featured at Cow, with 28 Oystercatcher, four Curlew, 43 Turnstone and two Purple Sandpiper. Little was seen on 21st owing to poor weather conditions but things improved on 22nd with another four Coal Tit at the Observatory, a late-ish Swallow and a **Reed Warbler** trapped in the front hedge nets. Despite a strengthening northwest wind on 22nd a Black Redstart was at the Observatory and two '*hibernicus*' Coal Tits were trapped in the back garden, whilst a 30 minute seawatch from Culberty produced a southerly movement of two Common Scoter, 202 Gannet, two Razorbill, seven Auks and 196 Kittiwake heading north. Three Whooper Swan were on the sea below the Lighthouses on 23rd, but an increasing south-westerly gale kept things rather quiet other the next few days, although a single '*hibernicus*' Coal Tit remained and seven Purple Sandpiper were at Cow Harbour on 25th. Classic autumn seawatching conditions finally arrived on 26th, with the southwest gale quickly switching northwest during the early hours of the morning and sea-watches from Cow Harbour produced southerly movements of:

(0705 – 1135 hrs) – 13 Red-throated Diver, two **Black-throated Diver**, three Great Northern Diver, 19 Fulmar, a Manx Shearwater, 91 Gannet, 400 Kittiwake, two Black-headed Gull, immature **Little Gull**, adult Common Gull, 292 Great Black-backed Gull, 78 Herring Gull, 10 Razorbill and 17 Auks.

(1600 – 1700 hrs) – five Gannet, seven Kittiwake, 129 Great Black-backed Gull and 161 Herring Gull.

A Black Guillemot was also offshore, and 37 Turnstone and two Purple Sandpiper arrived to roost on the offshore rocks just before dusk.

The continuing strong southwest winds and heavy rain for much of the 27th again hampered observations but a single Whooper Swan flew northwest towards the Lighthouses and four Turnstone were at South Harbour, with a further 15 seen at Cow Harbour during the night-time high tide. The wind backed more westerly on 28th and seawatching from the Lighthouses produced a southerly movement of two Red-throated Diver, two Great Northern Diver, three Fulmar, five Gannet, six Kittiwake, 11 Razorbill and five Auks, whilst passerines clearly decided that despite the strong winds that they needed to move and visual migration of four Swallow, 252 Starling, 375 Chaffinch, three Brambling, 10 Linnet, six Crossbill and 29 Goldfinch were recorded.

Once again, heavy rain and strong southwest winds stopped migration on 29th, but with a significant reduction in wind strength on 30th saw diurnal movements of 87 Skylark, nine Swallow, 1435 Starling, 62 Meadow Pipit, 450 Chaffinch, seven Greenfinch, 107 Linnet, a Crossbill and 204 Goldfinch. Despite horrendous weather conditions again on 31st a further 375 Starling



flew west and a male **Firecrest** was a surprise capture at the Observatory. Elsewhere a Grey Wagtail was on the beach at Cow Harbour and an hour seawatch from there produced a southerly movement of 24 Gannet, 129 Kittiwake and nine Razorbill.

A total of 92 species were recorded during the month.

November

Weather: Moderate to strong westerly winds from 1st – 5th, then lighter easterly winds from 6th – 9th with rain and fog during the last couple of days. Strong winds and often rainy conditions largely suppressed migration during the first couple of days of the month, although the '*hibernicus*' Coal Tit and male Firecrest remained to 3rd and 7th respectively. Conditions improved on 3rd and allowed 808 Starling, 253 Chaffinch, three each of Brambling & Greenfinch and 91 Goldfinch to move through. Most surprising however, was a 'redhead' **Goosander** initially seen flying over the back field, which then flew low over the courtyard before heading west over the Twinfields. Chaffinch dominated the 4th with an impressive 976 birds recorded mostly moving west, as well as four Swallow, 1941 Starling, two Brambling, six Greenfinch, 65 Linnet and 133 Goldfinch. Thrushes were again in evidence with an arrival of 35 Blackbird, 36 Fieldfare, six Redwing, 35 Song Thrush and 37 Mistle Thrush around the Observatory. A Great Northern Diver was seen flying south at Cow Harbour during an hour seawatch that also produced 15 Fulmar, 24 Kittiwake and two Guillemot, whilst five Redshank were seen on rock near to Ghaw Yairn. More Starling were on the move on 5th with a

season high count of 3543 heading west, whilst a **'tristis' Chiffchaff** was trapped at the Observatory and thrushes were again present in good numbers, with 47 Blackbird, 57 Fieldfare, 12 Redwing, 50 Song Thrush and 22 Mistle Thrush. Light easterly winds on 6th with light drizzle before dawn brought a large arrival of thrushes, with 120 Blackbird, 71 Fieldfare, 45



Redwing, 26 Song Thrush and six Mistle Thrush plus eight Blackcap, 280 Chaffinch and 55 Goldfinch. Two Lapwing were calling from the Front Field just before dawn and the only Woodcock of the autumn was trapped in the back-field mist nets. Elsewhere, two adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Cow Harbour and a male Teal was caught on the trail camera at the Dubh. Thrush numbers decreased on 7th with just 55 Blackbird, 56 Fieldfare, 21 Redwing and 22 Song Thrush, although a new 'nominate' race Coal Tit arrived at the Observatory and small passage

of Dunnock & Robins were noted along with 66 Woodpigeon and a further 129 Chaffinch and a female Brambling. Periods of fog and rain over the last couple of days meant passage was relatively quiet, however a lone Long-tailed Tit arrived at the Observatory on 8th when four Blackcap were recorded, whilst five were present on the 9th when the season drew to a close.

A supplementary visit to the Calf on 29th November, during flat calm sea conditions, proved very fruitful with good numbers of migrant thrushes noted as still being around the Observatory. In addition, waders were very much in evidence, with 28 Oystercatcher, 101 Purple Sandpiper, 44 Turnstone, nine Curlew and singles of Snipe and Woodcock seen.

A total of 69 species were recorded during the month.

2020 Systematic List

The nomenclature and taxonomic order 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. Those species marked with an * denote species that were new to the Manx Bird List when first recorded on the Calf.

A brief statement regarding the status of each species, including a summary of any breeding details is given. Where appropriate average arrival and departure dates are shown for common migrants along with extreme first and last dates. The following scale is used to describe the regularity of occurrence for each species:

Very rare vagrant	< 5 records
Very rare migrant	5-10 records
Rare passage migrant	10 – 100 records or
less than annual occurrence	
Scarce passage migrant	1-10 recorded annually
Uncommon migrant / visitor	10-100 recorded
annually	
Common passage migrant / visitor	Occurs regularly, more than 100
annually	

A total of 127 species were recorded during the 2020 season, the fourth lowest annual species total in the last 10 years – however a surprisingly high total considering that 80 field-days were lost during spring passage owing to our absence from the islet, from 27th March to 17th June, due to Coronavirus restrictions. It was also not possible to have the numbers of volunteers and visiting ringers / birders that have been coming to the Calf in recent years. This is certainly reflected in the numbers of seabird species recorded when compared to 2019.

Abbreviations:

AOB	-	apparently occupied burrows
AON	-	apparently occupied nest
AOS	-	apparently occupied site
IA	-	count of individual adults

Brent [Brant] Goose *Branta bernicula*

Rare passage migrant; 25 previous records involving 75 individuals, with records in January (1), April (1), May (1), September (8), October (12) and November (2)

A flock of seven pale-bellied birds flew south off Culbery on 11th September.

The fourth largest flock recorded from the Calf and fourth earliest autumn arrival date, which coincided with birds being reported from the Island wintering areas.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Rare visitor; 15 previous records involving 54 individuals, with records in, March (1), April (1), May (1), June (8), September (3) & October (1)

The majority of records most probably originate from feral populations on the Isle of Man

Two on Caigher Dubh on 7th March, were just the second record for the month and the fourth record in the last decade.



Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Rare passage migrant; 13 previous records involving 222 individuals, with records in May (1), September (3), October (7) and November (2)

Following on from last year's record breaking five flocks totalling 122 birds, 2020 proved another excellent autumn with three flocks totalling 86 birds; with exactly 50 south on 16th September and flocks of 26 and 10 flying east on 23rd September.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Ollay Chiaullee

Very rare spring and scarce autumn passage migrant; 81 previous records involving 279 individuals, with records in March (1), April (2), September (1), October (47) and November (30)

Three on the sea near Chicken Rock on 27th September, two flying south-west past the Lighthouses on 11th October, three on the sea below the Lighthouses on 23rd October and a single that flew north over the Withy on 27th October.

The September record is just the second for that month and occurred just one day later than the earliest autumn arrival of 26th September 1987.

[Common] Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Thunnag y Scape

Resident breeder and scarce passage migrant; one or two pairs breed almost annually

A camera trap set at the Dubh over-winter recorded a single on 10th January, then a pair present almost daily from 13th – 27th January and 1st – 5th February. The pair were again in the same area on 7th March and seen on a further six dates up to and including the 26th.

Owing to our absence from the island for the remainder of the spring, there were no further records or confirmation of breeding numbers / status.

There were no autumn records.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Thunnag Feie

Resident breeder and fairly common spring & winter resident in small numbers; one to three pairs breed annually, with a peak of nine pairs in 1981

The siting of camera traps at the Withy and Caigher Dubh provided almost daily records of one – four birds from 1st January through to the end of May, with four broods of ducklings seen; 12 on 7th and 25th April, seven on 31st May and five on 20th June.

From the end of July records became far less frequent, with singles on four dates in August up to 20th, then no further records until a pair took up residence on the Millpond on 27th October and were seen daily there until the end of season.

[Eurasian] Teal *Anas crecca*

Thunnag Laaghag

Uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant

The only spring record was a pair recorded on the camera trap at the Millpond on 28th April.

In autumn, three flew from Cow Harbour towards Gibdale on 25th August and a female/juvenile type was at South Harbour on 26th, before its remains were found at the Millpond on 27th. Another female type was on the Millpond on 12th & 13th September and a male was recorded on the Dubh trail camera on 6th November.

[Common] Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Laagh Loughlinagh

Formerly a rare passage migrant prior to 1992 with just 12 records involving 25 birds; now common breeding resident since 1992, although scarce from July, once breeding birds disperse

The first returning bird was a male seen at Cow Harbour on 14th March, with 12 birds present by 21st March. Unfortunately, no complete island count was made this year due to coronavirus restrictions, which also prevented any monitoring of breeding birds. A female seen at Kione ny Halby on 15th June had an active nest with one young but it is likely this was one of the last nesting attempts of the year.

Single figure counts were made regularly during the latter half of June and through July to the 17th by which time most breeding birds had departed. A female accompanied by two large young were present along the coast at Kione ny Halby on 8th, 11th & 12th August and between Cow Harbour and the Cletts on 8th September. Records of one or two female types on 25th & 29th August and on nine dates in September, 12 dates in October and one date in November presumably refer to these birds. Additionally, a male was seen flying east through the Sound on 10th October, two males and a female were at the Cletts on 11th October and a male was at Cow Harbour on 26th October.

• *Autumn bird-day totals by year:*

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Autumn bird-days	43	26	4	18	0

Autumn records around the Calf are normally quite scarce and this represents a significant increase in occurrences.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon passage migrant; recorded mainly in late summer and autumn

All records were of birds flying south off Culberty: eight on 28th June, singles on 21st August and 4th September and 19th October, three on 5th and two on 11th September, seven on 9th, six on 10th and two on 16th and 22nd October.

Goosander [Common Merganser] *Mergus merganser*

Very rare migrant; seven previous records involving eight individuals, with records in February (1980), May (1996 [2]), September (1981), October (1969, 1999) and November (2004, 2018)

A most unusual record of a 'redhead' first seen flying over the back field before passing low over the Observatory courtyard, before heading west over the Twin Fields, on 3rd November.

[Common] Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Formerly a rare visitor, now resident breeding species from 2018. Prior to 2018 there were 24 records involving 26 individuals, with records in March (3), April (7), May (4), June (3), August (2), September (1), October (3) and November (1)

Single birds were recorded by camera trap on three occasions in January and on six occasions in February. With our arrival on the islet from early March, sightings were more regular with up to three recorded, but as lockdown restrictions were imposed, we again had to rely on the camera traps which recorded up to four birds almost daily throughout April, May and the first half of June.

One – three birds were seen regularly during the summer, with breeding confirmed at the Withy, where young were seen on several occasions during the autumn. Two young were flushed with a female on 25th August & 13th September and a female with four young (plus the remains of another young) were seen on 16th October.

Red-throated Diver [Red-throated Loon] *Gavia stellate*

Lhargey Mooar

Scarce passage migrant; at least 197 records involving approximately 524 individuals, mostly occurring in autumn

- *Bird-day totals by month:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	7	12	13	0	1	26	294	145	44	0

Singles flew south off Culbery on 4th September and 9th October and past Kione Beg on 3rd November, whilst 13 flew south past Cow Harbour on 26th and two south past the Lighthouses on 28th October.

The count of 13 on 26th October record would appear to be the third largest number of Red-throated Divers recorded in one day from the Calf, being beaten by 15 on 8th October 1983 and 26 on 9th September 1994.

Black-throated Diver [Black-throated Loon] *Gavia arctica*

Rare passage migrant; 50 previous records involving 64 individuals, with records in March (1), April (1), May (1), September (18), October (24) and November (5)

Two flying south off Cow Harbour on 26th October, were part of a large movement of divers on that date.

Recorded in six of the last ten years, with October remaining as the best month to see this species from the Calf.

Great Northern Diver [Common Loon] *Gavia immer*

Arrag Vooar

Scarce passage migrant; 135 previous records involving 193 individuals, with records in March (2), April (1), May (7), August (1), September (33), October (59), November (31), December (1)

Two flying south past Burroo on 23rd September, a single flying east through the Sound on 13th October, three south past Cow Harbour on 26th, two south past the Lighthouses on 28th October and another single south off Culbery on 4th November.

With 55 bird-days since 2011, the ten birds in 2020 is almost double the annual average.

Diver spp. *Gavia* spp.

Two seen flying south off Culbery on 10th October were too distant for positive identification.

[European] Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Kitty Varrey

Uncommon summer visitor and scarce passage migrant; regularly recorded night time visitor during May to August; breeding has yet to be confirmed but some circumstantial evidence exists

As usual records were all from South Harbour and involved birds attracted to tape lure at night.

Date	Count	Date	Count
20/6	11	5/8	4
1/7	12	9/8	12
12/7	7	11/8	1
18/7	3	12/8	1
19/7	10	13/8	10
20/7	4	14/8	21
21/7	7	15/8	16
23/7	3	16/8	2
24/7	4	17/8	2
2/8	9	18/8	2
3/8	24		

[Northern] Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Eean Croymmagh

Common breeding resident and autumn passage migrant;

- *Mean count of apparently occupied nest sites per decade:*

10yr period	1959-1968	1969-1978	1979-1988	1989-1998	1999-2008	2009-2018
AOS (mean)	32	78	108	120	76	91

A single was recorded during a winter visit on 21st January and birds were already occupying ledges when we returned to the islet in early March, with 47 around Ghaw Yairn on the 6th and 58 counted as we left the islet on 26th March. There were no counts during April and May owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.



Boat-based surveys on 8th and 14th June located 97 AOS and 101 AOS respectively, whilst a survey to locate young in the nest, prior to fledging, on 8th August found just 19 occupied nests. The majority of these ‘successful’ nests were east facing with only one chick found along the north-west coast, leading us to conclude that a high mortality of young had occurred earlier in the season, most likely due to some form of extreme weather event that

There was no significant sea passage recorded during the year with the highest count being 72 south off Culberty on 22nd August.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Scraayl

*Common breeding and passage migrant; formerly bred in substantial numbers (hundreds of thousands) before decimation of the colony through the accidental introduction of Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) in the late 1700’s. Now a common breeding resident and passage migrant following natural re-colonisation in 2000 and concerted efforts to eradicate rats from 2012*

- *Average count of apparently occupied nest burrows:*

<i>Syr period</i>	<i>1999-2003</i>	<i>2004-2008</i>	<i>2009-2013</i>	<i>2014-2018</i>
<i>AOB (mean)</i>	23	65	132	418

A single reported from the Sound on 12th March and five seen to the west of the Calf on 31st May were the only records of spring, owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions. This also severely impacted monitoring of breeding numbers and it was not possible to undertake the call-back study that has been used in recent years to estimate the breeding population. However productivity of young appeared to be high with 71 young being ringed.

From mid-June to the end of August birds were recorded regularly ashore at night, particularly during the second half of July when up to 50 birds were seen around the South Harbour colony most nights. Large offshore movements were recorded during the last week of June and first week of July associated with strong south-westerly winds with 1434 moving south past Cow Harbour in just one hour on 24th June, 310 in 90 minutes the following day and 690 south in one hour on 5th July. Other three figure counts included 119 south past South Harbour in just 20 minutes on 21st August, 147 south off Culbery in 135 minutes on 22nd August and 104 south in 105 minutes on 12th September. The last few records of the season were singles seen on five dates in October with the last seen flying south past Cow Harbour on 26th.



Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Coayr / Coayr ny Hastan / Coayr Glass

Fairly regular non-breeding visitor; infrequent records during spring and more regular records during autumn following post-natal dispersal from colonies on the Isle of Man

- *Bird-day totals by month:*

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
2019	5	6	4	5	16	18	23	17	4
2020	1	1	-	1	7	14	19	13	1

Spring totals were undoubtedly affected by our absence from the islet owing to coronavirus restrictions, although camera traps at the Millpond contributed singles on 11th March and 12th April. Dispersal from main island breeding sites from July account for the majority of records with some birds, presumably juveniles, remaining at favoured sites for a couple of days or so. Records were mostly of singles, although two were seen on seven occasions and three on 10th September was the highest day count.

Great White [Great] Egret *Ardea alba*

Very rare vagrant; one previous record involving a single which spent 40 minutes on the Millpond on 22nd April 2008

One was seen and photographed flying north from the Calf towards Spanish Head on 13th October (SC). The 2nd Calf record.



[Northern] Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Gant

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

Recorded almost daily from the waters around the Calf, with counts normally of less than a hundred birds. Occasional larger numbers are recorded with 250 feeding in the Sound on 12th March being the peak count in spring. Three figure counts were made on three occasions in August, five occasions in September and four times in October. Peak counts were 366 south & 14 north past Culbery on 13th September and 202 south on 22nd October.

Numbers of birds seen in autumn 2020 were significantly lower than in 2019, owing to fewer favourable seawatching conditions and less observation hours.

- Bird-days and days recorded:*

2019	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	251	1072	408	216	725	1252	4246	3536	16
Days recorded	14	30	27	25	30	29	30	26	4

2020	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	623	-	-	75	300	1058	1557	1308	48
Days recorded	19	-	-	10	28	30	30	29	5

[European] Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Fannag / Feeagh Varrey

Common breeding resident; breeding numbers have decreased significantly since their peak of 400 pairs in 1982/3, with just 100 pairs recorded in 2018

- Mean count of apparently occupied nest (AON) sites per decade:*

10yr period	1959-1968	1969-1978	1979-1988	1989-1998	1999-2008	2009-2018
AON (mean)	232	317	312	268	179	147

Present throughout the year with double-figure counts being commonplace. A full breeding survey was planned for 2020, unfortunately coronavirus restrictions prevented this from being undertaken. Limited nest monitoring at Gibdale and Kione ny Halby would suggest that their breeding numbers remained roughly stable between 2019 and 2020.

From late June, feeding flocks began to gather around the coast with 90 in the Sound on 30th June with one hundred or more recorded on a further 15 dates in the autumn, and maximum counts of 300 on 20th July, 310 on 8th August and 342 on 10th September.

[Great] Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Arragh Vooar

Formerly bred 1959 – 1974 with a maximum of 13 pairs in 1959, now fairly common non-breeding resident and occasional passage migrant;

Present almost daily around the Calf coastline, favouring the Sound as a fishing area and with several preferred roosting sites, including the Cletts and Caigher Point. Counts of up to four birds were regular, with higher counts perhaps only reflecting coverage of the favoured roost locations. The highest count of 14 was made on 5th September.

• *Bird-days and days recorded:*

2019	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	11	30	31	32	67	74	66	146	27
Max.	2	4	4	9	13	9	8	11	4
2020	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	9	-	-	31	45	66	85	56	10
Max.	4	-	-	6	6	11	14	7	3

[Western] Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant; 45 previous records since the first in 1961, with records of singles in March (1), April (5), May (11), June (5), July (1), August (6), September (15) and October (1)

One seen and photographed flying towards Chicken Rock from the Lighthouses on 27th August (DW).

[Eurasian] Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Shawk / Shirragh / Shirragh ny Giark

Fairly common spring and common autumn passage migrant;

First recorded on 15th March, then up to two birds were recorded almost daily from 19th – 25th March. There were no further spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Autumn dispersal began with a second-year male trapped at the Observatory on 9th July; originally ringed in August 2019 this bird has been recorded numerous times on the Calf and it is likely that most records in July refer to

this one bird. Records of 1 - 2 birds became more frequent in August (16 bird-days) and almost daily in September (26 bird-days) and October (25 bird-days). Maximum counts of three were made on 9th August and 16th September.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Common resident and passage migrant; bred in 14 years during 1991-2011, with a maximum of four breeding attempts in 1995

Singles were recorded on six dates between 6th – 26th March. Unfortunately, no further spring counts or breeding census was undertaken owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Data supplied by RSPB and Manx Birdlife show that one the Manx-bred satellite-tagged birds 'Ashe' travelled over to the Calf on 8th May and remained on the Calf for a few days before departing back to the main island on 12th.

- *Map showing movement of 'Ashe' during 8 – 12th May 2020*



A single was seen on three dates during the second half of June and on 14 dates in July and therefore it is likely that at least one bird summered on the island, as has been the situation in recent years. From August, records became more frequent and 1 - 3 birds were recorded regularly in each month during the autumn up to the season end.

[Common] Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Formerly a rare passage migrant, now fairly common spring and regular autumn visitor; 31 previous records involving 38 individuals, up to 2014, with records in January (1), March (5), April (4), May (5), June (1), July (3), August (4), September (2), October (3) and November (3)

One or two birds were seen regularly in March from the 6 – 25th, with a high count of five on 19th. Unfortunately, no accurate count of birds present during April & May was possible owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions. However, a single was caught on camera trap at the Millpond on 9th May and on the 16th May, one was watched from the Sound as it circled above Jane's House. Three birds were present on the islet during early-mid June, with two remaining to the end of the month and it would seem likely that these birds may have spent the spring and early summer on the Calf, although no evidence of breeding was found.

Up to two birds were seen more sporadically during July & August before records became more frequent from mid-September and two birds were seen almost daily until the end of October, with a maximum count of five on 15th September and four the next day.

The total of 152 bird-days is by a long-way the largest numbers of records in any one year and given their likely presence during this spring and early summer, one most wonder if this might be the next species to be added to the Calf breeding bird list.

- *Annual bird-day total 2015 – 2020:*

<i>Year</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Bird-days</i>	29	50	47	80	59	152

[Eurasian] Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Garee Breck / Bridgeen

Common breeding resident and passage migrant; 15 – 20 pairs breed annually, with a peak of 27 pairs in 1977 and 1983

Seen throughout the season with wintering birds still present when we arrived on the islet, with a season high count of 54 on 12th March. No breeding census was undertaken owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions, however pairs, with young, were located in the usual places when we arrived back in mid-June and it is thought that there were 16 pairs present.

Counts of up to 30 were fairly regular with occasional larger counts, often associated with high tides, with monthly peaks of 37 on 8th June, 34 on 30th July, 45 on 4th August, 37 on 11th September, 28 on 19th October and 31 on 2nd November.



[Northern] Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Earkan

Formerly bred, now occasional passage migrant; up to 10 pairs bred 1967 to 1982

Three flying over the Front Field during the morning and another bird on Caigher during the afternoon of 15th October and two in the Front Field at dawn on 6th November were the only records of the year.

A sad reflection of the loss of this former breeding species, with the distinct possibility that in years to come we may not record this species at all.

[European] Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Ushag Reeast/Fedjag Reeast

Uncommon passage migrant; most commonly recorded in autumn

A single flying over on 18th March was the only spring record.

Autumn passage birds were recorded from 9th September with mostly one or two birds seen or heard flying over on six dates in each of September & October and two dates in November. Few birds land on the Calf, so three in the Seafield on 25th September is noteworthy.

[Common] Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Feddag Ainnit

Scarce passage migrant; usually less than five records per annum

Two at Cow Harbour on 25th August, was the only record of the year.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Uncommon passage migrant; mostly occurring in spring. Occasionally over-winters with one or two birds present during 1981 – 1987 and 1991 to 1994

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

<i>60-year average</i>	<i>2009 to 2018</i>	<i>1999 to 2008</i>	<i>1989 to 1998</i>	<i>1979 to 1988</i>	<i>1969 to 1978</i>	<i>1959 to 1968</i>
<i>09-Apr</i>	<i>18-Apr</i>	<i>17-Apr</i>	<i>30-Mar</i>	<i>23-Mar</i>	<i>26-Mar</i>	<i>23-Apr</i>
<i>12-Oct</i>	<i>08-Sep</i>	<i>20-Sep</i>	<i>01-Nov</i>	<i>09-Nov</i>	<i>15-Nov</i>	<i>24-Sep</i>

The earliest arrival date was 21st February 1983, which is likely to have involved an over-wintering individual, as is the latest record on 12th December 1994

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

A poor autumn showing with a single at Cow Harbour on 22nd July and one recorded by camera trap on Kitterland on 7th August.

[Eurasian] Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Crottag

Formerly bred and common passage migrant, now increasingly uncommon passage migrant; up to three pairs bred 1962 to 1982

Up to three birds were present in March from 6th – 25th, although there were no further spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

In autumn, one or two birds were present on seven dates from 19th June, with main passage beginning in early July, with peak counts of 10 on 2nd and 20th July, otherwise 1 – 6 birds were recorded almost daily through the autumn.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Rare passage migrant; 15 previous records involving 37 individuals, with records in April (1), July (5), August (4) and September (5).

A single circled the Puddle before eventually flying off south on 16th September. Only the 16th Calf record but the 4th record in the past decade.

[Ruddy] Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Goblaghan

Formerly a common passage migrant and common winter visitor, now scarce migrant;

A single was seen at Kione ny Halby on 6th, a flock of 18 flew from Caigher towards South Harbour on 7th and two were at Kione ny Halby on 14th March.

One on Caigher on 30th June was perhaps the start of autumn passage, however there were no further records until five at Cow Harbour on 18th, with two still there the next day and a single on 24th August that flew over the Observatory calling. During September, one to three were recorded on nine dates, whilst in October singles were seen on three dates plus higher counts of 43 on 19th, 37 on 26th and 19 on 27th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Very rare passage migrant; seven previous records involving 42 individuals, with records in April (1998 [4]), May (2019) [23], June (1990), August (1972, 1985, 1994 [11]) and September (2011)

One was photographed on rocks below Kione ny Halby on 29th August. The eighth Calf record and second year in a row that the species has been recorded.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Breck ny Traie

Scarce passage migrant; mostly recorded in autumn

Four south off Culbery on 22nd August and a single at Cow Harbour on 15th September were the only records.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Scarce passage migrant and common winter resident;

A single was present just outside South Harbour as we arrived on 6th and 37 were counted in the caves below the Lighthouses on 26th March, as we left the Calf again.

In autumn, a single was trapped at Cow Harbour on 2nd and four were in the Lighthouse caves on 20th September. October produced three records with birds being located at the Cow Harbour high tide roost at the end of the month, seven on 24th, three on 25th and two on 26th.

An opportunistic visit to the Calf, during calm conditions, on 29th November yielded an all-time record count, with 100 seen in the caves below the Lighthouses and an additional single among a flock of Turnstone on Kitterland. This surpasses the previous record counts of 52 and 50+ on 13th & 14th March 2016, respectively.

[Eurasian] Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Ushag Rennee

Uncommon autumn passage and winter migrant; approximately 222 records involving 437 individuals, with records in February (9), March (30), April (14), May (1), June (1), July (2), September (1), October (72), November (90) and December (2)

A single flushed from the willows in the Back Field on 23rd March was the only record of spring.

In autumn, a single was trapped in the Back Field on 6th November and another was flushed from an area of Bracken, along the East coast, during a supplementary day visit to the Calf on 29th November.

[Common] Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Coayr Heddagh

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; one pair bred in 1980

One flushed from Bracken above Cow Harbour on 11th March was the only spring record.

Autumn records started with singles on 20th & 24th July and 8th & 11th August but became more regular from 15th September with singles on six dates to the month end, plus four on 15th and 21st.

In October there were five records, mostly of birds flying over, with four on 2nd, six on 12th, three on 14th, seven on 15th and a single on 18th. The only record in November was one flushed from the Millpond on 29th, seen during a supplementary visit to the Calf.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Looyran

Uncommon spring migrant and common autumn passage migrant;

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

<i>60-year average</i>	<i>2009 to 2018</i>	<i>1999 to 2008</i>	<i>1989 to 1998</i>	<i>1979 to 1988</i>	<i>1969 to 1978</i>	<i>1959 to 1968</i>
<i>29-Apr</i>	<i>24-Apr</i>	<i>03-May</i>	<i>01-May</i>	<i>27-Apr</i>	<i>26-Apr</i>	<i>02-May</i>
<i>07-Sep</i>	<i>01-Sep</i>	<i>13-Sep</i>	<i>09-Sep</i>	<i>05-Sep</i>	<i>14-Sep</i>	<i>28-Aug</i>

The earliest arrival date was 24th March 2018, with the latest departure date being 16th October 1995

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Autumn passage began with two on 30th June, then in July five singles from 14th and another two seen on 26th July. More common in August with one or two seen on 11 dates up to 29th, plus a maximum count of three on 16th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare passage migrant; 48 previous records involving 54 individuals, with records in April (3), May (1), June (1), July (8), August (20), September (10) and October (5)

One flew towards Gibdale from Cow Harbour on 25th August and another was flushed from the mouth of Mill Giau on 10th September.

A third consecutive year of records following a period of 10 years (2008 – 2017) when the species was not recorded.

[Common] Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Goblan Marrey

Fairly common passage migrant; most numerous in autumn

A single at Cow Harbour on 23rd March was the only spring record.

Autumn passage birds were seen from 6th July, with single on five dates in the month. Two were seen on 3rd August, followed by singles on 11th August and 15th & 26th September and five on rocks near Ghaw Yairn on 4th November.

[Common] Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Rare passage migrant; 82 previous records involving 102 individuals, with records in March (2), April (1), May (7), June (3), July (9), August (41), September (17) and October (2)

A single captured on camera trap at the Millpond on 13th April is only the 2nd record for that month, the previous one being in 2017.



[Black-legged] Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Formerly bred, now common summer visitor from nearby colonies and autumn passage migrant;

- Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade

10yr period	1959- 1968	1969- 1978	1979- 1988	1989- 1998	1999- 2008	2009- 2018
AON (mean)	301	183	132	124	85	7

There were just two records in March, with three on 8th and a single on 12th. There were no further spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions, although the species was known not to breed.

By our return in June, breeding birds at nearby colonies were well established and sighting off the Calf are mostly of birds moving between feeding and nesting sites. Records in June were rather sporadic, but increased in frequency to almost daily during July, although still in quite low numbers. With breeding birds mostly dispersed by August, records became quite sporadic again during the first half of the month but increased in numbers as autumn passage got underway, with a maximum of 652 south off Culbery on 22nd August. September failed to produce any significant passage with unfavourable winds for most of the month resulting in records on just eight dates and a monthly peak of 109 on 5th. October fared little better,

although counts were made on 14 dates with a monthly peak of 407 south off Cow Harbour on 26th.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Pirragh

Fairly common passage migrant; majority of records are in late summer and autumn

A well-below average showing with five in the Sound on 24th June, a single south at Cow Harbour on 20th July, three flying through the Glen on 19th September and two singles flying south off Cow Harbour on 26th October.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Rare passage migrant; 50 previous records involving 76 individuals, with records in April (1), May (5), June (1), August (7), September (20), October (22), November (1) and December (1)

A first-winter bird flew south off Cow Harbour, with Kittiwakes, on 26th October (AS).

Common [Mew] Gull *Larus canus*

Foillan Vane

Uncommon passage migrant; mostly recorded in late autumn

An adult seen over Gibdale on 9th October was the first record of the year and was followed by another adult flying south past Cow Harbour on 26th October.

A return to this specie's uncommon status following last year's exceptional 150 bird-day total.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Juan Mooar

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; breeding numbers have decreased significantly since their peak of 220 pairs in 1974 - 76, with just 56 pairs recorded in 2018

- *Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade:*

10yr period	1959- 1968	1969- 1978	1979- 1988	1989- 1998	1999- 2008	2009- 2018
AON (mean)	149	173	148	93	86	47

Present throughout the season, this species is a common sight across the Calf. Resident bird numbers are often swelled by large flocks that take refuge on the Calf during stormy weather, with counts of up to 200 being quite regular, particularly outside of the breeding season. There was no comprehensive count of nesting pairs owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions, however boat-based surveys of the Calf coastline during early to mid-June and land-based assessment of pairs with young during July enables some comparison with previous years to be made.

Location	2019	2020
Kitterland	12	No count
Cow Harbour - Gibdale Bay	4	3
Gibdale Point – Creg Vennagh	5	5
Centre Glen	5	5
Lighthouses & Stack	4	3
Culbery & Caigher	16	(16)
Puddle & Burroo	3	2
Kione ny Halby	0	1
Big Park & Jane's	5	3
Total	54	38

September and October produced the highest counts of the year, with large numbers often using Baie Fine as a daytime roost during this period. This area is tricky to count accurately from land without flushing all the birds, and a boat-based count on 20th September enabled the most accurate assessment of numbers with 325 counted. Birds are often seen flying along the coast, particularly moving south past Cow Harbour with 421 south on 26th October being the peak count of the season.

(European) Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Foillan

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; breeding numbers have decreased significantly since their peak of 2150 pairs in 1979, with just 530 pairs recorded in 2018

- *Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade:*

10yr period	1959-1968	1969-1978	1979-1988	1989-1998	1999-2008	2009-2018
AON (mean)	1378	1911	1380	888	481	353

Present throughout the season, this is probably the most numerous species to be found on the Calf. Birds were already loosely associating with their colonies when we returned in March and peak counts of 657 on 10th and 674 on 18th March reflect well the breeding population of between 300 – 400 pairs. Unfortunately, no nest counts were possible owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions. Pairs already had chicks when we returned to the Calf in mid-June, however productivity was extremely poor with periods of hot weather believed to be the main limiting factor. The more ‘inland’ colonies, where chicks can gain shelter from vegetation appeared to fair slightly better than the more ‘exposed’ coastal colonies.

Following the breeding season, many birds disperse away from the Calf and counts of less than a hundred become more regular in September and October. However, by the end of October birds had begun returning and several hundred birds often roosted along the east and west coast, depending on wind direction.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Foillan Saggyrt

Common breeding resident and fairly common passage migrant; breeding numbers have remained stable at around 40 – 50 pairs annually, with a peak of 100 in 1967

- *Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade:*

<i>10yr period</i>	<i>1959- 1968</i>	<i>1969- 1978</i>	<i>1979- 1988</i>	<i>1989- 1998</i>	<i>1999- 2008</i>	<i>2009- 2018</i>
<i>AON (mean)</i>	39	41	40	31	36	45

Birds had already started to arrive at their colonies when we arrived on the Calf, with 20 at Kione ny Halby on 6th and another six at the Dubh. Numbers of birds arriving continued to rise through the month, with 39 on 14th and 84 by 18th March. Unfortunately, no further spring counts or nest counts were possible owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

The presence of a small breeding colony on the grassy top of Kitterland has gradually become established over the past few years and up to 14 adults were observed there on 16th & 20th May, suggesting that the small colony was again being used. During the second half of May and through June, one and sometimes two Great Skua were regularly seen on Kitterland and it is

believed that their presence is likely to have resulted in the loss of any chicks and the abandonment of the colony.

Counts of up to 50 birds were commonplace on the Calf during July, with a peak count of 68 on 18th. After 33 on 2nd August, numbers dropped quite quickly as birds began to disperse from their breeding sites and single figure counts were most regular during the remainder of the month. Other than a flock of 29 seen near the Lighthouses on 5th September, there were just three more records in September, with two on 6th & 10th and eight on 20th. October produced just two records, with five in the Front Field on 13th and two there on 20th.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Maarliagh Marrey

Uncommon passage migrant; approximately 252 records involving 1064 individuals, with records in April (13), May (11), June (5), July (13), August (48), September (90), October (61) and November (10)

What was presumably the same individual summered on the Calf and southern shores of the main-island from 2017 – 2019 being seen frequently between April/May and July/August

A single was seen in the Sound on 12th March and may have been the returning bird that has summered during the past three years. Records became more frequent from early May, with singles seen in the Sound on four dates and at least two birds were seen almost daily during the second half of June and then throughout July and the first half of August up to 19th. A colour-ringed bird photographed in the Sound on 16th June had been ringed as a nestling on the Isle of Canna in July 2015 and was different to the two un-ringed birds that summered on the Calf.

The species is gradually expanding its breeding range southwards from its stronghold in the north of Scotland and colonised several un-inhabited islands off the west coast of Ireland in the early 1990's. More recently the species has bred on Rathlin Island, Northern Ireland since 2010 and it would seem possible that the Calf may be the next place for them to colonise.

The first passage birds of autumn were singles seen flying south off Culberty on 4th, 11th, 12th and 13th September and 10th October and two on 9th & 11th October.



Arctic Skua [Parasitic Jaeger] *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Shirragh Varrey

Uncommon passage migrant; approximately 217 records involving 896 individuals, with records in April (5), May (13), June (6), July (9), August (51), September (78), October (54) and November (1)

Autumn passage birds were seen flying south off Culbery, with two on 22nd & 23rd August and 11th September and singles on 26th August and 4th September and 10th October.

Auk Spp. *Uria algae* / *Alca torda*

Three on 19th March was the only record of spring.

Up to 50 were seen on four dates during the second half of June, mostly involving birds moving off South Harbour and flying between breeding sites on the southern cliffs of the Isle of Man and feeding sites to the west of the Calf. Numbers were slightly less in July, with up to 22 seen on six dates in the month and two on 2nd August were the last record of summer. Autumn passage was recorded from 4th September and reflected the low numbers of Guillemot and Razorbill recorded during autumn 2020, with records on just six dates in September with a maximum of 33 on 12th September and up to 77 on five dates in October plus peak monthly counts of 162 on 9th and 174 on 10th October.

Common [Murre] Guillemot *Uria algae*

Stronnag / Chennell

Common breeding resident and autumn passage migrant;

- *Mean estimate of breeding pairs per decade:*

10yr period	1959-1968	1969-1978	1979-1988	1989-1998	1999-2008	2009-2018
AON (mean)	143	95	258	175	157	108

Six were reported during a winter visit on 6th January, with 85 on ledges at the Big Head and Ghaw Yairn colonies as we made the boat trip to the Calf on 6th March. This had risen to 140 birds by the 26th as we departed the islet once again. There were no further counts during spring owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions, however we were allowed to undertake several boat-based seabird counts during early to mid-June and these produced counts of 258 on 8th and 226 on 14th June. Observations of the colonies during June would suggest that approximately 161 pairs were breeding on the Calf, which is 31 more than in 2019 and the highest breeding number recorded since 171 pairs in 2006. Numbers dropped quickly after the end of June, with mostly single figure counts during July up to 23rd and a monthly peak of 18 flying west past South Harbour on 11th.

Autumn records were relatively scarce with a single at Big Head on 13th August and six records of birds flying south past Culbery: two on 11th & one on 27th September and 18 on 9th, two on 10th & a single on 23rd October and two on 4th November.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Coltrag

Common breeding resident and autumn passage migrant;

- *Mean estimate of breeding pairs per decade:*

<i>10yr period</i>	<i>1959-1968</i>	<i>1969-1978</i>	<i>1979-1988</i>	<i>1989-1998</i>	<i>1999-2008</i>	<i>2009-2018</i>
AON (mean)	154	129	127	63	115	128

Present from the start of the season, with a group of 40 seen off Ghaw Yairn on 6th March, then seen on a further seven dates in the month with 32 on 26th as we departed the islet. There were no further counts during spring owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions, however we were allowed to undertake several boat-based seabird counts during early to mid-June and these produced counts of 199 on 8th, 256 on 14th and 200 on 15th June. Observations of the colonies during June would suggest that approximately 152 pairs were breeding on the Calf, which is 32 more than in 2019 and the highest breeding number recorded since 223 pairs in 2010.

Breeding birds were present until the last week of July, then there was an absence of records until three were off Cow Harbour on 17th August, four

were seen off Culbery on 22nd, two were in the Sound on 23rd & 24th and five flew south off Cow Harbour on 25th August. Autumn seabird passage was particularly poor with up to 14 seen on just six dates in September and nine dates in October, plus a peak autumn count of 31 flying south off Culbery on 9th October. Four on 2nd November were the last record of the season.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grille*

Caillagh Ghoo

Uncommon breeding resident and scarce passage migrant; breeding suspected since 1978 was first proven in 2002. Thereafter up to four pairs have been suspected nesting at inaccessible locations on Gibdale Point and below the Lighthouses

A positive series of records during March with up to four birds seen between 8th – 25th, however further spring sightings including any breeding counts were prevented by coronavirus restrictions.

Following a single in the Sound on 1st June, four birds were seen on both 8th & 9th June, during boat-based seabird counts, with one or two seen frequently during the remainder of the month and fairly regular during July, with singles on six dates, two on 21st & 27th and three on 22nd July.

There were no further records until a single in winter-plumage was recorded flying south off the Lighthouses on 11th and another off Cow Harbour on 26th October.

[Atlantic] Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Pibbin / Poltrag

Formerly bred; uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant; between 10 – 40 pairs bred annually from 1959 – 1985, with a maximum of 65 pairs in 1979. After 1985, numbers of breeding pairs declined rapidly and the last two pairs were recorded in 1997.

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

<i>60-year average</i>	<i>2009 to 2018</i>	<i>1999 to 2008</i>	<i>1989 to 1998</i>	<i>1979 to 1988</i>	<i>1969 to 1978</i>	<i>1959 to 1968</i>
<i>20-Apr</i>	<i>14-May</i>	<i>21-Apr</i>	<i>13-Apr</i>	<i>28-Mar</i>	<i>03-Apr</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>10-Sep</i>	<i>11-Aug</i>	<i>26-Sep</i>	<i>29-Sep</i>	<i>31-Aug</i>	<i>20-Sep</i>	<i>n/a</i>

The earliest arrival date was 16th March 1982, with the latest departure date being 6th November 1996.

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions. This also impacted on the MWT project to encourage Puffin to return as a breeding species to the Calf, and it was not possible to use either the decoys or call system during this season.

The first records were made during boat-based seabird surveys in June with singles seen 8th, 9th & 15th and three on 14th June.

Birds were most regularly seen in the Sound and along the East Coast and may refer to a pair thought to be breeding on the nearby Spanish Head. During the second half of the month singles were seen on 21st, 22nd and 29th, with four below the lighthouses on 24th



and six off South Harbour on 30th June. Four were seen again on 2nd & 11th July, with singles on 5th & 8th and two on 21st July. Singles seen in the Sound on 3rd & 6th August almost certainly were from the breeding pair at Spanish Head.

Autumn seawatching produced just one further record with one flying west off Cow Harbour on 3rd September.

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Calmane ny Creggey

Uncommon visitor; it is likely that most, if not all records, refer to racing pigeons

Singles were recorded in March (1), June (2), July (4), August (4) and September (1).

Woodpigeon [Common Wood Pigeon] *Columba palumbus*

Calmane Keylley

Occasional breeder, fairly common passage migrant; one to two pairs bred 1969 – 1975 and one pair in both 2010 and 2018

The only spring record was a single on 24th March.

In autumn, 17 on 15th followed by singles on 16th & 17th October. Six on 3rd and 66 on 7th November. A very poor year.

[Eurasian] Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Formerly bred, uncommon spring and scarce autumn passage migrant; pairs attempted to breed in 1984, 2008, 2010 and 2012

A single was present around the Observatory from 12th to 19th March. Two arrived on 22nd June with a single then present on 24th & 25th June.

In autumn singles were present on 18th - 19th & 30th - 31st July and 24th August and 15th September.

[Common] Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Cooag

Uncommon summer passage migrant; breeding was suspected in 1965, 1971, 1973, 1998 and 2010

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
29-Apr	03-May	30-Apr	02-May	27-Apr	24-Apr	30-Apr
04-Aug	23-Jul	01-Aug	04-Aug	25-Jul	15-Aug	18-Aug

The earliest arrival date was 1st April 2007, with the latest departure date being 7th September 1978.

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions with singles seen around the Front Field on 20th & 25th June being the only records of the year

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Scarce passage migrant; 77 previous records involving 80 individuals, with records in March (2), April (10), May (9), June (2), July (2), August (12), September (10), October (20), November (9) and December (1)

A juvenile was trapped in the Upper Withy on 2nd August. The bird still had neoptile down on its feathers and is likely to have fledged relatively recently from somewhere nearby on the main-Island.

A third consecutive year of this species being recorded, following five blank years in 2011, 2013 & 2014 and 2016 & 2017.



Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Formerly bred, now an uncommon to rare passage migrant; one to three pairs bred almost annually from 1959 to 1981, thereafter breeding attempts were made in 1995, 1996 & 2012 and a pair were successful in 2010

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

One seen flying south at sea off the Lighthouses on 17th October and another the following day seen hunting above Gibdale just after dusk, are likely to be different birds.

[Common] Swift *Apus apus*

Gollan ny Greg

Irregular summer passage migrant;

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

<i>60-year average</i>	<i>2009 to 2018</i>	<i>1999 to 2008</i>	<i>1989 to 1998</i>	<i>1979 to 1988</i>	<i>1969 to 1978</i>	<i>1959 to 1968</i>
<i>02-May</i>	<i>01-May</i>	<i>28-Apr</i>	<i>03-May</i>	<i>03-May</i>	<i>02-May</i>	<i>06-May</i>
<i>26-Aug</i>	<i>08-Aug</i>	<i>29-Aug</i>	<i>17-Aug</i>	<i>04-Sep</i>	<i>07-Sep</i>	<i>25-Aug</i>

The earliest arrival date was 12th April 1996, with the latest departure date being 27th October 1976.

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions with three seen flying high over the Back Field on 25th June being the only record of the year.

An extremely poor showing of a species which is currently suffering a serious decline in numbers of birds returning to breed around the British Isles.

[Common] Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Stannair Ruy

Common breeding resident and passage migrant; breeding was confirmed or suspected in 33 years, usually involving one pair although a peak of three pairs was recorded in 1963 and 1964

Singles were recorded very sporadically during the season with singles on seven dates in March, four in July, three in August, 11 dates in September plus two on 28th and eight dates in October.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Fairly common spring and autumn passage migrant, also common winter visitor;

Two on 15th and singles on four dates up to 21st March were the only spring records.

The first birds of autumn were singles on 1st & 6th September, with records becoming more regular from 26th September and almost daily in October, with two on 9th being the monthly maximum. Singles were recorded daily from 1st – 5th November.

Peregrine [Falcon] *Falco peregrinus*

Shirragh y Ree

Common breeding resident; at least one pair has bred almost annually, with two pairs breeding successfully in 2019

Out of season, one was reported from Big Head on 21st January and up to three were seen regularly in March. Although our absence from the islet during April & May prevented any nest monitoring, it was evident on our return that both pairs were again breeding at the same locations used in 2019. From mid-July their presence across the islet was particularly obvious as both pairs began to train their five offspring; three along the east coast and two along the west coast. Counts of up to six birds were regular throughout the summer months, often putting on displays for visitors and causing havoc amongst the resident gulls. Counts from the beginning of September returned to two or three birds and are likely to reflect the young birds being driven out of territories and the two pairs becoming the resident birds again.

Prey items noted during this season were Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Feral Pigeon, Merlin, Teal, Blackbird, Meadow Pipit, Starling, Redwing and Jackdaw.

[Eurasian] Magpie *Pica pica*

Pieanat/ Piannad

Formerly bred, now uncommon dispersal visitor, mainly in autumn; bred annually in small numbers from 1959 to 1997, with a maximum of 14 pairs in 1979. One pair continued to nest in Mill Giau from 1999 to 2002 and again in 2007

A pair which arrived in late May 2019 and remained on the Calf during last autumn were still present at the beginning of this season. Camera trap footage showed that birds were present during spring around the Millpond and Withy area and on 9th June a recently fledged young was seen in that area. This constituted the first successful breeding record of the species since 2007. The pair and their one young were seen regularly through the remainder of June and early July but were then joined by a further three birds on 11th July. Up to five birds were seen regularly throughout the remainder of the season, with occasional higher counts of six on 15th October, seven on 27th September and eight on 16th September.

[Red-billed] Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Caaig

Common breeding resident; up to 10 pairs breed annually, with a maximum of 14 pairs in 2002, 2005 and 2015

Present throughout the season with pairs already holding territory in March and a single-flock maximum count of 28 on 18th March. Our absence from the islet during April & May, due to coronavirus restrictions, meant that it was only possible to carry out very limited nest monitoring. At least nine pairs attempted to breed, however, with seven being successful in fledging young. Post-fledging survival would appear to have been quite successful this year, with counts of up to 40 across the islet during the summer months. From September regular numbers returned to the high teens, with monthly peak counts of 21 on 10th September and 24 on 6th October.

[Western] Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Caaig/ Juan Teayst

Uncommon dispersal visitor, particularly in autumn;

Spring records were of singles on 14th, 19th and 22nd with two on 23rd March.

There was a lone summer record of a single on 19th July, then autumn arrivals began with 13 on 29th September and three on 4th October. It was not until mid-month that bigger numbers arrived, however, with 130 on 13th, 40 on 14th and 616 on 15th. There were just two further records, with a pair around the Observatory on 6th and three flying west with Rooks on 7th November.



Rook *Corvus ferrugineus*

Trough

Uncommon dispersal visitor, particularly in autumn;

Two on 19th March was the only spring record.

Autumn arrivals began with six on 15th, 14 on 16th and eight on 29th September. Records were more frequent during the first half of October, with up to 16 on six dates and a peak count of 46 on 13th. There were just two records in November with three on 5th and seven on 7th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Occasional breeder and uncommon resident and autumn dispersal visitor; one pair was recorded breeding in 1962 and from 2014 – 2016. Mixed pairs with Hooded Crows have been recorded in several other years

Counts of one or two birds were regular throughout the season, with occasional higher numbers of up to five. Maximum counts were seven on 18th March and in October 24 on 1st, eight on 8th, 16 on 14th, 29 on 15th and nine on 21st.

One bird seen frequently in the Front Field, was paired with a Hooded Crow and is thought to have bred in the vicinity of the Observatory.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Fannag Ghllass

Common breeding resident and autumn dispersal visitor; between 5 – 10 pairs have bred annually

Present throughout the season with counts of up to 20 birds being relatively commonplace, with occasional higher counts including a maximum of 36 on 18th March. Owing to our absence from the islet during April & May, due to coronavirus restrictions, we were unable to carry out any nest monitoring or assessment of breeding numbers, although it is likely that there hasn't been any significant changes in breeding numbers.

Hybrid Carrion x Hooded Crow

Hybridisation is quite common and with several 'mixed' pairs breeding on the Calf, records of up to four birds showing variations in plumage state were seen regularly throughout the season.

[Northern] Raven *Corvus corax*

Feeagh/ Feeagh Vooar

Common breeding resident; one or two pairs have bred almost annually.

Occasional larger flocks of wandering birds are recorded in late summer and early autumn

Two pairs were holding territory when we arrived on the islet in early March and daily counts of up to four reflect this throughout much of the season. Owing to our absence from the islet during April & May, due to coronavirus restrictions, we were unable to carry out any nest monitoring, however on our return in mid-June it was evident that the Lighthouse pair had fledged four young, whilst the Baie Fine pair had fledged at least one young. Counts over the next couple of months reflected the presence of these family groups, however by mid-August young birds had been driven out and counts mostly were of the two remaining pairs. Calm autumnal mornings can sometimes produce flocks moving over the islet just after dawn, with 17 on 20th September and 19 on 16th October being the largest counts of this season.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant; at least 158 previous records of approximately 772 individuals, with records in March (12), April (20), June (1), July (2), August (1), September (38), October (78) and November (6)

An excellent autumn passage began, when four arrived, on the relatively early date of 27th September with a further two on 29th. In October, two were present on 5th & 6th, with one remaining to 7th, then two new birds on 8th, a single on the 11th before the main arrival of 30 on 13th. Further new singles arrived on 14th, 15th & 16th with the latter remaining to 18th. Four more arrived on 21st with one remaining until 22nd when two birds of the Irish subspecies *P.a. hibernicus* were trapped, one of which remained until



7th November. A new nominate race bird arrived on 7th and remained until the season's end on 9th.

A minimum of 51 individuals were recorded with a total of 72 bird-days, comparing to previous 'invasion' years of 77 in 1985, 54 in 1986, 108 in 1994 and 80 in 2018.

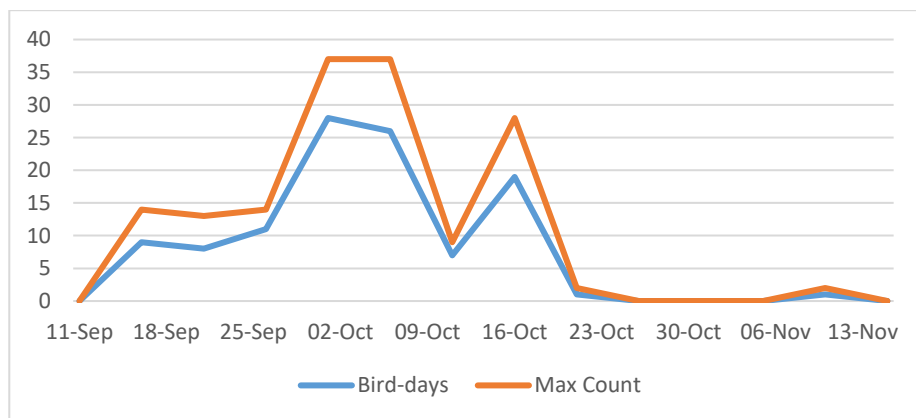
[Eurasian] Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Drean Gorrym

Uncommon autumn passage migrant

Singles trapped at the Observatory on 19th & 26th March were the first spring records since 2016. Other bird observatories on the west coast of the UK reported larger than normal movements of tits during spring 2020, however due to us leaving the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, we were unable to further monitor this.

Autumn passage began with four on 15th September, with low-single figure counts almost daily through to 18th October, with peak counts of nine on 27th September & 14th October and 11 on 1st & 3rd October. Another single was trapped at the Observatory on 6th November.



Great Tit *Parus major*

Drean Moor

Uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant; one pair bred in 2002 & 2009 with two pairs in 2008

Spring passage began on 6th March with 1-5 birds seen daily through to 26th when we left the islet owing to coronavirus restrictions.

In autumn, birds began to arrive from 16th September with up to four birds present daily until 10 on 27th and 23 on 29th September. Twenty-seven were present on 1st October and single figure counts were made daily with occasional higher counts, as small parties arrived and departed, including 10 on 3rd, 13 on 8th, 10 on 11th, 45 on 13th, 10 on 14th and 12 on 16th. Numbers then decreased over the next few days and up to five birds remained until the season's end on 9th November.

[Eurasian] Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

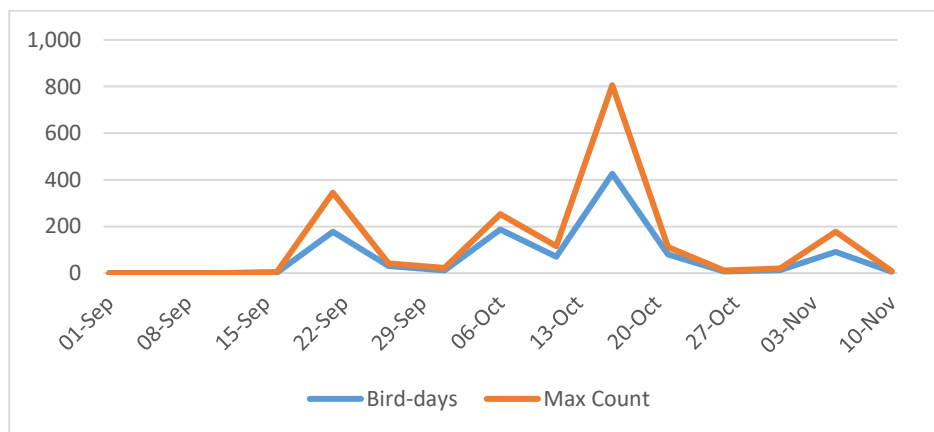
Ushag Tappagh/ Ushag y Tappee / Usagh Happagh / Ushag Cabbagh

Formerly bred, now a scarce spring and reasonably common autumn

migrant; up to 10 pairs bred annually from 1959 to 1985, with a maximum of 15 pairs in 1964

A single, sheltering from a strong westerly wind, on the track above South Harbour on 12th March was the only spring record.

In autumn, passage began with two on 10th September and up to 12 birds were seen fairly regularly with higher counts of 167 on 16th, 66 on 27th and 58 on 29th. Passage was slightly heavier in October, starting with 62 on 1st and with further double-figure counts on seven dates to mid-month, plus a season maximum of 380 on 11th. From mid-October a prolonged period of stormy weather reduced counts to single figures on nine dates although 87 were recorded on 30th during a respite from the windy weather. November produced records of up to three birds daily from 3rd – 7th.



Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Gollan Geinne

Uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant;

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
04-Apr	04-Apr	01-Apr	01-Apr	03-Apr	04-Apr	11-Apr
14-Sep	11-Sep	18-Sep	02-Sep	18-Sep	20-Sep	09-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 12th March 1990, with the latest departure date being 11th October 1999 and 2005

Two on the 25th March were the only records of spring, no further records were possible owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Autumn passage was very light with two on 9th & 19th July, six on 24 August, two on 3rd, 12 on 6th, three on 8th and a single on 9th September.

[Barn] Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Gollan Geayee

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant; up to four pairs have bred almost annually, with a peak of 9 – 10 pairs from 2005 to 2007

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

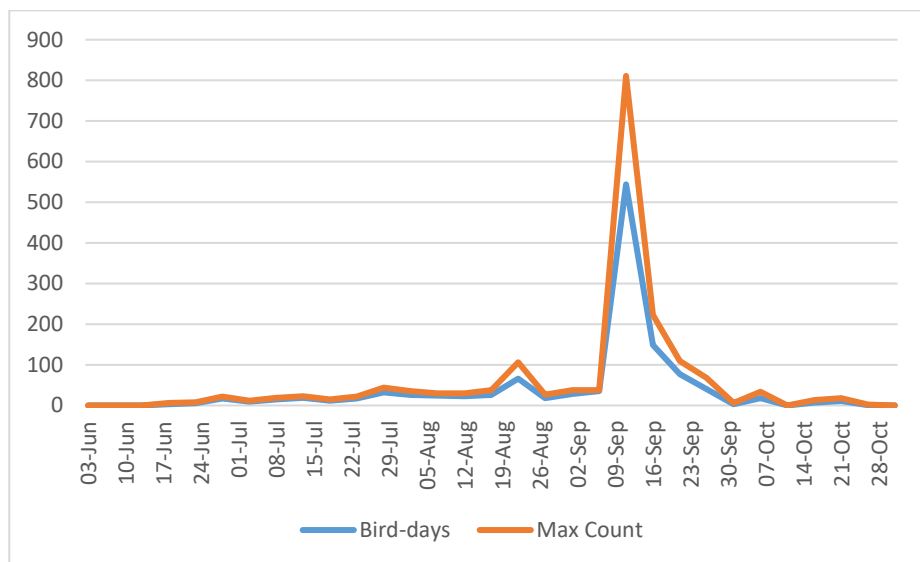
60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
06-Apr	02-Apr	02-Apr	04-Apr	08-Apr	12-Apr	06-Apr
25-Oct	21-Oct	24-Oct	31-Oct	01-Nov	31-Oct	29-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 17th March 1995, with the latest departure date being 28th November 1994

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

Spring migration was over by the time we returned in mid-June and we found two pairs in residence at the Observatory barns and a pair at Jane's House, with daily counts of up to five birds until 19th July when the first juveniles were noted. Counts remained in single figures throughout July and much of the first half of August, except for 12 on 20th July and 9th August. Forty on 13th August was the first of any real movement but it was not until 267 moved through on 4th September that any real passage was seen. This

was followed by 165 on 5th, 104 on 6th and 74 on 8th September, with numbers then remaining in the low double figures through to the end of the month. There was just seven records in October, with a monthly peak of nine seen on 30th and the last four of the season seen on 4th November.



[Common] House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Gollan Thie

Irregular spring & autumn passage migrant and summer visitor;

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
20-Apr	13-Apr	17-Apr	23-Apr	21-Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr
03-Oct	05-Oct	02-Oct	03-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	05-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 23rd March 2001, with the latest departure date being 31st October 1976

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

Two on 25th June were followed by singles on 2nd & 8th August, but then no further records until September when the peak of autumn migration occurred, with six on 6th, 10 on 14th, a single on 16th, three on 21st, 25 on 24th and two on 25th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalus caudatus*

Scarce passage migrant; at least 77 previous records involving approximately 577 individuals, with records in March (10), April (1), September (3), October (42) and November (21)

A single trapped in the back garden of the Observatory on 23rd March is just the 11th record for that month.

In autumn, six arrived on the relatively early date of 15th October and then a single was at the Observatory on 8th November.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Drean Vane

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; one pair bred in 1970 and 2007.

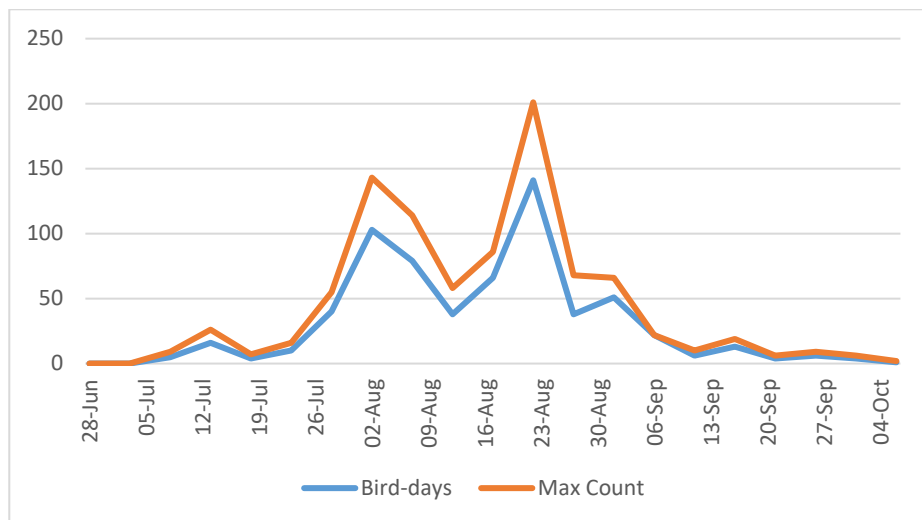
- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
01-Apr	29-Mar	27-Mar	29-Mar	04-Apr	04-Apr	06-Apr
02-Oct	04-Oct	24-Sep	14-Oct	01-Oct	01-Oct	26-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 13th March 2016, with the latest departure date being 17th November 1991

The first of spring were two around the Observatory on 25th March, however no further spring sightings were recorded owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

A pair and two recently fledged juveniles on 1st July were the first indications that the 4th ever breeding record had been successful, with another juvenile trapped on 4th. Autumn got underway soon after, with the first arrival of 10 passage birds on 8th but despite this early promise there wasn't any further passage until 16th, where after single figure counts occurred daily, plus double figure counts on eight dates to the month end including a maximum of 40 on 24th July. August began with 35 on 1st with a further 17 double-figure counts in the month including the maximum count of the year, of 60 on 16th August. Passage slowed towards the end of month and there were no records in September until 5th, then up to four were recorded on 15 dates up to the 27th September, plus a monthly maximum of six on 9th.



[Common] Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Beealerey

Common spring and autumn migrant; one or two breeding attempts in 15 years since the first in 1982

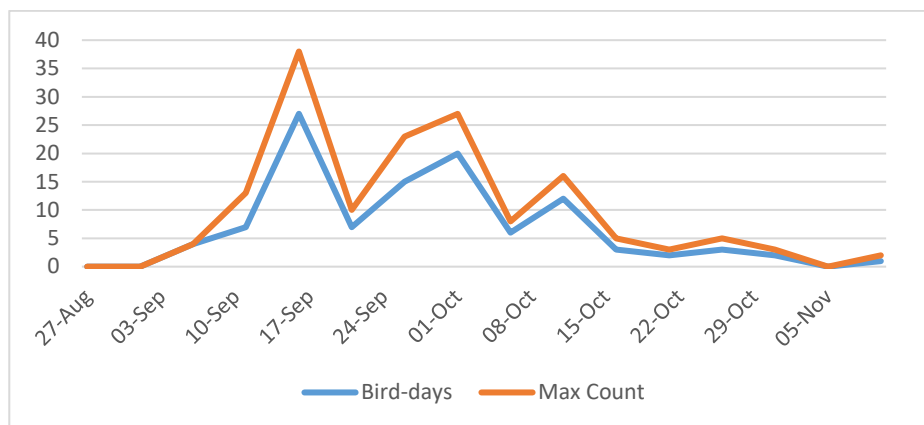
- Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
20-Mar	15-Mar	20-Mar	15-Mar	22-Mar	23-Mar	25-Mar
10-Nov	12-Nov	17-Nov	17-Nov	08-Nov	16-Nov	05-Oct

The earliest arrival date was 4th March 1978, with the latest departure date being 4th December 1992

First of the year was a single on 17th March, with up to five then recorded daily from 19th – 26th, with a maximum of 16 on 22nd March, however no further spring sightings were recorded owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Summer records consisted of an adult male trapped at the Observatory on 7th and a juvenile on 12th July, otherwise it was not until a single on 30th and three on 31st August saw autumn passage get underway. Main passage occurred from 5th September and was generally light with 1-8 birds recorded almost daily through to 5th October, with a maximum 11 on 9th September. Passage in October became more sporadic with 1 - 4 on 11 dates in the month.



Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c tristis*

An individual showing characteristics of this subspecies was trapped and ringed on 5th November and was still present in the back garden on 6th.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Scarce passage migrant; 69 previous records involving 116 individuals, with records in April (2), May (24), June (1), July (3), August (31) and September (8)

- Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
14-May	05-Jun	07-May	11-May	15-May	11-May	n/a
18-Aug	19-Aug	31-Aug	13-Aug	18-Aug	22-Aug	09-Aug

The earliest arrival date was 23rd April 1978, with the latest departure date being 26th September 1985

Records were almost annual up to 2006, but since 2009 there have been just nine records, from six years.

One trapped in the Observatory back garden on 3rd August maintains the current run of August records to three years, following an absence of records of 16 years in that month.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus**

Rare autumn passage migrant; 59 previous records involving 61 individuals, with records in September (13), October (45) and November (1)

A record-breaking autumn with six individuals, all trapped and ringed at the Observatory; 24th - 25th, 28th and 29th September and 1st, 6th - 8th and 7th October.



Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn passage migrant; breeding has been confirmed or suspected in 12 years, involving one pair

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
22-Apr	21-Apr	24-Apr	22-Apr	20-Apr	25-Apr	23-Apr
12-Sep	02-Sep	13-Sep	09-Sep	17-Sep	16-Sep	13-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 12th April 1980 and 1981, with the latest departure date being 7th October 1975

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Spring bird-days	-	6	7	2	3
Autumn bird-days	1	2	1	3	1

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

Autumn passage began with a single on 11th July and further singles on four dates to the end of the month, plus four on 19th and three on 24th July. Passage continued to 27th August with 1-2 on 10 dates and peak counts of four on 6th and three on 9th & 16th.

- *Bird-day totals by year:*

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Spring bird-days	COVID	102	84	233	106
Autumn bird-days	35	19	52	42	46

[Eurasian] Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus**

Rare passage migrant; 75 previous records involving 78 individuals, since the first in 1970, with records occurring in April (5), May (24), June (12), August (15), September (14), October (4) and November (1)

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
15-May	18-May	12-May	20-May	15-May	27-Apr	Nil
14-Sep	03-Sep	06-Sep	11-Oct	13-Sep	03-Sep	Nil

The earliest arrival date was 17th April 2019, with the latest departure date being 17th November 1998

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions. This species has been recorded with increasing frequency during the springs of recent years.

- *Bird-day totals by year:*

A single trapped in the front hedge on 21st October was the only record and just the fifth to occur in that month.

[Common] Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Formerly common passage migrant, now uncommon passage migrant; one pair bred in 1971 and two birds held territory in 1982



- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

<i>60-year average</i>	<i>2009 to 2018</i>	<i>1999 to 2008</i>	<i>1989 to 1998</i>	<i>1979 to 1988</i>	<i>1969 to 1978</i>	<i>1959 to 1968</i>
<i>21-Apr</i>	<i>18-Apr</i>	<i>20-Apr</i>	<i>20-Apr</i>	<i>18-Apr</i>	<i>24-Apr</i>	<i>03-May</i>
<i>08-Sep</i>	<i>03-Sep</i>	<i>07-Sep</i>	<i>06-Sep</i>	<i>10-Sep</i>	<i>17-Sep</i>	<i>04-Sep</i>

The earliest arrival date was 2nd April 2004, with the latest departure date being 19th October 1985

There were no records of this species during the season – the first time in the Observatories 62-year history.

Although the species has become considerably scarcer in recent decades, our absence from the islet during spring, owing to coronavirus restrictions, was undoubtedly a contributing factor to this species not being recorded during 2020.

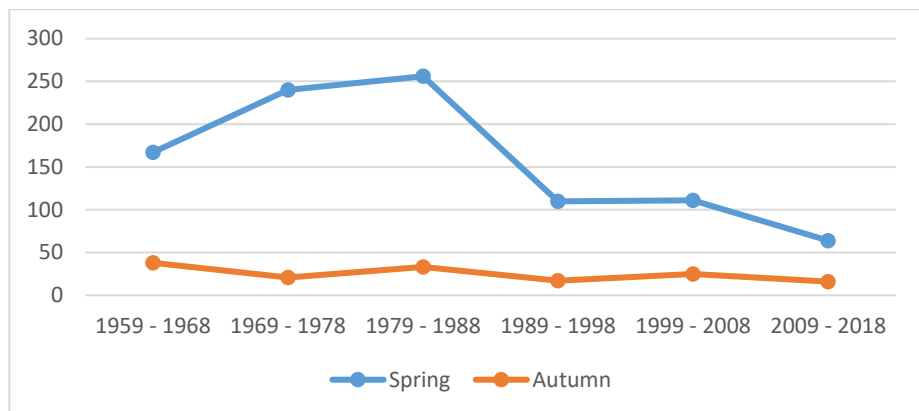


Figure 1 Bird day totals per decade of Grasshopper Warbler records in Spring & Autumn

[Eurasian] Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Bayrn Dhoo

Formerly uncommon migrant, now common spring and autumn passage migrant;

- Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

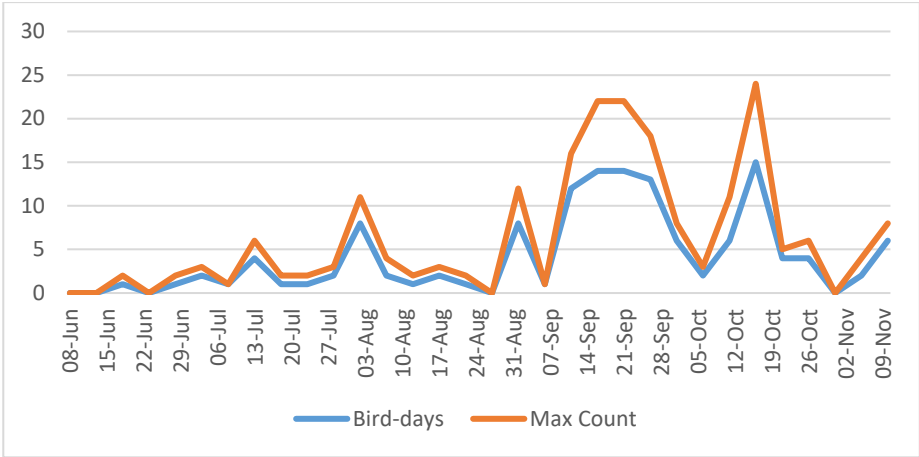
60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
13-Apr	31-Mar	03-Apr	10-Apr	15-Apr	23-Apr	04-May
08-Nov	11-Nov	16-Nov	12-Nov	11-Nov	13-Nov	11-Oct

The earliest arrival date was 2nd March 1977, with the latest departure date being 28th November 2001 and 2009

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, although a singing male behind the Observatory on 9th June was likely one of the last spring passage birds.

Autumn dispersal began with a control female on 20th June, which had been ringed in Dumfries & Galloway at the end of May, and further singles on four dates until the first juvenile arrived on 7th July. Records were fairly sporadic during July and August with 1-2 birds recorded on 10 and nine dates respectively, plus maximum counts of three on 26th & 28th July and four on 24th August. Peak passage occurred in September but was still rather poor with low single figure counts on 20 dates and monthly peak counts of eight on 10th & 16th. Whilst this pattern continued through much of October with 1 - 3 on 13 dates and peak monthly counts of five on 6th and nine on 9th.

Records during the last third of October were scarce owing to a prolonged period of inclement weather, but following two on 31st October records in November involved 1 – 2 daily with peak counts of eight on 6th, four on 8th and five on 9th.



Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Kiaulleyder Garee

Uncommon passage migrant;

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
08-May	07-May	03-May	07-May	05-May	12-May	11-May
08-Oct	30-Sep	01-Oct	15-Oct	17-Oct	20-Oct	19-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 13th April 1963, with the latest departure date being 18th November 1998

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.



- *Spring bird-day totals by year*

Year	2019	2018	2017
	14	5	15

Autumn passage involved singles on 26th July and 3rd, 8th, 9th & 22nd and two on 6th August. A relatively late individual was trapped on 15th October.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Scarce passage migrant; 127 previous records involving 168 individuals, with records in April (10), May (71), June (3), August (5), September (20) and October (18)

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
09-May	30-Apr	17-May	06-May	06-May	15-May	06-May
01-Oct	10-Oct	03-Oct	24-Sep	20-Sep	18-Oct	21-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 19th April 2009, with the latest departure date being 18th November 1998

There were no records of this species for the first time since 2015. Most records (73%) of this species occur in spring and our absence from the islet, owing to coronavirus restrictions, is likely to be a major factor in this species not being recorded in 2020.

[Common] Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Fynnag ny Keylley

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; recorded as breeding in 35 years normally involving one to three pairs, although four pairs were recorded in 1980 and five pairs in 1963 and 1964

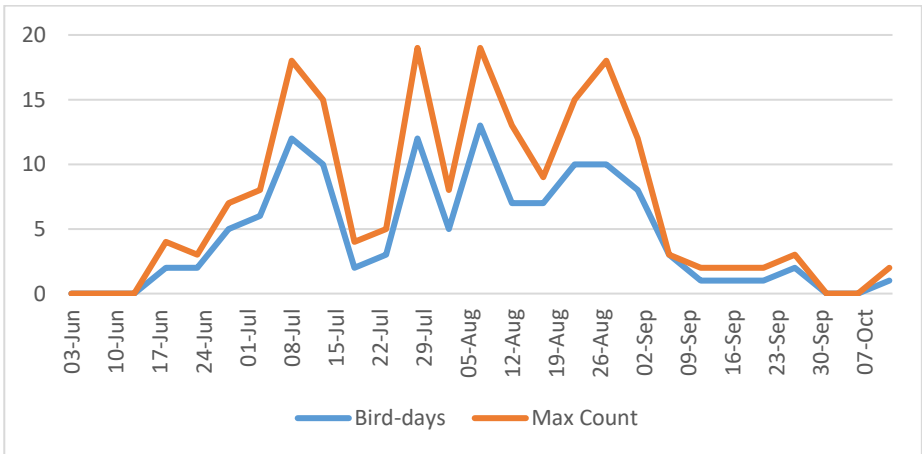
- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
24-Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr	25-Apr	25-Apr	29-Apr	22-Apr
26-Sep	23-Sep	21-Sep	21-Sep	28-Sep	05-Oct	26-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 6th April 1961, with the latest departure date being 30th October 1973

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

At least three singing males were very much in evidence on our return to the islet in June, with birds holding territory at the Observatory, Millpond and at the Triangle. Up to four birds were recorded in June, with three males and three females being present on 1st July and then recently-fledged juveniles began to appear from 4th. This increased numbers of birds seen, with five on 8th and seven on 20th, which included two broods of newly fledged young, at the Withy, totalling five juveniles. The presence of these juveniles rather muddies the picture of autumn passage starting, however it is likely that the first passage birds moved through on 29th July with at least six birds present on 1st & 3rd August. Main passage was very light with 1-2 birds seen on 15 dates in August, plus higher counts of five on 16th, eight on 18th and four on 24th. Occasional birds arrived in September with singles on five dates up to the 20th and the final bird was recorded on 2nd October. This is the joint latest record in the last decade, with 2015, and the latest date recorded since 2003.



[Common] Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Rare passage migrant; 89 previous records involving 98 individuals, with records in March (8), April (15), May (10), June (5), August (1), September (5), October (33) and November (12)

- Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
23-Apr	24-Mar	24-Mar	05-May	29-Apr	05-May	05-Apr
28-Oct	23-Oct	31-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	27-Oct	07-Oct

The earliest arrival date was 11th March 1966, with the latest departure date being 29th November 2002

A first-year male was a surprise capture on a very wet & windy 31st October and remained through to 3rd November. The month of October accounts for the majority of records for this species on the Calf.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Ushag y Fuygh

Very common spring and autumn passage migrant;

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

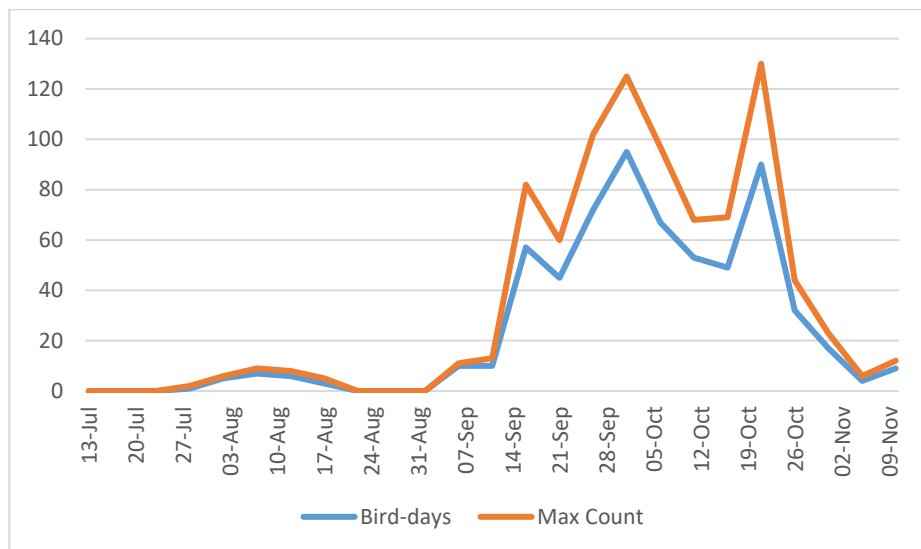
<i>60-year average</i>	<i>2009 to 2018</i>	<i>1999 to 2008</i>	<i>1989 to 1998</i>	<i>1979 to 1988</i>	<i>1969 to 1978</i>	<i>1959 to 1968</i>
15-Mar	10-Mar	17-Mar	14-Mar	13-Mar	19-Mar	18-Mar
16-Nov	19-Nov	23-Nov	22-Nov	20-Nov	16-Nov	11-Oct

The earliest arrival date was 15th February 2013, with the latest departure date being 16th December 2012

Spring passage began with a single on 8 – 9th March, then from 13th birds were recorded daily with double-figure counts on 10 dates up to 26th, with maximum counts of 50 on 23rd & 26th. However, no further spring sightings were recorded owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Dispersing juveniles arrived on 21st and 24th July and remained until 10th August.

Autumn passage began on 29th August with single figure counts continuing almost daily until 25 arrived on 10th September. Passage remained relatively light through September with mainly low double figure counts on a further 13 dates in the month including peak monthly counts of 30 on 21st, 22nd & 27th September. Counts of between five and 20 were recorded daily during the first half of October, with a monthly maximum of 40 on 12th. After 12 on 18th, numbers recorded were of just low single figures through to 8th November.



[Eurasian] Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Rare dispersal visitor; 77 previous records involving 81 individuals, with records in March (2), April (5), June (9), July (35), August (13), September (6) and October (7)

A record-breaking year, with seven individuals trapped at the Observatory: early dispersing juveniles were present on 12th & 21st July and 1st & 14th - 18th August, whilst in autumn further individuals arrived on 20th September and 14th - 16th and 17th October.

The previous best years were five records in 1964 and six in 1995.

[Eurasian] Wren *Troglodyte troglodytes*

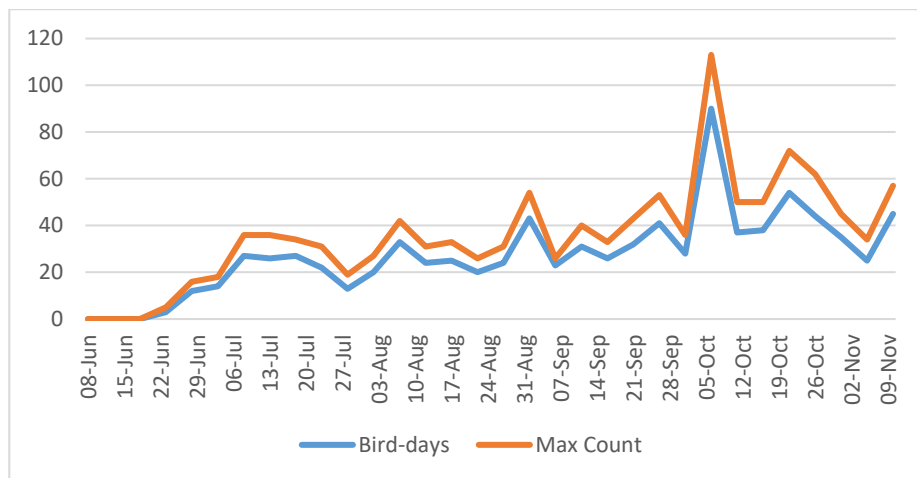
Drean

Common breeding resident, some passage is likely to occur although not always obvious; bred in all years, except 1984. Breeding numbers have fluctuated somewhat depending on winter survival rates, with peaks of 60 pairs in 1972 and 1982

No breeding counts were possible owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Daily counts of less than 10 are most common, although this is unlikely to reflect the true status of this diminutive and secret species. Occasional

higher counts may reflect greater levels of coverage, more favourable weather conditions for hearing birds calling/singing and also the possibility of influx by passage birds. The latter is likely to be reason for the increase seen in late September and early October when peak counts of 23 on 27th & 22 on 29th September and 21 on 1st October occurred.



Rose-coloured [Rosy] Starling *Pastor roseus*

Very rare vagrant; three previous records all involved singles, with an adult in the Front Field on 13th June 2003, a 1st winter bird at the Observatory on 15th October 2004 and an adult female/2nd year male at the Withy from 8th – 16th June 2013

The fourth Calf record was an adult found shortly before dusk on 6th July (RKF). The bird, a probable female, was present for about ten minutes sat in a Sycamore in the corner of the Front Field. Record shots of the bird were obtained, before it flew off west.

This record was part of a large influx of the species into the British Isles during spring 2020 and follows similar irruptions in 2002 & 2018. Weather conditions during spring were largely settled and warm and this is believed to stimulate birds to overshoot their breeding grounds of Central Asia and south-east Europe, and push westwards through Europe. The species has also been extending its range westwards and has colonised parts of Bulgaria and Romania since the turn of the millennium.



[Common] Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Truittlag

Formerly bred, now uncommon spring passage migrant and common post-breeding dispersal visitor and autumn passage migrant; bred almost annually from 1962 to 1986 with a maximum of 35 – 50 pairs in 1971

Early spring records were quite sporadic with a maximum of 29 on 17th March and lower counts on eight other dates from 13th – 26th March, when we had to leave the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Post-juvenile dispersion began with an adult and juvenile present on 9th June, then records became regular from 18th when we returned to the islet, with a monthly maximum of 45 on 25th June. July saw the peak dispersal of young birds with records on 16 dates up to the 24th, with peak counts of 140 on 7th and 100 on both 8th & 9th July. Occasional records of 1 – 5 birds occurred on four dates in both August and September, plus a maximum of six on 16th September. Main autumn passage occurred from 3rd October and built during the second half of the month, with a monthly maximum of 1435 on 30th, however these were eclipsed by 1941 on 4th and 3543 on 5th November.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant;

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
06-Apr	15-Apr	02-Apr	09-Apr	05-Apr	01-Apr	01-Apr
18-Oct	25-Oct	09-Oct	24-Oct	21-Oct	21-Oct	03-Oct

The earliest arrival date was 6th March 1966, with the latest departure date being 20th November 2015

A male around the Observatory on 26th March was the first and only record of the spring, owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

An early autumn record with one in the Front Field on 18th September, however no further records during the autumn continues the downward trend in occurrences of this species during the past decade.

- *Bird-day totals by year:*

Year	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Spring bird-days	6	4	1	1	0
Autumn bird-days	7	5	17	3	4

[Common] Blackbird *Turdus merula*

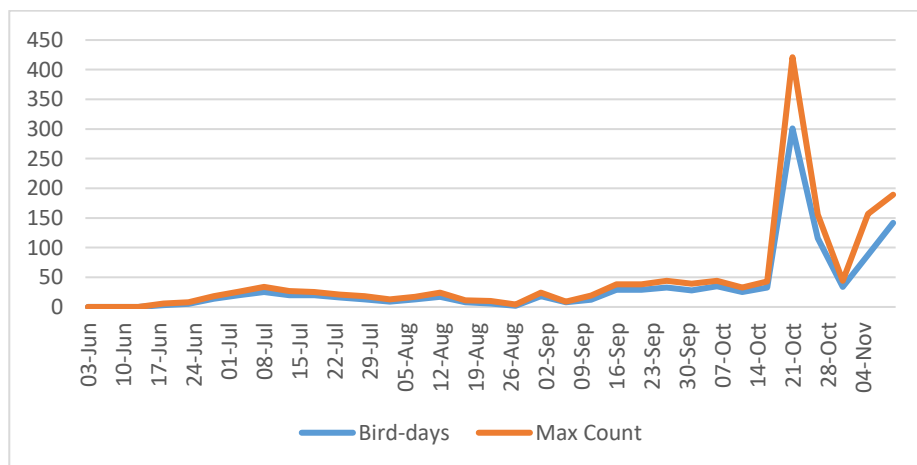
Lhondhoo

Common breeding resident and passage migrant; bred annually from 1959 to 1993, with a maximum of 25 pairs in 1981. Absent as a breeding species from 1994 to 2000 and again in 2003, however small numbers have bred in all other years with a peak of 7-8 pairs in 2016 and 2018

Little or no spring passage was noted and breeding counts were not possible owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Breeding success would seem to have been fairly low with daily counts between 1 – 7 during June to August and only 17 locally-bred juveniles trapped in those three months. During August, there were nine dates when the species wasn't observed, and this probably reflects this poor breeding success as well as low adult survival post-breeding; this is confirmed by ringing records that show only three resident adults were retrapped in September.

Autumn passage began in early October, with 10 recorded on 8th, 12 on 12th and 23 on 13th before larger arrivals of 100 on 14th and 120 on 15th occurred. Autumn gales that persisted for most of the second half of October prevented any further arrivals until 69 on 31st October and daily counts of up to 45 during November, plus higher counts of 120 on 6th and 55 on 7th.



Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Ushag sniaghtey

Uncommon winter visitor and common passage migrant;

- Average spring departure and autumn arrival dates:

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
02-May	17-Apr	03-May	27-Apr	07-May	17-May	01-May
06-Oct	13-Oct	13-Oct	14-Oct	09-Oct	30-Sep	26-Sep

The latest spring departure date was 12th June 2017, with the earliest autumn arrival date being 19th August 1971

Spring records were very few with just singles on 7th, 23rd, 24th, 25th and two on 26th March. A final spring departure date was not possible owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

Thirty-eight on 13th October were the first returning birds of autumn, with low double-figure counts daily through to 18th and peak counts of 62 on 15th and 66 on 17th. Strong south-westerly winds during the last third of the month restricted passage somewhat with single figure counts on a further

seven dates plus 19 on 27th and 15 on 30th October. Passage was at its strongest during November, with almost daily counts to 9th including 36 on 4th, 57 on 5th, 71 on 6th and 56 on 7th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Lhon Geayee

Uncommon winter visitor and common passage migrant;

- *Average spring departure and autumn arrival dates:*

<i>60-year average</i>	<i>2009 to 2018</i>	<i>1999 to 2008</i>	<i>1989 to 1998</i>	<i>1979 to 1988</i>	<i>1969 to 1978</i>	<i>1959 to 1968</i>
<i>22-Apr</i>	<i>14-Apr</i>	<i>13-Apr</i>	<i>22-Apr</i>	<i>25-Apr</i>	<i>11-May</i>	<i>18-Apr</i>
<i>03-Oct</i>	<i>09-Oct</i>	<i>04-Oct</i>	<i>05-Oct</i>	<i>02-Oct</i>	<i>26-Sep</i>	<i>01-Oct</i>

The latest spring departure date was 4th June 1977, with the earliest autumn arrival date being 16th September 1972

Four on the 7th March were the first of the season, with further records in the month being two on 17th, singles 18th, 19th, 23rd & 25th and finally five on 26th. A final spring departure date was not possible owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

The first returning bird wasn't until the 7th October but numbers then built nicely with 110 on 14th and 85 on 15th. As with many other species, however, numbers were very low during the last third of October due to a lengthy period of inclement and stormy weather. Single figure counts occurred daily during November to 9th, with peak counts of 12 on 5th, 45 on 6th and 21 on 7th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

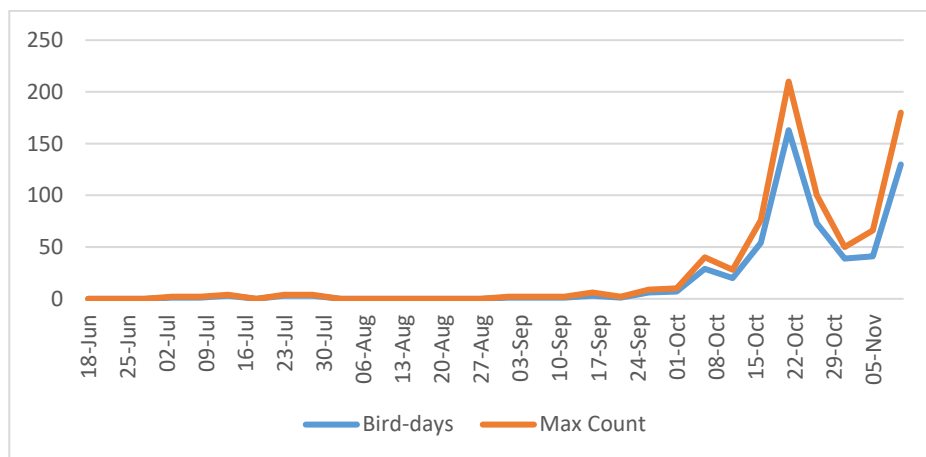
Lhon/ Thresh Len

Common passage migrant; one or two pairs have been suspected of breeding on eight occasions

A light spring passage was recorded with three on 6th and then 1 – 2 on 10 further dates in March. No further spring sightings were recorded owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Dispersal of post-breeding birds and juveniles began with a single on 26th June, then three adult birds were trapped during the first week of July. The first juveniles arrived on 17th & 20th July but then there was an absence of records until one of the adults was re-trapped at the Witherly on 23rd August

and then again on 5th September. Another adult, originally ringed on 2nd July was then re-trapped on 10th September. Both birds were not seen in between captures and one must wonder quite where they had been hiding. Autumn passage gradually built pace with 1 – 3 birds recorded on 12 dates in September, from 10th, plus peak counts of eight on 27th and 11 on 29th. Passage was at its peak in October with single figure counts on 16 dates, double figure counts, up to 28, on 11 dates and peak counts of 36 on 13th, 47 on 14th and 40 on 15th. Passage slowed during the last third of October, owing to stormy and inclement weather but resumed from 30th with double figure counts then daily through to the season's end on 9th November, with an autumn peak count of 50 on 5th November.



Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Lhon Keylley

Uncommon passage migrant mostly in autumn; one pair bred from 1969 to 1973, with another suspected breeding attempt in 1979

One to three recorded on eight dates during October, with higher counts of 12 on 11th, five on 13th, 26 on 14th and four on 15th coinciding with a particularly calm spell of weather. In November, a single on 3rd proceeded higher counts of 37 on 4th, 22 on 5th and six on 6th.

The count of 37 on 4th November is the fourth highest day count in the Observatory's history, being beaten by 38 on 24th October 1987 and 40 on 28th October 1987 and 9th November 2001.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Skybbyltagh Breck

Common spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn passage migrant; one pair bred in 1971 and 1992

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
06-May	06-May	01-May	05-May	05-May	08-May	10-May
26-Sep	19-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep	29-Sep	29-Sep	01-Oct

The earliest arrival date was 22nd April 2007, with the latest departure date being 20th October 1968

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

An above average autumn passage began on 6th August and was generally light with one or two birds recorded on eight dates in August, plus four on 16th & 24th. Similarly, in September one or two birds recorded on 13 dates up to the last on 23rd.

- *Bird-day totals by year:*

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Spring bird-days	-	123	221	62	105
Autumn bird-days	40	26	31	13	65

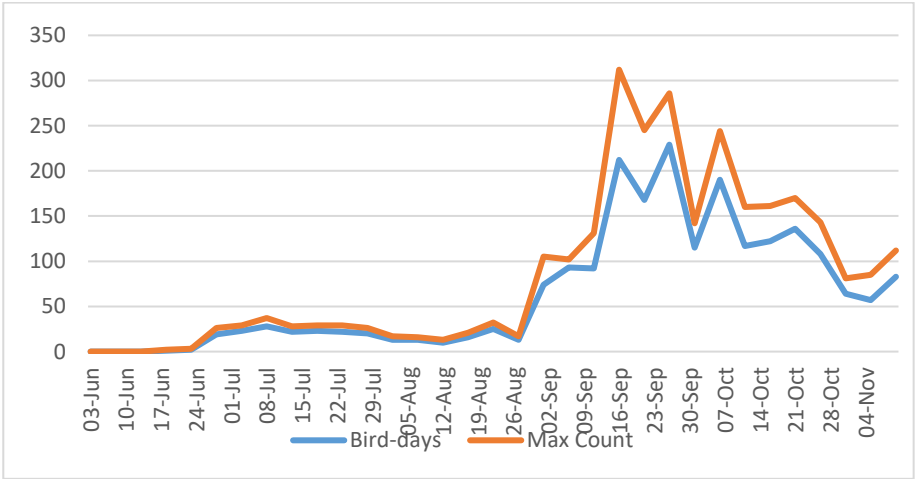
[European] Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Cleean Jiarg/ Spittag

Occasional breeding resident and common passage migrant; first proven to breed in 1967, up to six pairs nested almost annually up to 1993. The species next bred in 1998 with just one or two pairs then breeding in 11 of the next 21 years

A light spring passage was recorded during March, although this is somewhat masked by the presence of at least seven birds that had over-wintered. Recorded daily in March, up to 26th, with double figure counts on eight days including the peak count of 18 on 20th. No further spring counts were made owing to our absence due to coronavirus restrictions, however our return in mid-June was just in time to be able to assess breeding evidence, with at least three pairs being present.

Following our return to the islet, counts of up to seven birds were made daily through to mid-August, with autumn passage beginning during the last week of August with peak monthly counts of 31 on 27th and 36 on 30th. Main passage occurred in September with double figure counts, up to 57, occurring daily after 2nd, plus a peak monthly count of 100 on 10th. A steady passage continued through October with double figure counts, of up to 43, on 26 dates in the month and up to 29 on seven dates in November.



[European] Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Increasingly rare spring migrant and scarce autumn passage migrant; at least 231 previous records involving approximately 458 individuals, with records in April (11), May (48), June (6), August (78), September (66), October (20) and November (2)

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
05-May	27-Apr	02-May	13-May	04-May	08-May	28-Apr
25-Sep	08-Sep	23-Sep	04-Oct	04-Oct	25-Sep	18-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 17th April 2018, with the latest departure date being 15th November 1995

There were no records of this increasingly rare passage migrant, despite a better than average autumn across much of the British Isles for the species, with many observatories recording the best passage for several years. The

species has been recorded here during the last three spring passages and our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, is likely to have played its part in this species not being recorded in 2020.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Rare passage migrant; 29 previous records since the first in 1960, with records occurring in April (1), May (7), June (7), September (5), October (10) and November (1)

An immature / female type bird was trapped in the Observatory back garden on the morning of 19th June. Amazingly, this was just the 2nd bird trapped following our return to the islet after lockdown and continues the run of spring records to four consecutive years.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant; at least 243 previous records involving approximately 464 individuals, with records in January (1), February (3), March (28), April (52), May (48), June (12), July (3), August (3), September (1), October (46) and November (46)

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
05-Apr	03-Apr	31-Mar	07-Apr	10-Apr	28-Mar	15-Apr
03-Nov	03-Nov	03-Nov	12-Nov	10-Nov	05-Nov	21-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 7th March 1966, with the latest departure date being 30th November 1982

A single present at the Lighthouses on 7th & 8th March was the only spring record.

In autumn, one was trapped at the Observatory on 22nd October.

[Common] Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Formerly common passage migrant, now uncommon passage migrant;

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
19-Apr	21-Apr	23-Apr	20-Apr	16-Apr	21-Apr	14-Apr
29-Sep	29-Sep	23-Sep	29-Sep	03-Oct	08-Oct	18-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 24th March 1961, with the latest departure date being 31st October 1987

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

Autumn passage was very poor and consisted of just five singles with immature males on 16th - 17th and 24th August and female types on 29th August, at the Triangle on 16th and trapped at the Observatory on 18th September.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Formerly common passage migrant, now scarce passage migrant; bred in 1943 and 1957 with potential breeding records in 1979 and 1990

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
28-Apr	04-May	25-Apr	28-Apr	25-Apr	28-Apr	28-Apr
26-Sep	09-Sep	01-Oct	23-Sep	12-Oct	02-Oct	13-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 17th April 2008, with the latest departure date being 7th November 2009

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

- *Bird-day totals by year:*

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Spring bird-days	-	16	7	15	3
Autumn bird-days	1	13	19	3	5

There was only one autumn record of a bird at the Triangle on 15th September. An extremely poor showing and it seemed conceivable that the species might not be recorded at all in 2020.

[European] Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Boid y Chonne / Kione Dhoo y Eeigyn

Common breeding resident and passage migrant; up to 12 pairs breed almost annually, although numbers fluctuate depending on winter survival, with a peak count of 21 pairs in 1974

Up to four recorded almost daily from 6th – 26th March, plus high counts of up to 11 from 18th – 20th, which may indicate a light spring passage. No further spring counts or breeding census were possible owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Juvenile birds were already present when we returned to the Calf in mid-June and owing to the mobile nature of the species it was impossible to assess the breeding population. It would seem that early broods had been successful with 18 locally-bred young ringed up to the end of July, although only one more was ringed in August. Counts of up to eight were commonplace during summer and autumn with monthly peaks of nine on 21st July and 11 on 29th September and 10 on 18th October.

[Northern] Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Claggan Cloaie

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant; single figure breeding numbers were recorded almost annually from 1959 to 1984, where after numbers increased to 30 pairs by 1990. Breeding numbers have probably remained largely stable over the last 30 years and possibly increased slightly with a peak of 40 pairs in 2018 and 2019

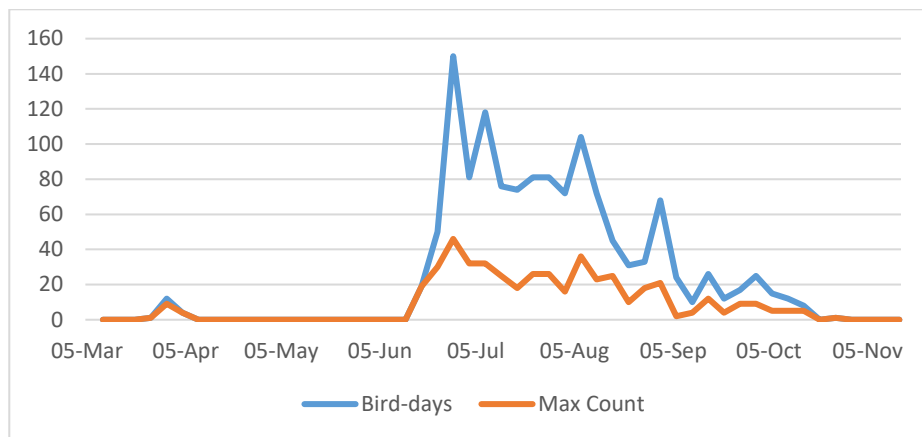
- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

<i>60-year average</i>	<i>2009 to 2018</i>	<i>1999 to 2008</i>	<i>1989 to 1998</i>	<i>1979 to 1988</i>	<i>1969 to 1978</i>	<i>1959 to 1968</i>
20-Mar	18-Mar	19-Mar	20-Mar	20-Mar	21-Mar	20-Mar
17-Oct	11-Oct	17-Oct	16-Oct	19-Oct	23-Oct	10-Oct

The earliest arrival date was 8th March 2016, with the latest departure date being 8th November 2019

First of spring were two on 22nd March followed by nine on 25th and four on 26th. Unfortunately, no further spring records or breeding counts were possible owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Many juveniles were already present when we returned to the islet in mid-June and counts of 15 - 35 were commonplace to the end of August, with a peak count of 46 on 21st June. In September & October, single figure counts occurred almost daily through to the 9th October, with a maximum of 12 on 10th September. The last record of the year was a single at Big Head on 18th October.



House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Jallyn

Formerly bred, now uncommon passage migrant; the species was undoubtedly more common pre-1959 and bred around the farmhouse. Since farming ceased the only breeding records were in 1971 and 1972

A female trapped in the Observatory back garden on 27th September and three different groups of three birds were seen around the Observatory on 13th, 15th & 16th October.

[Eurasian] Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Scarce spring and uncommon autumn migrant;

Three flying over the Observatory on 13th October was the only record of the year.

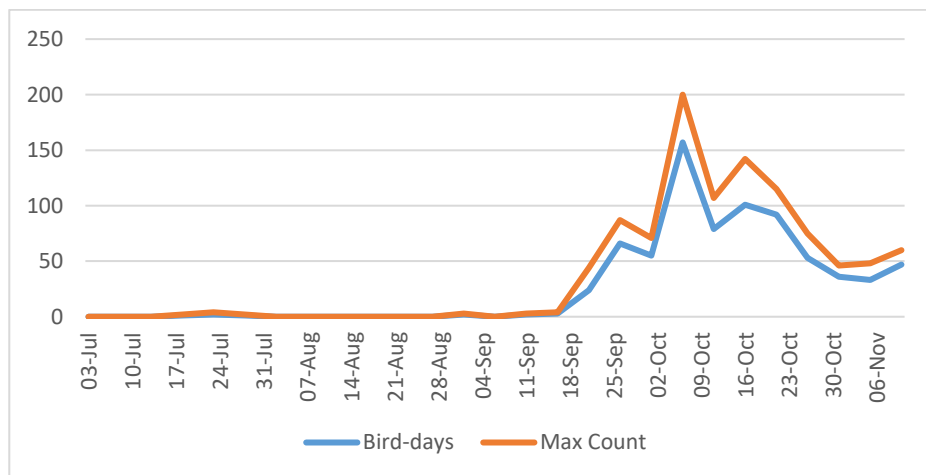
Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

Drean Mollagh /Bogh Keeir

Formerly bred, now occasional breeder, rare spring passage migrant and common autumn passage migrant; bred annually from 1959 to 1998, with a maximum of 27 pairs in 1974. Mostly absent as a breeding species from 1999 with just one or two pairs recorded in 2002, 2016 and 2017

One or two birds were recorded from 8th – 26th March, with ringing data showing that this included a bird originally ringed in October 2019 that may have over-wintered. This same bird was subsequently re-trapped several times in October 2020, although was not recorded in between. There were no further spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

The species is often very secretive and our absence from the islet through April and May did not help in determining their presence as a breeding bird. In July, however, three juveniles were trapped between 12th – 20th and it would seem likely that these were locally-bred rather than being dispersing juveniles from elsewhere. There were no further records until a single was seen near the quartz rock on Caigher on 24th & 27th August. Autumn passage began slowly with 1 – 2 birds recorded on seven dates during the first half of September. Then 20 on 16th September kick started an excellent series of records which included double figure counts on 29 dates to the end of October with monthly maxima of 43 on 27th & 29th September and 41 on 8th October. November saw counts of up to 13 daily, although ringing data showed that many of these birds had originally arrived during October. An influx of new birds was recorded on 7th when the month peak of 17 were recorded.



Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

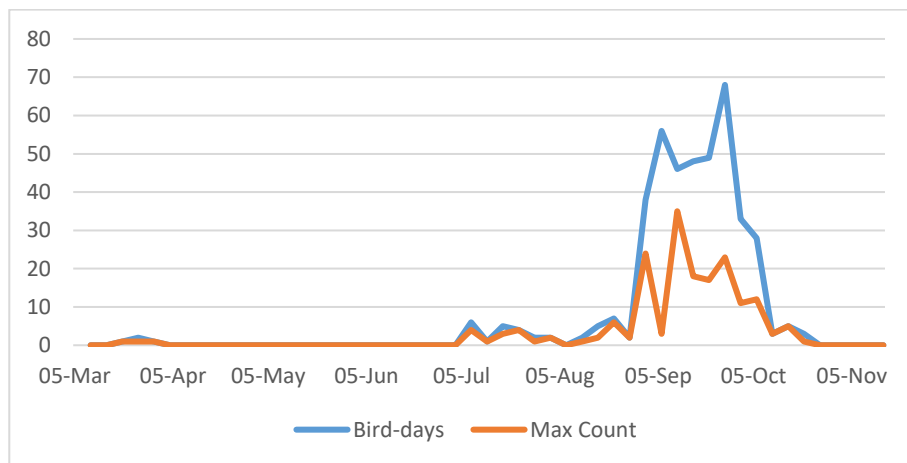
Ushag Ghlass

Scarce spring passage migrant and common autumn passage migrant;

A good spring passage with four singles recorded on 13th, 18th, 19th and 21st March.

Autumn dispersal was recorded from 1st July with 1 – 3 birds seen on seven dates in both July and August up to 18th, with peak counts of four on 14th July and six on 15th August. Main passage occurred from 23rd August and continued almost daily through to 2nd October, with double figure counts on

five dates in August and 13 dates in September and monthly peak counts of 24 on 27th August and 35 on 6th September. The last few records were five on 8th and singles flying over on 13th, 14th and 15th and one at Cow Harbour on 31st October.



Pied [White] Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Ushag Vreck/ Ushag Voltee

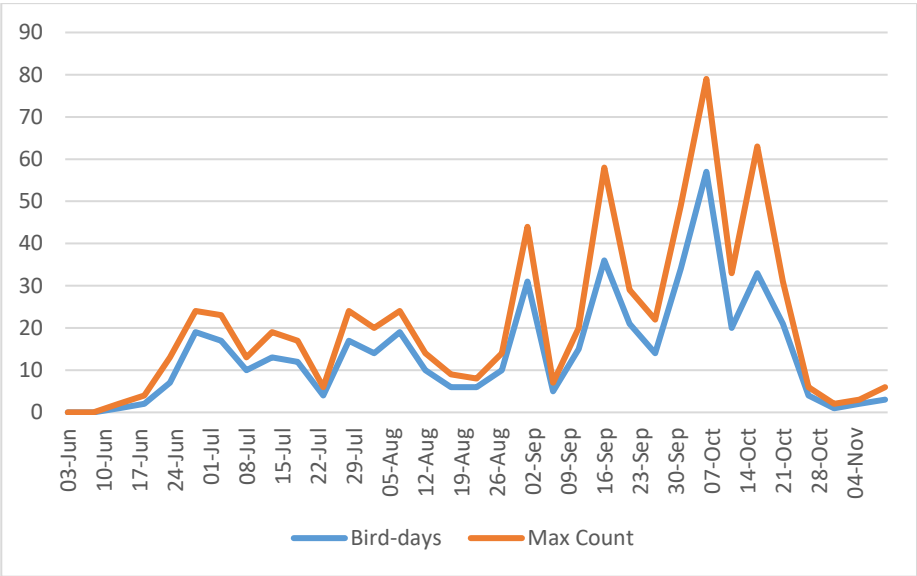
*Common breeding resident and passage migrant; one pair recorded as breeding in 1956 and 1976, then up to four pairs bred annually from 1980 with peaks of five to eight pairs in 2005 and 2016. Passage of White Wagtail *M.a alba* are recorded most years in spring (Apr-May) and in much greater numbers during each autumn (Aug-Sep)*

Pied Wagtail

Singles were recorded on 6th & 9th March, then small numbers recorded daily from 12th – 26th, with a peak of 16 on 13th March. There were no further spring records owing to absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

A pair with four ready-to-fledge young were in the Observatory courtyard when we returned to the islet on 18th June and this is thought to be the only breeding attempt of the season. Records over the next couple of weeks largely refer to these birds, although other dispersing juveniles were recorded through July and August with almost daily records of up to seven birds. Autumn passage became more obvious from end of August, with 13 on

27th August and 22 on 9th & 27th September being peak counts. Passage became more sporadic in October following 16 on 1st and 13 on 2nd, there were just single figure counts on 13 dates in the month plus 30 on 11th and 10 on 13th. There was just one record in November of three birds on 3rd.



White Wagtail

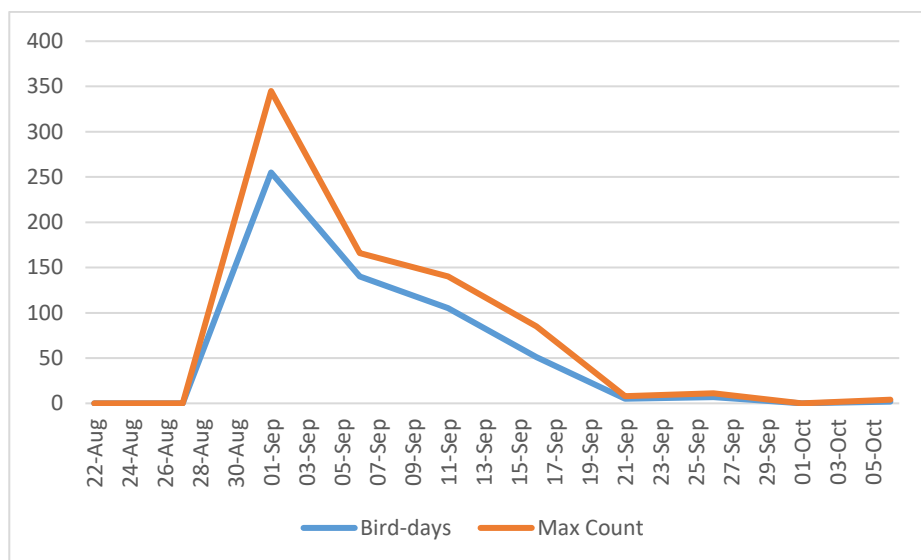
- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
21-Apr	06-Apr	25-Apr	28-Apr	21-Apr	25-Apr	24-Apr
29-Sep	28-Sep	03-Oct	27-Sep	20-Sep	04-Oct	07-Oct

The earliest arrival date was 25th March 2017, with the latest departure date being 18th October 2018

Two on the 25th March equalled the earliest arrival date for this subspecies. Another on 26th was the last record of the spring owing to our then absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

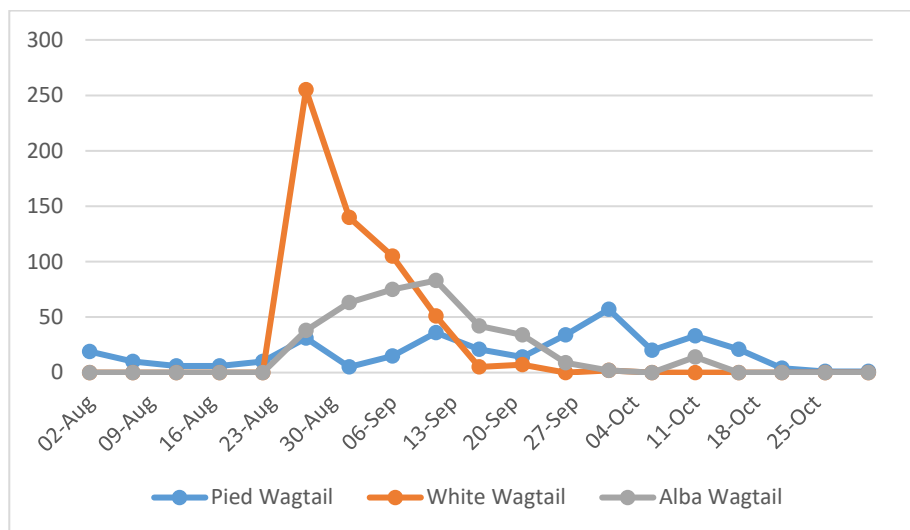
Autumn passage began with 30 on 23rd August with birds then seen daily, with counts of up to 35, through to 11th September and peak counts of 85 on 24th, 90 on 27th and 48 on 31st August. Further records of up to four birds occurred on five dates from 14th – 20th September and the last single of the season on 1st October.



'Alba' Wagtails

Counts of non-specifically identified fly-over alba wagtails were made between 23rd August and 1st October, with counts of up to 22 on 26 dates plus higher counts of 41 on 6th, 44 on 9th and 32 on 10th September. Most of

these records are likely to be White Wagtails, at least those recorded up to mid-September. A count of 14 on 8th October were more likely to be Pied Wagtail but are still within the time frame for White Wagtails to occur.



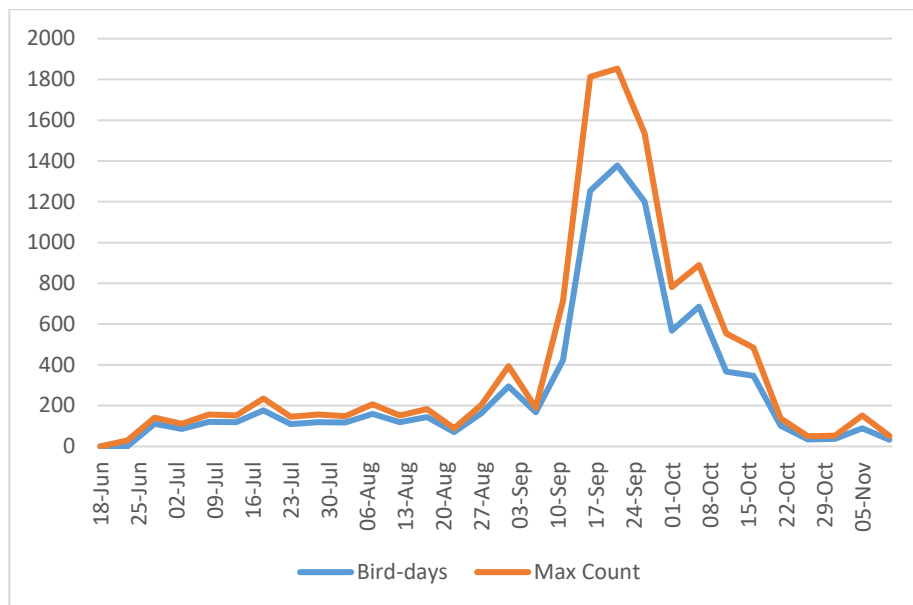
Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Tweet/Cheet/Ushag y Veet

Common breeding resident and passage migrant; between 50 – 100 pairs breed annually, with a peak of 110 pairs in 1982

Present throughout the season, with spring passage noted from 13th March when 112 were recorded and peaked with 459 on 18th March. No breeding survey was undertaken owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

The species is a fairly abundant breeding bird on the Calf and daily counts of up to 45 were made following our return to the islet in mid-June through to the end of August. Autumn passage became evident from late August with 98 on 24th and 82 on 27th, however main passage was in September when three figure counts occurred on 18 dates, with a peak of 559 on 10th September. Early October produced four more three figure counts with a peak of 205 on 1st, then numbers of birds dropped considerably with counts of up to 18 on just 11 dates from 16th and a peak of 62 on 29th October. Whilst in November single figure counts were made most days with higher counts of 19 on 5th and 12 on 7th.



Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Scarce spring passage migrant and common autumn passage migrant; at least 238 previous records of approximately 3068 individuals, with records in April (52), May (51), June (6), July (8), August (68), September (41) and October (12)

- Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
23-Apr	26-Apr	06-May	23-Apr	13-Apr	25-Apr	19-Apr
19-Sep	17-Sep	12-Sep	17-Sep	27-Sep	21-Sep	16-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 4th April 1985 and 1988, with the latest departure date being 23rd October 1987

- Number of individuals recorded by decade:

10yr period	1959-1968	1969-1978	1979-1988	1989-1998	1999-2008	2009-2018
Count	273	462	1316	470	136	349

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

An early autumn individual was recorded on 19th July, with main passage from 3rd – 30th August when 1 – 3 birds were recorded on 11 dates plus five on 10th & 14th and six on 18th August. Finally, there were just two records in September with a single on 19th and two on 20th.

A total of 40 bird-days is a slight reduction from 49 in 2019.

[Eurasian] Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Fushag Varrey

Common breeding resident; between 35 – 50 pairs recorded annually

Numbers recorded of this largely sedentary species often reflect the coverage of coastal sections of the Calf. In March up to 10 were recorded, however no further spring counts or breeding census was undertaken owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Recorded almost daily from mid-June and throughout the remainder of the season with counts normally of less than fifteen birds, with records most frequently coming from around South Harbour, Cow Harbour and the Dock. Counts of up to 25 were more frequent in September with small flocks of birds also being seen on Caigher Point. The peak count of the year was 37 on 18th October.

[Common] Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

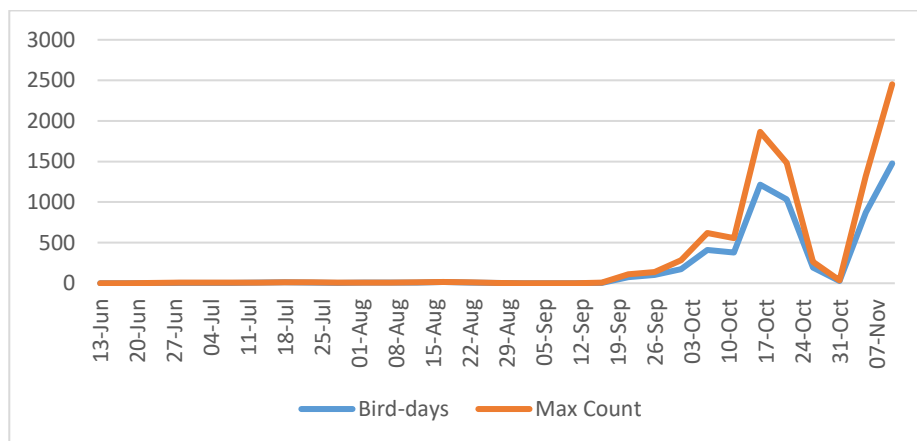
Ushag y Choan/Ushag veg Vreck

Common breeding resident and passage migrant; first recorded breeding in 1939 and 1969, then up to three pairs have bred almost annually with four pairs in 2005, 2010 and 2017

Two on 6th and a single on 8th March, were then followed by up to four daily between 13th – 26th with seven on 15th & 16th March. Unfortunately, there were no further spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.



A single was present during the second half of June and up to four were recorded almost daily through July and up to 19th August. Ringing records show that single juveniles arrived at the end of July and beginning of August, but these were considered not to have been bred on the Calf. Other than a single on 30th August and three on 10th September the species was otherwise absent from the Calf until autumn passage began with 13 on 14th September. Double figure counts were then almost daily until 110 on 26th and 212 on 27th September were the forerunner of an above average passage in October. Numbers fluctuated widely during October with single figure counts on ten dates, double figure counts on 12 dates and three figure counts on nine days with high counts of 650 on 8th, 518 on 11th, 447 on 14th, 375 on 28th and 450 on 30th. Passage continued well into the first week of November with three figure counts on five days and a season peak of 976 on 4th.



Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Scarce spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn passage migrant;
There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

In autumn, two in the Sycamores on 11th, singles flying over on 15th, 16th, & 17th and three on 28th October. Further records in November were three on 3rd, two on 4th and a single on 7th.

- Bird-days per year:*

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Spring Bird-days	-	5	1	2	1	1
Autumn bird-days	14	24	6	72	21	21

[European] Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Corkan Keylley Glass

Formerly common passage migrant, now uncommon passage migrant; sporadic breeding records involving one pair have been recorded in 10 out of 48 years since the first occurrence in 1970

Compared to recent years an encouraging series of spring records saw two arrive on 13th March followed by singles on a further five dates up to the 25th. Unfortunately, no further spring records were possible owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions.

- *Spring bird-days per year:*

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Spring Bird-days	7	0	5	1	16	0	20	65

In autumn, three on 24th August were followed by single figure counts on five dates from 8th – 18th October plus high counts of 17 on 11th, 24 on 15th and 10 on 17th October. Passage continued until early November, with up to three birds seen daily from 3rd – 7th, with a peak count of six on 4th.

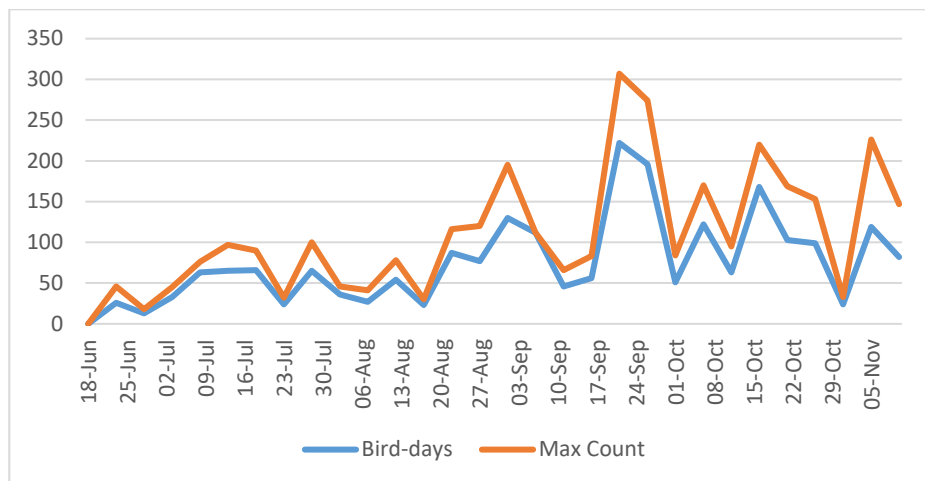
[Common] Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Fillip ny Kempey / Ushag y Lien

Common breeding resident and passage migrant; up to 20 pairs have been recorded annually since 1959, except for the period 1998 to 2003 when the species was apparently absent as a breeding species. Peak counts of breeding numbers occurred between 1976 and 1983 with between 30 to 50 pairs recorded.

Spring records began with 15 on 13th, then up to 10 were recorded on ten dates to 26th March. Unfortunately, there were no further spring records or breeding census owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Recorded almost daily from mid-June to the season's end, with highly fluctuating numbers, although the graph below indicates passage was at its strongest during the second half of September and then again around mid-October. Peak monthly counts during these times were 20 on 15th June, 35 on 21st July, 65 on 27th August, 85 on 16th September, 107 on 30th October and 65 on 4th November.



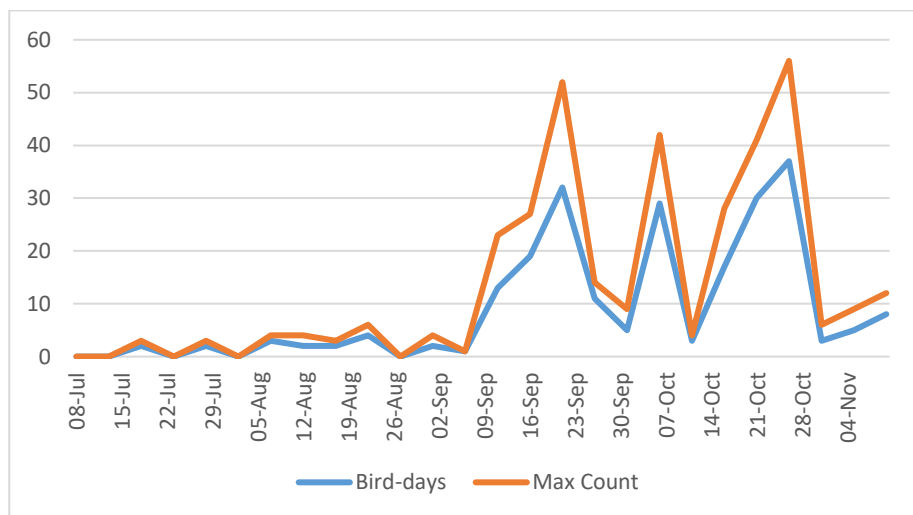
Lesser [Common] Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

Bytermyn Dhone/Lossan Ruy

Common spring, occasional summer and common autumn passage migrant;

A single on 21st March was the only spring record.

Summer records comprised singles on 11th & 12th and 20 & 21st and 29th July, then 1 – 2 on 10 dates in August. Autumn passage began in early September with single figure counts on 16 dates in the month and 14 dates in October plus high counts of 10 on 6th, 20 on 14th and 13 on 29th September and 11 on 11th, 13th & 21st and 19 on 18th October.



[Red] Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular spring and autumn dispersal visitor / passage migrant; 115 previous records involving 466 individuals, with records in March (4), April (1), May (9), June (27), July (24), August (15), September (13), October (17) and November (5)

After a blank year in 2019, it was good to record a series of records that included flocks of six on 18th August, 5th September and 11th & 28th October, as well as four on 1st September, two on 25th September and singles on four other dates in September and on 30th October.

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Bird-days	35	0	14	14	6	7	0	4	16	13

Owing to this species highly irruptive behaviour, there is no real pattern to its occurrence on the Calf, with records in 34 of the last 62 years. The bird-day total for 2020 is the 4th highest annual total recorded, being beaten by 48 in 1966, 53 in 1988 and 93 in 2008.

[European] Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

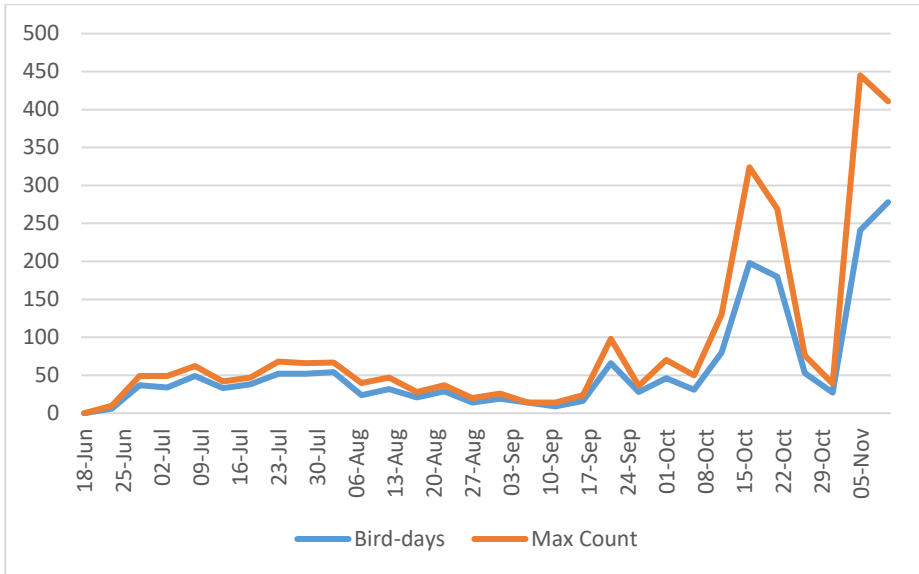
Lossey ny Keylley / Kiark my Leydee

Common breeding resident and passage migrant; first recorded as breeding in 1980, it wasn't until seven pairs bred in 2008 that the species became established, with numbers rising to at least 20 pairs in 2016 – 18.

Present in spring from 6th – 26th March, with a maximum count of 18 on 17th March. Ringing records show a small passage of birds beginning around mid-month and slowly building, along with (retrap) breeding birds returning to begin prospecting. Unfortunately, there were no further spring records or breeding census owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Breeding birds were evident on our return in mid-June, with single figure and low-double figure counts commonplace through to early September, after which a light passage with higher counts of 31 on 14th, 32 on 16th and 24 on 26th September occurred. Although no breeding census was possible, this year's productivity of young was quite poor with just 30 locally bred young ringed, compared to 50 in 2019 and 80 in 2018.

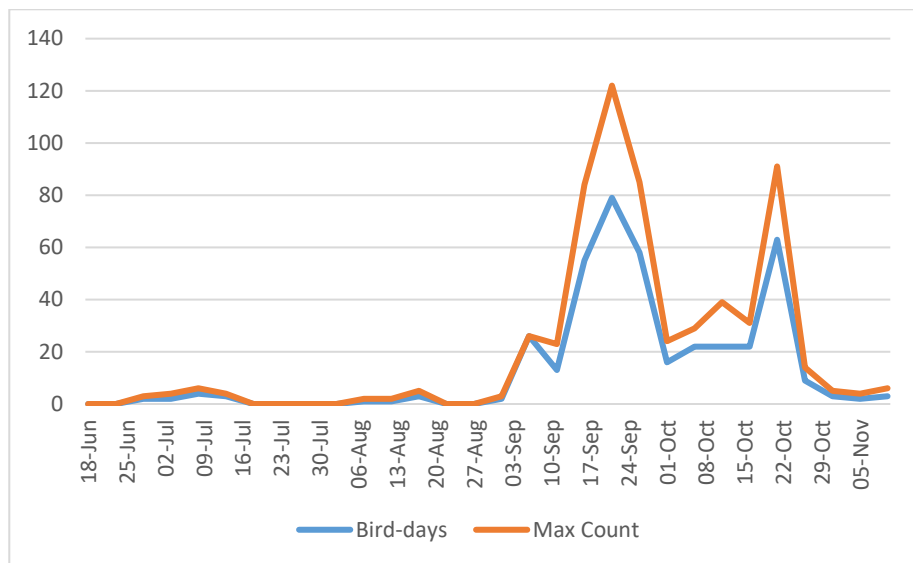
Main autumn passage occurred during October and early November but was rather sporadic with high counts of 50 on 2nd, 53 on 8th, 126 on 11th & 204 on 30th October and 91 on 3rd, 133 on 4th and 55 on 6th November.



[Eurasian] Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Common spring, occasional summer and common autumn passage migrant; Three on 17th, two on 19th and one on 26th March were the only spring records. Unfortunately, there were no further spring records owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

Summer records comprised a single on 19th & 20th and two on 26th & 30th June, followed by singles on six dates in July. Further singles on four dates in August and two on 8th, preceded the start of main autumn passage from 29th August. Counts in September were mostly of single figures but included double figure counts on eight dates, with a peak of 43 on 14th. Likewise, early October produced almost daily single figure counts to 18th, with just four double figure counts including a peak of 28 on 13th. A period of particularly inclement weather during the last third of October suppressed migration considerably with the only remaining records for the season being five on 21st, two on 22nd & 30th & a single on 25th October and finally three on 5th November.



[Common] Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Pompee ny Guirtlagh

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant; bred annually from 1959 to 1994 with a peak of 19 pairs in 1980. Absent as a breeding species from 1995 to 2001, then one to three pairs recorded from 2002 in all but five years
 Singles on four dates between 18th – 25th and two on 19th March were the only spring records. Unfortunately, there were no further spring records or breeding census owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions.

A male was holding territory at the Triangle when we returned to the islet in mid-June and was recorded singing there during late June and early July, with a pair being seen on the nearby Twin Fields track on 10th July. Juvenile birds trapped at the Withy on 20th & 21st July are likely to be from this nesting attempt. Single birds were recorded on eight dates in August and five dates in September, with a further two juveniles trapped during early August, although these were thought to originate from further afield.

A very light passage was evident in October with singles on five dates and two on 8th and 11th and included three new birds being trapped during the 7th & 8th. There was just one record in November with a single seen at the Top Withy on 7th.

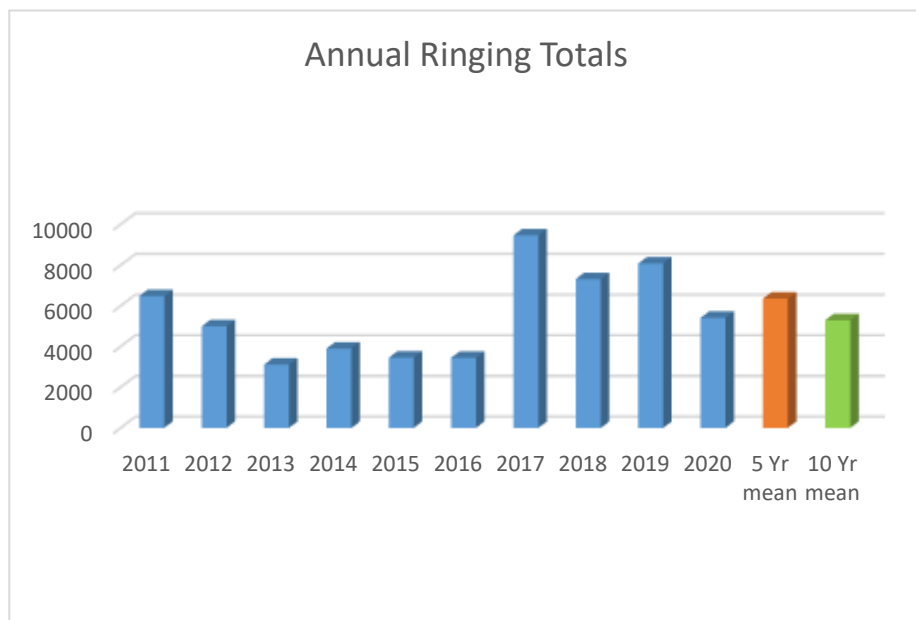
Breeding Totals 2020

Species	2020	Count Unit	Status
Shelduck	Unknown	Pair/s	Pair present in March may have remained to breed. 1-2 pairs bred in all years since 2002.
Mallard	3 - 4	Pair/s	At least 5 broods were recorded by trail cameras set at the Millpond
Eider	Unknown	Pair/s	First bred in 1992 with maximum of 70 pairs in 2018 & 2019
Pheasant	1 - 2	Pair/s	Bred for the first time in 2018. Several juveniles seen during late summer and early autumn, suggesting one, possibly two broods
Fulmar	98 - 111	AOS	Average of 90 AOS during 2010 – 2019
Manx Shearwater	Unknown	AOB	Average of 335 AOB during 2010 – 2019
Shag	Unknown	AON	Further decrease of 7% in breeding attempts noted at two monitored colonies. Average of 146 AON during 2010 – 2019
Oystercatcher	16	Pair/s	Average 12 pairs during 2010 - 2019
Great Black-backed Gull	Unknown	AON	Average of 47 AON during 2010 - 2019
Herring Gull	Unknown	AON	Average 365 AON during 2010 - 2019
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Unknown	AON	Average of 43 AON during 2010 - 2019
Common Guillemot	241	IA's	Average of 164 IA's during 2010 – 2019 / 110 pairs
	161	Pair/s	
Razorbill	227	IA's	Average of 192 IA's during 2010 – 2019 / 129 pairs
	152	Pair/s	
Black Guillemot	2 - 3	Pair/s	1 - 3 pairs occasionally breed - first recorded in 1972
Swallow	2	Pair/s	Ave of 4 pairs during 2010 – 2019; max 10 pairs in 2005 & 2007
Peregrine	2	Pair/s	The 2 nd year that two pairs have bred, with 5 young being fledged

Species	2020	Count Unit	Status
Magpie	1	Pair	Bred successfully raising 1 young. First breeding record since 2007
Chough	8 - 9	Pair/s	Average of 9 pairs during 2010 – 2019
Hooded / Carrion Crow	Unknown	Pair/s	Average of 6 pairs during 2010 – 2019
Raven	2	Pair/s	1 - 2 pairs breed annually
Willow Warbler	1	Pair	4 th breeding record; previous 1970, 2007 & 2019
Whitethroat	2 - 3	Pair/s	1 – 3 pairs in 7 out of past 10 years
Wren	Unknown	Pair/s	Average of 22 pairs during 2010 – 2019; max 73 pairs in 1974
Blackbird	Unknown	Pair/s	Average of 4 pairs during 2010 – 2019; max 22 pairs in 1979
Stonechat	Unknown	Pair/s	Average of 3 pairs during 2010 – 2019; max 20 pairs in 1977
Wheatear	Unknown	Pair/s	Average of 21 pairs during 2010 – 2019; max 40 pairs in 2018
Robin	3	Pair/s	1 – 2 pairs in four out of last 10 years; max 6-7 pairs in 1990
Pied Wagtail	1	Pair/s	Up to 4 pairs annually; max 6 - 8 pairs in 2016
Meadow Pipit	Unknown	Pair/s	Average of 44 pairs during 2010 – 2019; max 110 pairs in 1982
Rock Pipit	Unknown	Pair/s	Average of 31 pairs during 2010 – 2019; max 48 pairs in 1967
Linnet	Unknown	Pair/s	Average of 12 pairs during 2010 – 2019; max 50 pairs in 1982
Goldfinch	Unknown	Pair/s	Average of 10 pairs during 2010 – 2019; max 20 pairs in 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019
Reed Bunting	1	Pair/s	1 - 3 pairs in six out of last 10 years: max 19 pairs in 1980

2020 Ringing Report

The grand total of 5413 birds of 72 species were ringed during 2020 - an excellent achievement considering that 80 days were lost during spring, typically one of our busiest times, owing to the decision that we should not remain on the Calf during the coronavirus restrictions. This annual total exceeds the mean total achieved during the last ten years and suggests that without our absence in spring, the 2020 season would have been challenging for one of the top five positions of all time.



The first 10 days or so of the season saw a period of strong winds and inclement weather which kept things fairly quiet but from mid-March numbers of Goldcrests arriving began to build. A Collared Dove that was present around the farm buildings for a week was trapped in the back garden and the first wave of spring migrants were seen with small arrivals of Chiffchaff from 17th and a Willow Warbler on 25th. Early signs of a spring tit invasion began with two different Blue Tits and a Long-tailed Tit, both of which are rare on the Calf in spring. However, the promise of what was to come, was not to be realised and after just 20 days on the Calf, we had to

leave again. Before we left, however, the milestone and honour of being the 275,000 bird ringed on the Calf went to a Chaffinch.

A rather frustrating couple of months then ensued, but as the coronavirus restrictions were being eased, we were allowed to make a couple of day trips to begin monitoring seabirds, with 28 Shag pulli and five adult and three Razorbill chicks ringed on 15th June. Both species appearing to have enjoyed a reasonably productive breeding season.



We were finally able to make a full return to the Calf on 18th June, and much to our amazement and delight, a female-type Red-breasted Flycatcher was just the second bird caught on 19th and a Cuckoo was trapped later in the month. With the breeding season in full swing for many passerine species there were good numbers of local-bred young

around during the last week of June, which began to be supplemented by early dispersing juveniles and wandering adults from the beginning of July. Wheatears appeared to have had a good early breeding season and 77 birds were individually marked with colour-rings. This study is producing some excellent returns including the record of the bird , seen and photographed at Stubhampton Estate, Dorset (see Recoveries & Controls).

The value of the various colour-ring programmes that are run on the Calf can be seen from the increase in reports of our ringed birds; in 2020, we received no fewer than 306 recoveries - - a staggering 58% increase in reports compared to 2019, which in itself saw a 24% increase on the previous best total of 135 in 2018.

The breeding success of our large gulls was again rather poor but we were able to add another 96 colour-ringed birds to the study of our three larger gull species. Other seabirds appear to have had a successful year, with above average numbers of Storm Petrel and Manx Shearwaters being ringed over the summer months.

Autumn passage was evident from the second week of July with a moderate passage of juvenile Willow Warblers and the beginning of an above average passage of Grey Wagtail, along with a record-breaking year for Pied / White Wagtails and Treecreeper.

The summer was also good for raptors, with only the 2nd ever adult Peregrine, an immature male, caught in a spring trap in the Front Field in July and a juvenile Long-eared Owl caught at the Top Withy in August. By mid-August, Storm Petrels reached their



peak and as a bonus of being out around the coast at night-time we were able to catch (by dazzling) a male Eider, five Curlews, a Common Sandpiper and two Hooded Crow.

Early September saw the emergence of our Manx Shearwater chicks and a total of 71 young birds ringed is one of the highest totals achieved in recent years. Most of these birds were caught on just two nights and many more could have been ringed had there been the resources and manpower for additional night-time searches.



September is probably our busiest month for numbers of passage birds moving through the Calf and when the weather was favourable, good numbers of migrants were trapped including above average numbers of Robin and Meadow Pipit. Goldcrest numbers were generally quite poor by Calf standards, but the start of an autumn tit invasion and a good early passage of Chaffinch meant for a busy end to the month, which was topped off by three Yellow-browed Warblers.

October continued the trend, with another three Yellow-browed Warblers and a continuing excellent passage of Chaffinch brought annual records for both species, as well as above average numbers for Coal Tit. Our hopes of a major rarity never materialised but a calm period of weather between 11th – 18th saw 937 new birds ringed. This total would have potentially been much higher but for the inability to operate the Withy nets, owing to the reduced manpower and lack of visiting ringers available when compared to more recent autumns.

Frequent and lengthy periods of inclement weather during the second half of the month put rather a dampener on things but dazzling again paid dividends, with nine Purple Sandpiper and three Turnstone being caught, alongside several adult Herring Gulls and Shags. A few thrushes continued to push through and the long-standing annual record for Fieldfare was beaten. A brief respite in the weather on 21st & 22nd brought a late Reed Warbler, a Black Redstart and two Coal Tits of the Irish subspecies *hibernicus*. And when we thought it was all over, early November produced another large movement of Chaffinch, some reasonable falls of thrushes and a stunning Woodcock. Three century days back-to-back in November is unheard of and topped off a busy end to the season.

Season's Centuries

Date	No. / Species	Main species
10 th September	170 / 13	Meadow Pipit (76), Robin (51), Goldcrest (19)
15 th September	116 / 7	Meadow Pipit (87), Goldcrest (7)
16 th September	120 / 12	Meadow Pipit (44), Robin (31), Dunnock (10)
21 st September	103 / 15	Meadow Pipit (32), Goldcrest (19), Robin (10)
27 th September	209 / 23	Chaffinch (91), Dunnock (25), Goldcrest (17)
29 th September	145 / 18	Chaffinch (45), Great Tit (23), Lesser Redpoll (12)
1 st October	108 / 14	Chaffinch (30), Meadow Pipit (27), Great Tit (13)
8 th October	187 / 18	Chaffinch (112), Meadow Pipit (15), Dunnock (12)
11 th October	100 / 15	Chaffinch (34), Goldfinch (24), Song Thrush (10)
13 th October	166 / 15	Chaffinch (45), Great Tit (31), Coal Tit (19)
14 th October	192 / 14	Chaffinch (49), Blackbird (48), Redwing (25)
15 th October	158 / 18	Chaffinch (48), Blackbird (40), Redwing (14)
16 th October	133 / 17	Chaffinch (39), Blackbird (22), Goldfinch (14)
4 th November	102 / 11	Chaffinch (37), Blackbird (18), Song Thrush (17)
5 th November	116 / 16	Chaffinch (33), Song Thrush (23), Blackbird (22)
6 th November	107 / 11	Blackbird (45), Chaffinch (21), Redwing (14)

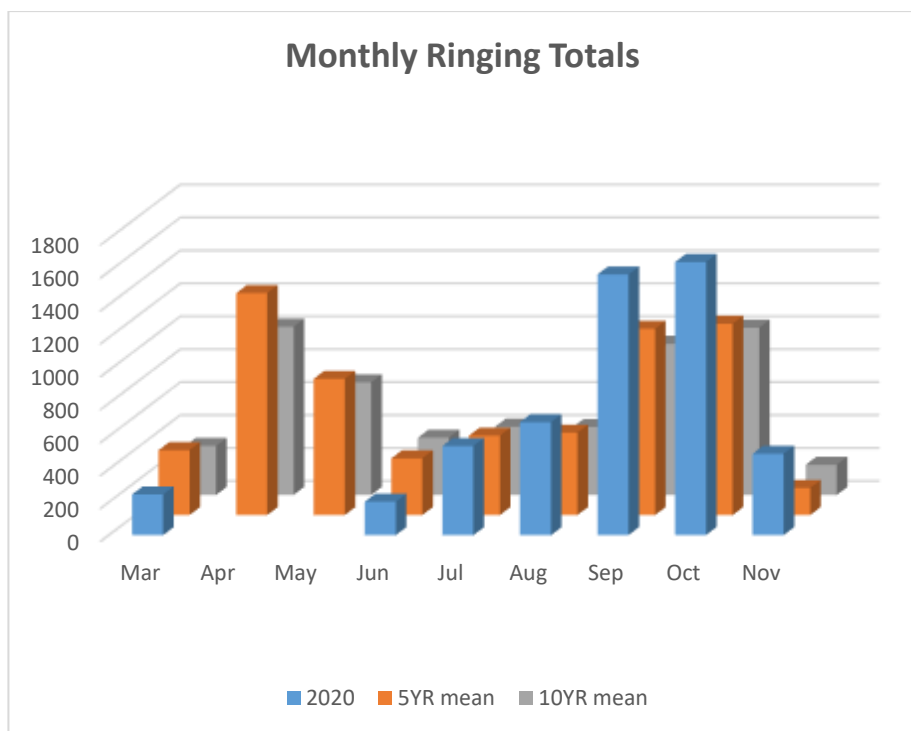
Species and/or numbers of note ringed during 2020. Species in **bold** denote a record annual total:

Species	No.	Ranking
Fulmar	7	Joint 7 th highest annual total & highest year total since 1987
Manx Shearwater	122	2 nd highest annual total
Peregrine	1	First since 2012 and only 2 nd ever adult ringed
Purple Sandpiper	9	2 nd highest annual total
Curlew	5	2 nd highest annual total
Woodcock	1	First since 2014 and only 26 th ringed ever.
Meadow Pipit	778	2 nd highest annual total
Grey Wagtail	103	3 rd highest annual total
Pied Wagtail	104	Highest annual total beating 91 in 1995
Dunnock	143	Highest annual total beating 108 in 2019
Yellow-browed Warbler	6	Highest annual total beating 4 in 1985 & 2018
Fieldfare	25	Highest annual total beating 21 in 1989
Redwing	107	3 rd highest annual total
Coal Tit	40	3 rd highest annual total
Treecreeper	7	Highest annual total beating 5 in 1964 & 1995
Chaffinch	812	Highest annual total beating 584 in 2011
Siskin	32	4 th highest annual total
Lesser Redpoll	76	7 th highest annual total

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

	2020	5 yr average (2015-19)	10 yr average (2010 – 19)
Mar	247	394	298
Apr	-	1348	1022
May	-	827	684

	2020	5 yr average (2015-19)	10 yr average (2010 – 19)
Jun	203	344	348
Jul	541	482	415
Aug	686	500	413
Sep	1583	1131	918
Oct	1623	1162	1016
Nov	494	164	183
Total	5413	6354	5297



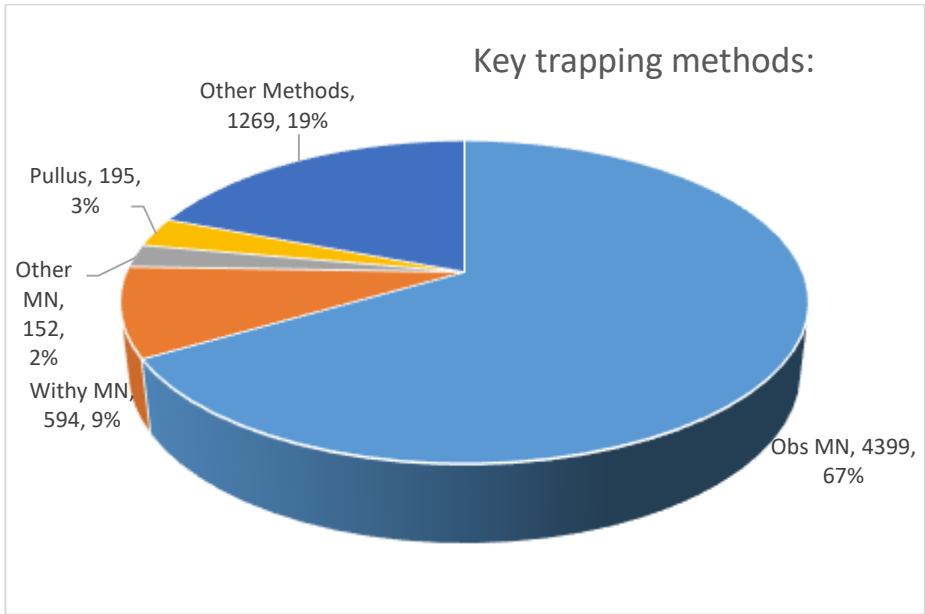
Top Ten Species:

1	Chaffinch	812
2	Meadow Pipit	778
3	Goldcrest	424
4	Willow Warbler	366
5	Blackbird	317

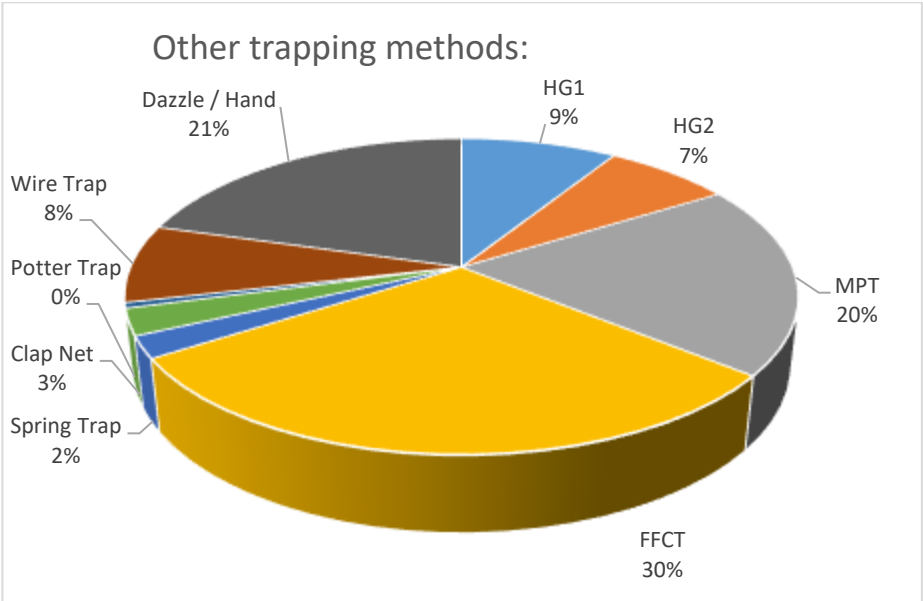
6	Robin	291
7	Goldfinch	232
8	Song Thrush	230
9	Storm Petrel	138
10	Manx Shearwater	122

Trapping Methods:

Most birds were trapped using conventional methods, with mist nets accounting for 78% of all birds ringed during 2020.



Other trapping methods are often employed to target particular species and/or those that are difficult to trap in standard mist nets. The Heligoland, Crow Trap and Meadow Pipit traps situated near to the Observatory continue to provide the ability to trap in weather conditions that are not suitable for mist nets and to be able to target certain species, in particular Wheatear, Grey & Pied/White Wagtails and Meadow Pipits. The value of the recent programme of rebuilding and renovating these traps is shown in their contribution of 66% to totals produced by these other trapping methods. The additional ‘wire trap’ was used to specifically target Meadow Pipits, as was the use of Clap net enabling birds to be caught in conditions not suitable for mist netting.



The table below shows birds ringed on the Calf in previous years and re-caught or re-sighted in 2020. The final column shows birds that were ringed prior to 2010.

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	Previous
Manx Shearwater	3	12	5	9		3		1			2001 2005 x 2 2008
Storm Petrel	1										
Shag	1	1						1	1		2001
Eider											
Oystercatcher											
Herring Gull	1		3	1	1	4	1	2	1		
Lesser B-b Gull								1			
Great B-b Gull					1						
Razorbill		1									2005
Meadow Pipit	9	2									

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	Previous
Swallow		1									
Wren	4										
Dunnock	1										
Robin	6	3									
Stonechat	1	1									
Wheatear	1	1									
Blackbird	4	4	1								
Chough	3	2	1								
Whitethroat		1									
Chaffinch			1			1					
Willow Warbler											
Goldfinch	6	4	2		1						
Linnet											
Reed Bunting											

2020 Ringing Totals:

	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Fulmar	1	6	7
Manx Shearwater	120	2	122
Storm Petrel	138	0	138
Shag	5	61	66
Eider	1	0	1
Sparrowhawk	9	0	9
Peregrine	1	0	1
Oystercatcher	1	6	7
Purple Sandpiper	9	0	9
Woodcock	1	0	1
Curlew	5	0	5
Common Sandpiper	1	0	1
Turnstone	3	0	3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	4	6
Herring Gull	12	70	82
Great Black-backed Gull	3	25	28
Razorbill	4	9	13
Collared Dove	1	0	1
Cuckoo	1	0	1
Long-eared Owl	1	0	1
Swallow	5	5	10
Tree Pipit	5	0	5
Meadow Pipit	778	0	778
Rock Pipit	3	0	3
Grey Wagtail	103	0	103
Pied/White Wagtail	104	0	104
Wren	73	0	73
Duncock	143	0	143
Robin	290	1	291

	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Black Redstart	1	0	1
Redstart	3	0	3
Stonechat	30	0	30
Wheatear	78	0	78
Blackbird	317	0	317
Fieldfare	25	0	25
Song Thrush	230	0	230
Redwing	107	0	107
Mistle Thrush	11	0	11
Sedge Warbler	32	0	32
Reed Warbler	1	0	1
Whitethroat	47	0	47
Garden Warbler	6	0	6
Blackcap	121	0	121
Yellow-browed Warbler	6	0	6
Wood Warbler	1	0	1
Chiffchaff	76	0	76
Willow Warbler	366	0	366
Goldcrest	424	0	424
Firecrest	1	0	1
Spotted Flycatcher	15	0	15
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	0	1
Long-tailed Tit	5	0	5
Coal Tit	40	0	40
Blue Tit	54	0	54
Great Tit	131	0	131
Treecreeper	7	0	7
Magpie	2	0	2
Chough	1	5	6
Hooded Crow	2	0	2
Starling	60	0	60

	Full grown	Pulli	Total
House Sparrow	1	0	1
Chaffinch	812	0	812
Greenfinch	10	0	10
Goldfinch	232	0	232
Siskin	32	0	32
Linnet	26	0	26
Lesser Redpoll	76	0	76
Reed Bunting	6	0	6
Total:	5219	194	5413

Recoveries & Controls

This report provides details of birds ringed at the Calf of Man and found elsewhere (also known as 'recoveries'), as well as birds found on the Calf of Man that had been ringed elsewhere (also known as 'controls').

An increasing number of reports have been received from the observation of birds wearing colour-rings. Where this is relevant, details of the colour-ring code are given. There are a variety of different colour-ring types used, those which have alpha numeric combinations are used on the following species:

Herring Gull	-	ANN:A	ANAA
Great Black-backed Gull	-	ANN:A	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	ANN:A	ANAA
Wheatear	-		

A combination of plain colour-rings are also used on these species:

- Chough
- Rock Pipit



Where more than one colour-ring is used the position on the tibia(s) is recorded and the colour of each ring is shown using the following codes:

B	– Dark Blue
G	– Dark Green
K	– Light Pink
L	– Lime
M	– Metal (BTO) ring
N	– Niger (Black)
NW2	– Black over White (single ring)
O	– Orange
R	– Red
W	– White
Y	– Yellow



Left leg (below knee) N,W / Right leg (below knee) R,M

The following codes are used to describe the method of reporting:

V	-	Alive and released, not by a ringer
R	-	Recaptured and released by a ringer
X	-	Found dead
xL	-	Found long dead; over a week
xA	-	Found freshly dead; less than a week
S	-	Rings read in the field (metal or colour marks)
+	-	injured, fate unknown

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

2020 Recoveries

Recoveries are of birds, which have been ringed on the Calf and which have been subsequently found elsewhere. A total of 306 recovery reports were received during the year; in addition several birds that have previously been recovered and were subsequently encountered on the Calf in 2020 are also included, as these provide continuing life histories.

Storm Petrel

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	51	20	8	82	446	49
2020	1	0	0	1	0	8

	FAEROES	FRANCE	ICELAND	NORWAY	PORTUGAL	SOUTH AFRICA
Up to 2019	2	3	1	3	6	1
2020	0	0	0	0	2	0

2487025	4	N	26/07/97	Calf of Man
	4	R	14/06/99	Ponta de Almadena, Faro, PORTUGAL 688 days 1914km 190deg (S)

2537534	4	N	25/07/02	Calf of Man
	4	R	10/06/04	Cruzinha, Faro, PORTUGAL 686 days 1902km 189deg (S)

Details of the above two recoveries were discovered, amongst a batch of un-reported ringing records, by a PhD student working on Storm Petrel data from the Portuguese scheme.

2591829	4	N	01/08/11	Calf of Man
	4	R	12/08/11	Ballyreagh, Portrush, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland 11 days 176km 317deg (NW)

Another rather delayed report.

2633228	4	N	06/08/16	Calf of Man
	4	R	06/07/20	Porth Ysgaden, Tudweiliog, Gwynedd, Wales 1430 days 129km 176deg (S)

2718162	4	N	05/07/19	Calf of Man
	4	R	19/07/20	Point Lynas, Isle of Anglesey, Wales 380 days 79km 154deg (SSE)
2718176	4	N	08/07/19	Calf of Man
	4	R	24/06/20	Porth Iago, Llangwnnadr, Gwynedd, Wales 352 days 134km 178deg (S)
2738310	4	N	27/07/19	Calf of Man
	4	R	20/07/20	Bae y Rhigol, Bardsey, Gwynedd, Wales 359 days 143km 180deg (S)
2738317	4	N	30/07/19	Calf of Man
	4	R	07/07/20	Carreg Fawr, Gwynedd, Wales 343 days 143km 180deg (S)
2738305	4	N	21/07/19	Calf of Man
	4	R	13/06/20	Inishtrahull, Co. Donegal, Eire 328 days 219m 315deg(NW)
2738347	4	N	01/07/20	Calf of Man
	4	R	02/07/20	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales 1 day 143km 180deg (S)
2738355	4	N	18/07/20	Calf of Man
	4	R	21/07/20	Bae y Rhigol, Bardsey, Gwynedd, Wales 3 days 143km 180deg (S)

A rapid movement south, with 273855 being caught at Bardsey just 24 hours and 15 minutes after being released here.

2738366	4	N	20/07/20	Calf of Man
	4	R	30/07/20	Point Lynas, Amlwch, Wales 10 days 79km 154deg (SSE)

An average number of reports, although rather surprisingly all recoveries within the “Irish Sea” were to Wales, rather than Scotland which has in the past accounted for almost 68% of previous reports. This may be due to restrictions on ringing activities in certain areas during 2020.

Shag

	Eire	England	LOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Irish Sea	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2019	8	44	307	23	185	25	1	1
2020	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0

1078945	1	N	27/05/73	Calf of Man
		xL	03/05/20	Maughold, Isle of Man
				17143 days 42km 52deg (NE)

At 46 years, 11 months and 8 days, 1078945 would become a new BTO longevity record for Shag, however as the finder found the 'ring only', it may have laid on a stony beach for many years.

1474359	1	N	11/07/20	Calf of Man
		V	04/09/20	Troqueer, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland
				55 days 135km 35deg (NE)

Caught in a man-made structure, 1474359 was thankfully released alive and unharmed.

With an average of 10 recoveries per annum, up to 2019, the receipt of just two reports on 2020 illustrates the downward fortunes of this species, with falling breeding success leading to fewer nestlings being ringed each year and a lower survival rate of birds reaching maturity affecting breeding recruitment and overall survival and reporting rates.

Razorbill

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	8	20	2	1	4	16
2020	0	0	0	0	1	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	ITALY	NORWAY	PORTUGAL	SPAIN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2019	4	14	1	1	1	7	2

K31448	1	N	25/06/20	Calf of Man
		xA	04/09/20	Barassie Beach, South Ayrshire, Scotland 71 days 166 km 4deg (N)

Great Black-backed Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Irish Sea	FRANCE
Up to 2019	65	54	38	43	6	41	2	1
2020	11	3	6	22	2	21	1	0

HT36337	1	N	20/06/01	Calf of Man
S20:M	10	R	19/05/17	Calf of Man 5812 days
	10	S	19/07/17	Calf of Man 5873 days
	10	S	17/03/18	Calf of Man 6114 days
	10	S	05/04/19	Calf of Man 6498 days
	10	S	17/09/19	Calf of Man 6663 days
	10	S	09/02/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 6808 days 57km 296deg (WNW)

Originally bred in the Puddle area, HT36337 was nest-trapped there in May 2017 and has subsequently bred successfully at the same site in 2018 & 2019. Unfortunately, our absence from the islet during this spring, owing to coronavirus restrictions, meant that proof that the bird was breeding again could not be obtained.

HT95158	1	N	22/07/13	Calf of Man
T52V	7	S	03/07/15	Hoylelake, Merseyside
				711 days 129km 126deg (SE)
	9	S	06/07/16	Hoylelake, Merseyside
				1080 days

	10	S	14/09/19	Birkdale, Merseyside 2245 days 121 km (ESE)
	10	S	28/12/19	Ainsdale Beach, Merseyside 2350 days 125km (ESE)
	10	S	03/09/20	Birkdale, Merseyside 2600 days
HT95167	1	N	24/06/14	Calf of Man
T4YJ	3	S	23/10/14	Lampaul, Ouessant, Finistère, FRANCE 121 days 623km 183deg (S)
	10	S	11/12/20	Mill Bay, Carlingford Lough, N. Ireland 2362 days 84km 269deg (W)

There have only been three foreign recoveries of Calf-ringed Great Black-backed Gulls, so it is noteworthy that HT95167 should be subsequently reported from the more typical location of Northern Ireland – the question is, where has it been in the intervening six years?

HT95230	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
S24:M	5	S	07/02/16	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co Louth, Eire 230days 96km 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
	9	S	12/10/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 1208 days
	10	S	12/11/20	Cruisetown, Co. Louth, Eire 1970 days 97km 256deg (WSW)

HT95232	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
S62:M	9	S	31/03/18	Bullock Harbour, Dalkey, Co. Dublin, Eire
	9	S	14/05/18	1013 days 120km (SW) Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	10	S	07/08/20	1057days 58km 293deg (WNW) nr Kentraugh
	10	S	11/12/20	1873 days 7km 75deg (ENE) Mill Bay, Carlingford Lough, N. Ireland
				1999 days 83km 270deg (W)
HT95247	1	N	24/06/15	Calf of Man
S76:M	3	S	29/08/18	Bullock Harbour, Dalkey, Co. Dublin, Eire
	9	S	01/08/18	66 days 120km (SW) Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire
	10	S	29/12/19	1134 days 100 km (SW) Oakenholt RSPB Reserve, Dee Estuary, Wales
	10	S	22/08/20	1649 days 145km (ESE) Hoylake Shore, Merseyside
				1886 days 130km (ESE)
HT95258	1	N	01/07/15	Calf of Man
S07:M	5	S	31/01/16	Boatstrand Pier, Co. Waterford, Eire
	10	S	14/06/20	214 days 273km 219deg (SW) Calf of Man
				1810 days
HT95279	1	N	26/06/17	Calf of Man
S42:M	5	S	03/02/18	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
	5	S	15/02/18	222 days 147km 0deg (S) Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
				234 days

	7	S	26/04/19	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales 669 days
	7	S	03/10/19	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales 829 days
HT95280	1	N	26/06/17	Calf of Man
S43:M	3	S	14/10/17	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 110 days 228km (S)
	7	S	20/07/19	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 754 days

Also reported on 22 dates between October 2017 and July 2019

	9	S	28/01/20	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 946 days
	9	S	14/02/20	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 963 days
	9	S	01/03/20	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 979 days

Also reported on 13 dates between June 2020 to 4th September 2020

	9	S	21/09/20	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 1183 days
HT95284	1	N	08/07/17	Calf of Man
S26:M	5	S	20/06/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 374 days 57km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	02/07/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 359 days

	5	S	29/07/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 386 days
	7	S	29/05/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 690 days
	7	S	09/06/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 701 days
	7	S	13/06/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 705 days
	9	S	09/02/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 946 days
HT95285	1	N	08/07/17	Calf of Man
S25:M	5	S	22/08/18	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 410 days 100km (SW)
	7	S	21/02/19	Carne Harbour, Co. Wexford, Eire 593 days 139km (WSW)
	7	S	28/12/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 903days 57km 294deg (WNW)
	9	S	19/05/20	Bull Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 1046days 119km 229deg (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 461days 57km 302deg (WNW)
	9	S	04/06/20	Strandhall 1062 days 7km 75deg (ENE)
HT95311	10	N	22/05/18	Calf of Man
S39:M	10	S	28/05/18	Calf of Man 6 days
	10	S	31/12/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 223days 57km 296deg (WNW)

	10	S	02/02/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 256 days
	10	S	20/05/19	Calf of Man 363 days
	10	S	08/11/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 901 days
HT95327	1	N	23/06/18	Calf of Man
S18:M	3	S	12/10/18	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 111 days 96km (WSW)
	5	S	29/01/19	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 220 days
	5	S	18/03/19	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 268 days
	7	S	15/07/20	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 753 days
HT95330	1	N	23/07/18	Calf of Man
S:47M	7	S	26/06/20	Mill Bay, Carlingford, Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 734 days 84km 269deg (W)
HT95333	1	N	23/06/18	Calf of Man
S49:M	3	S	15/11/18	Skerries, Co. Down, N. Ireland 145 days 100km (SW)
	7	S	07/07/20	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 745 days 72km 287deg (WNW)
HT95374	1	N	21/06/19	Calf of Man
S80:M	5	S	24/09/20	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 461 days 228km (S)

HT95377	1	N	21/06/19	Calf of Man
S85:M	3	S	14/10/19	Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, Eire 115 days 256km (SW)
	5	S	23/02/20	Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, Eire 247 days
HT95378	1	N	21/06/19	Calf of Man
S86:M	5	S	13/09/20	Mill Bay, Carlingford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 450 days 83km 270deg (W)
HT95379	1	N	21/06/19	Calf of Man
S87:M	5	S	07/01/20	Peel 200 days 21km 23deg (NNE)
		S	01/11/20	Ballywalter Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 499 days 71km 323deg (NW)
HT95382	1	N	22/06/19	Calf of Man
S90:M		S	28/08/20	nr Kentraugh 433 days 6km 91deg (E)
HT95389	1	N	22/06/19	Calf of Man
M98:M	5	S	18/09/20	Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 454 days 101km 238deg (WSW)
HT95391	1	N	22/06/19	Calf of Man
M84:M		S	20/06/20	Coney Island (Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 364days 57km 291deg (WNW)
	5	S	13/07/20	Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 387days 101km 238deg (WSW)
HT95392	1	N	22/06/19	Calf of Man
M78:M		xA	11/03/20	Kallow Point, Port St Mary 263 days 4km 91deg (E)

HT95393	1	N	22/06/19	Calf of Man
M99:M	5	S	12/01/20	Loch Sionnaigh, Co. Dublin, Eire 204 days 102km 236deg (WSW)
HT95394	1	N	22/06/19	Calf of Man
M70:M	5	S	21/02/20	Halzephron Cliff, Cornwall 244 days 448km 185deg (S)
HT95396	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
M57:M	3	S	01/09/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 67 days 57km 296deg (WNW)
	3	S	14/09/19	St. John's Point Lighthouse, Co. Down, N. Ireland 80 days 87km (WNW)
	5	S	18/07/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 388 days
HT95399	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
M62:M	5	S	25/05/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 334days 57km 294deg (WNW)
	5	S	03/06/20	At sea, 56kms WSW of Calf of Man 321 days 56km (WSW)
	5	S	15/07/20	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 385 days 98km 253deg (WSW)
	5	S	18/07/20	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 388 days
HT95400	1	N	01/07/19	Calf of Man
M50:M	3	S	31/12/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 183days 57km 294deg (WNW)

HT95401	1	N	02/07/19	Calf of Man
M86:M	5	S	23/11/20	Duncannon Beach, Wexford, Co. Waterford, Eire 510 days 248km 215deg (SW)
HT95402	1	N	02/07/19	Calf of Man
M58:M	3	S	12/08/19	Calf of Man 41 days
	5	S	17/01/20	Doonfoot, Ayr, South Ayrshire, Scotland 199 days 153km 5deg (N)
	5	S	16/03/20	Doonfoot, Ayr, South Ayrshire, Scotland 258 days
HT95409	1	N	14/07/19	Calf of Man
M55:M	3	S	28/12/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 167days 57km 294deg (WNW)
HT95451	1	N	18/07/19	Calf of Man
M52:M	3	S	29/09/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 73 days 57km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	09/02/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 206 days
HT95457	1	N	18/07/19	Calf of Man
M64:M	3	S	13/10/19	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales 87 days Distance: 260km Direction: 188deg (S)
	5	S	17/02/20	Dungarvan Bay, Co. Waterford, Eire 214 days 288km 221deg (SW)
HT95467	1	N	24/06/20	Calf of Man
M89:M		S	07/08/20	nr Kentraugh 44 days 6km 91deg (E)

HT95470	1	N	24/06/20	Calf of Man
M94:M		S	04/11/20	Kilkeel Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 133 days 79km 270deg (W)
HT95472	1	N	30/06/20	Calf of Man
M79:M	3	S	27/07/20	Calf of Man
	3	S	25/10/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 117days 57km 296deg (WNW)
HT95477	1	N	06/07/20	Calf of Man
M93:M	3	S	31/08/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 56 days 57km 296deg (WNW)
HT95478	1	N	06/07/20	Calf of Man
M96:M	3	S	01/11/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 118days 57km 296deg (WNW)
HT95481	12	N	03/07/20	Calf of Man
M91:M		S	09/09/20	Dundrum (inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 68 days 71km 289deg (WNW)

HT95481 is likely to be a breeding adult on the Calf, which was caught coming to a baited spring trap.

HT95492	1	N	18/07/20	Calf of Man
M75:M	3	R	06/09/20	Calf of Man
	3	S	03/12/20	Bangor Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 138 days 88km 322deg (NW)
	3	xA	05/12/20	Portaferry Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 140 days 61km 308deg (NW)

Herring Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Irish Sea
Up to 2019	129	153	206	101	21	30	3
2020	72	6	44	50	4	0	1

	DENMARK	FRANCE	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2019	2	1	3

GA35831	1	N	01/07/01	Calf of Man
		RR	06/07/19	Wrecked Craigs, Port Seton, East Lothian, Scotland 6579days 244km 29deg (NNE)
		RR	14/03/20	Wrecked Craigs, Port Seton, East Lothian, Scotland 6831 days
GN53191	1	N	10/07/07	Calf of Man
T6TW	10	S	11/03/11	Port St Mary 1340 days
	8	S	30/10/14	Strandhall 2669 days 8km (ENE)
	10	S	14/08/20	nr Kentraugh 4784 days 8km (ENE)

Given that GN53191 would appear to be frequenting nearby haunts, it is rather surprising that there have been such lengthy gaps in between each sighting.

GR64605	1	N	20/06/12	Calf of Man
T8ZH	1	S	13/07/12	Calf of Man 23 days
	3	S	11/12/12	St. Stephen's Green, Co. Dublin 174 days 127km (SW)
	10	S	09/07/17	Calf of Man 1845 days
	10	S	15/07/17	Calf of Man 1851 days
	10	S	19/07/17	Calf of Man 1855 days
	10	S	20/06/18	Calf of Man 2191 days
	10	S	27/06/18	Calf of Man 2198 days
	10	S	28/06/18	Calf of Man 2199 days
	10	S	04/07/18	Calf of Man 2205 days
	10	S	11/04/20	Port Erin 2852 days 3km (NE)

GR64974	1	N	28/06/14	Calf of Man
T3YL	5	S	19/03/15	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
		S	16/08/20	264 days 56km, (WNW) nr Kenetraugh, Isle of Man 2241 days 7km 75deg (ENE)

GR08688	1	N	14/07/11	Calf of Man
T9UC	7	S	05/09/13	Strandhall
				784 days 7km (ENE)
	10	S	01/04/16	Calf of Man 1723 days
	10	S	30/06/16	Calf of Man 1813 days
	10	S	05/07/17	Calf of Man 2183 days
	10	S	28/07/17	Calf of Man 2206 days
	10	S	14/04/18	Calf of Man 2466 days
	10	S	02/07/18	Calf of Man 2545 days
	10	S	23/03/19	Calf of Man 2809 days
	10	S	17/08/19	Calf of Man 2956 days
	10	S	14/03/20	Calf of Man 3166 days
	10	S	06/11/20	Calf of Man 3403 days

A regular sight in the Cow Harbour colony, GR08688 was recorded on a further six dates between June and November 2020.

GR64506	1	N	20/06/12	Calf of Man
T8ZH	3	S	13/07/12	Calf of Man 23 days
	3	S	11/12/12	St. Stephens Green, Co. Dublin, Eire
				174 days 127km (SW)
	10	S	09/07/17	Calf of Man 1845 days
	10	S	15/07/17	Calf of Man 1851 days
	10	S	19/07/17	Calf of Man 1855 days
	10	S	20/06/18	Calf of Man 2191 days
	10	S	28/06/18	Calf of Man 2199 days
	10	S	04/07/18	Calf of Man 2205 days
	10	S	11/04/20	Port Erin, Isle of Man
				2852 days 4km 61deg (ENE)

A good example of juvenile dispersal to Ireland, with GR64506 then returning to the Calf to breed.

GR64583 T3UH	1	N	30/06/12	Calf of Man
		S	11/09/19	Tyrella Beach, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				2629 days 64km 291deg (WNW)
		S	10/10/19	Tyrella Beach 2658 days
		S	27/11/19	Tyrella Beach 2706 days
	10	S	12/05/20	nr Ken-traugh 2873 days 7km 75deg (ENE)
GR64625 T7UL	1	N	07/07/12	Calf of Man
	10	S	02/11/18	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire
				2309 days 100km (SW)
	10	S	25/06/19	Calf of Man
				2544 days
	10	S	18/08/19	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				2598 days 56km 303deg (WNW)
	10	S	05/05/20	Calf of Man
				2859 days
	10	S	07/08/20	Calf of Man
				2953 days
	10	S	08/09/20	Portavogie, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				2985days 60km 318deg (NW)
	10	S	16/09/20	Knockinelder Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				2993days 57km 311deg (NW)
GR64706 T6ZN	1	N	23/06/13	Calf of Man
	10	S	13/07/17	Calf of Man 1481 days
	10	S	05/04/18	Calf of Man 1747 days
	10	S	14/04/18	Calf of Man 1756 days
	10	S	27/06/18	Calf of Man 1830 days
	10	S	04/07/18	Calf of Man 1837 days
	10	S	01/04/19	Calf of Man 2108 days
	10	S	04/06/20	Strandhall 2538 days 7km 75deg (ENE)

GR64887	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
T1YA	7	S	06/03/16	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Pembrokeshire, Wales 622 days 228km 181deg (S)
	10	S	27/06/18	Calf of Man 1465 days
	10	S	04/07/18	Calf of Man 1472 days
	10	S	27/03/19	Calf of Man 1738 days
	10	S	22/08/19	Calf of Man 1886 days
	10	S	19/06/20	Calf of Man 2188 days
	10	S	04/07/20	Calf of Man 2203 days
GR64890	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
T3YA	3	S	30/12/14	Cheekpoint Harbour, Co. Waterford, Eire 190 days 248km 217deg (SW)
	5	S	04/06/15	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 346 days 135km 230deg (SW)
	7	S	17/04/16	Calf of Man 664 days
	10	S	14/04/18	Calf of Man 1391 days
	10	S	27/03/19	Calf of Man 1738 days
	10	S	28/04/19	Calf of Man 1770 days
	10	S	04/07/20	Calf of Man 2203 days
	10	S	05/07/20	Calf of Man 2204 days

Another good example of juvenile dispersal and then returning to the Calf to breed.

GR64940	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
T0YG	8	S	07/07/17	Calf of Man 1110 days
	10	S	14/04/18	Calf of Man 1390 days
	10	S	27/06/18	Calf of Man 1463 days
	10	S	30/12/19	Dundrum, Co. Down, N. Ireland 2016 days 72km (WNW)
	10	S	25/01/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 2042 days 56km 301deg (WNW)

Although the sightings on the Calf in summer 2018, suggest that this bird may have returned to the Calf to breed, the reports from Ireland during winter 2019/20 indicate that it may prefer to winter to the west.

GR64972	1	N	28/06/14	Calf of Man
T1YL	5	S	16/11/15	Duncannon Beach, Co. Wexford, Eire
	9	S	10/02/17	506 days 248km (SW) Rosslare, Co. Wexford, Eire
	10	S	16/08/18	958days 225km 207deg (SSW) Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	10	S	18/10/18	1510 days 57km 302deg (WNW) Calf of Man 1573 days
	10	S	08/08/20	Calf of Man 2233 days
GR94868	1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
R38:M	3	S	19/11/15	Moore, Nr Warrington
	5	S	08/03/16	152 days 164 (ESE) Fleetwood, Lancashire
	9	S	29/06/18	262 days 118 km (E) Calf of Man 1105 days
	10	S	27/03/19	Calf of Man 1376 days
	10	S	13/07/19	Calf of Man 1484 days
	10	S	20/05/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	10	S	26/07/20	1796 days 57km 296deg (WNW) Calf of Man 1863 days
	10	S	07/08/20	nr Kentraugh
				1875 days 6 km 91deg (E)

An interesting life history is developing for GR94868, having spent its first winter around Merseyside and then returned to its natal area from 2018. The sighting in Northern Ireland during May 2020 may indicate that it may not have bred or did it just make a day trip? The two reports in autumn 2020 clearly indicate it is associating with its natal area.

GR98809	1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
R12:M	10	S	27/03/19	Calf of Man 1376 days
	10	S	11/06/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				1818 days 57km 294deg (WNW)

GR98814 R67:M	1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
	3	S	21/10/15	Peel
				123 days 21km 23deg (NNE)
	5	S	17/02/16	Castletown
				242 days 10km 80deg (E)
	9	S	19/06/18	Peel
				1095days 19km 25deg (NNE)
GR98834 R58:M	10	S	27/03/19	Calf of Man 1376 days
	10	S	02/04/19	Calf of Man 1382 days
	10	S	28/08/20	nr Kentraugh
				1896 days 6km 91deg (E)
GR98835 R21:M	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
	3	S	13/12/15	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				174days 57km 296deg(WNW)
	10	S	14/08/20	nr Kentraugh
GR98836 T88:M				1880 days 6km 91deg (E)
	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
	10	S	05/10/19	Laytown Beach, Co. Meath, Eire
				1380 days 102 km (W)
	10	S	25/08/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire
GR98843 R01:M				1891days 102km 245deg (WSW)
	10	S	03/09/20	Mosney Beach, Co. Louth, Eire
				1900 days 101km 249deg (WSW)
GR98836 T88:M	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
	9	S	21/10/19	Peel
				1582 days 21km 23deg (NNE)
GR98843 R01:M	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
	10	S	06/07/19	Calf of Man
				1475 days
		S	07/08/20	nr Kentraugh, Isle of Man
				1873 days 8km (ENE)
		S	26/09/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man
				1923 days 7km (ENE)

GR98852	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
R02:M		S	23/08/20	Strandhall
				1889 days 9km 65deg (ENE)
GR98854	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
R48:M	5	S	07/02/16	Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire
				230days 96km 254deg (WSW)
	10	S	12/11/20	Salterstown, Co. Louth, Eire
				1970 days 99km 260deg (W)
GR98856	1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
R49:M	10	S	28/03/19	Calf of Man 1374 days
	10	S	12/04/19	Calf of Man 1389 days
	10	S	26/04/19	Calf of Man 1403 days
	10	S	30/06/20	Calf of Man 1834 days
		S	07/08/20	nr Kentraugh
				1872 days 6km 91deg (E)
GR98857	1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
R88:M	10	S	27/03/19	Calf of Man 1373 days
		S	11/08/20	nr Kentraugh
				1876 days 6km 91deg (E)
GR98865	1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
R64:M	8	S	17/03/19	Croit-e-Caley, Isle of Man
				1363 days 6km 72deg (ENE)
	10	S	03/04/19	Calf of Man 1380 days
	10	S	08/04/19	Calf of Man 1385 days
	10	S	12/04/19	Calf of Man 1389 days
		S	14/08/20	nr Kentraugh
				1879 days 6km 91deg (E)
GR98878	1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
R03:M	3	S	19/08/15	Peel, Isle of Man
				57 days 21km (NNE)
	3	S	07/11/15	Peel, Isle of Man 137 days
	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

	10	S	13/07/19	Calf of Man 1481 days
	10	S	14/07/19	Calf of Man 1482 days
	10	S	16/11/19	Ballawattleworth, Peel, Isle of Man
				1607 days 19km (NNE)
	10	S	12/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 1664 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 137km (SW)
	9	S	28/06/18	Calf of Man 1101 days
	9	S	04/07/18	Calf of Man 1107 days
	10	S	02/04/19	Calf of Man 1379 days
		S	07/08/20	nr Kentraugh
				1872 days 6km 91deg (E)
GR99031 L38:M	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
	5	S	29/07/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				392days 57km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	22/08/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				416 days
	9	S	14/06/20	Calf of Man 1078 days
	9	S	04/07/20	Calf of Man 1098 days
GR99044 L51:M	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
	9	S	19/07/20	Cloughy Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				1113days 61km 315deg (NW)
GR99050 L58:M	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
	3	S	05/09/17	Peel, Isle of Man
				65 days 21km 26deg (NNE)
	5	S	28/01/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				210days 57km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	09/06/18	Peel, Isle of Man 352 days
	5	S	19/06/18	Peel, Isle of Man 362 days

	5	S	05/08/18	Peel, Isle of Man 399 days
	5	S	09/08/18	Peel, Isle of Man 403 days
		S	12/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 924 days
GR99075	10	N	26/04/19	Calf of Man
T7VL	10	S	22/06/19	Calf of Man 57 days
		S	25/09/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man 518 days 7km 75deg (ENE)
GR99083	10	N	26/04/19	Calf of Man
T2VP	10	S	24/05/19	Calf of Man 28 days
	10	S	29/06/20	Calf of Man 430 days
		S	07/08/20	nr Kentraugh 469 days 6km 72deg (ENE)
GR99092	10	N	08/05/19	Calf of Man
T4VL	10	S	15/12/20	Port St Mary 587 days 5km 67deg (ENE)
GR99097	1	N	22/06/19	Calf of Man
T3VG	5	S	20/02/20	Hayle Estuary, Cornwall 243 days 432km (S)
GR99099	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
T4WT	5	S	06/10/20	Conister Rock, Isle of Man 471 days 23km 66deg (ENE)
	5	S	06/10/20	Tromode, Douglas 471 days 23km 66deg (ENE)
	5	S	08/10/20	Tromode, Douglas 473 days
GV61704	1	N	25/06/17	Calf of Man
L07:M	7	S	02/04/19	Calf of Man 646 days
	7	S	31/07/19	Strandhall, Isle of Man 766 Days 7km 75deg (ENE)
	9	S	09/01/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man 928 days
	9	S	11/03/20	Calf of Man 990 days
		S	25/09/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man 1188 days

GV61722 L31:M	1	N	25/06/17	Calf of Man
		S	11/08/20	nr Kentraugh
				1143 days 6km 72deg (ENE)
GV61734 L75:M	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
	7	S	30/05/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire
				697 days 100km (W)
	7	S	02/10/19	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire
				822 days 100km (SW)
	9	S	20/08/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire
				1145 days 102km 245deg (WSW)
GV61755 L92:M	1	N	05/07/17	Calf of Man
	7	S	14/08/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire
				770 days 100km (W)
	7	S	15/08/19	Laytown Beach, Co. Meath, Eire
				771 days 102km (W)
	9	S	06/08/20	Mosney Beach, Co. Louth, Eire
				1128 days 103km 248deg (WSW)
	9	S	14/08/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire
				1136 days 104km 244deg (WSW)
GV61854 T6WT	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
		x	08/07/20	Garwick Bay, Isle of Man
				381 days 30km 61deg (ENE)
GV61863 T1WS	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
	3	S	23/08/19	Calf of Man 61 days
	5	S	23/02/20	Kinnegar Beach, Belfast
				Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				245 days 94km 313deg (NW)
GV61874 T9WU	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
	5	S	20/09/20	Dundalk, Co. Louth, Eire
				455 days 104km 266deg (W)

GV61888	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
T6WE	5	S	16/05/20	At sea, 12kms east of Strangford Lough, Irish Sea
	5	S	29/06/20	328 days 44km (WNW) Portavogie, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	5	S	26/07/20	372 days 60km 317deg (NW) Portavogie, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				399 days
GV61889	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
T8WT	3	S	26/09/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire
	5	S	12/08/20	95 days 100km (W) Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	5	S	28/09/20	416days 56km 303deg (WNW) Knockinelder Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				463 days 57km 309deg (NW)
GV61892	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
T3WA	5	S	07/08/20	nr Kentraugh 411 days 6km 91deg (E)
GV61897	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
T9WE	5	S	08/08/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				412days 56km 303deg (WNW)
GV61909	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
T2ZE	5	S	10/02/20	Redgate Lane, Manchester
				229 days 166km (E)
GV61911	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
T8ZE	3	S	18/12/19	Kay Park, Kilmarnock, Scotland
	5	S	07/08/20	175 days 174km (NNE) nr Kentraugh
				408 days 6km 91deg (E)

	5	S	14/08/20	nr Kentraugh 415 days 6km 91deg (E)
	5	S	26/09/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 458days 57km 296deg (WNW)
GV61913	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
T1ZE	5	S	27/03/20	Soleburn, Loch Ryan, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland 275 days 95km (N)
GV61920	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
T4VG	3	S	19/09/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 85 days 129km 222deg (SW)
	3	S	27/09/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 93 days
	3	S	04/10/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 100 days
	3	S	06/10/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 102 days
	3	S	16/10/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 112 days
	3	S	21/10/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 117 days
	5	S	24/05/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 333 days
	5	S	11/06/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 351 days
	5	S	03/09/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 435 days
	5	S	09/09/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 441 days
	5	S	13/09/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 445 days

Additional sightings of GV61920 on 4th & 21st October 2019 are given here.

GV61921	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
T6VP	3	S	17/10/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 113 days 100km (W)

	5	S	26/06/20	Mill Bay, Carlingford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 366 days 84km 269deg (W)
	5	S	28/09/20	Knockinelder Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 460 days 57km 309deg (NW)
GV61923	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
T1VL	5	S	26/07/20	Portavogie, Co. Down, N. Ireland 396 days 60km 317deg (NW)
GV61931	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
TOWA	5	S	06/08/20	Mosney Beach, Co. Louth, Eire 407days 103km 248deg (WSW)
GV61933	1	N	26/6/19	Calf of Man
T9WA	5	S	24/01/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 212days 104km 244deg (WSW)
	5	S	15/09/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 447 days
GV61947	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T8WB	3	S	13/09/19	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 78 days 100km (SW)
	5	S	20/11/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 512days 102km 244deg (WSW)
GV61952	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
TOYS	3	S	16/11/19	Ballawattleworth Farm, Peel, Isle of Man 142 days 21km 26deg (NNE)
	5	S	04/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 191 days 21km 23deg (NNE)
	5	S	12/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 199 days
	5	S	15/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 202 days

GV61956	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T8YS	5	S	12/06/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 351days 56km 303deg (WNW)
GV61957	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T3YS	3	S	24/11/19	Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 150 days 111km 228deg (SW)
	5	S	27/02/20	Bull Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 245 days 116km 230deg (SW)
	5	S	10/03/20	Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 257 days
	5	S	25/05/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 333 days 127km 222deg (SW)
GV61961	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T1YU	3	S	09/09/19	Sandymount Strand, Co. Dublin, Eire 74 days 121km (SW)
	3	S	10/09/19	Sandymount Strand, Co. Dublin, Eire 75 days
	3	S	18/10/19	Bullock Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 113 days 121km 226deg (SW)
	5	S	18/07/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 387 days 127km 222deg (SW)
GV61963	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T2YU	3	S	06/12/19	Peel, Isle of Man 162 days 21km 23deg (NNE)
	5	S	20/01/20	Bull Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 207 days 116km 230deg (SW)
GV61968	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T9YU	5	S	28/09/20	Knockinelder Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 459 days 57km 309deg (NW)
GV61970	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T7YV	5	S	12/09/20	Roosebeck, Cumbria 443 days 105km (E)

GV61971	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T8YV	3	S	17/10/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire
	5	S	29/01/20	112 days 100km (W) Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	5	S	30/01/20	216 days 127km 222deg (SW) Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	5	S	05/02/20	217 days Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	5	S	14/04/20	223 days Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	5	S	25/04/20	292 days 121 km 231deg (SW) Tolka / Fairview, Co. Dublin, Eire
	5	S	04/07/20	303 days Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	5	S	26/07/20	373 days Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	5	S	27/07/20	395 days Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	5	S	15/08/20	396 days Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	5	S	17/09/20	415 days Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire
				448days 102km 245deg(WSW)
GV61972	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T9YT	5	S	18/10/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				479days 57km 296deg (WNW)
GV61979	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T4YV		S	14/08/20	nr Kentraugh
				414 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GV61986	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T6YV		S	16/08/20	nr Kentraugh
				413 days 7km 75deg (ENE)

GV61990 T3WF	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
		S	07/08/20	nr Kentraugh 404 days 7km 75deg (ENE)
GV61994 T3WG	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
	3	S	31/12/19	Peel, Isle of Man 184 days 21km 23deg (NNE)
	5	S	04/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 188 days
	5	S	12/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 196 days
	5	S	15/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 199 days
	5	S	09/06/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 345days 57km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	25/07/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 391 days
		S	03/09/20	Peel, Isle of Man 431 days
	5	S	27/09/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 455 days
GV61995 T3WH	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
	3	S	23/12/19	Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, Eire 176 days 256km (SW)
GV61999 T9WF	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
	5	S	25/05/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 330 days 127km 222deg (SW)
GY06252 T1WF	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
	3	S	27/12/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 180 days 127 km 222deg (SW)
	5	S	25/02/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 240 days
	5	S	19/02/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 234 days
	5	S	27/02/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 242 days
	5	S	28/03/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 272 days

	5	S	28/04/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 303 days
	5	S	11/06/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 347 days
	5	S	26/08/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 423 days
	5	S	09/09/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 437 days
	5	S	15/09/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 443 days
	5	S	20/09/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 448 days
	5	S	29/09/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 457 days
GY06268	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T5WJ	5	S	25/05/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 330 days 127km 222deg (SW)
GY06278	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T6WH	5	+	04/03/20	Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford, Eire. 248days 183km 211deg (SSW)
GY06283	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T4YZ	3	S	06/11/19	Dun Laoghaire Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 129 days 111km (SW)
	5	S	11/06/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 347 days 127km 222deg (SW)
	5	S	30/07/20	Ben Head, Gormaston, Co. Dublin, Eire 396days 102km 245deg (WSW)
GY06285	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T1YZ	5	S	21/03/20	Grange Castle Bus Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 265 days 134km 234deg (SW)
	5	S	20/09/20	Grange Castle Bus Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 448 days

GY06296	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T1YX	5	S	02/07/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 368 days 102km 245deg (WSW)
GY06297	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T8YW	5	S	13/07/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 376days 56km 303deg (WNW)
	5	S	26/08/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 420days 57km 296deg (WNW)
GY06299	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T0YZ	5	S	13/07/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford, Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 414 days 56km 303deg (WNW)
	5	S	12/08/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 406 days
GY06300	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T2YX	5	S	28/09/20	Broadmeadows, Co. Dublin, Eire 453 days 112km 235deg (SW)
GY06305	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T9YX	5	S	06/08/20	Hilbre Island, Wirral, Merseyside 400 days 129km (SE)
GY06313	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T6YY	3	S	29/09/19	Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 88 days 111 km 228deg (SW)
	5	S	10/02/20	Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 222 days
GY06317	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T3YY	3	S	10/11/19	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 130 days 133km 231deg (SW)
	3	S	21/12/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, # Eire 171 days 127km 222deg (SW)

	5	S	05/03/20	Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, Eire 246 days 144km 215deg (SW)
	5	S	09/06/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 342 days 102km 245deg (WSW)
	5	S	14/06/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 347 days
GY06327	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T7VE	5	S	26/01/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 207 days 57km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	21/07/20	Dundrum (Inner Harbour), Co. Down, N. Ireland 384 days 71km 289deg (WNW)
	5	S	09/09/20	Tyrella Beach, Co. Down, N. Ireland 434 days 64km 291deg (WNW)
GY06329	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T3VB	5	S	26/02/20	Hayle Estuary, Cornwall 238 days 432km (S)
	5	S	26/07/20	Portavogie, Co. Down, N. Ireland 389 days 60km 318deg (NW)
GY06331	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T8VE	3	S	14/09/19	Laytown Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 73 days 102km (W)
	5	S	26/09/20	Ben Head, GDublin, Eire 451 days 102km 245deg (WSW)
	5	S	13/10/20	Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 468 days 99km 239deg (WSW)
GY06338	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T6VE	5	S	27/07/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 390 days 56km 303deg (WNW)
	5	S	19/08/20	Dundrum (Inner Harbour), Co. Down, N. Ireland 413 days 71km 289deg (WNW)

	5	S	09/09/20	Dundrum (Inner Harbour), Co. Down, N. Ireland 434 days
GY06341	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T0VB	5	S	09/11/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 495 days 102km 245deg (WSW)
GY06343	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T9VF	3	S	03/11/19	Lisburn, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland 123 days 96m 302deg (WNW)
	3	S	08/12/19	Lisburn, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland 158 days
	5	S	02/02/20	Lisburn, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland 214 days
	5	S	08/03/20	Lisburn, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland 249 days
GY06354	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T1VC	5	S	06/06/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 339 days 56km 303deg (WNW)
	5	S	24/07/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 387 days
GY06409	1	N	13/07/19	Calf of Man
T1YR	5	S	13/04/20	Fistard, Isle of Man 275 days 4km 91deg (E)
GY06410	1	N	13/07/19	Calf of Man
T0YR	5	S	12/02/20	Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 214 days 101km 238deg(WSW)
GY06415	1	N	12/07/19	Calf of Man
T2YP	5	S	08/09/20	Annagassan, Co. Louth, Eire 424 days 102km 260deg (W)

GY06417	1	N	12/07/19	Calf of Man
T0YP	5	S	25/09/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man
	5	S	22/10/20	441 days 8km (ENE) Knockinelder Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 468 days 57km 311deg (NW)
GY06420	1	N	12/07/19	Calf of Man
T7YD	5	S	02/07/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 356 days 56km 303deg (WNW)
GY06424	1	N	12/07/19	Calf of Man
T3YD	5	S	26/07/20	Portavogie, Co. Down, N. Ireland 380 days 61km 318deg (NW)
GY06439	10	N	24/03/20	Calf of Man
T0WK		S	28/07/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 126 days 57km 296deg (WNW)
		S	27/09/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 187 days
		xA	19/10/20	Unknown location, Isle of Man 209 days 27km 39deg (NE)
GY06442	1	N	24/06/20	Calf of Man
T0WW	3	S	06/08/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 43 days 56km 303deg (WNW)
GY20510	1	N	30/06/20	Calf of Man
T9WY	3	S	12/10/20	Dunmore East, Waterford, Eire 104 days 256km 215deg (SW)
GY20514	1	N	30/06/20	Calf of Man
T3WZ	3	S	18/10/20	Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Eire 110 days 165km 213deg (SSW)

GY20522	1	N	02/07/20	Calf of Man
T1XE	3	S	26/08/20	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland 55 days 133km 231deg (SW)
	3	S	11/11/20	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland 132 days
GY20523	1	N	02/07/20	Calf of Man
T2XE	3	S	15/08/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 44 days 127km 222deg (SW)
	3	S	12/10/20	Dungarvan Bay, Co. Waterford, Eire 102 days 288km 221deg (SW)
	3	S	23/11/20	Duncannon Beach, Wexford, Co. Waterford, Eire 144 days 248km 215deg (SW)
GY20531	1	N	06/07/20	Calf of Man
TOWR	3	S	17/09/20	Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, Eire 73 days 144km 215deg (SW)
	3	S	01/12/20	Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, Eire 148 days
GY20543	1	N	08/07/20	Calf of Man
T2WL		S	29/08/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 52 days 57km 296deg (WNW)

2020 was undoubtedly the best year ever for Herring Gull recoveries, with 177 reports received – an increase of 99 reports on 2019, the previous best year. This clearly indicates the value of colour-ringing gulls, with all bar three reports relating to sightings of rings ‘read-in-the field’. These observations point towards a general post-juvenile dispersal away from the Calf, with birds often then spending several years wandering around Ireland before returning to the Calf to breed after three or four years. There are relatively few ‘summer’ reports of birds away from the Calf and it will be interesting to see if this pattern continues, or if indeed ringing more birds will eventually generate a greater number of sightings away from the Calf.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	2	3	2	1	1	1
2020	0	3	0	1	0	0

	FRANCE	MOROCCO	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
Up to 2019	0	0	40	9
2020	1	1	5	2

GR64661	1	N	10/07/12	Calf of Man
T1ZF		S	22/11/12	Ferragudo, Portimao, PORTUGAL
		S	16/07/13	Matosinhos, PORTUGAL
		S	14/08/13	Torreira, PORTUGAL
		S	27/03/15	Cordoba, SPAIN
	10	S	10/10/18	Caleta de Velez, Andalucia, SPAIN
	10	S	26/07/20	Calf of Man
				2938 days

The 2020 sighting on the Calf, suggests that GR64661 has returned to breed here.

GR64679	1	N	13/07/12	Calf of Man
nT5ZH	7	S	16/01/14	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL
	7	S	18/02/14	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL
	9	S	29/01/15	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL
	9	S	28/02/15	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL
	9	S	04/03/15	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL
	10	S	26/03/16	Ericeira, Lisboa, PORTUGAL
				1352 days 1712km (SSW)

10	S	23/02/18	Sesimbra, Setubal, PORTUGAL 2051 days 1735km (S)
10	S	14/09/20	Treogat, Finistere, FRANCE 2985 days 619km (S)

Rather surprisingly this latter sighting of GR64679 is our first report from France.

GR98917	1	N	24/06/15	Calf of Man
T60:M	3	S	23/10/15	Tavira Salt Lakes, Faro, PORTUGAL 121 days 1894km 187deg (S)
	3	S	26/12/15	Olhao Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 185 days 1907km (S)
	7	S	10/05/17	Neven Estuary, Newport, Pembrokeshire, Wales 686 days 228km 181deg (S)
	10	S	03/01/19	Cortelha, PORTUGAL 1289 days 1899km (S)
	10	S	24/01/19	Cortelha, PORTUGAL 1310 days
	10	S	07/03/19	Cortelha, PORTUGAL 1352 days
	10	S	12/06/19	Calf of Man 1449 days
	10	S	10/09/20	Barra de Fuseta, Algarve, PORTUGAL 1905 days 1905km (S)
	10	S	08/12/20	Olhao Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 1994 days

The above details, for GR98917, include an additional record for 3rd January 2019. This bird clearly has a favoured wintering area in Portugal, however the sighting on the Calf in June 2019 is encouraging that it is likely to be breeding with.

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

3	S		11/11/18	Jardim Amalia Rodrigues, Lisbon, PORTUGAL 130 days 1683 km (S)
	5	S	18/09/19	Costa da Caparica, PORTUGAL 441 days
	7	S	20/05/20	Radipole Lake RSPB reserve, Weymouth 686 days 415 km (SSE)
	7	S	03/07/20	Shrewton Pig Farm, Shrewton, Wiltshire 730 days 342km (SSE)
	7	S	11/08/20	Costa da Caparica, PORTUGAL 769 days

Once again, Portugal is the favoured wintering haunt, however the records in late spring and early autumn 2020 suggest that GR99057 has begun to return north and will potentially be recruited back into the Calf breeding population in another couple of years.

GV61728	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
T33:M	3	S	13/10/17	Whitehead, Belfast Lough, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland 103 days 97km 324deg (NW)

A belated report of GV61728

GV61814	1	N	28/06/18	Calf of Man
T66:M	5	S	09/09/19	Matosinhos, PORTUGAL 438 days 1683km (S)
	5	S	08/10/19	Matosinhos, PORTUGAL 467 days
	7	S	06/02/20	Matosinhos, PORTUGAL 588 days

GY06315	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T4YY	3	S	09/10/19	Barra, Gafanha de Nazare, PORTUGAL 98 days 1480km (S)
	5	S	20/01/20	Safi, Doukhala-Abda, MOROCCO 201 days 2423km (S)

Our first recovery of a Lesser Black-backed Gull in Morocco, although given

the species preference to winter in southern Portugal, one might expect that further reports will be received in future years.

GY06348	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T1VF	5	S	27/06/20	Shawell A5 Lagoons, Leicestershire 360 days 279km (SE)
GY06437	10	N	27/08/19	Calf of Man
T3WK	10	S	02/11/19	Colmenar Veijo, SPAIN 67 days 1441km (S)
	10	S	22/02/20	Colmenar Veijo, SPAIN 179 days

Chough

	IOM	Northern Ireland
Up to 2019	76	1
2020	3	0

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 13km (E)
	4	S	16/11/18	Langness, Isle of Man 542 days
	4	S	25/04/20	Sandwick, Langness, Isle of Man 1068 days 13km (E)
EZ87072	4F	N	07/07/18	Calf of Man
Y,M Y,N		S	31/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 116 days 8km (ENE)
		S	25/09/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man 811 days
		S	30/09/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man 816 days
EZ87093	4	N	05/08/18	Calf of Man
B,R R,M	4	S	24/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 80 days 7km (ENE)

4	S	31/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man
			87 days
	S	05/08/20	Calf of Man
			733 days

Coal Tit

	IOM
Up to 2019	10
2020	1

AFL1755	3	N	21/10/20	Calf of Man
		xA	19/11/20	Port Erin, Isle of Man
				29 days 5km 42deg (NE)

AFL1755 was unfortunately another cat casualty.

Great Tit

	IOM	Northern Ireland
Up to 2019	45	2
2020	1	0

AFL1362	4F	N	13/10/20	Calf of Man
	4F	R	29/11/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
				47 days 7km 56deg (ENE)

A typical autumn movement having returned to the main Island following its day trip to the Calf.

Willow Warbler

	Channel Islands	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	1	3	30	15	5	8	9
2020	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	GAMBIA	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
Up to 2019	1	5	1	1	5

KND330	4	N	13/04/18	Calf of Man
	4	R	08/06/19	Gearradubh, Western Isles, Scotland
				421 days 412km 339deg (NNW)

Many of the Willow Warblers which pass through the Calf are heading to or from breeding grounds in Scotland.

KNJ319	3	N	30/07/19	Calf of Man
	3	R	02/08/19	Calf of Man
				3 days
		xA	06/05/20	Portglenone, Ballymena, Antrim, N. Ireland 281 days 141km 312deg (NW)

Presumably this bird was moving north towards its breeding grounds, but unfortunately didn't make it.

Chiffchaff

	Eire	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	1	13	9	1	3
2020	1	1	0	0	0

	FRANCE	GAMBIA	MOROCCO	SENEGAL	SPAIN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2019	1	1	1	2	1	1

HKN183	4	N	16/04/15	Calf of Man
	4	R	30/08/20	Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire
				1963 days 204km 81deg (E)

This record is, by some way, a new longevity record for a Calf-ringed Chiffchaff, being at least six years old at the time of recovery but falling short of the BTO record of 7 years and 8 months.

KNH080	4	N	20/03/19	Calf of Man
		xA	23/04/20	Newberry, Mallow, Co. Cork, Eire 400 days 338km 231deg (SW)

KNH080 is, perhaps rather surprisingly, just our second Chiffchaff recovery from Ireland.

Blackcap

	England	IOM	FRANCE
Up to 2019	1	2	1
2020	0	0	1

AFE7048	3F	N	08/09/19	Calf of Man
	3F	R	10/10/20	Marais-Moisan-Buissons, Messanges, Landes, FRANCE 398 days 1166km 168deg(SSE)

Only our second ever foreign recovery of a species that is occurring with greater frequency and numbers on the Calf in autumn in recent years.

Goldcrest

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK Channel
Up to 2019	1	50	77	3	4	13	1
2020	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE
Up to 2019	2	1
2020	0	1

KNJ799	3M	N	24/09/19	Calf of Man
	3M	R	17/11/19	Dunes de Mont St Frieux, Dannes, Pas-de-Calais, FRANCE 54 days 581km 132deg (SE)

With over 43,000 Goldcrest ringed on the Calf, this is rather surprisingly only our second ever French recovery for the species.

LDA301	3M	N	14/10/19	Calf of Man
	2M	R	10/11/19	Bidston, Wirral, Merseyside 27 days 135km 123deg (ESE)

Treecreeper

	IOM
Up to 2019	1
2020	1

LDA871	3	N	14/08/20	Calf of Man
	3	R	15/08/20	Calf of Man 1 day
	3	R	18/08/20	Calf of Man 4 days
	3	R	17/10/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 64 days 7km 56deg (ENE)

Only the 2nd ever recovery of a Calf-ringed Treecreeper, the other was to Port Erin.

Wheatear

	Channel Islands	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	1	5	3	1	8
2020	0	2	0	0	0

	ALGERIA	FRANCE	GERMANY	MOROCCO	SPAIN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2019	1	1	2	6	1	1

ADB1080	3J	N	24/06/18	Calf of Man
	4M	S	21/04/19	Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales 301 days 248km 189deg (S)
	5	S	23/04/19	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales 303 days 263km 187deg (S)
	4	S	11/05/19	Botallack, Cornwall 321 days 440km 188deg (S)

An additional report of ADB1080, seen on Skokholm Island, following its visit to Ramsey Island.

AFE6042	3J	N	24/06/19	Calf of Man
	3J	R	12/07/19	Calf of Man 18 days
	3	R	16/07/19	Calf of Man 22 days
	4	S	18/08/20	Barbary Castle, Wiltshire 421 days 301km (SSE)
AFE9112	3J	N	21/06/20	Calf of Man
	3	S	18/08/20	Stubhampton Estate, Dorset 58 days 331km (SSE)

Remarkably, AFE6042 and AFE9112 were recorded at sites just 30 km apart on the same day.

Dunnoek

	England	IOM
Up to 2019	2	7
2020	0	1

TR24987	3	N	30/09/20	Calf of Man
		xA	24/10/20	Injebreck, Isle of Man
				24 days 28km 43deg (NE)

Killed by a cat – an unfortunate end, but a useful recovery of a species that we know very little about their movements and migration. Late September sees a significant arrival of this species on the Calf.

Meadow Pipit

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	North Sea
Up to 2019	1	2	1	1	0	1	1
2020	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

	FRANCE	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
Up to 2019	12	7	11

ADB3348	4	N	10/04/19	Calf of Man
	4	R	17/09/20	Barnacre Reservoir, Lancashire
				526 days 138km 96deg (E)

AFE7770	3	N	17/09/19	Calf of Man
		xA	13/04/20	Portree, Isle of Skye, Highland
				209 days 396km 346deg (NNW)

Our first recovery from Scotland – potentially illustrating the natal area of some of the birds that pass through the Calf in autumn.

Chaffinch

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	3	19	53	4	15	4
2020	0	0	2	0	0	0

	NORWAY	SWEDEN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2019	1	1	1

AFE6461	5F	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
	4F	R	25/10/19	Calf of Man
				121 days
		xA	03/01/20	Port St Mary, Isle of Man
				191 days 6km 72deg (ENE)

Possibly one of the Calf breeding birds, AFE6461 was trapped on eight other occasions between ringing and when last caught here in late October 2019.

AFE8085	3F	N	30/09/19	Calf of Man
	5F	R	26/04/20	Ballagawne 209 days 7km 56deg (ENE)

Goldfinch

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	2	20	24	5	14	4
2020	0	3	0	0	5	2

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	SPAIN
Up to 2019	1	3	1
2020	0	3	0

ADB0167	6F	N	29/04/18	Calf of Man
	4F	R	03/10/20	Pen-y-Groeslon, Bryn croes, Gwynedd, Wales 888 days 136km 176deg (S)
ADB0295	5M	N	04/05/18	Calf of Man
	4M	R	18/10/20	Wyck, Hampshire 898 days 416km 141deg (SE)
ADB3237	5M	N	08/04/19	Calf of Man
	4M	R	28/10/20	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire, Wales 569 days 141km 130deg (SE)
ADB3719	5M	N	28/04/19	Calf of Man
	4M	R	28/09/19	Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland 153 days 100km 350deg (N)
	4M	R	13/10/19	Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland 168 days
	4M	R	18/10/19	Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland 173 days

AFE8801	3F	N	18/10/19	Calf of Man
		S	01/03/20	Coulaines, Pays de Loire, Sarthe, FRANCE
		S	02/03/20	135 days 756km 153deg (SSE) Coulaines, Pays de Loire, Sarthe, FRANCE
AFE8861	3M	N	25/10/19	Calf of Man
		R	25/03/20	Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland
	5M	R	12/04/20	152 days 100km 350deg (N) Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland
AFL1062	3M	N	06/10/20	Calf of Man
	2M	R	26/10/20	Light Oaks, Staffordshire
S965156	5F	N	18/04/18	Calf of Man
		xL	20/01/20	Liversedge, West Yorkshire
S965160	5F	N	19/04/18	Calf of Man
		R	08/02/20	Sliddery, North Ayrshire, Scotland
				660 days 159km 350deg (N)

Siskin

	England	Scotland
Up to 2019	4	2
2020	0	1

AFE8858	3M	N	24/10/19	Calf of Man
	5M	R	03/03/20	Glebe Farm, Salsburgh, North Lanarkshire, Scotland
				131 days 208km 18deg (NNE)

2020 Controls

Controls notified during 2019 are listed below, controls are birds ringed elsewhere and caught subsequently on the Calf. A total of 45 reports were received in 2020.

Manx Shearwater

	Northern Ireland	Wales
Up to 2019	48	11
2020	1	1

EL92055	1	N	09/09/07	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	4	R	18/08/20	Calf of Man 4727 days 85km 147deg (SSE)
FB52191	4	N	14/08/17	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
	6	R	21/07/20	Calf of Man 1072 days 143km 0deg (N)

Storm Petrel

	Channel Islands	Eire	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	England	Wales
Up to 2019	1	79	9	80	335	82	55
2020	0	1	0	1	1	1	3

	PORTUGAL
Up to 2019	7
2020	1

2549410	4	N	05/07/19	Filey, North Yorkshire
	4	R	21/07/19	Calf of Man 16 days 297km 267deg (W)
	4	R	12/07/20	Calf of Man 373 days 297km 267deg (W)
2639782	4	N	02/08/09	Sheepand Harbour, Ardglass, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	4	R	16/08/20	Calf of Man 4032 days 56km 118deg (ESE)

2701868	4	N	12/08/18	Inishtrahull, Co. Donegal, Eire
	4	R	03/08/20	Calf of Man 722 days 219km 135deg (SE)
2731425	4	N	15/07/17	Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland
	4	R	18/07/20	Calf of Man 1099days 640km 198deg (SSW)
2738262	4	N	14/07/20	Bae y Rhigol, Bardsey, Gwynedd, Wales
	4	R	02/08/20	Calf of Man 19 days 143km 360deg (N)
2746205	4	N	17/07/19	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
	4	R	20/06/20	Calf of Man 339 days 263km 7deg (N)
2765768	4	N	21/07/20	Bae y Rhigol, Bardsey, Gwynedd, Wales
	4	R	15/08/20	Calf of Man 25 days 143km 360deg (N)
N07579 POL	4	N	15/06/19	Ponta de Almadena, Faro, PORTUGAL
	4	R	03/08/20	Calf of Man 415 days 1914km 10deg (N)

The eighth Portuguese control from Ponta de Almadena, although the first since 2009.

Razorbill

	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	7	1
2020	1	0

M97552	1	N	23/06/99	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll & Bute
	6	R	21/06/18	Calf of Man 6938 days 145km 160deg (SSE)
	6	R	15/06/20	Calf of Man 7663days 145km 160deg (SSE)

This breeding adult was caught in the nest in 2018.

In 2020, the nest chamber was too deep for the bird to be retrieved, however it was possible to gain a photograph of the ring to identify the bird.



Great Black-backed Gull

	Eire	
Up to 2019	2	
2020	2	

MA29044	1	N	11/07/10	Ireland's Eye, Co. Dublin, Eire
	10	S	20/09/20	Calf of Man
				3724days 112km 49deg (NE)

MA47623	1	N	18/06/19	Dalkey Island, Co. Dublin, Eire
		xL	02/07/20	Calf of Man
				380 days 121km 44deg (NE)

Large roosts of Great Black-backed Gulls congregate on the Calf throughout the year, and undoubtedly many birds with rings are missed, due to difficulties in getting close enough to observe flocks without flushing them. MA29044 was part of a large roosting flock at Baie Fine and was observed from a boat – this method produced a number of useful sightings this season, although unfortunately this mode of transport is only very occasionally available to us.

Herring Gull

	IOM		Northern Ireland		Wales
Up to 2019	7		1		1
2020	1		0		0

GR97473	6	N	08/07/15	Peel Bay
V18:M	10	S	16/07/17	Calf of Man
				739 days 21km 203deg (SSW)

10	S	02/07/18	Calf of Man 1090 days
10	S	08/07/18	Calf of Man 1096 days
10	S	23/03/19	Calf of Man 1354 days
10	S	03/04/19	Calf of Man 1365 days
10	S	12/04/19	Calf of Man 1374 days
10	S	26/04/19	Calf of Man 1388 days
10	S	25/09/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man
10	S	06/11/20	Calf of Man 1948 days

Lesser Black-backed Gull

	England	IOM
Up to 2019	1	3
2020	0	1

GR79416	8	N	25/05/15	Point of Ayre Gravel Pit, Isle of Man
T7VD	10	S	20/06/19	Calf of Man 1487 days 49km 216deg (SW)
	10	S	21/06/19	Calf of Man 1488 days
	10	S	12/07/20	Calf of Man 1875 days

It is likely that this bird has relocated and now breeds annually on the Calf.

Chough

	IOM	Wales
Up to 2019	16	1
2020	1	0

EY50054	1	N	01/06/20	Site Confidential, Isle of Man
G,M W,O		S	30/08/20	Burroo Ned, Isle of Man
		S	11/09/20	Calf of Man 102 days 10km

Great Tit

	IOM
Up to 2019	15
2020	1

S998858	4	F	30/08/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	3	F	27/09/20	Calf of Man 28 days 7km 236deg (WSW)

Willow Warbler

	Channel Islands	Eire	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	England	Wales
Up to 2019	2	1	6	3	19	41	13
2020	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2019	5	5	1

LAD655 3 N 04/08/18 Nanjizal, Land's End, Cornwall
 4 R 27/08/20 Calf of Man
 754 days 449km 8deg (N)

Presumably LAD655 was heading south for winter when caught in Cornwall and is likely to be a bird breeding north of the Calf and was caught here on at least its third return journey to Africa.

Chiffchaff

	Eire	IOM	England	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	1	3	18	1	5
2020	0	0	0	1	0

	BELGIUM	DENMARK	FRANCE	GAMBIA	NORWAY	SENEGAL	SPAIN	SWEDEN
Up to 2019	4	1	2	1	1	6	6	1

LHL683 2 N 11/10/19 Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries
 & Galloway, Scotland
 4 R 22/03/20 Calf of Man
 163 days 100 km 170deg (S)

Just our second control from Scotland.

Blackcap

	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2019	4	1	0	1
2020	0	0	1	0

	BELGIUM	DENMARK	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2019	1	1	2

Z482942 5F N 31/05/20 Shillingland, Dumfries &
 Galloway, Scotland
 4F R 20/06/20 Calf of Man
 20 days 139km 203deg (SSW)

Our first ever control from Scotland, and one that perhaps suggests the origin of birds moving through the Calf in early autumn - which are thought likely to be failed breeders.

Chaffinch

	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland
Up to 2019	10	14	1	2
2020	0	4	0	1

	BELGIUM	DENMARK	NORWAY	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2019	1	1	1	1

AAF9961	3	N	23/07/19	Cnoc, Argyll & Bute
	4M	R	05/10/20	Calf of Man 440 days 239km 182deg (S)
S998874	3J	N	16/09/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	3F	R	27/09/20	Calf of Man 11 days 7km 236deg (WSW)
	3F	R	08/10/20	Calf of Man 22 days
	3F	R	17/10/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
S998692	3J	N	03/08/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	3F	R	21/09/20	Calf of Man 49 days 7km 236deg (WSW)
S998859	3J	N	30/08/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	3F	R	01/10/20	Calf of Man 32 days 7km 236deg (WSW)
	3F	R	17/10/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	3F	R	02/01/21	Ballagawne, Isle of Man

Goldfinch

	England	IOM	Wales	BELGIUM	FRANCE
Up to 2019	20	8	3	5	1
2020	1	0	0	0	0

AZF0734	6 M	N	26/01/20	Light Oaks, Staffordshire
	6 M	R	16/03/20	Calf of Man 50 days 211km 302deg (WNW)

Non-Avian Report – 2020

Mammals

Pygmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

97 records from 15th March and 6th November

This small but cute shrew was mainly seen within the Observatory – mainly within the workshop, kitchens and living room. 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*)

One was seen by a camera trap at the compost bin on 25th October and was further seen on 27th, 29th and 30th October, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th November.

Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

Three records on 20th, 21st and 27th September

All three records found when flown, in the early hours, into a mist net at the Observatory.

Bat spp. (*Chiroptera spp.*)

Six records between 8th August and 23rd September

One on 8th and 9th August seen within the Water Barn was thought to be a Pipistrelle. On 3rd, 16th, 22nd and 23rd September, sightings were made from around the Observatory, which are thought to be a Brown Long-eared Bat.

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

One found dead washed up at South Harbour on 24th August was the second record for the Calf.

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

154 records from 10th March and 7th November

There were numerous sightings of ‘black’ Rabbits throughout the year with a peak count of four on 16th July. Sightings are mainly focussed within the Central Glen with other regular sightings towards the Baie Fine area and Big Head.



Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

86 records between 12th March and 2nd November

This species was seen sporadically throughout the season, before picking up in autumn with a peak count of 11 on 10th October, when eight was seen at Cow/Cletts, two at South Harbour and one at Leodan.

	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Max.	2	N/A	N/A	2	3	3	6	11	2

Grey Seal (*Halichoerus gryphus*)

9511 records between 6th March and 7th November

Grey Seals are commonplace here on the Calf being seen all year round.

Undertaking monthly seal counts has resulted in high peak counts with 287 and 279 on 10th September and 10th October, respectively.



The ‘pupping’ season has been another success with 61 pups born during autumn.

	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Max.	196	N/A	N/A	123	115	135	287	279	237

Cetaceans

Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

55 records between 18th March and 18th October

In March, 12 records on five different dates between 18th and 25th March begun a good season for this species. Seen on three different dates in June before picking up in July being seen on eight different dates with a peak count of seven on 24th July. Sporadic counts were made thereafter throughout the following months. Sightings were seen from all vantage places on the island such as Cow and South Harbour and offshore from the Lighthouses.

Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)

Four on 21st June seen off East Coast were the only records of the year.

Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

38 records between 12th July and 19th October

The first sighting of the year was two seen off the Lighthouses on 12th July. A further pod of 12 was seen on 24th July off Big Head. The next couple of months saw two records of four and six on 7th August and 5th September, respectively. In October, five was seen at Lower Lighthouse on 18th with a further nine at Gibdale on 19th.

Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)

35 records on five different dates between 18th March and 5th November



Seven on 18th March off South Harbour started off a quiet year for this species. A pod of 10 was seen off Big Head on 24th June with a further five also seen on 13th July. A total of six on 27th August and 29th September seen at Upper Lighthouse and Kione ny Halby, respectively. The last sighting was of one at South Harbour on 5th November.

Dolphin spp. (*Delphinus spp.*)

A sighting of three unidentified dolphins at South Harbour on 30th August were the only records of the year.

Minke Whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)

Two recorded roughly 4 miles west of Calf of Man on 21st July.

Fish

Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)

An individual was seen within the Sound on both 14th June and 24th July.

European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)



27 records between 15th August and 18th September

A good year for this species started on 1st August, two adults were trapped in Millpond with another just outside the trap. On 15th August one was found in a rock pool in Puddle with another individual on 17th August within the Millpond. A further four adults was found in the Millpond on 27th August. September saw a good count, a total of 21 on 7 different dates, a peak count of six on 13th Sept.

Reptiles

Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*)

41 records between 25th March and 15th September

This was the first-year formal lizard monitoring began. The refugias went out in early March at 15 locations along the butterfly transect route. These sites were monitored every week whilst undertaking the butterfly transect during June and July and again once in September. However, no lizards were reported during these surveys.

The first sightings of the year were four on 25th March. Sporadic counts were made throughout June and July with only ones or twos found. It picked up in August with a peak count of eight on 24th August. The last sighting was made on 15th September. Lizards were often found basking around the Observatory and Millpond.



Odonata

Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

479 records between 23rd June and 14th September

When we arrived in mid-June, this species was already on the wing with counts of 50+ made on 23rd and 29th June. Intermittent counts were made in June, before becoming more frequently in August with the last sighting made on 14th September.

Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

10 records between 10th August and 1st October

A quiet year for this species with the first individuals on 10th and 12th August with two on 14th August. September saw individuals on 11th, 14th and 16th with a further 2 on 15th. The last sighting was on 1st October seen at Jane's.

Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*)

Six records between 18th July and 14th October

18th July saw the first sighting of the year at Millpond with another on 31st August when one was seen catching and eating a Common Darter. A string of three records on 1st, 3rd and 5th September at the Millpond, with the last being seen on 14th October between Lower Lighthouse and Ghaw Laing.

Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

65 records between
16th July and 29th
September

The first was seen on 16th July with a further two on 18th July. Numbers picked up in August and September with a peak count of six on 20th August. The last sighting was made on 29th September with two at Millpond and one at Cletts.



Dragonfly spp. (*Anisoptera* spp.)

An unidentified dragonfly on 13th and 19th August was seen flying around the Observatory which was too brief to even assign to a family level.

Beetles

Minotaur beetle (*Typhaeus typhoeus*)

160 records between 6th March and 7th November



This beetle can be seen crawling slowly almost anywhere around the island. It was recorded infrequently throughout March, June, July, August and September before picking up in October.

A total of 41 and 32 was found in the Back Field during the night on 8th and 11th October, respectively, with another total of 23 on 6th November. The last sighting was made with a single on 7th November.

Violet Ground Beetle (*Carabus violaceus*)

35 records between 15th March and 7th November

Can be found almost anywhere across the island but most sightings were made around the Observatory with a peak count of four on 26th September.

Carabus problematicus

This species can closely resemble Violet Ground Beetle but under a close eye, singles were managed to be found on 15th and 22nd March.

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

24 records between 21st July and 5th November

Can be found almost anywhere on the island but this year it was found mostly whilst checking tubes for Longtail monitoring.

Black Sexton Beetle (*Nicrophorus humator*)

23 records between 2nd July and 21st September

All sightings involved individuals attracted to the moth trap with a peak count of seven on 16th September.

Banded Sexton Beetle (*Nicrophorus investigator*)

140 records between 2nd July and 21st September

All sightings involved individuals attracted to the moth trap with a peak count of 26 on 16th September.

Night flying Dung Beetle (*Aphodius Rufipes*)

12 records between 6th August and 1st September

All sightings involved individuals attracted to the moth trap with a peak count of four on 14th August.

Green Tiger Beetle (*Cincidela campestris*)

This beautiful common beetle is best to find between May and June but due to our absence from the Calf during spring, there was only one record for the year found on 1st July.

Pterostichus nigrita

Six records between 10th March and 14th September

Five records on four different dates in March with another on 14th September were the only records of the year. Sightings were made at around the Observatory.

Black Clock Beetle (*Pterostichus madidus*)

59 records between 21st June and 28th September

Commonly found around the Observatory with a peak count of six on 4th September.

Carabus granulatus

32 records between 11th March and 22nd October

Most sightings have occurred around the Observatory with a peak count of three on various dates.

Leistus spinibarbis

Five records on two dates 15th and 16th October

An individual on 15th October with a further four found on 16th October, all at the Observatory.

Brown Chafer (*Serica Brunnea*)

The second year this beetle has been found on the Calf with a single attracted to a moth trap on 14th August.

Garden Chafer (*Phyllopertha horticola*)

One recorded within the moth trap at Plantation on 6th August.

Notiophilus biguttatus

One found in Front Field on 19th March.

Cartodere nodifer

One found in Back Field on 18th March was a good record.

Black Snail Beetle (*Silpha atrata*)

One found on 21st June at the Observatory.

Agabus Beetle spp.

One on 6th August found within the moth trap at Plantation.

Calathus fuscipes

Three records on three different dates between 21st September and 11th October

Singles on 21st and 28th September with another single on 11th October. All found within the moth trap at Plantation.

Common Red Soldier Beetle (*Rhagonycha fulva*)

12 records between 19th July and 29th July

This beetle can be found around the Observatory feeding on flowers such as Thistle (*Cirsium spp.*) with a peak count of three on three different dates.

7-spot Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*)

13 records between 24th June and 22nd July

All found amongst the thistle at Kione ny Halby with a peak count of eight on 18th July.

Otiorhynchus clavipes

Five records between 10th and 23rd August

Singles recorded on 10th and 22nd August with a further three on 23rd August.
Can be found anywhere around the island.

Corixidae

Water Boatman (*Corixa punctata*)

9 records on 10th and 14th August

Five on 10th August and four on 14th August – bizarrely, all were found within the moth trap at Plantation.

Myriapods

Pill Millipede (*Glomeris marginata*)

Four records between 21st June and 6th November

Singles were found on walls at the Observatory during the night.

Bees

White-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*)

100 records between 19th March and 22nd October with a peak count of 13 on 15th September.

Buff-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)

251 records between 20th March and 7th November with a peak count of 36 on both 15th and 16th October.

White/Buff-tailed Bumblebee spp.

284 records between 6th March and 8th November

The White-tailed and Buff-tailed Bumblebee are well represented here on Calf of Man, being recorded most days throughout the year, however as they are quite difficult species to separate on the wing - 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, Millpond/Withy and above Jane's House.

Common Carder Bee (*Bombus pascuorum*)

99 records between 15th June and 12th October

A common bee across the island, especially at around the Observatory with a peak count of six on 20th June.

Garden Bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*)

Four records on three separate days between 7th and 19th September

Singles on 7th and 19th September with two on 9th September.

Honeybee spp. (*Apis spp.*)

91 records between 30th August and 15th October

Recorded frequently throughout the autumn with a peak count of 22 on 4th September, it was regularly seen on Ivy (*Hedera helix*) around the Observatory.

Giant Horntail Wasp (*Urocerus gigas*)



Five records between 19th July and 9th August.

The second year this wasp has been found on the Calf with all sightings recorded when flown into a mist net at the Observatory. This pine loving species was found in mist nets in Plantation and by the conifers at the end of the track.

Ichneumon sarcitorius

One found on 3rd September at the Millpond.

Black Slip Wasp (*Pimpla rufipes*)

Singles on 18th and 20th September – both found at the Observatory.

Ichneumon Wasp Spp. (*Ichneumonidae* spp.)

Two records on 21st September and 7th October

Both attracted to moth trap with 21st September thought to be an *Ophion luteus* whilst 3rd October was thought to be a *Netelia tarsata*.

Common Wasp (*Vespidae vulgaris*)

39 records between 21st July and 15th October

Seen around the Observatory with a peak count of five on 10th September.

Blue Bottle Fly

Both *Calliphora vomitoria* and *Calliphora vicina* were very common throughout the year sometimes in huge numbers.

Dance Fly spp.

One on 2nd July at the Observatory was thought to be an *Empis livida*.

Common Drone Fly (*Eristalis tenax*)

One on 17th August found at the Observatory.

Helophilus pendulus

One on 16th September at the Millpond.

Colletes succinctus

The second year this species has been found on the Calf with singles on 5th, 8th and 14th September - all found at the Observatory.

Yellow Dung Fly (*Scathophaga stercoraria*)

One at the compost bin on 8th November was the only record of the year.

Hemerobiformia

Green Lacewing (*Chrysopa carnea*)

One on 3rd September found at Central Heath was the only record of the year.

Caelifera

Common Field Grasshopper (*Chorthippus brunneus*)

Two on 26th September found along the East Coast.

Common Green Grasshopper (*Omocestus viridulus*)

Singles on 25th June and 24th August were the only records of the year.

Molluscs

Common Garden Slug (*Arion distinctus/hortensis*)

17 records between 23rd March and 30th October

Found at the Observatory with a peak count of six on 23rd October.

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

23 records between 24th June and 8th November

Found at the Observatory with a peak count of four on 15th September and 8th November.

Tree Slug (*Limax marginatus*)

137 records between 10th March and 8th November

The most common slug to be found this year with a peak count of 29 on 15th September.

Irish Yellow Slug (*Limacus maculatus*)

Seven records between 14th March and 25th March.

Found at the Observatory with a peak count of three on 23rd March.

Yellow Slug (*Limax flavus*)

Singles recorded on 27th August and 6th October - found at the Observatory.

Leopard Slug (*Limax maximus*)

Two on 19th August with a single on 26th August were the only records of the year.

Ashy-grey Slug (*Limax cinereoniger*)

Singles photographed on 30th October at Big Head and 6th November by the front gate of the Observatory. This is the first and second record for the Calf of Man.

Hedgehog Slug (*Arion intermedius*)

One photographed on 7th October near Grants Harbour is thought to be this species which would be a first for the Calf of Man.

Araneae

European Garden Spider (*Araneus diadematus*)

Can be commonly seen on Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) anywhere across the island.

European House Spider (*Tegenaria domestica*)

One on 2nd November seen within the farmhouse.

Annelida

Horse Leech (*Haemopsis sanguisuga*)

Three found on 12th October at Top Withy was the only records of the year.

Crustacea

Common Sea Slater (*Ligia oceanic*)

One found at South Harbour on 25th September.

Shore Crab (*Carcinus maenas*)

Two found on 14th October at South Harbour were the only records of the year.

Scyphozoa

Lion's Mane Jellyfish (*Cyanea capillata*)

One found on 17th August at South Harbour.

Compass jellyfish (*Chrysaora hysoscella*)

10 records on 10th and 13th September

Eight on 10th September with a further two on 13th September – found at South Harbour.

Butterfly Report – 2020

2020 has been a unique year which had seen the Observatory shut down, with wardens off the island for 3 months from 26th March to 18th June due to Covid-19. This meant that no butterflies have been recorded during this time which has resulted in lower numbers than usual for certain species.

Observers were low in numbers throughout June and July with only the two wardens coming back to the Calf. Work carried out through June and July were predominantly on breeding seabirds which meant working along cliffs where there would be lower numbers of butterflies. Numbers of butterflies increased in August when the third warden joined on 13th August with the first volunteers also coming over to the Calf. This just shows that having extra people on the island will result in greater numbers of butterflies. Figure 1 shows that this year was the fourth lowest year, within the last 10 years, for individuals of butterflies.

With all these reasons, it is hard to gauge exactly just how poor this season has been for butterflies. We have seen half of the 14 species found on the Calf this year register a poor season with Green-veined White and Small Copper faring the worst. It is, however, not all doom or gloom with some species having a good year for instance, we have seen one of the best years for Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell. See figure 2 for full count of species recorded this year.

The butterfly transect that was used this year is as follows:

1. Starting at the information board by the outdoor ringing room heading towards Spaghetti Junction.
2. From Spaghetti Junction to the left-hand side gate into Seafield just past the Mill. Including around Mill.
3. From the Gate at 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 the gate at the bottom of the Withy through Withy and to the gate at the top of Top Withy
5. From the gate at the top of Top Withy, going into then past the Observatory and ending at the gate by End Field.

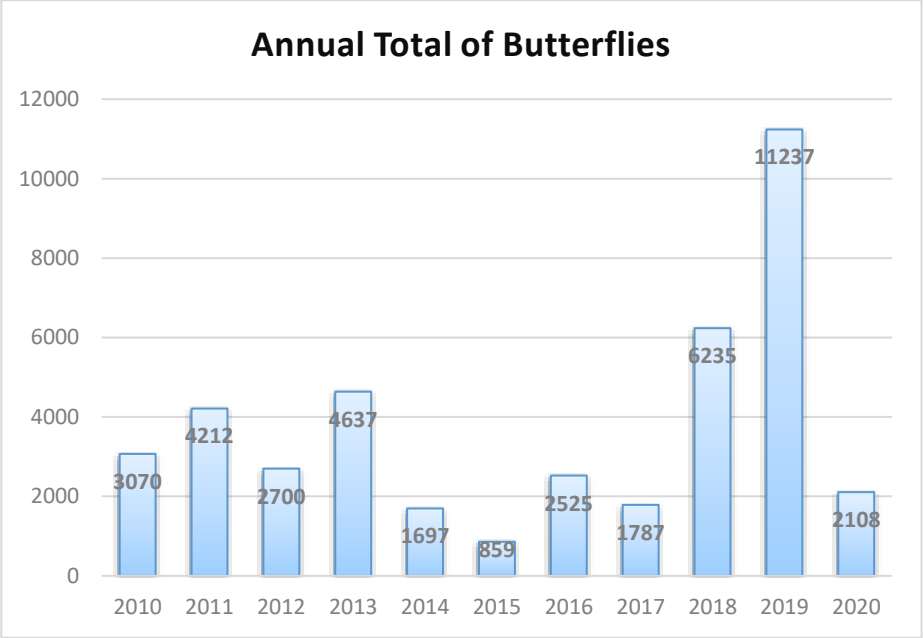


Figure 1

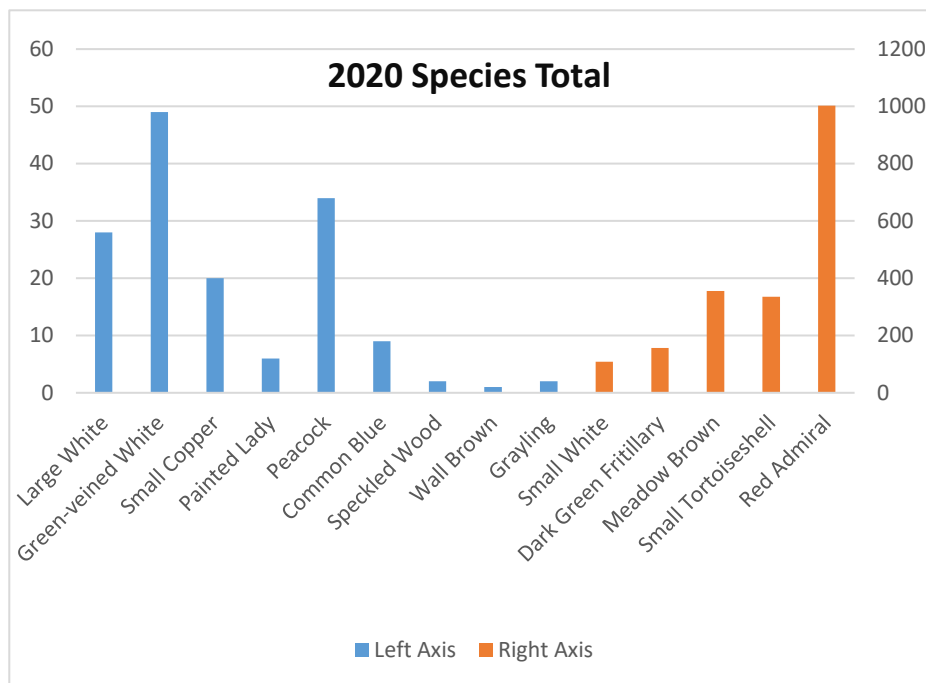


Figure 2

Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)

28 records between 1st July and 21st September

The first sighting was made on 1st July with two at Upper Withy. A few ones and twos followed in July and August before picking up in September with a peak count of four on two different dates. This represents an average year but was a poorer year compared to last year's total of 63. Predominantly seen along the Glen.

Small White (*Pieris rapae*)

108 records between 25th June and 14th October

Four on 25th June were the first for the year, with intermittent counts thereafter throughout July before picking up in August, with a peak count of 15 on 14th August. September and October were quiet with the last sighting made on 14th October with three seen.

Within the last 3 years this species has been steadily increasing and now this year represents the best year within the last 10 years. Predominantly seen along the Glen.

Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*)

49 records between 10th July and 24th August

The first of the year was on 10th July with erratic counts thereafter in July. In August regular counts were made with a peak count of six on 3rd August. Five on 24th August were the last ones for the year. This represents an extremely poor year for this species however, due to our absence in spring, we had missed the first generation which would explain the low numbers. Predominantly seen along the Glen.

Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)

20 records between 14th August and 15th October

Three on 14th August were the first of the year with sporadic sightings throughout August and September. Peak counts of three on two different dates with the last sighting made on 15th October.

This represents the second lowest year in the last 10 years. First generation occurs during May when we were absent from the Calf which might explain their low numbers. Sightings were mainly amongst the heather in areas such as the Central Heath or East Coast.



Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*)



156 records between 9th June and 19th July

The first sighting of the year was made on 9th June when two was seen along the Glen. Counts were made more or less every day throughout June and July with a peak count of 45 on 25th June. The last sighting was made on 19th July with two being seen.

This is the second lowest year in the last 10 years – a significant decrease from last year's total of 1821. This cannot be explained away by our absence as our arrival back on to the Calf coincided with the start of adults' emergence. Predominantly seen along the Glen or any areas with thistle.

Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

1002 records between 11th March and 26th October

The most numerous species this year with the first sighting made on 11th March when one was seen hibernating in one of the outbuildings. Numbers picked up at the end of June and became more or less daily from thereafter throughout July, August and September with a peak count of 91 on 19th September. Numbers dwindled in October with the last sighting made on 26th October.



This is the best year for this species within the last 10 years. There was a big influx of migrants between 15th and 21st September where 399 were seen across the week. Sightings were mainly around the Observatory where there was an abundance of Buddleia to feed on.

Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

Six records on five different dates between 24th June and 16th September

Following on from the insane 6949 individuals seen in 2019, it was a shame to see such low numbers this year. The first sighting was made on 24th June and was not seen again until three individuals on three different dates at the end of August. Two on 16th September were the last for the year.

This species is a long-distance migrant which means that numbers can fluctuate greatly from year to year. All sightings were made at the Observatory feeding on the Buddleia.

Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)

335 records between 9th March and 16th October

The first emergence of this species was made on 9th March when one was found hibernating within the Observatory. It was seen in late June with sporadic counts in July and early August before picking up in late August with a peak count of 30 on 24th August. It was seen more or less daily throughout September and was last seen on 16th October.

This year represents the best year within the last 10 years. Most sightings were made at the Observatory feeding on the Buddleia with some individuals seen at the Millpond.



Peacock (*Inachis io*)



34 records between
20th July and 6th
November

The first individual
was found on 20th July
with frequent counts
throughout July and
up to mid-August
before dropping off
towards the end of
the month. The last
one was found on 6th
November with a
peak count of four on
8th August.

This represents the third best year in the last 10 years following on after the impressive 80 records from last year. Most sightings were made at the Observatory feeding on the Buddleia with some individuals seen at the Millpond.

Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)

Nine records on five different dates between 10th August and 21st August

The first record of the year was a single noted on 10th August with a peak count of five on the 14th. Three separate individuals on 15th, 20th and 21st August were the last of the year.

An average year compared to previous years. Mostly seen at Millpond and along Mill Giau.

Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*)

Two records on 16th September and 20th September

A single individual was seen at Millpond in the late afternoon of 16th September with another individual seen whilst on Kitterland on 20th September.

Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*)

One record on 15th June

Yet another poor season for this species with only the one record which was seen at Kione ny Halby on 15th June. Our absence from the island during spring might have contributed to seeing such low numbers as their flight period is between May and June.

Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*)

Two records on 21st June and 14th August

One on 21st June seen at Lower Lighthouse with another at the Triangle on 14th August. A poor showing with only two records making this the second lowest year in the last 10 years.

Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)

356 records between 8th July and 5th September

First sighting was made on 8th July with frequent counts for the rest of the month. August saw more or less daily counts with a peak count of 36 on 14th August. Numbers quickly dropped off at the end of August with the last sighting made on 5th September.

A relatively poor season making this the fourth lowest year in the past 10 years. Predominantly seen along the Glen.

Moth Report – 2020

A total of 126 species of moth were recorded this year consisting of 92 macro and 34 micro species. One new species was recorded for the Calf – Scallop Shell (*Hydria undulata*). This highly distinctive moth is a common species found locally across large parts of the UK, being found in open woodlands with an undergrowth of Bilberry, and marshy areas.

Due to the developing COVID-19 pandemic, the decision made to close all Manx National Heritage properties and sites meant that our season came to a halt on 26th March. The season did not restart until 18th June, when it was safe to do so, which meant we had missed out on key species such as Grey (*Hadena caesia mananii*) and Brown Silver-line (*Petrophora chlorosata*).

It has been an average year for migrants with six Dark Sword-Grass (*Agrotis ipsilon*), 224 Silver Y (*Autographa gamma*), 14 Diamond-back Moth (*Plutella xylostella*), five Rusty-dot Pearl (*Udea ferrugalis*) with no Rush Veneer (*Nomophila noctuella*) caught at all this year.

Only one mercury vapour trap was used throughout the season with an actinic trap being used only a couple of times. Plantation was the main trapping area this year with the Front Hedge and Front Garden being used only a couple of times. A total of 44 trap nights from 22nd June to 23rd October with a total of 3680 individuals seen and caught throughout the year.

This year has seen reduced numbers of trap nights compared to last year's total of 84. Also, little time has been spent on trying to catch/identify day-time flying moths. This has resulted in lower numbers of both species and individuals.

The following species account layout follows the nomenclature in 'Log Book of British Lepidoptera' by J.D. Bradley and D.S. Fletcher (2000). To aid cross-referencing with recent publications the log numbers in 'Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles' by D. J. L. Agassiz, S. D. Beavan & R. J. Heckford (2013) are shown in brackets alongside the B&F log number. Species highlighted in **bold** typeface indicate that they are new additions to the Calf list.

383 (52.016) Thrift Clearwing

Pyropteron muscaeformis

One attracted to
pheromone lure at
South Harbour on 19th
June.



425 (16.002) Orchard Ermine

Yponomeuta padella

One attracted to MV at Plantation on 17th July.

464 (18.001) Diamond-back Moth

Plutella xylostella

A total of 14 were recorded between 7th July and 16th August with a peak
count of five on 15th August.

647 (28.010) Brown House Moth

Hofmannophila pseudospretella

A total of three were recorded within the Farmhouse between 25th August
and 29th August with a peak count of two on 25th August.

648 (28.009) White-shouldered House Moth

Endrosis sarcitrella

Three found within the Observatory with a single on 19th October and two on
23rd October.

670 (32.039)

Depressaria daucella

One on 6th August attracted to MV at Plantation.

697 (32.017)

Agonopterix arenella

One attracted to MV at Plantation on 16th September which was last
recorded back in 2014.

776 (35.146) *Teleiopsis diffinis*
A total of 118 all recorded at MV between 30th June and 1st September with a peak count of 40 on 13th August.

873 (41.002) *Blastobasis adustella*
A total of four were recorded between 13th August and 16th August with a peak count of two on 15th August.

945 (49.127) *Aethes cnicana*
One was recorded to MV at Plantation on 24th July.

966 (49.139) *Cochylis atricapitana*
A total of four attracted to MV at Plantation between 22nd June and 9th August.

970 (49.025) Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix *Pandemis cerasana*
A total of 43 caught between 30th June and 8th September with a peak count of six on 21st July.

972 (49.026) Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix *Pandemis heparana*
Between 22nd June and 8th July, six individuals were recorded to MV at Plantation.

998 (49.039) Light Brown Apple Moth *Epiphyas postvittana*
One recorded to MV at Plantation on 24th June.

1019 (49.056) *Cnephasia conspersana*
Two caught to MV at Plantation and Front Hedge on 30th June and 30th July.
This represents the seventh and eighth record for the Calf.

1048 (49.077) Garden Rose Tortrix *Acleris variegana*
One caught to MV at Plantation on 13th August.

1076 (49.166) *Celypha lacunana*
Two caught to MV at Plantation with one on 15th August and another on the 16th.

1109 (49.185) *Lobesia littoralis*
One caught to MV at Plantation on 22nd August.

1163 (49.259) Spruce Bud Moth *Zeiraphera ratzeburgiana*
Singles caught on 8th and 21st July all attracted to MV at Plantation.

1175 (49.294) Bramble Shoot Moth *Notocelia uddmanniana*
One caught to MV at Plantation on 2nd July.

1184 (49.285) *Epiblema scutulana*
One was caught to MV at Plantation on 6th August.

1201 (49.265) *Eucosma cana*
A total of three separate individuals recorded on 1st, 21st and 24th July all caught to MV at Plantation.

1293 (63.080) Garden Grass Veneer *Chrysoteuchia culmella*
A common moth that can both be caught to light and disturbed during the day with the first being caught to MV at Plantation on 22nd June. A total of 55 were recorded with the last record being 11 caught to MV on 16th August. A peak count of 12 caught to light on 15th August.

1302 (63.088) *Crambus perlella*
One caught to MV at Plantation on 24th June. It was last recorded in 2015.

1303 (63.092) *Agriphila selasella*
Two individuals caught to MV at Plantation on 6th and 12th August with a further two caught on 13th August.

1304 (63.093) *Agriphila straminella*
Two individuals caught to MV at Plantation on 24th July and 12th August.

1305 (63.089) *Agriphila tristella*
A total of eight recorded between 26th July and 16th August with a peak count of three on 13th August.

1309 (63.095) *Agriphila geniculea*
A total of 73 were recorded between 21st July and 21st September with a peak count of 16 on 1st September.

1334 (63.064) *Scoparia ambigualis*
A total of 10 were trapped between the 7th July and 16th July, with a maximum of four attracted to MV at Plantation on the 12th July.

- 1336 (63.075) *Eudonia pallida*
A very good year for this species with a total of 16 recorded between 30th July and 15th August. Prior to 2020 there was only three records which we smashed on 30th July when 11 came to MV at Front Garden.
- 1338 (63.067) *Eudonia lacustrata*
A total of 14 were recorded between 2nd July and 30th August with a peak count of seven on 1st August caught to MV at Front Garden.
- 1376 (63.025) Small Magpie *Anania hortulata*
A total of 14 were recorded between 15th June and 16th August with a peak count of two on 26th June.
- 1395 (63.031) Rusty-dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis*
Yet another poor year for this migrant with only five records throughout the year. Singles on 8th July, 9th and 12th August, 1st and 21st September.
- 1497 (45.010) Beautiful Plume *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*
One caught in the Volunteers bedroom on 21st September was the 18th record with the last record back in 2015.
- 1689 (70.023) Mullein Wave *Scopula marginepunctata*
A single caught to MV at Plantation on 8th July.
- 1702 (70.013) Small Fan-footed Wave *Idaea biselata*
Three caught on 6th August with a further single on 15th August.
- 1708 (70.011) Single-dotted Wave *Idaea dimidiata*
Four singles on 8th, 12th and 30th July and 6th August all caught to MV at Plantation and Front Hedge.
- 1713 (70.016) Riband Wave *Idaea aversata*
Two caught to MV at Front Garden on 1st August with a further single caught to MV at Plantation on 6th August.
- 1716 (70.038) Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria*
A migratory species with one seen on Kitterland on 20th September. This represents the sixth record with the last record being two back in 2016.

- 1722 (70.053) Flame Carpet *Xanthorhoe designate*
A poor year for this species with only two caught to MV at Front Hedge on 30th July.
- 1727 (70.054) Silver-ground Carpet *Xanthorhoe montanata*
Singles caught to MV at Plantation on 24th July, 13th and 15th August.
- 1728 (70.049) Garden Carpet *Xanthorhoe fluctuata*
A total of four were recorded with singles on 1st July and 20th September with a further two on 1st September.
- 1742 (70.059) Yellow Shell *Camptogramma bilineata*
A very common species on the Calf with a total of 175 recorded between the 18th June and 17th August. The maximum count was 20 flushed from Bracken during the day on the 20th June.
- 1752 (70.087) Purple Bar *Cosmorhoe ocellata*
Singles caught to MV at Plantation on 1st and 7th July.
- 1755 (70.090) Chevron *Eulithis testate*
Five recorded to MV at Plantation with three on 12th August and two on 16th August.
- 1761 (70.096) Autumn Green Carpet *Chloroclysta miata*
One caught to MV at Plantation on 17th October which represents the 15th record with it being last recorded in 2004.
- 1768 (70.081) Grey Pine Carpet *Thera obeliscata*
One caught to MV at Plantation on 21st September.
- 1776 (70.100) Green Carpet *Colostygia pectinataria*
One caught to MV at Front Garden on 3rd August.
- 1777 (70.074) July Highflyer *Hydriomena furcata*
A total of five were recorded between 14th July and 13th August with a maximum count of two on 26th July.
- 1789 (70.121) Scallop Shell *Hydria undulata*
One caught to MV at Plantation on 21st July was the first record for the Calf.

- 1803 (70.133) Small Rivulet *Perizoma alchemillata*
One caught to MV at Front Garden on 1st August with this being the sixth record with the last being recorded back in 1998.
- 1830 (70.179) Wormwood Pug *Eupithecia absinthiata*
A total of eight recorded between the 1st July and 12th August with a maximum of two on the 1st and 6th August.
- 1846 (70.168) Narrow-winged Pug *Eupithecia nanata*
One of the most common Pug on the Calf with a total of 12 recorded to light at the Observatory between the 22nd June and 15th August. The maximum count was three on the 21st July.
- 1860 (70.144) Green Pug *Pasiphila rectangulata*
One caught to MV at Plantation on 22nd June making this the fifth record with the last being recorded in 2016.
- 1862 (70.141) Double-striped Pug *Gymnoscelis rufifasciata*
A total of five recorded between 7th July and 16th September all caught to MV at Plantation.
- 1902 (70.222) Brown Silver-line *Petrophora chlorosata*
A common species that we have missed out on their flight season due to not being on the island. One was caught to MV at Plantation on 22nd June with a further two seen during the day on 23rd June.
- 1913 (70.234) Canary-shouldered Thorn *Ennomos alniaria*
A single on 5th September caught to MV at Plantation was the only record of the year.
- 1921 (70.241) Scalloped Oak *Crocallis elinguaris*
One caught to MV at Front Garden on 3rd August.
- 1922 (70.243) Swallow-tailed Moth *Ourapteryx sambucaria*
A single attracted to MV on 24th July at Plantation.
- 1937 (70.258) Willow Beauty *Peribatodes rhomboidaria*
Singles caught to MV at Plantation on 13th and 16th August.

1964 (70.287) Annulet

Charissa obscurata

Singles on 7th July and 12th August caught to light at Plantation with additional two on 1st August caught to MV at Front Garden.

1981 (69.003) Poplar Hawk-moth

Laothoe populi

Another species we have missed out on their flight season due to not being on the island. Only three singles recorded to MV at Plantation on 1st, 2nd and 7th July.

1984 (69.010) Hummingbird Hawk-moth

Macroglossum stellatarum

Singles were recorded on six dates between 2nd August and 19th September. Most sightings were seen feeding on buddleia in the Front Garden.



2003 (71.013) Pebble Prominent

Notodonta ziczac

A single on 7th July attracted to MV at Plantation was the only record of the year.

2043 (72.044) Dingy Footman

Eilema griseola

One was recorded to MV at Plantation on 16th August. This represents the third record with the last record back in 2012.

2047 (72.046) Scarce Footman

Eilema complana

A good year for this species with three singles seen on 3rd, 6th and 15th August.

2050 (72.045) Common Footman *Eilema lurideola*
One caught to MV at Plantation on 21st July was the sixth record for the Calf following on from one last year.

2057 (72.026) Garden Tiger *Arctia caja*
A total of 23 were recorded between 2nd July and 13th August with a maximum count of three on 12th July and 1st August.

2060 (72.020) White Ermine *Spilosoma lubricipeda*
A poor year for this species with only a single recorded to MV at Plantation on 1st July.

2061 (72.019) Buff Ermine *Spilosoma lutea*
A total of 65 were recorded between 19th June and 24th July with a maximum of 20 caught to MV at the Plantation on the 2nd July.

2069 (72.031) Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae*
A total of 79 were recorded between 15th June and 3rd August with a maximum count of 20 on 15th June.

2078 (74.004) Least Black Arches *Nola confusalis*
A single on the 7th July recorded to MV at Plantation.

2080 (73.312) Square-spot Dart *Euxoa obelisca grisea*
A total of 211 were recorded between 12th August and 20th September with a maximum count of 49 attracted to MV at the Plantation on the 13th August.

2089 (73.317) Heart and Dart *Agrotis exclamationis*
A total of 14 caught to MV between 22nd June and 13th August with a peak count of three on 22nd June.

2090 (73.324) Crescent Dart *Agrotis trux lunigera*
A very common species with 1170 recorded in total between 22nd June and 5th September. The maximum was 186 attracted to MV at the Plantation on the 6th August.

2091 (73.327) Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon*
There was a total of six records of this regular migrant recorded between 25th June and 13th August with a max count of two on 25th June.

- 2102 (73.329) Flame Shoulder *Ochropleura plecta*
A quiet year for this species with only a single recorded on 24th July caught to MV at Plantation.
- 2107 (73.342) Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua pronuba*
A total of 151 were recorded between 15th June and 16th October with a maximum count of 45 attracted to MV at the Plantation on the 25th June.
- 2109 (73.345) Lesser Yellow Underwing *Noctua comes*
A total of eight were recorded between 30th July and 10th September with a maximum count of three attracted to MV at the Plantation on the 1st September.
- 2110 (73.343) Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing *Noctua fimbriata*
A single caught to MV at Plantation on 3rd August.
- 2111 (73.348) Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing *Noctua janthe*
A total of 13 were recorded between 30th July and 16th September with a maximum count of three attracted to MV at Front Garden on the 1st August.
- 2112 (73.346) Least Yellow Underwing *Noctua interjecta caliginosa*
Singles caught to light at the Plantation on 12th and 13th August were the 11th and 12th record for the Calf.
- 2117 (73.365) Autumnal Rustic *Eugnorisma glareosa*
A poor year with only five records between 30th August and 21st September. A peak count of two on 30th August.
- 2118 (73.338) True Lover's Knot *Lycophotia porphyria*
A relatively quiet year with 397 recorded between 22nd June and 20th September. The maximum count was 87 caught to MV at the Plantation on the 21st July.
- 2120 (73.333) Ingrailed Clay *Diarsia mendica*
A total of 20 were recorded between 25th June and 12th August with a maximum count of five attracted to MV at Front Garden on 3rd August.
- 2126 (73.359) Setaceous Hebrew Character *Xestia c-nigrum*
A total of four singles caught to MV at Plantation on 5th, 16th, 18th and 27th September.

2128 (73.361) Double Square-spot *Xestia triangulum*
Singles on 16th and 21st July attracted to MV at Plantation was the 12th and 13th record.

2133 (73.358) Six-striped Rustic *Xestia sexstrigata*
A single caught to MV at Plantation on 9th August was the 11th record for the Calf.

2134 (73.357) Square-spot Rustic *Xestia xanthographa*
A total of 24 were recorded between 9th August and 21st September with a maximum count of seven attracted to MV at the Plantation on 1st September.

2135 (73.356) Heath Rustic *Xestia agathina*
A total of 26 spread across four dates (5th, 8th, 10th and 16th September) with a peak count of 10 on 10th September.

2160 (73.267) Bright-line Brown-eye *Lacanobia oleracea*
A total of 26 were recorded between 22nd June and 3rd August with a maximum count of six attracted to MV at the Plantation on 19th July.

2163 (73.271) Broom Moth *Ceramica pisi*
A quiet year with two singles on 25th June and 16th September.

2167 (73.286) Pod Lover *Hadena perplexa capsophila*
On 14th July two were recorded to MV at Plantation. Yet another species that we have missed the main bulk of their flight season due to not being on the island.

2173 (73.281) Lychnis *Hadena bicruris*
A single on 15th August attracted to MV at Plantation.

2174 (73.285) Grey *Hadena caesia mananii*
The Calf is a stronghold for this scarce coastal species however as their flight season coincided with our absent on the island, we have missed out the main bulk of numbers. A total of three were recorded with two on 21st July and one on 13th August.

- 2176 (73.254) Antler Moth *Cerapteryx graminis*
A good year with a total of 179 recorded between 29th July and 8th September with a maximum count of 44 attracted to MV at the Plantation on 13th August.
- 2192 (73.290) Brown-line Bright Eye *Mythimna conigera*
One on 12th July attracted to MV at the Plantation. This is the seventh record with this being the first one since 1996.
- 2193 (73.298) Clay *Mythimna farrago*
A single caught to MV at Front Hedge on 30th July.
- 2198 (73.293) Smoky Wainscot *Mythimna impura*
A total of 17 were recorded between 12th July and 15th August with a maximum count of eight attracted to MV at the Front Hedge on 30th July.
- 2229 (73.234) Brindled Ochre *Dasypolia templi*
Two recorded to MV at Plantation on 16th October were the only records of the year.
- 2232 (73.233) Black Rustic *Aporophyla nigra*
A total of 54 were recorded between 8th September and 23rd October with a peak count of 26 attracted to MV at the Plantation on 16th September.
- 2243 (73.069) Early Grey *Xylocampa areola*
One found in the Front Garden during the day on 20th March was the only record of the year.
- 2255 (73.235) Feathered Ranunculus *Polymixis lichenea*
Singles on 20th and 21st September caught to light at Plantation were the only records of the year.
- 2256 (73.210) Satellite *Eupsilia transversa*
One caught to MV at Plantation on 5th September was the sixth record for the Calf.
- 2262 (73.192) Brick *Agrochola circellaris*
One found during the day in the Front Garden on 9th October.
- 2263 (73.189) Red-line Quaker *Agrochola lota*
One found during the day in the Front Garden on 9th October.

2270 (73.193) Lunar Underwing *Omphaloscelis lunosa*
A good autumn for this species with a total of 123 recorded between 5th September and 17th October with a maximum count of 29 attracted to MV at the Plantation on 21st September.

2289 (73.045) Knot Grass *Acronicta rumicis*
Singles on 24th and 30th June and 14th July were the only records of the year.

2305 (73.114) Small Angle Shades *Euplexia lucipara*
Singles on 22nd June and 16th July both caught to MV at Plantation.

2306 (73.113) Angle Shades *Phlogophora meticulosa*
A total of 14 were recorded between 28th August and 16th October with a maximum count of three attracted to MV at the Plantation on 27th September.

2321 (73.162) Dark Arches *Apamea monoglypha*
A total of 96 were recorded between 22nd June and 27th September with a maximum count of 12 attracted to MV at the Plantation on 21st July.

2342 (73.171) Rosy Minor *Litoligia literosa*
A total of three were caught to MV at Plantation with a single on 12th August and two on 13th August.

2343 (73.169) Common Rustic agg. *Mesapamea secalis* agg.
A total of 13 were recorded between 12th July and 9th August with a maximum count of three attracted to MV at the Plantation on 21st July.

2350 (73.144) Small Wainscot *Denticucullus pygmina*
A total of 10 were recorded between 1st August and 21st September with a maximum count of two on two separate dates.

2353 (73.131) Flounced Rustic *Luperina testacea*
A total of 19 were recorded between 9th August and 20th September with a maximum count of seven attracted to MV at the Plantation on 1st September.

2360 (73.128) Ear Moth agg. *Amphipoea oculea* agg.
A total of five on 13th August was a good count with a further two on 15th August. All were caught to MV at Plantation.

2364 (73.121) Frosted Orange *Gortyna flavago*
Singles on 10th and 16th September caught to MV at Plantation were the only records of the year.

2368 (73.119) Crescent *Helotropha leucostigma*
Singles on 1st and 3rd August caught to MV at Front Garden and Plantation, respectively.

2381 (73.096) Uncertain *Hoplodrina octogenaria*
A total of four were recorded with two caught to MV at Plantation on both 7th and 12th July.

2382 (73.097) Rustic *Hoplodrina blanda*
A total of 66 were recorded between 8th July and 13th August with a peak count of 11 attracted to MV at the Plantation on 21st July.

2434 (73.012) Burnished Brass *Diachrysia chrysis*
A single caught to MV at Plantation on 12th July was the only record of the year.

2439 (73.022) Gold Spot *Plusia festucae*
Singles on 12th and 13th August caught to MV at Plantation.

2441 (73.015) Silver Y *Autographa gamma*
A good year for this migrant with a total of 224 recorded between 23rd June and 17th October with a maximum count of 50+ seen during the day on 19th September.

2449 (73.002) Dark Spectacle *Abrostola triplasias*
A single on 17th July caught to MV at Plantation was the only record of the year.

2450 (73.001) Spectacle *Abrostola tripartita*
A total of nine were recorded between 24th June and 6th August with a maximum count of two attracted to MV at the Plantation on 21st July.

2477 (72.003) Snout *Hypena proboscidalis*
A poor year with singles on 16th and 25th July.

Longtail (Brown Rat) Report – 2020

We were very close to having a Longtail-free year when unfortunately, one was sighted by a camera trap at the compost bin on 25th October. It was seen most nights throughout the week with fourteen Fenn traps placed in and around the compost bin on 2nd November the same day as when the SD card was checked. Unfortunately, we did not manage to kill the Longtail with the Fenn traps brought back in on the last day of the season. It should be aimed to put these Fenn traps back out with toxic baits as soon as possible at the start of next season.

A volunteer on 5th November saw out of the corner of his eye what he thought could be a Longtail at Leodan. Six Fenn traps were placed out on the same day and were checked daily before being brought back in on 9th November with no luck of killing the potential Longtail.

Toxic bait was not used at all because of a couple of reasons – in the past two years no Longtail has been seen to be taking any toxic baits, with the last three Longtails being killed by a Fenn trap. Another reason why we did not use toxic baits was because of how long it would take to kill one. Typically, a Longtail would need to be eating a constant supply over at least a week before it takes affect and kills it. We did not have the time to allow this so late in the season, especially with how busy the last week is with closing down the Observatory.

This is the third year running now that a Longtail has been sighted at the compost bin. Potentially having a small compost heap at Cow harbour with a camera trap set up, we might be able to see if there is any activity down at Cow.

There is a need for continued vigilance to potential Longtail incursions and this is attained by checking for Longtail activity through bites of scented wax blocks in plastic tubes. There are approximately 300 points covering the island and are checked every month. It is massively time consuming and requires volunteers to ensure this is completed each month. As well as checking wax blocks, we also regularly check camera traps dotted around the island.

Maintenance of plastic tubes were carried out throughout the season, replacing lost tubes, pegs and canes.

Due to Covid-19 only two visits to Kitterland were made in late June and September. The first visit was only made to ring gulls with no Longtail monitoring taking place. The second visit allowed us to do the full monitoring of Longtail plastic tubes. It was obvious straightaway that this would be a difficult task with vegetation getting out of control and hiding most of the tubes. We tried to find them all but without doubt we have missed some. Therefore, it is best to visit Kitterland next year in March/April when the vegetation has died back in order to allow us to properly locate all the tubes and replace any that are missing. Ideally, we will also put canes out to help locate the tubes. The camera trap had been brought off so this will need to be put back up first thing next season.

It is important we do this early in the season as Kitterland is often the first port of call for a Longtail before making their way to the Calf. Therefore, it is imperative to check and replace missing tubes to make sure there are no evidence of Longtail on Kitterland.

Staff & Long-term Volunteers

Rob Fisher (RKF) – Volunteer Warden
Breeshey Harkin – MWT Seal surveyor
Lara Howe – Manx Wildlife Trust
Mollie Kirk – MWT Seal surveyor
Jim Middleton (JM) – MNH Shepherd
Geoff Mitchell – MNH (maintenance)
Shaun Murphy – Manx National Heritage
Howard Osborne - MNH (maintenance)
Aron Sapsford (AS) – Ornithological Warden
Erica Spencer - Manx National Heritage
Daniel Woollard (DW) – Estate Warden
Christa Worth

Local Volunteers

David Fisher	Ally Prior
Pat Griffiths	Mike Prior
Sandra Kaighin	Di Swayne

Other Contributors

The Bowers family	Neil Morris (NM) – Manx Birdlife
Liz Charter	Caroline Roriston – ‘Vagabond’
Juan Clague – ‘Scraayl’	Phil Roriston - ‘Vagabond’
Stephen Clague – ‘Scraayl’	Lindsay Rowe
Tim Earl	Karen Sapsford
Brain Kelly	Aidan Sapsford
Susie Mackenzie-Fidlin	Bob Taylor – ‘Gemini’
Manx Ornithological Society	

2020 Photographic Credits

Front Cover

View looking south towards Burroo	-	Rob Fisher
-----------------------------------	---	------------

Report Front

Great Black-backed Gull chick	-	Rob Fisher
-------------------------------	---	------------

Wardens' Report

Fallen Tree	-	Rob Fisher
Data sheet	-	Aron Sapsford
Warden's kitchen	-	Daniel Woollard
Bowers Family	-	Rob Fisher
Family with shearwater	-	Rob Fisher
Juan Clague	-	Aminah Khan
View looking south towards Burroo	-	Rob Fisher
Bonfire	-	Di Swayne

Monthly Summaries

Merlin	-	Mollie Kirk
Purple Sandpiper	-	Phil & Caroline Roriston
Mallard & young	-	Trail Camera
Red-breasted Flycatcher	-	Rob Fisher
Treecreeper	-	Rob Fisher
Wood Warbler	-	Rob Fisher
Osprey	-	Daniel Woollard
Yellow-browed Warbler	-	Rob Fisher
Mistle Thrush	-	Rob Fisher
Firecrest	-	Rob Fisher
'Siberian' Chiffchaff	-	Rob Fisher

Systematic List

Canada Goose	-	Daniel Woollard
Fulmar	-	Rob Fisher
Manx Shearwater	-	Steve Clague

Great White Egret	-	Steve Clague
Hen Harrier Map	-	RSPB
Oystercatchers	-	Rob Fisher
Greenshank	-	Trail Camera
Great Skua	-	Rob Fisher
Puffin	-	Mick Coupe
Long-eared Owl	-	Rob Fisher
Jackdaw flock	-	Daniel Woollard
Coal Tit	-	Rob Fisher
Yellow-browed Warblers	-	Rob Fisher
Reed Warbler	-	Rob Fisher
Garden Warbler	-	Rob Fisher
Rose-coloured Starling	-	Rob Fisher
Pied Wagtail nest	-	Rob Fisher
Chaffinch flock	-	Rob Fisher

Ringing Report

Chaffinch	-	Aron Sapsford
Wheatear	-	Peter Thompson
Peregrine	-	Rob Fisher
Ringing station	-	Rob Fisher

Recoveries & Controls

Great Black-backed Gull	-	Rob Fisher
Chough	-	Mollie Kirk
Razorbill in nest chamber	-	Rob Fisher

Non-Avian Report

Black Rabbit	—	Aron Sapsford
Seal pup	—	Rob Fisher
Risso's Dolphin	—	Steve Clague
European Eel	—	Rob Fisher
Common Dartar	—	Daniel Woollard
Common Lizard	—	Rob Fisher
Minotaur Beetle	—	Rob Fisher
Giant Horntail Wasp	—	Rob Fisher

Butterfly Report

Red Admirals on banana	–	Breeshey Harkin
Small Copper	–	Daniel Woollard
Dark Green Fritillary	–	Rob Fisher
Peacock	–	Rob Fisher
Red Admiral	–	Daniel Woollard
Small Tortoiseshell	–	Daniel Woollard

Moth Report

Thrift Clearwing	–	Rob Fisher
Hummingbird Hawkmoth	–	Daniel Woollard



Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

Isle of Man Registered Charity No 603

Manx National Heritage,
Kingswood Grove,
Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LY
+44 (0) 1624 648000
enquiries@mnh.im
www.manxnationalheritage.im