

Calf of Man Bird Observatory



Annual Report **2021**



Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

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Map of the Calf of Man



The Calf of Man Bird Observatory

The Calf of Man is a rocky islet extending to approximately 616 acres and it is situated half a mile off the south-west coast of the Isle of Man in the middle of the Irish Sea. The Calf is owned and administered by Manx National Heritage (MNH) and it is run as a Bird Observatory and Nature Reserve. The island is an ideal place to study many aspects of bird life, with around 33 species breeding annually and it is located on one of western Britain's major migration routes. Breeding seabirds include Manx Shearwater, Fulmar, Razorbill and Shag and colonies of the three larger *Larus* gull species. You can also see a variety of species around the island such as Peregrine, Hen Harrier, Chough, Raven, as well as other rare and unexpected migrants. Ornithological studies on the Calf have contributed over 60 'new' species to the Isle of Man bird list, with two new species for the British Isles discovered amongst the 283 species recorded.

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 2021, 285,062 birds of 167 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.



Ringling in the 'new' Withy hide

Visitor Information

The Estate Warden and Ornithological Warden oversee the day to day running of the islet, and visitors and staying guests must at all times follow their advice and instructions.

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

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

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

Visitor accommodation is available in the Observatory during the summer season – normally, from May to end of August. 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/> for further details.

During the summer season, private boat operators run visits to the Calf from Port St Mary and Port Erin harbours. The vessels operate depending on weather conditions and demand.

For more information, please contact:

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CALF OF MAN

BIRD OBSERVATORY REPORT -

2021

Ornithological Warden

Aron Sapsford

Estate Warden

Daniel Woollard

Assistant Volunteer Wardens

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Mollie Kirk

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Wardens' Report – 2021

With three wardens living on the Isle of Man during winter 2021, plans to start the season during early March were well in hand. In line with Government coronavirus restrictions, Daniel Woollard (Estate Warden) arrived on Island in late February to fulfil his required period of quarantine, which would then allow us to all travel over to the Calf on 8th March. Unfortunately, a third Island-wide lockdown was imposed on 4th March and our plans were put on hold until Government restrictions were lifted, and we were eventually able to travel over to the Calf on the afternoon of the 21st April.



As usual, a wide array of challenges lay ahead, ranging from practical conservation and land management work, general maintenance of the buildings and infrastructure, to public and guest engagement. We would also be undertaking species specific and more standard survey fieldwork, as well as making sure records of everything is kept and written down for posterity. The sheer diversity of our work plan means there is no shortage of tasks to attend to, and we are kept busy both day and night! Thankfully, we have an amazing set of volunteers, whose support, enthusiasm and friendship has ensured that the 2021 season was another amazing one.

We are most grateful to Robert Fisher who returned as Assistant Volunteer Bird Warden for the 2021 season and to Mollie Kirk, who joined us from April to mid-September as Assistant Volunteer Estate Warden. This was the first season that volunteer assistants have been recruited for both wardens, and both Rob & Mollie's enthusiasm and efforts ensured that many more tasks were ticked off the to-do-list. It is also fair to say, that there were times during this season when the Calf would have ceased functioning without them.

Arriving in late April meant we had missed the start of spring migration, in particular any early arrivals of Goldcrest or Willow Warblers, but small numbers were still passing through during the latter half of April and into May. The remainder of the spring was often dominated by cold north or easterly winds, and this had the effect of vastly reducing the numbers of migrants recorded, with annual totals for many species subsequently being well below normal levels. Highlights during April and May were relatively few and far between but included our earliest ever Hobby, a Great Northern Diver, two Jack Snipe, a female Marsh Harrier and six Reed Warblers. June thankfully provided a little more excitement with a Western Subalpine Warbler, the 5th Woodchat Shrike ever and a Pied Flycatcher, all arriving in the first few days of the month.

With the continued presence of a Brown Rat around the Observatory during winter 2020/21, dealing with this matter was of high priority when we returned to the Calf and this was resolved relatively quickly. Unfortunately, there were further sightings of two more individuals during the autumn, both of which were quickly removed. Monitoring of any 'Longtail' activity is a significant proportion of the Estate duties, with approximately 300 bait points covering the island, being checked each month. Maintenance was on-going throughout the season, replacing plastic tubes and pegs that were lost due to extreme weather, as well as putting out new marker canes.

Three trips were made to Kitterland to monitor the bait points there, with quite a few missing bait tubes being replaced and new marker canes put in place during the September trip. For the second season running no evidence of any presence of longtails was found on either the wax blocks or camera trap. We acknowledge the expertise of Caroline and Phil Roriston who do an excellent job in landing us safely on Kitterland and enabling this monitoring to happen.



Following successful photographic courses run in 2018 & 2019, it was decided to expand the variety of these adult learning experiences and during spring 2021 we were supported hugely by Mike Radcliffe (photography), Tim Earl and Liz Charter (birdwatching) and David Fisher and Pat Griffiths (dry stonewalling) in running these popular and successful events. In addition, we were able to offer a one-night 'meet-the-Manxie' experience during May, which allowed participants to get 'hands-on' with our Manx Shearwaters as they come ashore during the cover of darkness. This event and the research that we undertake on Manx Shearwaters has been hugely benefitted by the purchase of a thermal image camera that was made possible through a generous award by the Curraghs Wildlife Park.

Manx Shearwaters are continuing to do well on the Calf and call-back burrow surveys along with more detailed mapping of the eight known sub-colonies has enabled us to estimate the current Calf population at around 1000 -1200 pairs. This is testament to the hard work and commitment shown by MNH, MWT, past wardens, volunteers and other partners over the past nine years, in establishing and implementing the Manx Shearwater Recovery Plan (MSRP).

Another seabird that is likely to have benefitted from the MSRP is the Atlantic Puffin, which was recorded landing on the Calf for the first time since 1997. Two pairs were regularly seen associating with the 'decoy area' around Kioney Halby, with birds seen 'cuddling-up' to decoys on several occasions and one bird photographed carrying nest material down towards a suitable breeding area. A small number of birds also continued to associate with the area around the Stack and it is conceivable that breeding may also/has been occurring on the slopes below the Upper Lighthouse.



For many species, the breeding season would seem to have been reasonably successful, with most seabirds recording above average breeding numbers. Productivity for Herring & Great Black-backed Gulls was above average for the second out of the last three years, although Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers were low, and many of their breeding attempts seemed delayed. This may well have been a result of the cold and dry spring, which also affected some passerines, in particular Chough. Warm and dry conditions during the summer months had a detrimental effect on gull chick survival, as well as 1st brood Wheatear productivity and Blackbird young were very scarce.

Eider numbers continue to flourish, whilst the Mallard pairs finally managed to raise one young to fledging, the first time in several years. At least five Robin pairs bred, a higher number than in any year since 1992, however the highlight of the season was a breeding attempt made by Buzzards, albeit unsuccessful, which became the 65th species to be recorded as attempting to breed on the Calf.

During 2020, a significant effort was made to increase the surface area of water at the Millpond by digging out Horsetail and silt. This made a huge difference to the 'attractiveness' of the pond for birdlife and 2021 saw the pond being regularly used by Snipe, along with several records of Jack Snipe and a juvenile Black-tailed Godwit, which took up residence for a day in early August. It is great to see the rewards of this management work and hopefully further removal of Horsetail during this autumn will continue to help maintain this habitat and attract more waders and wildfowl.



A new hide was also built at the Withy, funded from a wardens' talk given in 2018 and early in the season Mike Prior and Paul Corrin expertly masterminded the process of building the structure. This replaces the old hide that was built in the early 1970's and now provides birdwatchers with an ideal vantage point over the Millpond, as well as providing a base from which to carry out ringing activities at the Withy. It is planned to add some willow screening either side of the hide, which will aid approaching the hide without flushing everything that is on the pond.

One of the key features of the Calf landscape is the extensive dry-stone walling developed for the historic field system. Unfortunately, 25 years ago large areas of walling were in a poor state of repair or in some cases missing altogether. Largely due to the persistent efforts of long-term volunteers, David Fisher and Pat Griffiths, significant lengths of walling have been repaired over that time span. With welcome additional manpower this year as a result of the running of two dry stone walling courses, over 75 metres of wall was rebuilt or repaired in the area surrounding the lighthouses. It is now difficult to differentiate the repaired walling from the existing walling and which bears testament to the quality of the repair work undertaken.

The need to manage habitats on the Calf in a way that is beneficial to wildlife has long been a subject of much discussion. Land/habitat management that has routinely taken place has included bracken and heather cutting, ditch clearance, tree planting, path and dry-stone wall repairs, along with the aforementioned pond maintenance. The island is grazed by Loaghtan sheep and a fluctuating population of European Rabbits.

A floral survey of the Calf and Kitterland, carried out by Liz Charter, during 2021 found 202 vascular plant species, which compares with approximately 500 native and naturalised species on the Isle of Man (see separate report summary). This included two species which would appear to be new to the Calf – Fleabane and Northern Marsh Orchid. The report also highlights the current high Rabbit population and the negative effects that these grazers are having on some plant communities and habitat types. This has led to some flora being restricted to small areas of cliffs that are inaccessible to the sheep and elsewhere, causing areas of soil erosion through digging and vegetation degradation.

The detailed floral survey carried out also coincided with the driest summer since ¹1995 and the very high rabbit population this year, combined with the exceptionally dry summer inevitably took its toll on vegetation and plant life. In response to these concerns, a larger number of sheep than normal were removed from the Calf in the autumn. In the closed season, at the time of writing, one visit to shoot rabbits has taken place and weather permitting, a further visit is planned, although a recent visit has also confirmed the presence of Myxomatosis which is likely to depress the population in the coming season.

Inevitably with the research focus during the past six decades having been principally of the Island's birdlife, the resulting land management has been targeted towards key bird species such as Chough. Although the importance of the Calf for its fauna is well understood, the consideration for the flora has been much less. Ideal management of the Calf would balance the importance of birds, invertebrates, plants and fungi. There is clearly a need for plant conservation to be given a higher priority and aligned with the needs of birds, as well as invertebrates such as dragonflies, moths and butterflies. A revised Calf Management Plan is being drafted and will consider the issues raised by the floral survey and confirm any necessary management actions required in response.



Summertime sees the annual sheep round-up and most animals were brought into the enclosed fields during late June. As in recent years, a small group of ewes and lambs, that frequent the north-west coast, evaded all attempts at being rounded-up. Following shearing in late August, 68 lambs and some older ewes were taken off the island leaving approximately 60 to 70 sheep over winter.

¹ Ronaldsway Meterological Report August 2021



To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Manx National Trust, now part of Manx National Heritage, a set of ten beautiful stamps were published by the IOM Post Office. The stamps document the environmental and historical importance, unique character and outstanding natural beauty of the Calf of Man and were dedicated to Dr. Trevor Norton (Sheffield, 1940–Isle of Man, 2021), formerly Professor of Marine Biology at Liverpool University and Director of the Port Erin Marine Laboratory, Isle of Man (1983–2005). Dr. Norton was a long-serving, well-respected and supportive Trustee of the Manx Museum and National Trust, serving from 1984 to 2012.

With coronavirus restrictions making it difficult to travel on or off the main Island, the Calf became the ‘go-to-place’ for both day visitors and staying guests. The farmhouse accommodation was fully booked throughout the summer with many people looking for an alternative style ‘staycation’. Unfortunately, Covid inevitably reached the Calf and in July two wardens had to be taken off the islet and placed into isolation. Thankfully, the other staff members remained healthy and virus-free, and we were able to maintain our monitoring programmes. Following the necessary period of quarantine and a host of new restrictions and precautions it was possible to re-open the farmhouse to a few guests to enjoy staying on the Calf during the last few weeks of summer.

Approximately 3000-day visitors were recorded as having landed on the Calf this year. This figure is likely to be somewhat of an under-estimate, as we are not always present when each of the three day-trip charter boats land and many other private boats, as well as kayakers and even jet-skis are able to come and go undetected. Several reports of day trippers breaching the Calf bye-laws were recorded, with incidences of barbeques becoming worryingly more frequent.

The long dry summer also created problems with a very depleted water supply, and staying guests were required to bring drinking water with them, whilst additional supplies for the wardens had to be shipped out later in the summer. To supplement the two wells serving the Observatory, the current rainfall capture allows for a maximum capacity of 5200 litres of water to be stored for use as clean household water for wardens and guests. Over the last few years, the Observatory has had a much greater occupancy over the spring and autumn months due to the increased resource being made available through a combination of seasonal volunteer wardens and other longer term volunteering roles. Inevitably, the increased occupation levels have had an impact on the level of water usage and the existing infrastructure has struggled to match this higher demand.

We already practice a high level of water conservancy, with activities such as washing clothes and showering being restricted to once per week. This suggests that there is a requirement for an increased capture and holding capacity for water storage to be installed, that will better meet the demands of the current numbers of guests and wardens and any increase that may occur in forthcoming years.

Early autumn saw a change-over in personnel, with Mollie leaving to take up her MSc studies at Reading University and Lauren Stokes and Mairi Young arriving as this seasons' Grey Seal breeding survey volunteers. Ana Shapiro (Aug – Sep) and Luise O'Donovan (Oct - Nov) both spent periods as long-term volunteers assisting with the daily bird recording and ringing programme. During their stays at the Observatory both, Ana and Luise, were assessed on their progress towards the award of their BTO ringing licences.



Autumn migration appeared somewhat delayed with the main passage of many species occurring 10 -14 days later than normal. However, by mid-September migrations were in full swing, at least when the weather was suitable. Passage was very much boom or bust and several lengthy periods of stormy weather put a halt to migration passage, but on calmer days thousands of birds poured through the Calf. The 2nd Calf record of Thrush Nightingale on 10th September kicked off an excellent autumn for rarities, followed mid-month by a Barred Warbler and the first ever Manx record of Paddyfield Warbler, on the same day! A Common Rosefinch trapped at the Withy a few days later remained around the Observatory until the end of the month. October continued in a similar vein with Sabine's Gull on 1st and Richard's Pipit on 5th but nothing really prepared us for the event of the year, when a Red-flanked Bluetail was trapped near the Observatory on 16th. It was real pleasure to be able to share many of these birds with several MWT staff that managed to be present whenever something rare was found and, in particular, the Bluetail with local birders, David & Brian Kelly who had been staying with us to help with visual migration counts. We have been encouraging some of the local birders to spend time on the Calf during autumn migration, and Brian & David certainly chose one of the best weeks!



The autumn storms transformed the Calf and with over 140mm of rain in three days during late October our water shortage was solved, and rivers of water were cascading down every slope on the islet. This had a disastrous effect to the Cow Harbour track, with the water volume being too much for the drainage channels and causing significant erosion but also highlighted the need for continuing vigilance in terms of regular cleaning of ditches and

channels. This will require a considerable amount of work during next season to repair several sections of the track.

Although in recent years the Calf has benefitted from an increase in manpower as result of the employment of assistant wardens, alongside longer-term volunteers, there are never a shortage of tasks. Frustratingly, both the Polaris and the tractor needed repairs and were out of commission for varying periods during the season and this slowed down progress on some fronts. Despite these setbacks, flailing was continued in the Upper Twin Field, Front Fields, Sea Field and Back Field. In addition, flailing was carried out along the Kione ny Halby coast and in an area above South Harbour during autumn, to clear areas of dense bracken litter and hopefully make them more appealing for Manx Shearwaters when prospecting for nest sites during spring. Limited cutting, using a brush cutter, was also carried out along the track between the Twin Fields, around the Silo area and along the banks of Mill Giau.

Coppicing of willows in the Withy and Glen areas is an annual task and during this season, areas of the Top Withy and main Withy were thinned out and reduced in height. During autumn, cuttings were used to make 'nesting baskets', with plans to site these at the Cletts in the hope of encouraging Cormorants to breed on the Calf again. Several large areas of fuchsia around the Observatory trapping area were also cut back during autumn, to help prevent damage to the walls and as part of the management required to maintain the bushes at a suitable height for catching birds in mist nets and Heligoland traps. Plans are currently being drawn up to replant the 'Plantation' with native trees and shrubs and eventually remove the non-native conifers. This planting will hopefully provide a significant area of cover and feeding opportunities for birdlife, as well as being beneficial to many insects. The project is being funded by the Manx Ornithological Society as a memorial to the late Anne Kaye, a stalwart supporter of the bird observatory, who sadly passed away in January this year (see separate tribute)

The Grey seal breeding period took place between September and November 2021. The first pup was born on the 7th of September, and the last known individual on 1st November. There was a total of 62 pups born around the island, which is a slight increase from 2020 (n=61), but a decrease on previous years (an average of 67 across the previous five years). Pup deaths were lower than the previous year, with the mortality rate being 11.48% in 2020 and just 6.45% in 2021.



A young adult with supposed melanism (a rare presence of high black pigmentation) was regularly sighted around the island. Although often reported around the British Isles, this was the first recorded sighting for the Calf of Man.

During 2021, we were able to provide information to PhD students investigating the migration patterns of the Baltic flyway population of Common Eider, exploring the inter-colony movement of European Storm Petrels in the North-east Atlantic and a study of the survival and population of Manx Shearwaters across the British Isles, using ringing capture histories. Calf data was also utilised within articles written for 'Peregrine', a short paper outlining the decline of Yellowhammers in the Isle of Man and for the recently published Birds of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2021.

During the spring lockdown, further progress with digitising the historical ringing records was made. In order to complete this work, both time and resources would need to be committed in the future. Formatting and analysing data, writing reports and scientific papers are time-consuming practices, but interpreting and presenting this information is equally as important as collecting it in the first instance. There is a wealth of information hidden away in the archives of the Calf which we hope to make use of in the future.



Life and work on the Calf would be considerably more challenging without many people, and we are blessed with terrific support from many volunteers. We would like to particularly thank, John Collister, Ned Bowers and Gillian Bowers, Sue Harvey, James Mylchreest, James Penn, Di Swayne and Christa Worth for all their hard work and willingness to get stuck into the many varied tasks that volunteers take on. Volunteers are what make the Calf such a great place to live and work and without them our achievements would be considerably less.

The need for support and the supply of essential provisions is a must on the Calf and we are very grateful to Steve Clague who continues to safely transport us and our supplies to and from the Calf on his boat Scraayl and to Lara Howe (MWT) and Shaun Murphy (MNH) for doing their utmost to make sure we have all the supplies that we require. It is also appropriate to acknowledge the hard work of Geoff Mitchell and Howard Osborne for their many efforts over the past year in refurbishing the South Harbour crane and general repairs to vehicles, generators, and various elements of the Calf infrastructure.

Aron Sapsford

Anne Kaye (1940 – 2021)

In January 2021, we very saddened to learn that Anne Kaye had passed away after a short illness.

For many years, Anne acted as unpaid crew for Juan Clague aboard *Scraayl*. In so doing, the cost of running the service boat to the Calf was minimised and Anne made a substantial in-kind contribution to MNH's charitable work, as well as imparting her ornithological knowledge to many Calf visitors.

A stalwart supporter of wildlife and conservation generally, Anne served for over 30 years on the committee of the Friends of Manx National Trust and later, the Friends of Manx National Heritage. Anne was also a long-standing committee member of the Manx Ornithological Society and their Vice Chair but she also spent many years helping Manx Wildlife Trust and was a welcome face when taking part in any project or event and was very valued for her 'can do' attitude. She was a proactive and engaged educator who shared her passion for the natural world. Her passing has been felt by a community that valued her greatly.



2021 Monthly Summaries

Year	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
2021	COVID	75	80	74	75	78	91	96	75
10yr Ave	65	82	84	69	69	71	85	90	61

January & February

With calm conditions over New Year, we were able to make day visits on 1st and 2nd January, with the former producing a **Woodcock** in the Glen and good counts of waders on the west coast, with 19 **Oystercatcher**, 22 **Turnstone** and 51 **Purple Sandpipers**. Thrushes were evident around the islet, with at least five **Song Thrush** and four **Blackbirds** seen on both days, whilst several **Robins** and two **Dunnock** were also present and presumably over-wintering. Birds of prey were seen on both days as well, with a single **Hen Harrier** and two each of **Buzzard** and **Peregrine** and on the 2nd a flock of 35 **Starling** were feeding in the front field. A total of 29 species were recorded during the two visits.



Unfortunately, the continued presence of a Brown Rat around the Observatory was detected on an SD card collected from a camera trap at the compost heap on 1st and therefore plans were being made to make some more regular

visits during January and February to monitor the situation. However, a further out-break of Coronavirus on the main Island brought about a further lockdown, which prevented visits being made during late January. Inclement weather during much of February thwarted attempts of another visit until 1st March, when the MNH technicians visited to undertake repair works to the generator.

March

The season was due to start on 8th, however a third lockdown which came into effect on 4th March prevented this going ahead and we were delayed by government restrictions until late April.

April (from 21st)

Weather: Mostly light east to north-east winds dominated between 21st and the end of the month. Mostly dry, with light rain showers recorded on the last two days of the month.

Thirty-four Purple Sandpiper were reported from the Lighthouse Caves on 10th, however, the season did not start officially until 21st April, when we arrived at South Harbour just after 5pm. The remainder of daylight hours were taken up with transporting supplies etc., up to the farmhouse and getting the basic services connected and working. There was little time for birdwatching, although a (the) **Great Skua** was reported from the Sound earlier in the day, two **Shelduck** and two **Whimbrel** flew over Burroo and two each of **Chiffchaff** and **Blackcap** were seen in the back garden. A relatively calm start to the 22nd, saw a small arrival of warblers including three Chiffchaff, 10 **Willow Warbler**, six Blackcap, two **Whitethroat** and a **Sedge Warbler**. Diurnal passage included a **Dunlin** flying north over the Withy, 13 **Swallow**, a single **House Martin**, 46 **Linnet** and 12 **Lesser Redpoll**, whilst a boat trip along the west coast found seven Turnstone and the lighthouse caves still held 30 Purple Sandpiper. Light north-easterly winds on 23rd brought a further arrival of warblers, with increases to 35 Willow Warbler and 13 Blackcap, whilst **Grasshopper Warbler** was new for the year, along with five **Sand Martin**, a **Jack Snipe** in the Top Withy field and a **Ringed Plover** that flew over Rarick at 2250hrs. A single Shelduck was at Cow Harbour, whilst the pair at South Harbour were seen visiting a nest site on Rarick and a record-equalling count of seven Buzzard



were recorded over the Twin Fields. Hirundine passage was more obvious on 24th, with 16 Sand Martin, two House Martin and 56 Swallow heading north, as well as an early(ish) **Swift**. In addition, a **Reed Warbler** trapped at the Observatory and a male **Ring Ousel** at Gibdale were new for the year, along with **Kestrel** and **Goldcrest**. Another small arrival of warblers on 25th included 18 Willow Warbler, three Chiffchaff, two Sedge Warbler, nine Blackcap and three Whitethroat, with an influx of 'Greenland' Wheatear during the afternoon. However, bird of the day was a **Hobby** seen heading north past the Twin Fields – the earliest Calf record. The Great Skua was on Caigher during the morning of 26th and a male Grasshopper Warbler was 'reeling' at the Withy, whilst **Woodpigeon**, **Jackdaw** (3), a **Black Redstart** at the Lighthouses, a female **Redstart** trapped at the Withy and **Reed Bunting** were all new for the year. Hirundines again pushed through on 27th with 45 Swallow and six House Martin, whilst Goldfinch peaked at 44 for the month and 'auks' arrived along the coast, with 99 Razorbill and 23 Guillemot. With strengthening NE winds on 28th, migration was somewhat quieter, with just four Willow Warbler and five Blackcap recorded. A **Common Sandpiper** at Cow Harbour was new for the year and at least 15 Manx Shearwater were present around the South Harbour colony after dark. A decrease in wind strength by the morning of the 29th brought similar small numbers of warblers and a steady hirundine movement including two Sand Martin and 57 Swallow. A **Cuckoo** was present in Mill Giau before moving up to the Observatory and a rather bedraggled **Greylag Goose** did a circuit over the Glen before heading back towards the Isle of Man. Better numbers of warblers were grounded on 30th with 45 Willow Warbler, five Chiffchaff, three Sedge Warbler, 20 Blackcap, a **Garden Warbler**, and 15 Whitethroat. Auk numbers increased to 176 Razorbill and 76 Guillemot, whilst a **Mistle Thrush** was



present at the Lighthouses, 10 Purple Sandpipers remained in the caves and the Greylag Goose was seen again – this time on Kitterland, where evidence would suggest it had been present for some time.

A total of 75 species were recorded during the month.

May

Weather: The first week was largely dominated by cold northerly winds reaching gale force over the 3rd & 4th, then moderate to strong southerlies from 8th – 11th. Lighter easterly winds occurred from 12th through to 16th before switching back into a northerly quarter from 17th – 25th. Temperatures were well below average and whilst mostly a dry month there were several days of prolonged and heavy rain.

The month started promisingly with light north-easterly winds bringing a small arrival of warblers on the 1st, including 27 Willow Warbler, 10 Blackcap and eight Whitethroat plus diurnal movements of a single Woodpigeon, five Jackdaw, three Sand Martin, 141 Swallow and four House Martin. A relatively late **Fieldfare** at the Observatory was new for the year, whilst several waders made an appearance, with a Whimbrel in Mill Giau, a Snipe in the Front Field and Common Sandpiper in the Puddle. Two Whimbrel on Burroo were overshadowed by the discovery of Buzzards building a nest on 2nd, however heavy rain, and gale force winds over the next couple of days meant little of note was seen. A slight decrease in the wind on 5th brought some rather unseasonal observations, with a **Great Northern Diver** heading north past the Puddle and a pair of Greylag Geese which circled over Caigher before heading back to the east. Summer migrants were thin on the ground, although a few hirundines moved through and a single Swift was seen. Five Lesser Redpoll on 6th and three Whimbrel and a male Starling on 7th were the pick of the next couple of days. A Cuckoo at Gibdale on 8th raised hopes of some more summer migrants, however the 9th produced just a single Garden Warbler and the first **Spotted Flycatcher** of the year. A Common Sandpiper at The Dock and Great Skua in the Sound were the highlights of the 10th, with a decreasing southerly wind on 11th bringing a noticeable increase in diurnal passage, with 470 Swallow, five Sand Martin and three House Martin. A Jack Snipe was flushed from the Millpond and three Jackdaw flew over.

Calm conditions on 12th brought the first **Collared Dove** and **Lesser Whitethroat** of the year and a general increase in the numbers and variety of

birds, with seven Jackdaw, a flock of 22 Hooded Crow, five Sand Martin, 149 Swallow, 16 House Martin, 13 Willow Warbler, six Chiffchaff, five Blackcap, 14 Whitethroat, three Spotted Flycatcher, 35 Lesser Redpoll, eight Siskin and a female Reed Bunting. Forty-five more Lesser Redpoll were present on 13th, although numbers of other migrant species had decreased. Three **Rook** were new for the year, whilst other corvids included four Jackdaw and the Lighthouse Raven pair fledged three young. Despite promising conditions on 14th migrants were sadly lacking and singles of Swift and Kestrel were the most notable sightings, although a further 17 Lesser Redpoll were recorded. An overnight visit to the east coast colonies yielded at least 80 Manx Shearwater, whilst despite seemingly good conditions the lack of migrants meant that four Black Guillemot, a single Jackdaw and three Rook were the highlights of the 15th. Calm conditions on 16th brought more corvids with 23 Jackdaw and seven Rook, however bird of the day was a female **Marsh Harrier** which flew over the Sea Field mid-afternoon and was later seen on the main Island. Auks were also present in good numbers with seven Black Guillemot off Gibdale, 138 Razorbill and 50 Guillemot seen around the coastline and the first **Puffin** seen off Kione ny Halby. Warbler passage was better than of late, with five Willow Warbler, four Sedge Warbler, two Garden Warbler and five Whitethroat, whilst a further 21 Lesser Redpoll were recorded.

Despite relatively light winds and seemingly good migration conditions, passage was almost non-existent during 17th & 18th, with just a small passage of Swallows, 61 and 29 respectively and seven Lesser Redpoll seen on both dates. A slight improvement on 19th saw the first records of



Skylark and **Whinchat** for the year. A Woodpigeon and three Collared Dove were present on the island and a small arrival of passerines, including nine Whitethroat and six Spotted Flycatcher brought hopes of an upturn in the

numbers of migrants moving through. This was washed away on 20th with almost continual heavy rain and near gale force southerly winds for much of the day. The weather on 21st was only marginally better and 68 Manx Shearwater were seen off the east coast, as well as a light passage of 21 Swallow and a Swift. Lesser Redpoll numbers increased again to 15 on 22nd, with a Whimbrel between South Harbour and Kione ny Halby, a light passage of 49 Swallow and nine House Martin and the first **Feral Pigeon** of the year. Another day of rain and strong southerly winds on 23rd reduced observations to a short period of respite in the late afternoon when a passage of approximately 100 Manx Shearwater per hour were seen passing the Lighthouses and 32 Kittiwake were counted. Light northerly winds on 24th brought a considerable improvement with diurnal movements of three Jackdaw, 65 Swallow and 11 House Martin, plus a Collared Dove, four Sedge Warbler, three Blackcap and 13 Whitethroat around the Observatory and three Magpie young fledged from their nest at the Withy. A male Cuckoo at the Observatory was a surprise find on an otherwise largely migrant-less day on 25th and the highlight were two Puffin seen off Ghaw Yairn during the afternoon and present there also on 26th. Light north-westerly winds on 26th brought a few more migrants than of late, with six Willow Warbler, three Chiffchaff, four Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Song Thrush, 15 Spotted Flycatcher, Dunnock and 12 Lesser Redpoll around the Observatory, whilst elsewhere on the island a Grey Heron was at the Millpond, 152 Guillemot were on their ledges at Ghaw Yairn and Big Head and three Woodpigeon were present. A single Woodpigeon was still present around the Observatory



on 27th and was joined by a Collared Dove during mid-morning. The Grey Heron was seen in the Glen being harried by breeding gulls, 306 'Auks' passed south off the Puddle during the morning, a Ringed Plover was heard flying over the Withy and 21 House Martin joined 35 Swallow feeding along the northwest cliffs in the afternoon. Thirteen more House Martin moved through on 28th with a further 24 Swallow, whilst four Spotted Flycatcher were present.

Calm conditions in 29th brought 10 more Spotted Flycatcher, plus and a small arrival of warblers with four Chiffchaff, three Sedge Warbler, two Reed Warbler, three Blackcap, eight Whitethroat and a female Goldcrest. Hirundine passage continued with 94 Swallow and 18 House Martin, whilst around the coastline 238 Razorbill were counted along with a further 253 Auks flying south and five Puffin off South Harbour on the late afternoon. Warbler numbers were lower on 30th, although another two Reed Warblers were trapped at the Observatory along with five Spotted Flycatcher and a Song Thrush. An immature male **Crossbill** landed briefly in the Sitka, whilst elsewhere four Puffins were at the Stack and 35 Swallow and 13 House Martin moved through. Woodpigeon and Collared Dove remained into 31st with the latter increasing to three birds, and a Reed Warbler was seen briefly in Mill Giau.



A total of 80 species were recorded during the month.

June

Weather: Light east to north-east winds during the 1st & 2nd was replaced by an increasing southerly wind between 3rd – 5th, then calm on 6th and light south-easterlies on 7th before becoming a moderate south-westerly from 8th – 13th. Variable winds over the 14th & 15th, then a moderate southerly on 16th before settling mostly onto the northerly quarter for the remainder of the month. A very dry month with light rain on just six days and fog on two others.

A moderate easterly breeze on 1st brought a male **Subalpine Warbler**, although other warbler numbers were low with just four Chiffchaff, a Willow Warbler and two Blackcap. Elsewhere around the islet, were a Grey Heron, four Buzzard, a Great Skua and seven Puffin seen at the Stack. A stunning adult male **Woodchat Shrike** was trapped at the Observatory on 2nd, whilst two **Sandwich Tern** flew through the Sound in the evening. After the excitement of the past two days, the 3rd was rather quiet, however a **Pied Flycatcher** on 4th was a rare spring record, another Crossbill was heard-only, and the male Subalpine Warbler reappeared. The 5th was generally much quieter, although we started our annual Manx Shearwater burrow census at South Harbour and received a total of 18 'call-backs'. Calm conditions on 6th provided the ideal opportunity for a boat-based seabird breeding survey, with 156 Fulmar, 166 Guillemot, 260 Razorbill and nine Black Guillemot, although of most importance was the sighting of Puffins ashore at Kione ny Halby and associating with the decoys. Two Great Skua were also seen on Caigher and a **Grey Wagtail** was new for the year, as was a **Tree Sparrow** on 7th. Puffins dominated the next few days, with at least two pairs associating with the Kione ny Halby area and one bird seen carrying nesting material towards a potential burrow. A survey of the NW coastline during the early hours of the 9th, recorded 40 – 50 Manx Shearwater with several birds seen to land at potential breeding sites at Baie Fine and a new area below the Upper Lighthouse. The first gathering of Shag feeding flocks was seen off South Harbour on 12th, when 168 flew west, whilst movements of Guillemot between feeding areas recorded 293 West and 129 East, with a further 110 present at Ghaw Yairn and Big Head. A male Starling with very few spots was present in the Front Field on 13th, and the first 'wandering' post-breeding female Blackcap was trapped. Two **Lapwing** near the stream west of Cow Harbour were new for the year on 14th and three Grey Heron were present at South Harbour just before midnight. An overnight mist-netting session into



the 15th produced the first, 10 **Storm Petrel** of the year, whilst calm conditions later during the morning encouraged the first arrival of juvenile Starlings, along with a Woodpigeon, a Collared Dove, two Rook, a Tree Sparrow and three Siskin, as well as two Greylag Geese which circled over Caigher before heading back towards the Isle of Man. A single flock



containing 38 Chough was seen on 16th, when seven House Martin and a female Song Thrush were also present. A **Redshank** flew along the east coast on 17th and a Grey Wagtail was at South Harbour, whilst a **Black-headed Gull** was amongst the gull roost in the Withy field on 18th, where there was also eight Lapwing, plus a Ringed Plover at South Harbour. Six more Lapwing were in the Seafield on 21st and a flock of 24 Starling arrived on 22nd, when two more Grey Wagtail were recorded. Four more Storm Petrel were seen on 23rd, with another seabird survey recording 104 Fulmar,

211 Guillemot and 235 Razorbill, whilst a male **Greenfinch** at the Observatory was new for the year. Six Lapwing were again seen on 24th, with a Collared Dove at the Observatory, where a female Spotted Flycatcher was trapped on 25th. A flock of 29 Chough were seen on 26th and an exceptional five Blackcap were trapped on 27th. The month ended with a few returning waders, including a single Lapwing, the first two returning Whimbrel and a count of 10 Curlew on 30th.

A total of 74 species were recorded during the month.

July

Weather: Light easterly winds on 1st, then southerlies from 2nd – 5th then became north-westerly where it remained to 14th. Light northerly winds predominated from 15th – 18th before moving more easterly during 19th - 24th and then returning into the northerly quarter for the remainder of the month. A very dry month with light rain on just five days and fog recorded from 1st – 4th.

The month started with three Storm Petrel at South Harbour on both 1st and 2nd, but thick fog during daylight hours seriously reduced observations of other species. Despite the fog continuing into the 3rd, a Treecreeper appeared at the Observatory and three Black Guillemot young were seen begging for food below the Lighthouses. The Treecreeper remained until 6th, when a Redshank was seen on Caigher, the first juvenile Willow Warbler arrived, and a juvenile Cuckoo was present until 7th.

Three Black-headed Gulls flew west through the Sound on 8th, when at least three Great Skua were present, and a **Short-eared Owl** was flushed from heather near to Bushell's. Another



juvenile Cuckoo arrived on 10th (remaining to 15th), with a flock of 37 Chough being seen and Starlings reaching a month peak of 76. Three Great Skua were again present on 14th, with three Black-headed Gull flying west past Kione ny Halby and a second Treecreeper being trapped at the Observatory. However, the bird(s) of the month were two **Goshawk** seen high above Cow Harbour.

The Great Skuas had increased to four birds on 15th, and wader passage picked up with the first returning Common Sandpiper in the Puddle, five Lapwing on 16th and three Common Sandpiper at Cow on 17th, when at least 25 Oystercatcher were present around the island. On the latter date, two Grey Heron flew over Caigher, a feeding flock of 200+ Gannet were off the Puddle and 10 Puffin were seen along the East Coast and in the Sound. Migrant warblers began to arrive from 18th, with the first juvenile Sedge Warbler, plus Blackcap and Whitethroat, whilst the 19th produced another Lapwing in the Sea Field, and a juvenile Blue Tit trapped at the Observatory – just the 2nd ever July record and 50 years to the day of the first. The Lapwing was still present in the Seafield on 20th, when eight Sand Martin and a Lesser Redpoll were recorded. The highest (and last) count of 13 Puffins was made on 21st, when the first Whimbrel of autumn was seen at the Cletts. More waders occurred on 22nd with a single Lapwing and two Common Sandpipers at South Harbour. Seabirds were also prevalent with 550+ Manx Shearwater gathered between the Puddle and Chicken Rock and five Black-headed Gulls

seen. Hirundine passage was also noticeable with 15 Sand Martin, 91 Swallow and a single House Martin, whilst a third Treecreeper for the month was trapped at the Observatory. Waders again featured on 25th, with an immature **Black-tailed Godwit** and a Snipe present on the Millpond and a Common Sandpiper at Cow Harbour. The Common Sandpiper was still present on 26th and over 500 Shag were gathered at Kione ny Halby, however bird of the day was a female-type Marsh Harrier that was seen around Jane's House and remained on Island for the next few weeks.



Common Sandpipers increased to a maximum of four on 27th and a **Minke Whale** was seen off South Harbour, whilst the sea also produced four Black-headed Gull and nine Black Guillemot on 28th. Seawatching also provided interest on 29th with an **Arctic Skua** off Cow Harbour during the morning as well as 265 Manx Shearwater, whilst the month closed with an arrival of 30 Willow Warbler and three each of Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat on 31st.

A total of 75 species were recorded during the month.

August

Weather: After a decreasing north-west wind on 1st & 2nd, the wind settled into the southerly quarter between 3rd – 7th, then more westerly and moderate in strength between 8th – 19th. Moderate south-easterlies with fog on 20th & 21st were then replaced by light northerlies to 27th and then east to north-east winds to 31st. A mostly dry month with very light rain on just eight days and fog daily between 19th – 26th.

The female-type Marsh Harrier was still present from July and remained until at least the 18th, however the 1st also produced a Grey Heron, a Sparrowhawk and 11 Willow Warbler. Warblers again featured around the Observatory on 2nd with 30 Willow, plus three each of Sedge, Blackcap and Whitethroat, plus a male **House Sparrow** was trapped, and a **Teal** was on the Millpond during the morning. Hirundine passage occurred on 3rd, with 55 Swallow moving through and another small arrival of 26 Willow Warbler were around the Observatory, whilst the first returning Purple Sandpiper was reported from the Lighthouse caves. Seabirds were the focus of 4th, with 12 Storm Petrel recorded overnight along with at least 50 Manx Shearwater, whilst a Black-headed Gull and a Sandwich Tern were seen off South Harbour and two Great



Skua were present. A 1st year **Common Gull** at Cow Harbour on 6th was a rather unseasonal record for the Calf. A Redshank, also at Cow, was the first of several records this month, with another bird seen flying over the Millpond on 7th, when an adult summer-plumaged Black-tailed Godwit was found feeding along a grassy slope near Fold Point. At the Observatory a small arrival of 23 Willow Warbler, three Whitethroat and two each of Blackcap and Sedge warbler were recorded. Fifty-seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls, including a flock of 35 in the Front Field, were present on 8th, with a raft of 220 Shag seen feeding in the Sound. Seawatching provided a few seabirds heading south off Culbery during 9th, with 133 Gannet, 146 Kittiwake, 21 Fulmar and 18 Manx Shearwater, whilst decreasing wind strength during the evening of 10th encouraged an emergence of flying ants and an associated 11 Sand Martin, 245 Swallow and 26 House Martin feeding around the Front

Field. Waders were a feature of 11th, when 24 Oystercatcher were at Cow Harbour and 14 Curlew were recorded, with a Turnstone at Cow on 12th.

Seawatching from Culbery over the next couple of days produced:

12th (150 mins)

275 Gannet, 157 Kittiwake, 93 Fulmar, 94 Manx Shearwater and an Arctic Skua heading south.

13th (90 mins)

378 Gannet, 24 Kittiwake, 61 Fulmar and 236 Manx Shearwater.



Wader passage was obvious over the next few days, with two Common Sandpiper on 14th and a Golden Plover in the Seafield on 15th, when 19 Oystercatcher, six Curlew, three Common Sandpiper and a Redshank were recorded along with two Black-headed Gulls heading north off Caigher. Around the Observatory a small arrival of warblers included 40 Willow and three each of Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat. The next couple of days were relatively quiet, with little of note

except 650 Shag off Big Head and a Black-headed Gull on 16th and the first Spotted Flycatcher of autumn on 17th. Five Lapwing were in the Seafield on 18th, whilst the 19th brought an arrival of 81 Willow Warbler and seven Whitethroat around the Observatory. Fog and rain throughout the 21st prevented much from being seen, although a flock of 35 Linnet were on Caigher and clearer conditions on 22nd brought another 43 Willow Warbler, a movement of 116 Swallow, whilst Grey Heron and Osprey were both seen along the East coast. The Grey Heron was again present on 23rd and a Marsh Harrier re-appeared, remaining to 27th. Calm conditions with early morning fog brought an arrival of birds on 24th with the first (four) **Tree Pipit** of the year, plus three Sedge Warbler and a Reed Warbler and the first fledgling Manx Shearwater was located at South Harbour. A Grasshopper Warbler and eight more Tree Pipits were the highlights of 25th and five Grey Wagtail were recorded on 26th, when a large raft of (102) Fulmar were seen on the sea off South Harbour. The first passage of (11) **White Wagtail** was recorded on 27th with a female-type Redstart seen at Spaghetti Junction. Two more Tree Pipit

and seven White Wagtail were seen on 28th, with 10 Turnstone present at Gibdale. Garden Warbler and Pied Flycatcher trapped at the Observatory on 29th would have normally been the highlight(s) of the day, however a **Red Kite** that spent half an hour hanging in the wind at Baie Fine easily over-shadowed them. Another Garden Warbler was trapped on 30th, whilst wagtail passage increased on 31st with eight Grey, 50 'Alba' and four White Wagtail.

A total of 78 species were recorded during the month.

September

Weather: Relatively light north to north-east winds between 1st – 5th, veering south-east to east until 10th then west on 11th – 12th. A return to easterly winds for 13th & 14th before light westerlies on 15th & 16th and a southerly gale on 17th. After a light north-westerly on 18th, the wind settled into the west quarter where it stayed for the remainder of the month, becoming moderate to strong from 22nd. The month was mainly dry, with light rain recorded on only eight days in the month and fog on 6th & 8th.

The month started quietly with just a few warblers and wagtails present, including 10 White Wagtail, plus two Reed Bunting at the Withy and a feeding flock of 400 Shag in the Sound. A small arrival of 15 Willow Warbler occurred on 2nd, with an increase to 51 White Wagtail and 59 'Albas'. Similar numbers of wagtails were present on 3rd along with three Tree Pipit, whilst a female Teal was at the Withy and an Osprey flew north over the Observatory. The Teal was still present on 4th and a Marsh Harrier (re)appeared, staying until 8th with a female Redstart seen near the Withy. Two Tree Pipits were of most note on 5th, whilst the 6th brought a small arrival of warblers and a passage of hirundes, including, 18 Willow Warbler, seven Chiffchaff, a Lesser Whitethroat and 87 Swallow. House Martins dominated the hirundine passage on 7th, with 68 moving through, whilst passage of Chiffchaff increased to 18. A Pied Flycatcher was trapped at the Observatory and the first Blue Tit and finch arrivals of autumn occurred, with 24 Chaffinch, 85 Goldfinch and 18 Siskin. Chiffchaff decreased to 12 on 8th, along with four each of Blackcap and



Whitethroat and eight Tree Pipits were seen. Despite light easterly winds on the 9th, little arrived other than the only Whinchat of the autumn, however the 10th brought a considerably better day with 30 Willow Warbler, 45 Chiffchaff, a Lesser Whitethroat, Tree Pipit, four Spotted Flycatcher and the 2nd Manx record of **Thrush Nightingale**, which was trapped in the back



garden. Warbler numbers had decreased to seven Willow Warbler and 20 Chiffchaff on 11th, whilst Robins increased to 30, 77 Swallow flew west, another Osprey flew over Caigher at 0840hrs and another Blue Tit arrived. A fourth Osprey, this time flying west past the Lighthouses, was seen on 12th, whilst a **Merlin** at the Puddle was new for the year. Waders were in evidence with five Golden Plover flying north, 11 Turnstone, 13 Purple Sandpipers and a Snipe, whilst around the Observatory Robins increased to 60 and the first significant Meadow Pipit passage occurred with 581 counted. Hill fog and rain made the 13th much quieter, although a Redshank at Fold Point was new for the month, and clearer

conditions on 14th brought another Lesser Whitethroat and 268 Meadow Pipit. **Great Tit** was new for the year on 15th, whilst Chiffchaff increased to 14, 347 Meadow Pipit moved through, 116 Chaffinch arrived and a female Marsh Harrier made a brief appearance in the Glen. A further 329 Meadow Pipits moved through on 16th with 28 Grey Wagtail and 45 Swallow but an immature **Barred Warbler** trapped in the front hedge was rather unexpected. Even more so, was a **Paddyfield Warbler** trapped during the next net round, this being a new species for the Calf and the Isle of Man. After the exciting events of the previous day, the 17th was rather an anti-climax with strong southerly winds suppressing migration, however calmer conditions on 18th grounded a Grasshopper Warbler, 11 Blackcap, five Whitethroat, 50 Robin with visual passage of 413 Meadow Pipit, 51 Linnet, 88 Goldfinch and 42 Siskin. Slightly decreased numbers arrived on 19th although further quality birds appeared with a Pied Flycatcher trapped at the Observatory and a **Common Rosefinch** at the Withy. A **Grey Plover** in the Seafield during the

morning of 20th was the first record since 2015 and a Woodpigeon in Mill Giau was new for the month. Passerine arrivals included 45 Robin, 10 Grey Wagtail, 318 Meadow Pipit and the first Greenfinch of autumn. Sixteen Raven flew north at dawn on 21st, with other visual passage of 17 Grey Wagtail and 211 Meadow Pipit. Strengthening south-west winds on 22nd brought a pause to migration, however the Rosefinch was at the Observatory (also 24th & 27th) and seawatching over the next couple of days was most productive:

23rd - Culbery 0725 – 0900

Common Scoter 3S, Fulmar 6S & 16N, Manx Shearwater 4S, Gannet 51S & 117N, Kittiwake 77S & 15N, Arctic Skua 2S, Auk spp. 202S & 56N.

24th – Culbery 0715 – 0815

Fulmar 1S, Gannet 108S & 18N, Cormorant 2S, Arctic Skua 1S

Calmer conditions on 25th brought another arrival of 40 Robin plus diurnal passage of 10 Alba Wagtail and 289 Meadow Pipit with a Snipe flushed from the Triangle. An adult **Mute Swan** flying north over the Front Field on 26th was rather unexpected with strong south westerlies producing little else other than two immature Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Eight Golden Plover were in the Seafield on 27th, with 77 Gannet and 34 Great Black-backed Gulls flying south off Cow Harbour, whilst the last Spotted Flycatcher of the year was at the Observatory. A **Velvet Scoter** off Cow Harbour on 28th was bird of the day, although little else was seen during an hour's seawatch, however things improved on 29th:

Cow Harbour 0715 – 0915

Manx Shearwater 8S, Gannet 148S, Curlew 5E, Dunlin 3S, Black-headed Gull 3S, Common Gull 2S, Great Black-backed Gull 80S, Lesser Black-backed Gull 1S, Auk spp. 60S

Culbery 0730 – 0935

Common Scoter 3S, Fulmar 1S & 3N, Manx Shearwater 2S, Gannet 136S & 13N, Kittiwake 227S & 8N, Auk spp. 1012S



Rain showers and cloudy conditions ended the month with a flock of 138 Great Black-backed Gull and an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull on Caigher.

A total of 91 species were recorded during the month.

October

Weather: The first half of the month was mostly dominated by moderate to strong westerly winds, before veering NNE on 15th and then returning to moderate to strong westerlies on 16th where it remained for the remainder of the month, except for strong southerlies on 18th and 31st. Rain or mist was recorded on 20 days in the month, with particularly heavy downpours during 27th – 29th when over 140mm of rain was recorded.

Seawatching was again the order of the day on the 1st, with two new species for the year recorded:

Culberty 0715 – 1045

Fulmar 6S & 3N, Manx Shearwater 4S, Gannet 396S & 40N, Kittiwake 378S, **Sabine's Gull** 1S, Lesser Black-backed Gull 1S, Arctic Skua 2S, Auk spp. 1968S, Black Guillemot 1S

Cow Harbour 0735 – 0855

Red-throated Diver 1S, Fulmar 2S, Manx Shearwater 1S, Gannet 123S & 32E, Kittiwake 14S, Guillemot 6S, Razorbill 1S, Auk spp. 36S

Culberty 1515 – 1715hrs

Fulmar 2S, Manx Shearwater 8S, Gannet 102S, Kittiwake 108S, Arctic Skua 1S, Auk spp. 32S

A Collared Dove was seen briefly at the Observatory on 2nd, but with continuing strong south westerly winds migration was somewhat restricted, although Blackcaps arrived throughout the 3rd with a total of 18 trapped. A slightly decreased wind strength on 4th encouraged more diurnal passage with 59 Pied Wagtail, a **Richard's Pipit**, 286 Meadow Pipit, 158 Linnet, 65 Goldfinch and 52 Siskin, whilst 20 Goldcrest arrived at the Observatory and a Ringed Plover was seen at Cow Harbour. The first two **Whooper Swans** of the autumn flew east over the Glen on 5th, with a two-hour seawatch at Cow Harbour producing a southerly movement of 66 Gannet, eight Common Gull and seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Light-ish north westerly winds on 6th brought the first **Coal Tit** of the year, accompanied by six Blue Tit and 17 Great Tit. Other diurnal passage included 72 Skylark, a Sand Martin, 67 Swallow, three House Martin, 12 House Sparrow, six Tree Sparrow, 11 Grey Wagtail, 64 Pied Wagtail, 278 Meadow Pipit, 111 Chaffinch and eight Greenfinch. Strong southerly winds over the next couple of days quietened passage, although three adult Common Gull flew south on 7th and a female **Pintail**, the first record since 2011, flew through the Sound on 8th. Ducks featured again on 9th with six **Wigeon** and five Common Scoter seen off

Culberty. Light north westerly winds on 10th encouraged more diurnal passerines to move, with 47 Jackdaw, 25 Rook, eight Coal Tit, 20 Great Tit, 129 Skylark, 19 Swallow, five House Martin, 76 Pied Wagtail, 420 Meadow



Pipit, 115 Chaffinch, 19 Greenfinch and 57 Linnet. Around the Observatory were four Blackcap, 30 Goldcrest, 11 Song Thrush, 41 Robin, a House Sparrow, three Tree Sparrow and four Dunnock. Similar, but slightly decreased numbers moved through on 11th with the addition of six Buzzard, 27 Swallow, 156 Starling, a Mistle Thrush, 20 House Sparrow and 224

Chaffinch. Passage was significantly reduced on 12th, although 3 Whooper Swan flew north off Gibdale and six Golden Plover, 11 Curlew and a Snipe were seen. The 13th brought our first numbers of thrushes with 191 **Redwing** and waders again featured with two Golden Plover, 11 Curlew, and both Snipe and Jack Snipe on the Millpond. Diurnal passage increased with 14 Woodpigeon, 512 Skylark, 307 Starling, 106 Linnet and 90 Siskin. More Redwing arrived on 14th

with 147 recorded, along with an increase to 13 Song Thrush. Five Teal were on the Millpond along with the Snipe and Jack Snipe, whilst at sea two male **Red-breasted**

Merganser flew past South Harbour and three Common Gull flew east through the



Sound. Light NNE winds on 15th proved ideal conditions for migration with herds of 10 and four Whooper Swan seen heading north over the Glen during the morning. A record count and most impressive group of 20 Buzzard were

seen on a thermal above the Observatory and visual migration was very much in evidence with 103 Woodpigeon, 242 Jackdaw, 19 Rook, 206 Skylark, 92 Swallow, two House Martin, 16 House Sparrow and four Tree Sparrow, 40 Pied Wagtail, six Greenfinch and two Reed Bunting. A late morning arrival of



tits occurred with three Coal Tit, 25 Blue Tit and 30 Great Tit.

Another herd of Whooper Swan flew NW during the morning of 16th, whilst numbers of diurnal migrants were slightly reduced with 139 Skylark, 24 Pied Wagtail, 129 Meadow Pipit, 65 Chaffinch, four Greenfinch and 24 Siskin, however, the Calf's first ever **Red-flanked Bluetail** trapped in the back field mid-morning over-shadowed everything else.

Later in the day a **Little Egret** flew south past South Harbour,

as well as an impressive flock of 27 Black-headed Gull and 18 Common Gulls. A Lapwing was at Cow Harbour during the afternoon, with five Purple Sandpiper and a Turnstone recorded after dark, whilst the last Wheatear of the year was seen at the Triangle. A small arrival of 28 Redwings were around the Observatory on 17th, along with three Chiffchaff, including one showing characteristics of the race 'tristis' which remained to 25th. An hour seawatch at Cow Harbour produced a southerly movement of 36 Gannet, nine Kittiwake, 3 Black-headed Gull, three Common Gull and 31 Great Black-backed Gull. Strong southerly winds with near constant rain and hill fog reduced passage to almost zero on 18th, although a flock of 23 Turnstone and a Redshank were seen at Cow Harbour. The weather wasn't much better on 19th, but a Woodpigeon was present at the Observatory and a Short-eared Owl was seen above Gibdale during the late afternoon. A slight improvement in the weather on 20th encouraged a few birds to move, with 12 Skylark, two Swallow, 39 Redwing, seven Song Thrush, seven Tree Sparrow, 77 Chaffinch, 19 Greenfinch, 83 Goldfinch and 15 Siskin. Stronger northerly winds on 21st produced a few birds off Cow Harbour with a 90- minute seawatch recording a **Brent Goose**, a Black-headed Gull and six Common Gull. Eight Lapwing were

seen in the Seafield and six more Whooper Swans flew north, whilst other diurnal migration included 14 Woodpigeon, 48 Skylark, two Swallow, 861 Starling, 20 Song Thrush, 27 Redwing, 116 Chaffinch and 45 Goldfinch. With the wind backing more westerly, Culberty produced a few seabirds on 22nd, with:

0185 – 0915

Fulmar 7N, Manx Shearwater 4N, Gannet 312N, Kittiwake 4863N, Common Gull 3N (plus 2S at Cow)

Forty Song Thrush were the dominant species present at the Observatory on 23rd, whilst elsewhere a Red-throated Diver flew north over Rarick and 11 Turnstone were on Burroo. Two new Great Tits arrived at the Observatory on 24th but otherwise passerine passage continued to be suppressed by the strong SW winds, although a slight decrease in wind strength during the 25th brought 37 Song Thrush, 34 Chaffinch, a **Brambling**, four Greenfinch, 100 Goldfinch and 21 Siskin. Further strong winds over the next few days kept things quiet, although a Grey Wagtail was seen at Cow Harbour on 26th and a Manx Shearwater and 49 Kittiwake flew west off South Harbour on 27th.



Decreasing winds on 28th brought the first Woodcock of autumn along with a general increase in migrants, with seven Chiffchaff, a male Blackcap, 30 Redwing, 49 Chaffinch and three Brambling. The Woodcock was still present on 29th but other than a westerly passage of 1455 Starling, 122 Chaffinch, a **Twite** and 26 Siskin relatively little migration was noted. A Woodcock was again present around the Observatory and Glen areas on 30th, but the day was dominated by a huge passage of Redwing, many hundreds poured out of the sky just after dawn with 3197 counted during the day. Additionally, 2259 Starling moved west and other diurnal passage included 13 Woodpigeon, 31 Skylark, three Swallow, 42 Song Thrush, 12 House Sparrow, 25 Tree Sparrow, 365 Chaffinch, 17 Greenfinch, 116 Goldfinch and 24 Siskin. Also of note were

two Great Northern Diver which flew west over the Observatory and three Purple Sandpiper at Cow Harbour, where a raft of 75 Kittiwake were offshore during the evening and two Common Gull flew south. Another Woodcock was seen on 31st, this time above the Cletts, and a Black-headed Gull flew east through the Sound. The first noticeable arrival of (24) Blackbirds were around the Observatory, along with the first Fieldfare of autumn, 68 Redwing, 15 Song Thrush, five Blackcap and three Brambling.

A total of 96 species were recorded during the month.

November

Weather: The first week of the month was dominated by moderate to strong west to north-west winds with periods of rain on 1st and 6th.



Strong WNW winds overnight and into the early hours of the 1st meant the seawatching was most productive, with a southerly passage off Cow Harbour between 0730 – 1100hrs producing:

Pale-bellied Brent Goose 1, Common Scoter 4, Red-throated Diver 7 + 5E, Great Northern Diver 1, Fulmar 10, Gannet 90, Kittiwake 525, Black-headed Gull 3E, Common Gull 9, Lesser Black-backed Gull 33, Great Black-backed Gull 314, Herring Gull 398, Guillemot 9, Razorbill 8, Auk

spp. 86. Elsewhere at least 40 Redwing, 10 Song Thrush and three Blackcap were around the Observatory, whilst two Woodcock were seen above the Cletts and a Jack Snipe was flushed from a puddle near Fold Point. Calmer conditions on 2nd, produced another excellent day of visual migration with six Whooper Swan north, a westerly passage of two Great Northern Diver heading over the Observatory, 236 Woodpigeon, 742 Jackdaw, 47 Rook, 11 Carrion Crow, 18 Raven, a Swallow, 898 Starling, 15 House Sparrow, 343 Chaffinch, 16 Brambling, 16 Greenfinch, 149 Goldfinch and 33 Siskin. Grounded birds included three Blackcap, 24 Blackbird, 14 Fieldfare, 479 Redwing, 45 Song Thrush, 10 Dunnock and two Reed Bunting. Pigeons were

very much a feature of 3rd, with two **Stock Dove** and 167 Woodpigeon heading north, along with a Collared Dove around the Observatory, where there was also six **Long-tailed Tit**, 80 Blackbird, 51 Redwing, 16 Song Thrush and four Mistle Thrush. Other diurnal passage included 75 Skylark, a Swallow, 1029 Starling, 27 House Sparrow, 12 Tree Sparrow, a Grey Wagtail, 567 Chaffinch, seven Brambling and eight Greenfinch. Another 156 Woodpigeon headed north on 4th along with 1554 Starling, whilst around the Observatory where 46 Blackbird, 200 Fieldfare, 109 Redwing, 15 Song Thrush, 402



Chaffinch, five Brambling and 17 Siskin. Smaller numbers of Woodpigeon (31) flew north on 5th, along with 17 Jackdaw and 719 Starling. Blackbirds arrived in greater numbers with at least 150 around the island, along with 59 Fieldfare, 90 Redwing, 15 Song Thrush, 24 Chaffinch and a Brambling. Little was seen on the 6th & 7th due to inclement weather and packing up the Observatory ready to leave the island, but as we departed at least 100 Great Black-backed Gulls were accompanied by five Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Caigher and single Purple Sandpipers were present at South Harbour and Kione ny Halby.

A visit to the Sound café on 9th produced several additional records, with a Grey Heron on Kitterland plus a Red-throated Diver and a male Eider flying through the Sound.

A total of 96 species were recorded during the month.



View from Rarick, with Chicken Rock to left, Observatory (centre) and Burroo on right

2021 Systematic List

The nomenclature and taxonomic order follow that of the Ninth edition of the British List published by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) version 6, August 2021 (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 a new species added to the Manx Bird List.

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	6 -10 records
Rare passage migrant	11 – 100 records or less than annual occurrence
Scarce passage migrant	1 - 10 recorded annually
Uncommon migrant / visitor	11 - 100 recorded annually
Common passage migrant / visitor	Occurs regularly, more than 100 annually

A total of 141 species were recorded during 2021, including two new species for the Calf, bringing the total number of species recorded on the Calf to 284.

Brent [Brant] Goose *Branta bernicula*

Rare passage migrant; 26 previous records involving 82 individuals, with records in January (1), April (1), May (1), September (9), October (12) and November (2)

Two birds were seen flying south off Cow Harbour; the first on 21st October was too distant to be identified to a specific sub-species and a single Light-bellied Brent *B.b hrota* was observed on 1st November.

The 27th & 28th record of a species that is still somewhat of a rarity off the Calf, although it has been recorded with increasing frequency during the last ten years, as the table below shows:

Number of records in 10-year periods:

10-Year period	1972 - 1981	1982 - 1991	1992 - 2001	2002 – 2011	2012 - 2021
Records	3	4	6	6	9

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Guïy Feie

Scarce visitor / passage migrant; 58 previous records involving 182 individuals, with records in March (7), April (13), May (5), June (6), July (3), August (7), September (3), October (5), November (7) and December (2). Most records probably originate from feral populations on the Isle of Man

A rather bedraggled looking individual circled over the Glen on 29th April before heading back north towards the main Island; what was likely the same individual was seen on Kitterland on 30th, where evidence of its presence would suggest that it had been in residence for some time. Subsequent camera trap footage revealed that it remained there until at least 17th June. Two birds flew in from the east on 5th May and 15th June, on both occasions circling over Caigher before heading back in the direction they had come from.

Given the dates and the circumstances involving these sightings, it is likely that these birds originated from the growing feral population that is now resident in the southern half of the Isle of Man.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Very rare migrant; nine previous records involving 19 individuals, with records in April (2014), May (1969 [2], 1985), September (1970 [4], 1978 [6], 1982, 1996), October (1994) and November (1997 [2])

An adult bird flew north over the Front Field at 0820hrs on 26th September. Just the 10th Calf record and first live bird since 1997.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Ollay Chiaullee

Very rare migrant; nine previous records involving 19 individuals, with records in April (2014), May (1969 [2], 1985), September (1970 [4], 1978 [6], 1982, 1996), October (1994) and November (1997 [2])

A record number of groups were recorded, with an excellent series of observations during October which included two flying east over the Glen on 5th, three flying north off Gibdale on 12th, groups of four and 10 flying south on 15th, a party of seven that flew over the Observatory heading north-west

on 16th and six heading north over the Observatory on 21st. In November a party of six flew north along the east coast on 2nd.

The total of seven different groups totalling 38 individuals is the highest number of records in any one season beating six groups totalling 17 birds recorded in 2019.



[Common] Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Thunnag y Scape

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

Up to three birds were seen on seven dates in April from 21st, with one pair present in the Puddle area and a single seen at Cow Harbour on a couple of occasions. The Puddle pair were seen visiting a nest site on 23rd April, but no other evidence of breeding was forthcoming. Singles were seen on just four dates in May up to 17th and two birds flew north past the Puddle on 6th June. There were no autumn records.

[Eurasian] Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Rare spring migrant and scarce autumn passage migrant; 98 previous records involving 411 individuals, with records in February (1), March (1), April (2), May (1), June (1), August (3), September (38), October (35), November (15) and December (1)

A flock of six flew west off Culbery on 9th October.

A typical record, with October being the second-best month to see this species off the Calf.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Very rare vagrant; two previous records involving a pair on the sea off South Harbour on 15th March 1995 and a pair flying west past the Puddle on 13th September 2016

A drake was recorded on trail camera footage from the Millpond on 23rd December.

Probably the rarest sighting recorded on one of the trail cameras so far – but once again showing what important additional records this method can produce.

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
Up to five birds were recorded almost daily during the first half of the year, with two broods of young appearing during late April and another two broods during the second half of June. As normal the young were quickly predated, except for a single duckling from the last brood, which avoided the attentions of the various gulls and managed to fledge by mid-September, last being seen on the Millpond on 20th September.

All bar one record during July, August and September were of the lone duckling, with the exception being for a female seen at Cow Harbour on 14th August. From early October 1 – 3 birds were seen intermittently on the Millpond, with occasional records from Caigher and the Puddle.

[Northern] Pintail *Anas acuta*

Rare passage migrant; 14 previous records involving 67 individuals, with records in March (1), September (8), October (4) and November (1)

A female circled Thousla before heading East through the Sound on 8th October. The 15th Calf record and first since 2011.

[Eurasian] Teal *Anas crecca*

Thunnag Laaghag

Uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant;

The first single of autumn was seen at the Millpond on the relatively early date of 2nd August, then a series of records in September, with another single on 3rd & 4th, eight on 10th with two remaining on 11th, a single on 14th and two on 15th. In October, five were on the Millpond on 14th and a single was at the South Harbour pool on 15th.

A series of records were recorded by the Millpond Trail Camera during December, with three on 9th & 10th, 25th & 28th, two seen on a further five dates between 22nd – 31st and a single on 27th.

[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

Birds were already establishing nests sites when we arrived on 21st April and were seen almost daily through to the end of June, with maximum counts of 91 on 5th and 87 on 12th May. The first nests were discovered on 30th April and young were seen from 22nd May, with a record total of 40 nests being monitored. At least another 15 nests were discovered either having been predated or where young had already left the nest.



Breeding birds began to disperse after mid-June, when counts reduced to mainly single figures. Records were much scarcer during July with 1 - 2 on 10 dates up to 22nd and four on both 5th & 17th. In past years, very few birds have been seen beyond the end of July, however after a female and two young remained throughout autumn 2020 the trend would seem to be continuing with up to three female/young type birds seen on five dates in August and up to four birds on 14 dates in September, including a male at South Harbour on 20th September. In October a single female was at Cow Harbour on three dates and at South Harbour on one date, whilst the last record of the season was a single male flying through the Sound on 9th November.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Rare autumn passage migrant; 13 previous records involving 25 individuals, with records in September (2), October (8) and November (3)

A single was seen flying west from the halfway rocks between Cow Harbour and Port Erin on 28th September (RKF). The first record since 2017.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon passage migrant; recorded mainly in late summer and autumn

A very poor year with no spring records and relatively few in autumn.

Three on both 23rd & 29th September, heading south past Culbery and five heading west on 9th October, with four south off Cow Harbour on 1st November.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Rare passage migrant; 42 previous records involving 82 individuals, with records in April (4), May (4), June (2), July (4), August (3), September (7), October (13) and November (5)

Two males flew west off South Harbour on 14th October (BK). The first record since November 2018 and just the fourth in the last decade.



[Common] Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Formerly a rare visitor, now resident breeding species since 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)

A male was seen on 1st January.

Two males held territories in the Glen during spring, with at least two females also seen on many occasions. Two young seen on 9th & 28th June and a single on 3rd July were all thought to have been from one brood. A second brood was present around the Withy area from 31st August, with two young seen on both 1st & 5th September.

Records of up to four birds were regular throughout the season, particularly from the Glen area and from the Triangle.

[Common] Swift *Apus apus*

Gollan ny Greg

Irregular summer 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
02-May	01-May	28-Apr	03-May	03-May	02-May	06-May
26-Aug	08-Aug	29-Aug	17-Aug	04-Sep	07-Sep	25-Aug

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

One flying north over Gibdale on 24th April was the fourth earliest arrival date ever recorded on the Calf. Further spring records involved singles on 5th, 14th & 21st May, two on 8th May and three on both 7th & 25th June.

Return passage began with a single on 10th July, then a series of records on seven dates between 15th – 23rd July involving 22 birds and including a maximum count of six on 17th July. The final record of the year was three seen off Cow Harbour on 12th August.

[Common] Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Cooag

Uncommon summer passage migrant and very occasional breeder

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.

In spring, singles were recorded on 29th April and 8th & 25th May.

A series of records during July, saw a juvenile present on 6th & 7th and another rather elusive bird that was present from 10th – 15th July.

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Calmane ny Creggey

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

A single on 22nd May, then one or two on nine dates in June and a single on 3rd July were the only records during spring and summer.

In autumn, one on 11th September and two on 15th October. All records are likely to refer to feral or racing pigeons.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Scarce passage migrant; 77 previous records involving 146 individuals, with records in March (7), April (8), May (14), June (4), July (5), August (9), September (5), October (13) and November (12)

Two flew north during the morning of 3rd November and were part of a relatively large movement of pigeons.

November is the most regular month for this species to occur on the Calf, although this is the first time since 2005 that more than one bird has been recorded.

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

Seen sporadically during spring with singles on two dates in April, nine dates in May and seven dates in June, with a peak count of three on 26th May.

During the summer months, occasional birds stayed for short periods, with one present from 14th – 18th July, then seen on a further three dates in the month whilst in August one was seen on seven dates between 7th – 15th, with another on 24th.

Autumn passage was initially very poor with a single in Mill Giau on 20th September and a handful of small flocks in October, with 14 west on 13th, 103 west on 15th, a single present around the Observatory from 19th – 22nd and 13 west on 21st and 30th. However, November provided one of the largest

movements recorded in recent years, with 236 west on 2nd, 167 north on 3rd, 156 north on 4th and finally 31 north on 5th.

[Eurasian] Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

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

Singles were recorded during spring on four dates in May and on eight dates in June, plus three on 19th & 31st May and two on 3rd & 17th June.

The only summer record was one on 13th July and in autumn singles were at the Observatory on 2nd October and 3rd November.

[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

Recorded almost daily throughout the season, with regular counts of up to 30 birds largely reflecting the resident breeding population. At least 18 pairs bred on the Calf, with an additional two pairs on Kitterland.

The highest count of the year was 39 on 29th July, which is likely to have included a number of locally bred young.

[Northern] Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Earkan

Formerly bred, now occasional passage migrant; up to 10 pairs bred 1967 to 1982. A small breeding population established in 1967 quickly grew to 10 pairs during 1969-72, from when numbers gradually decreased. The last three pairs bred in 1982. Records are now largely confined to summer and early autumn, when birds disperse from natal areas

Two seen near to the stream to the West of Cow Harbour on 14th June was the start of an excellent series of late summer records, when compared with recent years. Eight in the Withy field on 19th were followed by six in the Front Field on 21st & 24th and a single on 30th June. Further singles were recorded on four dates in July, plus five on 16th July and 18th August.

There were two records in October, with a single west of Cow Harbour on 16th and a flock of eight flying over the Seafeld on 21st.

Annual bird-day & record totals:

YEAR	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bird-days	18 (12)	9 (7)	64 (23)	6 (6)	6 (2)	46 (13)

[European] Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Ushag Reeast/Fedjag Reeast

Uncommon passage migrant; most commonly recorded in autumn

There were no early spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, during March and most of April.



Autumn records began with singles on 15th & 19th August, then in September five flying north up the Glen on 12th, a single and two flying 'over' on 15th and 21st respectively, four in the Sea Field on 25th and two parties totalling 12 birds on 29th September. October produced eight records, with singles on 6th & 22nd, parties of four and two on 12th, two on 13th, a flock of five and two singles on 15th and two on 16th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare passage migrant; 35 previous records involving 45 individuals, with records in March (4), May (3), August (4), September (16), October (7) and November (1)

A single was seen briefly in the Sea Field during the morning of 20th September, before it flew north up the Glen (DW, AS) and another stopped briefly on rocks at Cow Harbour on 29th September (RKF, AS) were the first records since 2015.

[Common] Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Feddag Ainnit

Scarce passage migrant; usually less than five records per annum

Two spring records involved fly-over calling birds, with a single over Rarick at 2250hrs on 24th April and another over the Withy during the morning of 27th May.

The only bird of the autumn was a single seen at Cow Harbour on 4th October.

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

Spring records were two on 21st and singles on 27th and 30th April, followed by up to three seen on eight dates between 1st – 22nd May.

Two on 30th June may have been the start of autumn passage, however there were no further records until singles on 21st July and 30th August and 6th & 8th September.

[Eurasian] Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Crottag

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

Spring records were rather scarce with two seen on 22nd April, then singles on 26th, 27th and 30th April and 2nd, 6th and 16th May.

Autumn passage began with singles on 13th, 14th & 18th June, then after four on 23rd birds were seen more frequently with 10 on 30th June and 12 on 3rd July being peak passage counts. During July up to four birds were seen irregularly, whilst in both August and September up to nine birds were seen almost daily, with a peak count of 14 on 11th August. Numbers present increased slightly during October, with up to 11 seen on three occasions and a peak of 15 on 15th, whilst in November up to five birds were seen daily during the first week of the month.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Rare passage migrant; 16 previous records involving 38 individuals, with records in April (1), July (5), August (4) and September (6). Most records involve single birds although larger groups were three in the Glen on 8th – 9th July 1983, two at Fold Point on 17th September 1983, four flying through the

Sound on 30th July 1994, five south-east of Kione Roauyr on 30th August 2008 and 13 south past Culbery on 23rd August 2018

A juvenile was present on the Millpond for most of the morning of 25th July and a summer-plumaged adult was found feeding on a grassy slope near Fold Point during the evening of 7th August. Just the 17th & 18th Calf records.

[Ruddy] Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Goblaghan

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

Two flocks totalling 24 birds were seen on rocks around Caigher on 1st January and the only spring sighting was seven on 22nd April.



Autumn passage occurred from 12th August with singles on six dates in the month, plus seven on 27th and 10 on 28th August. In September, up to four were recorded on five dates, plus 11 on 12th September.

October produced the highest count of the season with 23 at Cow Harbour on 18th, otherwise records were quite scarce with just singles on three dates, 11 on Burroo on 23rd and three at Cow Harbour on 31st October with four seen there on 1st November.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Breck ny Traie

Scarce passage migrant; mostly recorded in autumn

The only record of spring was one heard calling as it flew over the Glen on 22nd April.

In autumn, three flew south off Cow Harbour on 29th September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Scarce passage migrant and common winter resident; a small wintering population of approximately 20 – 45 (101 recorded November 2020) birds are resident in several caves below the lighthouses. Due to access to these caves being only by boat, records are infrequent.

The importance of the caves below the Lighthouses has only recently been recognised, with a significant proportion of the Manx population now known to winter at this site. The caves are frequented by birds from mid-August when birds begin to return from their breeding grounds, until late April when the last birds depart for their Arctic breeding grounds. An opportunity to visit the Calf and the caves on 1st January found a total of 51 birds present.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to visit again until April, when 34 birds were present on 10th, 30 on 22nd and 10 on 30th.

The first returning birds to the caves were a single on 3rd, two on 19th, increasing to three by 27th August and five by 7th September. On the 12th September, eight birds were in the caves, with a further five on Chicken Rock, where three were present on 15th, with another two on the Burroo. October produced only four records, all at Cow Harbour, with five seen after dark on 16th, another there on 17th when a bird also flew east through the Sound and three on 30th, plus two on 1st November. Several sightings also came from the coastline between South Harbour and Kione ny Halby in early November, with three on 1st and two on 2nd & 7th.

[Eurasian] Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Ushag Rennee

Uncommon autumn passage and winter migrant; approximately 225 records involving 442 individuals, with records in January (1), February (9), March (31), April (14), May (1), June (1), July (2), September (1), October (72) and November (92)

A single was flushed from alongside the footpath leading up from the Top Withy on 1st January.

The first of autumn was flushed from the end of the trapping area, near HG1, during the early morning of 28th October and at least one bird was present in this area over the next two days. A single was then seen above the Cletts on 31st October, with two birds there on 1st November.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Scarce passage migrant; 99 previous records involving 117 individuals, with records in February (3), March (10), April (10), August (1), September (11), October (41), November (22) and December (1)

Spring records were of singles in the Glen and at the Millpond on 23rd April and 11th May respectively. The latter record being the first ever recorded in May.

In autumn, one was trapped at the Millpond on 13th October, and presumably the same bird was again seen on the Millpond on 14th. Another was seen in a puddle at the side of the vehicle track above Fold Point on 1st November.

A welcome increase in the number of records this season, following blank years in 2017 & 2020 and just single records in both 2018 & 2019.

[Common] Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Coayr Heddagh

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

There were no early spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, during March and most of April and two on 23rd April and a single on 1st May were the only spring records.

Singles on 25th and 31st July may have been the first autumn passage birds, but there were no further records until a single on 5th September, after which singles were seen on a further 12 dates in the month, plus two on 19th September. October produced relatively few records with singles on seven dates between 7th – 14th and two on 15th and finally singles in the Front Field on 5th November and at the Millpond on 27th & 28th November.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Looyran

Uncommon spring migrant and common 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
29-Apr	24-Apr	03-May	01-May	27-Apr	26-Apr	02-May
07-Sep	01-Sep	13-Sep	09-Sep	05-Sep	14-Sep	28-Aug

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

First of the spring was a bird in the Puddle on 28th April, followed by singles in May on 10th & 17th.

Autumn return passage began with one at South Harbour on 5th July, then 1 - 3 birds recorded on 12 dates between 15th July – 1st August and a year maximum of four on 27th July. Further records were two on 14th and three on 15th August and the last record of the year, a single on 29th August.

[Common] Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Goblan Marrey

Fairly common passage migrant; most numerous in autumn

A single flying north along the east coast on 17th June may have been the last of spring or, perhaps, the first of autumn passage? Early autumn birds were one at Caigher on 6th & 10th July, but August provided the bulk of records with one at Cow Harbour on 6th, another over the Millpond during the morning of 7th, one frequenting the Puddle on 15th and two on Caigher on 29th August. Later in the autumn, one was at Fold Point on 13th September, and another was with a flock of Turnstone at Cow Harbour on 18th October.

[Black-legged] Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Perragh

Formerly bred with a peak of 720 pairs in 1969, then annually in decreasing number to 5 pairs in 2011 and finally 13 pairs in 2013; now common summer visitor from nearby colonies and autumn passage migrant

Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade

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

Two were observed within Calf territorial waters during the boat crossing on 2nd January.

Records during early spring were typically scarce with just two birds reported on 22nd April. Records became more frequent during May and June, largely involving birds commuting between feeding grounds and their nesting colony at the Sugarloaf, although numbers rarely exceeded 20 birds, with monthly maximums of 32 on 23rd May and 55 on 28th June. These relatively low numbers continued through early July, but increased after mid-month, with 88 on 17th, 295 on 25th and 429 on 27th, which occurred alongside large Manx Shearwater gatherings off the west coast and were associated with several 'feeding frenzies' involving both species. Smaller numbers were recorded into the first half of August, but as young and adults dispersed from their breeding grounds counts were significantly reduced, except for two seawatches off

Culberty which produced 146 south in 60 minutes on 9th and 157 north in 120 minutes on 12th August.

Records were scarce during September and October except when strong winds provided suitable seawatching conditions, with:

23rd September – 77 south & 15 north off Culberty (95 mins)

29th September – 227 south & 8 north off Culberty (125 mins)

1st October – 486 south off Culberty (270 mins)

22nd October – 4,863 south off Culberty (60 mins)

1st November – 525 south off Cow Harbour (210 mins)

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare passage migrant; 46 previous records involving 58 individuals, with records in April (1), May (2), June (1), September (20), October (12) and November (2)

An immature flew south off Culberty, with Kittiwakes, on 1st October (AS).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Pirragh

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

The first of the year was an adult in the Glen, which joined the daytime roost of moulting larger gulls on 18th June, with another seen on 28th. Records were relatively frequent in July, with up to five seen on seven dates in the month, whilst in August up to two were seen on just five dates.



In September, two flew west off South Harbour on 12th, a single was seen on 16th and three flew south off Cow Harbour during strong north-west winds on 29th. October produced the largest single flock for some time, with 27 flying west past South Harbour on 16th, three south off Cow Harbour on 17th and a single through the Sound on 21st. Three east through the Sound on 1st November were the last records of the season.

Common [Mew] Gull *Larus canus*

Foillan Vane

Uncommon passage migrant; mostly recorded in late autumn

An unusual mid-summer record of a 1st year bird at Cow Harbour on 6th August.

More typical records, in autumn, were two adult birds seen flying south off Cow Harbour during strong north-west winds on 29th September, whilst October and November produced an excellent series of records off Cow Harbour:

5th October – 8 south

7th October – 3 south

14th October – 3 east thro' Sound

15th October – 2 east thro' Sound

17th October – 3 south

21st October – 6 south

22nd October – 2 south

24th October – 3 south

30th October – 2 south

1st November – 9 south

In addition, a flock of 18 flew west off South Harbour, with Black-headed Gulls, on 16th October and three flew north off Culbery on 22nd October.

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:

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

Present throughout the season with regular counts of up to 120 birds in spring and early summer reflecting the breeding population. Forty-four breeding pairs were located on the Calf, with an additional 11 pairs on Kitterland, showing a slight increase in numbers when compared to the 2009 - 2018 mean.

Post-breeding, numbers seen during July and August decreased somewhat as birds left the Calf and dispersed within the Irish Sea, although 114 roosting on Caigher on 29th August was the start of autumn gatherings, with a high count of 199 on 1st October. The only notable passage was 314 south off Cow Harbour on 1st November.

(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:

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

Probably the most abundant and common species seen around the Calf, particularly during the spring and summer when counts of between 300 – 800 largely reflect the breeding population, which was recorded at 702 Apparently Occupied Nests. This is the highest count of nests since 2000 and represents a significant increase on the 2009 – 2018 mean.

Post-breeding, numbers recorded decreased significantly from mid-August, with double-figure counts becoming commonplace, particularly through September and into the first half of October. Birds began to return from mid-month, with high counts of 171 on 15th, 182 on 16th and 200 at the Kione ny Halby roost on 31st. A southerly passage off Cow Harbour on 1st November recorded 398 birds, plus an additional 125 seen elsewhere on the Calf.

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:

10-Year (m)	1959- 1968	1969- 1978	1979- 1988	1989- 1998	1999- 2008	2009- 2018
AON	39	41	40	31	36	45

Birds were already present on territory when we arrived on the Calf on 21st April, with counts of 20 - 49 in April and May being made daily. Higher counts of 71 on 8th and 72 on 30th June are likely to more closely represent true numbers of birds present, although the breeding population was only recorded at 25 Apparently Occupied Nests. Egg laying appeared to be delayed, possibly due to the prolonged period of cold northerly winds experienced through late April and early May and it appeared that some pairs failed to breed and those that did were quite late in completing clutches.

Birds began to disperse during early August, with just single figure counts on nine dates from 19th and other than 14 on 2nd September the remaining 18 counts in September were all between 1 – 6 birds. One to three birds were seen on eight dates in October, and it was evident that a small number of birds were associating with Great Black-backed Gull flock that roost at various locations along the north and west coastlines of the Calf, with five also present amongst this flock on Caigher on 7th November. Seven south off Cow Harbour on 5th October may have been passage birds, as is likely 33 south past Cow Harbour on 1st November.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Uncommon passage migrant; approximately 234 previous records involving 950 individuals, with records in April (19), May (47), June (25), July (23), August (49), September (60) and October (11)

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	18-May	05-May	14-May	12-May	26-Apr	04-May
14-Sep	01-Sep	21-Sep	07-Sep	24-Sep	25-Sep	03-Sep

The earliest arrival date was 3rd April 1975 & 1988, with the latest departure date being 22nd October 1996

The only spring record was of two flying through the Sound on 2nd June, whilst in autumn a single was seen off South Harbour on 4th August.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Maarliagh Marrey

Uncommon passage migrant; approximately 268 records involving 1083 individuals, with records in March (1), April (14), May (15), June (8), July (13), August (48), September (94), October (65) and November (10). What is presumably the same individual summered on the Calf and southern shores of the main-island from 2017 – 2020 being seen frequently each year from April/May until July/August. In 2020 a second bird summered, and an additional (colour-ringed) bird was identified in June.

For the fifth consecutive year the species summered on the Calf, although no attempt to breed has been identified yet. The presumed original bird returned for its fifth year, being seen on 21st & 26th April and then almost daily throughout May. In June it was joined by a second bird on five dates, whilst in July there were two birds present on four dates, three birds on a further four dates and four birds on two dates, with a total of 40 bird-days for

the month. Records began to tail-off during August with two birds on 4th and a single bird reported almost daily up to 25th August. Unusually, there were no autumn passage records.

Arctic Skua [Parasitic Jaeger] *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Shirragh Varrey

Uncommon passage migrant; approximately 219 records involving 909 individuals, with records in April (5), May (13), June (6), July (9), August (54), September (80), October (51) and November (1)

Autumn passage birds were singles off Cow Harbour on 29th July and flying south off Culbery on 12th August and 24th September, with two on 23rd September and three south on 1st October.

Skua spp. *Stercorarius* spp.

A single observed off Culbery on 18th August was thought, perhaps, to be a Pomarine Skua *S. pomarinus* but views were insufficient to confirm an identification.

Common [Murre] Guillemot *Uria algae*

Stronnag / Chennell

Common breeding resident and autumn passage migrant;

Mean estimate of breeding pairs per decade:

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

Birds were already associating with breeding sites when we arrived on 21st April, with 94 at Big Head on 30th, along with rafts of 48 off Burroo and 34 off the Lighthouses. After 155 on 2nd May only single figure counts were made until 50 on 16th, where after birds began to occupy breeding sites more frequently and by 26th there were 97 birds at the Big Head colony and a further 55 at Ghaw Yairn. Counts during June indicated that between 120 – 150 birds were regular present at the Big Head colony and between 70 - 85 birds were occupying ledges at Ghaw Yairn, with an average count of 202 individual adults, which equates to an estimate of 121 pairs. Although birds were occasionally seen ashore below the Upper Lighthouse, there was no indication that any breeding attempt was made there.

Although most counts are of breeding birds, there is often a small passage of birds flying past South Harbour as they traverse between breeding ledges at the Sugarloaf and Chasms and feeding grounds to the west of the Calf. This

was particularly noticeable on 12th June when 293 flew west and 129 flew east.

Birds continued to associate with their breeding ledges throughout the first half of July, with 158 plus a few chicks still present at Big Head and Ghaw Yairn on 17th. Thereafter numbers decreased rapidly with just four double figure counts, maximum 16 on 22nd, four on 28th and singles on five dates with the last bird seen on 29th July.



There were no records during August, however up to six birds were present in the Puddle between 6th – 18th September and included one or more youngsters, who's distinctive call could be heard, as far away as the Observatory, on calm days. Few birds were identified during autumn passage, with just a single bird off Cow Harbour on 24th September, six south on 1st October, during a day heavy auk movement and nine south on 1st November.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Coltrag

Common breeding resident and autumn passage migrant;

Mean estimate of breeding pairs per decade:

10-Year (m)	1959-1968	1969-1978	1979-1988	1989-1998	1999-2008	2009-2018
AON	154	129	127	63	115	128

As with the previous species, birds were already associating with nesting locations when we arrived on the Calf in late April, with 99 seen on 27th and 176 on 30th April, which included 94 at Big Head, 48 at Burroo and 34 below the Lighthouses. Counts of 150 - 250 were commonplace during May and June, with an average count of 178 Individual Adults seen ashore during June surveys, which equates to an estimate of 107 pairs. Birds were seen regularly

through to 19th July, then up to eight on three more dates to the last three on 28th July.

There were no records during August and just seven south off Cow Harbour on 24th September before records on six dates in October, with a maximum of 12 on 24th October and finally eight south on 1st November.



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

Two or three birds were seen on four dates during the latter part of April, then in May four birds were seen regularly around the Stack, with one or two birds seen at several other locations on nine dates, plus seven at Gibdale on 16th and four there on 23rd. Nine birds were present off Cow Harbour on 6th June, with smaller numbers seen there relatively frequently during the remainder of the month and into July, with further counts of nine on 25th & 28th July. It is likely that most of these birds are from the breeding colony north of Port Erin and are using the waters off Cow Harbour as a feeding area.

Up to four birds continued to be seen frequently at the Stack throughout June and on 3rd July, three young were seen begging for food from adults. This represents the first confirmed successful breeding record for the species on the Calf.

The only autumn records were singles seen flying south off Culbery during a seawatch on 24th September and 1st 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. A project to encourage Puffin to return as breeding species to the Calf, by use of decoys and calls, was established in 2016.

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	14-May	21-Apr	13-Apr	28-Mar	03-Apr	n/a
10-Sep	11-Aug	26-Sep	29-Sep	31-Aug	20-Sep	n/a

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

A single on the sea off Kione ny Halby on 16th May was the first record of the year and was followed by two off Ghaw Yairn on 25th & 26th, five off South Harbour during the evening of 29th and four at the Stack on 30th May. Birds were seen almost daily through June, with up to seven birds seen at the Stack and four birds regularly in the Kione ny Halby area, where two birds were seen ashore on 3rd June and a single was seen carrying nesting material on 4th. This is the first time in 26 years that birds have been seen landing on the Calf.

Higher numbers of Puffins were recorded around the Calf, during 2021, than in any recent year, with peak counts of 11 on 16th June and 10 on 17th & 13 on 21st July.

Annual bird-day total 2016 – 2021:

YEAR	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bird-days	54	44	124	43	32	164

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

Lhargey Mooar

Scarce passage migrant; with 338 records involving 681 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	5	375	188	80	0

A very poor showing with just two singles in October; flying south off Cow Harbour on 1st and another seen flying north over Rarick on 23rd.

A total of 12 were seen off Cow Harbour on 1st November, with seven heading south and five passing east through the Sound, with another single flying through the Sound on 9th.

Great Northern Diver [Common Loon] *Gavia immer*

Arrag Vooar

Scarce passage migrant; 141 previous records involving 202 individuals, with records in March (2), April (1), May (7), August (1), September (34), October (63), November (32), December (1)

The first spring record since 2016 involved a single seen flying north past the Puddle on 5th May – just the eighth record for that month.

In autumn, two flew west over the Observatory on 30th October, during a morning of heavy visual migration, a single flew south off Cow Harbour on 1st November and two more headed west over the Observatory on 2nd November.

[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

All records, except one, related to birds attracted to tape lure during night-time netting sessions at South Harbour.

15 th June	10
23 rd June	4
1 st July	3
2 nd July	3
5 th July	2
7 th July	12
9 th July	3
17 th July	6

23 rd July	15
3 rd August	2
4 th August	10
19 th August	1
20 th August	3
27 th August	3
28 th August	3

The only day time record, for the year, was a single seen approximately 1km south of Chicken Rock on 10th August (CMS).

[Northern] Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Eean Croymmagh

Common breeding resident and autumn passage migrant;

Mean count of Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) per decade:

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

Birds were well into occupying ledges by our return in late April, with counts of 50 – 60 birds being regular during April & May and a complete circumnavigation of the Calf coastline on 22nd May recording 103 individuals. Boat-based counts in June recorded 156 individuals and 117 AOS on 6th and 104 individuals and 94 AOS on 23rd.

Breeding success would appear to have been very poor, with numbers of adult birds seen during July being mostly between 20 – 40 and only two nests along the east coast known to have young that were likely to have fledged. Unfortunately, due to logistical issues, it was not possible to survey the north and west coast sites to assess breeding productivity.



Autumn passage was first noted with 58 recorded on 29th July, then 93 south off Cow Harbour on 12th August. The only three figure count was 102 seen in a large flock sitting on the sea off South Harbour on 26th August. From September records became much scarcer, with sightings on just 16 dates in the month and a maximum of 38 on 6th. October produced just three records, with 10 south and three north on 1st, a single on 12th and seven north past Culberty on 22nd, whilst in November 10 birds were seen off Cow Harbour on 1st and a single flew through the Sound on 9th.

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 Burrows (AOB):

5-Year	1999-2003	2004-2008	2009-2013	2014-2018
AOB	23	65	132	418

First of the year was a single on 27th April, then 15 seen overnight at the South Harbour colony on 28th. Forty to fifty birds were seen overnight on several occasions during early May, and at least 80 birds on 14th. Day time observations also produced several good counts, with 100 off the east coast on 11th, 68 there on 21st, a movement of 100 per hour past the Lighthouses during the morning of 23rd and 67 seen gathering off Kione Beg during the evening of 28th May.

Burrow surveying of the South Harbour colony, during the first half of June, recorded between 12 and 20 call-backs daily between 4th – 18th and 80 call-backs during a full burrow survey on 17th. Otherwise, 40 were present overnight on 1st, 89 were off the Lighthouses on 5th and 70 there on 7th, a passage of between 20 – 50 birds per minute moving north off South Harbour during the evening of 18th, 50 off Big Head on 23rd and 55 in the Puddle on 25th June.



Overnight counts of 30 – 50 were made on four occasions in early July, then during the last third of the month larger numbers were seen offshore, with a conservative estimate of 550 between the Puddle and Chicken Rock on 22nd, maybe upwards of 1000 birds between Burroo and Chicken Rock rafting and feeding during late evening on 25th and 255 and 265 recorded on 27th and 29th July respectively.

Records were still regular through August with single figure counts on 12 dates, double figure counts, up to 57, on a further 10 dates and two higher counts from Culbery with 94 south on 12th and 236 south during a 90-minute seawatch on 13th. A single juvenile shearwater was found 'stargazing' on 24th with another 29 young found by the end of the month. Young continued to be found through until 17th September, with a total of 124 ringed.

The final observations of the season were four south off Culbery on 23rd, where eight flew south on 29th September plus two more seen from Cow Harbour. Whilst in October 13 flew south off Culbery on 1st, four went north on 22nd and the last sighting of the year was a single seen heading west off South Harbour on 27th October.

[Northern] Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Gant

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

Recorded almost daily throughout the season, with counts mostly in the low double figures from 21st April and throughout May and June, with a maximum of 195 on 7th June. Although sightings became slightly less regular in July, they did however include several counts of 70+ and peak counts of 208 on 17th and 152 on 29th, which were associated with 'feeding frenzies' seen offshore.

Autumn passage was evident from early August, with seawatching off Culbery producing:

9th August: 133 south

12th August: 275 south

13th August: 378 south

16th August: 114 north

23rd September: 51 south & 117 north

24th September: 108 south & 18 north

29th September: 136 south & 13 north

1st October: 486 south

22nd October: 312 north

[European] Shag *Golusus 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:

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

Recorded daily throughout the season, with breeding already well underway when we arrived in late April. During spring, counts from land were mostly of less than 100 birds, with occasional larger flocks seen offshore: an around-Calf boat trip produced 152 on 17th May and by June feeding flocks began to gather offshore, with 168 west off South Harbour on 12th, 246 on 13th, 234 on 17th, 213 on 23rd and 206 on 30th. Flock sizes continued to rise through July with regular counts of between 100 - 250 birds, whilst 315 were feeding in the Sound on 11th, 326 on 24th and 500+ birds roosting at Kione ny Halby on 26th July. Counts of 200+ occurred on four dates in early August, plus 326 in the Sound on 4th, a count of 650+ off Big Head on 16th and 472 in the Sound on 27th. August. After 402 in the Sound on 1st September, numbers reported began to decrease, however there were still eight counts of more than 200 during the month. Other than 268 recorded on 5th October, counts during the month and to the end of the season were mostly in the low double-figures.

[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;

Counts of up to four were regular throughout the season, with birds most often seen roosting at the Cletts, feeding off Cow Harbour and less frequently at a roost site on Caigher Point.

A maximum count of nine birds was made at the Cletts on 4th November.



Monthly bird-day and maximum counts:

2020	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	9	Covid	Covid	31	45	66	85	56	10
Max.	4	Covid	Covid	6	6	11	14	7	3
2021	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Bird-days	Covid	22	64	50	44	57	77	73	15
Max.	Covid	4	5	6	5	6	7	6	9

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

There were no early spring records during March and most of April, owing to our absence from the islet due to coronavirus restrictions and the first of the year was a single at the Millpond on 26th & 27th May. This was followed by a single on 1st June, three at South Harbour at 2340hrs on 14th and singles on 15th, 18th & 19th June.

Breeding occurs at several sites in the south of the main Island and birds arriving during late spring and summer are likely to be dispersing from these natal areas. Two flying over Caigher on 17th and a single on 26th July where the only records for that month, with a single then present from 22nd - 25th August. From September records became much more frequent, particularly after mid-month, with up to three birds seen on 18 dates in the month, singles on 11 dates in October and one on Kitterland on 9th November. Additional records of birds recorded on the Millpond Trail Cameras were seen on 22nd November and 24th & 28th December.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Very rare vagrant; six previous records involving eight individuals, with singles on 11th June 1998, 9th November 2010, 14th June 2011, 23rd May 2013, two on 20th October 2018 and two on 6th May 2019

A single flew west past South Harbour on 16th October (DK, BK et al). Just the 7th Calf record but the 3rd in the past four years.

[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)

An above average year with four birds seen during autumn passage; the first near Big Head on 22nd August (CMS), then further singles in September, flying north over the Observatory on 3rd (GM-W), flying south past Caigher on 11th (DW) and flying west past the Lighthouses on 12th (ANA).

[Eurasian] Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Shawk / Shirragh / Shirragh ny Giark

Fairly common spring and common autumn passage migrant;

There were no early spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, during March and most of April. Singles were seen on five dates in April from 23rd, with the last records of spring being singles on 1st, 12th, 15th and 22nd May.

Autumn passage birds occurred from late July with singles on 19th and 25th July, then on 14 dates in August plus two on 18th, 22nd & 30th and three on 23rd August. A similar pattern followed in September with singles on 15 dates, plus two on 3rd, 15th & 18th and three on 7th and in October, with singles on 17 dates, two on 10th & 11th and three on 25th. November produced just three records, with singles on 2nd, 4th & 5th.

[Northern] Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Very rare passage migrant; ten previous records involving singles in March (2010), April (2010, 2018), May (2017), October (1991 [2], 2004 [2]) and November (1996)

Two birds, probably juveniles, were observed high above Cow Harbour on 14th July. The presence of these birds was initially brought to the observers' attention by the reaction of the Herring Gulls to the birds of prey above them (AS, MDH).

The species is not known to breed on the Isle of Man, and it would therefore seem probable that these birds were dispersing from a breeding locality in the UK.

[Western] Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Rare passage migrant; 38 previous records since the first in 1967, with records in April (4), May (23), July (2), August (5), September (3) and October (1)

A female was seen and photographed as it flew high over the centre of the Island on 16th May (BK, DK) and was likely the same bird that was seen on the main-Island, at Langness, about an hour later.

An unprecedented series of records during late summer involved a female-type bird that was present from 26th July to at least the 18th August (MDH, RKF). Female-type birds were then seen daily between 23rd to 27th August (RKF et al) and 4th to 8th September (RKF, AS et al) and may have involved the same or different birds. The final record of the autumn was another female-type bird seen flying up the Glen and then seen briefly over the Heath on 15th September (RKF, AS, ANA).

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

Present throughout much of the season, with sightings of one or two birds recorded regularly. Several birds were particularly evident during the second half of October, when up to three birds were seen hunting in the Glen on five dates.

There was no evidence that breeding took place, although it is likely that at least one bird remained throughout the summer.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Very rare passage migrant; ten previous records involving singles in May (1998, 2000), August (2004), September (2002) and October (1989, 1992, 1993, 2004 [3])

A single was seen and photographed over the back field on 29th August, where it spent some time hanging in the wind with four Common Buzzard and a Hen Harrier (RKF et al).

The 11th Calf record and the first since a series of three records in October 2004.



[Common] Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Formerly a rare passage migrant, now increasingly 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)

Season bird-day totals 2015 – 2021:

YEAR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bird-days	29	50	47	80	59	152	340

Two birds were seen on 1st January, with a single present on 2nd.

An exceptional season for the species, with the total of 340 bird-days representing a 124% increase on the 2020 figure, which was itself a record by a similar percentage. Up to four birds were present almost daily throughout spring, with higher counts of five on 24th & 29th April and 11th May, six on 13th May and a minimum of seven on 23rd April. This latter count equalled the previous record daily count made on 17th September 2019; however, it was believed that perhaps as many as 11 birds could have been present.



As predicted in last years' annual report, the species was discovered to be breeding at a cliff site on the northern coast of the Calf, becoming the 65th species recorded to have attempted to breed on the Calf. Birds were initially seen building their nest on 1st May and the pair were behaving territorially on the 12th, with a bird sat on the nest on 27th May. However, there was no evidence that any eggs were laid, and the birds abandoned the nest shortly after. Presumably this is a young inexperienced pair and hopefully better success will be had in future years.

After four on 1st June, numbers reduced to mostly one or two birds through June and then became less frequent in July, with records on just 16 dates. Frequency of observations increased again from mid-August, with two birds recorded on five dates plus records of three on 22nd and four on 29th. Sightings were more sporadic in September with up to five birds seen on just five dates in the month, however during October at least four birds were semi-resident, and evidence of passage was recorded with six on 11th and an incredible 20, including 19 birds riding a thermal above the Observatory on 15th. A further high count of eight on 20th October occurred, then up to two birds were seen almost daily to the end of the season.

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

One flushed from near to Bushell's on 8th July and another above Gibdale during the late afternoon of 19th October were the only records of the year.

[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

Records were rather scarce during spring with one on 24th April, then further singles on just seven dates in May. Frequency of records increased during June and July, with one or two birds reported on 14 dates in both months, plus a count of three on 13th July. Sightings of 1 – 2 birds were almost daily through August with up to three birds recorded on six dates, whilst in September and October 1 – 2 birds were recorded on 25 and 21 dates respectively and on three dates between 1st – 3rd November.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, during March and most of April.

Autumn passage began with singles on 12th, 14th and 18th September and became more regular during October with singles on 16 dates and two on 14th and 29th. Final records of the season were singles on 2nd and 4th November.

[Eurasian] Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Rare passage migrant; 24 previous records involving singles in April (2), May (9), June (4), July (1), August (1), September (4) and October (3)

A single seen flying north past the Twin Fields on 25th April (DW) was only the third April record and the earliest ever recorded on the Calf by four days, beating the previous records seen on 29th April in both 1999 and 2004.

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 & 2020

One or two, and occasionally up to three birds were reported regularly throughout the season. Most records involved the pair from the north-west coast which raised one young.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator**

Very rare vagrant; four previous records involving singles on 22nd April 1964, 26th June 1981, 30th May 1991 and 29th September 1994

A rather superb adult male was trapped near HG1 during the morning of 2nd June (RKF, AS et al). Upon release the bird flew towards the Twin Fields and was then briefly seen flying back towards the Observatory.

The fifth Calf record of this southern European species and the first for 27 years.

[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. Following arrival of a pair in May 2019, they overwintered and bred at the Withy in 2020.

Three were seen on 1st January but only a pair were present when we returned to the islet, and a nest containing three small young was found at the Withy on 29th April. The three young fledged on 24th May and from then until mid-July up to five birds were seen frequenting the Glen area, although six were present on 10th July.

From mid-July and throughout August up to three birds were regularly recorded, most frequently in the Glen area, however in September evidence

of incursions by other birds were recorded with four seen on 1st, two birds seen at Big Head on 21st and a single at Fold Point on 23rd, that was seen to then fly back towards the main Island.

[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

Birds were already holding territories when we arrived in April and counts during the last third of the month and for most of May were of up to 20 birds and mostly reflect the breeding population, which was eight or nine pairs. Occasional larger flocks were seen from mid-May and became more frequent during June, with monthly peaks of 35 on 18th May and 39 on 6th June. It soon became evident that the cold and dry spring had affected several pairs, with some abandoning nesting attempts and others delaying (or relaying) clutches and the first (three) fledged broods weren't seen until 8th July. This delay to the breeding process is illustrated well by the Silo pair, which were initially seen carrying nesting material on 22nd April and eventually fledged young on 25th July, some 38 days later than their average fledging dates between 2017 – 2019.

With a few juvenile birds around, numbers of birds increased slightly and up to 42 birds were recorded during July, whilst numbers mostly ranged around the early 20's through August, except for an exceptional 72 on 24th August, the largest flock recorded on the Calf for a number of years.

Counts were more normal throughout September and October, with low double figure counts being most regular and monthly peaks of 33 on 18th September, 35 on 20th October and just eight on 1st November.

[Western] Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Caaig/ Juan Teayst

Uncommon dispersal visitor, particularly in autumn;

Spring excursions from the main island involved three on 26th and a single on 29th April, whilst in May up to seven were recorded on six dates to the 24th, plus a maximum count of 23 on 16th May.

There were no further records until 47 on 10th and 242 on 15th October, 742 on 2nd, 112 on 3rd and 17 on 5th November, which were the only records in a very poor autumn for numbers of corvids.

Rook *Corvus ferrugineus*

Trough

Uncommon dispersal visitor, particularly in autumn;

Three on 13th & 15th May and seven on 16th May were followed by three on 6th, singles on 7th & 12th and two on 15th June.

Twenty-five on 10th October, were followed by four on 11th, 19 on 15th and two on 25th. As with the previous species, the incessant strong to gale force winds during the second half of October severely restricted the opportunities for corvids to visit the Calf this autumn and the only other records were 47 on 2nd and nine on 3rd November.

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

One to three birds were reported regularly throughout the season, although potentially the species is over-looked amongst flocks of Hooded Crows. Five on the 12th May was the highest count of the spring and involved birds associated with a large flock of Hooded Crows.



At least one bird bred as part of a mixed pair close to the Observatory, although they were unsuccessful in raising any young.

During late summer and early autumn up to three birds were recorded regularly, with occasional counts of 4 – 5 becoming more regular in October and 6 – 7 in November. High counts of the autumn were 13 on 30th October and 11 on 2nd November.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Fannag Ghlass

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

Recorded throughout the season with counts of up to 20 birds being commonplace and largely reflect the presence of the resident breeding population, which was eight pairs, and included one 'mixed' pair. Seven nests were monitored, three of which were known to have been successful. In spring, several larger counts are likely to include some immigration and include 28 on 12th May. As with other corvids, counts during autumn were low and did not exceed 20.

[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 again bred at the regular locations of Amulty and below the Lighthouses. The pair at the Lighthouses fledged three young on 12th May, whilst the Amulty pair had 3 small young on 27th April but are thought to have failed during the next few weeks.

Most counts reflect the presence of the two breeding pairs, with occasional records of up to seven birds, which are likely to involve two or three immature birds or occasionally birds from the main Island straying into the resident pairs' territories.

On a few calm autumn mornings, birds were seen leaving a presumed roost, possibly somewhere near the Lighthouses, and flying north over the Observatory towards the main Island, with 16 on 21st September, 20 on 11th October and 18 on 2nd November.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

*Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant; at least 171 previous records of approximately 824 individuals, with records in March (13), April (20), June (1), July (2), August (1), September (40), October (87) and November (7). Individuals exhibiting characteristics of the Irish subspecies *P.a. hibernicus* were trapped on 3rd October 1993, 24th – 26th March 2019 and two on 22nd October 2020, one of which remained until 7th November.*

The first of the autumn and the year was a single that arrived at the Observatory on 6th October, followed by eight on 10th, three on 11th & 15th, two on 12th and a single on 13th. Despite these encouraging early arrivals, no further records occurred until a single was present on 2nd November.

[Eurasian] Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Drean Gorrym

Uncommon autumn passage migrant;

A single trapped at the Observatory on 19th July was just the 2nd ever record for that month – the only other July record was one trapped exactly 50 years previously, on 19th July 1971.

Autumn passage began on the relatively early date of 7th September with one seen at the Observatory, followed by two on 8th and a single on 11th. Ten arrived on 15th with up to four then recorded daily to 27th September, with nine on 21st. During October, counts of 1 – 7 occurred on 21 dates, plus a peak of 25 on 15th, with one bird remaining around the Observatory through into November and the end of season.

The majority of Blue Tits are transient visitors and only remain on the Calf for a few hours and occasionally a day or two. Ringing records show that one bird that was ringed on 20th September is likely to have returned to the Isle of Man, before revisiting the Calf on 10th October.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Drean Mooar

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

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, during March and most of April.

Autumn passage began with a single on 15th September, with counts of 1 – 5 birds on a further 13 dates in the month, plus a maximum of eight on 25th. Single figure counts continued to be made frequently through October and ringing records show that some birds remained on the Calf for several weeks at a time. However, further arrivals did occur, most notably 17 on 6th, 20 on 10th, 16 on 11th, 30 on 15th and 18 on 16th October, however after this latter date, ringing records show that the only further new arrival were two birds on 24th October.

During November up to four birds were seen daily to the season's end, but again ringing records show that at least nine different birds were involved.

[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

There were no early spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, during March and most of April and a single seen on the track to the Lighthouses on 19th May was the only record of spring.



Early autumn passage was very poor with single figures on just four dates in September, plus a monthly maximum of 15 on 20th September. Passage improved in October with single figure counts on 11 dates, a further seven double figure counts and peaks of 129 on 10th, 512 on 13th, 206 on 15th and 139 on 16th. In November 26 were recorded on 2nd, 75 on 3rd and three on 4th were the last of the season.

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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean arrival date for the species had passed. Spring passage was recorded between 23rd April – 16th May, with up to five birds recorded on three dates in April and eight dates in May plus a spring maximum of 16 on 24th April.

Return passage began with eight on 20th followed by two on 21st and 15 on 22nd July, then no further records until 11 on 10th August, four on 6th and two on 9th September. A single seen around the Observatory with a small flock of Swallows on 6th October, was the fifth latest Calf record.

[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.

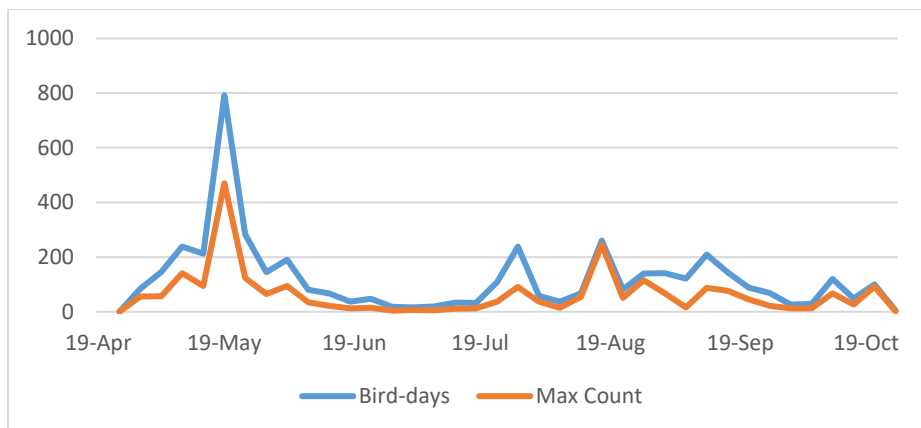
Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean arrival date for the species had passed. Recorded from 21st April with double-figure counts being commonplace during the latter third of April and throughout May. Peak passage occurred with 141 on 1st, 470 on 11th and 149 on 12th May. After the first week of June, counts reduced to mostly single figures until mid-July and reflect the three pairs nesting on the islet.

From mid-July numbers were swelled with locally bred young, but also included some greater levels of passage with 91 on 22nd July, 245 on 10th and 116 on 22nd August.



Swallow passage 2021

Low double figure counts occurred throughout much of September, with a peak of 87 on 6th, whilst records in October were more sporadic with single figure counts on 10 dates and double figure counts on five dates, including a peak of 92 on 15th. The last records of the year were singles on the 2nd & 3rd November.

[Common] House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Gollan Thie

Irregular spring & autumn passage migrant and summer visitor;

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>13-Apr</i>	<i>17-Apr</i>	<i>23-Apr</i>	<i>21-Apr</i>	<i>22-Apr</i>	<i>23-Apr</i>
<i>03-Oct</i>	<i>05-Oct</i>	<i>02-Oct</i>	<i>03-Oct</i>	<i>15-Oct</i>	<i>16-Oct</i>	<i>05-Sep</i>

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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean arrival date for the species had passed. Spring passage was recorded between 22nd April – 16th June, with single-figure counts recorded on three dates in April, 14 dates in May and eight dates in June plus double figure counts on seven days in May, with a spring maximum of 21 on 27th May.

There were just two singles recorded during summer with birds seen on 17th and 22nd July.

Autumn passage was very sporadic with 26 on 10th and six on 16th August, three on 6th, 68 on 7th and singles on 15th & 20th September. Four records in October included three on 6th & 11th, five on 10th and the last two of the year on 15th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalus caudatus*

Scarce passage migrant; at least 80 previous records involving approximately 585 individuals, with records in March (11), April (1), September (3), October (43) and November (22)

A flock of six were trapped in the back garden at the Observatory during the afternoon of the 3rd November. A typical date for this species

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Drean Vane

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; one pair bred in 1970, 2007, 2019 & 2020. An individual showing characteristics of the Siberian subspecies P.t yakutensis was trapped at the Observatory on 22nd April 1995

Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

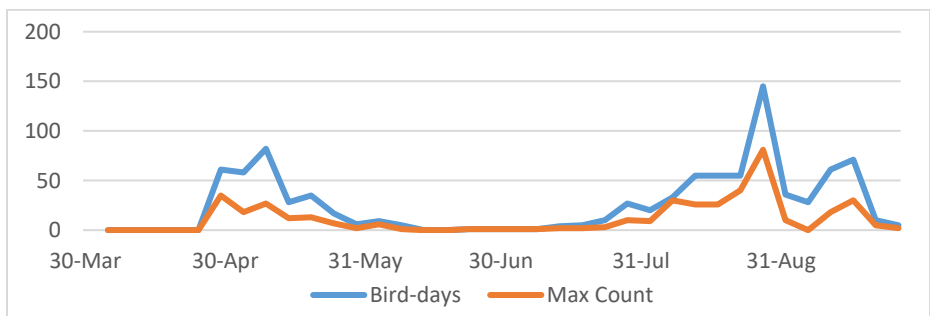
60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
01-Apr	29-Mar	27-Mar	29-Mar	04-Apr	04-Apr	06-Apr
02-Oct	04-Oct	24-Sep	14-Oct	01-Oct	01-Oct	26-Sep

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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean arrival date for the species had passed and early spring migration passage was largely missed. A light passage continued from 21st April with double figure counts on seven dates including a peak of 45 on 30th April. After 27 on 1st May, a light passage continued, with mainly single figure counts, almost daily through to 3rd June.

A few dispersing failed breeders began to appear during the second half of June, with two females trapped as part of singles recorded on four dates, but there was no evidence of breeding this year.

Autumn passage began with the first juvenile trapped on 6th July and built gradually with single figure counts through to the end of the month, except for 10 on 22nd and 30 on 31st July. Double figure counts occurred on 13 dates in August, with a peak of 81 on 19th August, although numbers dropped significantly during the last week of the month. September saw almost daily records through to the last bird on 20th, with double figure counts on six dates including a peak of 30 on 10th.



Willow Warbler passage 2021

[Common] Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Beealerey

*Common spring and autumn migrant; one or two breeding attempts in 15 years since the first in 1982. There have been 47 records involving 53 individuals of birds resembling either 'Scandinavian' *P.c abietinus* or 'Siberian' *P.c tristis* Chiffchaff. Most of these birds have been trapped, with six individuals assigned as 'Scandinavian', 41 individuals assigned as 'Siberian' and a further six not assigned to either race.*

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-Mar</i>	<i>15-Mar</i>	<i>20-Mar</i>	<i>15-Mar</i>	<i>22-Mar</i>	<i>23-Mar</i>	<i>25-Mar</i>
<i>10-Nov</i>	<i>12-Nov</i>	<i>17-Nov</i>	<i>17-Nov</i>	<i>08-Nov</i>	<i>16-Nov</i>	<i>05-Oct</i>

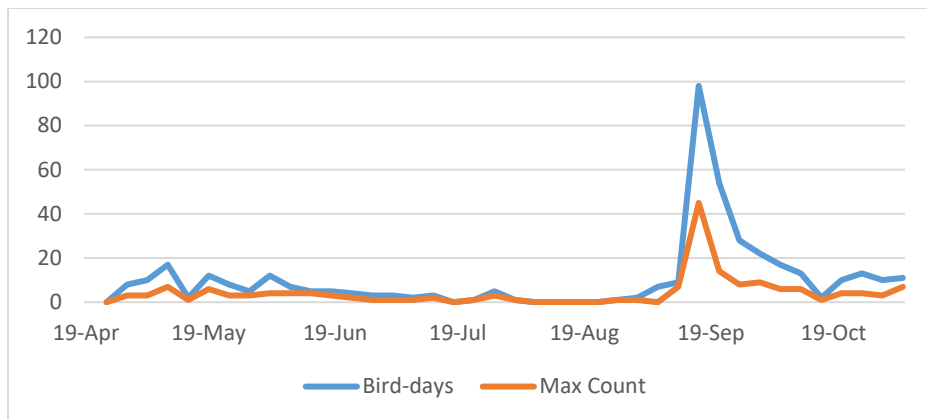
The earliest arrival date was 4th March 1978, with the latest departure date being 4th December 1992

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean arrival date for the species had passed and early spring migration passage was missed. A light passage continued from 21st April, with single figure counts recorded almost daily until 6th June, with a peak of seven on 1st May. One to three birds were again present from 12th – 15th June and then a singing male recorded through to the end of the month.

Breeding probably occurred, and what appeared to be locally bred juveniles were trapped at the Observatory on 6th & 8th July. Additionally, ringing records show that a male and a female that were both ringed in early June, were still present on the 20th July, when they were both trapped at the Withy. The female remained on the Calf being trapped eight times between 20th July and 27th October, during which time it completed its full moult. Autumn passage began on 22nd August, involving mostly single figure counts, however a peak of migration occurred between 7th – 16th September with double-figure counts on eight dates and a peak of 45 on 10th September.

From 17th September daily counts returned to single figures and this continued through October with 1 – 4 birds reported on 22 dates through to 29th, plus a maximum of six on 4th and seven on 28th October.

A single showing characteristic of the 'tristis' race was initially trapped on 17th and was present around the Observatory until the 25th October.



Chiffchaff passage 2021

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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean arrival date for the species had passed. The remainder of spring passage was very poor, with 1 - 3 recorded on 17 dates between 22nd April and 30th May, plus a spring maximum of just four on both 16th & 24th May. Return passage began with singles on five dates from 18th July, plus two on 22nd and three on 31st July. Whilst 1 - 3 occurred on 13 dates in August, plus an autumn maximum of five on 10th August. The last of the year and only record of the month was a single trapped at the Observatory on 9th September.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola**

Very rare vagrant; no previous records

A 1st calendar year bird trapped in the front hedge on 19th September was a new species to be recorded for the Calf and in the Isle of Man. (ANA, AS, RKF et al).

The species breeds in the Black Sea coast from north Bulgaria & the Danube Delta east to Ukraine. To the east it breeds widely across the steppes of southern Russia and south-west Siberia, Kazakhstan, NW China and western Mongolia, south to Uzbekistan and northern Pakistan. It winters throughout India and is an increasing vagrant to the British Isles with about 3 - 4 records per annum.

See full description on p.154

[Eurasian] Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus**

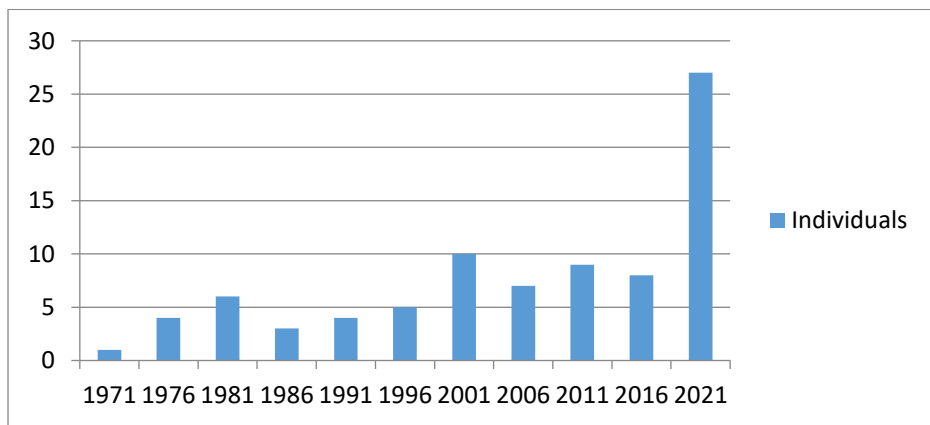
*Rare passage migrant; 76 previous records involving 79 individuals, since the first in 1970, with records occurring in April (5), May (24), June (12), August (15), September (14), October (5) and November (1). Two additional records of un-streaked *Acrocephalus* in 1996 & 1998 were most likely of this species. 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

A single trapped at the Observatory on 24th April is the second earliest arrival date. Four different individuals were trapped at the end of May, with two on 29th and two more on 30th. A single seen in Mill Giau on 31st May could have been one of these birds or perhaps a fifth individual.

There was just one record in autumn with a bird trapped on 24th August.



Numbers of Reed Warbler recorded in 5-year periods.

Numbers of Reed Warbler recorded on the Calf have increased considerably during the last five years. This has coincided with the species extending their breeding range into north-western Britain, southern Scotland and Northern Ireland.

[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:

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

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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean spring arrival date for the species had passed.

After a blank year in 2020, a return to their now uncommon occurrences, with singles in spring on 23rd & 26th April and in autumn on 25th August and 18th September.

[Eurasian] Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Bayrn Dhoo

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

Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

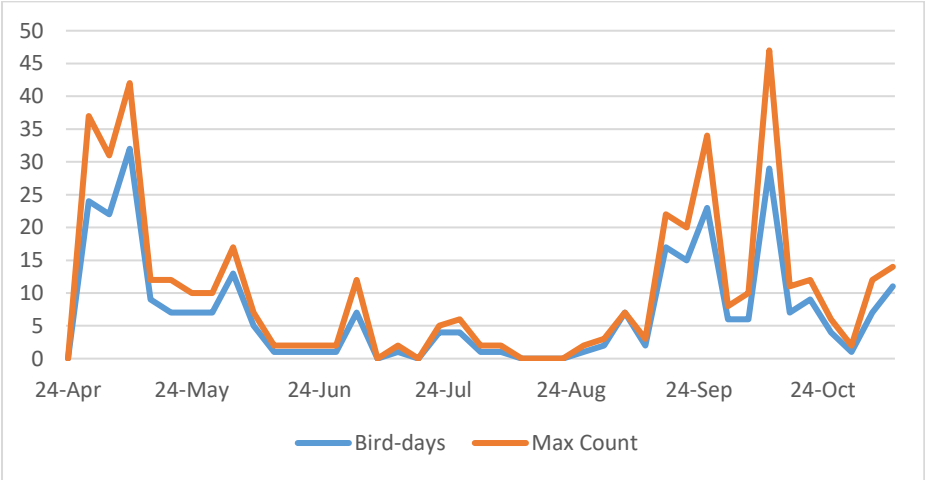
60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
13-Apr	31-Mar	03-Apr	10-Apr	15-Apr	23-Apr	04-May
08-Nov	11-Nov	16-Nov	12-Nov	11-Nov	13-Nov	11-Oct

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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean spring arrival date for the species had passed and spring passage was already well established when we arrived, with up to six birds recorded almost daily in April from 22nd, with larger arrivals of 13 on 23rd, nine on 25th and 20 on 30th. Following 10 on 1st May, numbers then reduced to 1 - 3 birds on 20 dates in the month, plus five on 12th and four on 26th May. After two on

1st June, a further six singles were recorded sporadically through the month, plus an exceptional five females on 27th June – all bar one of the birds recorded in the month were females, which are suspected to be dispersing failed breeders. A couple more females were trapped on 8th and 14th July, then the first juveniles began to arrive from 16th, with 1 - 2 birds recorded on eight dates up to the end of the month.

There was then a gap of three weeks before autumn passage birds began to arrive from 22nd August, with a monthly maximum of five on 29th August. Counts of up to six birds were recorded almost daily between 4th – 30th September, with a peak of 11 on 18th. October records were mostly of 1 – 5 birds on 17 dates plus an arrival of 18 on 3rd. One to three birds were seen daily during November to the 7th.



Blackcap passage 2021

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

Nine records included five in spring and four in autumn: in spring singles on 30th April and 9th & 26th May and two on 16th May and in autumn, singles were recorded on 29th & 30th August and two on 10th September.

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*

Rare passage migrant; 36 previous records involving 38 individuals, with records in August (10), September (18) and October (8)

A 1st calendar year bird trapped in the front hedge on 16th September was the first record for nine years.

The species previously occurred almost annually, with all bar one previous record occurring during a 45-year period between 1959 – 2004. Since 2005 the species has been absent except for one on 5th October 2012.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca 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:

<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-May</i>	<i>30-Apr</i>	<i>17-May</i>	<i>06-May</i>	<i>06-May</i>	<i>15-May</i>	<i>06-May</i>
<i>01-Oct</i>	<i>10-Oct</i>	<i>03-Oct</i>	<i>24-Sep</i>	<i>20-Sep</i>	<i>18-Oct</i>	<i>21-Sep</i>

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

After a blank year in 2020, there were four records; a single in spring seen near the Lighthouses on 12th May and three individuals in September, on 6th (trapped), 10th and 14th. Most recent records have been in spring, and these are the first records in autumn since 2016, and the first in September since 2008.



(Common) Whitethroat *Curruca 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:

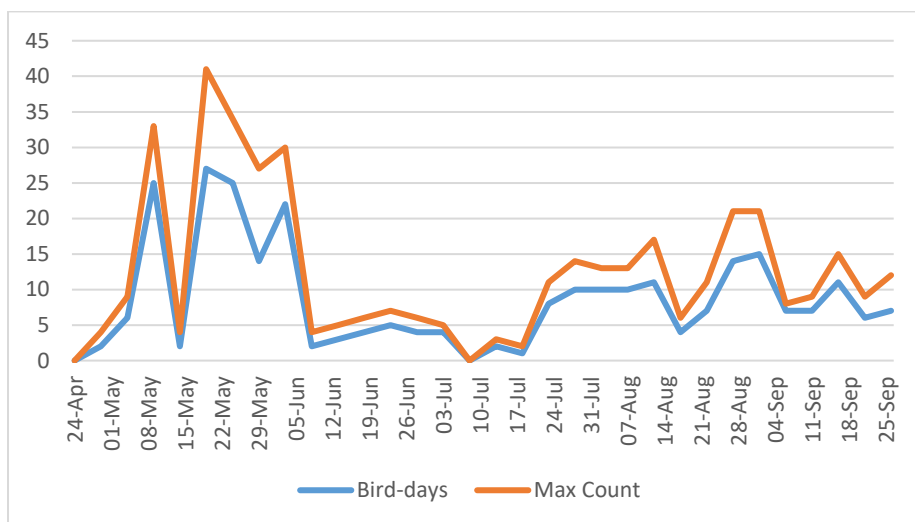
60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
24-Apr	22-Apr	23-Apr	25-Apr	25-Apr	29-Apr	22-Apr
26-Sep	23-Sep	21-Sep	21-Sep	28-Sep	05-Oct	26-Sep

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

Two on 22nd April were the first of the year and were followed by three on 25th & 26th and 15 on 30th April. In May single figure counts occurred on 18 dates, plus peak counts of 14 on 12th and 13 on 24th.

During June & July, two birds were regularly recorded from the Withy area although no breeding was confirmed.

Autumn passage was evident from 14th July with up to four birds recorded almost daily during the second half of the month. Similar numbers were recorded on 14 dates in both August & September, plus peak counts of five on 18th September, six on 3rd, 22nd & 24th August and seven on 19th August. The last record of the year was two on 19th September.



Whitethroat passage 2021

Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae* *

*Rare passage migrant; 26 previous records involving singles in April (1), May (18), June (5) and September (2). At least eight records were assigned to the ‘Eastern’ race *C. cantillans*, whilst only five were considered to be of the ‘Western’ race *C. iberiae*. The remaining 12 birds were not specifically identifiable as to race.*

An individual showing characteristics of the Western race *C. iberiae* was trapped at the Observatory on 1st June and subsequently on 4th and 11th, although was not seen in-between these dates.

The 27th Calf record of this common Mediterranean species, but only the 6th assigned to the western race.



Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Ushag y Fuygh

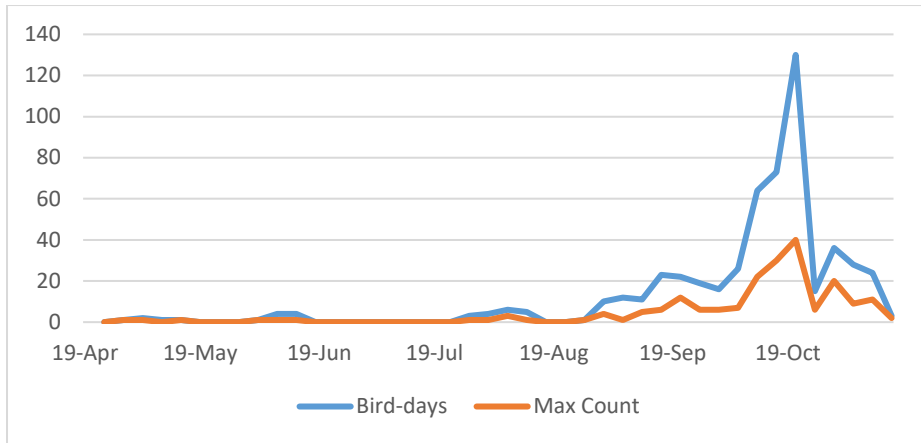
Very common spring and autumn passage migrant;

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>
<i>15-Mar</i>	<i>10-Mar</i>	<i>17-Mar</i>	<i>14-Mar</i>	<i>13-Mar</i>	<i>19-Mar</i>	<i>18-Mar</i>
<i>16-Nov</i>	<i>19-Nov</i>	<i>23-Nov</i>	<i>22-Nov</i>	<i>20-Nov</i>	<i>16-Nov</i>	<i>11-Oct</i>

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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean arrival date for the species had passed and most of any spring passage was missed. Single birds were recorded on four dates in April from 24th and in May singles were present on 9th and a female remained from 29th May – 6th June, with another from 7th – 8th June.



Goldcrest passage 2021

Summer dispersing juveniles arrived on 21st & 24th July, with singles seen almost daily from then until three on 2nd August, then just singles again until 7th August. There were no more records until autumn passage got underway from 22nd August, however numbers remained very low with single figure counts except 12 on 15th September. Passage improved during early October, as presumably continental birds started to move through, with low double figure counts on 12 dates in the month, including peak counts of 40 on both 14th & 15th October. Following 20 on 23rd October, counts were then of single figures through to the end of season, except for 11 on 3rd November.

[Eurasian] Wren *Troglodytes 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

Recorded daily throughout the season, with regular counts of up to 14 individuals. This is likely to be somewhat of an under-estimate of the population, given the species often secretive nature. Higher counts of 18 on 1st May and 21 on 15th October, may be indicators of some passage through the island. A total of 19 singing males were located as part of the annual breeding bird survey, which shows a continued recovery from five pairs in 2018 and 15 in 2019. Again, this total may be an under-estimate, with birds often encountered in many coastal locations which aren't always covered by the BBS transects.

[Eurasian] Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Rare dispersal visitor; 84 previous records involving 88 individuals, with records in March (2), April (5), June (9), July (37), August (15), September (7) and October (9)

A typical series of July records, with dispersing juveniles being trapped at the Observatory on 3rd – 6th, 14th, and 22nd July.

July is easily the best month for Treecreepers to occur on the Calf, with 44% of records occurring in the month.

[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

A flock of 35 birds were feeding in the Front Field on 2nd January.

Any late winter / early spring movements were missed owing to our arrival on the Calf being delayed until 21st April, due to coronavirus restrictions.

In spring two were present on 23rd and a single from 28th April – 1st May, then a male present from 7th – 9th and finally two on 12th May.

In June one or two adult birds were present on seven dates up to the 14th, including a near 'spotless' bird on 13th. Juvenile birds arrived on 15th with a flock of 18 and numbers grew slowly to 28 on 24th, 33 by 27th then 94 on 28th before decreasing to 76 on 29th and 42 on 30th June. Birds were seen on nine dates during the first half of July, mostly in single figures, however 62 on 8th and 76 on 10th were the peak counts for the month and the last birds of summer were 20 on 14th July.

There were just two records during September, with a single on 8th and two around the Observatory on 25th. Autumn passage began with five on 4th October and remained light for much of the month with counts up to 160 on 17 dates, plus peak movements of 307 on 13th, 861 on 21st, 1455 on 29th and 2259 on 30th. Passage was still relatively strong during the first week of November, with 898 on 2nd, 1029 on 3rd, 1554 on 4th and 719 on 5th.

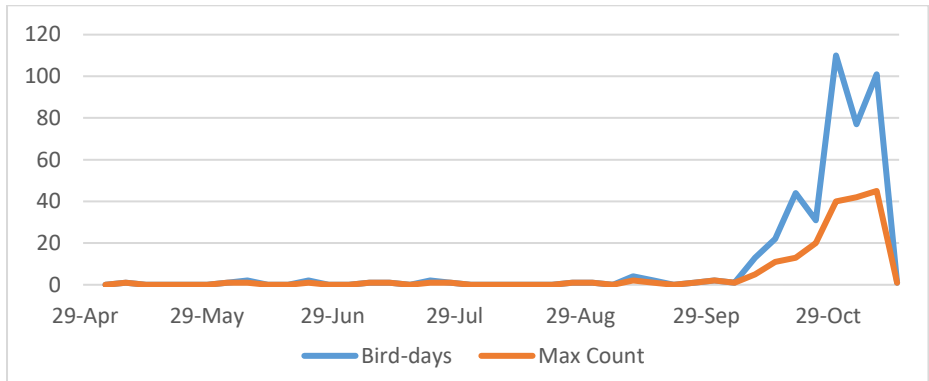
Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Lhon/ Thresh Len

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

Five were recorded on both the 1st and 2nd January.

Any late winter / early spring movements were missed owing to our arrival on the Calf being delayed until 21st April due to coronavirus restrictions. Dispersal of presumed failed breeding birds was noted in May and June with singles on 3rd, 26th and 30th- 31st May and three different females were caught on 15th, 16th and 30th June. Following another adult bird on 4th July, the first juvenile was present on 16th, and adult female on 17th and a second juvenile trapped on 21st July.



Song Thrush passage 2021

There were no further records until singles were seen on 21st, 24th and 30th August and this is likely to have been the beginning of a light start to autumn passage with 1 - 2 then seen on eight dates in September. Main passage began from 3rd October with low double figure counts on ten dates, including peaks of 40 on 23rd and 42 on 30th. Passage continued strongly into November, with 10 – 16 daily between 1st – 5th with 45 on 2nd November. As with other thrushes, passage will have continued after our departure on 7th November, and leaving the Calf on such an early date prevents the true scale and pattern of migration for these species from being recorded.

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 present near the Lighthouses on 30th April was a rare spring record for the species.

Autumn passage was rather poor, beginning with a single on 11th October, but then a prolonged period of stormy weather prevented any further arrivals until two on 30th October, four on 3rd and two on 5th November.

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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean departure date for the species had passed and there were no spring records – only the 2nd time in the 62-year history that the species has not been recorded in spring.

Autumn passage was about 10 days late in starting but began strongly with 191 on 13th and 147 on 14th October, thereafter low double figure counts were made on most of the remaining dates in the month, until a staggering 3197 arrived during the morning of 30th October. Birds arrived in flocks of several hundreds' strong, dropping into the bushes around the Observatory before heading off again in small groups. Passage remained strong into November with 479 on 2nd, 109 on 4th and 90 on 5th and as with other thrushes, many will have continued moving through during the remainder of the month but went unrecorded due to our departure from the Calf on 7th November.

[Common] Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Lhondhoo

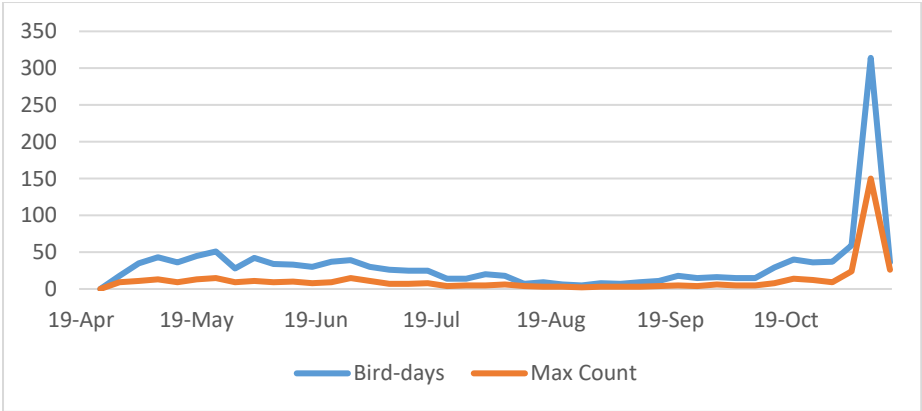
Common breeding resident and passage migrant; bred annually from 1959 to 1993, with a maximum of 25 pairs in 1981. Absent as a breeding species from 1994 to 2000 and again in 2003, however small numbers have bred in all other years with a peak of 7-8 pairs in 2016 and 2018

Five were recorded on both the 1st and 2nd January. Any late winter / early spring movements were missed owing to our arrival on the Calf being delayed until 21st April, due to coronavirus restrictions.

Recorded throughout the season with single figure counts being most common, although occasionally up to 15 birds were seen and this reflects the breeding population, which was at least eight pairs; with two pairs around the Observatory, a further three in the Glen and Withy/Mill Giau area, a pair

at the Triangle and two pairs between Cow and Jane’s House. Nineteen local-bred young were ringed between late May and early August, although survival rates were thought to be rather low, with the very dry spring and summer likely to have had a negative impact on juvenile survival. From mid-July to the end of September, numbers recorded rarely exceeded four and in August there were seven days when the species wasn’t seen, a result of the poor juvenile survival and moulting adult birds becoming very secretive.

Autumn passage was rather late in starting, with a very slight increase in numbers during the second half of October, with just six low double-figure counts and a monthly peak of 24 on 31st October. It was not until 80 arrived on 3rd and 150 on 5th November that any significant passage occurred, unfortunately our early departure from the Calf on 7th meant that the remainder of thrush passage was not recorded.



Blackbird passage 2021

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Ushag Sniaghtey

Uncommon winter visitor and 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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean departure date for the species had passed and the only spring record was one around the Observatory on the relatively late date of 1st May. Autumn arrival was extremely late, with one on 31st October being 22 days later than the mean arrival date for the past 62 years. Numbers remained low with 14 on 2nd and five on 3rd November, until 200 arrived during the afternoon of the 4th. Fifty-nine on 5th was followed by six on 6th, however our departure from the Calf on 7th is likely to have meant that most of their autumn passage went unrecorded.

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
06-3Apr	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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean arrival date for the species had passed and there was just one spring record of a male in Gibdale on 24th April.

Unusually there were no autumn records, although thrush movements only occurred from late October and our departure from the Calf on 7th November may well have meant that we are likely to have missed some passage.

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

Recorded almost daily in spring from the 9th May to 13th June, occurring in low single figures, except for 15 on 26th and 10 on 29th May. A late spring or early autumn record of one on 25th June.

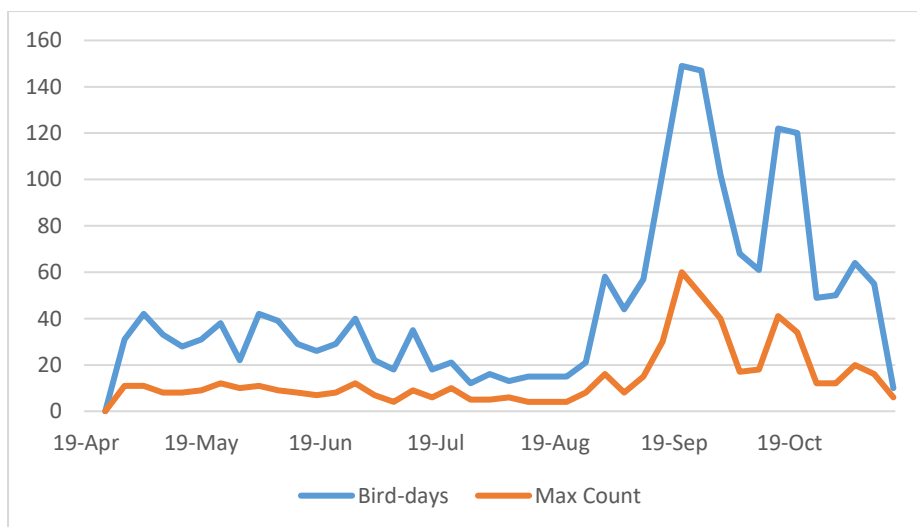
Autumn passage began on 17th August with 1 - 2 birds recorded almost daily through to 24th September and the last bird seen on the 27th September. Peak counts were three on 6th and four on 9th, 10th & 11th September.

[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 and three pairs in 2020.

Any early spring movements were missed owing to our arrival on the Calf being delayed until 21st April, due to coronavirus restrictions. Records during late April and through May reflected the presence of up to 12 birds, with at least three pairs breeding at the Observatory and at least two more in the Glen/Withy area. The first locally bred juveniles were seen in the Observatory Garden on 24th May, with at least three broods recorded during late May and early June. Further broods appeared during late June and early July, but the picture then became quite confused as dispersing juveniles, presumably bred nearby on the Isle of Man, began to arrive.



Robin passage 2021

Autumn passage began during the latter third of August, when daily counts increased into double figures and peaked between the 8th – 25th September when counts of 20 or more were regular and included highs of 60 on 12th, 50 on 18th and 40 on 25th September. Low double figure counts continued through October, with high counts of 41 on 10th and 34 on 15th likely to be more a reflection of coverage and suitable weather rather than any significant influx, although ringing records show that small numbers of new birds continued arrive into November.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia**

Very rare vagrant; one previous record of a single trapped in the Plantation Heligoland on 26th May 1989, was at the time the western-most British record.

The 2nd Calf and Manx record was of a juvenile trapped in the Observatory back garden on 10th September. (ANA, AS, RKF et al)

Breeds in central & eastern Europe from south Scandinavia & Baltic countries to Romania and Ukraine, and east through temperate Russia to southern Siberia. Winters in East Africa, from Kenya to Zimbabwe and occurs as a vagrant, mostly in the north and east of the British Isles.

See description on pg. 152

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Very rare vagrant; no previous records

The first Calf record and second for the Isle of Man was an un-aged bird, possibly adult female, trapped in the back field during the morning of 16th October (LOD, AS et al).

The species occurs in northern Asia and northeast Europe and has undergone a significant increase in breeding numbers particularly in Finland, which may be the origin of the increasing British vagrancy records, with over 40 individuals recorded in 2020.

See full description on p156

[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

The only spring bird occurred on 4th June and was just the seventh June record for the Calf, and the first since 1992.

In autumn, singles were trapped on 29th August and 7th & 19th September. After a blank year in 2020, the return to four records is welcome.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant; at least 245 previous records involving approximately 466 individuals, with records in January (1), February (3), March (29), April (52), May (48), June (12), July (3), August (3), September (1), October (47) and November (46). Several winter records of potentially over-wintering birds have been recorded with a single at the Cletts from 11th-25th February 1981 and singles on 30th January 1995 and 24th-25th February 1995.
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



Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean arrival date for the species had passed and there was just one spring record of an individual near the Lighthouses on 26th April. For the fourth consecutive year there were no autumn records.

[Common] Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

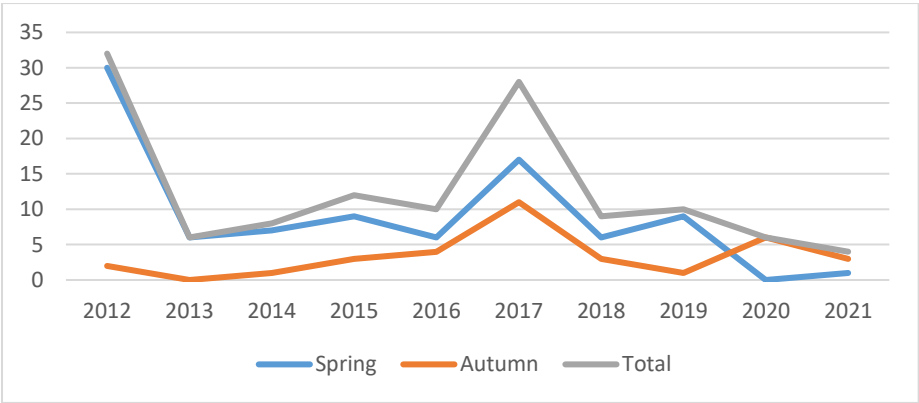
Formerly common passage migrant, now uncommon to rare passage migrant;

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

An extremely poor showing with the only spring bird recorded on 26th April. Autumn passage hardly fared any better with singles on 27th August and 4th & 6th September.



Redstart Bird-day totals 2012 - 2021

This once relatively common migrant is now approaching almost rarity status and it is not inconceivable that the species may not be recorded here in future years.

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

As with the previous species, numbers of this once common migrant would appear to be at a critically low level, and it would seem likely that the species will become increasingly rare and potentially may not feature at all in some future reports.

There were just single records in both spring and autumn. A female trapped at the Observatory on 19th May was the latest spring arrival date in the Observatories history - arriving 21 days later than the mean arrival date for the period 1959 – 2020.

The only record of the autumn was a 1st year bird seen near the Triangle on 9th September.

[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, although was absent in 1963, 1965, and 2011. A female or immature 'Siberian' Stonechat of either the races *S.r. maura* or *stejnegeri* was seen on the 1st November 1986 and represents the 1st Manx record of this subspecies.*

Up to ten birds recorded regularly throughout the spring and summer, with peak counts of 12 on 16th May & 1st June, 13 on 28th June, 14 on 8th July and 17 on 2nd August. These higher counts often being the result of newly fledged broods, with 42 juvenile birds being ringed between the end of April and mid-August. At least seven pairs bred.

From mid-August, records became less frequent and counts rarely exceeded five birds, with monthly maximums of nine on 11th September, eight on 13th October and three on 1st & 2nd November.

[Northern] Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Claggan Cloaie

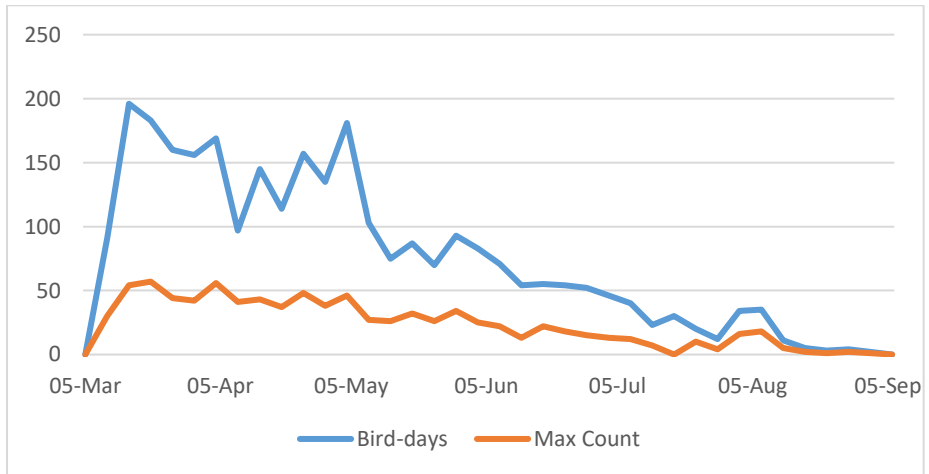
Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant; single figure breeding numbers were recorded almost annually from 1959 to 1984, where after numbers increased to 30 pairs by 1990. Breeding numbers have probably remained largely stable over the last 30 years and possibly increased slightly with a peak of 40 pairs in 2018, 2019 & 2020

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	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

Coronavirus restrictions prevented our return to the Calf until after the 62-year mean arrival date for the species had passed. Birds were already holding territory when we arrived on 22nd April and, along with a few passage birds, counts of between 20 - 50 were regular during April and May, with peak counts of 54 on 27th April, 57 on 1st and 56 on 16th May. Numbers recorded remained stable during June with counts often between 20 – 48 and likely reflect the breeding population which was thought to be around 38 - 40 pairs. The first fledged young appeared on 29th May, although success of first broods was thought to be quite low and this is reflected in counts during July only exceeding 22 on three occasions, with a maximum of 34 on 10th July.



Wheatear passage 2021

The above graph illustrates the downward trend in numbers recorded from the end of June, which most likely reflects the departure of juveniles beginning dispersal from their natal areas and adult birds becoming more secretive as they begin moulting and are occupied with attending second broods. From mid-August numbers of birds rarely exceeded single figures,

although 16 on 12th and 18 on 19th September reflect passage birds moving through the Calf. Singles were seen on eight dates in October up to the last individual on 16th, with two on 8th October.

[Eurasian] Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Scarce spring and uncommon autumn migrant;

The only spring records were of singles seen flying over the Observatory on 7th & 15th June.

October produced an excellent series of records with a group of six flying west over the Front Field on 6th, three in the Sycamores on 10th, four, including one bird trapped, on 15th, seven on 20th and a flock of c.25 on 30th, of which six were trapped. A flock of 12 at the Observatory on 3rd November completed a superb series of records for this Birds of Conservation Concern IoM 2021 red-listed species.

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

In early autumn a male was trapped at the Observatory on 2nd August.

Main passage occurred during October with an excellent series of records, involving several large flocks, with 12 on 6th & 30th, 20 on 11th, 16 on 15th and four on 23rd, as well as singles on 10th & 16th. In November 15 on 2nd were followed by 27 on 3rd.

The highest number of records and volume of birds recorded for many years.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Drean Mollagh /Bogh Keeir

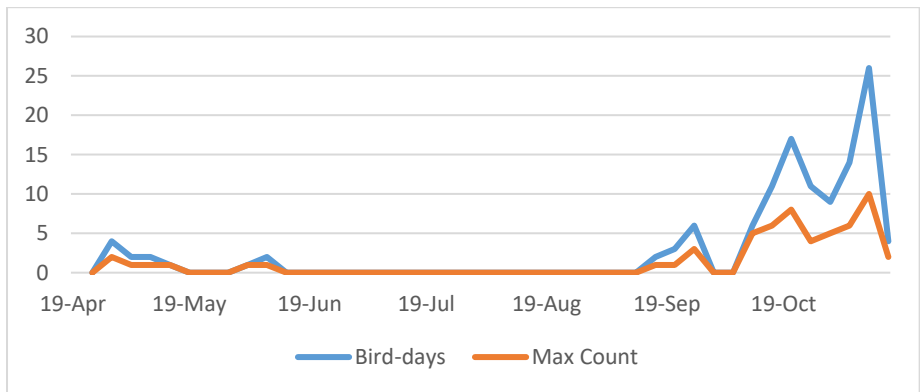
Formerly bred, now occasional breeder, rare spring passage migrant and common autumn passage migrant; bred annually from 1959 to 1998, with a maximum of 27 pairs in 1974. Mostly absent as a breeding species from 1999 with just one or two pairs recorded in 2002, 2016 and 2017.

Given that the species is principally a passage bird on the Calf and only occasionally breeds, it is interesting that two birds were recorded on 1st January and suggests that they sometimes over-winter here.

Early spring passage was missed owing to coronavirus restrictions delaying the start of the season until 21st April. Two singing males were recorded on

22nd April, with one bird remaining around the Observatory until 24th. A male was then recorded singing at the Withy, where he held territory until at least the 5th May. There were no further records until new males were trapped on 26th & 30th May, one of which remained until 31st.

There were no summer records, and it is not thought that the species bred. Autumn passage was very poor, compared with recent years, with just 109 bird-days compared to 780 in 2020. Singles were recorded on just six dates from the 8th September, plus three on 18th and two on 21st. In October numbers increased slightly with 1 – 6 on 20 dates and a maximum of eight on 15th, with similar numbers during the first week of November, except for a season high of 10 on 2nd November. As with several other species, our departure on 7th, is likely to have meant any further passage went unrecorded.



Dunnock passage 2021

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

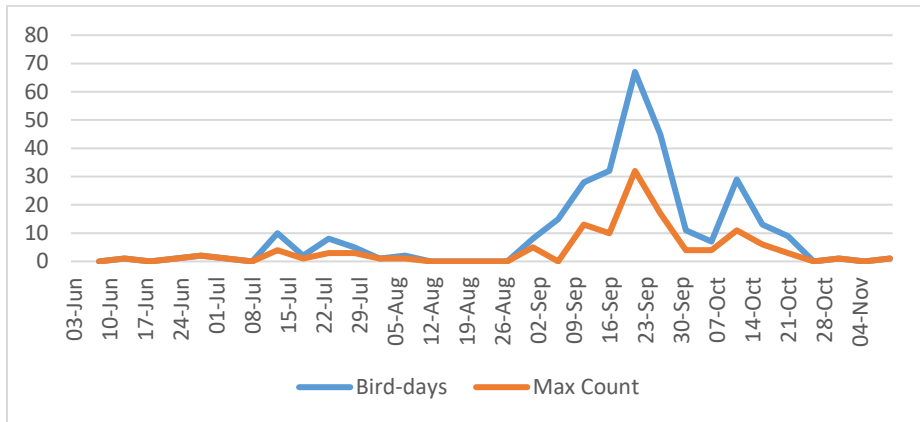
Ushag Ghlass

Scarce spring passage migrant and common autumn passage migrant;

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, during March and most of April.

Early post-breeding dispersal was recorded in June, with singles on 6th, 17th & 28th and two on 22nd. Passage increased during July with four on 6th, then 1 – 3 birds on 14 dates in the month. Rather bizarrely there were no records between 1st – 25th August (possibly attributable to the lack of use of tape lure?), then up to five recorded daily between 26th – 29th and eight on 31st August. September typically supplies the bulk of records and single figure counts were made on 18 dates in the month, plus five double figure counts,

including peaks of 32 on 12th and 28 on 16th. Almost daily records continued through the first half of October, with 1 – 4 on 12 dates up to 16th plus 10 on 5th, 11 on 6th and six on 10th. The final records of the year were singles on the beach at Cow Harbour on 26th October and one flying over on 3rd November.



Grey Wagtail passage 2021

Pied [White] Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

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 *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

After 15 on 22nd April, counts were then of single figures, except for 10 on 16th May, with birds recorded almost daily through to the end of June. Two pairs were recorded breeding, with a pair at the 1968 Lighthouse raising one young and another pair in the South Harbour area.

Records during the first half of July likely represented the breeding birds and their young, with the first signs of any autumn passage being 13 on 22nd July. Counts through August remained mostly in the low single figures, except for 17 on 16th and 13 on 25th. Other than seven on 12th & 21st and six on 20th September, counts were very poor during September with up to three birds recorded on just 15 dates, until the wind direction changed, and autumn passage really kicked in with 76 on 29th September. October produced double

figure counts on 10 dates with a further count of 76 on 10th being the peak. Small numbers were recorded during the first week of November with a month peak of eight on 2nd.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

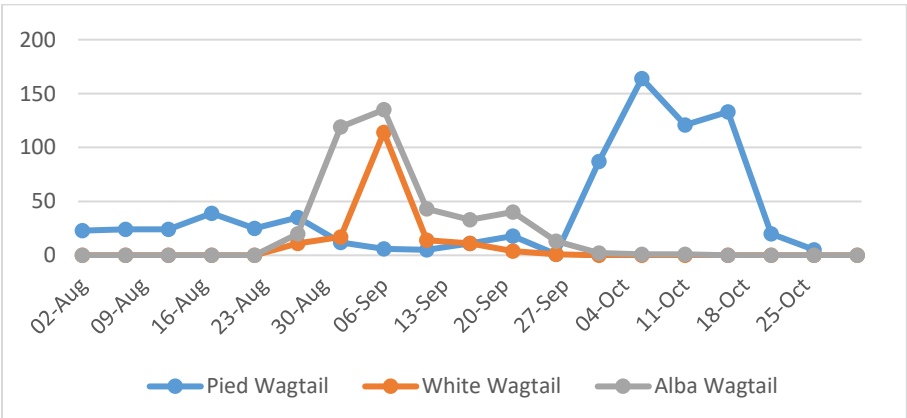
60-year average	2009 to 2018	1999 to 2008	1989 to 1998	1979 to 1988	1969 to 1978	1959 to 1968
21-Apr	06-Apr	25-Apr	28-Apr	21-Apr	25-Apr	24-Apr
29-Sep	28-Sep	03-Oct	27-Sep	20-Sep	04-Oct	07-Oct

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

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, during March and most of April. First of autumn were 11 on 27th August, with single figure counts on a further three dates in the month and on 10 dates in September up to the last one on 25th September. Peak passage was during the first week of September with 10 on 1st, 51 on 2nd, 45 on 3rd and 15 on 4th.

‘Alba’ Wagtail *Motacilla alba/yarrelli*

Records of non-specifically identified wagtails occurred between 27th August and 28th September and are likely to have involved mostly White Wagtails. The below graph illustrates that the main period of sightings coincided with the peak passage of *M. alba alba*, with fourteen double-figure counts between 23rd August and 8th September and a peak of 90 on 27th August.



Alba Wagtail passage 2021

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi**

*Very rare migrant; ten previous records involving singles on 1st October 1972, 24th October 1980, 10th October 1986, 24th October 1987, 28th October 1987, 8th October 1989, 24th October 1990, 23rd April 2000, 1st October 2016 and 30th October 2019. In addition, large pipits seen on 6th October 2007 and 13th May 2016 were likely to have been *A. richardi*.*

A single was seen and heard as it flew low over the Observatory courtyard and then headed west on 4th October (AS). The 11th Calf record and occurring on a typical date.

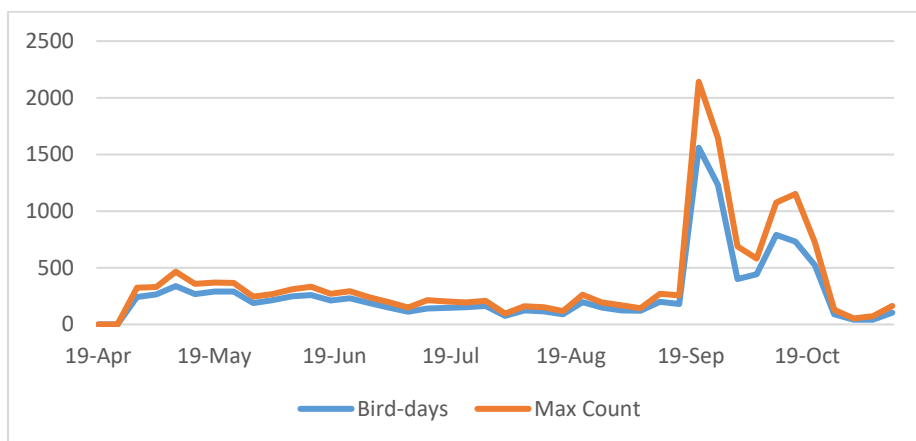
Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

Any early spring movements were missed owing to our arrival on the Calf being delayed until 21st April due to coronavirus restrictions. Records during late April and through May of up to 80 birds most likely reflected the presence of breeding birds, although 126 on 1st May possibly included some passage birds.

The annual breeding bird survey located 51 territories, although the breeding population is likely to be higher.



Meadow Pipit passage 2021

Autumn passage was very late in starting, with the first significant movement not occurring until 581 on 12th September. Further three figure counts, between 134 to 347, occurred on nine other dates in the month plus a

maximum of 413 on 18th September. Another seven counts between 120 – 286 occurred during the first half of October, plus 420 on 10th but numbers then decreased significantly with counts of only up to 39 during the remainder of October and a peak of 60 on 3rd November.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Scarce spring passage migrant and common autumn passage migrant; at least 252 previous records of approximately 3117 individuals, with records in April (52), May (53), June (6), July (8), August (73), September (48) 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

For the second year running there were no spring records.

In autumn, the start of passage was recorded quite late with the first four not until 24th August, followed by eight on 25th, nine on 26th, two on 28th and a single on 29th. In September, three on 3rd was followed by 1 - 2 on a further six dates up to the last on 16th, plus a peak of eight on 8th September.

Number of individuals recorded by decade:

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

A total of 43 bird days compares to 49 in 2019 and 40 in 2020.

[Eurasian] Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Fushag Varrey

Common breeding resident; between 35 – 50 pairs recorded annually

Present throughout the season, although daily counts do not reflect the true population status. Most counts, in single figures, were of birds seen at South and Cow Harbours, although birds sometimes congregated on Caigher, particularly during August. Occasional double figure counts up to 20 occurred in most months, with 22 on 30th June and 21 on 30th August and 1st & 7th September being the peaks.

The annual breeding bird survey located only eight pairs, although the true breeding population is somewhat higher and believed to be closer to 30 pairs.

[Common] Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

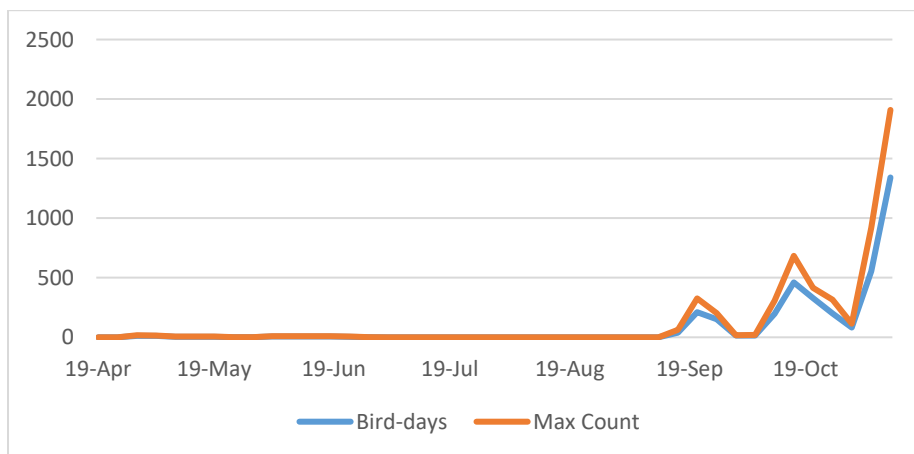
Ushag y Choan/ Ushag veg Vreck

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

Early spring passage was missed owing to coronavirus restrictions delaying the start of the season until 21st April. Passage was recorded from 22nd April when six birds were noted, then up to three birds were seen daily to the end of the month. Records were more sporadic during May with up to two recorded on 15 dates plus three on 6th, then during June one or two birds were present daily through to 19th.

Unusually there were no records between 20th June to 6th September.

Autumn passage began with 24 on 7th September and remained in either single or low double figures throughout the remainder of the month, except for 116 on 15th. Passage increased a little during October, with three figure counts on seven dates, including a peak of 365 on 30th. The main period of migration occurred between 2nd – 4th November with 343 on 2nd, 567 on 3rd and 402 on 4th. As with several other species, autumn passage occurred slightly late and our departure from the Calf on 7th November probably meant that we were not able to record the full migration pattern.



Chaffinch passage 2021

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Scarce spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn passage migrant;

A single on 25th October was the start of autumn passage, with a further three on 28th and a single on 31st. November produced the peak in movements with 16 on 2nd, seven on 3rd, five on 4th and one on 5th.

Undoubtedly passage was still ongoing and our departure on 7th November meant that the full pattern of migration was not recorded.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus**

Rare passage migrant; 31 previous records since the first in 1969, with records occurring in May (5), June (13), August (1), September (8) and October (4)

A 1st calendar year bird was trapped at the Withy on 19th September and remained around the Observatory until 27th September. The 32nd Calf record and the first since 2016.

[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

There were no spring records owing to our absence from the islet, due to coronavirus restrictions, during March and most of April.

The species remains scarce with just singles recorded during the summer months, on 23rd June and 8th July.

First of autumn was a single on 20th September, then an improved volume of records during October, with single figure counts on nine dates in the month, plus 19 on 10th & 20th, 11 on 11th, 16 on 15th October and 17 on 30th. Records continued into early November, with 16 on 2nd and eight on 3rd.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor; at least 193 previous records with approximately 2510 individuals, with records in February (4), March (25), April (22), May (4), June (3), July (5), August (5), September (11), October (58), November (51) and December (5)

At least one bird was heard calling as it flew over the Observatory on 29th October.

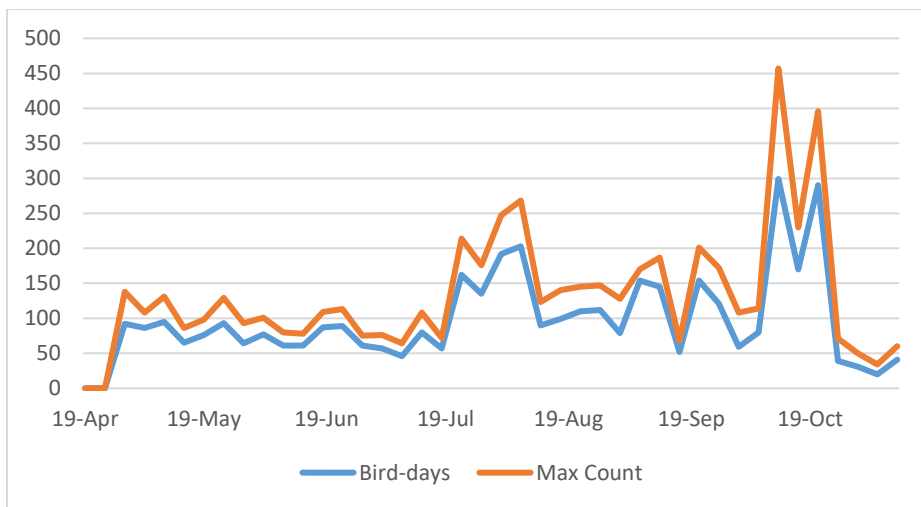
[Common] Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Filip 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

Present through most of the season, with daily records usually up to 20, with occasional higher counts to 40. Ten pairs were identified during the annual breeding bird survey and from mid-July, numbers increased with locally bred juveniles, with counts up to 65 becoming more regular.

Autumn passage was very patchy, with very sporadic obvious passage and few high counts, although included 158 on 4th, 81 on 6th, 106 on 13th and 83 on 15th October.



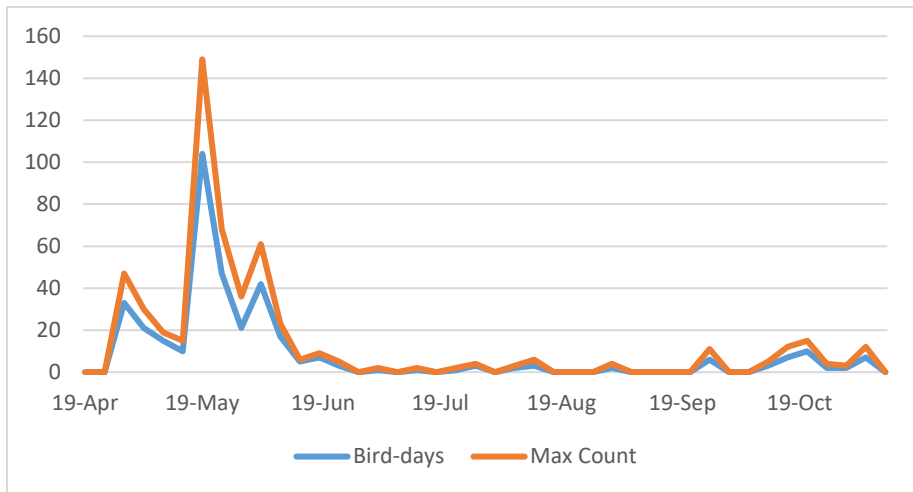
Linnet passage 2021

Lesser [Common] Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

Bytermyn Dhone/Lossan Ruy

Common spring, occasional summer and common autumn passage migrant;
An excellent spring passage which would have been even more impressive in numbers if our arrival on the Calf had not been delayed until 21st April, owing to coronavirus restrictions. Passage was recorded almost daily from 22nd April until 1st June, with single figure counts on six dates in April plus 12 and 14 on

22nd & 23rd April respectively. In May, single figure counts were made on 18 dates, double figure counts on a further seven dates, with a maximum of 45 on 13th May. After five on 1st June, a single was present from 2nd – 11th and then joined by a second bird until they both departed on 15th. Summer records consisted of singles on six dates in July, a single on 2nd, three on 3rd and two on 25th August. Autumn passage was rather poor with just two records in September, five on 18th and a single on 20th, then 1 – 5 on 13 dates in October and 1 – 7 daily between 2nd – 5th November.



Lesser Redpoll passage 2021

[Red] Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular spring and autumn dispersal visitor / passage migrant; 126 previous records involving 501 individuals, with records in March (4), April (1), May (9), June (27), July (24), August (16), September (20), October (20) and November (5)

Singles were seen around the Observatory on 30th May and 4th June. Surprisingly, there were no autumn records.

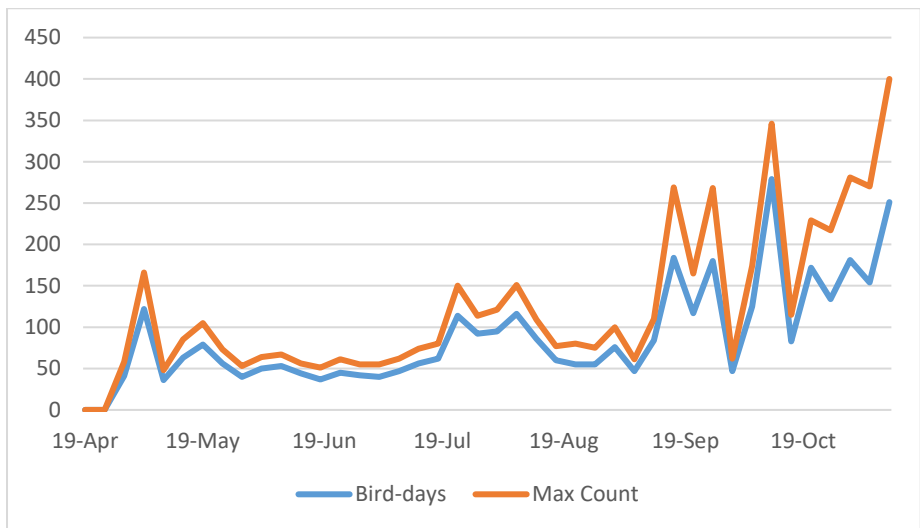
[European] Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

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 – 2020

Most of the early spring passage was missed owing to coronavirus restrictions delaying the start of the season until 21st April, with only the tail end of passage being noted with 44 on 27th and 32 on 29th April. Thereafter, counts of up to 20 are likely to mainly reflect the breeding population, with a maximum of 26 on 12th May. Counts remained at this level through to mid-July, when locally bred young began to swell numbers with several counts of more than 30 birds.

As with many other finches, autumn passage was rather sporadic with high counts of 85 on 7th & 88 on 18th September, 100 on 25th & 116 on 30th October and 149 on 2nd November.



Linnet passage 2021

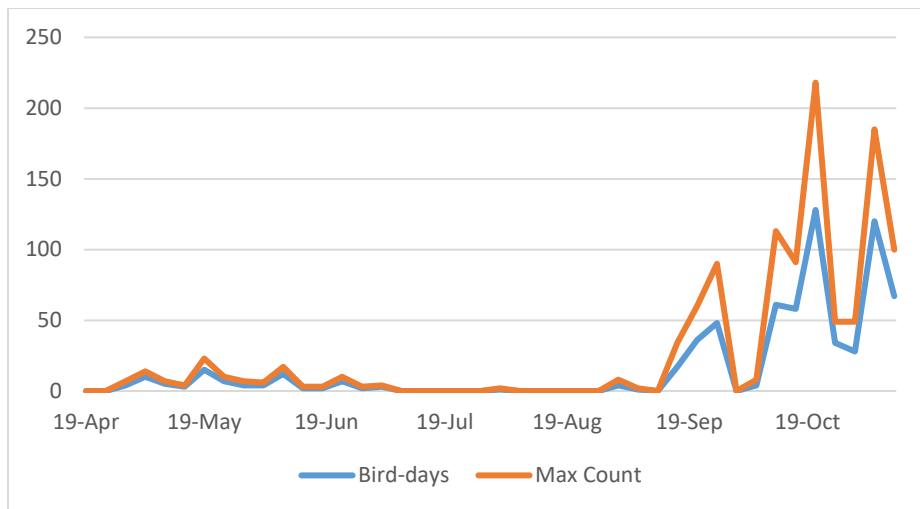
[Eurasian] Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Common spring, occasional summer and common autumn passage migrant;

Early spring passage was missed owing to coronavirus restrictions delaying the start of the season until 21st April. Passage was recorded from 23rd April through to 28th June, with up to five birds recorded on eight dates in April, 19 dates in May and 14 dates in June, plus a spring maximum of eight on 12th May.

The only summer record was a single on 24th July.

An early autumn record of four on 25th August, was then followed by a sporadic passage during September with up to three on five dates and higher counts of 17 on 7th, 10 on 12th, 24 on 15th and 42 on 18th.



Siskin passage 2021

October continued the rather sporadic passage with single figure counts on nine dates, double figure counts up to 33 on eight dates, plus peaks of 52 on 4th, 90 on 13th and 65 on 28th. Passage was recorded in November between 2nd – 5th, with a peak of 33 on 2nd.

[Common] Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Pompey 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

Up to three birds reported sporadically through spring and summer, with a male holding territory at the Triangle and pairs seen in the Withy area, and at the bushes in the valley above Jane's House. Additionally, a bird was seen to fly from the Observatory area towards the central heath on several occasions. One juvenile was trapped at the Withy on 31st July.

Autumn records were very scarce with just a single on 15th August, two on 1st and singles on 16th & 21st September plus singles on 14th & 30th October and two on 15th October and 2nd November.

Breeding Totals

Species	2021	Count Unit	Status
Shelduck	1	Pair/s	One or two pairs bred in all years since 2002; a pair seen associating with a likely nest chamber in a rabbit hole on Rarick in April.
Mallard	3 - 4	Pair/s	One to three pairs annually; four broods were recorded by trail cameras set at the Millpond. Just one young fledged in September.
Eider	70	Pair/s	First bred in 1992, with 70 pairs now present; at least 55 nests located during 2021
Pheasant	2	Pair/s	Bred for the first time in 2018; several juveniles seen during late summer and early autumn, with two broods seen.
Oystercatcher	20	Pair/s	Average of 12 pairs during 2011 – 2020
Great Black-backed Gull	55	AON	Average of 46 AON during 2011 – 2020
Herring Gull	702	AON	Average of 377 AON during 2011 – 2020
Lesser Black-backed Gull	25	AON	Average of 41 AON during 2011 – 2020
Common Guillemot	202	IA's	Average of 168 IA's during 2011 – 2020
	121	Pair/s	Average of 112 pairs during 2011 – 2020
Razorbill	178	IA's	Average of 177 IA's during 2011 – 2020
	107	Pair/s	Average of 119 pairs during 2011 – 2020
Black Guillemot	2 - 3	Pair/s	First recorded breeding in 1972 with 1 - 3 pairs less than annually; three young seen begging adults for food near the Stack early July.
Puffin	1	AOB	Last bred in 1997, with a maximum of 65 pairs in 1979; Two pairs associating offshore from Kione ny Halby, with one bird seen carrying nesting material
Fulmar	106	AOS	Average of 86 AOS during 2011 – 2020
Manx Shearwater	900 - 1000	AOB	Average of 390 AOB during 2011 – 2020
Shag	102	AON	Average of 139 AON during 2011 – 2020
Buzzard	1	Pair	The first breeding attempt on the Calf. A nest was seen being built on 2 nd May; although the pair were in attendance for over a month no contents were seen and the attempt was a failure.

Species	2021	Count Unit	Status
Peregrine	1	Pair/s	Breeds almost annually, with two pairs in 2019 & 2020; one pair raised a single young.
Magpie	1	Pair	Bred annually 1959 – 2002 with max 14 pairs. One pair in 2007 & 2020; bred successfully raising 3 young.
Chough	8 - 9	Pair/s	Average of 10 pairs during 2011 – 2020
Hooded / Carrion Crow	8	Pair/s	Average of 6 pairs during 2011 – 2020
Raven	2	Pair/s	1 - 2 pairs breed annually; one pair successfully fledged three young
Swallow	4	Pair/s	Average of 3 pairs during 2011 – 2020, with max 10 pairs in 2005 & 2007; one pair bred at the Observatory, with three pairs at Jane's House
Chiffchaff	1	Pair/s	1 – 2 pairs in 5 out of the past 10 years; recently fledged young trapped in early July
Whitethroat	1	Pair/s	1 – 3 pairs in 8 out of the past 10 years; pair seen in Withy area
Wren	19	Pair/s	Average of 12 pairs during 2011 – 2020 with max 73 pairs in 1974;
Blackbird	8	Pair/s	Average of 5 pairs during 2011 – 2020 with max 22 pairs in 1979;
Robin	5	Pair/s	1 – 2 pairs in four out of last 10 years with max 6 - 7 pairs in 1990;
Stonechat	7	Pair/s	Average of 3 pairs during 2011 – 2020 with max 20 pairs in 1977;
Wheatear	38 - 40	Pair/s	Average of 22 pairs during 2011 – 2020 with max 40 pairs in 2018 & 2019;
Pied Wagtail	2	Pair/s	Up to 4 pairs annually with max 6 - 8 pairs in 2016;
Meadow Pipit	51	Pair/s	Average of 45 pairs during 2011 – 2020 with max 110 pairs in 1982;
Rock Pipit	30	Pair/s	Average of 30 pairs during 2011 – 2020 with max 48 pairs in 1967;
Linnet	10	Pair/s	Average of 13 pairs during 2011 – 2020 with max 50 pairs in 1982;
Goldfinch	10	Pair/s	Average of 11 pairs during 2011 – 2020 with max 20 pairs in 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019;
Reed Bunting	1	Pair/s	1 - 2 pairs in seven out of last 10 years with max 19 pairs in 1980;

Rarity Report: Descriptions

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* – the 2nd Calf and Manx record

The morning of Sunday 10th September was rather busy at the Observatory with a reasonable fall of Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs and some good overhead visible migration. At about 1015am, Ana Shapiro returned from a net round and remarked that she had caught a bird that she was unsure of its identification – it apparently had a red tail but wasn't a Redstart!

Ana took the bird from the bag and I immediately recognised it as a Thrush Nightingale – I had caught the only previous Manx record on the Calf in May 1989. As Ana was in the final stages of preparing for her ringing licence, I opened up Svensson's "Identification Guide to European Passerines" and directed her towards the section covering *Luscinias* and asked her to check the wing formulae – she confirmed that it was a Thrush Nightingale:

2nd PP = 4th PP

Wing Point = 3rd PP

Emarginated 3rd PP

Upperparts: Overall brown with slightly more rufous-brown upper-tail coverts and dull reddish retrices. The bird was aged as a 3, having pale orangey-buff spots on the tertials and five old greater coverts.

Underparts: Brown throat and upper breast, similar in colour to upperparts. Lower breast dull greyish-brown with streaking developing along flanks and belly. Vent and under-tail coverts more whitish.

Bare parts: Dark eye. Bill – dark horn on lateral extent of both upper and lower mandibles. Lower mandible having a pinkish base. Legs – pinkish with dark horn. After processing the bird was released at the front of the Observatory, where it flew off into dense cover and was not seen again.



Thrush Nightingale

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* – a new Manx species

We were experiencing a busy morning of visual migration passage and ringing on the 16th September and had already processed a Barred Warbler. I was returning from checking some of the nets when Ana Shapiro mentioned to me that she had just extracted a warbler, that she did not know the identification of. I took the bird bag from her, which contained the bird, and went into the Observatory to see what it was.

Whilst taking the bird from the bag, it gave a distinctive 'Acro' like call, reminiscent of a Sedge Warbler. On seeing the bird, my immediate identification was that it was a Paddyfield Warbler; knowing this would be a new Manx species I referred to the Collins Guide and an 'Identification Guide to Birds in the Hand' by Laurent Demongin to sense check my identification. I also video called Neil Morris, whom I knew had experience of the species, and who agreed with my conclusion.

The bird was then taken to the ringing station and processed before being released at the front of the Observatory. The bird flew off into a dense area of Bracken near to the Silo but was not seen again.

My initial impression of the bird was that it was a small *Acrocephalus* warbler, appearing relatively long-tailed and short-winged, but having a more rounded head than other Acro's I have seen. The bird had a noticeably brown cap, perhaps made more obvious by the pale supercilium which extended from the base of the bill to behind the eye – this appeared slightly more buff in colouration at the fore and becoming whiter behind the eye, with a distinct white crescent above the eye.

Upperparts: principally a dull grey-green colour, although the remiges and retrices (only four tail feathers were present) were predominantly more sandy brown, being slightly more rufous on the rump and upper-tail coverts. Underparts: white, most noticeable the throat, with a distinct buff-ish upper breast and sandy-buff flanks.

Bare parts: Legs were grey-brown with slightly yellow pads to the toes. Eye dark brown. Upper mandible dark horn at nasal base, graduating into grey with a pinkish tip. The lower mandible being pinkish, with a slight brown marking on the distal half.

Wing formulae: Emarginated on 3rd & 4th PP

1 = Primary Coverts

2 = -5.5mm

3 = Wing Point

4 = Wing Point

5 = -1mm

6 = -4mm

7 = -5.5mm

8 = -7.5mm

9 = 9mm

10 = 10.5mm

Wing length = 61mm

Fat = 3

Muscle = 2

Weight = 10.1 gms



Paddyfield Warbler

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* – the first Calf and second Manx record

Luise O'Donovan and I were undertaking a routine mist net round on 16th October, when we approached the net ride known as the 'dog-leg', which is situated in the back field behind the stand of Sycamore trees. There were a few thrushes and finches around and as we got to the net, I could see a 'Robin-like' bird in the bottom panel of the net, about half-way along. Luise went along the net to extract the bird, whilst I began removing some leaves that had collected in the net. Whilst I was still removing the leaves, Luise reappeared beside me and said 'this Robin has a bluetail' and turned the bird so that I could see it! Realising what the bird was, we put the bird quickly into a bird-bag and continued our net round. Once back at the Observatory, we informed those present of what we had caught, and the bird was then processed and photographed.

Upperparts: Head, back, mantle and lesser & median wing coverts uniform brown, like that of a European Robin. Greater coverts, primary coverts, tertials, secondaries and primaries also brown but having a rufous outer edge. Inner most tertial showed a very slight blueish hue, depending on angle it was viewed at. There was no 'spotting' on any of the wing feathers, suggesting that this may have been an adult. Upper-tail coverts, rump and tail blue, with tips of tail feathers and outer two feathers being darker and greyer.

Underparts: Throat, buff-white extending down breast. Flanks and side of throat more brownish-grey with noticeable orange armpit extending half way down flank.

Bareparts: Bill and legs dark. Eye dark with whitish orbital ring, most prominent on lower half.

The bird was released along the track towards HG1 where it flew purposefully towards the conifers and disappeared into cover. A few hours later the bird was caught again, this time in the Observatory back garden and was released at the net, where it flew off into the stand of Sycamores and wasn't seen again.

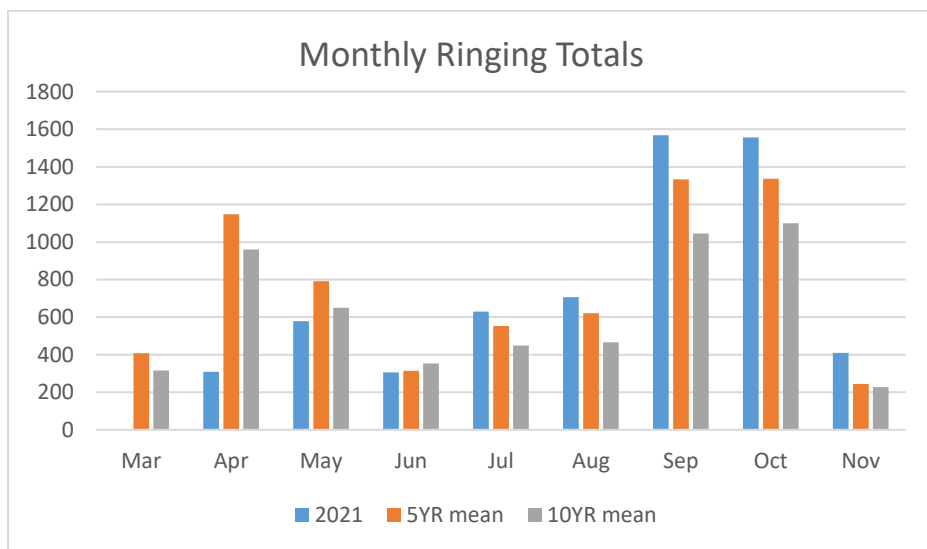


Red-flanked Bluetail

2021 Ringing Report

The grand total of 6063 birds of 76 species were ringed during 2021 - another excellent achievement considering that once again, coronavirus restrictions affected the start of the season and 43 days of peak spring passage were missed. This undoubtedly affected the totals for several key species, including early spring migrants such as Goldcrest & Willow Warbler, with the annual total for the former being well below their 64-year mean.

The remainder of spring was very cold, with a lengthy spell of northerly winds reducing migration to almost zero at times, and consequently the ringing total for May was significantly below the recent 5-year and 10-year mean (see graph).



Consequently, particularly low spring-totals were achieved for several other migrant species, including Wheatear, Sedge Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher, with only singles of Grasshopper Warbler, Whinchat & Redstart being caught. On the positive side, Whitethroat numbers seem to be continuing to increase gradually and Lesser Redpolls were caught in above average numbers. An eventual change in wind direction during the first few days of June brought several good birds, with a male Western Subalpine Warbler, Pied Flycatcher and an adult male Woodchat Shrike being trapped, the latter being just the fourth ringed here.

Breeding success was rather mixed, with the long dry spring having a detrimental effect on the productivity and survival rates of several passerine species, including Chough, Wheatear and Blackbird, with their resulting ringing totals for pulli and locally bred juveniles being lower than in other recent years. However, in general most seabirds appeared to have a reasonably successful year and Eiders continue to flourish, with 19 new birds ringed, including a further four males. The total of 19 recaptures (all females) illustrates the site fidelity that these birds have for their breeding sites. Colour-ringing is now being used more frequently to drive up the numbers of birds subsequently reported and is an important tool in helping us understand the life histories of the birds we study. The ability to individually identify birds 'in-the-field' provides an additional layer of knowledge which enables a better understanding of avian ecology and, in turn, that information can be used to identify and implement conservation and environmental measures. During 2021, we were able to maintain our long-term study for our three 'large' breeding gulls, adding 228 Herring Gull, 43 Great Black-backed Gull and five Lesser Black-backed Gull to this colour-ringing project. We are most grateful to Robert Fisher and David Bellamy for their kind generosity in funding the gull colour rings used this year. With the support of MNH, we were also able to instigate a colour-ringing programme for European Shag, which aims to help identify productivity levels and fledging rates to help understand the reasons behind this species' declines. In addition, we continued to colour-ring Chough as part of the long-term studies undertaken by the Manx Chough Project and for the Wheatear project instigated by the Manx Ringing Group.

Mike Haigh was once again called upon to 'hold the fort' during my annual leave in July and then owing to an unexpected illness, which incapacitated me for another month, Mike extended his stay through to the last week of August. At this time, we were also joined by volunteer ringer, Ana Shapiro and together with Rob Fisher, all three made considerable efforts to achieve the 2nd highest August total in 25 years and along the way achieved new annual totals for both Rock Pipit and Pied Wagtail.

Significant efforts were also made to locate fledgling Manx Shearwaters during suitable evenings in late August and early September, with 126 young being ringed – the highest number of young ever ringed in one season and contributing significantly to the second highest annual total for the species.

On my return in early September, autumn passage was beginning slowly but increased nicely towards mid-month with the 2nd ever Thrush Nightingale caught on 10th, occurring amongst a small fall of mixed *Phylloscopus* warblers. Two Snipe caught on the Millpond were a nice bonus for the work carried out on the Millpond last year. The 16th proved to be one of those exceptional days when you never know what is going to turn up next and after a Barred Warbler early in the morning, the next net round produced the first ever Manx record of Paddyfield Warbler. Meadow Pipit passage was at its peak during the second half of the month, with above average numbers caught using tape lures in the walk-in traps in the Front Field, with the Crow Trap continuing to prove its worth for both Pied/White and Grey Wagtails. These traps boosted the annual totals, with some particularly good catches on (windy) days when mist netting was not possible and a Common Rosefinch that lingered through the second half of the month rounded things off nicely. The first half of October was often windy which restricted ringing opportunities, although occasional calmer days brought several large arrivals of birds including above average numbers for Blue Tit, Great Tit, House Sparrow and Tree Sparrow, whilst the annual total for Greenfinch was the highest in nine years. A superb period of migration mid-month, saw the start of an excellent autumn for Redwing numbers, along with a Jack Snipe, two Merlin and two more first's – a Red-flanked Bluetail on 16th and a Buzzard on 17th.



The remainder of the season was again dominated by windy weather which limited catching, although further large arrivals of Redwing occurred during the last few days of October and Bramblings were trapped in unprecedented numbers.

The Season's Centuries

Date	Number of birds ringed / Number of species ringed	Main species
10 th September	103 / 12	Chiffchaff 34, Willow Warbler 22, Manx Shearwater 22
12 th September	107 / 13	Meadow Pipit 46, Robin 26, Grey Wagtail 15
15 th September	162 / 17	Meadow Pipit 59, Chaffinch 25, Robin 15
16 th September	135 / 19	Meadow Pipit 57, Chaffinch 26, Chiffchaff 9, Robin 9
18 th September	136 / 14	Meadow Pipit 73, Robin 13, Blackcap 11, Chaffinch 119
20 th September	123 / 13	Meadow Pipit 56, Chaffinch 26, Robin 15
4 th October	108 / 13	Meadow Pipit 60, Goldcrest 17
6 th October	132 / 16	Meadow Pipit 27, Chaffinch 24, Goldfinch 20, Great Tit 14
10 th October	135 / 16	Meadow Pipit 45, Goldcrest 25, Chaffinch 14, Great Tit 12
15 th October	151 / 21	Goldcrest 24, Great Tit 24, Chaffinch 21, Blue Tit 18
30 th October	211 / 19	Redwing 123, Song Thrush 29, Chaffinch 14
2 nd November	116 / 17	Chaffinch 32, Song Thrush 24, Goldfinch 14, Redwing 10
3 rd November	114 / 15	Blackbird 39, Chaffinch 23, Meadow Pipit 13, Song Thrush 8
5 th November	110 / 13	Blackbird 75, Redwing 9, Song Thrush 7, Goldfinch 5

Species and/or numbers of note ringed during 2021. Species in **bold** denote a record annual total or new species:

Species	No.	Ranking
Eider	19	2 nd highest annual total, following 23 in 2018
Manx Shearwater	215	2 nd highest annual total, following 352 in 2016
Buzzard	1	New species ringed for Calf
Sparrowhawk	14	New annual record total, beating 11 in 2011
Jack Snipe	1	12 th ever ringed; first since 2007
Snipe	2	First since 2015
Woodpigeon	1	First since 2018
Tree Pipit	16	Highest annual total since 25 in 2018
Meadow Pipit	988	2 nd highest annual total, following 1235 in 2019
Rock Pipit	21	New annual record total, beating 20 in 2003
Grey Wagtail	81	5 th highest annual total
Pied Wagtail	113	New annual record total, beating 104 in 2020
Thrush Nightingale	1	2 nd ever ringed, previous in 1989
Red-flanked Bluetail	1	New species ringed for Calf
Redwing	234	New annual record total, beating 136 in 2017
Paddyfield Warbler	1	New species ringed for Calf
Reed Warbler	6	Equal 2 nd highest annual total, following 8 in 2018
Blackcap	219	4 th highest annual total
Barred Warbler	1	29 th ever & first since 2012
Subalpine Warbler	1	24 th ever ringed
Woodchat Shrike	1	4 th ever and first since 1994
Tree Sparrow	7	Equal 4 th highest annual total, following 29 in 1965
Brambling	9	New annual record total, beating 4 in 2021 & 2017
Greenfinch	21	Highest annual total since 2013
Lesser Redpoll	83	5 th highest annual total
Common Rosefinch	1	17 th ever ringed and first since 2016

The table below shows this year's monthly totals with the five- and ten-year averages for comparison. **Bold** figures denote above average month totals.
 *ringing was only carried out on eight days, due to our late arrival on the Calf.

	2021	5 yr average (2016-20)	10 yr average (2011 – 20)
Mar	Covid	407	316
Apr	309*	1147	960
May	579	791	650
Jun	306	314	354
Jul	630	552	449
Aug	706	621	465
Sep	1568	1334	1046
Oct	1556	1337	1100
Nov	409	244	227
Total	6063	6746	5567

Top Ten Species

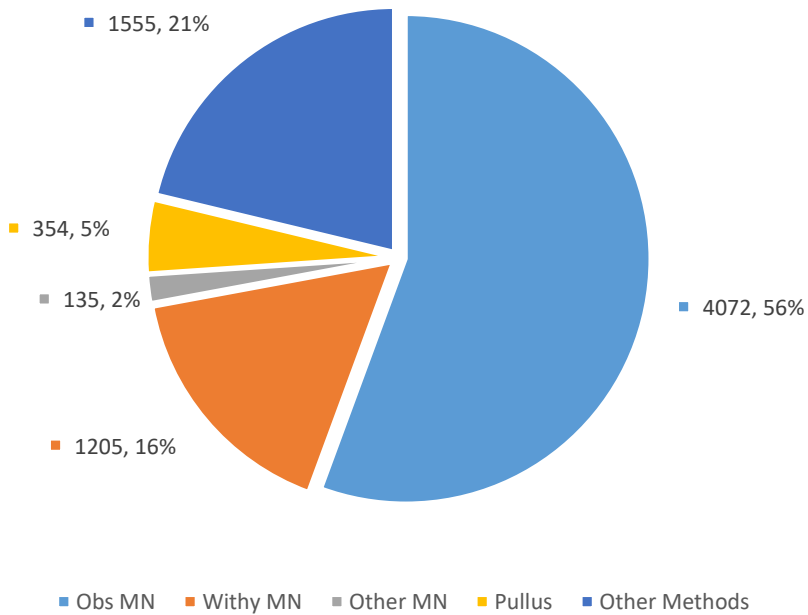
Previous rankings

2021	Species	Total		2020	2019	2018
1 st	Meadow Pipit	988		2 nd	1 st	4 th
2 nd	Willow Warbler	622		4 th	2 nd	2 nd
3 rd	Goldfinch	453		7 th	4 th	1 st
4 th	Chaffinch	354		1 st	6 th	6 th
= 5 th	Robin	274		6 th	10 th	8 th
= 5 th	Goldcrest	274		3 rd	3 rd	3 rd
7 th	Redwing	234		14 th	14 th	32 nd
8 th	Herring Gull	233		17 th	8 th	21 st
9 th	Chiffchaff	231		19 th	7 th	5 th
10 th	Blackcap	219		13 th	9 th	7 th

Trapping Methods:

As usual most birds trapped, were caught using conventional methods, with mist nets accounting for 74% of all birds trapped during 2021. This was a 4% reduction on 2020 totals, the subsequent increase being split equally between Pulli and Other Methods – a greater use of passive walk-in traps accounted for an increase of 286 captures in the latter category.

Key trapping methods



These other trapping methods are often employed to target 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 key species, in particular Wheatear, Grey & Pied/White Wagtails and Meadow Pipits. Night-time 'dazzling' also proved worthwhile allowing the capture of four male Eiders, as well as the addition of several wader species. The use of a wader mist net set across the Millpond during early autumn added both Snipe and Jack Snipe to the ringing totals, although unfortunately a Black-tailed Godwit managed to escape the net and would have been a new species to be ringed on the Calf.

The table below shows birds ringed on the Calf in previous years and re-caught or re-sighted in 2021. The final column shows birds that were ringed prior to 2014.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	Previous
Manx Shearwater	10	10	14	5	11	2	5	2001 x 1 2003 x 3 2005 x 8 2007 x 1 2008 x 3 2011 x 1 2012 x 1 2013 x 7
Storm Petrel	1							
Shag			1					2007 x 1 2010 x 1 2011 x 1
Eider		4	6	6		1		2013 x 1
Sparrowhawk		1						
Purple Sandpiper	1							
Herring Gull	1	6		5		8	6	2001 x 1 2011 x 4 2012 x 5 2013 x 4
Great B-b Gull			1	1		1		
Razorbill	1		2	1				
Swallow	1							
Meadow Pipit	4	4	4					
Rock Pipit	1							
Pied Wagtail	2							
Wren	4	1	1					
Robin	5	5	1					
Stonechat		1						
Wheatear	8	7	3			1		
Blackbird	1	1	4	1				
Chough	1	1		1				
Whitethroat	2							
Chaffinch	1							
Goldfinch	2	3			1			
Reed Bunting		1						

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Several people and organisations donated goods and assistance during the season, and we would like to thank them for this support - Simpson Brothers, David Darrell-Lambert, Tim Earl, Liz Charter, Denise & Chris Lamsdell (Merlin Mist nets), Adrian Slater, Stephen Vickers, and Steve Watts. We were also greatly assisted during autumn migration by Ana Shapiro and Luise O'Donovan who both helped tremendously as long-term volunteers with the daily census work and ringing programmes.

2021 Ringing Totals:

	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Manx Shearwater	215	0	215
Storm Petrel	59	0	59
Shag	11	50	61
Mallard	1	0	1
Eider	19	0	19
Sparrowhawk	14	0	14
Buzzard*	1	0	1
Kestrel	3	0	3
Merlin	2	0	2
Oystercatcher	1	7	8
Purple Sandpiper	2	0	2
Jack Snipe	1	0	1
Snipe	2	0	2
Curlew	1	0	1
Turnstone	2	0	2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	3	5
Herring Gull	35	198	233
Great Black-backed Gull	1	42	43
Razorbill	7	11	18
Woodpigeon	1	0	1
Cuckoo	1	0	1
Swallow	33	27	60
Tree Pipit	16	0	16
Meadow Pipit	988	0	988
Rock Pipit	21	0	21
Grey Wagtail	81	0	81
Pied/White Wagtail	113	0	113
Wren	64	0	64
Dunnock	39	0	39
Robin	274	0	274

	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Thrush Nightingale	1	0	1
Red-flanked Bluetail*	1	0	1
Redstart	2	0	2
Whinchat	1	0	1
Stonechat	49	1	50
Wheatear	105	0	105
Blackbird	201	0	201
Fieldfare	1	0	1
Song Thrush	200	0	200
Redwing	234	0	234
Grasshopper Warbler	3	0	3
Sedge Warbler	67	0	67
Paddyfield Warbler*	1	0	1
Reed Warbler	6	0	6
Subalpine Warbler	1	0	1
Barred Warbler	1	0	1
Lesser Whitethroat	1	0	1
Whitethroat	158	0	158
Garden Warbler	9	0	9
Blackcap	219	0	219
Chiffchaff	231	0	231
Willow Warbler	622	0	622
Goldcrest	274	0	274
Spotted Flycatcher	67	0	67
Pied Flycatcher	4	0	4
Long-tailed Tit	6	0	6
Coal Tit	5	0	5
Blue Tit	62	0	62
Great Tit	86	0	86
Treecreeper	3	0	3
Woodchat Shrike	1	0	1
Magpie	0	3	3

	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Chough	1	3	4
Hooded Crow	0	9	9
Starling	34	0	34
House Sparrow	7	0	7
Tree Sparrow	7	0	7
Chaffinch	354	0	354
Brambling	9	0	9
Greenfinch	21	0	21
Goldfinch	453	0	453
Siskin	39	0	39
Linnet	57	0	57
Lesser Redpoll	83	0	83
Common Rosefinch	1	0	1
Reed Bunting	11	0	11
Total:	5709	354	6063

* Denotes new species ringed for Calf

2021 Recoveries & Controls

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

Capture code:

- 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 (colour marks)
- V - Rings read in the field (metal only)
- + - injured, fate unknown

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

Lesser Black-backed Gull	ANN:A	ANAA
Great Black-backed Gull	ANN:A	
Herring Gull	ANN:A	ANAA
Shag		
Wheatear		
Grey Wagtail		
Stonechat		



Combinations of plain colour-rings have been used previously on Rock Pipit and are still used on Chough. Where more than one colour-ring is used, the colour of each ring and position on the tibia(s) are shown using the following codes:

B – Dark Blue

G – Dark Green

K – Light Pink

M – Metal (BTO) ring

NW2 – Black over White (single ring)

O - Orange

R - Red

V – Voilet/Purple

W – White

Y – Yellow



Recoveries are of birds ringed on the Calf, and which have been subsequently found elsewhere. A total of 302 reports were received during 2021, comprising eight records from 2018, seven from 2019, 16 from 2020 and 271 from 2021.

	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	1	14	2	18
2021	2	0	0	0

BRAZIL	
Up to 2020	1

EZ87582	3	N	10/09/21	Calf of Man
	3	R	12/09/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man
				2 days 4 km 61deg (ENE)

EZ87586	3	N	10/09/21	Calf of Man
	3	R	20/09/21	Port Erin, Isle of Man 10 days 5 km 42deg (NE)

Both birds were found in gardens and were likely to have been disorientated by street lighting. After a short period of re-cooperation, they were both released successfully.

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	52	20	8	83	445	57
2021	0	1	0	1	0	4

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

2591686	4	N	27/06/09	Calf of Man
	6	R	26/07/21	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
				4412 days 260 km 188deg (S)

2718041	4	N	05/06/18	Calf of Man
	4	R	11/07/21	Point Lynas, Isle of Anglesey, Wales
				1132 days 79 km 154deg (SSE)

2718196	4	N	20/07/19	Calf of Man
	4	R	25/07/20	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland 371 days 85 km 327deg (NNW)
2738355	4	N	18/07/20	Calf of Man
	4	R	24/07/21	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales 371 days 263 km 187deg (S)
2738431	4	N	13/08/20	Calf of Man
	4	R	11/07/21	Gwennap Head, Porthgwarra, Cornwall 332 days 451 km 188deg (S)
2738454	4	N	15/08/20	Calf of Man
	4	R	22/07/21	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales 341 days 263 km 187deg (S)

A standard set of recoveries showing inter-island movements within the Irish Sea.

Shag

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Irish Sea
Up to 2020	8	44	308	23	186	25	1
2021	0	1	3	0	1	0	0

	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2020	1

1343548	8F	N	16/04/97	Calf of Man
		xL	01/09/21	Dalby, Isle of Man 8904 days 15 km 23deg (NNE)
1379906	1	N	12/05/04	Calf of Man
		xL	29/07/21	Stairhaven, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland 6287 days 88 km 1deg (N)

For both 1343548 & 1379906, the finding condition was ring only and it is likely that these had been lost from the corpse some time previously.

1406414	8F	N	03/05/11	Calf of Man
		xA	02/01/21	The Ayres, Point of Ayre, Isle of Man 3532 days 47 km 33deg (NNE)

1474347	1	N	15/06/20	Calf of Man
		xA	05/03/21	Cranstal, Isle of Man
				4263 days 48 km Direction: 39deg (NE)
1474418	1	N	08/07/21	Calf of Man
		x	15/10/21	Rossal Beach, Fleetwood, Lancashire
				99 days 116 km 100deg (E)

Great Black-backed Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Irish Sea
Up to 2020	76	57	47	64	8	59	3
2021	14	3	15	13	0	19	0

	FRANCE
Up to 2020	1



HT95158	1	N	22/07/13	Calf of Man
T5ZV	7	S	03/07/15	Hoylake, Merseyside
				711 days 129 km 126deg (SE)
	9	S	06/07/16	Hoylake, 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
	10	S	07/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
				2907 days 6 km 91deg (E)

HT95230	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
S24:M	5	S	07/02/16	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 23 days 96 km 254deg (WSW)
	7	S	29/04/17	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 677 days
	9	S	08/10/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 1204 days
	9	S	10/10/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 1206 days
	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 97 km 256deg (WSW)
	10	S	08/05/21	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 2147 days
	10	S	31/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 2231 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
	10	S	12/09/21	Mill Bay, Carlingford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 2274 days 83 km 270deg (W)

The sightings on the nearby coast of the Isle of Man in July 2021 of both HT95158 & HT95230, suggests that after several years of wintering/summering elsewhere these birds may now be back breeding locally.

HT95232	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
S62:M	9	S	31/03/18	Bullock Harbour, Dalkey, Co. Dublin, Eire 1013 days 120 km (SW)
	9	S	14/05/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1057 days 58 km 293deg (WNW)
	10	S	07/08/20	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1873 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
	10	S	11/12/20	Mill Bay, Carlingford Lough, N. Ireland 1999 days 83 km 270deg (W)
	10	S	27/10/21	Dundrum Bay (Inner Harbour), Co. Down, N. Ireland 2319 days 71 km 289deg (WNW)
HT95280	1	N	26/06/17	Calf of Man
S43:M	3	S	14/10/17	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 110 days 228 km (S)

Also reported at Nevern Estuary on 22 dates between October 2017 and July 2019.

Also reported at Nevern Estuary on 17 dates between January and September 2020.

Also reported at Nevern Estuary on 16/12/20 and 28/01/21.

Also reported at Nevern Estuary on seven dates between 6th – 30th March 2021.

	10	S	07/04/21	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 1381 days
	10	S	20/04/21	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 1394 days
	10	S	01/12/21	Gann Estuary, Dale, Pembrokeshire, Wales 1619 days 210 km (S)
HT95281	1	N	06/07/17	Calf of Man
S21:M	3	S	19/11/17	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 136 days 96 km (WSW)
	5	S	24/11/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 506 days
	7	S	29/01/19	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 572 days
		S	30/08/19	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 785 days 56 km 303deg (WNW)
	9	S	19/12/20	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 1262 days
	10	S	30/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1485 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
	8	S	11/11/21	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 1589 days
	8	S	05/12/21	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 1613 days
HT95289	3	N	31/10/17	Calf of Man
S08:M	3	S	03/11/17	Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 3 days 111 km (SW)
	5	S	09/01/18	Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 70 days 111 km (SW)
	10	S	24/05/21	Calf of Man 1301 days
	10	S	07/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1345 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)

HT95321	1	N	23/06/18	Calf of Man
S10:M		S	30/09/21	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				1195 days 56 km 301deg (WNW)
HT95324	1	N	23/06/18	Calf of Man
S15:M	7	S	22/09/21	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				1187 days 72 km 287deg (WNW)
HT95327	1	N	23/06/18	Calf of Man
S18:M	3	S	12/10/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire
				111 days 96 km (WSW)
	5	S	29/01/19	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire
				220 days
	5	S	18/03/19	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire
				268 days
	7	S	05/07/20	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire
				743 days
	7	S	31/12/20	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire
				922 days
	9	S	16/03/21	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire
				997 days
HT95333	1	N	23/06/18	Calf of Man
S49:M	3	S	15/11/18	Skerries, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				145 days 100 km (SW)
	7	S	07/07/20	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland
				745 days 72 km
				287deg (WNW)
		S	16/02/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland
				969 days
		S	13/05/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland
				1055 days
HT95338	1	N	24/06/18	Calf of Man
S57:M	3	S	03/10/18	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire
				101 days 96 km (WSW)
	5	S	14/01/19	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire
				204 days
	7	S	27/11/20	Cruisetown, Co. Louth, Eire
				887 days 97 km 256deg (WSW)
	7	S	19/12/20	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire
				909 days

	7	S	31/12/20	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 921 days
	9	S	17/09/21	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 1181 days
HT95351	1	N	09/07/18	Calf of Man
S73:M	9	S	03/09/21	Gothian Sands LNR, Gwithian, Cornwall 1179 days 426 km 186deg (S)
HT95373	1	N	21/06/19	Calf of Man
S77:M	7	S	01/05/21	At sea, Ringfad Point, Ardglass, Co. Down, N. Ireland 680 days 57 km 294deg (WNW) near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 770 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
HT95374	1	N	21/06/19	Calf of Man
S80:M	5	S	24/09/20	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 461 days 228 km (S)
	7	S	30/07/21	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 770 days
	7	S	05/08/21	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 776 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 83 km 270deg (W)
	7	S	06/01/21	Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 565 days 99 km 239deg (WSW)
HT95379	1	N	21/06/19	Calf of Man
S87:M	5	S	07/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 200 days 21 km 23deg (NNE)
	5	S	05/04/20	Peel, Isle of Man 299 days
		S	20/05/20	Peel, Isle of Man 334 days
	5	S	13/09/20	Peel, Isle of Man 450 days
		S	01/11/20	Ballywalter Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 499 days 71 km 323deg (NW)
		S	26/12/20	Peel, Isle of Man 554 days

Belated reports of several sightings in Peel during 2020

HT95382 S90:M	1	N	22/06/19	Calf of Man
		S	28/08/20	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
	7	S	11/07/21	433 days 6 km 91deg (E)
	7	S	12/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 750 days
	7	S	07/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 751 days
HT95389 M98:M	1	N	22/06/19	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 777 days
	5	S	18/09/20	Calf of Man
				Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire
	5	S	19/12/20	454 days 101 km 238deg (WSW)
				Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire
HT95396 M57:M				546 days 96 km (WSW)
	7	S	04/03/21	Ballyblack, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				621 days 61 km 306deg (NW)
	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
	3	S	01/09/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down,
				N. Ireland 67 days 57 km
				296deg (WNW)
HT95426 U25:M	3	S	14/09/19	St. John's Point Lighthouse, Co. Down,
				N. Ireland
				80 days 87 km (WNW)
	5	S	18/07/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
				388 days
	7	S	07/10/21	Dundrum Bay (Inner Bay), Co. Down,
				N. Ireland
HT95428 U29:M				834 days 71 km 289deg (WNW)
	7	S	08/10/21	Dundrum Bay (Inner Bay), Co. Down,
				N. Ireland
				835 days
HT95430 U33:M	1	N	17/06/21	Calf of Man
	3	S	29/07/21	Calf of Man 42 days
	3	S	09/10/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
HT95430 U33:M				114 days 6 km 91deg (E)
	1	N	17/06/21	Calf of Man
	3	S	21/09/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
HT95430 U33:M				96 days 6 km 91deg (E)
	1	N	17/06/21	Calf of Man
	3	S	15/08/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 59 days
HT95430 U33:M				5 km 91deg (E)
	3	S	25/09/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 100 days

	3	S	10/10/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 115 days 6 km 91deg (E)
HT95433	1	N	06/07/21	Calf of Man
U80:M	3	S	03/10/21	Clarach Bay, Aberystwyth, Wales 89 days 155 km (SSE)
HT95434	1	N	06/07/21	Calf of Man
U81:M	3	S	10/10/21	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales 96 days 143 km 180deg (S)
	3	S	11/10/21	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales 97 days
HT95438	1	N	06/07/21	Calf of Man
U86:M	3	S	24/10/21	Gothian Sands LNR, Gwithian, Cornwall 110 days 426 km 186deg (S)
HT95443	1	N	06/07/21	Calf of Man
U93:M	7	S	25/10/21	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 111 days 56 km 303deg (WNW)
HT95457	1	N	18/07/19	Calf of Man
M64:M	5	S	03/12/20	Forlorn Point, Kilmore Quay, Co. Wexford, Eire 504 days 241 km 210deg (SSW)
HT95462	1	N	18/07/19	Calf of Man
M56:M	7	S	22/06/21	Shenick Island, Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 705 days 99 km 238deg (WSW)
HT95471	1	N	20/06/20	Calf of Man
M68:M	5	S	17/11/21	Gann Estuary, Dale, Pembrokeshire, Wales 515 days 210km (S)
HT95477	1	N	06/07/20	Calf of Man
M93:M	3	S	31/08/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 56 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	21/02/21	Dawlish Warren, Devon 230 days 349 km SSE
	5	S	11/08/21	Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales 401 days 314 km 161deg (SSE)
	5	S	26/12/21	Penarth Portway, Cardiff Bay, Wales 538 days 278 km (SSE)

HT95492	1	N	18/07/20	Calf of Man
M75:M	3	R	06/09/20	Calf of Man 50 days
	3	S	03/12/20	Bangor Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 138 days 89 km 321deg (NW)
		xA	05/12/20	Kilkeel Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 140 days 78 km 272deg (W)
MA28260	1	N	14/07/21	Calf of Man
U55:M	3	S	03/09/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 51 days 6 km 72deg (ENE)
	3	S	02/12/21	Portavogie, Co. Down, N. Ireland 141 days 60 km 318deg (NW)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	2	6	2	2	1	1
2021	0	3	3	0	0	1

	FRANCE	MOROCCO	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
Up to 2020	1	1	45	11
2021	0	0	2	0

GR64679	1	N	13/07/12	Calf of Man
T5ZH	7	S	16/01/14	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 552 days 1904 km (S)
	7	S	18/02/14	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 585 days
	9	S	29/01/15	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 930 days
	9	S	28/02/15	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 960 days
	9	S	04/03/15	Quarteira Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 964 days
	10	S	26/03/16	Ericeira, Lisboa, PORTUGAL 1352 days 1712 km (SSW)
	10	S	23/02/18	Sesimbra, Setubal, PORTUGAL 2051 days 1735 km (S)
	10	S	14/09/20	Treogat, Finistere, FRANCE 2985 days 619 km (S)
	10	S	07/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 3281 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)

	10	S	11/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 3285 days
GR64878	1	N	17/07/13	Calf of Man
		V	20/06/19	Staple Island, Farne Islands, Northumberland 2164 days 268 km 50deg (NE)
		xL	01/04/21	Fonte de Telha, Setubal, PORTUGAL 2815 days 1752 km 191deg (SSW)
GR98917 T60:M	1	N	24/06/15	Calf of Man
	3	S	23/10/15	Tavira Salt Lakes, Faro, PORTUGAL 121 days 1894 km 187deg (S)
	3	S	26/12/15	Olhao Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 185 days 1907 km (S)
	7	S	10/05/17	Neven Estuary, Newport, Pembrokeshire, Wales 686 days 228 km 181deg (S)
	10	S	03/01/19	Cortelha, PORTUGAL 1289 days 1899 km (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	23/01/20	Barra de Fusetta, Algarve, PORTUGAL 1674 days 1905 km (S)
	10	S	10/09/20	Barra de Fusetta, Algarve, PORTUGAL 1905 days
	10	S	08/12/20	Olhao Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 1994 days
	10	S	09/10/21	Barra de Fusetta, Algarve, PORTUGAL 1905 days

The above include an additional record for 23rd January 2020. This bird 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 us.

GR99031 L38:M	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
	5	S	29/07/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 392 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	22/08/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 416 days
	9	S	14/06/20	Calf of Man 1078 days
	9	S	04/07/20	Calf of Man 1098 days
	10	S	10/10/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1561 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)

GR99044	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man (Rarick)
L51:M	10	S	25/05/21	Calf of Man (Cow Harbour) 1423 days
		x	05/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
				1495 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GR99096	10	N	03/06/19	Calf of Man
T2VL	10	S	25/02/21	Lower Town, Fishguard Harbour,
				Pembrokeshire, Wales
				633 days 228 km S
	10	S	07/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
				796 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GY06341	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T0VB	5	S	19/11/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire
				505 days 102 km 245deg (WSW)
GY06348	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T1VF	5	S	27/06/20	Shawell A5 Lagoons, Leicestershire
				360 days 279 km (SE)
	7	S	15/05/21	Cotesbach Landfill, Leicestershire
				682 days 302 km (SE)
GY06440	10	N	24/03/20	Calf of Man
T9YE	10	S	04/02/21	Lower Compton Landfill, Wiltshire
				317 days 299 km (SE)
	10	S	13/02/21	Lower Compton Landfill, Wiltshire
				326 days

An adult dazzled at the Kione ny Halby colony early in the 2020 season, subsequently seen in Wiltshire, presumably on its way back north from its wintering grounds.

Herring Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Irish Sea
Up to 2020	198	159	256	149	23	30	4
2021	35	6	56	22	0	3	0

	DENMARK	FRANCE	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2020	2	1	3

GR64588	1	N	01/07/12	Calf of Man
T7UH	10	S	09/07/17	Calf of Man 1834 days
	10	S	09/07/18	Calf of Man 2199 days

	10	S	10/05/19	Calf of Man 2520 days
	10	S	11/09/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 3359 days 72 km 287deg (WNW)
GR64589	1	N	01/07/12	Calf of Man
T9UH	10	S	08/07/17	Calf of Man
	10	S	11/07/17	Calf of Man
	10	S	04/07/18	Calf of Man
	10	S	08/04/19	Calf of Man
	10	S	12/04/19	Calf of Man
	10	S	04/07/20	Calf of Man
	10	S	02/05/21	Calf of Man
	10	S	23/05/21	Calf of Man
	10	S	15/07/21	Calf of Man
	10	S	01/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 3318 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
	10	S	03/09/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 3351 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GR64627	1	N	07/07/12	Calf of Man
T9UL	10	S	13/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 3324 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GR64647	1	N	09/07/12	Calf of Man
T6UN	10	S	11/08/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 2224 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)
	10	S	13/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 3322 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GR64693	1	N	23/06/13	Calf of Man
T0ZN	10	S	13/07/17	Calf of Man 1481 days
	10	S	27/06/18	Calf of Man 1830 days
	10	S	22/03/19	Croit-e-Caley, Colby, Isle of Man 2098 days 6 km ENE
	10	S	26/04/19	Calf of Man 2133 days
GR64719	1	N	23/06/13	Calf of Man
T4ZP	8	S	22/05/15	Peel, Isle of Man 698 days 18 km 22deg (NNE)
		S	15/11/16	Peel, Isle of Man 1241 days
		S	05/04/20	Peel, Isle of Man 2478 days
	8	S	20/09/20	Peel, Isle of Man 2646 days

GR64891	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
T4YA	10	S	07/08/21	Ramsey, Isle of Man 2602 days 40 km 46deg (NE)
GR64913	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
T8YC	10	S	03/09/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 2629 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GR64916	1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
T8ZV	10	S	07/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 2602 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
	10	S	13/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 2608 days
GR64955	1	N	24/06/14	Calf of Man
T9YH	10	S	12/10/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 2667 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
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 57 km 294deg (WNW)
	10	S	30/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 2232 days 6 km 75deg (ENE)
GR98814	1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
R67:M	3	S	21/10/15	Peel, Isle of Man 123 days 21 km 23deg (NNE)
	5	S	17/02/16	Castletown, Isle of Man 242 days 10 km 80deg (E)
	9	S	19/06/18	Peel, Isle of Man 1095 days 19 km 25deg (NNE)
	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	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1896 days 6 km 91deg (E)
	10	S	03/09/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 2267 days 5 km 91deg (E)
GR98845	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
R24:M	7	S	19/02/17	Strandhall, Isle of Man 608 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)
	10	S	03/09/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 2265 days

GR98852	1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
R02:M		S	23/08/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man
	10	S	10/10/20	1889 days 9 km 65deg (ENE) Strandhall, Isle of Man 1937 days
GR98865	1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
R64:M	8	S	17/03/19	Croit-e-Caley, Isle of Man
	10	S	03/04/19	1363 days 6 km 72deg (ENE) 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
	10	S	14/08/20	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1879 days 6km NE
	10	S	11/09/20	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1907 days
	10	S	29/07/21	Calf of Man 2228 days
	10	S	13/08/21	Calf of Man 2243 days
	10	S	15/08/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 2245 days 5 km 67deg (E)
	10	S	03/09/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 2264 days 7 km ENE

An additional report for 2020 plus further sightings from this year. This individual is likely to be breeding on the Calf and would appear to prefer foraging along the nearby coast.

GR98983	1	N	24/06/16	Calf of Man
	10	V	11/02/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 1693 days 129 km 222deg (SW)
GR99006	1	N	24/06/16	Calf of Man
	10	V	21/11/21	Wanstead Flats, Greater London 1976 days 428 km 131deg (SE)
	10	V	28/11/21	Wanstead Flats, Greater London 1983 days

One of our most south and easterly recoveries ever.

GR99078	10	N	26/04/19	Calf of Man
T9VP	10	S	03/09/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 861 days 8 km ENE

GR99082	7	N	26/04/19	Calf of Man
T9VL	10	S	26/09/21	Castletown, Isle of Man 884 days 10 km 80deg (E)
GR99092	10	N	08/05/19	Calf of Man
T4VL	10	S	15/12/20	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 587 days 5 km 67deg (ENE)
	10	S	03/09/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 849 days 8 km 61deg (ENE)
GV61729	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
T42:M	3	S	15/07/17	Calf of Man 13 days
	10	S	03/09/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 1524 days 8 km ENE
GV61732	1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
L67:M	10	S	26/05/21	Castletown, Isle of Man 1424 days 12 km E
GV61885	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
T7WB	5	S	22/11/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 518 days 104 km 244deg (WSW)
GV61889	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
T8WT	7	S	30/03/21	Heysham Harbour, Heysham, Lancashire 646 days 123 km 92deg (E)
GV61892	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
T3WA	7	S	12/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 750 days 6 km 91deg (E)
GV61904	1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
T9WB	7	S	04/08/21	between Malahide & Swords, Co. Dublin, Eire 773 days 113 km 233deg (SW)
GV61920	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
T4VG	3	S	19/09/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 85 days 129 km 222deg (SW)

Also reported at Bray Harbour on an additional five dates up to 21st October 2019

5	S	24/05/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 333 days
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5	S	25/05/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 334 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

An additional report for 25th May 2020

GV61922 T8VN	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
	7	S	13/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 779 days 6 km 91deg (E)
GV61924 T4VP	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
	5	S	10/10/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man 472 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
	7	S	28/07/21	Calf of Man 763 days
	7	S	30/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 765 days 6 km 91deg (E)
GV61929 T5VN	1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
	7	S	07/09/21	Calf of Man 804 days
	7	S	09/10/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 836 days 6 km 91deg (E)
GV61948 T1WC	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
	5	S	27/11/20	Cruisetown, Co. Louth, Eire 519 days 97 km 256deg (WSW)
GV61952 TOYS	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
	3	S	16/11/19	Ballawattleworth Farm, Peel, Isle of Man 142 days 21 km 26deg (NNE)
	5	S	04/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 191 days 21 km 23deg (NNE)
	5	S	12/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 199 days
	5	S	15/01/20	Peel, Isle of Man 202 days
	5	S	26/12/20	Peel, Isle of Man 548 days
	7	S	28/03/21	Peel, Isle of Man 640 days

GV61953	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T9YS	7	S	12/09/21	Roosebeck, Cumbria 808 days 105 km (E)
GV61958	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T2YS	7	S	11/09/21	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 807 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
GV61961	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T1YU	3	S	09/09/19	Sandymount Strand, Co. Dublin, Eire 74 days 121 km (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 121 km 226deg (SW)
	5	S	24/03/20	Mosney Beach, Co. Louth, Eire 271 days 102 km 248deg (WSW)
	5	S	04/07/20	Bray Head, Co. Dublin, Eire 373 days 129 km 222deg (SW)
	5	S	18/07/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 387 days 127 km 222deg (SW)

Includes additional reports for 24th March and 4th July 2020

GV61963	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T2YU	3	S	06/12/19	Peel, Isle of Man 162 days 21 km 23deg (NNE)
	5	S	20/01/20	Bull Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 207 days 116 km 230deg (SW)
	5	S	07/11/20	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 499 days 6 km 72deg (ENE)
	7	R	03/01/21	Dublin Port, Co. Dublin, Eire 556 days 121 km 230deg (SW)
GV61971	1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
T8YV	3	S	17/10/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 112 days 100 km (W)
	5	S	29/01/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 216 days 127 km 222deg (SW)

Also reported at Bray Harbour on a further two dates up to 5th February 2020.

5	S	14/04/20	Tolka / Fairview, Co. Dublin, Eire 292 days 121 km 231deg (SW)
5	S	25/04/20	Tolka / Fairview, Co. Dublin, Eire 303 days

Also reported at Bray Harbour on a further four dates between 4th July – 15th August 2020.

	5	S	17/09/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 448 days 102 km 245deg (WSW)
	7	S	06/01/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 559 days
GV61990	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T3WF	7	S	29/04/21	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 669 days 56 km 303deg (WNW)
	7	S	13/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 775 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GV61992	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T6WG	7	S	24/04/21	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Wales 664 days 228 km S
GV61994	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T3WG	3	S	31/12/19	Peel, Isle of Man 184 days 21 km 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 345 days 57 km 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
	7	S	15/08/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 777 days 6 km 72deg (ENE)
	7	S	03/09/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 796 days

GY06252	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T1WF	3	S	27/12/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 180 days 127 km 222deg (SW)
Also reported at Bray Harboour on a further 14 sightings between 25 th February 2020 to 12 th February 2021.				
	7	S	20/02/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 601 days
	7	S	27/04/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 667 days
	7	S	30/04/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 670 days
GY06253	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T2WF	7	S	09/09/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 802 days 71 km 287deg (WNW)
GY06255	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T0WH	7	S	14/08/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 776 days 6 km 72deg (ENE)
GY06256	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T8WF	5	S	11/09/20	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 439 days 7 km 61deg (ENE)
	7	S	31/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 762 days
GY06259	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T5WF	7	S	07/02/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 588 days 127 km 222deg (SW)
GY06262	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T6WF		S	11/09/20	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 439 days 8 km 61deg (ENE)
		S	26/07/21	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 757 days 56 km 303deg (WNW)
	7	S	19/09/21	New Quay, Ceredigion, Wales 812 days 190 km (S)

Including belated details of a 2020 recovery

GY06283	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T4YZ	3	S	06/11/19	Dun Laoghaire Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 129 days 111 km (SW)
	5	S	29/05/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 334 days 127 km 222deg (SW)
	5	S	11/06/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 347 days
	5	S	30/07/20	Ben Head, Gormaston, Co. Dublin, Eire 396 days 102 km 245deg (WSW)
	7	S	12/02/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 593 days
	7	S	13/02/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 594 days
	7	S	21/02/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 602 days

An additional sighting for 29th May 2020 is included above.

GY06285	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T1YZ	5	S	21/03/20	Grange Castle Bus Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 265 days 134 km 234deg (SW)
	5	S	20/09/20	Grange Castle Bus Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 448 days
	7	S	03/01/21	Grange Castle Bus Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 553 days

GY06296	1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
T1YX	5	S	02/07/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 368 days 102 km 245deg (WSW)
	7	S	07/02/21	Broadmeadows, Co. Dublin, Eire 588 days 111 km 235deg (SW)

GY06297	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T8YW	7	S	10/03/21	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 616 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
		S	08/08/21	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 767 days 56 km 303deg (WNW)

GY06300	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
T2YX	5	S	28/09/20	Broadmeadows, Co. Dublin, Eire 453 days 112 km 235deg (SW)
	7	S	15/09/21	Booterstown / Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Eire 805 days 122 km 228deg (SW)

GY06303 T2YZ	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
	3	S	27/10/19	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
	7	S	10/10/21	116 days 7 km 75deg (ENE) near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 830 days
GY06313 T6YY	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
	7	S	03/04/21	Broadmeadows, Co. Dublin, Eire 640 days 111 km 235deg (SW)
GY06317 T3YY	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
	3	S	10/11/19	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 130 days 133 km 231deg (SW)
	3	S	21/12/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 171 days 127 km 222deg (SW)
	5	S	05/03/20	Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, Eire 246 days 144 km 215deg (SW)
	5	S	09/06/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 342 days 102 km 245deg (WSW)
	5	S	14/06/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 347 days
	7	S	15/09/21	Bull Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 805 days 116 km 230deg (SW)
GY06324 T2VE	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
	5	S	18/03/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 259 days 127 km 222deg (SW)
GY06338 T6VE	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
	7	S	13/05/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 680 days 72 km 287deg (WNW)
		S	09/08/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 768 days
		S	22/09/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 812 days
	7	S	27/09/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 817 days
	7	S	07/10/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 827 days
	7	S	08/10/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 828 days

GY06354 T1VC	1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
	5	S	10/10/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man 465 days 5 km 65deg (ENE)
	7	S	17/07/21	Calf of Man
	7	S	16/09/21	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 806 days 56 km 303deg (WNW)
	7	S	30/09/21	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 820 days
	7	S	25/10/21	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 845 days
GY06404 T5YR	1	N	13/07/19	Calf of Man
	7	S	03/09/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 783 days 5 km 91deg (E)
GY06410 T0YR	1	N	13/07/19	Calf of Man
	5	S	12/02/20	Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 214 days 101 km 238deg (WSW)
	7	S	13/02/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 581 days 127 km 222deg (SW)
GY06414 T3YP	1	N	12/07/19	Calf of Man
	7	S	25/10/21	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 836 days 56 km 303deg (WNW)
GY06455 T4WM	1	N	17/07/20	Calf of Man
		xA	26/12/20	Longtown, Cumbria 162 days 138 km (NE)
GY06462	1	N	18/07/20	Calf of Man
		xA	27/12/20	Port Erin, Isle of Man 162 days 5 km 42deg (NE)
GY06473 T8WY	10	N	12/09/20	Calf of Man
	10	S	07/11/20	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 56 days 5 km 91deg (E)
	10	S	15/08/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 337 days
	10	S	03/09/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 356 days

	10	S	13/09/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 366 days
	10	S	25/09/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 378 days
GY06477 T4WU	10	N	22/10/20	Calf of Man
		xA	27/03/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 156 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GY06480 T5YN	10	N	07/05/21	Calf of Man
	10	S	03/09/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 119 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)
GY06489 J04:M	1	N	17/06/21	Calf of Man
	3	S	09/10/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 114 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
	3	S	12/10/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 117 days 7 km 65deg (ENE)
GY06509 K73:M	1	N	15/07/21	Calf of Man
	3	S	28/08/21	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 44 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
GY06523 K87:M	1	N	19/07/21	Calf of Man
	3	S	17/09/21	Clogher Head, Port Oriel, Co. Louth, Eire 60 days 100 km 251deg (WSW)
GY06553 U64:M	10	N	31/10/21	Calf of Man
	3	S	03/11/21	Port Erin, Isle of Man 3 days 5 km 31deg (NNE)
GY20516 T5WZ	1	N	30/06/20	Calf of Man
	3	S	08/08/20	Calf of Man 39 days
	3	S	26/11/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 149 days 102 km 245deg (WSW)
GY20517 T6WZ	1	N	30/06/20	Calf of Man
	3	S	20/12/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 173 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
GY20519 T8WZ	1	N	30/06/20	Calf of Man
	3	S	11/09/20	Boosterstown / Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Eire 73 days 122 km 228deg (SW)

GY20522	1	N	02/07/20	Calf of Man
T1XE	3	S	26/08/20	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland
	3	S	04/09/20	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland
	3	S	11/11/20	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland
	5	S	04/02/21	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland

Includes an additional sighting from 4th September 2020

GY20531	1	N	06/07/20	Calf of Man
TOWR	3	S	17/09/20	Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	3	S	01/12/20	Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	3	S	30/12/20	Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, Eire
	5	S	21/05/21	Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, Eire

GY20542	1	N	08/07/20	Calf of Man
T1WL	5	S	01/11/20	Peel Harbour, Isle of Man

116 days 21 km 23deg (NNE)

GY20544	1	N	08/07/20	Calf of Man
T3WL	5	S	27/02/21	St. John's Arboretum, Isle of Man

234 days 21 km 36deg (NE)

GY20545	1	N	08/07/20	Calf of Man
T4WL	5	S	07/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man

364 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)

GY20550	1	N	11/07/20	Calf of Man
T9WL	5	S	02/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man

387 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)

GY20557	1	N	26/06/21	Calf of Man
J23:M	3	S	08/09/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire

74 days 127 km 222deg (SW)

GY20561	1	N	26/06/21	Calf of Man
J27:M	3	S	16/09/21	Whitehead, Belfast Lough, N. Ireland 82 days 97 km 324deg (NW)
GY20569	1	N	26/06/21	Calf of Man
J35:M	3	S	09/10/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 105 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GY20570	1	N	26/06/21	Calf of Man
J36:M		xA	08/08/21	Quine's Hill, near Santon, Isle of Man 43 days 20 km 69deg (ENE)
GY20580	1	N	27/06/21	Calf of Man
J46:M	3	S	28/07/21	Calf of Man 31 days
	3	S	13/09/21	Port Erin, Isle of Man 78 days 3 km 50deg (NE)
GY20581	1	N	27/06/21	Calf of Man
J47:M	3	S	09/10/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 104 days 6 km 75deg (ENE)
GY20588	1	N	27/06/21	Calf of Man
J54:M	3	S	02/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 36 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GY20589	1	N	27/06/21	Calf of Man
J55:M	3	S	15/08/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 49 days 5 km 91deg (E)
GY20594	1	N	27/06/21	Calf of Man
J60:M	3	S	26/09/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 91 days 6 km 75deg (ENE)
GY20605	1	N	27/06/21	Calf of Man
J71:M	3	S	18/12/21	Seaforth Nature Reserve, Merseyside 174 days 121 km (ESE)
GY20645	1	N	03/07/21	Calf of Man
K09:M	3	S	11/09/21	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 70 days 71 km 287deg (WNW)

GY20648	1	N	03/07/21	Calf of Man
K12:M	3	S	29/11/21	Kinnegar Beach, Belfast Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 149 days 94 km 314deg (NW)
GY20677	1	N	06/07/21	Calf of Man
K41:M	3	S	29/08/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 54 days 127 km 222deg (SW)

Sparrowhawk

	England	IOM
Up to 2020	2	15
2021	0	1

EZ87385	3F	N	21/09/20	Calf of Man
		xA	19/01/21	Ballahick, Isle of Man 120 days 13 km (ENE)

Blackbird

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	14	53	38	5	7	1
2021	1	0	0	0	0	0

	DENMARK	FINLAND	FRANCE	GERMANY	NORWAY
Up to 2020	15	3	1	8	23
2021	0	0	0	0	1

	SPAIN	SWEDEN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2020	1	11	8
2021	0	0	0

LJ44169	6F	N	08/04/18	Calf of Man
		xA	08/01/21	Chutehall, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Eire 1006 days 379 km 239deg (WSW)

Eleven of the 14 previous Eire recoveries were also reported during the winter.

LJ44247	4M	N	28/10/18	Calf of Man
		xA	28/08/21	Tangenveien, Svelvik, Vestfold, NORWAY 1035 days 1112 km 56deg (ENE)

A typical recovery confirming the origin of many Blackbirds that pass through the Calf in autumn.

Wheatear

	Channel Islands	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	1	7	3	1	7
2021	0	2	0	0	0

	ALGERIA	FRANCE	GERMANY	MOROCCO	SPAIN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2020	1	1	2	6	1	1

AFL2826	3J	N	17/07/21	Calf of Man
	3	S	04/09/21	Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland
				49 days 263 km 44deg (NE)

This recovery suggests that some of our birds may head east before moving south during autumn passage.

AFL2953	3J	N	26/07/21	Calf of Man
		S	11/08/21	Rainham Marshes RSPB, Thurrock, Essex
				16 days 443 km 131deg (SE)

A more typical southerly movement en-route to its wintering grounds of north and central Africa.



The colour-ringing of Wheatears, on the Calf, has been carried out since 2014 with 16 of the 18 reports being a direct result of birds being colour-ringed. Both AFL2826 and AFL2953 were reported by birdwatchers that managed to obtain photographs of the colour-rings.

Chiffchaff

	Eire	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	2	14	9	1	3
2021	0	0	0	0	1

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

LDC654	4	N	01/06/21	Calf of Man
	4	R	06/06/21	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
				5 days 143 km 180deg (S)

Blackcap

	England	IOM	FRANCE
Up to 2020	2	2	2
2021	0	0	0

ADB3699	4M	N	26/04/19	Calf of Man
	5M	R	27/04/19	Hilbre Island, Wirral, Merseyside
				1 day 129 km 127deg (SE)
	5M	R	29/04/19	Hilbre Island, Wirral, Merseyside
				3 days

A late additional report from 2019.

Goldcrest

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK Channel
Up to 2020	1	50	77	3	4	13	1
2021	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE
Up to 2020	2	1

LDC148	3M	N	22/09/20	Calf of Man
	4M	R	16/10/21	Bowthorpe Hall, North Yorkshire
				389 days 255 km 97deg (E)
LDD053	3M	N	15/09/21	Calf of Man
	3M	R	17/09/21	Calf of Man 2 days
	3M	R	13/11/21	Hogchester Nature Reserve, Dorset
				59 days 389 km 161deg (SSE)

Coal Tit

	IOM
Up to 2020	11
2021	1

AFL1761	3	N	21/10/20	Calf of Man
	3	R	28/12/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 68 days
				7 km 56deg (ENE)

Blue Tit

	IOM	Scotland
Up to 2020	51	1
2021	2	0

AFL3653	3	N	27/09/20	Calf of Man
	5	R	06/03/21	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 160 days 7 km 56deg (ENE)
	5	R	20/03/21	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 174 days

Great Tit

	IOM	Northern Ireland
Up to 2020	46	2
2021	6	0

ADB2925	3M	N	25/10/18	Calf of Man
	4M	R	22/12/20	St. John's, Isle of Man 789 days 21 km 36deg (NE)
AFL1428	3M	N	13/10/20	Calf of Man
	xA		29/01/21	Andreas, Isle of Man 108 days 41 km 36deg (NE)
AFL1530	3M	N	14/10/20	Calf of Man
	3M	R	25/12/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 75 days 7 km 56deg (ENE)
AFL1531	3F	N	14/10/20	Calf of Man
	3F	R	25/12/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 72 days 7 km 56deg (ENE)
	3F	R	28/12/20	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 75 days
AFL3858	3F	N	01/10/20	Calf of Man
	3F	R	02/10/20	Calf of Man 1 day
	5F	R	24/01/21	Ballagawne, Isle of Man 115 days 7 km 56deg (ENE)

Chough

	IOM	Northern Ireland
Up to 2020	91	1
2021	2	0

EY88155	1	N	15/05/16	Calf of Man
Y,R B,M	3	S	14/09/16	Calf of Man 122 days
	4	S	16/11/18	Langness, Isle of Man 915 days 13 km (E)
	4	S	04/01/19	Derbyhaven, Isle of Man 964 days 13 km

EY88462	6	N	18/05/17	Calf of Man
G,M G,W	2	S	24/08/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 463 days 7 km (ENE)
	2	S	31/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 531 days
	2	S	29/12/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 590 days
	4	S	04/01/19	Strandhall, Isle of Man 596 days
	4	S	02/06/19	Calf of Man 745 days
	4	S	11/06/19	Calf of Man 754 days
EY88470	1	N	23/05/17	Calf of Man
G,M N,B	3	S	20/07/17	Calf of Man 58 days
	4	S	10/06/18	Langness, Isle of Man 383 days 13 km (E)
	4	S	16/11/18	Langness, Isle of Man 542 days
	4	S	14/04/19	Derbyhaven, Isle of Man 691 days 13 km
	4	S	19/03/20	Castletown Bay, Isle of Man 1031 days 10 km
EZ87072	4F	N	07/07/18	Calf of Man
Y,M Y,N	2	S	28/12/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 174 days 10 km
	2	S	07/11/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man 854 days
EZ87093	4	N	05/08/18	Calf of Man
B,R R,M	2	S	24/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 80 days 7 km (ENE)
	2	S	31/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 87 days
	2	S	29/12/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 146 days
	2	S	04/01/19	Strandhall, Isle of Man 152 days
	2	S	29/09/19	Strandhall, Isle of Man 420 days
	2	S	31/12/20	Strandhall, Isle of Man 513 days
	2	S	07/08/20	Calf of Man 733 days
	2	S	14/11/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 1197 days 10 km
EL87811	1	N	05/06/13	Calf of Man
R,M Y,O	4	S	12/07/15	Calf of Man
	2	S	24/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 1967 days 7 km (ENE)
	2	S	31/10/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 1974 days
	2	S	29/12/18	Strandhall, Isle of Man 2033 days

Goldfinch

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	2	23	24	5	17	6
2021	1	0	1	0	4	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	SPAIN
Up to 2020	1	6	1
2021	1	0	0

ADB1675 3J N 08/09/18 Calf of Man
 4M R 23/11/21 St. Johns, Isle of Man
 1172 days 21 km 36deg (NE)

ADB3575 5F N 20/04/19 Calf of Man
 5M R 23/02/20 Sint Michiels, West-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM
 309 days 629 km 121deg (ESE)

ADB3575 is only our second recovery from Belgium.

AFL2965 3J N 27/07/21 Calf of Man
 + 17/10/21 Dundalk, Co. Louth, Eire
 82 days 105 km 267deg (W)

Caught by predator but later released.

AFE8861 3M N 25/10/19 Calf of Man
 6M R 26/03/21 Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway,
 Scotland
 518 days 100 km 350deg (N)
 6M R 20/06/21 Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway,
 Scotland
 604 days
 4M R 06/09/21 Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway,
 Scotland
 682 days

AFE9055 5F N 20/03/20 Calf of Man
 6F R 29/03/21 Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway,
 Scotland
 374 days 100 km 350deg (N)

Chaffinch

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	3	19	55	4	15	4
2021	0	0	2	0	3	0

Up to 2020	NORWAY		SWEDEN	THE NETHERLANDS
	1		1	1
ADB2472	3F	N	05/10/18	Calf of Man
		xA	09/10/21	Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland 1100 days 201 km 5deg (N)
FE8961	3F	N	03/11/19	Calf of Man
		xA	24/01/21	Colby, Isle of Man 448 days 11 km 58deg (ENE)
AFL1145	3F	N	08/10/20	Calf of Man
	4F	R	06/11/21	Morar, Highland, Scotland 394 days 331 km 350deg (N)
AFL1623	3F	N	16/10/20	Calf of Man
		xA	10/05/21	New Galloway, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland 206 days 121 km 21deg (NNE)
X211495	5M	N	12/04/10	Calf of Man
		xA	24/10/20	Fistard, Port St Mary, Isle of Man 3848 days 5 km 67deg (ENE)

X211495 sets a new longevity record for the Calf at 10.5 years and would have been over 11 years old having been hatched in 2009. Unfortunately, this bird was killed by a cat and was therefore not able to challenge the BTO longevity record of 13yrs, 11 months and 24 days.

2021 Controls

Controls are birds ringed elsewhere and caught subsequently on the Calf. A total of 28 reports were received in 2021.

Ring Number	Age/ Sex Code	Date	Location Details
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Manx Shearwater

	Northern Ireland	Wales
Up to 2020	53	14
2021	4	2

EG63295	1	N	05/09/02	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	6	R	14/05/07	Calf of Man 1712 days 85 km 147deg (SSE)
	6	R	23/06/21	Calf of Man 6866 days
EL91839	1	N	03/09/07	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	6	R	14/05/21	Calf of Man 5002 days 85 km 147deg (SSE)
EL91930	1	N	07/09/07	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	6	R	23/05/21	Calf of Man 5007 days 85 km 147deg (SSE)
EW82435	4	N	18/07/09	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	6	R	31/08/21	Calf of Man 4427 days 85 km 147deg (SSE)
FB39387	4	N	17/07/21	Porth Iago, Llangwnnadr, Gwynedd, Wales
	6	R	28/04/21	Calf of Man 285 days 134 km 358deg (N)
	6	R	03/05/21	Calf of Man 290 days
	6	R	17/05/21	Calf of Man 304 days
FB52191	4	N	14/08/17	West Coast, Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
	6	R	10/05/21	Calf of Man 1365 days 143 km 0deg (N)

Further evidence of the important role that birds bred on Copeland have played in the recolonisation of the Calf by Manx Shearwaters

Storm Petrel

	Channel Islands	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	1	82	83	9	85	364	58
2021	0	0	1	0	1	2	2

	PORTUGAL
Up to 2020	8

2468525	4	N	02/08/20	Portknockie, Moray, Scotland
	4	R	23/06/21	Calf of Man
				325 days 424 km 197deg (SSW)
2619744	4	N	17/07/21	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland
	4	R	23/07/21	Calf of Man
				6 days 85 km 147deg (SSE)
2679576	6	N	01/07/15	Lunga, Treshnish Isles, Argyll & Bute, Scotland
	4	R	03/08/21	Calf of Man
				2225 days 290 km 160deg (SSE)
2715268	4	N	30/07/18	Whitburn Country Park, Tyne and Wear
	4	R	07/06/21	Calf of Man
				1043 days 244 km 246deg (WSW)
2738278	4	N	14/07/20	Bae y Rhigol, Bardsey, Gwynedd, Wales
	4	R	02/07/21	Calf of Man
				353 days 143 km 360deg (N)
2765889	4	N	10/08/20	Bae y Rhigol, Bardsey, Gwynedd, Wales
	4	R	17/07/21	Calf of Man
				341 days 143 km 360deg (N)

Herring Gull

	IOM	Northern Ireland	Wales
Up to 2020	10	1	1
2021	3	0	0

GR48859	1	N	04/07/12	Point of Ayre Gravel Pits, Isle of Man
T0ZJ	10	S	26/07/21	Calf of Man 3309 days 46 km 217deg (SW)
GR94866	1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
R09:M	5	S	17/01/16	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 211 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
	5	S	12/04/16	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dunlin, Eire 297 days 135 km 230deg (SW)
	9	S	11/08/18	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 1148 days 100 km WSW
	9	S	01/12/18	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 1260 days 100 km SW
	10	S	08/06/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1449 days
	10	S	25/05/21	Calf of Man 2166 days
	10	S	28/07/21	Calf of Man 2230 days
	10	S	30/07/21	Calf of Man 2232 days
	10	S	13/08/21	Calf of Man 2246 days
	10	S	03/09/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 2267 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
GR97473	6	N	08/07/15	Peel Bay
V18:M	10	S	16/07/17	Calf of Man 739 days 21 km 203deg (SSW)
	10	S	02/07/18	Calf of Man 1090 days
	10	S	08/07/18	Calf of Man 1096 days
	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 1906 days 7km (NE)
	10	S	06/11/20	Calf of Man 1948 days
	10	S	26/07/21	Calf of Man 2210 days
	10	S	17/08/21	Calf of Man 2232 days

Great Black-backed Gull

	Eire
Up to 2020	4
2021	1

MA55553 1 N 22/06/21 Lambay East, Co. Down, Eire
 3 S 14/10/21 Calf of Man
 114 days 99 km 52deg (NE)

This and other recent sightings are showing an interchange between birds bred in Ireland that visit the Calf and vice versa.

Willow Warbler

	Channel Islands	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	2	1	43	6	3	19	13
2021	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2020	5	5	1

JBV491 3J N 04/07/20 Auchenheew Bay, North Ayrshire, Scotland
 4 R 15/08/21 Calf of Man
 407 days 156 km 173deg (S)

A typical control and one that illustrates the likely natal area of some of the Willow Warblers that pass through the Calf.

Blackcap

	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2020	4	1	1	1
2021	1	0	0	1

	BELGIUM	DENMARK	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2020	1	1	2

ARR7089 3M N 24/09/21 Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, Wales
 3M R 03/10/21 Calf of Man
 9 days 263 km 7deg (N)

An interesting northerly movement when we would expect birds to be moving south for winter. Potentially this may be a bird that will winter in the British Isles?

Z750978 5F N 03/04/21 Brook Vale, Liverpool, Merseyside
 4F R 19/10/21 Calf of Man
 199 days 136 km 299deg (WNW)

Sedge Warbler

	Eire	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland
Up to 2020	2	14	1	1

	FRANCE	NORWAY	SENEGAL	SPAIN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2020	20	1	2	2	1
2021	1	0	0	0	0

FRP

8932004	4	N	12/08/20	RCFS Migron, Frossay, Loire-Atlantique FRANCE
	4	R	23/04/21	Calf of Man 254 days 783 km 345deg (NNW)

Blue Tit

	IOM
Up to 2020	32
2021	4

S999139	3	N	10/10/21	Ballagawne, Isle of Man
	3	R	15/10/21	Calf of Man 5 days 7 km 236deg (WSW)

S999294	3	N	06/09/21	Close Taggart, near The Curraghs, Isle of Man
	3	R	15/10/21	Calf of Man 39 days 36 km 214deg (SW)
	3	R	16/10/21	Calf of Man 40 days
	3	R	21/10/21	Calf of Man 45 days

Lesser Redpoll

	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Wales
Up to 2020	45	1	7	1
2021	2	0	0	0

	BELGIUM
Up to 2020	1

ARN0415	3	N	18/10/20	Newbourne, Suffolk
	4	R	12/05/21	Calf of Man 206 days 466 km 299deg (WNW)

S744083	3	N	29/09/20	Landguard Point, Felixstowe, Suffolk
	4M	R	13/05/21	Calf of Man 226 days 473 km 300deg (WNW)

2021 Non-Avian Report

Mammals

Pygmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

36 records from 12th May and 6th November

The small and cute shrew 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.

An informal small mammal trapping was carried out for about 15 nights and was took place at Back Field, Observatory, and along the Silo bank but with none caught.

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

One was seen by a camera trap at the compost bin throughout winter and upon arrival Fenn traps were placed out with success with one dead on 26th April. A further individual was seen at the same place on 21st September and was consequently killed the very next day by a Fenn trap. Another sighting was made at the compost bin on 6th October which was dispatched by a Fenn trap on 15th October.

Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

Six records on 18th and 19th September

All six records found when flown, in the early hours, into a mist net at the Observatory with four on 18th September and two on 19th September.

Bat spp. (*Chiroptera spp.*)

21 records between 24th April and 17th October

One recorded on 24th April through nocturnal migration recorder at South Harbour with a further three on 25th April seen at Caigher through a thermal imagery camera. The thermal camera was deployed again on 3rd May with three bats flying around at South Harbour. One seen at South Harbour on 7th June was thought to be a Brown Long-eared Bat with another bat flying past Generator Barn on 21st June.

On 16th, 17th and 22nd July, single bats were seen at South Harbour.
On 27th August a bat seen flying low over the water at Millpond was thought to be a Daubenton's Bat.

On 6th, 8th, 9th, 12th and 18th September, sightings were made from around the Observatory, which are thought to be a Brown Long-eared Bat. Further sightings were made with one on 12th October, two on 17th October and one on 3rd November.

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

349 records from 22nd April and 4th November

There were numerous sightings of 'black' Rabbits throughout the year with peak counts of five on numerous dates. Sightings are mainly focussed within the Central Glen, with up to four seen regularly whilst other sightings were made towards Baie Fine/Amulty area and Big Head.

Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

162 records between 24th April and 30th October

This species was seen sporadically throughout the season with a peak count of seven on 31st August.

A tagged seal was found at Baie Fine (Yellow – 3084) on 7th September and was found again at Leodan on 13th September. It was later relocated for the final time at Cow Harbour on 23rd and 24th September. The seal was tagged at RSPCA Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre and Cattery on 27th October 2020 as a juvenile.

	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Max.	N/A	3	4	6	3	7	5	5	0

Grey Seal (*Halichoerus gryphus*)

11,586 records between 21st April and 6th October

As always Grey Seals are ever-present around the Calf being seen all year round. Undertaking monthly seal counts has resulted in a peak count of 297 on 30th June which is the highest total since 306 in 2016. The 'pupping' season has seen another good year with 58 pups born during autumn.

	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Max.	N/A	120	242	297	101	197	146	170	104

Cetaceans

Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

148 records between 25th April and 5th November

April saw two records on 25th and 29th which begun a very good season for this species. 21 records in May spread across nine dates whilst June was quieter with only 12 records of mostly singles. However, July saw near enough daily sightings with a peak count of 13 on 25th July. Sporadic counts were made thereafter throughout August and September with the final record being a single on 5th November seen off South Harbour. Sightings were seen mainly along Gibdale and Cow with sightings also made off Caigher and Lighthouses.

Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)

50 seen going through the Sound on 12th July were the only records of the year.

Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

48 records between 1st May and 22nd October

The first sighting of the year was two seen towards Chicken Rock on 1st May with another two off Gibdale on 2nd May. One off Gibdale on 6th June whilst in July there were seven records on three different dates. A pod of six was had on 23rd August with another two off Caigher on 14th September.

Another pod of six was seen off Culberty on 15th October with a peak count of 12 seen at the Sound on 19th October. The last record was of a pod of ten seen off Culberty on 22nd October.

Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)

71 records between 13th May and 30th October

Six on 13th May off Puddle started off an average year for this species with another three seen on 30th June. July was a good month with 35 records with sporadic sightings made throughout August and September. Three on 30th October seen within the Sound was the final record of the year. A peak count of seven was had off Lighthouses on 19th August.

Dolphin spp. (*Delphinus spp.*)

A sighting of two unidentified dolphins on 14th August were the only records of the year.

Minke Whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)

Seven records between 15th May and 24th October

A good year for this species with the first seen off Gibdale on 15th May. Three were seen a mile off Gibdale on 6th June whilst July saw singles on 18th and 27th. A final sighting was made on 24th October with a single seen off Baie Fine.

Fish

Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*)

Four records on three different dates

Two seen heading north past the Lighthouses on 15th May with another single below the Lighthouses on 19th May. Another single was seen on 24th July.

Starry Smooth-hound (*Mustelus asterias*)

One was seen at South Harbour on 20th September.

European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)

Six records on six different dates

A single on 19th and 22nd May seen by the sluice at Millpond. A single on 3rd June was at the unusual South Harbour with another seen on the small pond near South Harbour on 17th September. One was also seen at Millpond on 29th August. The final record was a single seen at the Mill on 10th October.

Blenny (*Lipophrys pholis*)

Four seen at South Harbour on 3rd June with a single seen at Cow Harbour on 24th June and 6th July.

Reptiles

Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*)

37 records between 24th April and 21st September

A quiet year for this species with the first sighting of the year seen at Gibdale on 24th April. Sporadic counts were made throughout May, June and July with only ones or twos found. A peak count of three on 23rd August with the last sighting made on 21st September. Lizards were often found basking around the Observatory and Millpond.

Odonata

Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

1272 records between 19th May and 2nd September

The first sighting of the year begun on 19th May with eight seen at the Millpond. The numbers quickly shot up with 69 seen at the end of the month with June carrying on strongly with regular counts of more than 50. A peak count of 114 was had on 4th June. July saw sporadic counts with numbers dropping rapidly through August with the last sighting of two were made on 2nd September. Sighting was made mainly at the Millpond with other sightings at the small pond at South Harbour and along Top Withy.

Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

One photographed on 27th June at the Millpond was the first documented record for the Calf of Man and was seen again on 28th June. A record of two was seen on 18th July but nothing is mentioned regarding this record.

Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

44 records between 26th July and 15th October

The first was seen on 26th July with the next singles made on 24th and 25th August. A good run of records in September with a peak count of six on 16th and 18th September. 8th September saw a pair copulating at the Millpond with other sightings made along Mill Giau, the Dock and the Observatory.

Hawker spp. (*Aeshna spp.*)

A string of singles on 23rd, 24th, 25th and 27th July were too brief of a sighting to be assigned to species level although they are all thought to be Migrant Hawkers.

Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*)

Six records between 15th July and 1st September

15th July saw the first sighting of the year at South Harbour with another single flying over Twinfields on 21st July. A string of three records on 24th, 25th and 27th August seen at the Millpond, with the last being seen on 1st September.

Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

154 records between 27th June and 15th October

The first was seen on 27th June at the Millpond and was not sighted again until five on 6th July. This started off regular counts in July with a peak count of 16 on 22nd July. Sporadic sightings were made in August with numbers picking up in September with the last record on 15th October. Sightings were made mainly at the Millpond with other sightings made along Top Withy, Spaghetti Junction, Central Heath and at the Observatory.

Dragonfly spp. (*Anisoptera spp.*)

A red bodied dragonfly seen briefly flying past the Millpond on 29th May was thought to be a Common Darter by the observer based on the fact that this species is a regular at the pond, however this is too early for the emergence of this dragonfly. Therefore, this record goes down as a dragonfly spp.

Beetles

Minotaur beetle (*Typhaeus typhoeus*)

407 records between 21st April and 5th November

This beetle can be seen crawling slowly almost anywhere around the island. It was recorded infrequently in April with almost daily counts throughout May and June, with a peak count of 36 on 7th May. Sightings dropped rapidly in July and August before picking up in October with the last sighting made on 5th November.

Violet Ground Beetle (*Carabus violaceus*)

158 records between 24th April and 5th November

Can be found almost anywhere across the island but most sightings were made around the Observatory with a peak count of 46 found during the night along West Coast on 9th June.

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

59 records between 12th June and 5th November

Can be found almost anywhere on the island with a peak count of ten found along East Coast on 9th and 15th September.

Black Sexton Beetle (*Nicrophorus humator*)

185 records between 2nd May and 23rd October

Most sightings involved individuals attracted to the moth trap but a peak count of 35 was made on 14th October when found feeding on a dead rabbit.

Banded Sexton Beetle (*Nicrophorus investigator*)

67 records between 23rd April and 12th September

All sightings involved individuals attracted to the moth trap with a peak count of 16 on 24th August.

Green Tiger Beetle (*Cincidela campestris*)

228 records between 29th April and 25th July

This beautiful common beetle is best to find between May and June with frequent counts in late May and early June. A maximum count of 20 was had during a butterfly transect on 13th May. This species is best looked on tracks when disturbed along Cow and along Withy to the Lighthouse track.

Pterostichus nigrita

34 records between 1st May and 2nd November

Most sightings have occurred around the Observatory but can be found anywhere across the island with a peak count of eight on 3rd June.

Black Clock Beetle (*Pterostichus madidus*)

40 records between 7th May and 4th September

Commonly found around the Observatory with a peak count of four found during the dark along West Coast on 9th June.

Carabus granulatus

88 records between 25th April and 21st October

Most sightings have occurred around the Observatory but can be found anywhere across the island with a peak count of 20 found during the dark along West Coast on 9th June.

Leistus spinibarbis

41 records between 24th April and 13th October

All found at courtyard whilst switching off the generator with a peak count of 20 on 24th September.

Click Beetle spp. (*Elateridae* spp.)

16 records across 8 dates

Commonly found on grassland with a peak count of seven found along Mill Giau on 30th May. It is thought to be a *Dalopius marginatus*.

Brown Chafer (*Serica brunnea*)

This species can now be considered resident on the Calf with 12 records on five different dates in July. Only found attracted to moth traps with a peak count of four on 8th July.

Garden Chafer (*Phyllopertha horticola*)

Three recorded within the moth trap at Plantation on 9th July.

Black Snail Beetle (*Silpha atrata*)

Six records concerning singles on 7th May, 3rd and 27th June, 28th, 30th and 31st July and 7th August. Commonly found across the island with sightings made in Back Field, Caigher and Millpond.

Gazelle Beetle (*Nebria brevicollis*)

Three found within the South Harbour Store on 11th May is thought to be this species.

Strawberry Seed Beetle (*Harpalus rufipes*)

One found within Millpond hide on 7th May is thought to be this species.

Agrypnus murinus

One found at Kione ny Halby on 8th June is the first confirmed record of this species on the Calf.

Orchid Beetle (*Dascillus cervinus*)

Singles on 8th, 11th, 15th, and 20th June are the first confirmed records for the Calf. It seems to be widespread across the island with sightings made at Second Field, Observatory, Smithy and at Jane's.

Pointed-keeled Rhizobius (*Rhizobius litura*)

Three found on Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) at Millpond on 8th July.

Eight found feeding on Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) at the courtyard during the night on 15th July.

Whirligig spp. (*Gyrinidae* spp.)

One found on 22nd July but no information is supplied regarding this record.

Common Red Soldier Beetle (*Rhagonycha fulva*)

33 records between 15th July and 2nd August.

This beetle can be found around the Observatory feeding on flowers such as Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) with a peak count of nine on 15th July.

Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*)

Singles on 8th and 9th October found behind the Mill.

7-spot Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*)

One found on 26th April with further singles on 4th and 7th June where it was found amongst thistles (*Cirsium* spp.)

Otiorhynchus clavipes

16 records between 11th May and 2nd October

All recorded within the Observatory.

Corixidae**Water Boatman (*Corixa punctata*)**

One found on 24th September attracted to the moth trap at Plantation with another four found on 29th October.



Common Blue Damselfly



Common Darter



Pied Hoverfly



Ruby-tailed Wasp



Green Tiger Beetle



European Eel



'Waldo' suckling his Mum called Mole



Risso's Dolphin

Common Green Capsid (*Lygocoris pabulinus*)

Gerridae

Common Pond Skater (*Gerris lacustris*)

Ten found below the Mill on 15th June.

Myriapods

Pill Millipede (*Glomeris marginata*)

35 records between 5th May and 21st October

Commonly found across the island with a peak count of eight on 15th May.

Hemiptera

Hawthorn Shieldbug (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*)

A single photographed inside the Porch on 10th October is thought to be the first record for the Calf.

Bees, Wasps and Flies

Honeybee spp. (*Apis spp.*)

A single on 26th June and 1st August with a peak count of 40 seen on Ivy at the Observatory on 25th September. A further two was seen on 11th October.

Brown-footed Leafcutter Bee (*Megachile versicolor*)

One found at the Vegetable Patch on 15th June.

Giant Horntail Wasp (*Urocerus gigas*)

A single on 24th July and 7th August, both extracted from mist nets at the Observatory.

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.*)

Singles on 11th and 23rd July but no information is supplied regarding these records.

Common Wasp (*Vespidae vulgaris*)

291 records between 27th April and 2nd November

Mostly seen around the Observatory but also anywhere with Willows (*salix spp.*) with a peak count of 50 at Top Withy Willows on 24th September.

Ruby-tailed Wasp (*Chrysis ignita*)

38 records between 24th May and 21st July

Can be seen across the island with numerous sightings made at Mill Giau boardwalk with a peak count of five on 12th June.

Spiny Mason Wasp (*Odynerus spinipes*)

12 records on three different dates with ten at Mill Giau boardwalk on 30th May and singles on 7th and 11th June found on Caigher and the Observatory respectively.

Bombus**White-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*)**

78 records between 21st April and 5th November with a peak count of six on 23rd April and 22nd May.

Buff-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)

22 records between 24th April and 17th July with a peak count of three on numerous dates.

White/Buff-tailed Bumblebee spp. (*Bombus spp.*)

1459 records between 23rd April and 5th November with a peak count of 100+ found amongst Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) on 9th August

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*)

435 records between 23rd April and 17th October

A common bee across the island, especially at around the Observatory, with a peak count of 30 on 11th and 12th September.

Garden Bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*)

A single on 23rd September at the Front Garden was the only record of the year.

Red-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*)

A single on 28th August however no information is supplied regarding this record.

Diptera

Helophilus pendulus

Two found on 28th June above Mill Giau boardwalk.

Pied Hoverfly (*Scaeva pyrastris*)

One found at the courtyard on 16th June is the first record for the Calf.

Marmalade Hoverfly (*Episyrphus balteatus*)

One found on 10th July at the Observatory is thought to be this species.

Hoverflies spp. (*Syrphidae spp.*)

137 records between 2nd June and 12th October

Recorded mainly throughout the autumn with a peak count of 40 on 25th September, however, it is massively under recorded.

Green Bottle Fly (*Lucilia sericata*)

Singles on 8th and 22nd July seen at the Observatory.

Blue Bottle Fly

Both *Calliphora vomitoria* and *Calliphora vicina* were very common throughout the year sometimes in huge numbers in autumn.

Yellow Dung Fly (*Scathophaga stercoraria*)

One found on 29th May with a further three on 9th June. 30 were seen at Gibdale on 7th October with a further single on 13th October.

Horse Fly spp. (*Haematopota spp.*)

Singles on 6th and 16th June.

Pegomya spp.

One seen at the Observatory on 13th October.

Chloromyia formosa

One found at the courtyard on 16th June is the first record for the Calf.

Hemerobiformia

Green Lacewing (*Chrysopa carnea*)

A single found on 10th August with another single found in the bathroom on 12th October. A final single was had at Top Withy on 28th October.

Caelifera

Common Field Grasshopper (*Chorthippus brunneus*)

50 records between 12th June and 18th September

Can be found anywhere in long grass with most sightings made along Mill Giau. A peak count of 13 made at along South Harbour on 17th June.

Common Green Grasshopper (*Omocestus viridulus*)

18 records between 2nd June and 11th September

Mostly found along Mill Giau and in the Courtyard with a peak count of five on 17th June along South Harbour.

Molluscs

Common Garden Snail (*Cornu aspersum*)

826 records between 22nd April and 11th September

Only found at the Observatory with a peak count of 200 on 28th July.

Strawberry Snail (*Trochulus striolatus*)

One found at the Front Garden on 23rd June is thought to be the first for the Calf.

Brown-lipped Snail (*Cepaea nemoralis*)

One found at the Observatory on 4th July.

Common Garden Slug (*Arion distinctus/hortensis*)

Can be found anywhere across the island with ten found during the night along West Coast on 9th June. A further two on 16th June and a single on 17th June, found at the Observatory.

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

429 records between 24th April and 1st November

Can be found anywhere across the island especially around the Observatory with a peak count of 78 found during the night along West Coast on 9th June.

Tree Slug (*Limax marginatus*)

448 records between 23rd April and 1st November

Found at the Observatory with a peak count of 52 on 24th May.

Yellow Slug (*Limax flavus*)

162 records between 6th May and 14th October

Can be found anywhere across the island especially around the Observatory with a peak count of 23 found during the night along West Coast on 9th June.

Leopard Slug (*Limax maximus*)

A single on 13th June is thought to be this species.

Ashy-grey Slug (*Limax cinereoniger*)

Five on 15th May and a single on 21st May with a further single on 28th August.

Araneae**European Garden Spider** (*Araneus diadematus*)

323 records between 22nd May and 11th September

Can be commonly seen on Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) anywhere across the island with a peak count of 115 on 11th September.

Cave Spider (*Meta menardi*)

This is the first record for the Calf with six found under a manhole cover at Upper Lighthouse on 6th May. A further three found at the same place on 1st June with another seen at Gibdale on 2nd June.

Missing Sector Orb Weaver (*Zygiella x-notata*)

One on 11th May found inside the Ringing room.

Common H Weaver (*Episinus angulatus*)

One found at inside South Harbour Store on 11th May.

Zebra Jumping Spider (*Salticus scenicus*)

A single found at Front Garden on 1st and 4th June.

Pirate Wolf Spider (*Pirata piraticus*)

A single found at Millpond on 13th and 24th May.

Annelida

Horse Leech (*Haemopsis sanguisuga*)

91 records between 7th May and 29th October

All found at Millpond with a peak count of 11 on 19th and 31st May.

Crustacea

Common Sea Slater (*Ligia oceanic*)

25 records between 22nd April and 18th October

Commonly found at both Cow Harbour and South Harbour with a peak count of ten on 22nd April.

Shore Crab (*Carcinus maenas*)

13 records between 8th May and 26th August

Commonly found at both South Harbour and Cow Harbour with a peak count of seven on 3rd June.

Scyphozoa

Lion's Mane Jellyfish (*Cyanea capillata*)

152 records between 15th June and 16th September

Commonly found in the waters around the Calf with South Harbour seeing the most records. A peak count of 14 on 24th August.

Compass jellyfish (*Chrysaora hysoscella*)

Nine records on 13th June and 20th August

Found at South Harbour with a peak count of two on 20th August.

Barrel Jellyfish (*Rhizostoma pulmo*)

11 records between 14th May and 8th July

Found at South Harbour with a peak count of five on 16th May.

Moon Jellyfish (*Aurelia aurita*)

633 records between 30th May and 16th September

Can be found anywhere in the waters around the Calf with a conservative peak count of 500 made off Baie Fine on 16th July.

Blue Jellyfish (*Cyanea lamarckii*)

25 records between 15th June and 4th August

Can be found anywhere in the waters around the Calf with a peak count of ten on 1st August.

2021 Butterfly Report

Due to Covid restrictions, the delayed start to the season meant that we missed the very start of the flight season for many species.

2021 was a warm and very dry season with IoM seeing the lowest rainfall in June, July, and August since 1995 which was truly reflected here with extremely dusty tracks and ground cracking due to being dried out. Whilst hot and dry weather is great for adult butterflies, allowing them to find mates and lay eggs, it can adversely affect their caterpillars which need fresh green plants on which to feed. It will be interesting to see if next year sees a noticeable drop in numbers.

Figure 1 shows that this year was the fourth highest year, within the last 10 years, for a full count of butterflies. Notably Small Heath have had a good year with this small population still clinging on. Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell have enjoyed a good year whilst Wall Brown has continued its poor run with only the one seen this year. See figure 2 for full count of species recorded this year.

The butterfly transect 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.

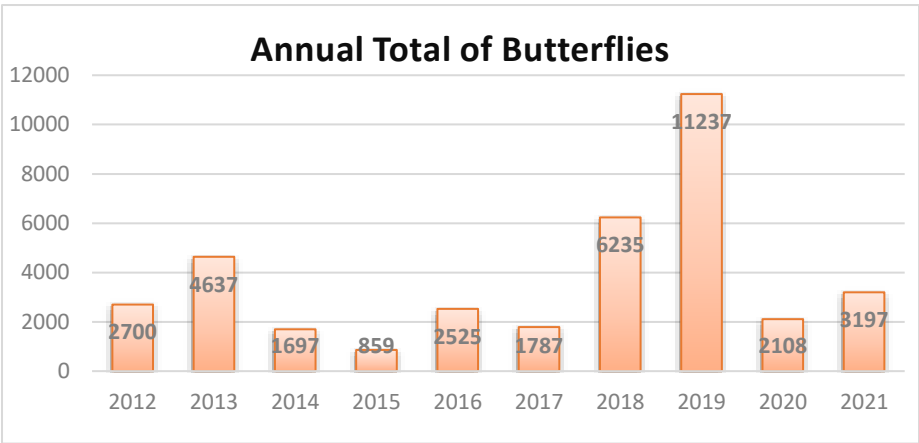


Figure 1

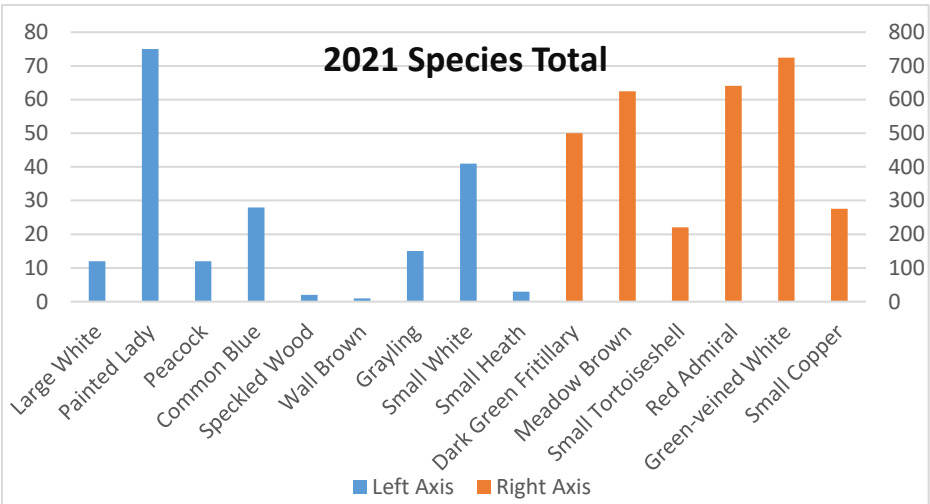


Figure 2

Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)

12 records between 26th April and 15th September

A poor year with the first sighting made on 26th April with another individual seen in May. No records were made in June with six individuals seen in July. One individual seen in August with a further three made in September with 15th September being the last sighting of the year. Predominantly seen along the Glen.

Small White (*Pieris rapae*)

41 records between 24th April and 19th September

One on 24th April were the first for the year with intermittent counts thereafter throughout May and June. A peak count of eight was had on 16th May. No records were made in July and August with a few records in September with the last one being on 19th September.

An above average year with sightings mostly seen along the Glen.

Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*)

724 records between 25th April and 19th September

The first of the year was on 25th April with regular counts made in May and June. More sightings were made in July and August with increased numbers of individuals. A peak count of 47 on 22nd July was made along the Glen. September saw numbers drop rapidly with the last sighting made on 19th September.

This species is predominantly seen along the Glen with this season representing the third best season in the last 10 years.

White spp. (*Pieris spp.*)

21 records between 5th May and 18th September

All sightings relate to fast flying 'white' butterflies that were seen briefly not being able to assign to species level. Seen predominantly along the Glen.

Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)

276 records between 24th April and 6th October



One was seen on 24th April and was not seen again until 12th May. Numbers picked up at the end of May and throughout June. July was a quiet month but August saw more or less daily counts going into early September with a peak count of 33 on 6th September. Numbers dropped rapidly from mid-September into October with the last sighting made on 6th October. This year has been a good year for this species with many sightings made along Central Heath/Black Run but can be found anywhere across the island.

Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*)

500 records between 11th June and 25th July

The first sighting of the year was made on 11th June when five was seen along the Glen. Counts were made more or less every day throughout June and July with a peak count of 49 on 20th June. Predominantly seen along the Glen or any areas with thistles. The last sighting was made on 25th July with two being seen.

An average year with this being the fifth highest year in the last 10 years.



Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

641 records between 24th April and 4th November

Two seen on 24th April was the first sighting of the year with low counts made in April and May. 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 32 on 28th August. Numbers dwindled in October with the last sighting made on 4th November.

This has been a good year for this species compared to within the last 10 years. Sightings were mainly around the Observatory where there was an abundance of Buddleia to feed on but can be found anywhere across the island.

Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

75 records between 19th June and 19th September

The first of the year was found at Baie n'Ooig on 19th June with a further four records in June with no sightings made in July. The next sighting was in mid-August with a peak count of seven on 16th August. Frequent counts were made throughout August and September with the last sighting made on 19th September.

This species is a long-distance migrant which means that numbers can fluctuate greatly from year to year. Most sightings were made at the Observatory feeding on the Buddleia with a small minority seen dotted around the island.

Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)

221 records between 23rd April and 21st September

The first emergence of this species was made on 23rd April and seen sporadically throughout May and June. Numbers picked up in July with a peak count of 16 made on 17th and 19th July. August and September saw numbers drop again and was last seen on 21st September.

It was another good year for this species with most sightings made at the Observatory feeding on the Buddleia but can be found anywhere across the island.

Peacock (*Inachis io*)

12 records between 29th April and 18th September

The first sighting was on 29th April and was not seen again until two individuals on 22nd July which was the peak count of the year. It was recorded infrequently in mid-August and mid-September with the last sighting made on 18th September.

This represents an average year with most sightings made at the Observatory feeding on the Buddleia as well as one individual seen whilst working on Kitterland.

Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)

28 records between 30th May and 2nd September

The first record of the year was a single noted on 30th May and was seen infrequently up to middle of June before picking back up again in mid-July with a peak count of four on 22nd July. August saw individuals on four separate dates with the last sighting of the season on 2nd September. An above average year compared to previous years with Millpond and along Mill Giau being the best places to see one.

Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*)

A single was seen by the track just above Cow Harbour in the late afternoon of 6th September with another individual seen by Top Withy gate on 8th September. This species abundance has increased on the Calf of Man in recent years with seven records now in the last four years.

Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*)

One seen along Mill Giau on 1st September was the only record of the year. This represents yet another poor season for this species.

Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*)

15 records between 8th July and 5th September

A relatively poor season with the first seen at Gibdale on 8th July with further records seen near Quartz stone, Triangle, Amulty and on track heading down to Cow Harbour. A peak count of two was seen on three separate dates in August.



Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)

625 records between 10th July and 6th September

First sighting was made on 8th July with daily counts for the rest of the month with a peak count of 48 on 22nd and 23rd July. August saw more or less daily counts with numbers quickly dropping off at the end of the month with the last sighting made on 5th September.

This year had seen an average season making this the fifth highest year in the past 10 years. Predominantly seen along the Glen and Twinfields.

Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)

3 records on 14th and 17th June, and 8th September

One individual seen at the Observatory on 14th June with what is thought to be the same individual seen on 17th June at the same place. Another individual seen near the Quartz stone on 8th September which makes this year the best season since 2009.

2021 Moth Report

A total of 152 species of moth were recorded this year consisting of 96 macro and 56 micro species. Two new species was recorded for the Calf – Common White Wave (*Cabera pusaria*) and Lempke's Gold Spot (*Plusia putnami*). The former is commonly distributed throughout Britain and occupies woodland whilst the latter is fairly common in Northern England, parts of Scotland and East Anglia, preferring damp areas. This species is probably overlooked amongst the more common Gold Spot (*Plusia festucae*).

Once again, this year has seen a delayed start to the season because of Covid which meant we arrived on the Calf of Man on 21st April. This didn't make too much of a difference to the catching of moths with only Red Chestnut the only early common species not to be caught this year.

It has been an average year for migrants with very low numbers of each species - 129 Silver Y (*Autographa gamma*), five Diamond-back Moth (*Plutella xylostella*), three Rusty-dot Pearl (*Udea ferrugalis*), two Rush Veneer (*Nomophila noctuella*), one Dark Sword-Grass (*Agrotis ipsilon*) and three Hummingbird Hawkmoth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*).

The highlight, of the year, however, has to be the *Convolvulus* Hawkmoth (*Agrius convolvuli*) that was caught in a mist net and which was the third record for the island.

Two moth traps were in regular use throughout the season with mercury vapour (MV) and blacklight (BL) used. The BL was revolutionary as it could be used by a car battery and is more powerful than the actinic trap (ACT). This allowed us to use the BL at different, under recorded locations, with Millpond and Mill Giau being used regularly whilst Jane's and Front Hedge saw some use as well.

A total of 55 trap nights from 26th April to 22nd October with a total of 4446 individuals seen and caught throughout the year.

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 with * indicate that they are new additions to the Calf list.



Puss Moth and Assistant Warden, Mollie Kirk

4 (1.004) *Micropterix aruncella*

One was found at Gibdale during the day on 10th July which hasn't been recorded on the Calf since 2016 when it was first found.

5 (1.005) *Micropterix calthella*

One was found at Gibdale during the day on 10th July. This is the fifth record for the Calf with the last being recorded in 2010.

16 (3.004) **Gold Swift** *Hepialus hecta*

Two were potted at dusk at Big Head on 17th June.

18 (3.003) **Map-winged Swift** *Pharmacis fusconebulosa*

Individuals caught to blacklight at the Mill with a single on 1st June and 5th June.

200 (12.048) *Psychoides filicivora*

One caught within the Warden's kitchen on 18th September was the 16th record for the Calf.

231 (12.040) *Monopis imella*

One caught to MV at Plantation on 24th September.

246 (12.032) *Tinea semifulvella*

Four individuals seen with singles caught to MV at Tractor Barn and Front Hedge on 8th July and 17th July, respectively. Other singles came to house light on 29th May and 20th September.

383 (52.016) **Thrift Clearwing** *Synansphecchia muscaeformis*

This year a pheromone lure was deployed at places with high density of Thrift on three occasions each with success. 29th May saw six individuals with two apiece at Caigher, Rarick and Burroo Neck. 6th June saw ten individuals with five at Caigher, three on Rarick and one at both Puddle and Burroo. 7th June saw two individuals at Burroo.

385 (48.001) **Nettle-tap** *Anthophila fabriciana*

Two seen at Gibdale on 29th May were the only individuals found this year.

397 (19.002) *Glyphipterix thrasonella*

A total of 97 were recorded between 28th June and 12th July with a peak count of 80 on 28th June. It was commonly seen around the Millpond.

424 (16.001) **Bird-cherry Ermine** *Yponomeuta evonymella*

Three individuals caught on 22nd July with two attracted to MV at Dog-let with a single attracted to MV at Plantation.

426 (16.003) **Apple Ermine** *Yponomeuta malinellus*

Five individuals caught on 22nd July are thought to be this species. Four came to MV at Doglet with a further single at Front Hedge.

464 (18.001) **Diamond-back Moth** *Plutella xylostella*

A total of five individuals were recorded between 5th June and 22nd July representing a very poor year for this migrant.

467 (18.005) *Rhigognostis annulatella*

A single attracted to MV at Plantation on 24th August was the sixth record for the Calf.

647 (28.010) **Brown House Moth** *Hofmannophila pseudospretella*

A total of 14 were mainly recorded within the Farmhouse but some caught to traps between 17th June and 20th September with a peak count of six on 1st July.

648 (28.009) **White-shouldered House Moth** *Endrosis sarcitrella*

A total of 10 were recorded within the Observatory between 24th May and 13th July with a peak count of two on 13th July.

649 (28.019) *Esperia sulphurella*

One was caught to MV at Plantation on 29th May with the last record back in 2016.

692 (32.015) *Agonopterix subpropinquella*

One was found near Middle Lighthouse on 21st May with another caught to MV at Plantation on 24th September. A final single was caught in the warden's kitchen on 12th October.

701 (32.007) *Agonopterix ocellana*

One caught to MV at Plantation on 6th June represented the ninth record with it being last recorded back in 2014. The tenth record was found at the Warden's Hallway on 28th October.

728 (35.065) *Monochroa cytisella*

This Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) loving species was found on four occasions with singles attracted to MV on 7th, 17th, 21st July with another single found during the day near the Mill on 17th July.

776 (35.146) *Teleiopsis diffinis*

A total of 32 all recorded to light between 29th May and 22nd July with a peak count of 11 on 5th June.

787 (35.040) *Bryotropha terrella*

A total of 52 were recorded between 25th June and 22nd July with a peak count of 20 found at dusk within the Courtyard on both 1st and 15th July.

797 (35.017) *Neofaculta ericetella*

A single came to MV at Front Hedge on 8th July with another single seen during the day near Baie Fine on 10th July.

873 (41.002) *Blastobasis adustella*

A total of 15 were recorded between 15th July and 25th August with a peak count of four on 23rd August.

945 (49.127) *Aethes cnicana*

One was recorded to BL at Millpond on 11th June with another single at the same place on 7th July.

954 (49.111) *Eupoecilia angustana f. fasciella*

Five was seen on heather during the day near Caigher on 14th August. This is the 7th-12th record and was last recorded in 2016.

966 (49.139) *Cochylis atricapitana*

A total of eight were recorded to both light and during the day between 24th May and 6th September with a peak count of two recorded during the day on 30th May.

970 (49.025) **Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix** *Pandemis cerasana*

A total of 46 caught between 6th June and 6th September with a peak count of ten on 22nd July.

986 (49.028) *Syndemis musculana*

One found during the day near Cow Harbour on 24th May.

1011 (49.091) *Pseudargyrotoza conwagana*

A single attracted to MV at Plantation on 22nd July.

1020 (49.050) **Grey Tortrix** *Cnephasia stephensiana*

A single caught to BL at Mill Giau on 15th July with a further two recorded to light on 22nd July.

1042 (49.070) **Rhomboid Tortrix** *Acleris rhombana*

One caught to MV at Plantation on 24th September.

1062 (49.071) *Acleris emargana*

One found at Top Withy during the day on 27th September and 4th October.

1076 (49.166) *Celypha lacunana*

Frequently disturbed during the day and found irregularly in traps with 25 recorded between 6th June and 25th August. A peak count of eight was had on 12th July.

1108 (49.183) *Lobesia abscisana*

One caught to MV at Tractor Barn on 6th September. This is the third record after the first and second were found in 2016.

1109 (49.185) *Lobesia littoralis*

Frequently disturbed during the day amongst Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) with 74 recorded between 16th May and 18th September. A peak count of 40 was had on 18th September across Caigher during the day.

1110 (49.195) *Bactra furfurana*

One caught to BL at Millpond on 7th July was the third record for the Calf with the first and second record found in 2016.

1111 (49.194) *Bactra lancealana*

A total of 15 recorded between 31st May and 12th July with a peak count of five disturbed amongst Rush (*Juncus spp.*) on 7th June.

1184 (49.285) *Epiblema scutulana*

A total of eight recorded between 13th May and 7th July with a peak count of three disturbed during the day at Jane's on 6th June.

1201 (49.265) *Eucosma cana*

A total of seven recorded between 31st May and 8th July with a peak count of two caught to MV at Front Hedge on 8th July.

1234 (49.375) *Pammene regiana*

Three individuals attracted to MV at Doglet on 22nd July. This species was last recorded back in 2015.

1288 (44.001) **Twenty-plume Moth** *Alucita hexadactyla*

A single found in the warden's living room on 11th October was the only record of the year.

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 found during the day on 23rd June. A total of 78 were recorded with the last record being one caught to MV at Plantation on 24th August. A peak count of 14 disturbed during the day on 22nd July.

1294 (63.081) *Crambus pascuella*

Four disturbed during the day at Central Heath on 8th July were the only records of the year.

1304 (63.093) *Agriphila straminella*

A total of seven recorded between 15th July and 22nd July with a peak count of four caught to MV at the Observatory on 22nd July.

1309 (63.095) *Agriphila geniculea*

A total of 100 were recorded between 18th August and 6th September with a peak count of 28 caught to ACT at Front Garden on 20th August.

1314 (63.100) **Pearl-band Grass Veneer** *Catoptria margaritella*

One attracted to MV at Tractor Barn on 15th July was the fifth record for the Calf.

1334 (63.064) *Scoparia ambigualis*

Three caught to BL at Millpond on 7th July with a further two caught to MV at Front Hedge on 8th July.

1338 (63.067) *Eudonia lacustrata*

Four individuals were recorded on three different dates – one on 9th July, two on 15th July and another on 6th September.

1341 (63.071) *Eudonia lineola*

Two netted at South Harbour during the night on 2nd July were the second and third record following the first in 2016.

1342 (63.069) *Eudonia angustea*

One recorded to MV at Tractor Barn on 24th September.

Eudonia/Scoparia spp.

A total of 16 recorded between 17th July and 22nd July were assigned to this group as it was difficult to separate to species level.

1345 (63.114) **Brown China-mark** *Elophila nymphaeata*

Singles found during the day at Millpond on 18th June and 27th June.

1365 (63.005) *Pyrausta despicata*

One caught to MV at Dogleg on 22nd July which was a good record as it was last recorded in 2008.

1376 (63.025) **Small Magpie** *Anania hortulata*

A total of 32 were recorded between 29th May and 22nd July with a peak count of five on 15th July.

1378 (63.018) *Anania coronata*

Singles caught to MV at the Observatory on 21st July and 22nd July were the sixth and seventh record.

Phycitodes spp.

Two netted at Millpond during the night on 15th June. There are three known species occurring in the UK which can't be separated without genitalia dissection.

1395 (63.031) **Rusty Dot Pearl** *Udea ferrugal*

One caught to MV at Plantation on 11th October with a further three caught at Plantation on 17th October.

1398 (63.052) **Rush Veneer** *Nomophila noctuella*

Two caught to MV at Plantation on 17th October.

1689 (70.023) **Mullein Wave** *Scopula marginepunctata*

A total of 14 caught to light between 15th June and 24th August with a peak count of four on 20th August.

1702 (70.013) **Small Fan-footed Wave** *Idaea biselata*

Singles caught to light at Plantation on 21st and 22nd July.

1708 (70.011) **Single-dotted Wave** *Idaea dimidiata*

Three caught to MV at Doglet on 22nd July.

1713 (70.016) **Riband Wave** *Idaea aversata*

A total of 14 caught to light between 6th July and 22nd July with a peak count of five on 22nd July.

1722 (70.053) **Flame Carpet** *Xanthorhoe designate*

A total of 11 recorded between 18th May and 29th August.

1727 (70.054) **Silver-ground Carpet** *Xanthorhoe montanata*

A single disturbed during the day on 24th August.

1728 (70.049) **Garden Carpet** *Xanthorhoe fluctuata*

A single netted during the night at Millpond on 2nd July with another single disturbed during the day on 18th August.

1738 (70.061) **Common Carpet** *Epirrhoe alternata*

A total of eight were recorded between 30th May and 1st September with a peak count of two on two different dates.

1742 (70.059) **Yellow Shell** *Camptogramma bilineata*

A very common species on the Calf with a total of 326 recorded between 12th June and 14th September. The maximum count was 31 flushed from Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) during the day on 17th June.

1752 (70.087) **Purple Bar** *Cosmorhoe ocellata*

A total of 21 were recorded between 8th June and 5th September with a peak count of four caught to light on 17th July.



Lempke's Gold Spot



Thrift Clearwing



Common White Wave



Delicate



Convolvulus Hawkmoth

1755 (70.090) **Chevron** *Eulithis testate*

One attracted to BL at Tractor Barn on 9th July with another caught to MV at Doglet on 22nd July.

1764 (70.097) **Common Marbled Carpet** *Dysstroma truncata*

Two caught to MV at Tractor Barn on 13th October with another three individuals caught at the same place on 22nd October.

1769 (70.079) **Spruce Carpet** *Thera britannica*

One caught to MV at Plantation on 22nd June was the 14th record.

1777 (70.074) **July Highflyer** *Hydriomena furcata*

A total of ten were recorded between 2nd July and 22nd July with a maximum count of three on two dates.

1830 (70.179) **Wormwood Pug** *Eupithecia absinthiata*

A total of 26 recorded between 6th July and 22nd July with a maximum of seven on two different dates.

1837 (70.190) **Grey Pug** *Eupithecia subfuscata*

A single disturbed during the day at Tractor Barn on 28th May with a further single on 9th June.

1846 (70.168) **Narrow-winged Pug** *Eupithecia nanata*

One of the most common Pug on the Calf with a total of 46 recorded to light at the Observatory between 5th June and 22nd July. The maximum count was 16 on 22nd July.

1862 (70.141) **Double-striped Pug** *Gymnoscelis rufifasciata*

A single on 4th September caught to ACT in the Front Garden.

1884 (70.205) **Magpie Moth** *Abraxas grossulariata*

Two disturbed during the day at the Observatory on 14th July. A further three attracted to light with one on 15th July and two on 17th July.

1887 (70.207) **Clouded Border** *Lomaspilis marginata*

A total of six all seen at Millpond during the day between 7th June and 14th July.

1902 (70.222) **Brown Silver-line** *Petrophora chlorosata*

A very common species on the Calf with the larval food plant being Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). A total of 388 recorded between the 2nd May and 9th July with a maximum count of 79 on 5th June.

1913 (70.234) **Canary-shouldered Thorn** *Ennomos alniaria*

Two singles with one on 27th August and another on 30th August, both caught to MV at Plantation.

1922 (70.243) **Swallow-tailed Moth** *Ourapteryx sambucaria*

A single attracted to MV on 22nd July at Plantation which was the 13th record.

1952 (70.275) **Common Heath** *Ematurga atomaria*

A common day flying species frequently seen in areas of Heather. A total of 172 were seen between the 1st May and 20th June with a maximum count of 27 on 29th May.

1955 (70.277) ***Common White Wave** *Cabera pusaria*

One caught to BL at Millpond on 7th July was the first record for the Calf.

1956 (20.278) **Common Wave** *Cabera exanthemata*

One caught to MV at Plantation on 16th June with another single caught to MV at Front Hedge on 8th July. This was the fourth and fifth record for the Calf.

1964 (70.287) **Annulet** *Charissa obscurata*

Five singles recorded on five separate dates between 16th July and 24th August.

1972 (69.004) **Convolvulus Hawk-moth** *Agrius convolvuli*

One was found stuck in a mist net during the day at Millpond on 12th June. This is the third record following the second found in 2016.

1981 (69.003) **Poplar Hawk-moth** *Laothoe populi*

The only resident Hawk-moth species on the Calf with a total of 20 records between 5th June and 8th July. A maximum count of six caught to MV at the Observatory on 11th June.

1984 (69.010) **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** *Macroglossum stellatarum*

A quiet year for this migrant with 3 individuals seen around the Observatory gardens on 23rd April, 1st June and 29th August.

1995 (71.003) **Puss Moth** *Cerura vinula*

Four records altogether with the first being a female seen at the Courtyard on 29th May. Another was attracted to BL at Millpond on 11th June with a single seen at the Pond during the day on 12th June. The last record was found on Jane's boardwalk during the day on 19th June.

2003 (71.013) **Pebble Prominent** *Notodonta ziczac*

Six singles caught to light on six different dates between 23rd May and 21st July.

2057 (72.026) **Garden Tiger** *Arctia caja*

A total of 27 were recorded between 7th July and 22nd July with a maximum count of nine on 17th July. A further seven have been seen in the shape of caterpillars.

2060 (72.020) **White Ermine** *Spilosoma lubricipeda*

A total of 12 were recorded between 18th May and 22nd June with a peak count of three on 5th June.

2061 (72.019) **Buff Ermine** *Spilosoma luteum*

A very good year for this species with a total of 204 were recorded between 30th May and 28th July with a maximum of 39 caught to light on 7th July.

2064 (72.024) **Ruby Tiger** *Phragmatobia fuliginosa*

One was seen during the day along East Coast on 1st May.

2069 (72.031) **Cinnabar** *Tyria jacobaeae*

A total of 84 were recorded between 17th May and 19th July with a maximum count of six on two separate dates. A further count of 330 caterpillars were found on Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaeae*) at the Observatory with a peak count of 62 on 30th July.

2078 (74.004) **Least Black Arches** *Nola confusalis*

A single on 5th June attracted to MV at Plantation with another single on 6th July recorded to BL at Tractor Barn.

2080 (73.312) **Square-spot Dart** *Euxoa obelisca grisea*

A total of 52 were recorded between 23rd August and 6th September with a maximum count of 30 attracted to MV at the Plantation on 27th August.

2089 (73.317) **Heart and Dart** *Agrotis exclamationis*

A total of 60 recorded between 30th May and 8th July with a peak count of 14 on 15th June.

2090 (73.324) **Crescent Dart** *Agrotis trux lunigera*

A very common species with 401 recorded in total between 30th June and 4th September. The maximum count was 152 attracted to three moth traps around the Observatory on 22nd July.

2091 (73.327) **Dark Sword-Grass** *Agrotis ipsilon*

Just the one record for the year with a single caught to MV at Tractor Barn on 22nd October.

2092 (73.325) **Shuttle-shaped Dart** *Agrotis puta*

Singles on 13th and 18th May, and 6th June represented the 2nd-4th record for the Calf.

2102 (73.329) **Flame Shoulder** *Ochropleura plecta*

Singles on 6th June, 7th July and 15th July were the only records of the year.

2104 (73.341) Northern Rustic *Standfussiana lucernea*

A total of six were recorded between 6th July and 21st July with a peak count of two on two different dates.

2107 (73.342) Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua pronuba*

A total of 46 were recorded between 16th June and 12th September with a maximum count of five attracted to MV at the Plantation on 23rd August.

2109 (73.345) Lesser Yellow Underwing *Noctua comes*

Two individuals found flying at night in the Back Garden on 15th July.

2111 (73.348) Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing *Noctua janthe*

Seven were recorded between 22nd July and 30th August with a peak count of three on 23rd August.

2112 (73.346) Least Yellow Underwing *Noctua interjecta caliginosa*

Singles caught to MV at the Plantation on 23rd and 25th August were the 12th and 13th record for the Calf.

2117 (73.365) Autumnal Rustic *Eugnorisma glareosa*

A poor year with only six records between 27th August and 12th September. A peak count of four caught to MV at Plantation on 27th August.

2118 (73.338) True Lover's Knot *Lycophotia porphyria*

A common species with 543 recorded between 5th June and 27th August. The maximum count was 256 caught to light at the Observatory on 22nd July.

2120 (73.333) Ingrailed Clay *Diarsia mendica*

A total of 39 were recorded between 1st July and 20th August with a maximum count of 13 attracted to light at the Observatory on 22nd July.

2123 (73.334) Small Square-spot *Diarsia rubi*

Six individuals caught to light with one on 20th May, four on 5th June and one on 11th June.

2126 (73.359) Setaceous Hebrew Character *Xestia c-nigrum*

A total of nine singles caught to MV at Plantation between 15th June and 24th September with a peak count of three on 24th September.

2128 (73.361) **Double Square-spot** *Xestia triangulum*

One attracted to MV at Tractor Barn on 15th July was the 14th record.

2134 (73.357) **Square-spot Rustic** *Xestia xanthographa*

A poor year for this species with only eight records. One caught to MV at Plantation on 24th August with a further seven on 27th August.

2135 (73.356) **Heath Rustic** *Xestia agathina*

A poor year for this species with only three caught to MV at Plantation on 12th September.

2147 (73.237) **Shears** *Hada plebeja*

One caught to MV at Plantation on 5th June was the only record of the year.

2160 (73.267) **Bright-line Brown-eye** *Lacanobia oleracea*

A total of 133 were recorded between 14th May and 23rd August with a maximum count of 23 attracted to light at the Observatory on 22nd July.

2163 (73.271) **Broom Moth** *Melanchra pisi*

A total of 107 recorded between 14th May and 12th September with a peak count of 31 caught to light on 5th June.

2167 (73.286) **Pod Lover** *Hadena perplexa capsophila*

A total of 34 were recorded between 26th April and 7th July with a peak count of eight to BL at Mill Giau Boardwalk on 31st May.

2171 (73.283) **Marbled Coronet** *Hadena confusa*

Singles on 5th and 11th June and 8th July all attracted to MV at the Observatory.

2174 (73.285) **Grey** *Hadena caesia mananii*

The Calf is a stronghold for this scarce coastal species with a total of eight recorded between 31st May and 8th July with a peak count of two on 5th June.

2176 (73.254) **Antler Moth** *Cerapteryx graminis*

A total of 65 recorded between 17th July and 6th September with a maximum count of 15 attracted to light at the Observatory on 22nd July.

2190 (73.249) **Hebrew Character** *Orthosia gothica*

One recorded to MV at Plantation on 1st May.

2193 (73.298) **Clay** *Mythimna farrago*

Two recorded to BL at Millpond on 7th July with another single on 8th July caught to MV at Front Hedge.

2195 (73.295) **The Delicate** *Mythimna vitellina*

One found next to MV trap at Plantation on 11th October was the second record for the Calf.

2198 (73.293) **Smoky Wainscot** *Mythimna impura*

A poor year for this species with only a single caught to MV at Doglet on 22nd July.

2199 (73.291) **Common Wainscot** *Mythimna pallens*

A total of eight recorded between 23rd August and 6th September.

2232 (73.233) **Black Rustic** *Aporophyla nigra*

A total of 91 were recorded between 12th September and 22nd October with a peak count of 32 on 13th October.

2255 (73.235) **Feathered Ranunculus** *Polymixis lichenea*

A single caught to MV at Plantation on 10th and 13th October with another single caught to MV at Tractor Barn on 22nd October.

2262 (73.192) **Brick** *Agrochola circellaris*

One found in the Volunteer's bedroom on 11th October.

2263 (73.189) **Red-line Quaker** *Agrochola lola*

One caught to MV at Plantation on 13th October with another seen in the Bathroom on 20th October. A further two caught to MV on 22nd October.

2367 (73.186) **Beaded Chestnut** *Agrochola lychnidis*

Singles on 10th and 13th October with a further four caught to MV at Plantation on 17th October. Trapping at the Observatory on 22nd October saw a further two individuals caught to MV.

2270 (73.193) **Lunar Underwing** *Omphaloscelis lunosa*

A poor season with the first seen in the bathroom on 10th October with a further five caught to MV on the same night. One on 11th and 12th October caught to MV at Plantation and Tractor Barn, respectively. A further four individuals were caught to MV at Observatory on 22nd October.

2273 (73.181) **Pink-barred Sallow** *Xanthia togata*

One found during the day inside the porch on 17th September which was the 11th record.

2284 (73.038) **Grey Dagger / Dark Dagger** *Acronicta psi / tridens*

One caught to MV at Doglet on 22nd July was identified to be one of these species which can only be separated on genitalia dissection. This is the third record with singles of Grey Dagger recorded in 1996 and 1998.

2289 (73.045) **Knot Grass** *Acronicta rumicis*

A total of 19 were recorded between 20th May and 22nd July with a peak count of four attracted to MV at Plantation on 15th June. Two caterpillars were found 6th September.

2305 (73.114) **Small Angle Shades** *Euplexia lucipara*

A total of 11 recorded between 30th May and 23rd August with a peak count of four caught to MV at Observatory on 22nd July.

2306 (73.113) **Angle Shades** *Phlogophora meticulosa*

A total of 32 were recorded between 14th May and 22nd October with a maximum count of 11 found during the night along East Coast on 10th September.

2321 (73.162) **Dark Arches** *Apamea monoglypha*

A total of 33 were recorded between 18th June and 6th September with a maximum count of six attracted to light at the Observatory on 22nd July.

2342 (73.171) **Rosy Minor** *Mesoligia literosa*

One attracted to MV at Plantation on 22nd July.

2343 (73.169) **Common Rustic agg.** *Mesapamea secalis* agg.

This complex of Common Rustic/Lesser Common Rustic/Remm's Rustic cannot be distinguished by external characteristics. They have been grouped as Common Rustic agg.

A single was attracted to MV at Doglet on 22nd July.

2350 (73.144) **Small Wainscot** *Chortodes pygmina*

A single attracted to ACT in Front Garden on 18th August with another two recorded to ACT on 20th August.

2353 (73.131) **Flounced Rustic** *Luperina testacea*

A total of 19 were recorded between 18th August and 25th August with a maximum count of 14 caught to ACT in Front Garden on 20th August.

2360 (73.128) **Ear Moth agg.** *Amphipoea oculea* agg.

Amphipoea species require genitalia examination to reliably separate so are recorded as Ear Moth agg.

Singles caught to MV at Plantation on 25th and 30th August with a further two on 6th September.

2382 (73.097) **Rustic** *Hoplodrina blanda*

A total of 31 were recorded between 7th July and 22nd July with a peak count of 17 attracted to light at the Observatory on 22nd July.

2434 (73.012) **Burnished Brass** *Diachrysia chrysitis*

A single caught to MV at Tractor Barn on 17th July was the only record of the year.

2439 (73.022) **Gold Spot** *Plusia festucae*

A single on 22nd July with three individuals on three separate dates (24th and 25th August, and 6th September).

2440 (73.023) ***Lempke's Gold Spot** *Plusia putnami*

One caught to MV at Doglet on 22nd July was the first record for the Calf of Man.

2441 (73.015) **Silver Y** *Autographa gamma*

An average year for this migrant with a total of 129 recorded between 20th June and 5th November with a maximum count of 40 seen during the day on 14th September.

2449 (73.002) **Dark Spectacle** *Abrostola triplasia*

Singles caught to MV at the Observatory on 21st and 22nd July.

2450 (73.001) **Spectacle** *Abrostola tripartita*

A total of 34 were recorded between 13th May and 27th August with a maximum count of seven attracted to MV at the Plantation on 22nd July.

2474 (72.002) **Straw Dot** *Rivula sericealis*

A single on 7th July attracted to BL at Millpond with a further two individuals on 24th August attracted to MV at Plantation.

2477 (72.003) **Snout** *Hypona proboscidalis*

Singles on 7th, 15th, 17th 19th, 22nd and 27th July.

Records of Flat Flies collected on the Calf of Man during 2021.

As part of a wider study aimed at mapping the UK's Flat Flies, we participated in the collection of Hippoboscidae specimens, which left birds being handled for ringing purposes. The flat flies were preserved in an alcohol solution and later identified by Denise Wawman, as part of the 2021 Mapping the UK's Flat Flies Project.

	<i>Ornithomya avicularia</i>	<i>Ornithomya chloropus</i>	<i>Ornithomya fringillina</i>
Blackbird	3	29	
Chaffinch		1	1
Dunnock		1	1
Goldcrest			4
Goldfinch		5	4
Greenfinch			1
Grey Wagtail	1	1	
Kestrel	1		
Lesser Redpoll		1	
Linnet		2	
Meadow Pipit	1	59	1
Pied Wagtail		11	
Robin	1	6	1
Sedge Warbler	1		
Song Thrush		2	
Starling		2	
Stonechat		4	
Swallow		2	
Tree Pipit		1	
Unknown		13	6
Wheatear		32	
Whitethroat		1	
Willow Warbler			3
Wren		2	
Total	8	175	22

The table above shows the numbers of flat flies collected from each host species and their identity.

A total of 186 specimens were collected from 23 species of bird, with an additional 19 specimens from unknown host species. Flat flies have only previously been identified on the Isle of Man on seven occasions, with six records of *O. avicularia* on the main Island between 1998 and 2019 and a sole record of *O. chloropus* at Laxey Glen Gardens on 15th July 2019. There have been no previous records of *O. fringillina* on either the Calf or Isle of Man, whilst *O. avicularia* and *O. chloropus* are new species recorded for the Calf.

A Flora survey of the Calf of Man and Kitterland

Introduction

The survey of the flora was undertaken over a week from 12th June to 18th June 2021, while staying on the Calf, which enabled a fairly thorough survey. Additional information was added by Aron Sapsford and Robert Fisher (warden and assistant warden) during July, as further plants became apparent. A final visit on 14th August completed the survey.

This survey complements Action 10 of the IOM Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2025; 'Continue to identify, and by 2018 prioritise and improve biodiversity knowledge through research and survey, especially the status and abundance of key species and priority habitats (as part of the development of Biodiversity Action Plans).

All 1km squares were surveyed reasonably thoroughly by including some of each habitat. The survey concentrated on areas of high diversity, flushes, wetlands and cliffs. Inaccessible cliffs were often viewed through 10 x 32 binoculars and for the rose, a telescope. The survey date suited most of the plant species but a few which flower later were probably missed. A thorough survey of the Observatory garden and its introduced plants was not made. The survey included about an hour and a half on Kitterland on 17th June 2021. Two dandelions were collected on a previous visit (25th May 2021) which was near the end of the dandelion season, (plant morphology changes after mid-May). The IDs of these two specimens were checked by the BSBI dandelion referee, John Richards.

Results

Calf of Man

In total 202 vascular plant species were recorded on the Calf in 2021. This compares with a total Isle of Man flora of approximately 500 native and naturalised species. See Appendix 1 for full list. Plants were recorded by 1 sq km grid square in 7 squares and Kitterland. The total includes 2 species new to the Calf, which appear not to have been recorded previously, (based on their absence from Allen 1984, Andree Dubbeldam's (AD) 2013 list from a brief survey, and the NBN Atlas Isle of Man).

These are:- Fleabane *Pulicaria disenterica* and Northern Marsh-orchid *Dactyloriza purpurella*

110 species had previously been recorded on the Calf but not re-found in 2021. Seven species were found which were believed to be extinct by AD in 2013, these were:-

- Soft Brome *Bromus mollis*
- Danish Scurvygrass *Cochlearia danica*
- Golden Scaley Male Fern *Dryopteris affinis*
- Fumitory *Fumaria spp* (only early leaves visible)
- Bog Asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*
- Lesser Trefoil *Trifolium dubium*
- Alsike Clover *Trifolium hybridum*

Other significant finds were a rose believed to be Downy Rose *Rosa tomentosa* (recorded in Allen as the only rose on the Calf) and Round-leaved Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* (last seen 2007 – Bellamy pers comm – but in a different location).

Kitterland

The survey of Kitterland found a total of 19 species including Fern Grass, *Catapodium rigidum* – a species mentioned by Allen (1984) as occurring on the Calf with no detail of location. Eleven species may have been new for Kitterland. See Appendix 2 for full list.

Evaluation

Comparison with other recent surveys and Allen's 1984 Flora

Of the 110 species previously recorded on the Calf but not re-found in 2021, 5 are believed to be errors, 41 are believed to be extinct now, 49 are recorded as rare and 14 as occasional so these are likely to be present but undetected in 2021, leaving 1 frequent species – Autumn Hawkbit *Scorzoneroide autumnalis*, (which was not yet flowering in July and therefore easily missed). 39 species were last seen in 2013 and were very likely missed in the 2021 survey, although it is possible some may have disappeared during the last 8 years.

Common Spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* was recorded after the survey (18/7/21) by the Calf wardens.

Habitats of greatest diversity

Flushes

Flushes are the most botanically diverse habitats and support the three orchid species recorded in July. Flushes vary in their plant composition due to differences in the mineral content of the spring water. The more acid flushes have species such as Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* and Sphagnum mosses. More neutral flushes have Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Marsh Horsetail *Equisetum palustre*.

A notable feature of Calf flushes is the abundance of Marsh St John's-wort *Hypericum elodes*.

Cliffs

There are some species which are restricted to the cliffs such as Tree Mallow *Lavatera arborea*, Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis* and Hemp Agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*. None of these require cliff conditions but seem only to survive there on the Calf due to uncontrolled grazing pressure from the Calf's two herbivores, Loaghtan sheep and rabbits. Others need rock faces – for example Sea Spurreys *Spergularia spp* and Sea Spleenwort *Asplenium marinum*. The flushes and cliffs were noticeably flowery compared with the fields and open moorland.

Other diverse or flowery habitats

There are fragments of saltmarsh along the south coast with Saltmarsh Rush *Juncus gerardii* and Sea Milkwort *Glaux maritima* as well as other marsh species such as Marsh Pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*. Saltmarsh is a priority habitat for conservation both in the Isle of Man and in the British Isles as a whole. Coastal "grassland" which has been battered by the sea in winter was dominated by Thrift *Armeria maritima*, one of the few plants able to survive. This was the case on the southern coastal slopes.

The area of enclosed grassland of greatest diversity was the southern field (Seafield) just above South Harbour. This has a healthy area of Bell Heather *Erica cinerea* – flowering profusely on 14th August. The field is also rich in Eyebright *Euphrasia spp*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and Speedwells *Veronica spp*.

Discussion

Flora (comings and goings)

It is not surprising that new species are still being found in 2021. Hawkins discovered Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* in 1997 and Dubbeldam recorded Creeping Soft Grass *Holcus mollis* and Common Cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium* in 2013. These may be long standing members of the flora (the former?) or may have arrived recently (the latter?). How do new plant species arrive? Orchid seeds are dust-like and blow in the wind – although the leafy rhizomes may continue in turf without flowering and so not be detected. Seeds also arrive on footwear and this can be a significant means of introduction on islands (Ware 2014), as well as on birds. The two dandelions *Taraxacum lamprophyllum* and *T. euryphyllum* first recorded in 2021 were probably long-standing members of the flora. These were the second record for the vice-county, having been added to the island list in 2020.

Further new microspecies may be found among the brambles *Rubus fruticosus* agg, eyebrights *Euphrasia* spp and dandelions. Bringing plants for the garden of the Observatory will undoubtedly have increased the ruderal species such as Fumitory *Fumaria* spp, sometimes only temporarily. The importing of water lilies *Nymphaea alba* may also have resulted in the accidental arrival of other water plants, some of which may not have been noticed until years later or may subsequently have died out. Nodding Bur-marigold *Bidens cernua* may be one such species, which may have been lost through leaching out of soil minerals and is considered very rare on the Isle of Man.

Some of these are ephemeral species, such as cornfield annuals including Corn Marigold *Glebionis segetum*. The loss of mixed farming will have led to the loss of such arable weeds. Other species which are very rare or extinct are indicators of more neutral or even basic soil or water conditions. Conditions may have changed. With uncontrolled grazing vegetation becomes shorter and roots penetrate less distance into the soil, the degree of mineral influence may lessen and the effect of the acid podzolic surface layer increases. This may explain the decline in some of the neutral and basic indicator species. It is also possible that the land was limed when it was farmed.

Plants of more basic conditions (not recorded in 2021 and in some cases believed extinct - e) :

- Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*
- Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*
- Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*
- Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*
- Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*
- Celery-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus* (e)
- Bugle *Ajuga reptans* (e)

Plants which are surprisingly rare but present (2021):

These species may be restricted in distribution by the conditions – such as their need for low pH (*Drosera rotundifolia*) or restricted by the grazing pressure on accessible land (cliff species and possibly flush species). Ragwort or Cushag *Senecio jacobaea* is thankfully surprisingly rare!

Rarer plants found in 2021 :

- Green-ribbed Sedge
Marsh Cinquefoil *Carex binervis* (Scattered plants among moorland)
- Heath Spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata* (One flush)
- Northern Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza purpurella* (One flush)
- Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* (One flush)
- Square-stemmed
St John's-wort *Hypericum tetrapterum* (scattered individual plants)
- Cat's Ear *Hypochaeris radicata* (frequent but only on cliffs and rocks)
- Sheep's-bit Scabious *Jasione montana* (only thriving on walls of Jane's House and on cliffs)
- Ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* (two flushes)
- Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* (abundant but only on cliffs)
- Hard Fern *Blechnum spicant* (Very local)
- Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa* (abundant but only on cliffs)
- Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis* (abundant in a few flushes)
- Thyme *Thymus polytrichus* (scattered patches on cliffs)

Plants which are surprisingly absent from the Calf:

These plants are found on the main island and are not unusual. They may be vulnerable to salt deposition – a major feature of the Calf, or grazing pressure (although plants can escape this in places on cliffs). Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea* is grazed in its younger stages. In addition, Marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris* was found for the first time in 2017 but not re-found.

Absent species:

- Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea* (now extinct)
- Water Sweetgrass *Glyceria fluitans* (now extinct)
- Butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*
- Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*

Plants which are protected on the Isle of Man:

All orchids are protected under the Wildlife Act 1990 (Schedule 7). Orchid species were recorded as scarce on the Calf except Common Spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* which was locally abundant (472 spikes counted by a warden in a single flush in 2021). Early Marsh-orchid was the next most abundant orchid, mainly occurring in areas with limited sheep grazing (such as around the millpond). Recovery or managed increase in orchids should be a conservation priority. Also protected is Celery-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus*, now believed extinct (not seen since 1930's), although it is possible that current management of the mill pond could expose seed in the mud and the plant may re-appear.

Plants which appear to be at risk and the threats:

Those plants restricted to un-grazed parts of the cliffs, such as Hemp Agrimony, Royal Fern, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and Cat's Ear are vulnerable if sheep and rabbits discover new ways to gain access – perhaps due to rock falls or occasionally at very low tide as happened in 2021. It was noticeable that fern crowns (particularly Lady Fern – *Athyrium filix-femina*) were heavily grazed. Early in the year the new fronds are very palatable to rabbits and/or sheep. Later in the year they may succeed in growing a few mature fronds but are weakened. It appears that the fern damage occurs where there are higher concentrations of rabbits. Purple Moor Grass *Molinia caerulea*, a deciduous grass with palatable new growth in spring, is targeted by grazers in some places leaving tussocks of old dead grass. This species is a dominant plant of Molinia flushes and areas may need protecting from both rabbits and sheep. Purple Moorgrass and rush pastures are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat and should be valued (Nature Scot 2018). A key

area of this habitat is near the gull colony east of the Observatory in the centre of the island. This is important for Common Spotted-orchids. Wardens report that Loaghtan sheep eat Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* bulbs at some times of year. This means they are exposing soil, and on steep slopes this could make the ground vulnerable to soil erosion. The scale of this problem was not apparent during July and August. A feature of the most acid flushes is the Sphagnum carpets. While most are intact a few show signs of damage from sheep's feet or from sheep scraping the moss. Within one of the enclosed fields an area of heather has been hit hard by sheep grazing. This is intentional management intended to clear the enclosed fields of heather and bracken. In some places the combination of dry weather conditions with heavy sheep and rabbit grazing is destroying the turf and making the ground vulnerable to soil erosion. Soil is the third largest reservoir of carbon next to the lithosphere and the oceans. The reduced biomass of vegetation due to grazing and the loss of soil through erosion reduce the soil's ability to store carbon. Therefore, improved vegetation management, reducing grazing pressure will be positive for carbon capture (Wentworth 2021).

Non-native species:

The flora includes plants which are casuals (such as arable weeds) as well as non-native species. Some of these have been deliberately planted (willows, ornamental shrubs and trees) and some have arrived accidentally (e.g. Mind-your-own-business *Soleirolia soleirolii* which thrives around the Observatory). European Gorse *Ulex europaeus* can be an invasive problem plant but here it is not sufficiently widespread or vigorous to be considered a problem. None of the non-native plants are considered a priority to control. Compared to the main Isle of Man, the Calf is largely free from invasive non-native species and a biosecurity plan should ensure this remains the case. In 2021 control was undertaken of Montbretia *Crocasmia crocosmiiflora*, Red Valerian, Buddleia and Fuschia. Water Horsetail is not a non-native species. It is an emergent plant of ponds which is particularly successful in the mill pond. Its spread is part of the natural succession from open water to marsh. Its removal has been necessary to maintain open water.

Management

The importance of the Calf for its fauna is fairly well understood and the removal of the Brown Rat has enabled a restoration of ground nesting seabirds to begin, with increased numbers of breeding Manx Shearwaters

and Wheatear. Puffins were showing an interest in returning to burrows in 2021. Storm Petrels may soon be confirmed as breeding. Inevitably with the focus on the bird observatory and grazing to benefit key bird species such as Chough, the understanding and consideration for the flora has been less. The result is that some elements of the flora are now seriously affected by sheep and rabbit grazing. Ideal management of the Calf would balance importance of birds, invertebrates, plants and fungi. It is recommended that plant conservation is given a higher priority and balanced with the needs of birds and bird ringing as well as invertebrates such as dragonflies, moths and butterflies. Before discussion of management, it is important to understand the pros and cons of the existing grazing, both sheep and rabbits.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. The Calf has a diverse flora of interest (202 species), including protected species (orchids), therefore reducing (but not stopping) grazing of wet flushes, not just where they occur, is a priority.
2. Some elements of the flora are surprisingly rare or visibly damaged by grazing animals – sheep and rabbits.
3. Bracken is considered invasive and a problem. Allocating greater resources to bracken management by rolling is recommended on invasive edges of bracken.
4. A biosecurity plan should be implemented to reduce the risk of invasion by non-native invasive plants (and animals).
5. Improved grazing management is strongly advised, especially to allow orchid numbers to increase.
6. On balance Option 5 seems to be the optimum management option. It is recommended that the Lofts project in Orkney provides a suitable model to follow.
7. Regular (either annual or biennial) botanical monitoring is recommended before, during and after management changes are undertaken.
8. A better understanding of the relationship between birds and the vegetation as well as the invertebrates which plants support would help management discussions.
9. Ideal management of the Calf would balance importance of birds, invertebrates, plants and fungi. It is recommended that plant conservation is given a higher priority and balanced with the needs of

birds and bird ringing as well as invertebrates such as dragonflies, moths and butterflies.

10. Consider the introduction of hay meadow management in some floristically rich fields.

Abbreviations:

AD - Andree Dubbeldam

BSBI - Botanical Society of the British Isles

DEFRA - Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (UK)

NBN - National Biodiversity Network

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Full higher plant list for Calf recorded 2021

<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent
<i>Aira caryophylla</i>	Silver Hair-grass
<i>Aira praecox</i>	Early Hair-grass
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	Bog Pimpernel
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass
<i>Apium inundatum</i>	Lesser Marshwort
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's Watercress
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift
<i>Asplenium adiantum -nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort
<i>Asplenium marinum</i>	Sea Spleenwort
<i>Asplenium ruta muraria</i>	Wall Rue
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's Tongue
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort
<i>Athyrium filix -femina</i>	Lady Fern
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Common Orache
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Spear-leaved Orache
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Beta vulgaris ssp maritima</i>	Sea Beet
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern

<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome
<i>Bromus mollis</i>	Soft Brome
<i>Callitriche brutia ssp lacustris</i>	Intermediate Water Starwort
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	Common Water Starwort
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bittercress
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	Sand Sedge
<i>Carex binervis</i>	Green-ribbed Sedge
<i>Carex distans</i>	Distant Sedge
<i>Carex echinata</i>	Star Sedge
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge
<i>Carex nigra</i>	Common Sedge
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation Sedge
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge
<i>Carex pulicaris</i>	Flea Sedge
<i>Carex viridula ssp. oedocarpa</i>	Common Yellow Sedge
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Common Centaury
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
<i>Cerastium diffusum</i>	Sea Mouse-ear
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Chenopodium rubrum</i>	Red Goosefoot
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	Common Scurvygrass
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toad-flax
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted-orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	Early Marsh-orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath Spotted-orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>	Northern Marsh-orchid
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel

<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Sundew
<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>	Scaley Male Fern
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male Fern
<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	Many Stemmed Spike-rush
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Common Spike-rush
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Marsh Willowherb
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Water Horsetail
<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	Marsh Horsetail
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass
<i>Erodium maritimum</i>	Sea Stork's-bill
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony
<i>Euphrasia confusa</i>	Eyebright
<i>Euphrasia sp</i>	Eyebright
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescue
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Meadow Fescue
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue
<i>Festuca filiformis</i>	Fine-leaved Sheep's Fescue
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Fumaria sp</i>	Fumitory
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goosegrass
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh Bedstraw
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	Sea-milkwort
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy
<i>Hedera helix ssp. hibernica</i>	Atlantic Ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	Marsh Pennywort
<i>Hypericum elodes</i>	Marsh St John's-wort
<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	Square-stemmed St John's-wort

<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear
<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	Slender Club-rush
<i>Isolepis setacea</i>	Bristle Club-rush
<i>Jasione montana</i>	Sheep's-bit
<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>	Sharp-flowered Rush
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad Rush
<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Rush
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>	Compact Rush
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush
<i>Juncus gerardii</i>	Saltmarsh Rush
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow
<i>Lemna minor</i>	Duckweed
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit
<i>Littorella uniflora</i>	Shoreweed
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush
<i>Luzula multiflora ssp multiflora</i>	Heath Woodrush
<i>Luzula pilosa</i>	Hairy Woodrush
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass
<i>Montia fontana</i>	Blinks
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
<i>Myosotis secunda</i>	Creeping Forget-me-not
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Spiked Water-milfoil
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White Water Lily
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Lousewort
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain

<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Sea Plantain
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass
<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	Milkwort
<i>Polygonum sp</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Polypodium interjectum</i>	Western Polypody
<i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i>	Bog Pondweed
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Pulicaria disenterica</i>	Fleabane
<i>Radiola linoides</i>	Allseed
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	Common Water-crowfoot
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	Watercress
<i>Rosa tomentosa</i>	Downy Rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex acetosella agg.</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Sagina maritima</i>	Sea Pearlwort
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Procumbent Pearlwort
<i>Sagina subulata</i>	Heath Pearlwort
<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow
<i>Salix x forbyana</i>	Fine Osier
<i>Salix repens</i>	Creeping Willow

<i>Salix x ambigua</i>	Hybrid Willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed
<i>Scilla verna</i>	Spring Squill
<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	English Stonecrop
<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>	Marsh Ragwort
<i>Senecio jacobae</i>	Ragwort
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade
<i>Soleirolia soleirolii</i>	Mind-your-own-business
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Spergularia marina</i>	Lesser Sea-spurrey
<i>Spergularia rupicola</i>	Rock Sea-spurrey
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Stellaria uliginosa</i>	Bog Stitchwort
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious
<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>	Russian Comfrey
<i>Taraxacum euryphyllum</i>	Dandelion
<i>Taraxacum lamprophyllum</i>	Dandelion
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Alsike Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> agg.	Sea Mayweed
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	European Gorse
<i>Ulex gallii</i>	Western Gorse
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle

<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch
<i>Viola palustris</i>	Marsh Violet
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet

Appendix 2 - Full higher plant list for Kitterland recorded 2021

<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift
<i>Asplenium marinum</i>	Sea Spleenwort
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Spear-leaved Orache
<i>Beta vulgaris ssp maritima</i>	Sea Beet
<i>Catapodium marinum</i>	Sea Fern-grass
<i>Cochlearia danica</i>	Danish Scurvygrass
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	Common Scurvygrass
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's Fescue
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck'shorn Plantain
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	English Stonecrop
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Spergularia rupicola</i>	Rock Sea-spurrey
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum agg.</i>	Scentless Mayweed
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	European Gorse

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[%20Purple%20Moor%20Grass%20And%20Rush%20Pastures.pdf](https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-02/Priority%20Habitat%20-%20Purple%20Moor%20Grass%20And%20Rush%20Pastures.pdf)).

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Buzzard	- Robert Fisher
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Recoveries & Controls

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Chough	- Mollie Kirk
Great Black-backed Gull chicks	- Phil Roriston
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Common Blue Damselfly	- Daniel Woollard
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Ruby-tailed Wasp	- Daniel Woollard
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Delicate	- Daniel Woollard
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Lempke's Gold Spot	- Mike Haigh
Common White Wave	- Daniel Woollard



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