

Calf of Man Bird Observatory



Annual Report **2023**



Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

Isle of Man Registered Charity No 603

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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 284 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 2023, 302,209 birds of 169 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. Accommodation bookings are handled by Island Escapes www.islandescapes.im and intending over-night visitors must pre-book accommodation by contacting Island Escapes. Bookings for the season normally commence from the start of February. Tel: 01624 830200.

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:

Steve Clague – Port St Mary Boat Excursions (Scraayl)

Tel: (07624) 490615

Chris Burton & Jason Fleming – Shona Boat Trips

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CALF OF MAN

BIRD OBSERVATORY REPORT

2023

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Wardens' Report 2023

The 2023 season began during the late morning of 11th March, when Oliver O'Sullivan, Eleanor Grover and I returned to the Calf. With three returning wardens, opening the Observatory and getting all the utilities working ran smoothly and we settled in for another busy season. Luise O'Donovan joined us as a volunteer towards the end of March and the first few weeks went by without any hitches. Unfortunately that all changed during the morning of Saturday 8th April when an electrical fault started a fire in the generator barn: quick reaction from Eleanor and Oliver prevented things from being much worse, but now without any electricity and the unlikelihood of getting things fixed over the early bank holiday period it was decided that we would have to temporarily close the island down and a rapid shutdown saw us departing the Calf just after midday.

A frustrating week followed, with seemingly good migration weather but the inability to record anything due to our absence from the Calf. Thankfully, Manx National Heritage were able to arrange the loan of a back-up generator from the Manx Utilities Authority and we returned to the Calf on the 17th April. It was clear that there had been a significant arrival of birds during that day, but the combination of our late afternoon arrival, due to tide and the need to get the generator in place and connected, meant that birdwatching was limited to the immediate vicinity of the Observatory.



MUA Generator

Early in the season, a party from the Manx Ornithological Society helped to plant trees in the walled garden known as 'The Plantation'. This area has been gradually cleared of non-native trees and more 'wildlife-friendly' alternatives have been planted as part of a memorial garden in the memory of the late Anne Kaye.



Members of the Manx Ornithological Society planting trees

Our arrival back on the Island was just in time to welcome Gillian and Ned Bowers back to continue their dry-stone walling repairs around the Smithy field and Ann Playford as a visiting ringer during the second half of April. Tim Earl and Wim Slujs also joined us for a few days at the end of April, allowing Wim to achieve a lifetime ambition of holding a Manx Shearwater.

Mike Haigh and Chloe Hurst also spent time with us during the early spring, assisting with a good spring bird passage and with the absence of a volunteer estate warden, helping out with other numerous estate tasks. Following the success of recent birdwatching and photography courses, it had been hoped to run several of these again this spring, but a delay in advertising meant that only the birdwatching course went ahead. However, we were honoured to welcome Sir John & Lady Lorimer to stay with us at the end of May, and more so to be told later in the year, that the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man had singled out, during a speech given at Government House, that his best highlight of 2023 was a night with the wardens on the Calf of Man!

In early June we were joined by Ben Roworth who took up the vacant position as Volunteer Assistant Estate Warden and by Catrin Ferguson and Anna Miall as Volunteer Seabird surveyors. Seabirds were the focus of much of the month, with the annual Manx Shearwater Burrow response



Anna & Catrin conducting burrow call-back to detect occupied Manxie burrows

monitoring being conducted throughout the first three weeks. The breeding season appears to have been generally a successful one for most species, the exception being an almost complete failure for European Shags, which are thought to have been adversely affected by cold easterly winds early in the season. Whilst the

undoubted highlight was the first successful breeding attempt by Buzzard, with a pair fledging three young from a cliff nesting site.

Guest season was rather hampered by bad weather conditions throughout much of the summer months and coupled with problems regarding availability of boats to get people to and from the Calf, it was disappointing to record only a 50% occupancy rate this year over the period that the Observatory was open to guests. The bad weather also affected the numbers of day visitors, with just over 1,400 recorded during the season.

The annual sheep round-up happened during late August and into early September, with a couple of partially unsuccessful attempts to bring in a group that frequent the cliffs behind the Lighthouses. However, with about two-thirds of the sheep already penned in the fields, a further attempt with the aid of a couple of drones and a helping hand from the Mylchreest & Callister families meant we were able to get the final group in.

The animals were given a health check and relieved of any excess wool and around 30 lambs were taken off, leaving approximately 60 sheep on the island for the winter.

Bait monitoring as part of the on-going Manx Shearwater Recovery Project is a major task for the estate team, with some 300 bait stations to check monthly. Unfortunately, during the season, we had evidence of three Longtails at the observatory and one individual sighted at the Withy by Assistant Ornithological Warden Eleanor Grover. Contingency measures were put in place and eradication was believed to have been successful. Evidence was also found on Kitterland, where at least two individuals were recorded on trail camera and contingency measures were also activated. However, monitoring of the effect is less easy due to limited access by boat but our thanks go to Chris Hill of Chill Marine for his expert boat handling and getting us on and off safely.

September started calmly for a change and with relatively light winds up to mid-month a considerable effort was made by the estate team to complete some overdue outdoor maintenance tasks, including the whitewashing of the farmhouse, which followed the re-roofing of the porch carried out earlier during August by Rob Jones. It had been hoped to tackle some other major projects during the season, but for various reasons these were unable to progress. However, lots of progress was made with refurbishing the Mitsubishi generator and installing the new battery bank and inverter. Despite the considerable efforts to rid the Calf of Brown Rats, which has been on-going for over a decade now, we unfortunately had two further records around the Observatory during the spring. Additionally, whilst out dazzling on 12th September, Eleanor saw another at the Millpond and a review of the trail camera footage at the Observatory showed



New battery bank & inverter



Oliver and Ben whitewashing the farmhouse porch

one had been present on two occasions within the past week. A contingency grid was activated and thankfully an individual was caught a few days later. Combined with evidence of several animals being present on Kitterland during this summer, suggests that a rethink of monitoring methods may be needed in future years.

We were also joined by two corporate groups to tackle the never-ending problem of horsetail encroachment and silting up of the Millpond. With the first group of 8 people from IFG Ltd making a start on the 3rd September and clearing roughly half of the horsetail, whilst a

second group of 10 people from MayFly Entertainment came out on the 16th of October and cleared the remainder.



Staff from IFG Ltd clearing horsetail from the Millpond

Ned and Gillian Bowers spent several 'holidays' continuing their sterling work of re-building the dry-stone walls around the Smithy field, as well as carrying out several urgent repairs to sections of the glen field system.

During the season we managed to add several non-avian species to the Calf and Manx lists during the 2023 season. Four species of moth were new to the Calf, included an amazing 11 records of Large Elephant Hawk-moth, including a maximum of three on 11th June. Dark Ash-bud moth has surely been over-looked before, whilst The Miller and The Sycamore are both species that are expanding their range north.

A Leisler's Bat was a rather unexpected find in the wardens' lounge on 17th August, whilst another new species, a Black Fungus Gnat was recorded later in the month, whilst another over-looked species, the Shore Sexton Beetle was proven to be common.

The 2023 season was also a very successful one for the Grey Seal population that breed on the Calf. At the beginning of September, we were joined by Duncan Kenny & Beth Paige who spent the next two months monitoring the seals and recording the mums and their pups. A total of 90 pups were recorded a 28% increase on last year's total, partly due to the use of modern technology that enabled a couple of 'new' pupping sites to be checked that are not viewable ordinarily.

September was a busy month for visitors, with Mike Prior helping with the installation of the Motus tower during the early part of the month. Phoebe Owen returned for her third consecutive autumn, whilst John Bishop and Olivia Pargeter made return visits after longer absences. Mike Haigh returned for the last part of the season, helping for much of October and then taking charge of the ringing and daily census up to the end of the season, whilst covering Aron's annual leave and trip to the Gambia.

The Future

Exciting plans lay ahead for 2024, and with the installation of a Motus tower during autumn 2023, we are looking forward to tagging our first Wheatears next summer. We are particularly grateful to the Curraghs Wildlife Park Conservation Fund which provided the funding to build the antenna tower and have now agreed to also fund some Lotek tags which will hopefully be deployed in June and July 2024. We have been colour-ringing Wheatear for the past eight years and have already had some interesting results, having several birds reported to the north and east of the Calf during early autumn.



MOTUS tower

Typically, birds should be moving south at this time of year, and by fitting tags onto some of our locally bred young we hope to be able to record the direction of their departure from the Calf. As a wider project, we are working with Manx Wildlife Trust to develop an array of Motus stations across the Isle of Man, which will enable us to undertake detailed studies of local species, as well as recording migrants that are passing over the Irish Sea.

For further information on how you can help: [Manx Motus](https://www.manxmotus.org/) | [Manx Wildlife Trust \(mwt.im\)](https://www.manxwildlifetrust.org/)

Calf Estate Report 2023

This season started on the 11th of March; it was a cold day with the Isle of Man seeing snowfall on the 10th. Due to contract delays very little preparation before our departure was able to be carried out, as such there was no Assistant Estate Warden and no volunteers to assist in opening the Calf.

Unfortunately, several estate volunteers that were expected had to cancel for various reasons. Work progressed slowly until June, when Ben Roworth joined the team as Assistant Estate Warden.

Several large projects that we had hoped would take place this year fell through and so the planned work to South Harbour did not proceed, apart from some initial deliveries of sand and gravel and the installation of an IBC tank for rainwater collection on the ex-NLB (Northern Lighthouse Board) store. Installation of improved drainage for the tractor barn remains on the work list. On a positive note, we did manage to paint the outside of the Observatory and started to whitewash the rear. The Assistant Warden's bedroom was painted as well as the bathroom and Warden's kitchen. Several of the fields were repeatedly flailed, the Front Field, Top Withy, Sea Field and the Twin Fields, and for the first time, the Smithy Field. This has helped to significantly reduce the bracken growing in these areas.

Longtail (Brown Rat) eradication

This season we saw three individuals on camera trap at the Observatory on different dates and one individual sighted at the Withy by Assistant Ornithological Warden, Eleanor Grover. Two of the longtails at the Observatory were living within the walls and were dispatched via rodenticide blocks. The third was caught on camera on the same night as the Withy sighting and was not seen or heard from again. There was one individual killed by Fenn trap at the Withy. 5 new gas-powered traps, A24 made by Goodnature, were placed on the Calf and on Kitterland. There were no confirmed kills with these traps as yet.

Puffin decoys

Puffin decoys were put out at two sites, near the Lighthouses and Kione ny Halby (KNH), with a sound system playing their call. This project has taken place since 2016. Unfortunately, there were no Puffin sightings on land,

although several were observed during the course of the season – see the Systematic List for a detailed account.

This season, we used a newly refurbished speaker system which was much simpler and easy to use. Unfortunately, one of the speakers was faulty and the volume seemed much lower than the previous system. Corporate volunteers assisted in the placing of the decoy puffins.

Bracken/Heather Control



At the end of last season, the tractor was removed from the Calf and serviced/repared so we were able to start this season with everything working correctly. Bracken was cleared from the Back Field, Front Field, Upper Twin Field, the northern part of the Lower Twin Field, Sea Field, part of the Top Withy and the Smithy Field. Tracks were also flailed, including the addition of some new tracks. While the blue trail above South Harbour was temporarily closed, a new track from Kionne ny Halby to the corner of the Sea Field was made to prevent visitors from walking through the Manx

Shearwater colony. A new track was also formed leading from the corner of the Upper Twin Field to the MOTUS site on the hill behind the Observatory to provide easier access to the MOTUS antenna. Firebreaks were maintained and tracks widened where possible. More heather was cleared from the centre of the Upper Twin Field, so that only a small patch remains and this should easily be cleared by the end of next season. Some heather was removed from the Lower Twin Field and the centre of the Smithy Field, although this will need to be cleared over several seasons.

There were some delays later in the season when a weld on the roller underneath the flail failed and needed to be removed for rewelding, this was returned pretty quickly but a week after it was reinstalled, unfortunately the gearbox on the flail failed. This was eventually repaired but by that time we were unable to continue with flailing for the season.

Vegetation management around mist nests and Heligoland traps

Fuchsia have been chopped back along the Front Wall. The stumps have been treated with herbicide.

Willow (*Salix sp.*) coppicing has taken place at Top Withy. The willows have been thinned out and reduced in height.

Fixed Point Photography

Pictures were taken in May, September, and November to continue monitoring habitat change.

Replacement of Benches

Several benches around the island had started to rot and were unsafe to sit on. Three benches – at Spaghetti Junction, on the track to Cow Harbour and one overlooking Cow harbour - have been replaced.

Replacement of Gates

Two new gates have been installed as the previous gates became broken from strong winds and age. The large gate on the corner of Mill Giau and the gate leading from the Top Withy to the Front Field were both replaced.

Generators

When we arrived in March, the Mitsubishi generator was off island and being repaired. We were relying solely on the backup Lister generator for the first few weeks, until the Lister caught fire on the 8th April and we were evacuated

from the island. A week later, MNH arranged for Manx Utilities Authority (MUA) to supply a replacement generator. This generator was installed and left on a trailer outside of the generator barn and was our primary generator until the rebuilt Mitsubishi was returned in May thanks to James Mylchreest and John Collister. The Mitsubishi running was much improved but an issue with a faulty oil pressure sensor caused shutdowns and was resolved in September.

Running hours for all three generators for this season are as follows:

Mitsubishi = 824 hours

MUA = 262 hours

Lister = 148 hours

At the season end, the system was left so that the Lister was disconnected and the MUA generator was set to run automatically over the closed winter period when the inverter senses that the battery level falls to 40%. It is my opinion that this setting is too low for lead acid batteries and switch on should occur closer to 60% to preserve the life of the batteries. The linking of the inverter to the router means that remote monitoring of the battery status and generator running can be carried out from the main Island when wardens are not resident.

Battery Bank and Inverter Installation

The new batteries that were purchased last year have now been installed along with a new Sunny Island inverter. The whole system has been moved from the workshop to the generator barn and removes the risk of heavy duty batteries being located in close proximity of the guest accommodation. This installation took place over several trips spaced out due to weather and the generator technicians' other commitments.

Painting of the Observatory

The walls of the main building, surrounding walls and part of the courtyard have been coated in white masonry paint with some of the windows, doors and railings painted in Buckingham green gloss paint. Unfortunately, due to the amount of preparation and repairs needed to some of the windows this was not completed before the weather turned. This project was started late in the season in September after the guests had finished as scaffold was needed around parts of the building. More work will be needed at the start of next season to finish the courtyard walls and finish painting the windows.



Wardens' Kitchen



The back wall in the Wardens kitchen was tiled between the countertop and hanging cupboards. The walls were brushed and painted however the damp soon came through and has caused the new paint to also flake off. Painting this wall will not fix this issue, alternative

methods need to be explored. The floor needs painting, however, this should be done after the walls have been treated and painted.

Assistant Warden's bedroom



This room was completely redecorated. The old wallpaper was removed, the mould underneath was treated. Ceiling, walls, and floor were painted. A plain white paint was used for the ceiling and a light-yellow colour for the walls,

except around the window where white was used to reflect more light into the room. The floor was painted with matt black floor paint as used in the accommodation. Gloss black was used on the fireplace iron works and mantle.

Bathroom



The ceiling and walls were scraped, and a fresh coat of moisture resistant white paint was applied. Counter, shelves and towel rails were painted in a gloss black. New signage for the bathroom “rules” were made and framed on the wall. A small repair was made to the toilet flush button, whilst there has been no issue with the toilet system itself, the bowl is starting to look worn and is possibly due for replacement soon. The shower worked fine although it does cut out if the temperature is set too high whilst on the “high” power setting. Something future wardens need to take into consideration when showering.

Limewashing rear of Observatory



This project was started late in the season as training by Grenaby Limeworks was needed before we could begin. The limewash was even more susceptible to rainwater so only part of the rear was finished before the weather made it impossible to continue.

Water Bowser

The water bowser was taken off the island for repairs. It was separated into pieces and craned off. The hoses that are attached to the bowser were not found and have possibly been repurposed.

Fire beaters

New fire beaters were placed at Spaghetti Junction and in the quarry. These differ from the previous fire beaters as the handles are yellow plastic and not wood. There are five fire beaters at each location with several of the old wooden type stored at the Observatory.

Sheep

The sheep had a successful season, with fewer deaths than last year. Approximately 30 lambs were removed by boat in September.

MOTUS

Parts for the MOTUS array started to arrive last year. When the final pieces arrived this season, we began work to construct a scaffold frame to support the antennas on top of the hill overlooking the Observatory, on the site of the old wind generator. Once we had programmed the MOTUS receiver, volunteer Mike Prior laid the cables and connected the antennas to the receiver. This system is now operational. Final settings were completed by Mike Haigh.



Vehicles

The tractor was taken off island at the end of last season and had a major service, many minor issues were fixed and the rusty mud guards were replaced as well as several fittings on the rear. The drive shaft leak has been reduced but not completely removed, minor drips still occur. During the season the tractor suffered an electrical fault and now the tachometer and engine run time counter have failed. We are no longer able to record engine hours and more importantly, no longer able to set the correct speed when flailing. The Polaris' new engine has been running well, the only faults experienced this year was an electrical fault due to a corroded terminal block located under the passenger seat next to the battery compartment and the fuel gauge failing, with both issues being rectified. Three tyres needed to be replaced due to punctures and slow leaks, two of these were spares that had been stored in the tractor barn and failed when used on the vehicle. The washer pump still needs to be replaced and the steering alignment is off, with the steering wheel turned almost 90 degrees to go straight.

Fuel

Fuel was mostly delivered by barrel this season.. We have ended the season with approx. 2/3 in the main tank and one barrel in the lighthouse. Both day tanks on the generators were filled prior to departure and vehicles were also filled. The battery-operated pump ran without issue. It is noted that there is no back up manual pump.

Water

We ended the season with two full boxes of blue carbon filters for the water barn remaining. Water capacity during the season became low during the summer months. Due to fluctuating ground water levels, it was noted that the well level drops significantly even when not in use.

Rear Courtyard

One side of the courtyard was painted this season and some of the holes in the walls cemented up. The paving stones by the workshop door were overgrown at the start of the season so these were uncovered.

Drainage

Work continued on clearing the drainage ditches/channels to the track to Cow Harbour. It is vital that these are regularly cleaned to prevent washout of this steep track. Several other places where water collects on the track to South Harbour were also cleared to allow water to drain away.

Fog-horn building

Rob Jones came to fix the collapsing fog-horn building at the lower lighthouse. Scaffold was erected along one side, blocks were removed and replaced with fresh mortar. During inspection, it was noted that wall ties, that hold the outer wall to the inner leaf, were either absent or loose. Combined with the rough construction of the inner leaf, this is a serious fault and means a decision needs to be made regarding either rebuilding/incorporation of new wall ties or demolition of the structure. In the meantime, the building has been cordoned off to exclude visitors from the immediate area.

Porch Roof on Observatory

Another project lead by Rob Jones during his stay was the replacement of the porch roof. A new fibre glass layer was laid and sealed over the leaking roof. The old solar panels that previously charged the fixed Observatory mobile phone battery have been removed.

Plantation



Four Sitka pines were felled in the plantation and removed to allow for a new net to be placed. Several new trees were planted around the plantation by members of the Manx Ornithological Society.

Millpond Clearing

Thanks to two organised corporate events, the Millpond has been cleared of horsetail. The first group of eight people from IFG Ltd made a start on the 3rd September and cleared roughly half of the affected area. Another group of 10 people from MayFly Entertainment followed on the 16th October and cleared the remainder. It is noted that the sluice gate to the pond needs repairing, together with the adjacent leaking dam wall .



Monthly Summaries 2023

January & February

Unfortunately, the trail cameras left out over winter provided very few records, due to battery failures.

A single daytrip was made on January 26th, the highlights of which included three **Eider**, two **Skylark**, two **Goldcrest**, a **Song Thrush**, a **Mistle Thrush** and a flock of 32 **Twite**. Two further boat trips were made on 23rd and 24th February resulting a **Turnstone** at Kione ny Halby and some **Shags** already on nests. Thirteen **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, three **Black Guillemot**, four **Gannet** and seven **Buzzard** were also counted.

A total of 33 species were recorded during the two months.

March

Weather: Moderate south-easterlies on 11th, switching to southerlies 12th-13th, then to north-westerly on the 14th. 15th-18th predominantly light to moderate south-westerlies before switching to light north-westerly on 19th. 20th-24th were moderate to strong south to south-westerlies, switching to moderate north-westerly on 25th and light north-easterly 26th-27th. The final days of the month saw another blast of strong southerlies, before ending on a moderate north-easterly.

A generally wet month, dominated by light rain showers and thick mist. Only on three dates was no precipitation recorded.

Daytrips were made on three occasions before the season started. The first six **Razorbill** and first **Pheasant** of the year were on 4th, whilst on 6th, two **Eider**, a **Curlew**, 82 **Fulmar**, a **Hen Harrier** and a **Skylark** were seen. Highlight of 6th was a flock of 32 **Twite** at South Harbour. Fifty **Fulmar**, two **Cormorant**, a **Hen Harrier** and two **Buzzard** were recorded on 8th.

The season 'proper' started on 11th, with the three wardens arriving late morning. During the crossing, seven **Eider**, 47 **Fulmar**, 32 **Gannet** and five **Cormorant** were counted: with seven **Guillemot** on ledges at Ghaw Yairn. A **Curlew**, six **Turnstone** and a **Kestrel** were at South Harbour, with three **Buzzard**, a **Chiffchaff**, three **Goldcrest**, three **Chaffinch** and a **Goldfinch** around the Observatory. Five **Turnstone** were at South Harbour on 12th, whilst 25 **Razorbill** flew past Burroo, two **Peregrine** were sighted, and a flock

of 30 Chough flew across the Sound toward Cow. Small numbers of migrants were around, including a Skylark in the Seafield, a Goldcrest, two Song Thrush, three **Blackbird** and a **Pied Wagtail**. A **Redshank** flew over Kione ny Halby on 13th and the first **Starling** of the year was present on 14th.

The next few days were very quiet, until 17th, when a few thrushes moved through: nine Song Thrush, one **Redwing**, ten Blackbird and a **Fieldfare**. Also notable were a flyover Golden Plover, six Skylark, a **Grey Wagtail** and two Twite at South Harbour – one of which was unexpectedly a singing male. Another Golden Plover was heard on 18th, a **Rook** flew over the Twin Fields, the first four **Wheatear** arrived on Caigher and a **Siskin** flew over the Observatory. A few hours of sunshine on 19th allowed two **Great Tit** and a **Dunnock** to arrive. The 20th saw three Redwing and a Grey Wagtail, with Redwing increasing to 19 on 21st. Two Wheatear were also present, a Dunnock was at the Seafield and a Twite was at South Harbour. A Redshank and a Turnstone were at Cow on 22nd and a Twite was at Kione ny Halby. Seawatching on 23rd yielded: Kittiwake 84S & 78N, Guillemot 14S & 2N, Razorbill 22S & 6N, Auk sp. 60S & 27N, Fulmar 50S & 23N, **Manx Shearwater** 8N, Gannet 53S & 95N

Other new species on 23rd included a female **Sparrowhawk**, a **Greenfinch** and a **Reed Bunting**. A flock of 80 Gannet were feeding in the Sound on 24th. A pair of Buzzard were displaying over the Observatory on 25th and the first **Willow Warbler** of the year arrived. Despite 26th starting with overcast conditions, all of the migrants held back by the weather piled through; totals included three Great Tit, 300 Goldcrest, 12 Redwing, one Fieldfare, 30 Robin, ten Wheatear, a Dunnock, one Greenfinch, 25 Goldfinch and a Reed Bunting. The 27th provided quality over quantity, with a **Stock Dove** caught at the Observatory (only the 4th ever to be caught on the Calf) and a **Firecrest** caught at the Withies. Two **Black-headed Gull** flew through the Sound on 28th. A **Woodpigeon** was at Gibdale on 29th and that night 3 Manx Shearwater were seen on land, one of the earliest ever records. Fine weather on 30th allowed for considerable island coverage, resulting in totals of 17 Eider, 61 Oystercatcher, nine Cormorant, 20 Wheatear, 12 Pied Wagtail and 107 Rock Pipit – the highest ever count for this species, reflecting its under-recorded status. A **Collared Dove** was hotly pursued by a Peregrine and the first **Swallow** and male **Blackcap** were sighted. Finches also moved

through in decent numbers: nine Chaffinch, a Greenfinch, a flock of 29 Twite at Kione ny Halby, 20 Linnet and three Siskin. Star bird went to the **Yellowhammer** found around the Observatory, the first since 2019. To end the month, 31st saw a **Magpie** flying over, a Spanish-ringed Chiffchaff caught at the Observatory and highest monthly counts of Willow Warbler (7) and Meadow Pipit (167).

A total of 65 species were recorded during the month.



Adult female Firecrest – March 2023.

Only the ninth April record. By Aron Sapsford

April

Weather: The month started with light northeast winds on 1st, calm on 2nd and light-moderate southeast to southerlies 3rd-5th. 6th saw light north-westerlies, 7th was calm and 8th light easterlies. 17th-27th was dominated by light to moderate winds from the east to northeast. 28th was calm with light southerlies on 29th and light southwesterlies on 30th. A generally cold month, with one night of frost. Mostly dry with variably bright spells, and a handful of days of rain or fog.

The month started with more promising weather, revealing seven **Greylag Goose**, a Woodpigeon, singles of Golden Plover and Curlew, a ringtail Hen Harrier and one Fieldfare on 1st. The first **White Wagtail** of the year was recorded, along with 15 'alba' wagtails and ten Pied Wagtail. The 2nd saw a flock of eight Buzzard and a small passage of corvids (three Magpie, three Jackdaw and a Rook), whilst the highlight of 3rd was 21 Siskin. The 4th saw a good passage of migrants, including a Collared Dove, two Curlew and a **Coal Tit**, which was also present the next day. Hirundines and warblers numbered three Sand Martin, one Swallow, 64 Willow Warbler, 11 Chiffchaff and two Blackcap. Not to be outdone, further migrants included a **Treecreeper** (present until 6th), eight Starling, a Greenfinch, 35 Linnet and another male Yellowhammer.

A Twite was at Kione ny Halby on 5th and a Stock Dove was at Mill Giau on 6th. Elsewhere, on 6th was a Jackdaw, a **House Martin**, a Song Thrush, three Fieldfare and four Lesser Redpoll. Four Greylag Goose flying up the Glen started a good day on 7th which also saw singles of Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Golden Plover and Curlew, with seabird counts including one Black Guillemot, 48 Fulmar and six Cormorant. A Rook was seen, and a count of 31 Hooded Crow included a flock of migrant individuals. Several migrants increased in number, counts including: two Sand Martin, seven Swallow, 17 Willow Warbler, 11 Chiffchaff, seven Goldcrest, five Starling, 21 Wheatear, a Dunnock, 122 Meadow Pipit, 17 Chaffinch, one Greenfinch, 41 Linnet, 27 Goldfinch and four Siskin. On 8th, the Lister generator caught fire and the wardens needed to leave the island, departing at approximately 1230. Several species recorded beforehand included a ringtail Hen Harrier and the first **Merlin** of the year, whilst counts on the boat revealed 40 Guillemot at Ghaw Yairn and 67 Razorbill. Wardens were off-island until 17th but camera traps revealed four **Shelduck** on the Dub from 11th-15th and a **Great Skua** visited the Dub on 15th.



Arriving back on 17th, counts from the boat revealed a Shelduck in the Puddle (no doubt part of the returning pair seen regularly to the end of the month), one Purple Sandpiper at Ghaw Yairn, 73 Guillemot (the highest count from a poor month for auks), 11 Black Guillemot off Cow Harbour and a Puffin in the Sound. At the Observatory, 37 Willow Warbler, eight Blackcap and a male **Redstart** suggested that migrants had started moving through during the previous week. The 18th confirmed this, starting with the Great Skua over Gibdale that was then seen almost daily to the end of

the month. A Kestrel was seen and a Magpie flew over the Observatory. Hirundines (five Sand Martin, 24 Swallow, one House Martin), warblers (25 Willow Warbler, **Grasshopper Warbler**, 40 Blackcap) and thrushes (three Song Thrush, two Fieldfare and a female **Ring Ouzel** at Bushell's) were all present in increased numbers, whilst Wheatear (144) were seemingly everywhere – including large numbers of the Greenland subspecies. A White Wagtail, 156 Meadow Pipit and 41 Rock Pipit were also recorded, whilst finches included three Lesser Redpoll, 40 Goldfinch and two Siskin. Warblers decreased in number on 19th, but Wheatear (93) and Goldfinch (30) numbers remained high. Two **Whimbrel** were on Kitterland on 20th, with a Redshank at South Harbour and a Rook and a Skylark over the Observatory. Other counts include 11 Sand Martin, 21 Swallow, a Grasshopper Warbler, one Redwing, 150 Wheatear, two White Wagtail and 61 Linnet. The first Herring Gull eggs of the year were discovered at Cow Harbour. The 21st saw three **Teal** at South Harbour and an early **Cuckoo** at the Observatory. A variety of migrant waders were recorded on 22nd, including one Whimbrel, a Curlew, two **Common Sandpiper** and a Redshank. Warblers were showing well (41 Willow Warbler, four Chiffchaff, 30 Blackcap, two **Whitethroat**), with two Redstart, 82 Wheatear, 67 Goldfinch and five Siskin also being recorded. Four Buzzard and

Adult Spotted Flycatcher – April 2023.

Only the fifth ever April record

By Aron Sapsford

a ringtail Hen Harrier were sighted on 23rd, along with 80 Willow Warbler, two **Sedge Warbler**, 35 Blackcap and

three Redstart. A Greylag Goose, two Cuckoo, two Sparrowhawk and 45 Swallow were present on 24th. Warblers decreased but a Redwing, a male Redstart and an influx of finches arrived (85 Linnet and 71 Goldfinch). Four Greylag Goose flew over on 25th, a Common Sandpiper was at South Harbour, a Jackdaw was at the Observatory and a Skylark was feeding in the Seafield. Warblers increased again (54 Willow Warbler, 15 Blackcap, one Whitethroat), and a female Redstart and three Reed Bunting were present. Numbers further increased and remained high during 26th-29th, with highest counts (mostly 27th) including 90 Willow Warbler, seven Chiffchaff (26th), ten Sedge Warbler (28th), 40 Blackcap, nine Whitethroat (28th), five Fieldfare, 72 Linnet, ten Lesser Redpoll and 65 Goldfinch. A Collared Dove was at the Triangle on 27th, with a Grasshopper Warbler and a **Spotted Flycatcher** at the Observatory. Ten Manx Shearwater were on land the night of 28th, with daytime records of two Sand Martin, 36 Swallow, two House Martin, a White Wagtail and a flyover **Tree Pipit**.

Seventy Eider, four Whimbrel, a Turnstone at Cow Harbour, two Goldcrest and another Tree Pipit were counted on 29th. Fog on 30th resulting in the month ending with only a handful of migrants seen, including a Whimbrel, two Common Sandpiper and a Redwing.

A total of 85 species were recorded during the month.

May

Weather: Light north-westerlies started the month. On 3rd winds switched to the east, increasing to force 7 on 4th and gradually dropping off over the following days. 8th saw moderate south-westerlies. 9th-11th saw light to moderate westerlies, whilst 12th-14th switched back to light easterlies. 15th-19th was moderate to light north-westerlies, 20th and 21st saw a brief interlude of light north-easterlies before 22nd-27th was back to a mix of moderate and light north-westerlies. There was a moderate northerly on 28th, light south-easterly on 29th and the final two days of the month were light easterlies.

A largely overcast month but with temperatures rising at last and becoming increasingly dry as the month went on.

1st started off with a record count of 122 Eider. A Woodpigeon was present, and waders included singles of Whimbrel, Curlew and Common Sandpiper. The Great Skua was seen daily. Migrants were abundant, including five Jackdaw, two Sand Martin, 106 Swallow and six House Martin. Warblers included 85 Willow Warbler, 20 Sedge Warbler, one Grasshopper Warbler, 40 Blackcap, the first **Garden Warbler** of the year and seven Whitethroat. One Spotted Flycatcher, a male Redstart and 67 Wheatear were also present. Two Purple Sandpiper were seen on 2nd, with seabird counts of 95 Guillemot at Ghaw Yairn, four Black Guillemot and 160 Shag. Migrants decreased in number, except for Whitethroat (45). A Goldcrest, one Spotted Flycatcher and a White Wagtail were present. A Whimbrel, a Common Sandpiper and a Jackdaw were sighted on 3rd, with migrants again decreasing in number (warblers including 15 Willow Warbler, eight Chiffchaff, 25 Sedge Warbler, 20 Blackcap, a Garden Warbler and ten Whitethroat). One Goldcrest, a **Tree Sparrow** and two Tree Pipits were recorded, with finch counts at seven Lesser Redpoll, a Siskin and 27 Goldfinch. The 4th saw a mass exodus of birds. The first Mallard ducklings of the year appeared, along with the first two

Swift. A Curlew was seen, a **Dunlin** briefly dropped in at the Millpond and three Purple Sandpiper were spotted. Three Swift, a Merlin, 67 Swallow, two House Martin, a White Wagtail and 69 Linnet were the pick of 5th. Numbers picked up on 6th, with 40 Willow Warbler, six Chiffchaff, nine Sedge Warbler, 17 Blackcap, two Garden Warblers and 30 Whitethroat. Singles of Spotted Flycatcher and Redstart were present, with four flyover Tree Pipit. Finches were up: 17 Lesser Redpoll, 45 Goldfinch and a Siskin; yet bird of the day was a male **Little Bunting** singing at the Observatory – only the 6th Calf record and the first since 2004.

Four Shelduck were around on 7th, an unseasonal **Water Rail** called at the Millpond (present until the 13th) and two **Sandwich Terns** flew through the Sound. A **Grey Heron** was at the Cletts and a single Tree Pipit flew over. Poor weather on 8th made the highlights 20 Manx Shearwater overnight and two Spotted Flycatcher. Two Black Guillemot, three Rook and 36 Swallow were



Summer-plumaged Turnstone – May 2023. By Aron Sapsford

present on 9th. Nine Willow Warbler, two Chiffchaff and four Sedge Warbler were joined by a **Reed Warbler**, nine Blackcap and a Goldcrest. Fifty Linnet, nine Lesser Redpoll, four Siskin and a Reed Bunting were counted. The 10th saw 37 Oystercatchers, a Whimbrel and two Black-headed Gull. Seabird counts included 25 Manx Shearwater, 129 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 134 Guillemot, 92 Razorbill and 39 Fulmar and a female Yellowhammer made an appearance. Sixty-eight Eider, a Whimbrel, one Curlew, a Sparrowhawk and two Jackdaw were present on 11th. Warbler numbers were low (four Willow Warbler, one Chiffchaff, four Sedge Warbler, eight Blackcap and four Whitethroat) and remained so for the rest of the month. 49 Goldfinch and nine Lesser Redpoll were counted. The 12th saw a little more variety of species, including a Woodpigeon, one Golden Plover, a Whimbrel, a Curlew,

two Jackdaw, four Rook, a female Redstart, a male **House Sparrow** and a Tree Pipit. On 13th a single Woodpigeon and Collared Dove were sighted, along with one Turnstone, four Black Guillemot and eight Jackdaw. Hirundines were still passing through: one Sand Martin, 68 Swallow and two House Martin. Six Chiffchaff included a *tristis*, whilst 12 Sedge Warbler were joined by a Reed Warbler and a **Lesser Whitethroat**. Singles of Spotted Flycatcher and Tree Sparrow were recorded. On 14th, three Turnstone and two Purple Sandpiper were present, along with 70 Manx Shearwater. Two of both Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were seen, another Reed Warbler was sighted, and the first **Whinchat** of the year was at the Twin Fields.

Counts on 15th included 81 Eider, one Swift, 44 Oystercatcher and one Golden Plover. An injured Snipe was at Central Heath, and an immature Black-headed Gull and a ringtail Hen Harrier were seen. Hirundines numbered 41 Swallow and eight House Martin. A Collared Dove was caught by a Peregrine on 16th, while elsewhere a Whimbrel was seen. A male Cuckoo was at the Observatory on 17th, along with another Collared Dove. Eleven Turnstone and three Purple Sandpiper were off Caigher and a Dunlin was singing at Cow Harbour.

Seabird counts included 185 Guillemot, 61 Razorbill, two Black Guillemot, a Puffin and four Cormorant. Smaller migrants included two House Martin, six Whitethroat, a House Sparrow and eight Lesser Redpoll. The 18th saw 20 Kittiwake, a ringtail Hen Harrier, a Goldcrest and a Tree Pipit, whilst on 20th there was a high count of seven Shelduck, along with a Collared Dove, three Black Guillemot, a Puffin and nine Cormorant. Four House Martin, a Willow Warbler, three Spotted Flycatcher and a female House Sparrow were sighted at the Observatory.

Two Collared Dove on 20th remained until 28th. Also on 20th were one Cuckoo, a Woodpigeon, four Puffin, 70 Manx Shearwater (overnight) and three Buzzard. Migrant passerines included two each of Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Sedge Warbler, one Blackcap, three Whitethroat, four Spotted Flycatcher and a Siskin. A **Feral Pigeon** was new on 21st, whilst two Puffin, 60 Gannet and 125 Shag were at sea. Two Jackdaw flew over the Observatory, a Skylark was at the Triangle, and two Sand Martin, 46 Swallow and 10 House Martin were counted. Five Chiffchaff, two Spotted Flycatcher, a Greenfinch, 44 Linnet and three Reed Bunting were recorded. Two Whimbrel, 106 Manx Shearwater, three House Martin and a Spotted Flycatcher were the highlight

of 22nd, whilst 23rd saw one Whimbrel, a Kestrel, eight Spotted Flycatcher and a Siskin. Two Swift, two Turnstone and a Puffin were seen on 24th. Migrants included six House Martin, four Willow Warbler, seven Blackcap and five Whitethroat. Spotted Flycatcher numbered 25 – the highest count of a poor year for this species.

Seventy-eight Eider, a Turnstone and two Black-headed Gull were the pick of 25th. The 26th saw a Woodpigeon, a Whimbrel, nine House Martin, two Chiffchaff (including another *tristis*), 11 Spotted Flycatcher and two Siskin. Five Shelduck were seen on 27th, along with a Turnstone and a **Sanderling** on Chicken's Rock. Nine Puffin and 78 Fulmar were eclipsed by a spectacular feeding frenzy of 1000+ Manx Shearwater off the East Coast. Counts on 28th included one Woodpigeon, 80 Kittiwake, four Puffin, 100+ Manx Shearwater, three House Martin, a Spotted Flycatcher and a Lesser Redpoll. The 29th had a Cuckoo, a Woodpigeon and a summer-plumage Golden Plover (in the Front Field). Manx Shearwater daily call-backs were started (13), while 11 Sedge Warbler, five Whitethroat, 12 Spotted Flycatcher and a female Whinchat were at the Observatory and Withies. Two Swift, two Woodpigeon and a Collared Dove were seen on 30th. Two Black-headed Gull and three Puffin were out at sea and 14 Manx Shearwater called back. One House Martin was recorded and warblers numbered three Willow Warbler, two Chiffchaff, three Sedge Warbler, one Reed Warbler, four Blackcap and one Whitethroat. A single Starling was sighted, along with 10 Spotted Flycatcher and a Siskin. 31st ended the month with a summer feel; counts included five Willow Warbler, two Sedge Warbler, two Blackcap and four Spotted Flycatcher. A total of 88 species were recorded during the month.

June

Weather: Easterlies dominated the first half of the month, mostly light to moderate but stronger on 8th and 9th. 19th-21st the wind switched to light southerlies, then very light north-westerly on 22nd. 23rd saw moderate southerlies, increasing to force 6 on 25th. 26th-30th was moderate winds of variable directions. Dry for the first half of the month, then regular precipitation from 19th onwards.

The month started quietly; highlights of 1st and 2nd being a Collared Dove, two Turnstone and a female Whinchat. Things picked up on 3rd with three Magpie at Big Head, an unseasonal Fieldfare at the Observatory and later at the Top Withy, whilst a Common Rosefinch sang up at the Observatory, and two Crossbill briefly alighted in the Sitka trees along the track. A Collared

Dove and the (presumably same) Fieldfare on 4th were eclipsed by a Great Reed Warbler trapped at the Withy – only the second record for both the Calf and the Isle of Man. A Marsh Warbler was trapped in the garden on 5th; the seventh record of this species. The 6th was a lot quieter, with a ringtail Hen Harrier (then seen sporadically throughout the month) and the first juvenile Wheatears appearing. A 2nd-year Common Gull was in the Front Fields during the morning of 7th, while a Sparrowhawk, six Willow Warbler and a Starling were also recorded. A Shelduck was unusual on 8th, which also produced 510 Kittiwake, 320 auk sp. and 86 Manx Shearwater being seen out at sea. Highlights from 9th were also largely at sea, including 23 Eider, 45 Manx Shearwater and 109 Gannet. A Kestrel, one Sand Martin, two House Martin and a Siskin were also logged. The 10th saw a Feral Pigeon, a Woodpigeon, and a Collared Dove, one Curlew, 68 Razorbill and a Black Guillemot. A Starling was at the Observatory and a female Black Redstart with a brood patch was trapped.



Brood of Great Tit– June 2023.

Only the third successful breeding attempt for the Calf. By Robert Fisher

Two Swift, five Puffin and a male Grey Wagtail were the highlight of 11th, with an overnight session resulting in the first Storm Petrel of the year caught on 12th. A round-island boat trip on 12th produced counts of 17 Eider, 235 Kittiwake, 184 Guillemot, 309 Razorbill, 13 Black Guillemot, seven Puffin, 127 Fulmar, 325 Manx Shearwater, 90 Gannet, seven Cormorant and 223 Shag. Some diurnal passage also occurred, with a Swift, Lapwing, House Martin, and Song Thrush being seen. A Woodpigeon and a

Curlew were the highlights of 13th, a Lapwing was present 14th-15th, and three Swift and a flock of 25 Starling were sighted on 15th. A Swift, 30 Starling, a Song Thrush, a Mistle Thrush and a Spotted Flycatcher were recorded on 16th, whilst 17th saw 13 Starling, 55 Wheatear, 98 Meadow Pipit and a Lesser Redpoll. Twenty-four Manx Shearwater and a Kestrel were the best birds of 18th, with 21 Eider and 27 Oystercatcher being counted on 19th. On the 20th, the Great Skua (seen near daily throughout the month) was joined by a

second individual, with both birds seen until 28th. A Woodpigeon, a Sparrowhawk and a Reed Bunting were also present on 20th.

The 21st saw two Swift, a Woodpigeon, 215 Kittiwake, a Starling, a Song Thrush, and a Spotted Flycatcher. Warbler numbers remained low (two Blackcap and three Whitethroat) but Linnet numbers increased to 57. A Cuckoo, a Woodpigeon and a Curlew were seen on 22nd, whilst another round-island trip produced counts of 602 Kittiwake, a single Black-headed Gull on the Stack, 458 Guillemot, 239 Razorbill, two Black Guillemot, 12 Puffin, 72 Fulmar, seven Cormorant and 258 Shag. A Buzzard nest was discovered with at least one large young present. On top of this, 16 Starling, a House Sparrow, three Grey Wagtail and four Siskin were recorded. Two Storm Petrel and 26 Manx Shearwater were logged in the early hours of 23rd, with 11 Ravens being seen during the day. The 24th and 25th were quiet, producing two Swift, a Curlew and a Collared Dove.

A brood of five young Great Tits appeared on 26th, with one very quickly being predated by a Sparrowhawk. The 27th saw 44 Oystercatcher, a Curlew and the first three Common Sandpiper of the autumn (present until the end of the month), along with 26 Wheatear, 73 Meadow Pipit, 23 Rock Pipit and 60 Linnet. A Black-headed Gull and three adult Great Tit were the pick of 28th. The 29th saw two Lapwing, nine Storm Petrel and 50 Manx Shearwater (overnight), a very freshly emerged juvenile Chiffchaff and a flock of 250 Linnet over Caigher. The month ended quietly, with 94 Kittiwake, 153 Guillemot, a Lesser Redpoll, 24 Goldfinch and a Reed Bunting on 30th.

A total of 79 species were recorded during the month.

July

Weather: Moderate westerlies dominated the start of the month, until a strong southerly storm hit on 6th, decreasing in intensity until 10th. A second southerly storm 14th-15th, switching back to mostly light winds from the westerly quarter until 23rd. A short spell of light-moderate northerly winds provided some variation 24th-25th before switching back to light southwest and westerlies, increasing in strength near the end of the month. An unseasonably wet month, with only seven days with no precipitation recorded.

Moderate west winds building up to a storm allowed for some early autumn seawatching off Culbery at the start of the month.

1st – Kittiwake 137S & 181N, Auk sp. 151S & 626N, Puffin 2N, Storm Petrel 1N, Fulmar 125S & 5N, Manx Shearwater 410S & 266N, Gannet 12S & 30N
 3rd – Curlew 4N, Kittiwake 356S & 188N, Auk sp. 308S & 391N, Puffin 2S & 16N, Storm Petrel 1N, Fulmar 5S & 4N, Manx Shearwater 523S & 70N, Gannet 13S & 59N, Cormorant 1N
 7th – Kittiwake 17S & 7N, Guillemot 25S & 43N, Puffin 1N, Storm Petrel 1S, Manx Shearwater 139S & 15N, Gannet 8S & 13N

A single Great Skua was seen on 1st, and 11 other times during the month, and Curlew were recorded near daily. The 2nd saw the family of six Great Tit and three Starlings. Two Common Sandpipers, 179 Guillemot, 193 Shag, a Song Thrush and a Grey Wagtail were recorded on 4th. A female Mallard, a Swift and a ringtail Hen Harrier were sighted on 5th, along with a Kestrel, four Starling, four Grey Wagtail, 118 Linnet and one Siskin. On 6th, 66 Razorbill, three Black Guillemot, 35 Manx Shearwater and a Chiffchaff were seen. Additional to seavatching counts on the 7th, 200 Kittiwake, two Great Skua, five Black Guillemot, four Cormorant, a Sparrowhawk and a House Martin were recorded.



*Juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker – July 2023.
 The first ever July record and first juvenile seen on the Calf. By Aron Sapsford*

The first three Eider and two Swift of the month appeared

on 8th, whilst a Feral Pigeon flew over. 208 Kittiwake and 25 Razorbill were out at sea, and 24 Swallow, a House Martin, 15 Starling and two Grey Wagtail were around the Observatory. The highlight of 9th was a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** trapped at the Observatory and remained until 20th. Other migrants present included three Chiffchaff, a male Blackcap, two Whitethroat (including a local juvenile) and 30 Starling. On 10th an adult Cuckoo was under duress at the Withies and a Redshank flew overhead, whilst on 11th a Whimbrel, two Great Skua and 43 Fulmar were present.

Sixty Goldfinch and a Siskin were recorded on 12th, with a Collared Dove, the first juvenile Willow Warbler of the autumn, four Song Thrush and a Reed Bunting on 13th. A Redshank and a Grey Heron were spotted on 14th, while three female Mallards and a Peregrine were the pick of 15th. Three female Eider were on 16th, whilst some high counts included 42 Oystercatcher, 20 Wheatear, 117 Meadow Pipit and 80 Linnet. A Common Sandpiper was present on 17th, along with 93 Guillemot, 23 Fulmar, 16 Manx Shearwater and 162 Shag. A Sparrowhawk, 11 Buzzard and 30 Chough were also seen.

Seventeen Curlew on 18th was a good count for recent years. Other waders included a Dunlin, two Common Sandpiper and four Redshank, along with a juvenile Grey Heron. Overnight sessions on 17th/18th/19th produced totals of 25 Storm Petrels and 80 Manx Shearwater. The 19th saw two Swift and 16 Swallows, with warblers numbering four Willow Warbler, a Sedge Warbler, nine Blackcap and eight Whitethroat. A round-island boat trip on 20th revealed a Common Sandpiper on the Stack, 245 Kittiwake, 45 Lesser Black-backed Gull, two Black Guillemot, 34 Gannet and 18 Rock Pipit. Land-based observations included a Swift, one Sand Martin, 25 Swallow, eight House Martin, six Willow Warbler, a Chiffchaff and two Lesser Redpoll.

The 21st – 23rd was quiet, with highlights being counts of 94 Goldfinch and 455 Herring Gull. An unseasonal Merlin was spotted at Creg Veneagh on 24th and it was a reasonable day for migrants too, including 43 Swallow, 20 Willow Warbler, 21 Sedge Warbler (the highest ever July total), one Grasshopper Warbler, a Goldcrest and two Starling. Numbers decreased on 25th – 26th but a Crossbill flew overhead on 25th and seven House Martin were counted on 26th. Two Common Sandpiper on 27th were overshadowed by a flyover **Greenshank** heard at the Observatory. Lesser Black-backed Gull numbered 89, and a Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were both harassed by hirundines (totalling one Sand Martin and 51 Swallow).

Five Common Sandpiper were present on 28th and a Black-headed Gull was at South Harbour. Twenty-one Fulmar, 361 Shag, 26 Swallow, 22 Willow Warbler and two Grey Wagtail were recorded. Highlights of 29th were a Kestrel, 20 Chough and seven Ravens. The wind picked up for the final two days of the month, allowing for some more seawatching at Culberty.

30th – Kittiwake 18S & 80N, Skua sp. 2S, Guillemot 49S & 2N, Razorbill 2N, Auk sp. 102S & 1N, Puffin 1N, Petrel sp. 1S, Fulmar 46S & 23N, Manx Shearwater 1696S & 96N, Gannet 100S & 59N

Also, on 30th was a Redshank, two summer-plumage Black-headed Gull at Cow and a Sandwich Tern flying through the Sound. The 31st finished the month with a Mallard at Cow and a month high of over 400 Shag in the Sound.

A total of 72 species were recorded during the month.

August

Weather: Moderate winds from the westerly quarter from 1st-7th, decreasing 8th-9th. 10th saw a light southerly, increasing to moderate south-westerly from 11th-13th. 14th was calm, 15th had light north-westerlies then 16th was calm again. 17th-18th saw moderate to strong easterlies. A strong southerly storm (force 10) hit on 19th, gradually decreasing until 23rd. 24th-30th was light north-westerlies, with 31st switching to southerly. A very breezy month, still rather wet but with variable amounts of sunshine.

Once again, seawatching dominated the start of the month. Highlights included Black Guillemot (5N), Manx Shearwater (217S & 80N) and Gannet (37S & 80N) on 1st, Common Scoter (26S) and Black-headed Gull (2N) on 3rd and Kittiwake (32S & 120N) and Puffin (1N) on 4th. A Common Sandpiper was present on 1st, with 58 Oystercatcher and 292 Linnets on 2nd. A Lapwing was in the Seafield on 3rd, whilst two Turnstone were at South Harbour and a Common Gull flew past Cow. The 4th saw an evening passage of hirundines, totalling one Sand Martin, 154 Swallow and one House Martin. Twelve Curlew and two Great Skua were the pick of 5th.

An **Osprey** flew through the Sound on 6th and the first three Tree Pipit of the autumn were on 7th. A female Eider was at South Harbour on 8th, with a

Collared Dove and a Starling around the Observatory. A further passage of hirundines occurred (211 Swallow and 20 House Martin). Ten Turnstone and a Common Sandpiper were present on 9th, with an overnight session recording four Storm Petrel and 25 Manx Shearwater. Flocks of non-breeding Chough began to build up (numbering 42), whilst diurnal migrants included Swallow (84) and Tree Pipit (5). On 10th, 128 Shag went past the Puddle and two Sparrowhawk were a torment to the hirundines and small numbers of warblers that were around.

Seawatching on 11th proved to be quality over quantity, with a **Great Shearwater** heading south amongst 120 Manx Shearwaters. Cow Harbour was the place to be on 12th, with 49 Oystercatcher, a Curlew, 25 Turnstone and a Black-headed Gull. Seawatching picked up on 13th, whilst a Grey Heron, a ringtail Hen Harrier and the first Spotted Flycatcher of the autumn were also recorded.

13th – Small wader sp. 2S, Kittiwake 120S & 230N, Black-headed Gull 2N, **Arctic Skua 1S**, Fulmar 28S & 12N, Manx Shearwater 481S & 14N, Gannet 84S & 104N
Calm conditions on 14th allowed for a burst of migrants, including a Golden Plover, Common Sandpiper and Redshank, and 120 Willow Warbler, four Sedge Warbler, 11 Blackcap, four Whitethroat, a Starling, one Spotted Flycatcher and three Tree Pipit. The calm conditions allowed for overnight ringing sessions from 14th-17th; totals of birds seen were one Dunlin (only the second to be ringed on the Calf), eight Redshank, 41



*Melodious Warbler – August 2023.
By Aron Sapsford*

Storm Petrel and 69 Manx Shearwater. Warbler passage decreased on 15th but a Grasshopper Warbler, a Spotted Flycatcher, one Grey Wagtail and a Reed Bunting were recorded. A Great Skua, two Sparrowhawk and a Magpie were present on 16th, along with another influx of hirundines (six Sand Martin, 174 Swallow, 52 House Martin). Ten Willow Warbler and a Sedge Warbler were joined by a **Melodious Warbler** trapped at the Withies, whilst 33 Robin, seven House Sparrow and five Tree Pipit were also counted.

Another storm rolled in from 17th-21st, during which time the only notable birds were a House Sparrow (17th), a Swift (18th) and a White Wagtail (21st). A Song Thrush and a Spotted Flycatcher passed through on 22nd, whilst 23rd saw a Dunlin, five Tree Pipit and four Siskin fly over the Observatory. On 24th, a wader roost at Cow Harbour included 13 Curlew, six Turnstone and a Common Sandpiper. A flock of 24 Raven was sighted on 25th, along with two **Pied Flycatcher** and a House Sparrow. A wagtail movement occurred, including two Grey, 20 White and 21 'Alba' Wagtail, whilst Linnet numbered 167.

Similar levels of passage occurred up to the end of the month. A **Ringed Plover** flew overhead on 26th and Grey Wagtail numbers increased to nine. A Great Skua and a late Puffin were seen while seawatching on 27th, whilst 101 Meadow Pipit and six Siskin were high counts of 28th. A Common Sandpiper and 256 Shag were seen on 29th and an Osprey flew past. A Song Thrush, 43 Robin, a Pied Flycatcher and two Tree Pipit were at the Observatory. Eight Curlew, a Redshank and a Storm Petrel made an appearance on 30th, with one Spotted Flycatcher and five Tree Sparrow passing though. 31st saw the Osprey again along with two Hen Harrier and a Kestrel. Migrant numbers ended the month at 18 Swallow, eight Whitethroat, a Starling, 65 Robin, eight Grey Wagtail and three Tree Pipit.

A total of 82 species were recorded during the month.

September

Weather: The month started calmly, with light winds from the east on 1st and 2nd, south-westerly on 3rd and light to moderate easterlies from 4th-8th. It was calm from 9th-10th, with light winds from the northerly quarter 11th-13th, with another light south-westerly on 14th. Moderate winds, from the north once again, dominated from 15th-17th, then moderate to strong westerlies from

18th-22nd. The remainder of the month was dominated by moderate south-westerlies, with strong winds from 24th-27th.

A calm start to the month, with increasing blusteriness towards the end, September proved to be as equally wet as previous months.

An Osprey on 1st proved the highlight of a quiet start to the month. 2nd picked up with two Redshank, as well as diurnal migration of eight Sand Martin, 102 Swallow and 18 House Martin. Warbler numbers were low but around the Observatory were 26 Goldcrest, two Spotted Flycatcher and nine Tree Sparrow. Flyovers included 112 Meadow Pipit, two Tree Pipit and 11 Siskin. Five Grey heron were observed on Burroo on 3rd, whilst two Snipe were at the Withy and the first two **Blue Tit** of the year were at the Observatory. Hirundine numbers remained high and 13 Grey Wagtail were recorded. Four Sparrowhawk and 12 Buzzard enjoyed calm weather on 4th, whilst a small tit flock (three Blue Tit, three Great Tit, two Coal Tit) and larger numbers of hirundines (five Sand Martin, 233 Swallow, 29 House Martin) passed through. On 5th a Guillemot was heard, with 24 Manx Shearwater and seven Cormorant also being recorded. Goldcrest increased to 55, with a Spotted Flycatcher, 54 Robin, two House Sparrow and a Tree Pipit also sighted. Waders were the highlight of 6th, with 23 Oystercatcher, eight Curlew, one Turnstone and a flock of 13 Redshank at Cow Harbour. An Osprey was sighted



Icterine Warbler – September 2023.

The first record since 2009.

By Aron Sapsford

on 7th, along with a Merlin and the first Skylark of the autumn. Warbler numbers included seven Chiffchaff, an **Icterine Warbler** trapped at the Observatory and a Whitethroat. A Golden Plover and six Lesser Black-backed Gull were present on 8th, the Osprey was seen for the last time and warbler numbers increased slightly. A Starling, eight Wheatear, a Tree Sparrow and two Tree Pipit were also recorded. Finch numbers increased, including 52 Linnet, two Lesser Redpoll, a Crossbill and 47 Goldfinch. Numbers remained similar on

9th, whilst a boat trip on 10th revealed a Turnstone on Chicken's Rock, five Purple Sandpiper in the western caves and 62 Gannet out at sea. Back on land, the first three Jackdaw and two Rook of the autumn were seen, along with seven Blue Tit, a **Barred Warbler** and a Spotted Flycatcher. 343 Meadow Pipit were joined by a single Tree Pipit (the last of a poor autumn passage) and 39 Siskin and one Reed Bunting were counted.

Passage dropped off on 11th but picked up again on 12th, with a Lapwing at South Harbour, a Golden Plover, 13 Curlew and five Turnstone. Shag numbered 113 and one Heron, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were seen. A single Spotted Flycatcher was sighted and an afternoon arrival of Wheatear numbered 53. A **Knot** was seen near South Harbour on 13th and a Whimbrel, 27 Curlew, nine Turnstone, a Snipe and three Grey Heron were recorded on 14th. The Knot was seen again at South Harbour on 15th, whilst a male Eider was present at the same location on 16th. On 17th, a Teal was at Cow Harbour, a Feral Pigeon flew over and a Whimbrel (present until the end of the month) was amid 22 Curlew. Two Blue Tit and four Great Tit were sighted, along with a Skylark, a Ring Ouzel, 21 Wheatear and 84 Linnet. Highlights of 18th came from seawatching – 11 Common Scoter (5S & 6N), two Arctic Skua and 11 Turnstone on Chicken's Rock. Passerines were few and far between over the two days, with highs including eight Blackcap and 40 Goldcrest on 19th. On 21st and 22nd, seawatching (mostly from Cow Harbour) improved:

21st – **Pale-bellied Brent Goose 2S**, Common Scoter 3S, Kittiwake 503S, Arctic Skua 1S, Manx Shearwater 31S

22nd – Common Scoter 7S, Kittiwake 249S, Black-headed Gull 1S, Common Gull 1S, Lesser Black-backed Gull 1S, Arctic Skua 1E, **Long-tailed Skua 1S** (a dark-phase immature), **Red-throated Diver 1E**, Manx Shearwater 1S, Gannet 138S

The 21st also saw good passerine migration, including 13 Skylark, 31 Swallow, 12 House Martin, seven Chiffchaff, seven Blackcap and 60 Goldcrest. A Whinchat was at Fold Point whilst a Dunnock, 19 Grey Wagtail, 11 Pied Wagtail and 497 Meadow Pipit were seen. Larger numbers of finches were also seen: 36 Chaffinch, four Greenfinch, 76 Linnet, four Lesser Redpoll, 70 Goldfinch and 16 Siskin. Passage decreased significantly on 22nd but seven Turnstone and a Purple Sandpiper were at South Harbour. Five Golden Plover and a Ringed Plover were recorded on 23rd, along with four Jackdaw, two Blue Tit, six Great Tit and 151 Skylark. A Willow Warbler, eight Blackcap and 110 Goldcrest were joined by five Song Thrush, a Mistle Thrush and an early

autumn Redwing. Larger counts included 50 Robin, 14 Dunnock, 21 'Alba' wagtails, 461 Meadow Pipit, 128 Chaffinch, 74 Goldfinch, 20 Siskin and nine Reed Bunting. The 24th was quiet, building anticipation for the **Red-eyed Vireo** trapped at the Observatory on 25th. This was only the second record for the Calf and the bird stayed beyond the end of the month. Also present were a Jackdaw, a Treecreeper and a Song Thrush.



Red-eyed Vireo – September 2023.

The 2nd Manx record.

By Aron Sapsford

Three Starling, 44 Robin and four Wheatear were the pick of 26th, whilst 27th saw a single **Whooper Swan** fly east over the Cletts. 12 Turnstone and a Purple Sandpiper were present, along with 23 Swallow, 25 Wren and ten Dunnock. Passerine numbers remained low over the next two days, but 28th afforded views of a **Grey Phalarope** feeding off the Dock. Seawatching on 29th produced eight Common Scoter (4S & 4N), three Arctic Skua (N) and ten Fulmar (4S & 6N), while elsewhere a Golden Plover, a Grey Heron and a Merlin were sighted. The 30th finished the month with increased numbers of migrants, including 81 Skylark, four House Martin, 14 Blackcap and 40 Goldcrest. Nine Song Thrush were seen, along with 65 Robin, 24 Dunnock, 11 Grey Wagtail, 104 Goldfinch and 25 Siskin.

A total of 93 species were recorded during the month.

October

Weather: The wind was dominated by south-westerlies from 1st-10th – mostly moderate with stronger winds decreasing in strength from 5th. 11th-15th saw moderate to light north-westerlies, whilst 16th-20th was dominated by moderate to strong south-easterlies. 21st-22nd were light north-westerlies

with 23rd-24th were moderate south-easterlies. 25th was calm and the rest of the month was moderate south-easterlies.

A very overcast and wet month, with rare sunny spells.

October started with eight **Pink-footed Goose** flying west over Caigher. Also on 1st, the Red-eyed Vireo was re-trapped, a flock of 55 Chough was seen and seven Blue Tit, five Great Tit and 21 Skylark were counted. Full-island coverage produced counts of 54 Wren, 72 Robin, 18 Stonechat, 25 Wheatear, 30 Dunnock, 689 Meadow Pipit and 33 Rock Pipit. On 2nd, a Whimbrel, three Merlin, a Magpie and eight Jackdaw were sighted. Further diurnal migration included 40 Skylark, five Chiffchaff, 50 Goldcrest, 130 Chaffinch, four Greenfinch and a Crossbill. The Vireo was seen for the final time on 3rd, but otherwise 3rd and 4th were dominated by seawatching:

3rd – Common Scoter 6S & 3N, Kittiwake 240S & 542N, Black-headed Gull 1N, Lesser Black-backed Gull 1N, Arctic Skua 3N, Auk sp. 2913S & 29N, Manx Shearwater 6N, Gannet 6S & 27N

4th – Common Scoter 5S & 4N, Kittiwake 276S & 1306N, Lesser Black-backed Gull 6N, Arctic Skua 2S & 13N, Auk sp. 733S & 156N, Manx Shearwater 4S & 25N, Gannet 135S & 34N

Poor weather on 5th and 6th resulted in few birds recorded, highlights being a Grey Heron on 5th and seven Turnstone on 6th. A Golden Plover was present on 7th, as well as 91 Chaffinch, five Lesser Redpoll and 13 Siskin. The presence of raptors on 8th (Sparrowhawk, Hen Harrier, Merlin) was indicative of the larger numbers of passerines around. Tit numbers had increased (25 Blue Tit and 17 Great Tit), as had Skylark (76). Finches included 109 Chaffinch, 81 Greenfinch, 21 Linnet, 66 Goldfinch and 38 Siskin, while seven Reed Bunting were also present. The Water Rail was heard at the Withy on 9th, eight Golden Plover flew over the Withy Fields and a Whimbrel was seen. Passerine numbers had mainly decreased but a 'tristis' Chiffchaff was at the Withy and seven Redwing and one Fieldfare flew over. On 10th, a Kestrel and two Merlin were present, along with 16 Starling, 48 Redwing and a Ring Ouzel. The 11th was another good day of passage with eight Pink-footed Goose flying north, seven Whooper Swan flew west and a **Great Northern Diver** which flew south over the Observatory. Two Sparrowhawk and three Merlin were hunting, while a flock of 71 Chough congregated above the Lighthouse Fields. Forty-four Skylark and a Swallow were joined by 20 Starling, seven Song Thrush and 55 Redwing. Two Grey Wagtail and 29 'Alba' wagtails joined 265 Meadow Pipit, while some finch numbers included 140

Chaffinch, 222 Linnet, six Lesser Redpoll, 92 Goldfinch and 78 Siskin. Highlight of the day went to a Little Bunting trapped at the Observatory.

Seven Whooper Swan flew north on 12th, whilst a male Eider, a Golden Plover and a Grey Heron were also seen. Birds of prey included two Sparrowhawk, five Buzzard, a **Long-eared Owl** and a Merlin. It was another good day of migration, with high numbers of tits (two Coal Tit, 44 Blue Tit, 50 Great Tit) and Skylark (323) with some hirundines – 15 Swallow and 10 House Martin. The last Willow Warbler of the season was seen amidst 65 Goldcrest and a Treecreeper. Thrushes numbered 23 Song Thrush, 160 Redwing and four Fieldfare, while three House Sparrow joined 15 Dunnock. Wagtails featured 38 'Alba' and 21 Pied, finches remained high and 17 Reed Bunting were counted. A Common Gull and 63 Gannet flew past Cow Harbour on 13th, while it was a day of fours for raptors, with four of each Sparrowhawk, Hen Harrier and Buzzard recorded. A small corvid passage occurred (10 Jackdaw, 21 Hooded Crow, eight Carrion Crow), with two Swallow, 163 Starling and a Wheatear also seen. On 14th, a Whooper Swan flew east and three Eider were at Cow Harbour. Eighteen Common Gull flew south past Cow Harbour, 44 Jackdaw were joined by a Rook, whilst two Swallow, a Treecreeper and three House Sparrow were sighted.

Four Woodpigeon, a Grey Heron and three Kestrel were present on 15th. Corvids included two Jackdaw, a Rook and 28 Raven over the Observatory, whilst tits stood at nine Coal Tit, 13 Blue Tit and 22 Great Tit. Four Swallow passed through, while 44 Goldcrest and two Treecreeper were around the Observatory. Some thrushes included 17 Song Thrush, a Mistle Thrush and five Redwing. Numbers remained similar over the next couple of days; highlights being a Lapwing at the Dub and a female House Sparrow on 16th, and 413 Jackdaw, 43 Rook, 46 Redwing and 19 Fieldfare on 17th. Windy weather on 18th reduced numbers, with bird of the day being a female Eider off the Stack. A high count of six Pheasant was recorded on 18th, along with a Water Rail, three Turnstone and a Common Gull. Thrushes increased (18 Song Thrush, two Mistle Thrush, 64 Redwing, 13 Blackbird, 24 Fieldfare) and a House Sparrow was seen. A Sandwich Tern flew through the Sound on 20th, with four Common Gull and two Great Northern Diver at the same location on 21st. Also, on 21st, 983 Jackdaw encompassed 23 Rook, and a Ring Ouzel was present. It was a good finch passage day, including 846 Chaffinch, three **Brambling**, 24 Greenfinch, eight Lesser Redpoll, 95 Goldfinch and 31 Siskin. Two Woodpigeon and a Collared Dove were at the Observatory on 22nd, while

four Common Gull and a Great Northern Diver went past Cow Harbour. Five Swallow were the last of the season, 23 Mistle Thrush were sighted, a Tree Sparrow was with four House Sparrow and 13 Reed Bunting were recorded. The Water Rail was last heard at the Withy on 23rd, whilst some waders included a Golden Plover, ten Curlew and a Snipe. Nine Long-tailed Tit and four Blackcap were around the Observatory and a small movement of Blackbird (54) occurred. The 24th was a relatively quiet day, with the first **Woodcock** of the year, and four Black-headed Gull, two Common Gull and a Ring Ouzel around Cow Harbour. Thirty-eight Woodpigeon, a Lapwing and a **Little Egret** were present on 25th. Fifteen Magpie and 21 Dunnock would have been the pick of a quiet passerine day, if not for the **Radde's Warbler** trapped at the Withy – the first Manx record.

Windy weather resulted in fewer records for the remainder of the month. A Snipe and six Long-tailed Tit were seen on 26th, 30 Oystercatcher and the last Grey Wagtail of the season were on 27th, and a Little Egret, a Merlin and two Brambling were sighted on 28th. The 29th saw 87 Woodpigeon pass-over and a **Short-eared Owl** hunting around Gibdale, whilst 30th produced four **Wigeon** and 16 Lesser Black-backed Gull flying east past Cow Harbour, two Short-eared Owl and 302 Starling. Four Hen Harrier were hunting amid the thrushes on 31st – 40 Song Thrush, a Mistle Thrush, 54 Redwing, 149 Blackbird, 16 Fieldfare.

A total of 90 species were recorded during the month.

November

Weather: Moderate southerly on 1st, switching to north on 2nd and decreasing in strength up until 5th. 6th-10th saw moderate west-north-westerlies (with a brief south-west interlude on 9th). 11th ended the season with a calm north-easterly. Heavy rain on 1st gave way to a sunny couple of weeks.

A Woodcock and a Peregrine were sighted on 1st. Thrushes decreased in number, apart from Song Thrush (41) and Fieldfare (42). The 2nd saw low numbers of a variety of species, including eight Eider, a Golden Plover, one Turnstone, a Woodcock, two Common Gull and a Little Egret. Finch numbers were higher: 202 Chaffinch, six Brambling and 61 Goldfinch. Four Turnstone and 32 Fulmar were seen off Cow, with further records coming from a seawatch:

3rd – Eider 4S & 1E, Kittiwake 655S & 7N, Common Gull 37S, Guillemot 1S, Razorbill 1S, Auk sp. 25S & 1N, Black Guillemot 1S

A Short-eared Owl was seen on 4th but the highlight again came from the sea, although non-avian: a Humpback Whale was seen from Big Head, fin slapping and leaping. Rather less excitement was had on 5th, with three Jackdaw, three Rook and three Brambling seen during the day and an eared owl sp. sighted before dawn. Two Mallard returned to the Millpond on 6th, with 12 Turnstone being recorded at Cow Harbour. On 7th, a Water Rail was heard at the Observatory, and three Brambling were recorded. Further records came from a seawatch at Culbery: Eider (1S), Common Scoter (1S) and Great Northern Diver (5S). The best records of 8th came from dazzling overnight, including five Purple Sandpiper at Cow Harbour, at least 400 Herring Gull roosting at the Bowl and a Cormorant was caught at Cow Harbour. Very little was recorded on 9th, but migration picked up on 10th, with 340 Woodpigeon and 15 Rook starting the day off. 1235 Starling were in the Front Field, and 90 Chaffinch and a Brambling were sighted.

Records for 11th were made amid last minute packing and closing up the Observatory. A Coal Tit, 20 Long-tailed Tit, two Mistle Thrush, 21 Greenfinch and 17 Lesser Redpoll were counted before the three remaining wardens departed the island at 09:45. The boat trip produced some final sightings of two Mallard, 21 Oystercatcher, nine Turnstone and a Purple Sandpiper.

A total of 69 species were recorded during the month, and a total of 141 species were recorded during the year.



Humpback Whale – November 2023 By Mike Haigh

2023 Systematic List

The nomenclature and taxonomic order follows that of the tenth edition of the British List published by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU 2022), available online at <http://www.bou.org.uk/british-list/>. 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 below. Those marked with an * denote species added to the Manx Bird List with the first occurrence being from the Calf or Chicken Rock.

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 occurrences |
| • Scarce passage migrant | 1 – 10 recorded annually. |
| • Uncommon migrant / visitor | 11 - 100 recorded annually. |
| • Common passage migrant / visitor | Occurs regularly, more than 100+ annually |

Brent [Brant] Goose *Branta bernicla*

Guiry doo

Rare passage migrant

Two 'pale-bellied' Brents of the race *B.b. hrota* flew south off Culbery on 21st September.

The 32nd Calf record and 12th occurrence during September.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Guiry glass

Scarce visitor / passage migrant

A typical series of April records saw a flock of seven over the Observatory on 1st; with six heading west out to sea and a single that returned northwards

towards the Isle of Man. Four flew north up the Glen during the morning of 7th and a single was captured on a trail camera at the Dub on 24th, with four there on 25th.

The 72nd – 75th Calf records, of which 35% have occurred in the month of April.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Guiry Eeslynnagh

Rare passage migrant

A flock of eight flew north over Caigher on 1st, and another eight flew south off Culbery on 11th October.

The 25th & 26th Calf records and continues the recent run of records in the past four years.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Ollay chiaullee

Rare spring and scarce autumn passage migrant

A single which flew north over the Cletts on 27th September was only the third record for that month.

In October a typical series of records included a flock of seven flying west over the Observatory and a single over the central heath on 11th, seven heading north towards the Lighthouses on 8th and an immature south high over Cow Harbour on 14th.

The 97th – 101st Calf records.

[Common] Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Laagh chryss-ruy

Breeding resident (March to June)

Up to two birds were recorded on five dates between 6th – 14th January on trail cameras set at the Dub.

Four birds were recorded regularly in the vicinity of the Puddle and South Harbour from 11th April until the end of May, with five birds on Rarick on 19th May, when a pair and seven young were also seen crossing the Sound towards Spanish Head. Six were on Rarick during the morning of 25th May, with five there on 27th then back to four by 30th May and 4th June, with the last single at South Harbour on 8th June.

There were no late summer or autumn records.

[Eurasian] Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Laagh ruy

Scarce passage migrant

Four flew east through the Sound on 30th October.

The 117th Calf record and a typical date with 38% of records occurring in October.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Thunnag feie

Breeding resident & winter visitor

Two or three birds were recorded by trail camera during both January and February, as well as being seen during a couple of day visits to the Calf. During March at least two females and a male were resident around the Millpond and Dub, with another pair regularly seen at Cow Harbour. A second male appeared at the Millpond during early April, but counts remained at two or three birds, with females, presumably by then, sitting on nests and the first ducklings appeared on the Millpond on 30th April. The seven young were still present on 7th May but had reduced to two by 13th and to just one by 17th, when another brood, of 10 young, was seen on Kitterland and adults numbered seven, including a pair that had been seen in the Front Field since 13th. A brood of 15 young appeared on the Millpond on 27th May, but were gradually reduced in number, with just one left by 3rd June. Thereafter, up to three or four adults were seen with increasing infrequency during the remainder of the month and the first half of July. A female reappeared at the Millpond on 24th July with a brood of eight ducklings and was joined by a second female, with seven more ducklings, on 27th but by early August the ducklings had vanished, and the only records of any adult birds was a female at the Millpond on 1st & 4th and up to two birds recorded on the trail camera on Kitterland on seven dates up to 21st August. There were no records during either September or October and the only sightings during the latter part of the season were two on 6th, 7th and 11th November.

[Eurasian] Teal *Anas crecca*

Laaghag

Scarce passage migrant

There was just one spring record with three seen at South Harbour on 21st April.

Records were also extremely scarce during autumn passage with a single at Cow on 17th September being the only record.

[Common] Eider *Somateria mollissima*

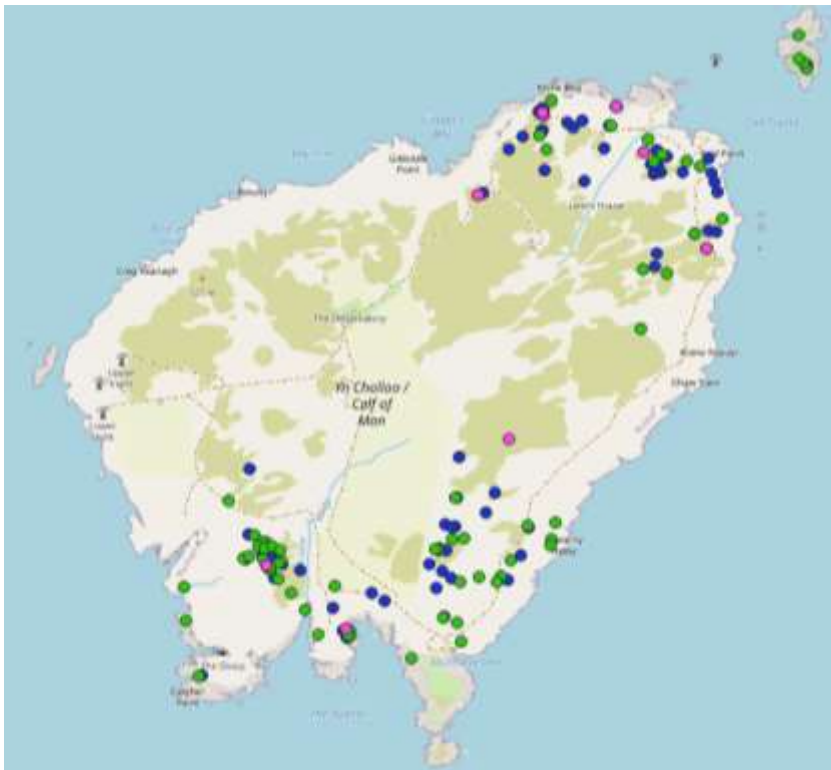
Laagh Loghlinagh

Former rare passage migrant, now breeding resident (March to July) and scarce autumn passage migrant

The only winter record was of a male and two females at Cow Harbour on 26th January.

Numbers were slow to build-up during March, with just two on 6th, up to seven on six days between 11th – 19th and then daily records from 24th, with a peak of 17 on 30th. Early April saw regular counts of up to 30, although towards the end of the month numbers rose to a peak of 70 on 29th April and 122 on 1st May which was a record day count. Otherwise up to 80 were seen during May, with the first ducklings appearing on 25th.

Efforts were again concentrated on finding Eider nests and a total of 72 active nests were monitored, with a 65% success rate overall. Fewer nests were located than in 2022.



Eider map: Blue dots indicate active nests in 2022, green dots indicate active nests in 2023 and pink dots indicate nest sites used in both years.

During the first half of June, counts were mostly in the low double figures with a maximum of 34 on 5th, but after mid-month single figure counts were more regular and by July there were just five records, with singles on 3rd & 6th and three on 7th, 8th and 16th.

Early autumn records were few, with a female at South Harbour on 8th August and a male there on 16th September. During October a male was again in the Puddle on 12th, three flew west past Cow Harbour on 14th and a female was at the Stack on 18th. November produced several groups on passage past Cow Harbour, with a male heading west on 2nd followed by three males and four females flying east through the Sound, 4S & 1N on 3rd and finally a single south off Culbery on 7th November.

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Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Ushag vreck varrey

Uncommon passage migrant

There were no spring records.

The first of the year occurred in August with seawatching from Culbery producing 3N on 1st, 26S on 4th and 2S & 2N on 20th.

Records, again from Culbery, increased in September with 11S on 13th, 5S & 6N on 18th, 3S on 21st, 4S (& 3S off Cow) on 22nd and 4S & 4N on 29th. There were just three records in October, with 6S & 3N on 3rd, 5S & 4N on 4th & 2S on 11th and a final single south on 7th November.

[Common] Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Kellagh keylley

Formerly rare visitor pre-2018, now breeding resident

There were no winter records from the trail cameras or the winter day visits,

although a single male was seen on 4th March.

One to three birds were seen regularly throughout the spring, and occasionally up to five were recorded, with males holding territories at the Triangle, Withy area, Central Heath and around Jane's House.

Breeding was confirmed with a single pullet seen in the Withies on 25th August, another at the Triangle on 16th and in the Glen on 17th September, where from 19th at least three and possibly four young were seen frequently through until the end of the season.

Counts during the autumn were again mostly of one to three birds, but up to six were recorded on four occasions in October with a high of seven on 11th.

[Common] Swift *Apus apus*

Gollan mooar

Uncommon to scarce passage migrant

Two over Gibdale on 4th May were the first of the year and were followed by three on 5th, singles on 15th & 26th and two on 24th & 30th May.

Summer records were very sporadic with one or two birds seen on seven dates in June and five dates in July, plus a maximum count of three on 15th June.

In a very poor autumn passage, the only record was of a single flying low over the Twin Fields on 18th August.

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

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

[Common] Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Cooag

Uncommon to scarce passage migrant, has bred

Spring passage began early with sightings occurring in two distinct periods, with up to three seen during 21st – 24th April and then singles recorded on 17th, 20th and 29th May.

During the summer months a single flew over the backfield on 22nd June, and another was present at the Withy on 10th July, but no evidence of breeding was suspected.

- *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.

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Calmane ny creggey

Historical breeder, now uncommon visitor

A single on 21st May and then 1 – 3 on six dates in June and seven dates in July, including an all-white ‘dove’ on 29th July.

During the autumn months, singles were seen on 13th August & 17th September.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Calmane gorrym

Scarce passage migrant, has bred

A single trapped at the Observatory on 27th March and one seen in Mill Giau on 6th April were the only records.

The 518th - 519th Calf record, although March records are relatively unusual with this being just the 15th.

Woodpigeon [Common Wood Pigeon] *Columba palumbus*

Calmane keylley

Scarce spring & regular autumn passage migrant, has bred

Records were typically scarce during the spring with singles on 29th March, eight dates in April, seven dates in May and five dates in June, plus two on 30th May and 3rd June.

The first of autumn passage birds were four around the Observatory on 15th October, followed by singles on 17th & 31st, two on 22nd, 38 on 25th and 87 on 29th. In November there was a single on 9th and the only notable movement of the autumn, with 340 on 10th November.

[Eurasian] Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Calmane coillarach

Regular spring and occasional autumn migrant, has bred

An above average number of spring records with singles on 30th March, six dates in April, seven dates in May and four dates in June, plus two between 20th – 23rd and on 28th May.

During the summer months singles were present from 13th - 14th July and on 6th, 8th and 10th August.

Typically, scarcer in autumn with just a single on 22nd October.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Ushag ny shast

Scarce passage migrant & winter visitor, has bred

A rather unseasonal record of a bird heard calling at the Withies on four mornings between 7th – 13th May was the first of the year.

Autumn records consisted of singles seen or heard at the Withy on 11 dates between 9th – 23rd October and on 7th November.

[Eurasian] Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Garee breck

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Present throughout the year with breeding birds already on territory during March and through to late July. The high spring count of 61 on 29th March, also included 38 additional birds using the high tide roost at Cow Harbour. Counts of between 20 – 45 were regular, with the presence of young birds in late July and early August swelling numbers, with 58 on 3rd August, included 49 at Cow Harbour high tide roost.

A total of 26 breeding pairs were located, with 21 nesting attempts being recorded for the BTO nest record scheme. This is the 2nd highest ever total of breeding pairs located on the Calf, falling just short of the 27 pairs in 1977.

Autumn counts were generally low, with only three counts above 30, being 33 on 10th & 20th September and 34 on 24th October.



Oystercatcher map: location of breeding pairs during 2023.

[Northern] Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Eairkan

Uncommon to scarce passage migrant, has bred

There were no winter or spring records.

Summer records were of singles flying north over the Observatory on 12th, on Caigher on 14th & 15th and two on Rarick on 29th June.

Autumn records were of singles in the Seafield on 3rd August, at South Harbour on 12th September, on Caigher Dub on 16th October and flying north over the front field on 25th October.

[European] Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Ushag reasht

Irregular passage migrant

Spring records involved singles on 14th, 17th, 18th & 19th March and 1st & 17th April and 12th, 15th May and a relatively late summer-plumaged bird in the Front Field on 29th May.

The first of autumn flew over on 14th August but main passage did not occur until September with singles seen on eight dates in the month and a flock of five on 23rd. October records produced a similar pattern with seven singles during the month and eight on 9th, whilst there were just singles on 2nd & 4th November.

[Common] Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Feddag fainnagh

Scarce passage migrant

Singles flew over the Observatory on 26th August and over the Withy on 23rd September.

A typical set of records, with most records on the Calf being of fly-over birds.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Crottag veg

Regular spring and scarce autumn passage migrant, has wintered.

Two on 20th April were followed by singles on 22nd & 30th and four on 29th April. Further singles were recorded on eight dates between 1st – 26th May plus two on 22nd May.

A single on 11th July was the only early autumn record. An injured bird was seen associating with the Curlew flock that were frequenting the lower lighthouse fields and heath above Culbery and was present on at least 10 dates between 14th September and 2nd October and what was likely the same bird also seen on 9th October. One was recorded by Nocmig as it flew over on 12th October.

- *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

[Eurasian] Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Crottag

Passage migrant, has bred

The only records during the first two months of the year were of singles on 26th January and 23rd February, with three on 24th February.

A typical series of spring records saw singles recorded on eight dates in March and nine dates in April, plus two on 4th & 6th April and further singles on 1st, 4th, 11th & 12th May.

Post-breeding dispersal occurred from 10th June, with further singles recorded on six more dates in the month. After five on 3rd July, passage was more regular with counts of up to six birds on 20 dates plus a high count of 17 on 18th. Similar levels occurred during August with single figure counts on 26 dates in the month, plus high counts of 12 on 5th and 13 on 24th. During September a flock of up to 25 birds often frequented an area of coastal grassland just below the Lower Lighthouse fields, although during both October and November counts were more typically of up to 10 birds, with monthly highs of 11 on 30th & 31st October and 13 on 8th November.

Trail camera records after the end of the season were of a single at the Dub on 16th November and three there on 7th December.

[Ruddy] Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Ronseyder traie

Passage migrant & winter visitor

A single at Kione ny Halby on 24th February was the only winter record.

Up to seven were seen on six dates between 11th – 22nd March, then no further records until one on 29th April. Passage during May included singles on 13th, 25th & 27th, two on 24th, three on 14th and 11 on 17th, with two on 1st & 2nd June ending spring passage.

Return passage began with two birds initially seen on Chicken Rock and then later at South Harbour on 3rd August. Ten were on Thousla on 9th and a flock of 25 at Cow Harbour on 12th, with six there on 24th and two on 25th, when another bird flew over the Withy. September produced a host of records on 18 dates in the month, mostly in single figures but 11 were seen on two occasions and a peak of 12 occurred on 27th. Records during October were comparatively few, with two on 5th, seven on 6th, a single on 10th and three on 18th & 19th, whilst November produced a single on 2nd, four on 3rd & 7th, 12 on 6th and nine on 11th.

[Red] Knot *Calidris canutus*

Feddanagh ruy

Rare passage migrant

A single outside South Harbour on 13th and, presumably the same bird, again on 15th September.

The 51st Calf record and occurring at a typical time, with September having the greatest number of records (22).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Feddanagh glass

Rare passage migrant

Singles were seen and photographed on Chicken Rock on 27th May and 1st June.

The 11th & 12th Calf records and once again showing the potential for the low-tide rocks at Chicken Rock to provide a safe resting place for migrating birds and provide notable records of waders.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Breckag hraie

Scarce passage migrant

A single which tried to land on the Millpond on 4th and another singing at Cow Harbour on 17th May were the only spring records.

Autumn records were also of singles at Cow Harbour on 18th, at South Harbour on 19th July, one trapped at Cow Harbour during the night of 16th and one flying over the Observatory on 23rd August.

Several flocks of small waders were seen during sea watches and may have been or included Dunlins; records were three on 11th & two on 13th August and 10 on 27th September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Feddanagh gorrym

Passage migrant & winter visitor

No visits to the caves below the Lighthouses were made during the first winter period.

A single was seen on rocks below Ghaw Yairn as we returned to the Calf on 17th April. Four records occurred during May, with two at South Harbour on 2nd & 14th, three flying east through the Sound on 4th and three with Turnstones on Caigher Point on 17th.

Autumn records began with five in the Lighthouse caves on 10th September

and singles seen around Leodan on 22nd & 27th. Seventeen small waders seen at the night-time roost at Cow Harbour on 6th October were probably this species, whilst five were present in the same area on 8th November and a single was seen as we left the Island on 11th.

[Eurasian] Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Ushag rhennee

Uncommon passage migrant

There were no spring records.

First of the autumn was a bird flushed from the mouth of Heligoland 2 on the morning of 24th October, with further singles seen on 1st and 2nd November.

[Common] Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Coar heddagh

Uncommon passage migrant, has bred

Three were flushed from the east coast footpath on 26th January.

Records continued to be scarce with a single recorded by trail camera on 10th April and one found injured on Central Heath on 15th May. The latter bird was unable to fly and was likely to have been present in the area for a while, where it would have been able to feed in the wet flushes and use areas of heather as cover.

Two in the Withy on 3rd September were the first of autumn, being followed by four singles between 7th – 14th and two on 30th September. October produced further singles on three dates plus a maximum count of two on 11th.

The only other records occurred after the season ended, with trail camera records at the Millpond of a single on 26th and three on 30th November and a further single on 1st December.

An extremely poor series of records.

Grey [Red] Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Phalarope gob-mooar

Rare passage migrant

One was watched in the bay between Grant's and Carey's Docks during the afternoon of 28th September (EMG et al).

The 14th record and 20th individual seen from the Calf. Most previous records have been seen during sea watches and it was a pleasure to watch this diminutive wader as it 'spun' on the water and avoided the attentions of nearby Grey Seals.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Feddanagh

Regular spring & uncommon autumn passage migrant

Spring passage began with two in the Puddle on 22nd April, a single at South Harbour on 25th & 26th, singles at both Cow Harbour and South Harbour on 30th April and finally singles on 1st and 4th May.

Return passage began with up to three seen regularly from 27th June to 4th July and then again from 17th, with a peak of five on 28th July. Records continued through August with singles on eight dates up to 29th.

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

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

[Common] Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Goblan marrey

Uncommon passage migrant

Late winter or early spring records involved singles at Kione ny Halby on 13th and amongst the Oystercatcher roost at Cow Harbour on 22nd March. In April singles were recorded on four dates in the second half of the month and included one flying over the Withy on 26th.

Return passage began on 10th July with singles seen on six dates in the month, plus a group of four on Caigher on 18th July. In August singles were recorded on 14th & 30th, whilst seven were tape-lured overnight on 16th & 17th. Two on 2nd and a flock of 13 on 6th September were part of a wider movement of the species witnessed at other sites on the main Island during this time and lastly a single recorded flying over at night on 11th. There were no records during October or November.

[Common] Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Goblan glass

Rare passage migrant

The only record was of one heard calling as it flew over the Central Heath on 27th July.

The 85th Calf record and 100th individual recorded, although only the tenth for July.

[Black-legged] Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Pirragh

Former breeding resident, now summer visitor and 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

Other than 84S & 78N off Culbery on 23rd March, the species was typically scarce during the early spring months, with single figure counts on just five other dates in both March and April. The frequency of records increased during May, with 18 day counts of up to 20 birds, plus 80 seen in attendance of a bait-ball on 28th. The presence of birds taking advantage of these feeding opportunities increased through June with several counts of between 140 – 215 being made, as well as associated roosts forming at several sites along the west coast, from the Burroo to the Stack, with a high count of 602 on 22nd. Up to 200 birds also used the Burroo and Leodan as a roosting site during July, with several birds noted as suffering from HPAI symptoms at this time.

Passage past the south end of the Island, often with birds moving between feeding locations and the main Island breeding colony at the Sugarloaf were seen daily during June and much of July, with a peak of 510 per hour passing South Harbour on the 8th June.

Seawatching from Culbery during early autumn mornings produced several low three-figure counts, however it wasn't until October that larger movements occurred, with 240S & 512N on 3rd, 256S & 1306N on 4th and 445S & 46N on 14th being the peaks. November also produced a couple of larger counts with 655S off Cow Harbour on 3rd and 397S & 612N off Culbery on 7th.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Foillan kione-doo

Irregular passage migrant

Spring records consisted of two adults flying east through the Sound on 28th March, and then 1 – 2 were seen on five dates in May and singles on four dates in June.

Late summer dispersal movement began with an adult off South Harbour on 28th and two adults south off Cow Harbour on 30th July. Two summer-plumaged adults were off Cow on 3rd August, whilst seawatching produced

another adult off Cow on 12th and 2N off Culbery on 13th.

Autumn passage birds were few, with a single south off Cow Harbour on 22nd September, three north past Culbery on 3rd, four off Cow Harbour on 24th, a single off South Harbour on 26th October and finally one south off Culbery on 7th November.

Common [Mew] Gull *Larus canus*

Foillan bane

Scarce passage migrant

An unusual spring record of a 2nd year bird that was briefly present in the 2nd and front field on 7th June.

An early autumn record saw an adult fly south past Cow Harbour on 2nd August, with another heading south on 22nd September. Late autumn records were typically more numerous with a southerly passage past Cow Harbour consisting of a single on 13th, 18 on 14th then 1 – 4 on seven dates between 18th to 30th October, then two on 2nd, 37S on 3rd, five on 6th and 23 on 7th November, including 19S past Culbery.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Juan mooar

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Seen throughout the season, with counts of up to 100 being made daily during March to June, with monthly high counts of 136 on 13th March, 92 on 3rd April, 142 on 27th May and 101 on 24th June.

Breeding numbers again increased slightly to 70 AON's achieving the highest total of pairs since 2001, despite several 'regular' sites not being occupied.

Productivity was rather poor, and few pairs raised more than one chick.

Whilst there is optimism that the number of pairs is slowly increasing, it should also be remembered that the current population is only 32% of the peak breeding numbers that were present in the mid-1970's.

- *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

Once breeding had finished and young had dispersed, the numbers of birds present were relatively low with most counts during July to November being of less than 50 birds, with peak monthly counts of 100 on 13th July, 63 on 22nd August, 79 on 18th September, 68 on 18th October and 18 on 3rd November.

Location	AON	Location	AON
Gibdale Point	1	Seafield	2
Cow Harbour	3	Upper Withy	2
Baie Fine	2	Central Heath/ Twin Peaks/Quarry	5
Amulty	0	Above Jane's (Big Park)	1
Baie n' Ooig to Upper Lighthouse	1	Kione ny Halby	3
Stack to Lighthouse Cave	2	Lower Twin	0
Culbery	0	Main Colony – Caigher	22
Rarick	1	Cletts	1
Burroo Neck	2	Kitterland	20
Burroo	2		
		Total	70

(European) Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Foillan

Breeding resident & passage migrant

A common sight around much of the Calf's coastline, the Herring Gull is perhaps the most abundant species for much of the season. The breeding colonies were already occupied by the time we arrived in early March with daily counts of between 150 – 500 birds through March to July and a peak of 706 on 28th March.

Breeding numbers were comparable with the past couple of years showing a 7% increase on 2022 numbers but a 1% decrease on 2021 figures.

- *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

Following the breeding season, moulting flocks of 300 – 400 birds were regular through July and much of August, but after the 20th August numbers began to decrease as birds dispersed away from their natal areas and during September counts rarely exceeded low double figures, and other than 152 on 4th all other counts were below 57. Low numbers continued through October and November, with mostly single figure counts and occasionally up to 40 birds were recorded. Signs of birds beginning to return to the islet were seen in early November with 80 on 3rd and a roost of 430 between South Harbour and Kione ny Halby on 8th.

Location	AON	Location	AON
West Coast (Gibdale Pt to Lighthouse Fields)	15	Kione ny Halby	92
Ghaw Laing	22	Ghaw Yairn	1
Caigher Heath (Dub)	83	Big Park / Twin Peaks	6
Kittiwake / Gloop Cave	14	Big Head	4
Caigher Point	9	Fold Point / Cletts	2
Rarick	94	The Dock	1
Puddle	0	Cow Harbour	96
Burroo Neck / South Harbour	16	Kione Beg	11
Burroo	15	Gibdale	9
Central Heath / Top Withy	166	Kitterland	41
Kione ny Halby (Puffin colony)	1		
		Total	698

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Foillan saggyrt

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Day trips during February recorded birds already occupying the breeding site at Kione ny Halby, with 13 on 23rd and nine on 24th and 27 were present on 6th March.

Seen daily from the start of the season, counts of up to 60 were regular during March with a peak of 74 on 19th. Numbers continued to increase through April with 125 on 6th, whilst in May several counts of up to 100 occurred, plus a peak of 129 on 10th. Up to 50 were seen daily through June and July, with monthly peaks of 63 on 15th June and 89 on 27th July.

Breeding numbers were higher than the last three years and there would appear to have been a high productivity level, particularly at the Kione ny Halby colony where many recently fledged young were present during mid to late July. Few young were seen at Caigher Dub, whilst the presence of high bracken made assessment of the Central Heath colony almost impossible.

- *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

After 61 on 1st August counts during the remainder of the month never exceeded 30 and gradually tailed off after mid-month, with only single figure counts after 23 on 13th. From September records became scarcer with 1 – 6 on eight dates during the first half of the month and then singles seen on passage on 21st & 22nd. After six adults and an immature in the front field during the morning of 1st October, several birds were seen on passage past Culbery with 2N on 3rd & 6N on 4th. One or two were then seen on four dates between 9th - 27th and finally a light passage totalling 16 birds flying west to east past Cow Harbour on 30th October.

Location	AON
Baie n' Ooig / Amulty	1
Caigher Dub	5
Central Heath / Top Withy	12
East coast/KNH	25
Kitterland	3
Rarick	1
Ghaw Laing	1
Total	48

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Gollan-marrey mooar

Scarce passage migrant

The only spring record was of two which flew east through the Sound on 7th May.

In autumn singles headed east through the Sound on 30th July & a particularly late individual on 20th October.

The latter record is just two days short of the latest Calf record.

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

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Maarliagh marrey

Uncommon passage migrant & recent summer resident

The presumed (same) returning bird was present from 15th April and was seen almost daily through to the end of June, although from the 20th June it was also seen in the company of a second bird. More intermittent records

occurred through July and August with a single being seen on 13 dates in July, with two on 7th & 11th and on seven dates in August up to 24th, with two on 5th.

A passage bird flew south off Culbery on 27th August.

Skua sp. *Stercorarius sp*

Two on 30th July and one on 18th September were too distant to confirm identification.

Arctic Skua [Parasitic Jaeger] *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Shirragh varrey

Scarce passage migrant

One flew south off Culbery on 13th August, whilst in September records were of two south on 18th, singles on 21st & 22nd (the latter heading East through the Sound) and three north on 29th. October produced another three north on 3rd and then two south & 13N on 4th.

Long-tailed [Jaeger] Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Maarliagh fammanagh

Rare passage migrant

An all-dark immature, initially seen chasing a Kittiwake, was seen heading south off Cow Harbour on 22nd September (AS).

The 22nd Calf record and 11th to have occurred in the month of September.

Common [Murre] Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Stronnag

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Three were seen on the ledges at Big Head during a day trip on 27th January. Records were scarce during the early part of the season, with just four records in March, with a maximum of 64 on 19th and eight records in April with a maximum of 73 on 17th. Records became more regular in May and after 95 at Ghaw Yairn on 2nd, counts of up to 185 birds were regular through the month and into early June, when combined counts at the two colonies reached 270 on 2nd and 208 on 22nd. The latter date also produced up to 250 feeding around Chicken Rock, as many birds joined other species taking advantage of the numerous bait-balls offshore.

Breeding surveys recorded a total of 224 Individual Adults ashore, which provides an estimated population of 135 pairs, and compares favourably

with the mean of the last 10 years (2013 – 2022) of 117 pairs. Reasonable numbers of birds were still in the colonies during early July, with a maximum of 126 on 6th but as young began to fledge the numbers of adults present dwindled quickly with just nine seen by 21st and the only other record for the month consisted of 49S & 2N off Culbery on 30th.

- *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

Autumn records were few with 1 – 3 birds seen on four dates in both August and September and mostly involved birds seen/heard in between the Puddle and Chicken Rock Lighthouse. There were no records during October, although the species is likely to have occurred during the ‘large auk’ movements. The last records of the year were a single south off Cow Harbour on 3rd November and two on 6th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Coltrag

Breeding resident & passage migrant

March records were scarce with single figure counts on just three dates, plus 25 on 12th and 22S & 6N on 28th. Records were more regular in April and May although numbers remained low, with monthly maximum counts of 67 on 8th April and 97 on 30th May. From June more regular numbers were recorded and breeding numbers were slightly above average, with counts of Individual Adults ashore of 135 on 3rd, 206 on 12th and 189 on 22nd, giving a combined total of 171 IA's and an estimated 102 pairs. Additionally, on the 12th a further 103 birds were seen on the water around the coastline of the Calf.

- *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

Typically, numbers dwindled through early July with a peak of 69 on 4th and the last double figure count of 15 on 17th. Thereafter, 1 – 3 were seen on just five dates during the last two weeks of the month.

Records were scarce during the autumn months with singles seen on three dates during the first week of August, then 6N on 18th and 2N on 29th

September, there were no confirmed records in October and then just 1S on 3rd, two on 6th and seven on 7th November.

Large Auk sp. *Alca/Uria sp.*

Non-specifically identified Razorbill and Guillemots were recorded offshore between March and November, and with greater frequency and larger numbers during late May to early July and then again in late autumn. Summer movements largely involve birds moving between feeding sites to the south and west of the Calf and breeding sites along the southern coastline of the Isle of Man. Monthly maxima were 345 on 20th May, 1,920 per hour passing South Harbour on 8th June and 626N & 151S past Culbery on 1st July.

Records were generally scarce during the early autumn months with up to 11 seen on seven dates in August and up to 72 on 10 dates in September. From early October greater numbers were recorded off Culbery during periods of stormy weather with 2,913S & 29N on 3rd, 733S & 196N on 4th, 389S & 13N on 11th and 313S & 3N on 14th. The only other records during the remainder of the season were five on 30th October, 25S & 1N off Cow Harbour on 3rd, three on 6th, 1185S & 51N past Culbery on 7th and three on 11th November.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grille*

Stronnag ghoo

Breeding resident & uncommon passage migrant

Three were seen off the Puddle on 23rd February; otherwise, records began from 13th March with mostly 1 – 2 birds being seen through to end of April, with higher counts of 11 on 17th, six on 27th and three on 30th April. Up to four were seen regularly during May and June with 13 on 12th June being the highest count. Records were again focused in the area of the Stack (2 pairs) and between Kione ny Halby / Ghaw Yairn (1 pair) which are thought to be the likely breeding sites. The larger counts being seen off Cow Harbour, during calm sea conditions, are likely to include birds from the nearby colony at Bradda Head, as well as possibly one or two pairs from Gibdale.

Late summer records included 1- 5 on eight dates in July and 5N off Culbery on 1st August plus a single below the Lighthouses on 8th. Typically, there were no records during either September or October, but a single was seen flying south past Cow Harbour on 3rd November.

[Atlantic] Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Pibbin

Former breeding resident, summer visitor & passage migrant

The first records were of singles off the Cletts on 2nd and in the Sound, near to Spanish Head on 17th April. Then no further records until 17th May whereafter up to five birds were seen frequently, with higher counts of nine on 27th May and seven on 12th, 11 on 21st & 12 on 22nd June.

Seawatching from Culbery produced several July records including 2N on 1st, 16N & 2S on 3rd and singles north on 7th & 30th. In addition, an adult was found dead on Rarick on 11th and was thought to probably have been predated by gulls and then carried to where it was found. Final records of the season were singles that flew north off Culbery on 4th & 27th August.

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

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

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

Lhargey yiang

Scarce passage migrant

A rather poor showing with just a single flying south off Cow Harbour on 22nd September.

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	376	188	80	0

Great Northern Diver [Common Loon] *Gavia immer*

Arrag vooar

Scarce passage migrant

On a day of strong visible migration, one was seen flying south over the Observatory on 11th October.

More normal records were birds seen off Cow Harbour, with two on 21st and a single on 22nd October and five south past Culbery on 7th November. The 171st – 174th Calf records and occurring during the peak months for records.

[European] Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Kirree varrey

Summer visitor & passage migrant

The table below relates to birds attracted to tape lure during night-time netting sessions:

Date	Location	No.	Date	No.	Location
12 th June	South Harbour	1	15 th August	3	Cow Harbour
23 rd June	Gibdale	2	16 th August	12	South Harbour
29 th June	South Harbour	9	16 th August	4	Cow Harbour
18 th July	South Harbour	20	17 th August	6	Cow Harbour
19 th July	South Harbour	5	17 th August	5	South Harbour
8 th August	South Harbour	2	28 th August	3	South Harbour
9 th August	South Harbour	4	29 th August	2	South Harbour
14 th August	South Harbour	8	30 th August	1	Cow Harbour
15 th August	South Harbour	3			

In addition, four singles were seen during sea watches from Culbery, with birds heading north on 1st & 3rd and south on 7th & 30th July.

[Northern] Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Foillan albinagh

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Winter day trips produced two birds on both 26th January & 23rd February, whilst 82 were around the Calf's coastline on 6th March.

Up to 50 were seen almost daily from the beginning of the season, with occasional higher counts including 50S & 23N on 23rd March and spring monthly maxima of 64 on 28th April and 78 on 27th May.

Counts of AOS were of 56 on 3rd June and 92 on 12th June. The latter count being considered most representative of the breeding population present in 2023. No assessment of productivity was possible.

Early autumn passage included 46S & 23N off Culbery on 30th July, with records continuing for 17 dates in August and 15 dates in September. Counts were mostly in single figures, with monthly maxima of 42 on 13th August and 17 on 14th September. There were no large autumn movements, with just a single seen on 27th October being the only record for the month, whilst November produced 32 around the north-west cliffs on 3rd and 26 on 7th, including 10S & 5N off Culbery.

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

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

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis**

Scraayl vooar

Very rare migrant

One flew south off Culbery on 11th August (AS).

The fifth Calf record and first since 2004.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Scraayl

Breeding resident & passage migrant

First of the year were eight flying north past Culbery on 23rd March, with three west past Kione ny Halby on 29th, when a further three birds were found ashore at South Harbour that night. Several factors, including our absence from the Island between 9th – 16th April meant that no further records were made until 35 were seen at night along the east coast colonies on 18th April, with 10 at South Harbour on 22nd. The only other records for the month were five on 9th and 10 on 28th April.

Records became more frequent during May, and after 20 were seen off the Puddle during the evening of 14th a count of at least 50 birds ashore overnight was made. Following 20 'rafting' off the Puddle on 19th, records were almost daily for the remainder of the month with an impressive feeding flock of 1000 plus birds off Burroo and south of Chicken Rock during the early morning of 27th. Many birds were quite distant, and the swirling masses were extremely difficult to estimate numbers, but it is likely that several thousand birds were present. The following day birds were again present off the southern end of the Island in large numbers during the evening, with 60 counted passing South Harbour in just five minutes.

Call-back monitoring was conducted at 50 randomly selected burrows at both South Harbour and Kione ny Halby colonies between 29th May – 18th June with a total of 40% of burrows found to be occupied. Additionally, five occupied burrows were located at Gibdale and eight at The Cletts, although neither of these sites were searched thoroughly. Birds were known to be present at all eight sub-colonies. Based on these findings and observations of numbers ashore during night-time visits to colonies during the season, it was

estimated that the population of breeding Manx Shearwaters on the Calf is now considered to be within the region of 1000 – 1200 AOB.

Counts of up to 50 birds overnight at one or more colonies continued through July, but there were also several offshore movements observed past Culbery, including 410S & 266N on 1st, 523S & 70N on 3rd, 139S & 15N on 7th, 1696S & 96N on 30th and 139S on 31st. Lower numbers, usually <50, continued to be seen through much of August and included a month high of 481S & 14N on 13th.

Records in September were mostly of juveniles seen at night ‘star-gazing’ but did include the last 12 adults seen ashore on 5th, when breeding was also confirmed below the Lighthouses. Between 1 – 10 birds were also recorded by Nocmig during the period 7th – 14th and offshore passage was observed, with 28S & 3N on 21st and 3S & 6N on 29th. October produced records on just two dates, with 6N off Culbery on 3rd and 3S & 25N on 4th, when a single was also seen heading south off Cow Harbour.

- *Average count of apparently occupied nest burrows (AOB):*

5-YEAR (ave)	1999-2003	2004-2008	2009-2013	2014-2018	2019-2023
AOB	23	65	132	418	860

[Northern] Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Gant

Common non-breeding passage migrant

A frequent sight offshore with birds recorded on most dates during spring and summer. Daily counts were normally of less than 60 birds, with higher counts of 67 on 22nd, 223 on 23rd and 80 on 24th March, 83 on 20th, 106 on 21st & 79 on 23rd April, 89 on 5th May and 109 on 9th & 90 on 12th June.

Records were less frequent from July, with single figure counts on 14 dates and a high count of 72 on 3rd, except for a passage count at the end of the month which produced 100S & 59N on 30th. August produced similarly low numbers with 15 single figure days and notable passage on just eight dates, with a maximum of 84S & 108N on 13th.

[Great] Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Feeagh marrey

Now non-breeding resident & passage migrant, has bred

Single figure counts were common throughout the spring and summer, with small groups of birds frequenting regular haul-out sites, including the Cletts and Caigher Point. A high count of 10 was achieved on 20th May, which

included an immature bird that landed on the Millpond and then made its way half-way up the Glen before departing.

Up to eight birds were seen regularly through the summer months of June & July and although records were rather sporadic during the autumn, monthly peaks of 10 on 1st August, 11 on 21st September, six on 15th October were recorded. Between 1 – 3 were seen on 10 dates in November.

[European] Shag *Gulosus aristotelis*

Fannag varrey

Resident breeder

Winter day trips produced 36 on 26th January & 23rd February and 32 on 24th, with occupied nests noted during the February trips.

Present throughout the season, counts during March and April rarely exceeded 60 birds. Higher numbers occurred from early May, as birds began to gather in feeding flocks off the Calf with nine three-figure counts in the month including a peak of 208 on 19th.

Although occupied nests were noted in February, visits to the main colony at Kione ny Halby in early March showed that many birds were still in process of nest building whilst a few had started egg laying. A return visit in mid-May showed that whilst some nests had progressed, many hadn't, and this was thought to be as a result of prolonged periods of southerly or easterly winds through much of April. By mid-June only six of the 30 monitored nests contained young, and only four of these were subsequently believed to be successful. A similar result occurred at the Gibdale colony where only two of eight monitored nests were successful. In total just 90 AON were recorded (see Table), representing a 16% decrease on 2022 figures and the second lowest overall total since recording began in 1959. Productivity was also thought to be extremely poor, with just nine young colour-ringed and none seen subsequently.

Late summer and autumn gatherings also suggest that the breeding season was generally poor, with monthly maximum flock sizes being 250 on 15th June, 400 on 31st July and 378 on 1st August – all being several hundred short of the flock sizes usually seen at this time of year.

Other than counts of 215 on 1st, 86 on 10th and 113 on 12th September, all remaining counts in the month were below 66, whilst in October and November daily counts were between 1 - 27 birds except for 42 on 3rd October.

Location	AON
Cletts	3
Big Head / Kione Roauyr	2
Ghaw Yairn	3
Kione ny Halby main colony	19
Wall	2
Puffin colony & Table Rock	6
Burroo	1
Upper Lighthouse (Creg Veneagh)	13
Lower Lighthouse Field (below)	
Amulty	12
Baie n' Ooig	15
Baie Fine	7
Gibdale Bay	7
Gibdale Point	0
Total	90

- *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

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Coar ny hastan

Scarce spring and more common autumn passage migrant

An extremely poor spring with the only record being a single seen at the Cletts on 7th May.

Autumn records began with one heard flying over the Island during the night of 12th July and then singles were seen on five dates between 14th – 22nd. In August, singles occurred on five dates between 6th – 17th but after five on 3rd September records became much more frequent, with 1 – 3 birds seen on 17 dates in the month. October produced singles on 15 dates and there were then three singles in November and one at the Millpond on 2nd December.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
2023 Bird-days	0	0	1	0	6	5	34	15	3
2022 Bird-days	0	1	1	5	6	8	35	29	9

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Coar-vane veg

Rare passage migrant

The 12th – 15th Calf records were singles at South Harbour on 25th and in Ghaw Laing on 28th October, at Cow Harbour on 2nd November and one recorded on trail camera at the Millpond on 8th December.

Since the first in June 1998 the species has occurred with increasing frequency, with eleven records occurring since 2018, including eight in the last two years.

[Western] Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Shawk eeastee

Rare passage migrant

A series of autumn records included one seen high over the Sound on 6th August, another bird present between 29th August to 1st September and, what was probably a different bird, in the Sound on 7th and then seen fishing in the Puddle on 8th September.

The 59th – 61st Calf records.

[Eurasian] Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Shawk sperriu

Regular spring & autumn passage migrant

Records of single birds, and occasionally up to two, were recorded frequently between 23rd March to 27th May, with a total of 31 bird-days in spring.

Sightings were less frequent in June with singles on 7th & 20th and a lingering male between 26th – 29th, which may have been the start of post-breeding dispersal and continued with singles on seven dates in July.

Autumn passage became more frequent from August, with 1 – 2 birds on 16 dates in August, 17 dates in September, 22 dates in October and six dates in November, plus high counts of three on 11th & 22nd October and four on 4th September and 13th October. A total of 90 bird-days were recorded during the autumn months.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Shirragh ny giark

Now a non-breeding resident & passage migrant, has bred

A very poor showing during spring with records of single ‘ringtails’ on just two dates in March and May and three records in both April and June. A bird seen drifting northwards high up on 18th May was considered to likely be on passage.

Other than singles on 5th, 6th and 12th July, autumn dispersal was most obvious from 8th August, with singles on 14 dates to the month end, plus two on 18th & 31st. One or two birds were then seen almost daily throughout September until 10th November, with a peak count of four on 13th & 14th and 31st October.

[Common] Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Shirragh ruy

Resident breeder since 2021 & passage migrant

- *Annual bird-day total 2015 – 2023:*

YEAR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Bird-days</i>	29	50	47	80	59	152	340	357	425

Seen almost daily through spring and summer, mostly one or two birds but up to four were seen regularly, with higher counts of seven on 27th March, eight on 2nd April and five on 11th June. For the third consecutive year a pair attempted to breed in Baie Fine and for the first time were proven to be successful, when a large youngster was seen on the nest on 22nd June and three young had fledged by 16th July. During the late summer and autumn months, one to five birds were seen almost daily, with occasionally higher numbers including 11 on 17th July, six on 8th August and seven on 4th September.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Hullad eairkagh

Rare passage migrant

One was seen briefly in the back garden just after dawn on 12th October, making its way through the Sycamores and into the Sitka's where it was mobbed by many of the small birds.

The 80th Calf record and the first since August 2020.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Hullad yiare-chleayshagh

Now rare passage migrant, has bred

One seen near the lazy beds above Gibdale on the morning of 29th October was the first record since October 2021. At least two birds were present around the Island on 30th and a single was again seen near Gibdale on 4th November.

Eared Owl sp. *Asio sp.*

Singles seen on 5th & 9th November could not be assigned to either species.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*

Snoggeyder mooar

Rare passage migrant

A juvenile trapped during the early morning of the 9th July remained until at least the 20th and represents the 14th Calf record.

Once rare on the Isle of Man, the species has undergone a substantial range expansion across the Island during the last decade and is now a commonly reported bird from many garden feeders. It is therefore a little surprising that more records haven't occurred on the Calf in recent years, however six of the previous 13 records have occurred since 2010.

[Common] Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Stannair

Passage migrant, has bred

Spring records of singles occurred on seven dates in March, eight dates in April, four dates in May, plus two on 14th, and five dates in June.

For the fifth consecutive year there was no breeding attempt.

Through early autumn one or two birds were seen occasionally, with records on 12 dates in July and seven dates in August, before records became more regular with 1-2 on 22 dates in September, 17 dates in October plus three on 15th, and finally just three singles in November.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Shawk veg

Passage migrant & winter visitor

There were just two spring records, with singles on 8th April and 5th May.

A very early autumn passage bird was seen at Creg Veneagh on 24th July, with the next record not until 25th August. Six singles were seen in September before records became more frequent and after three on 2nd October there were 18 records of 1 – 2 birds during the month. November produced just three singles.

Peregrine [Falcon] *Falco peregrinus*

Shirragh y ree

Breeding resident

One or two birds were seen occasionally through spring, with a bird seen sitting on the eyrie at Amulty on 18th April and 15th May, with the nest

containing three well-grown young on 7th June.

During late summer and autumn one or two birds were seen occasionally, including several immatures.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus**

Glass-eean sooill-yiarg

Very rare vagrant

The 2nd Calf and Manx record occurred on 25th September when a presumed immature bird was trapped in the back garden. The bird remained around the Observatory until the 3rd October (AS et al).

The bird arrived at a time of unprecedented Nearctic vagrancy and was part of the largest arrival of Red-eyed Vireo's ever recorded in the British Isles.

A full description is provided on p.119

[Eurasian] Magpie *Pica pica*

Pieanāt

Now irregular passage migrant, has bred

The pair that have bred at the Withy for the past two years disappeared sometime during autumn/winter and thus records consisted of just passage birds; with one north over the Observatory on 31st March, three at the Triangle on 2nd April, another single on 18th April and three flying over Big Head on 3rd June.

In autumn a single was at the Observatory on 16th August and a flock of 15 dropped in briefly around the Observatory on 25th October, before heading off down the Glen.

[Red-billed] Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Caaig

Breeding resident

Records during the winter period consisted of six on 26th January and four on 23rd February.

From the beginning of the season, records were daily with up to 22 birds seen, likely reflecting the presence of breeding birds that were already occupying territories. The only higher count during the spring months were 36 on 12th & 13th March.

At least 11 pairs bred, and productivity was considered to be fairly high, with four monitored nests fledging 14 young.

Late summer and autumn counts saw up to 30 birds seen daily, with higher counts of 42 on 9th August, between 50 – 58 on three occasions in early October and 71 on 11th.

[Western] Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Juan teayst

Rare spring and uncommon autumn passage migrant

Spring records consisted of three on 2nd and singles on 6th & 25th April, whilst in May there were five on 1st, a single on 3rd, two on 11th, 12th & 21st and eight on 13th.

First of the autumn records were three on 10th, four over the Observatory on 23rd and a single heard from Cow Harbour on 25th September. Passage was much heavier in October and after eight on 2nd and five on 8th, passage was seen daily between 12th – 17th, with a peak of 413 on 17th. A further series of records occurred later in the month with 983 on 21st, 547 on 22nd, 36 on 23rd and 570 on 25th.

Numbers during November were surprisingly low with three on 5th and singles on 6th and 10th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Trogh

Rare spring and uncommon autumn passage migrant

Singles flew over the Calf on 18th March and 2nd, 7th, & 20th April, with three on 9th May and four on 12th May.

Two on the 10th September, but then no further records until 1 – 5 were seen on six dates in October, plus 28 on 12th, 46 on 17th, 23 on 21st and 30 on 25th.

Three on 5th November and 15 on 10th were the last of the autumn records.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Fannag ghoo

Breeding resident & passage migrant

A single was seen on 26th January.

Seen almost daily throughout the season with 1 – 3 birds recorded in all months, with occasional counts of up to five. Higher counts were seven on 14th June, six on 4th & 27th September, eight on 23rd September and 13th & 22nd October and 15 on 17th October.

At least six pairs involve 'Carrion' type birds breeding with Hooded Crows.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Fannag

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Winter records were seven on 26th January, eight on 23rd February and three the next day.

Recorded daily throughout the season, with counts of up to mid-20's believed to mainly reflect the breeding population, although small groups of presumably non-breeding and passage birds are recorded.

Twenty-nine on 30th March included a flock of 16 that headed west over the Observatory during the early morning, with other groups of five & nine seen heading west on 5th & 25th April respectively, and 31 were present on 7th April.

A total of 13 breeding pairs were located, with seven nests being monitored for the BTO nest record scheme.

[Northern] Raven *Corvus corax*

Feeagh

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Three were seen on both 26th January and 23rd February.

Two pairs were resident, and both bred, with the Lighthouse pair fledging four young on 5th May and the pair at Amulty fledging three young on 15th May. Daily counts usually reflected the presence of these two pairs and from May through to mid-August their offspring as well. Occasional incursions by other birds occur, although these are usually seen off quickly by the resident birds, but larger flocks were seen during some early autumn mornings, with 24 on 25th August, 13 on 26th September and 28 on 15th October.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Myntan doo

Uncommon passage migrant

A single frequented the Sycamores by the tractor barn on 4th & 5th April. The first April record since 2013.

Autumn began with two at the Withy on 4th September, with one remaining until 5th. Two arrived on 12th October and were followed by nine on 15th of which two remained until 16th, when an additional new bird arrived. A further arrival of 13 took place on 25th with singles then recorded on four dates between 26th – 30th, however ringing records show that at least two birds were present during this period. Records continued into November with 1 – 2 birds on eight dates up to 11th. No birds were trapped during this period, but it is likely that these birds were the two that had remained during the last few days of October.

[Eurasian] Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Kione gorrym

Rare spring and more regular autumn passage migrant, has bred

There were no spring records.

First of the autumn were two at the Withy on 3rd September, with 1 - 3 birds recorded daily between then and the end of the month. Ringing records show that three new birds arrived on 4th and another three on 5th, when six birds in total were present. The next arrival was of five new birds on 10th, when seven individuals were present – the highest count of the month.

Several of the birds that arrived in September stayed well into October when daily counts varied widely from single figure counts on 25 days, counts between 10 – 20 on three days and high counts of 25 on 8th and 44 on 12th. After three on 1st & 2nd November, singles were seen on five dates plus two on 10th, however it is likely that no new birds arrived during the month.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Myntan mooar

Uncommon spring and more regular autumn passage migrant, has bred

One or two birds, and occasionally up to three, were seen almost daily through spring and summer, with a pair remaining from the spring arrivals and breeding successfully.

Spring migration began on 19th March with the arrival of two birds of which the male remained into the summer and bred, whilst the female was last seen on 26th March when two other new females arrived. Our absence from the Island between 9th- 16th April probably meant that some passage was missed, and a new female was present when we returned on 17th April, which went on to form the other half of the pair that bred near the Observatory. The pair were seen frequently until late May, when the female became more elusive, and it was assumed that she was incubating. This was confirmed when a newly-fledged brood of five young were trapped on 26th June. One of the young soon succumbed to a Sparrowhawk but the other four young were then seen in the company of their parents around the Withy and Glen through the autumn, with the male and at least three of the young remaining well into October.

Ringing records show that new arrivals of autumn passage birds began on 1st October and continued through to the 27th. Daily counts during the month consisted of 16 dates with single figures, eight counts of between 10 – 19 and five counts between 20 – 28, plus a high of 50 on 12th. One to three birds

were recorded on eight dates in November, although it is thought that no new arrivals occurred.

[Eurasian] Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Usagh happagh

Uncommon spring and more common autumn migrant, has bred

A good spring passage saw singles on eight dates in March, plus six on 17th, 11 on 18th, three on 19th and two on 27th & 30th. Further singles were recorded on 20th & 25th April and 21st May.

Autumn passage began rather slowly, with 1 - 2 on nine dates from 7th September, with higher counts during the month of six on 13th, 13 on 21st, 151 on 23rd and 81 on 30th. October records were rather erratic with single figure counts on nine dates, between 13 – 44 on eight dates and higher counts of 57 on 21st, 76 on 8th and 323 on 12th. November produced 1 – 2 on five dates between 2nd – 11th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Gollan geinnee

Uncommon passage migrant

Spring passage was recorded between 2nd April to 9th June, with 1 – 3 birds on three dates in early April, followed by the peak period of passage involving five on 18th, 11 on 20th & 21st and six on 22nd April. Thereafter, 1 – 2 birds were seen on a further three dates in late April, on five dates in May up to 21st and then a single on 9th June.

Return passage was seen from 27th with further singles on 4th & 14th August, then two on 15th & 24th and month peak of six on 16th August. Low numbers continued into the first week of September, with eight on 2nd, four on 3rd, five on 4th and finally one on 7th September.

- *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>04-Apr</i>	<i>04-Apr</i>	<i>01-Apr</i>	<i>01-Apr</i>	<i>03-Apr</i>	<i>04-Apr</i>	<i>11-Apr</i>
<i>14-Sep</i>	<i>11-Sep</i>	<i>18-Sep</i>	<i>02-Sep</i>	<i>18-Sep</i>	<i>20-Sep</i>	<i>09-Sep</i>

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

[Barn] Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

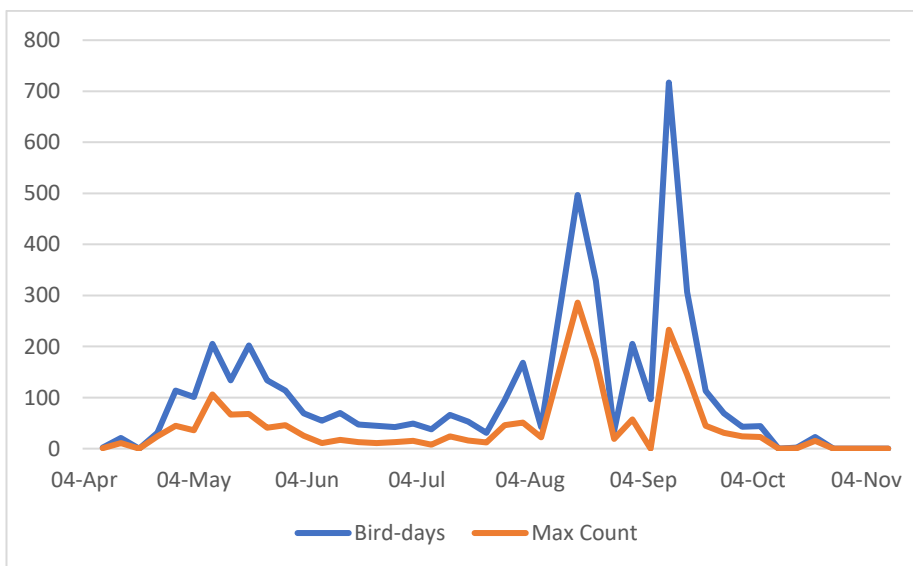
Gollan geayee

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Early spring passage was of two singles seen on 30th & 31st March, followed by another single on 4th, three on 6th, seven on 7th and 11 on 8th April. Our absence from the islet between 9th – 17th prevented any further records until 24 on 18th, then daily counts of mostly between 15 – 46 birds until the end of May when just breeding birds were then present. In a rather disappointing spring passage, higher counts were 106 on 1st, 67 on 5th, 68 on 13th and 63 on 14th May.

The breeding season would appear to have been a positive one, with at least five pairs in the Observatory barns and a further six pairs at Jane's House, with at least 15 broods raised. This represents the highest number of pairs ever recorded breeding on the Calf.

From mid-July locally bred young increased numbers of birds present with counts of up to 51 and then from early August return passage was seen with 154 on 4th, 286 on 7th, 105 on 10th and 174 on 16th, otherwise counts did not exceed 75. Passage was at its most constant in early September with five counts between 102 – 233 up to 10th, then other than 45 on 14th all counts during the month were of fewer than 31. Other than 15 on 12th October, there were six counts of 1-4 up to 15th and last of the season were five on 22nd October.



- *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

[Common] House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Gollan thie

Regular spring migrant and summer visitor and more numerous autumn passage migrant

Following the 5th earliest record of one over the Withies on 6th April, 1 – 3 birds were then recorded on five dates during the second half of the month. Passage increased slightly during May with up to six birds recorded on 16 dates plus eight on 15th, 20 on 21st and nine on 26th, whilst during June 1 – 2 birds occurred on four dates up to 12th.

Summer records included singles on 7th & 8th, eight on 20th and seven on 26th July but records became more regular in August as autumn passage got underway, with 1 – 4 on nine dates, plus eight on 7th, 20 on 8th and 52 on 16th August. Passage was at its heaviest during early September with five counts of between 18 – 29 birds up to 8th, plus six counts of 1 – 4 birds during the month and 12 on 21st. Finally, there were two records during October, with four on 1st and 10 on 12th.

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

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

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalus caudatus*

Caillagh veg y niarbyl

Scarce passage migrant

A party of four appeared in the Sycamores during the late morning of 16th

October, before making their way along the front hedge. Further groups arrived over the next week, with nine birds on 23rd and different groups of six on both 25th & 26th October.

The final morning of the season produced the largest flock for five years, with 20 around the Observatory on 11th November.

A welcome series of records after their absence in 2022.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi**

Kiaulleyder Radde

Very rare vagrant

One was trapped at the Top Withy on the morning of 25th October. It was released near to the Observatory where it was seen on a couple of occasions later that afternoon (MDH, AS et al).

This species is an addition to the Manx bird list and a full description is provided on p.117

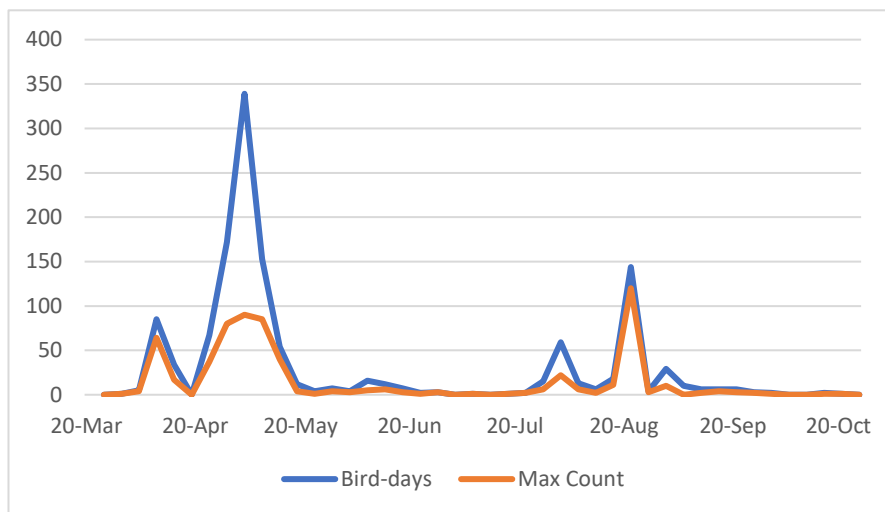
Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Drean vane

Common passage migrant, has bred

Spring passage began with singles on 25th & 26th March, whilst four on 30th March signalled the beginning of daily arrivals which included 64 on 4th April. Our absence from the Calf during 9th – 16th April meant a significant gap in daily counts for this species occurred at a crucial point in their spring migration through the Calf. However, peak migration seemed to occur during the last week of April, with counts between 25 to 85 on nine dates between 17th – 30th and a peak of 90 on 27th. Following 85 on 1st and 45 on 2nd May numbers recorded dropped quickly and other than 15 on 3rd and 40 on 6th May remaining counts through the month were in single figures. Spring passage continued through the first half of June, with 1 – 4 birds recorded almost daily with a peak of six on 7th June, then singles on 16th, 17th and 30th and three on 22nd June.

The first juvenile of autumn arrived on 13th July and was followed by a light passage of up to seven individuals from 17th on 11 dates up to the month end, plus arrivals of 20 on 24th and 22 on 28th July. Passage during August was generally very light with 1 – 11 birds recorded on 23 dates in the month, with a single notable arrival of 120 on 14th. A light passage continued into September with 1 – 4 birds seen on 16 dates up to 23rd. The final records of the year were singles on 7th, 11th & 12th October.



- *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

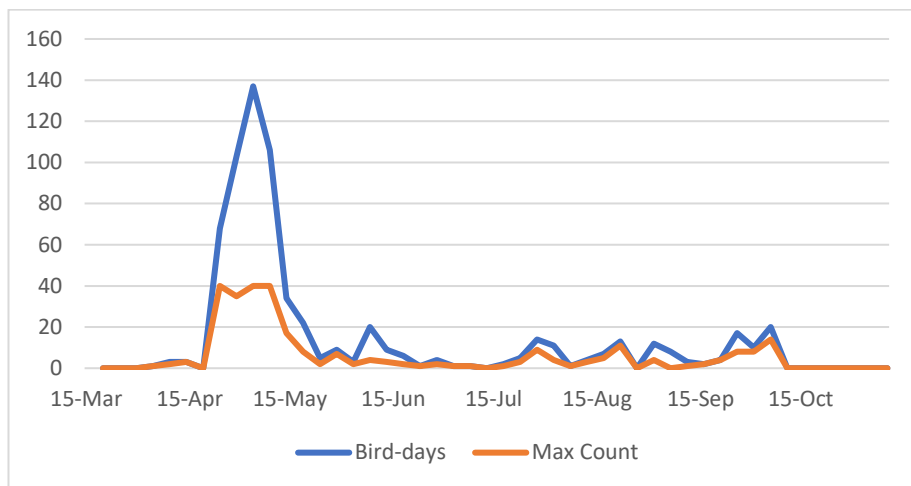
[Common] Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Beeallerey

Common passage migrant, has bred

First of the season was an individual in the back garden on 11th March, but then no further records until 18th whereafter single figure counts occurred regularly through early spring, with higher counts of 50 on 26th, 10 on 30th and 15 on 31st March and 11 on 4th & 7th April. Passage was slightly more sporadic during May, with 1 – 3 on 20 dates and five on 2nd & 21st, six on 6th & 13th and eight on 3rd May being higher counts for the month. One or two birds lingered into June with regular records up to 20th and included three birds on 18th and it is likely that breeding occurred, with a recently fledged juvenile being trapped at the Withy on 29th June and another two on 9th July. July records were otherwise scarce with four singles recorded between 6th - 24th.

Autumn passage began with two's on 25th, 29th and 31st August, followed by almost daily records in September of 1 – 8 birds and a month peak of 10 on 10th. Other than five on 2nd & 12th and four on 24th October other records consisted of only up to three birds on 17 dates. The last of the season was a single at the Observatory on 1st November.



'Tristis' Chiffchaff *P.c. tristis*

Two individuals showing characteristics of this sub-species were trapped during spring, with singles on 13th & 26th May and a third individual was seen and heard at the Withy on 9th October.

- Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

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

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

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus**

Guilckag vooar

Very rare vagrant

The second Calf and Manx record was trapped in the Glen at 11am on 4th June (AS, CF).

A full description is provided on p.115

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Kiaulleyder shiast

Common passage migrant, has bred

Spring passage occurred between 23rd April and 3rd June, with a mostly light passage involving single figure counts on four dates in April, 16 dates in May and two dates in June. Higher counts were 10 on 28th & 29th April, 20 on 1st & 2nd, 25 on 3rd, 11 on 12th & 29th and 12 on 13th May.

Autumn passage began with a single on 19th July, followed by five the next day and 21 on 24th. This latter count being the highest ever July day total for the species. The remainder of the month saw two on 25th, eight on 26th, a single on 27th and finally four on 28th. Passage during August was comparatively poor with four singles between 1st – 25th (last of year), plus two on 10th and four on 14th.

- *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

[Eurasian] Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus**

Guilckag

Rare passage migrant

Another good spring showing, with singles trapped at the Withy on 9th & 13th May, at the Observatory on 14th & 30th May and finally at the Withy on 12th June. The 82nd – 87th Calf records.

Disappointingly there were no autumn records.

- *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

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris**

Kiaulleyder ny curreeyn

Very rare migrant

The 7th Calf record was trapped in the back garden on 5th June (AS, CF).

Previous records have occurred in June 1986, 1989 & 2004 and August 1974 & 2011 and November 1984.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta**

Kiaulleyder bing

Rare passage migrant

One trapped at the Withy during the morning of 16th August was the 33rd Calf record (EMG, AS).

The bird presented some initial identification issues, looking superficially like an *Acrocephalus* warbler and having grey/white plumage tones rather than the more typical yellow of an immature *Hippolais*. Demongin (2016) describes a grey & white variant of Reed and Bush Warblers and suggests that up to 5% of Melodious Warblers are of such colour. Our bird did exhibit a light-yellow wash on the throat and upper breast and the absence of any warm brown in the secondaries and the greyish-white fringe to the outer tail feathers all point towards *H. polyglotta*. The bill is also too stout and orangey for an *Acrocephalus* and it had prominent rictal bristles, whilst the wing formulae, including a strong emargination on P5, confirmed the identification as a Melodious.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina**

Kiaulleyder airhey

Rare passage migrant

An immature was trapped at the Observatory during the morning of 7th September and was released at the Withy, where it was subsequently seen later that day (PCO, AS).

The 23rd Calf record and the first record since 2009.

[Common] Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Reeleyder

Uncommon to scarce passage migrant, has bred

Spring passage started promisingly with three birds trapped at the Observatory on 18th April, then further singles were also trapped on 20th & 27th April and 1st May.

There were just two records in autumn, with immatures trapped on 24th July and 15th August.

- 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

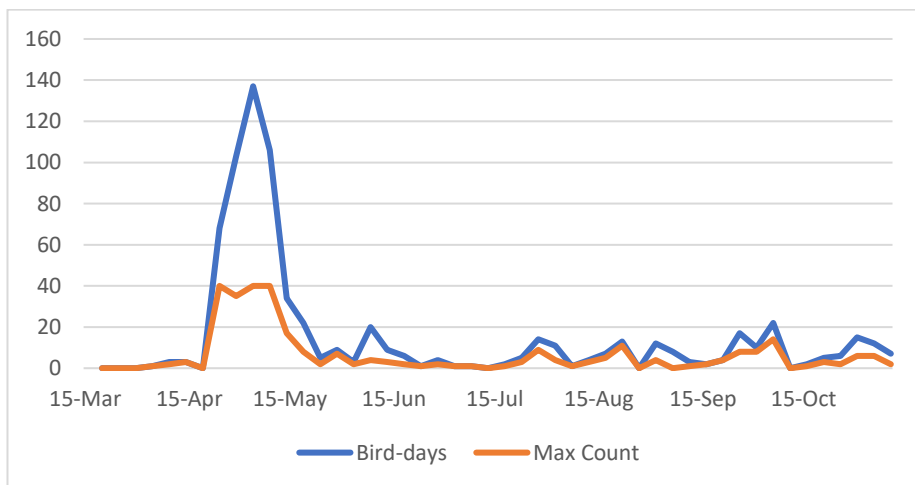
The earliest arrival date was 2nd April 2004, with the latest departure date being 19th October 1985

[Eurasian] Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Kione doo

Common passage migrant

Spring passage began with a single on 30th March, then a further single on 3rd April followed by two on 4th and three on 7th April. The continued build-up of numbers unfortunately could not be monitored due to our absence from the Calf during the 9th – 16th April and passage was clearly well underway by our return on 17th with a monthly peak of 40 on 18th & 27th and between 15 – 35 recorded on nine dates during the remainder of the month. This intensity of passage continued during the early part of May with 40 on 1st, 30 on 2nd, 20 on 3rd and 17 on 6th whereafter passage reduced to single figures for the remainder of the month and through the first half of June. Between 24th May and 6th June at least 10 different females, all exhibiting brood patches, were trapped whilst at least one male remained singing at the Top Withy from the 13th June and was subsequently re-trapped on 9th July.



The first juvenile bird appeared on 13th July, with several very ‘fluffy’ juveniles caught during the second half of the month suggesting that breeding could have possibly occurred. This would be the first time Blackcaps have bred on the Calf, although no concrete evidence was found. One to four birds were recorded daily between 17th – 21st and 24th – 29th, with a month high of nine on 19th July.

Autumn passage was comparatively poor with 1 – 6 birds seen on 16 dates in August, 12 dates in September and 18 in October. Additional higher counts were 11 on 14th August, eight on 19th & 23rd September, seven on 21st and 14 on 30th September. The final records of the season were two on 1st, 2nd & 3rd and a single on 5th November.

- *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>13-Apr</i>	<i>31-Mar</i>	<i>03-Apr</i>	<i>10-Apr</i>	<i>15-Apr</i>	<i>23-Apr</i>	<i>04-May</i>
<i>08-Nov</i>	<i>11-Nov</i>	<i>16-Nov</i>	<i>12-Nov</i>	<i>11-Nov</i>	<i>13-Nov</i>	<i>11-Oct</i>

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

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Kiaulleyder garagh

Scarce passage migrant

Spring passage was again rather poor with singles on 1st & 3rd May and two on 6th May being the only records.

There were no autumn records.

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

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*

Kiaulleyder schimmeigagh

Rare passage migrant

An immature was trapped at the Observatory on 10th September (AS).

The 42nd Calf record and takes the current run of records to three consecutive years.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

Fynnag veg

Scarce or rare passage migrant

The only spring record was of one trapped at the Withy on 13th May.

There were no autumn records.

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

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

(Common) Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

Fynnag ny keylley

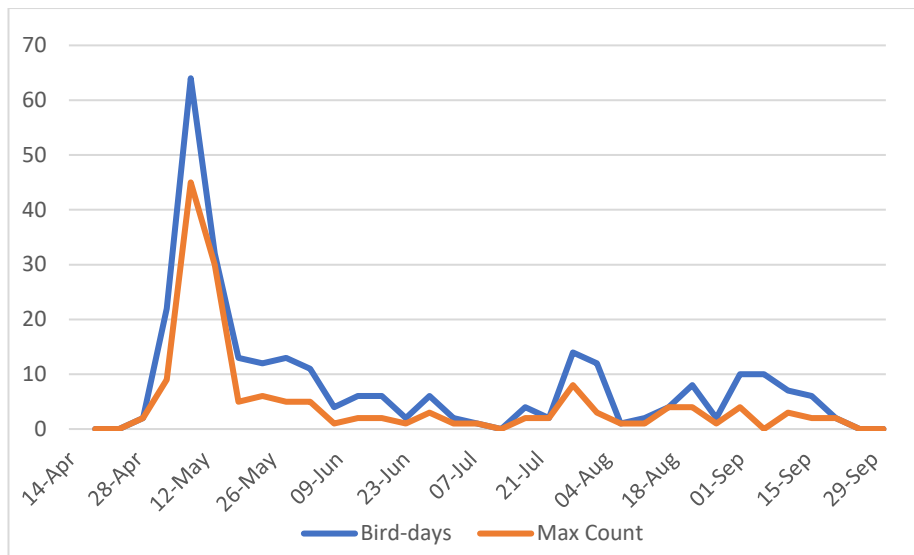
Common passage migrant, breeding summer resident

Spring passage occurred between 22nd April and 11th June with mostly single figure counts recorded almost daily through this period. Higher counts were 45 on 2nd, 10 on 3rd and 30 on 6th May. One pair bred at the Withy, and so records of 1 – 3 birds continued through the latter half of June and into early July, with recently-fledged juveniles trapped on 9th, 13th & 17th.

The first real evidence of autumn passage was of eight birds on 18th July, but there after only 1 – 4 birds were recorded on eight dates to the month's end and on 15 dates in August, with a peak of eight on 31st August. After five on 1st September, 1 – 3 birds were then recorded almost daily to the last two on 12th.

- *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

[Common] Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Drean ailey

Rare passage migrant

A female trapped at the Withy on 27th March was the 97th Calf record but the first since 2020 and first spring record since 2018 (EMG).

- Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

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

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

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

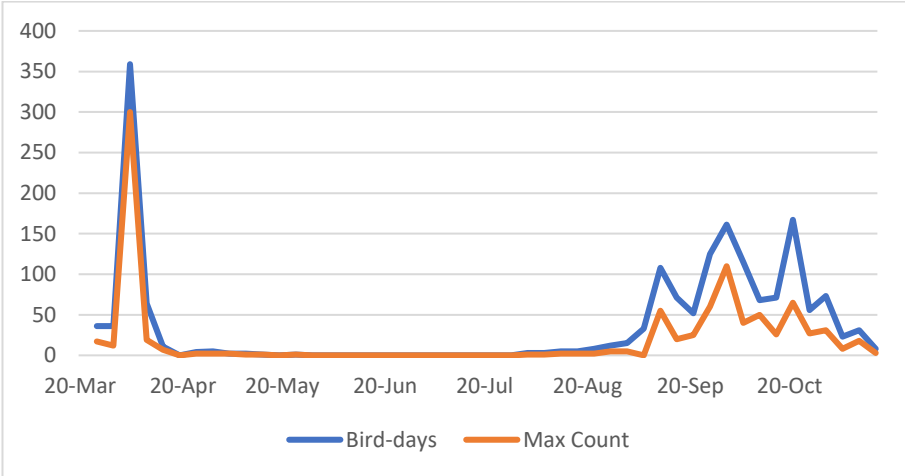
Ushag fuygh

Common passage migrant

Spring passage occurred between 11th March and 23rd May, with additional records of two on 29th May and singles on 2nd & 3rd, 9th & 18th June. Overall,

migration was rather poor with mostly single figure counts, although between 10 – 30 occurred on nine dates and a large fall of 300 birds arrived on 26th March.

The first dispersing juvenile was present from 24th - 26th, with another from 29th – 31st July, then becoming more regular through early to mid-August with 1 – 2 birds seen almost daily through to 22nd, after which autumn passage proper began with numbers slowly increasing to 10 on 29th and 15 on 31st August.



Autumn passage was fairly steady throughout September and October with single figure counts on nine and 13 dates respectively. Counts between 10 – 40 occurred on 18 dates in September and between 10 – 44 on 14 dates in October. Peak monthly counts were 55 on 5th, 60 on 21st and 110 on 23rd September and 50 on 2nd and 65 on 12th October. One to four birds were seen on eight dates in November plus a monthly high of 18 on 2nd.

- 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-Mar	10-Mar	17-Mar	14-Mar	13-Mar	19-Mar	18-Mar
16-Nov	19-Nov	23-Nov	22-Nov	20-Nov	16-Nov	11-Oct

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

[Eurasian] Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Drean

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Recorded daily throughout the season with counts of up to 20 birds being regular. As a rather secretive species, it is likely that it goes under recorded and the total of 32 breeding pairs is likely an under-estimate.

Passage is likely in autumn when there were several higher counts including 23 on 10th & 25 on 27th September and in October counts of more than 20 occurred on seven dates, including 54 on 1st, 29 on 13th, and 36 on 19th October.

[Eurasian] Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Snaueyder billagh

Rare passage migrant

A single trapped at the Observatory on 4th and re-trapped on 6th April was only the sixth record for that month and the first spring bird since 2017. Unusually there were no mid-summer records, but an immature was trapped in the back garden on 23rd and remained to 25th September. October saw an unprecedented number of records with one trapped on 12th, the same or a different individual was on the Sitka in the front garden on 14th and two different birds were trapped on 15th. The 93rd to 97th Calf records.

[Common] Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Truitlag

Former breeding resident, summer visitor & passage migrant

Early spring passage occurred between 14th March and 27th April with single figure counts on 20 dates, between 10 – 24 birds on six dates and a peak of 53 on 25th March.

Post-breeding dispersal began with single adults on 29th May and four further dates in early June before the first juvenile arrived on 13th June. Numbers increased quickly with 25 on 15th and 30 by 16th, then 13 on 17th & 18th and then declined to single figure counts on six dates except for 16 on 22nd June. One – four were seen on eight dates between 1st – 13th July, plus 15 on 8th and 30 on 9th, then two on 24th were the last records of the month. Sporadic records occurred during August and September with 1 – 2 birds on four dates in both months plus five on 3rd and three on 26th September respectively.

Autumn passage was evident from the start of October, although occurring in very low numbers. Daily records from 7th involved mostly counts in the low double figures, with just five counts between 133 – 169 and monthly peaks of 352 on 21st, 300 on 23rd and 302 on 30th. Numbers in November didn't improve much, with counts between 12 – 88 on six dates, 100 – 185 on three dates and high counts of 244 on 5th and 1235 on 10th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Treshlen

Passage migrant, has bred

Spring passage was already underway when we returned to the Calf with 1 – 4 birds occurring on 10 dates in March plus nine on 17th and eight on 18th. April produced singles on 2nd & 6th, three on 18th and then further singles on 24th & 28th.

Post-breeding dispersal began with juveniles on 12th & 16th June, one being present on 17th & 18th and both birds then being re-trapped on 29th. An adult female was trapped on 21st and may have been the same bird seen on 22nd. Occasional records continued through July, with singles seen on seven dates plus four on 13th and in August a single on four dates between 22nd – 29th. Autumn passage became more obvious during September with 1 – 2 on seven dates, plus five on 23rd and nine on 30th, but peak migration occurred during October with single figure counts on 15 dates, between 13 – 25 on 12 dates and high counts of 37 on 15th and 40 on 31st. After 41 on 1st November, numbers decreased to 12 on 2nd, then counts between 2 – 5 on seven dates plus 10 on 5th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Treshlen vooar

Irregular autumn passage migrant, has bred

A single was present around the Observatory on 29th January, as was a further rare spring record on 16th June.

October records began with a single on 15th and two on 19th. After 28 on 21st and 23 on 22nd the remainder of the month saw 1 – 3 on six dates to the month's end. One or two were seen almost daily between 1st – 11th November, with peak counts of five on 3rd and seven on 4th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Treshlen Loughlinagh

Passage migrant & winter visitor

Spring records began with a single on 17th March and up to six on a further four dates in the month, plus 14 on 18th, 19 on 21st and 12 on 26th. Singles on 20th, 24th and 30th April were the last records of spring.

An early autumn migrant was seen at the Top Withy on 23rd September and is the joint 5th earliest date recorded.

Main autumn passage began with seven on 9th October, with daily records then until the end of the month. Single figure counts occurred on 12 dates, between 10 – 64 on 10 dates plus a monthly peak of 166 on 12th. After 49 on 1st November, numbers decreased to 28 on 2nd, then counts between 1 – 8 on six dates plus 11 on 4th.

- *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

[Common] Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Lhondhoo

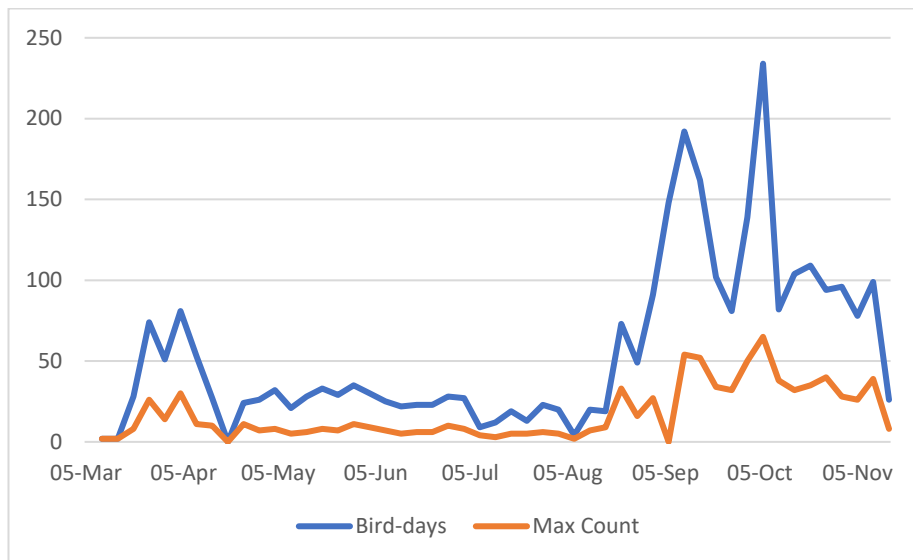
Breeding resident & passage migrant

Evidence of a light spring passage were high counts of 10 on 17th, 13 on 18th and 14 on 21st March, otherwise daily counts through spring and summer were all in single figures.

Although up to 12 breeding territories were identified, successful breeding attempts appeared to be very few, with just 18 locally bred young ringed. Typically scarce during July and August when adults are moulting, most daily records were of just 1 – 3 birds, although eight on 20th July and 10 on 14th August likely reflect a truer picture. Counts increased slightly during September but remained within single figures through to 16th October, except for 15 on 11th.

Autumn passage was evident during the second half of October with counts between 10 – 32 on nine dates, plus 54 on 23rd and 149 on 31st. After 39 on

1st November, numbers decreased to 34 on 2nd, then up to 10 recorded daily through to the 11th.



Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Ushag sniaghtee

Passage migrant & winter visitor

One to three were seen on six dates in March and seven dates in April up to 29th, plus a peak of five on 27th April. A late spring record of a single initially seen at the Observatory and then later around the Top Withy on 3rd & 4th June.

Autumn arrival began with a single on 9th October, then four on 12th with records becoming more frequent from 17th although remaining generally low with a maximum of 29 on 21st. The first few days of November produced a few more birds with 42 on 1st, 21 on 2nd and 32 on 4th, otherwise, up to 10 were seen on three other dates.

- *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

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Lhon ny greg

Scarce passage migrant

The only spring record was of a female near to Bushell's on 18th April. Also scarce in autumn, with a single at the end of the trapping area 17th September, a female trapped in the back garden on 10th, another in the Observatory area on 21st and a male on the rocks at Cow Harbour on 24th October.

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

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

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Skybbyltagh lheeah

Common spring & scarce autumn passage migrant, has bred

An early spring record of one trapped at the Observatory on 27th April was the third earliest Calf record. Further singles arrived on 1st, 2nd, 6th & 13th May plus two on 8th before main spring passage began with three on 19th. Records were then daily through to 8th June with mostly single figures except for 25 on 24th, 11 on 26th, 12 on 29th and 10 on 30th May and 12 on 1st & 15 on 2nd June. Final records of the spring were singles on 11th, 16th and 21st June. Return passage began with singles on six dates between 13th – 30th August, then two on 2nd September and further singles on four dates up to the last seen on 12th September.

- *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

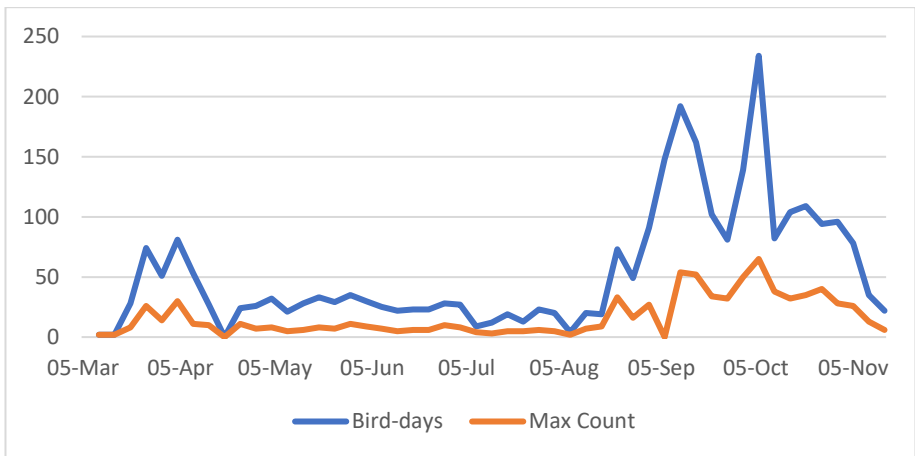
The earliest arrival date was 22nd April 2007, with the latest departure date being 20th October 1968

[European] Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Cleeau-yiarg

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Ringing records show that several birds over-wintered and up to six birds were seen during the first half of March. Spring passage was evident from 17th with 11 birds present, followed by 26 on 18th. Double figure counts occurred on a further nine dates to the month end with 30 on 26th being the peak count. Up to 11 were seen during the first week of April and again on 17th when we returned to the Calf after a week's absence. Between 4 – 8 birds were then seen daily through the remainder of spring and early summer, until fledglings began to appear from 20th May, after which counts occasionally increased up to 11 birds, with similar levels recorded through to the end of July.



At least 14 breeding territories were identified, with four at the Withies, two in both Mill Giau and at the Triangle, a single pair at Jane's House and five pairs around the Observatory.

Autumn passage was recorded from mid-August with the first noticeable arrivals being 18 on 14th and 33 on 16th. Passage became more constant from the 22nd with eight counts of between 13 – 27 birds, plus 43 on 29th & 65 on 31st. September continued in the same vein with 20 counts of between 20 – 54 and a peak of 65 on 30th which was followed by 72 on 1st October. Regular arrivals continued through October with only five single figure counts and between 11 – 40 on 25 dates. After 13 on 1st November counts remained in single figures through to 11th.

[European] Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Skybbyltagh breck

Scarce passage migrant

There were no spring records.

Autumn records were disappointingly few, with two on 25th and a single on 29th August.

- *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

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Thoyh-yiarg ghoo

Scarce passage migrant

The only record of the year was a rather unexpected female, exhibiting a brood patch, caught in the pipit trap on 10th June – only the 13th record for that month.

[Common] Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Thoyh-yiarg

Scarce passage migrant

First of the spring was a male trapped at the Observatory on 17th April. A male and female arrived on 22nd and remained until 23rd when an additional male was present. A male was at the Withy on 24th and a female was trapped at the Observatory on 25th. In May a male was at the Observatory on 1st and then females were trapped at the Withy on 6th & at the Observatory on 12th. Rather disappointingly there were no autumn records, the first time in the observatory's history that this has occurred.

- *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

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Eean yn aittin

Now scarce passage migrant, has bred

The first spring record didn't occur until the rather late date of 14th May when a male was seen in the Upper Twin Field. This was followed by three different females trapped at the Withy on 29th May & 1st June and at the Observatory on 2nd June.

In autumn, singles were recorded on 26th August and 13th & 21st September.

- *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>28-Apr</i>	<i>04-May</i>	<i>25-Apr</i>	<i>28-Apr</i>	<i>25-Apr</i>	<i>28-Apr</i>	<i>28-Apr</i>
<i>26-Sep</i>	<i>09-Sep</i>	<i>01-Oct</i>	<i>23-Sep</i>	<i>12-Oct</i>	<i>02-Oct</i>	<i>13-Sep</i>

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

[European] Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Boid-y-chonnee

Breeding resident & passage migrant

One to four birds were seen on five dates between 4th – 16th March, then 10 on 17th heralded the start of a short but noticeable spring passage with up to 14 birds present mostly around the front field, up to 23rd March. Thereafter, other than 11 on 18th April records were of single figure counts through April and until 13 on 6th May saw the first fledglings appear. Numbers then gradually increased to a peak of 23 on 19th May and with juvenile birds around, counts through to the end of July remained up to 20 birds.

Breeding numbers were thought to be about 12 pairs.

Following 13 on 1st & 2nd, counts rarely exceeded single figures during August with a similar pattern during September, although 16 were recorded on 10th, 17th and 21st. With the increase in inclement weather conditions during October the presence of birds became less obvious and counts rarely exceeded single figures, although 18 were seen on 1st.

[Northern] Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Claghan-ny-gleiee

Passage migrant & breeding summer resident

Four on the 18th March were the first of spring passage and were followed by 1 – 3 birds daily over the next week, until 10 arrived on 26th with double figure counts, up to 21, on five more dates to 8th April. Our absence from the

Calf during 9th – 16th April rather compromised our understanding of their passage numbers over the next week, but significant numbers were passing through on our return, with 144 on 18th, 93 on 19th, 150 on 20th and 82 on 22nd April appearing to be the spring peak. For the remainder of spring, numbers recorded mostly remained below 30, although a couple of higher counts during early May included 67 on 1st, 41 on 5th and 42 on 10th. During the remainder of May and the beginning of June, counts rarely exceeded 20 birds but with the emergence of first brood young a count of 34 was made on 6th June. Counts then generally remained between 18 – 37 for the rest of June, although 55 on 17th perhaps reflects a greater level of coverage and a more accurate Island total.

Breeding numbers were estimated at 55 pairs, although no complete census was conducted, however numbers were thought to be broadly similar, if perhaps, slightly down on levels found during the complete census in 2022. Ringing recoveries indicate that birds begin to disperse away from the Island as soon as late June and counts through July were noticeably lower, with single figures on 10 dates and the remaining counts rarely exceeding 20 birds. Other than 31 on 4th August counts for the remainder of the month rarely exceeded single figures and this continued through September, except for a period of significant passage between 12th - 18th with 53 on the former date and between 14 – 22 birds on four other dates. A further notable arrival was of 25 birds on 1st October but then records became scarce with two on 4th & 7th and the last singles seen on 13th and 28th October.

- *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>18-Mar</i>	<i>19-Mar</i>	<i>20-Mar</i>	<i>20-Mar</i>	<i>21-Mar</i>	<i>20-Mar</i>
<i>17-Oct</i>	<i>11-Oct</i>	<i>17-Oct</i>	<i>16-Oct</i>	<i>19-Oct</i>	<i>23-Oct</i>	<i>10-Oct</i>

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

[Eurasian] Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Sparrow ny miljyn

Scarce passage migrant

Spring records were of singles trapped at the Observatory on 3rd and 13th May (AS, EMG).

Early autumn provided several records, with five on 30th August (AS, EMG), nine on 2nd (AS, EMG) and a single on 8th September (AS). Several birds were

trapped, three of which were adult females with brood patches suggesting that they had only recently finished breeding. It would seem likely that these birds originate from an unknown breeding population on the Isle of Man. The final record of the season was a single in the Sycamores behind the generator barn on 22nd October (AS).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Sparrow

Uncommon passage migrant, has bred

Males were at the Observatory on 12th & 17th May, followed by a female on 19th May and a single of undetermined sex / age on 22nd June.

After a group of seven arrived on 16th August, further singles were around the Observatory on 17th & 25th August and two were present on 5th September. October produced a series of records with singles on 16th & 19th, three on 12th & 14th and four on 22nd.

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

Boght-keeir

Uncommon spring and regular autumn passage migrant, has bred

First of the season was a male singing above the Top Withy on 19th March, with further singles on 21st, 23rd & 26th and two on 27th March. In April, singles occurred on 1st & 7th, two on 2nd and a retrap from 2022 on 20th, 25th & 26th.

There were no records during the summer months and breeding did not occur.

The first autumn passage bird(s) were singles on 2nd & 3rd, 13th and 21st September, then 14 on 23rd saw the beginning of the main passage. After 24 on 30th September and 30 on 1st October records were daily through October, with single figure counts on 18 dates and between 11 – 16 on remaining dates. November produced up to five daily between 1st - 10th.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Ushag Ghlass

Uncommon spring & regular dispersal/autumn passage migrant

Spring records were of singles on 17th, 20th and 23rd March.

Post-breeding dispersal began with an adult male on 11th June, females on 18th & 20th and the first (three) juveniles on 22nd, with further singles on three dates in the last week of June and on six dates in July, plus twos on

four dates and a peak of four on 5th July.

Following two on 6th and a single on 15th August, autumn passage got underway from 24th August with almost daily records then until 14th October and the last of the season on 24th October. Most counts were in the low single figures, although peak movements occurred in September with 13 on 3rd, 14 on 13th, 19 on 21st and 11 on 30th.

Pied [White] Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Ushag vreck

Breeding resident & passage migrant

Spring passage was evident during March and early April with counts of 11 or 12 on three occasions in each month plus 16 on 31st March. Otherwise, daily counts rarely exceeded six birds and remained at that level throughout late spring and summer reflecting the presence of two, possibly three pairs that bred on the Calf.

Single figure counts continued through much of the autumn, with exceptions being a pre-roost gathering at Cow on 11th August which contained 14 birds and passage counts of 11 on 21st September and 14 on 2nd, 21 on 12th and 10 on 22nd October.

White Wagtail *M.a. alba*

Uncommon spring & regular autumn passage migrant

A good series of spring records with 1 – 2 birds on 11 dates between 1st April to 5th May, with a total of 15 bird-days.

Autumn passage got underway with singles on 21st, 22nd & 23rd August, followed by 14 on 24th, 20 on 25th and 15 on 27th, otherwise up to seven were recorded daily through to 4th October, then 1 – 3 on five further dates up to the last single on 23rd October. This last record being the latest White Wagtail recorded on the Calf.

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

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

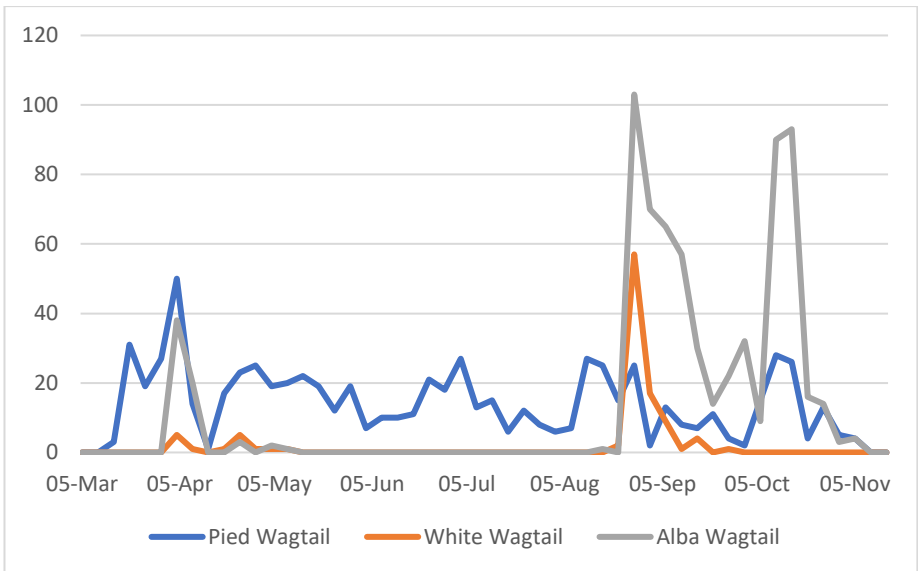
‘Alba’ Wagtail *M.a. alba/yarrellii*

Records of non-specifically identified ‘alba’ wagtails are made throughout the season when observations are inconclusive to assign birds to a particular sub-species.

The graph indicates that the majority of records during spring and from mid-September are likely to refer to *M.a.yarrellii*, whilst during late August and early September many records may refer to *M.a.alba*.

Counts in spring were largely limited to 1st – 8th April with mostly single figure counts and peaks of 15 on 1st and 13 on 4th.

In autumn, passage occurred from late August, with mostly single figure counts occurring through September, October and into early November. Peak periods of passage were during the last eight days of August and between 8th – 14th October, when 170 & 160 bird-days occurred respectively. Monthly high counts were 32 on 27th August and 21 on 17th September and 38 on 12th October.



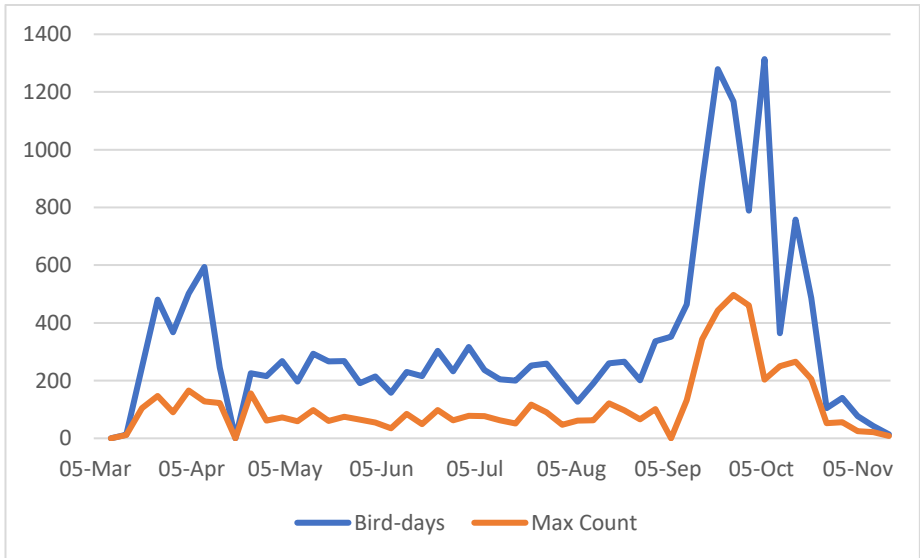
Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Billy yn tweet

Breeding resident & common passage migrant

Recorded daily throughout the season, the Meadow Pipit is probably the most common of passerines on the Calf. As the graph illustrates, an early

spring passage is evident with seven three-figure counts between 13th – 31st March and five more between 1st – 18th April (no coverage between 9th – 16th), with maxima of 167 on 31st March and 156 on 18th April. Daily counts through May, June, July and much of August are likely to reflect resident birds and rarely exceeded 100 birds, with 70 pairs estimated to be breeding.



Autumn dispersal is likely to have begun during the last week of August, with counts of 101 on 28th and 121 on 31st, with the main passage occurring through September when three-figure counts occurred on 19 dates, with a peak of 497 on 21st. Passage continued into October with 689 on 1st, but then reduced quickly with only five further counts of between 130 - 250. From mid-October counts were mostly down into low double figures and this continued through into November.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Tweet keylley

Scarce spring & more regular autumn passage migrant

A good spring passage saw singles on 28th & 29th April, two on 3rd, four on 6th and further singles on 7th, 12th and 18th May.

In comparison, autumn passage was rather poor with up to five birds on 11 dates in August from the 7th, and then one or two on nine dates between 1st – 10th September, with a total of 50 bird-days.

- 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

- 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 11th November 2022

[Eurasian] Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Fushag varrey

Breeding resident

Although present around the coastline, coves and inlets throughout the season the species often goes under-recorded and is likely far more numerous than daily counts would suggest. Several counts during the early part of the season were made with the express intention of monitoring Rock Pipit numbers, with 49 located along the (east) coastline between Gibdale and the Puddle on 19th March and 33 between South Harbour and the Lighthouses on 21st. These counts were eclipsed by a record count of 107 made between Ghaw Laing to South Harbour and round along the east coast to Big Head and on to Gibdale on 30th March. Otherwise, daily counts only occasionally exceeded single figures and other than 41 on 18th April and 33 on 1st October never went above 28 during the remainder of the season. A minimum of 66 territories were counted, although it was thought that this may still be a significant under-estimate. This is the highest estimate of breeding numbers for the Calf, passing previous highs of 52 in 2022 and 48 in 1967.

[Common] Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

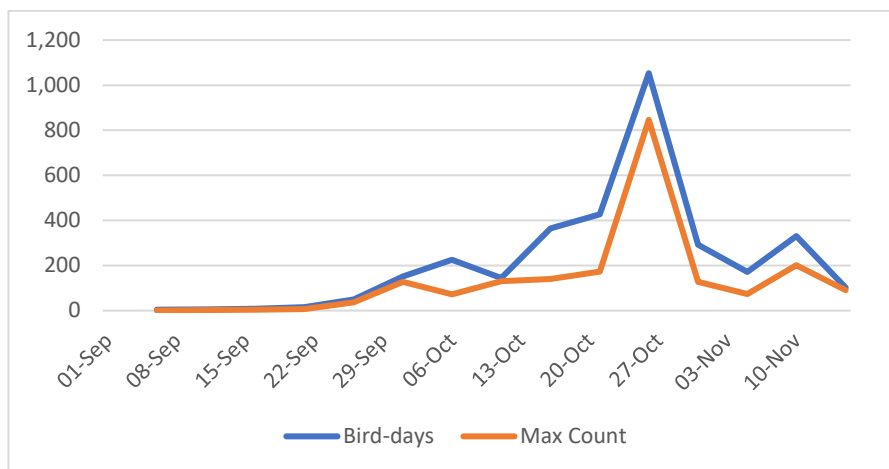
Ushag veg vreck

Common passage migrant & breeds most years

Up to four birds were recorded daily through spring and early summer and represent the two pairs that were resident and bred. A pair were at the Top Withy but seem to have been unsuccessful, whilst the pair in the Observatory garden fledged broods of one in May and three in July. Spring

passage was relatively weak with counts of between 5 - 10 on ten dates through March and April plus peak counts of 12 on 31st March and 17 on 7th April.

An initially light autumn passage began during the second week of September, but it wasn't until 36 on 21st and 128 on 23rd that it was visually apparent, other than through ringing records. Passage was fairly consistent through October with just six single figure counts, 17 double figure counts and seven counts between 109 – 173 plus a month high of 846 on 21st. After 202 on 2nd November counts for the remainder of the month were between 1 – 58 except for 90 on 10th.



Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Corkan drine

Scarce spring & irregular autumn passage migrant

There were no spring records.

Autumn passage began with three on 21st October, singles on 22nd, 23rd & 31st and two on 28th & 30th. After six on 2nd November further records were singles on 4th & 10th and three on 5th & 7th.

A typical series of late autumn records.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus**

Rose-ghlassan jiarg

Rare passage migrant

A 'brown' male spent about 90 minutes travelling up and down the front hedge during the early morning of 3rd June. The bird regularly sang from the

top of trees along the hedge, and successfully managed to avoid being caught in any of the nets (AS, CF).

The 34th Calf record and 14th in June.

[European] Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Corkan-keylley glass

Scarce spring & regular autumn passage migrant, has bred

Spring records were of singles on 23rd, 26th & 30th March and 2nd, 4th & 7th April and 21st May.

Autumn passage began with four on 21st September and 2nd October, then after 81 on 8th records were daily through to 17th involving single figures on four dates and counts of between 14 - 36 on the five others. Another period of daily records occurred from 21st – 26th, with singles on three dates and between 11 – 24 on the other three dates. Four on 29th October was the last record of the month and was then followed by singles on 4th & 5th November, plus six on 10th and 21 on 11th.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

Bytermyn slieau

Scarce passage migrant & occasional winter visitor

It is possible that a small flock over-wintered on the Calf, with 32 seen feeding in Ghaw Laing on 26th January and again at South Harbour on 6th March. A pair were at South Harbour on 17th March and presumably the same birds were at Kione ny Halby on 19th, and then singles at South Harbour and Kione ny Halby on 21st & 22nd March respectively. The last record of the spring was a flock of 29 at Kione ny Halby on 30th March.

There were no autumn records.

[Common] Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Fillip-ny-kempey

Common passage migrant & breeding resident

Recorded from 12th March with single figure counts being most numerous during the month, although there were three counts of between 20 – 26 and 35 on 19th. Spring migration was more evident in the first week of April with counts to 41, but then our absence from the islet prevented any further migration from being detected until 103 on 18th. The remaining 12 days of the month saw counts between 23 – 85 with double figure counts continuing throughout May and most of June. This is likely reflecting the presence of breeding birds, with an estimated population of 15 breeding pairs.

Post-breeding flocks began to build during late June, with a maximum of 250 on Caigher on 29th June and it is likely that a rather elusive (and mobile) flock was present throughout much of July and August, with occasional three figure counts, including monthly maxima of 120 at Cow Harbour on 31st July and 292 at South plateau on 2nd August. Numbers of 'resident' birds decreased significantly by the last week of August and passage was rather light through the next two months, with 11 single figure counts in September and 14 in October and other counts during both months only exceeding 57 on two occasions each; being 76 on 21st September and 13th October and monthly peaks of 84 on 17th September and 222 on 11th October. There were just two singles recorded in November on the 1st and 7th.

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

Kione-jiarg beg

Irregular passage migrant

Spring records involved single figure counts on 14 dates in April and 23 dates in May, plus monthly peaks of 10 on 27th March and 17 on 6th April. Small numbers continued through June with 1 – 3 birds on eight dates in the month up to 30th.

Summer records were few with just 1 – 2 birds on six dates between 13th – 21st July and three on 6th August being the only record for that month.

Autumn passage was rather light to start, with 1 – 4 birds on 10 dates in September from the 8th. The frequency of records increased during October with 1 – 6 birds recorded on 14 dates in the month, plus eight on 16th & 21st, nine on 25th and 11 on 9th. November records were of 1 – 2 on four dates up to 10th and 17 on 11th.

[Red] Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Gob-cam

Scarce passage migrant

The only spring record was of two that landed briefly in the front garden Sitka on 3rd June.

In autumn fly-over singles were recorded on 25th July, 8th September and 2nd October.

[European] Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Lossyr ny keylley

Common passage migrant & breeding resident

Scarce at the beginning of the season, with mainly single figure counts until 25th when passage increased numbers to 48, with counts between 10 – 35

for the remainder of the month. April continued at similar levels until 67 on 22nd, 71 on 24th, 60 on 26th and 65 on 27th was the peak of spring passage. Other than 45 on 6th and 49 on 11th May the remainder of spring saw counts rarely exceed 20 birds and this likely reflected the presence of the estimated 10 breeding pairs. The first Calf-bred juvenile appeared on 29th May with 77 locally bred young ringed by the end of July.

With increasing numbers of juvenile birds present through July, daily counts ranged from 16 – 65 during the second half of the month and numbers peaked at 94 on 22nd. Similar numbers remained through early August but reduced to mainly single figure and low double figure counts from mid-month.

Some passage occurred during late September, with 70 on 21st, 74 on 23rd and 104 on 30th but was more evident in October with eight counts more than 44 including a month high of 95 on 21st. After 61 on 2nd November the remaining counts during the month consisted of five single figure and three counts between 18 – 22.

[Eurasian] Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Corkan airhey

Regular passage migrant

One to four birds were recorded on five dates in March, 11 dates in April, 12 dates in May and 14 dates in June. Additionally, higher counts of 21 on 3rd and five on 22nd April occurred.

July produced singles on just five dates in the month, with autumn passage beginning in late August, with 1 - 6 recorded on six dates between 22nd – 30th. Records were more frequent during September, with single figure counts on 17 dates and five further counts of between 11 – 25 on five dates plus a high count of 39 on 10th. Passage during October peaked at 78 on 11th, otherwise passage of single figures was recorded on 18 dates and between 13 - 38 on a further six dates. November produced 1 – 2 birds on five dates plus 10 on 2nd and six on 3rd.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

Ushag wuigh

Scarce passage migrant

The first records since 2019 involved a male along the front hedge on 30th March (AS, LOD), another male near the Plantation on 4th April (AS, LOD) and a female seen briefly in the back field on 10th May (AS).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla**

Pompee veg

Very rare vagrant

A singing male seen briefly atop the front hedge on 6th May (AS, MDH, CH) and independently by EMG as it moved northwards towards Gibdale.

Remarkably, a second individual, a 1st calendar year bird, was trapped in the front hedge on 11th October (AS et al).

The 6th & 7th Calf records and first since two in May 2004.

[Common] Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Pompee ny guirtlagh

Autumn passage migrant & uncommon breeding resident

One to three birds were seen intermittently during spring and through the summer months, with birds occasionally seen in the typical breeding locations of the Withy, Central Heath and Triangle. A male was still singing at the latter site on 23rd July and 1st August. It was suspected that only the Central Heath pair may have bred, with only one juvenile being trapped at the Withy on 19th July.

Autumn passage was evident from late September, with eight on 21st and nine on 23rd, followed by a single on 29th and four on 30th September. October produced the best month total (84) for 35 years, with up to five seen on 15 dates and higher counts of seven on 8th, nine on 9th, 17 on 12th and 13 on 22nd. The final record of the season was a single on 4th November. The count of 17 was the highest day total since 29 were recorded on 29th September 2018 and before that 18 on 10th October 2010.

Rarity Report

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) – 2nd Calf and Manx record.

Whilst checking the mist nets set through the Glen I approached one net known as the 'Cuckoo Flower' net to see a largish warbler in the bottom panel. Even from quite a distance, I immediately realised this was something different, noting the long tail and overall pale sandy colour of the bird. As I got within a few feet of the bird I could see that it was a Great Reed Warbler – a bird I have previously seen in Europe.

The bird was extracted from the mist net, and I returned to the Observatory where the bird was processed, ringed and then released.

Upper parts: Overall the bird resembled a large and stocky Eurasian Reed Warbler *A. scirpaceus*, with grey-brown head, and upper back, extending onto the lesser coverts, but becoming edged chestnut brown on the median & greater coverts, remiges and rump, with a browner tail appearing somewhat reddish in certain lights. A short pale supercilium formed a crescent above the eye and extended a short distance either side of the eye. Under parts: The throat and belly were off-white to pale cream, with the flanks and vent area being a richer orangey-brown.

Bare parts: One of the most obvious features of the bird was its stout and elongated bill, which had a dark upper mandible and paler pink lower mandible. The bird had very sturdy pinkish legs, which became greyer at the feet. The brown iris with dark pupil was also quite noticeable, giving the bird a rather beady-eyed look.

The wing formulae was checked against the unlikely possibility of the bird being either *A. stentoreus* or *A. aedon*, with the wing point = 3rd PP and only 0.5mm longer than P2 ruling out both species. The notch on the 2nd PP was equal in length to between the 6/7th PP's whilst the 1st PP was -6mm shorter than the primary coverts.

Aron Sapsford



Radde's Warbler (*Phylloscopus schwarzi*) – a new Manx bird.

At about 0830hrs I was just starting a net round, when Mike Haigh radioed me to say that he had caught a bird at the Top Withy, that he needed me to look at. I completed checking the nets in the garden and made my way to the outside ringing hut, where Mike handed me a bird-bag. On removing the bird, I immediately realised that we were dealing with a Dusky or Radde's Warbler – the conclusion Mike had already reached. Having previously caught a Dusky Warbler *P. fuscatus* on the Calf in April 2022, the larger size of this bird was leading me to conclude that it was a Radde's and following reference to Svensson, Demogin and the Collins Field Guide we were happy that was the case.



Upperparts: Crown of head, mantle, back, rump, remiges and retrices a uniform (warm) chocolatey brown. The most striking feature was the bold supercilium that extended from level with the base of the bill to almost the nape and broadened behind the eye. This had an underlying white colour but also showed warm orangey tones. A dark (blackish) eye-stripe also extended from the base of the bill through the eye and continued well towards the back of the ear-coverts, turning up slightly at the end. The ear coverts were mottled grey-brown which extended onto the cheeks and also with a small patch below the eye, making the pale (whitish) eye-ring stand out. The overall size of the bird was close to that of a Reed Warbler, although not quite so elongated and appearing quite dumpy. It was certainly much bigger than the 'standard' *Phylloscopus* size of a Dusky Warbler and in addition its leg(s) was too thick for an AA ring and required the larger A size.

Underparts: Throat and centre of the breast slightly more whitish than the rest of the underparts, with the flanks and vent area having a rich orangey/yellow tone. Slightly darker (grey-brown) breast band extending up the side of the neck, where it was more grey.

Bare parts: Legs and feet were pinkish/orange. Bill was mostly dark horn with a pale orange coloured base half to lower mandible. Eye dark.

A complete wing formula was taken, with P4 being the longest feather.

1st PP = PC + 9.5mm

2nd PP – 10mm

3rd PP – 8mm

4th = Wing Point

5th PP – 1mm

6th PP – 2mm

7th PP – 4mm

8th PP – 7mm

9th PP – 8mm

10th PP – 9.5mm

Emarginated = 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th.

Wing length = 65mm

The bird was released near to the outdoor ringing hut and disappeared up behind the old tractor barn. About two hours later the bird was retrapped in the back field and was later heard calling, a distinctive 'chtack', in the back garden.

Aron Sapsford



Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) – 2nd Calf and Manx record.

The morning of the 25th September was rather stormy, with a strong south-west wind blowing – I had initially spent an hour seawatching at Culbery but other than Gannets there was little movement past the Calf. I returned to the Observatory where EMG had been operating a couple of sheltered mist nets in the garden. It was also relatively quiet here and EMG asked me to take over the nets whilst she got on with some other work. At around 11am, I began another check of the nets and on approaching the middle garden net noticed something about halfway along the net. I raised my binoculars to check if it was a leaf or a bird and was immediately struck by the vivid green of the birds' back and wings. It was about the size of a Dunnock, and now rather intrigued I made my way towards the bird. As I got closer, the bird wriggled and I saw its pale off-white belly and bright yellow vent & undertail coverts and then its grey-blue cap and prominent white supercilium. Given the arrival of many Nearctic vagrants into the western seaboard of the UK during the past week, I was half expecting it and realised it was a Red-eyed Vireo, that was now looking up at me from the net. I extracted the bird and returned to the Observatory to inform EMG, PCO and others.

The bird was processed, photographed and then released into the front garden where it spent a short while in the elder tree before disappearing. Following a night of heavy rain and strong winds into the morning and early afternoon of 26th September, it was of no surprise to find that the bird was still present around the Observatory and when trapped in one of the garden mist nets showed that it had gained 1.5 gms in weight. The bird was present around the Observatory area for the next week and was last seen on 3rd October.

Description:

Upperparts – Crown blue-grey with black lateral stripe above the broad white supercilium which extended from base of bill to well behind the eye, towards the end of the ear-coverts. Dark lore stripe from base of bill to front of eye. Ear-coverts similar in colour to mantle and back but having a slightly browner hue. Mantle and back green, sometimes with brown tones depending on light conditions. Remiges and retrices green outer edges with browner inner webs. In certain light the green edges looked quite bright, particularly in flight when the bright green rump was also noticeable. The outer five greater coverts were duller in colour having obvious paler (yellowish) edges, which

we concluded were old greater coverts allowing the bird to be aged as a 1CY. Under parts: Chin, throat, flanks and belly pure white with distinct bright yellow on inner flanks and armpit, vent and undertail coverts.

Bare parts: Eye dark with slight reddish tint. Legs blue-grey. Bill – dark (blackish) upper mandible with greyer distal edge. Lower mandible having a dark tip extending a third of the length of the bill, becoming greyer and almost pinkish grey towards the base.

Aron Sapsford



2023 Breeding Totals

Species	2023	Status
Shelduck	1 Pair	One or two pairs bred in all years since 2002; a pair was present at The Puddle through spring and a pair were seen with seven young.
Mallard	3 Pairs	Four broods were seen on the Millpond, with a fifth on Kitterland.
Eider	87+ Pairs	First bred in 1992, with an estimated 70 pairs in each year 2018 – 2021 & 100+ in 2022; 87 nests located during 2023, with some suitable areas not surveyed.
Pheasant	3 - 4 Pairs	Bred for the first time in 2018; At least four males held territory, with several broods seen.
Oystercatcher	26 Pairs	The second highest breeding total. Average of 15 pairs during 2013 – 2022.
Great Black-backed Gull	70 AON	Average of 49 AON during 2013 – 2022
Herring Gull	698 AON	Average of 436 AON during 2013 – 2022
Lesser Black-backed Gull	48 AON	Average of 42 AON during 2013 – 2022
Common Guillemot	224 IA's	Average of 178 IA's during 2013 – 2022
	135 Pairs	Average of 117 pairs during 2013 – 2022
Razorbill	170 IA's	Average of 175 IA's during 2013 – 2022
	102 Pairs	Average of 103 pairs during 2013 – 2022
Black Guillemot	2 – 3 Pairs	First recorded breeding in 1972 with 1 - 3 pairs less than annually; Pairs seen regularly below the Lighthouses and the East coast
Puffin	1 – 2 Pairs present	Last confirmed breeding in 1997, with a maximum of 65 pairs in 1979. Two pairs present at Kione ny Halby in 2021; Several birds seen regularly off the Stack and at Kione ny Halby

Species	2023	Status
Fulmar	92 AOS	Average of 76 AOS during 2013 – 2022
Manx Shearwater	1000 – 1200 AOB	Average of 551 AOB during 2013 – 2022
Shag	90 AON	A 16% decrease on 2022 and 20% decrease on the average of 112 AON during 2013 – 2022.
Buzzard	1 Pair	First attempted breeding in 2021 & 2022; a nest was located at Baie Fine and fledged three young.
Peregrine	1 Pair	Breeds almost annually, with two pairs in 2019 & 2020; one pair were successful with three young
Chough	11 Pairs	Average of 9 pairs during 2013 – 2022
Hooded / Carrion Crow	13 Pairs	Average of 7 pairs during 2013 – 2022; at least six pairs are mixed Carrion x Hooded Crow
Raven	2 Pairs	1 - 2 pairs breed annually; both pairs fledged young
Swallow	11 Pairs	Average of 3 pairs during 2013 – 2022, with max 10 pairs in 2005 & 2007; five pairs bred at the Observatory, with six pairs at Jane's House
Whitethroat	1 Pair	1 – 2 pairs in 8 out of the past 10 years; pair seen in Withy area
Chiffchaff	1 Pair	Recently fledged juveniles caught at Withy
Wren	32 Pairs	Average of 22 pairs during 2013 – 2022, with max 73 pairs in 1974.
Blackbird	12 Pairs	Average of 6 pairs during 2013 – 2022 with max 22 pairs in 1979.
Robin	14 Pairs	1 – 5 pairs in five years since 2015 plus a max 14 pairs in 2022.
Stonechat	12 Pairs	Average of 6 pairs during 2013 – 2022, with max 20 pairs in 1977
Wheatear	55 Pairs	Average of 31 pairs during 2013 – 2022 with max 64 pairs in 2022.
Pied Wagtail	2 -3 Pairs	Average of 3 pairs during 2013 – 2022, with 8 pairs in 2016 & 2023.

Species	2023	Status
Meadow Pipit	c.70 Pairs	Average of 49 pairs during 2013 – 2022, with max 110 pairs in 1982.
Rock Pipit	66 Pairs	Average of 32 pairs during 2013 – 2022, with max 66 pairs in 2023.
Chaffinch	1 Pair	Fledged two broods at Observatory
Linnet	c.15 Pairs	Average of 12 pairs during 2013 – 2022 with max 50 pairs in 1982;
Goldfinch	c.10 Pairs	Average of 12 pairs during 2013 – 2022, with max 20 pairs in 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019;
Reed Bunting	1 Pair	1 - 2 pairs in seven out of last 10 years, with max 19 pairs in 1980;



Eider nest, Aron Sapsford

2023 Ringing Report

The grand total of 9,074 birds of 86 species were ringed, placing 2023 as the 2nd most successful year in the Observatory's history for the total ringed and fourth most successful for number of species ringed.

One new species was added to the list, a Radde's Warbler caught in late October at the Top Withy. Several other noteworthy species were trapped during the year and are detailed in Table 1:

Table 1: Notable species and numbers ringed during 2023. Species in **bold** denote a record annual total:

Species	No.	Ranking
Cormorant	1	8 th ever and first ringed since 1964.
Manx Shearwater	163	4 th highest ever annual total
Peregrine	3	11th – 13th ever ringed
Dunlin	1	2nd ever ringed & first since 1979
Purple Sandpiper	3	49 th – 51 st ever ringed
Redshank	6	38 th – 43 rd ever ringed and 2 nd highest annual total
Razorbill	29	Joint 2 nd highest annual total since 2011
Stock Dove	1	4th ever ringed & first since 2014
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	7th ever ringed & first since 2018
Skylark	7	2 nd highest ever annual total
Sand Martin	2	51 st – 52 nd ever ringed & first since 2011
Swallow	186	2 nd highest ever annual total
House Martin	1	69 th ever and first since 2013
Meadow Pipit	1272	Record annual total beating 1235 in 2019
Grey Wagtail	70	Joint 7 th highest annual total
Pied Wagtail	59	9 th highest ever annual total
Robin	507	2 nd highest ever annual total
Stonechat	119	3 rd highest ever annual total
Sedge Warbler	199	5 th highest ever annual total
Marsh Warbler	1	6th ever ringed & first since 2011
Reed Warbler	5	4 th highest ever annual total
Great Reed Warbler	1	2nd ever ringed & first since 2008
Icterine Warbler	1	19 th ever ringed and first since 2008
Melodious Warbler	1	21 st ever ringed and first since 2019

Species	No.	Ranking
Barred Warbler	1	31 st ever ringed
Blackcap	473	Record annual total beating 349 in 2022
Radde's Warbler	1	New species ringed for Calf
Goldcrest	1031	3 rd highest annual total in last 20 years
Firecrest	1	First since 2020
Spotted Flycatcher	121	3 rd highest annual total in last 30 years
Long-tailed Tit	19	9 th highest ever annual total
Coal Tit	22	8 th highest ever annual total
Blue Tit	93	5 th highest ever annual total
Great Tit	150	3 rd highest ever annual total
Treecreeper	5	Joint 2 nd highest ever annual total
Chough	12	Highest annual total since 2013
Jackdaw	1	20 th ever ringed and first since 2011
Hooded Crow	10	Joint 2 nd highest ever annual total
Tree Sparrow	13	2 nd highest ever annual total
Red-eyed Vireo	1	2nd ever ringed & first since 2016
Chaffinch	761	2 nd highest ever annual total
Greenfinch	66	Highest annual total since 2011
Goldfinch	825	2 nd highest ever annual total
Linnet	100	6 th highest ever annual total
Little Bunting	1	4th ever ringed and first since 2004
Reed Bunting	47	2 nd highest ever annual total



Gull ringing at Cow Harbour

Table 2: Monthly ringing totals

New bird ringing totals by month for 2023, with the five and ten-year averages for comparison. **Bold** figures denote above average totals.

	2023	5-yr average (2018-22)	10-yr average (2013 – 22)
Mar	503	338	321
Apr	1339	1254	1040
May	936	885	717
Jun	514	374	337
Jul	683	629	490
Aug	773	734	553
Sep	1973	1567	1214
Oct	2228	1396	1140
Nov	125	300	224
Total	9074	7333	5829

Table 3: Top Ten Species

2023	Species	Total	2022	2021	2020	2019
1 st	Meadow Pipit	1272	2 nd	1 st	2 nd	1 st
2 nd	Goldcrest	1031	5 th	= 5 th	3 rd	3 rd
3 rd	Willow Warbler	935	1 st	2 nd	4 th	2 nd
4 th	Goldfinch	824	3 rd	3 rd	7 th	4 th
5 th	Chaffinch	761	8 th	4 th	1 st	6 th
6 th	Robin	507	4 th	= 5 th	6 th	10 th
7 th	Blackcap	473	6 th	10 th	13 th	9 th
8 th	Chiffchaff	262	10 th	9 th	19 th	7 th
9 th	Blackbird	210	7 th	12 th	5 th	5 th
10 th	Sedge Warbler	199	19 th	20 th	27 th	17 th

The Season's Centuries

Date	Main Species	No. Birds Ringed/ No. of Species
26 th March	Goldcrest 200, Chiffchaff 26, Robin 19, Goldfinch 12	271/11
18 th April	Blackcap 32, Goldfinch 19, Willow Warbler 18, Wheatear 18	102/8
23 rd April	Willow Warbler 60, Blackcap 23, Goldfinch 15	108/9
26 th April	Willow Warbler 64, Goldfinch 39, Chiffchaff 5, Blackcap 5	117/8
27 th April	Willow Warbler 79, Goldfinch 36, Blackcap 31, Sedge Warbler 7	166/9
28 th April	Willow Warbler 67, Blackcap 24, Goldfinch 19, Sedge Warbler 10	139/11
1 st May	Willow Warbler 64, Blackcap 34, Sedge Warbler 16, Goldfinch 8	141/13
2 nd May	Whitethroat 36, Willow Warbler 31, Blackcap 23, Sedge Warbler 16	129/10
6 th May	Willow Warbler 31, Whitethroat 28, Blackcap 12, Goldfinch 12	103/10
14 th August	Willow Warbler 84, Swallow 8, Wren 6, Robin 6	128/11
31 st August	Robin 50, Meadow Pipit 28, Goldcrest 11, Whitethroat 7	112/12
2 nd September	Meadow Pipit 30, Goldcrest 25, Robin 19, Tree Sparrow 8	101/15
5 th September	Goldcrest 42, Robin 37, Meadow Pipit 16, Swallow 9	112/9
10 th September	Meadow Pipit 54, Robin 13, Goldcrest 11, Chiffchaff 8	105/15
13 th September	Meadow Pipit 69, Goldcrest 19, Robin 14, Manx Shearwater 12	143/15
21 st September	Meadow Pipit 59, Goldcrest 43, Chaffinch 23, Goldfinch 11	175/15
23 rd September	Goldcrest 86, Meadow Pipit 54, Chaffinch 42, Robin 23	257/16
30 th September	Chaffinch 52, Robin 36, Goldcrest 31, Dunnock 19, Blackcap 14	191/13
2 nd October	Chaffinch 40, Goldcrest 36, Meadow Pipit 20, Song Thrush 9	138/15

8 th October	Chaffinch 40, Meadow Pipit 32, Goldcrest 18, Blue Tit 18	135/14
12 th October	Chaffinch 105, Goldcrest 56, Great Tit 50, Blue Tit 41	429/24
15 th October	Chaffinch 84, Goldcrest 35, Song Thrush 32, Meadow Pipit 20	252/20
16 th October	Goldcrest 24, Great Tit 23, Meadow Pipit 17, Goldfinch 11	132/19
21 st October	Chaffinch 68, Meadow Pipit 17, Goldcrest 15, Blackbird 8	139/14
22 nd October	Chaffinch 59, Goldcrest 29, Song Thrush 17, Blackbird 17	195/20
25 th October	Chaffinch 38, Goldcrest 22, Blackbird 17, Great Tit 14	180/20

Table 4: Key Trapping Methods

	New	Retrap	Control	Total
Total trapped	9074	1670	31	10775
Obs MN	5100	983	15	6098
Withy MN	1896	413	7	2316
Other MN	91	5	2	98
Pullus	302			302
Other Methods	1685	269	7	1961
Total	9074	1670	31	10775

As usual, most birds were caught using conventional methods, with mist nets accounting for 73% of all birds trapped during 2023. This represents a decrease of 7% on the 2022 figure, which is a result of an increase in the number of birds trapped using other methods, particularly the Pipit trap. Despite the decrease in percentage of birds caught by mist nets, the number of birds trapped using this method was greater than in 2022 and all key trapping methods, except Other MN showed an increase in totals caught. The captures at Withy MN again saw an increase, with the total of 2,316 being the highest ever trapped in a season and representing 21.5% of the overall total. This figure illustrates the importance of the Withies contribution to the ringing totals and to the greater species diversity that it brings to the daily log and season's totals, most notably Great Reed Warbler and Radde's Warbler

Operation of the Withies requires an additional licensed bird ringer, and we are most grateful to the various volunteers that helped through the season and in particular to Eleanor Grover, as Volunteer Assistant Warden, for her dedication in running the site on most suitable mornings.

Table 5: Other catching methods

Other Methods	New	Retrap	Control	Total
HG1	108	18		126
HG2	80	24	1	105
Pipit trap	973	41		1014
Crow trap	250	37	1	288
Spring trap	40	3	1	44
On Nest	44	69	1	114
Wire trap	24	4		28
Dazzled / Hand	166	63	3	232
Unspecified		10		10
Total	1685	269	7	1961

The percentage of birds trapped using Other Methods increased by 1%, with the actual number trapped increasing by 258 birds. The use of passive walk-in traps accounted for this increase, and whilst the use of mobile walk-in traps was less this year, this was more than compensated for by a 50% increase in birds caught in the Pipit trap.

Other trapping methods were broadly similar in totals to 2022 and less restrictions in relation to HPAI allowed the numbers of Manx Shearwaters caught at night to be increased. It was again a relatively poor year for dazzling waders; however, this was compensated for by a couple of productive mist netting sessions during August, which produced only the 2nd Dunlin to be ringed on the Calf.

The two Heligoland traps, Crow Trap and Pipit trap 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, Stonechat, Grey & Pied/White Wagtails and Meadow Pipits.

Colour-ringing:

Colour-ringing studies for Wheatear, Grey Wagtail and Stonechat were continued and are beginning to return some interesting results, which are detailed in the recoveries & controls section of this report. A further advancement in our studies of Wheatear, has been the siting of a Motus tower on the Calf. This will allow 'radio-tagged' birds to be tracked using radio telemetry and it is hoped to begin this study in June 2024.



Motus antenna installed in autumn 2023

The colour-ringing of the three large *Larus* gulls also continues, and it was pleasing to receive our first sightings of both Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gull from Norway.

Table 6: Birds ringed on the Calf in previous years and re-trapped in 2023. The final column shows birds that were ringed prior to 2017.

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	Previous
Fulmar						2	
Manx Shearwater	5	11	2	4	6	3	2016 x 15, 2012 x 1, 2005 x 3, 2003 x 2
Storm Petrel	1						
Shag	1						2008 x 1
Mallard	1					1	
Eider	14	6		6	8	3	2014 x 1
Sparrowhawk	2						
Herring Gull	1					1	2013 x 1, 2011 x 1, 1996 x 1
Great B-b Gull							2016 x 1
Razorbill		2	1			1	
Swallow	2	1					
Meadow Pipit	13	4	2	3	1		
Wren	5	1					
Duncock	1	1					
Robin	6	3		3			
Stonechat	3						
Wheatear	6		2		1		2015 x 1
Blackbird	3	2		1			
Blackcap	1						
Willow Warbler	1						
Chough						1	
Chaffinch	2	1					
Goldfinch	9	5			1		
Linnet	1	1					
Reed Bunting		1					

Table 7: Birds colour-ringed on the Calf in previous years and re-sighted in 2023.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Shag		2	2									
Lesser B-b Gull	3		1	2	2	1		1			1	
Herring Gull	29	15	23	9	39	1	3	8	3	1	6	3
Great B-b Gull		5	8	1	1	3	3	1				
Chough	5	2	2				1					
Stonechat	3	16										
Wheatear	1	5	4	3								
Grey Wagtail	1											

Acknowledgements:

As ever, many people have assisted with our work during the season. I am particularly grateful to Eleanor Grover who, once again, provided invaluable help throughout the season. Mike Haigh again covered my period of annual leave at the end of season, as well as volunteering during the spring and assisting with many other aspects of the Observatory's work and in particular help with data handling. Several other volunteers provided invaluable assistance at various stages of the season, including Ann Playford, Luise O'Donovan, Tim Earl, Robert Fisher, Chloe Hurst, Catrin Ferguson, Anna Miall, Louis Driver, Pete Tarrant, Phoebe Owen and Olivia Pargeter. Mark Fitzpatrick continues to provide invaluable assistance with management of the colour-ringing sightings.

2023 Ringing Totals:

Species	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Fulmar	1	3	4
Manx Shearwater	159	4	163
Storm Petrel	75	0	75
Cormorant	1	0	1
Shag	2	48	50
Mallard	2	0	2
Eider	15	0	15
Sparrowhawk	10	0	10
Kestrel	1	0	1
Peregrine	0	3	3
Oystercatcher	1	16	17
Purple Sandpiper	3	0	3
Dunlin	1	0	1
Redshank	6	0	6
Turnstone	1	0	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	6	8
Herring Gull	8	130	138
Great Black-backed Gull	1	24	25
Razorbill	15	14	29
Stock Dove	1	0	1
Woodpigeon	1	0	1
Cuckoo	1	0	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	0	1
Skylark	7	0	7
Sand Martin	2	0	2
Swallow	157	29	186
House Martin	1	0	1
Tree Pipit	6	0	6
Meadow Pipit	1272	0	1272
Rock Pipit	7	0	7
Grey Wagtail	70	0	70
Pied/White Wagtail	59	0	59
Wren	95	0	95
Dunnock	97	0	97

Species	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Robin	507	0	507
Black Redstart	1	0	1
Redstart	6	0	6
Whinchat	5	0	5
Stonechat	119	0	119
Wheatear	126	3	129
Ring Ouzel	1	0	1
Blackbird	210	0	210
Fieldfare	9	0	9
Song Thrush	174	0	174
Redwing	97	0	97
Mistle Thrush	1	0	1
Grasshopper Warbler	8	0	8
Sedge Warbler	199	0	199
Marsh Warbler	1	0	1
Reed Warbler	5	0	5
Great Reed Warbler	1	0	1
Icterine Warbler	1	0	1
Melodious Warbler	1	0	1
Barred Warbler	1	0	1
Lesser Whitethroat	1	0	1
Whitethroat	185	0	185
Garden Warbler	4	0	4
Blackcap	473	0	473
Radde's Warbler	1	0	1
Chiffchaff	262	0	262
Willow Warbler	935	0	935
Goldcrest	1031	0	1031
Firecrest	1	0	1
Spotted Flycatcher	121	0	121
Pied Flycatcher	3	0	3
Long-tailed Tit	19	0	19
Coal Tit	22	0	22
Blue Tit	93	0	93
Great Tit	150	0	150
Treecreeper	5	0	5

Species	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Chough	0	12	12
Jackdaw	1	0	1
Hooded Crow	1	9	10
Starling	18	0	18
House Sparrow	6	0	6
Tree Sparrow	13	0	13
Red-eyed Vireo	1	0	1
Chaffinch	761	0	761
Brambling	1	0	1
Greenfinch	66	0	66
Goldfinch	824	1	825
Siskin	24	0	24
Linnet	100	0	100
Lesser Redpoll	48	0	48
Little Bunting	1	0	1
Reed Bunting	47	0	47
Total	8772	302	9074

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 or 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:

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



Photo by Mike Barth

Combinations of plain colour-rings have also been used previously on Rock Pipit and 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



Stonechat by Stuart Martinez



2023 Recoveries

Recoveries are of birds ringed on the Calf, and which have been subsequently found elsewhere. A total of 289 reports were received during 2023, comprising one record from 2016, three from 2018, 12 from 2019, 11 from 2020, 40 from 2021, 32 from 2022 and 190 from 2023.

Eider

	IOM	Northern Ireland
Up to 2022	2	1
2023	1	0

Ring number

Age/Sex	Code	Date	Location Details
HT95029			
4F	N	09/06/09	Calf of Man
	xA	20/07/23	Port St Mary, isle of Man
			5145 days 5 km 67deg (ENE)

A new longevity record for a Calf ringed Eider at 14 years, 1 month and 12 days.



Great Black-backed Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Irish Sea
Up to 2022	125	61	88	96	8	82	3
2023	3	1	7	10	2	3	0

	FRANCE
Up to 2022	3

GY06495 **J10:M**

1 N 26/06/21 Calf of Man
 7 S 22/02/23 Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
 606 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)

HT95140 **T8ZU**

1 N 26/06/13 Calf of Man
 10 S 16/10/21 Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire
 3034 days 99 km 239deg (WSW)



HT95230 **S24:M**

1 N 22/06/15 Calf of Man
 5 S 07/02/16 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire
 23 days 96 km 254deg (WSW)

7	S	29/04/17	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 677 days Also, on three dates between 8 th – 12 th October 2018
10	S	12/11/20	Cruisetown, Co. Louth, Eire 1970 days 97 km 256deg (WSW)
10	S	08/05/21	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, 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)
10	S	13/12/21	Cruisetown, nr Clogherhead, Co. Lough, N. Ireland 2366 days 98 km 255deg (WSW)
10	S	07/04/22	Greenore, Louth, Co. Down, N. Ireland 2481 days 86 km 268deg (W)

HT95279 S42:M

1	N	26/06/17	Calf of Man
5	S	03/02/18	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales 222 days 147 km 0deg (S) also 15/02/18 234 days also 26/04/19 669 days
8	S	15/07/22	The Skerries, Isle of Anglesey, Wales 1845 days 62 km (S)
4	S	02/08/22	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales 1863 days
4	S	21/08/22	South End, Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales 1882 days 145 km 180deg (S)
4	S	31/05/23	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales 2165 days

HT95280 S43:M

1	N	26/06/17	Calf of Man
3	S	14/10/17	NeVERN Estuary, Newport, Wales 110 days 228 km (S)
Also, NeVERN Estuary on 22 dates between October 2017 and July 2019			
Also, NeVERN Estuary on 17 dates between January and September 2020			
Also, NeVERN Estuary on 16/12/20 and 28/01/21			
Also, NeVERN Estuary on seven dates between 6 th – 30 th 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)
10	S	14/09/23	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales 2271 days 292 km 185deg (S)

HT95281 S21:M

1	N	06/07/17	Calf of Man
3	S	19/11/17	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 136 days 96 km (WSW)
5	S	24/11/18	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 506 days
7	S	29/01/19	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, 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	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1262 days
10	S	20/02/21	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1325 days
10	S	30/07/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1485 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
10	S	11/11/21	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1589 days
10	S	27/11/21	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1605 days
10	S	05/12/21	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1613 days
10	S	13/12/21	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1621 days

An additional sighting from February and November 2021.

HT95288 S30:M

1	N	15/07/17	Calf of Man
10	S	29/06/21	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 1445 days 101 km 238deg (WSW)
10	S	04/04/22	Calf of Man
10	S	16/08/22	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1858 days 7 km 56deg (ENE)

An additional record from 2021

HT95290 S33:M

10	N	04/04/18	Calf of Man
10	S	01/08/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 484 days 100 km (W)
10	S	18/09/19	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 532 days 100 km (SW)
10	S	16/09/22	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 1626 days

HT95311 S39:M

10	N	22/05/18	Calf of Man
10	S	28/05/18	Calf of Man 6 days
10	S	31/12/18	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 223 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
10	S	02/02/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 256 days
10	S	20/05/19	Calf of Man 363 days
10	S	08/11/20	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 901 days
10	S	04/05/22	Calf of Man

S 25/01/23 Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1709 days
 10 S 23/04/23 Calf of Man 1797 days

Ringed as a breeding bird on the Calf of Man, these recoveries in Northern Ireland indicates a clear pattern for its preferred wintering area.

HT95327 S18:M

1 N 23/06/18 Calf of Man
 3 S 12/10/18 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire
 111 days 96 km (WSW)
 also 29/01/19 & 18/03/19
 also 15/07/20 & 31/12/20
 S 16/03/21 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 997 days
 S 29/07/21 Baltray, Co. Louth, Eire
 1132 days 102 km 249deg (WSW)
 S 23/10/21 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1218 days
 S 24/10/21 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1219 days
 S 13/12/21 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1269 days

An additional three records from October and December 2021.

HT95332 S48:M

1 N 23/06/18 Calf of Man
 10 S 10/06/23 Portpatrick, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland
 1813 days 90 km 347deg (WNW)

HT95338 S57:M

1 N 24/06/18 Calf of Man
 3 S 03/10/18 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire
 101 days 96 km (WSW)
 5 S 14/01/19 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, 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 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 909 days
 7 S 31/12/20 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 921 days
 9 S 17/09/21 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1181 days
 8 S 24/10/21 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1218 days
 10 S 21/02/22 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1338 days

HT95339 S58:M

1 N 24/06/18 Calf of Man
 3 S 01/12/18 Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire
 160 days 111 km 228deg (SW)
 Also 23/02/19 244 days

5	S	31/03/19	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 280 days 96 km (WSW)
8	S	24/10/21	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1218 days
8	S	12/12/21	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1267 days
8	S	21/02/22	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 1338 days
	S	08/07/22	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1475 days 8 km 61deg (ENE)

HT95391 M84:M

1	N	22/06/19	Calf of Man
	S	20/06/20	Coney Island (Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 364 days 57 km 291deg (WNW)
5	S	13/07/20	Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 387 days 101 km 238deg (WSW)
8	S	06/08/22	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 1141 days 101 km 238deg (WSW)
	S	12/07/23	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1481 days 6 km 72deg (ENE)
	S	01/08/23	Derbyhaven, Isle of Man 1501 days 11 km 91deg (E)

An additional sighting from 2022.

HT95396 M57:M

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)
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 834 days 71 km 289deg (WNW)
7	S	08/10/21	Dundrum Bay (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 835 days
11	S	23/03/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1366 days

HT95426 U25: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 114 days 6 km 91deg (E)
5	S	08/09/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 448 days 57 km 294deg (WNW)
7	S	23/03/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 644 days

HT95428 **U29:M**

1	N	17/06/21	Calf of Man
3	S	21/09/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 96 days 6 km 91deg (E)
5	S	08/04/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 295 days 57 km 294deg (WNW)
5	S	08/09/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 448 days 57 km 294deg (WNW)
7	S	23/03/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 644 days
	S	11/10/23	Strandhall, Isle of Man 846 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)

HT95437 **U85:M**

1	N	06/07/21	Calf of Man
3	S	08/12/21	Rush Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 155 days 103 km 235deg (SW)

HT95444 **U94:M**

1	N	06/07/21	Calf of Man
	S	29/06/23	Baldrine, Isle of Man 723 days 30 km 56deg (ENE)

HT95448 **U00:M**

1	N	06/07/21	Calf of Man
5	S	27/02/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 236 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
5	S	22/06/22	Port Grenaugh, Isle of Man 351 days 17 km 70deg (ENE)
5	S	16/08/22	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 406 days 8 km 61deg (ENE)
	S	11/10/23	Strandhall, Isle of Man 827 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)
	S	21/11/23	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 868 days 7 km 56deg (ENE)

HT95477 **M93:M**

1	N	06/07/20	Calf of Man
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)
9	S	19/12/23	Camel Estuary, Cornwall 1261 days 416 km 178deg (S)

MA28252 U06:M

1	N	08/07/21	Calf of Man
7	S	27/10/23	Gann Estuary, Dale, Pembrokeshire, Wales 841 days 261 km 186deg (S)

MA28253 U10:M

1	N	08/07/21	Calf of Man
3	S	08/12/21	Rush Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 153 days 103 km 235deg (SW)
5	S	08/04/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 274 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
5	S	05/06/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 332 days
5	S	23/06/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 350 days
5	S	08/09/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 427 days
7	S	23/03/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 623 days

An additional sighting from December 2021.

MA28263 P00:M

1	N	16/07/21	Calf of Man
5	S	03/02/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 202 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
7	S	23/03/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 615 days

MA28265 P03:M

3	N	03/09/21	Calf of Man
3	S	23/12/21	At sea, 5 miles East of Kilkeel, Co Down, N. Ireland 111 days 73 km 269deg (W)
5	S	06/06/22	At sea, 2 miles East of Cloughy, Co. Down, N. Ireland 276 days 58 km 315deg (NW)
5	S	02/09/22	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 364 days 4 km 91deg (E)
	S	03/09/22	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 365 days
7	S	31/01/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 515 days 57 km 294deg (WNW)
9	S	13/09/23	Deveron River, Banff, Aberdeenshire, Scotland 740 days 425 km 20deg (NNE)

MA28309 P42:M

1	N	20/06/22	Calf of Man
5	S	25/10/23	Culdaff River Estuary, Co. Donegal, Eire 492 days 204 km 312deg (NW)

MA28312 P44:M

1	N	20/06/22	Calf of Man
5	S	16/08/23	Glynn, Larne Lough, Antrim, N. Ireland 422 days 107 km 323deg (NW)

MA28316 M01:M

1	N	02/07/22	Calf of Man
3	S	14/09/22	Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man 74 days 20 km 20deg (NNE)
3	S	07/10/22	Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man 97 days
3	S	19/11/22	Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man 140 days
5	S	23/02/23	Portavogie, Co. Down, N. Ireland 236 days 61 km 318deg (NW)
5	S	17/06/23	Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man 350 days

MA28328 M13:M

1	N	09/07/22	Calf of Man
5	S	15/02/23	Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Co. Louth, Eire 221 days 96 km 254deg (WSW)
5	S	26/09/23	Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Co. Louth, Eire 444 days

MA28337 M22:M

1	N	09/07/22	Calf of Man
3	S	23/10/22	Loughshinny, Co. Dublin, Eire 106 days 100 km 237deg (WSW)

MA28344 M29:M

7	N	11/11/22	Calf of Man
9	S	23/03/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 132 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)

Herring Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Irish Sea
Up to 2022	304	180	384	204	25	39	6
2023	19	2	32	31	0	2	0

	DENMARK	FRANCE	NORWAY	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2022	2	1	0	3
2023	0	0	1	0

GN53307

1	N	20/06/11	Calf of Man
10	R	24/05/23	Dalkey Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 4356 days 123 km 224deg (SW)

Caught whilst nesting on Dalkey Island and had colour-ring added.

GR64506 T8ZH

1	N	20/06/12	Calf of Man
3	S	11/12/12	St Stephens Green, Co. Dublin, Eire 174 days 125 km 233deg (SW)
10	S	09/07/17	Calf of Man 1845 days
10	S	15/07/17	Calf of Man 1851 days
10	S	19/07/17	Calf of Man 1855 days
10	S	20/06/18	Calf of Man 2191 days
10	S	27/06/18	Calf of Man 2198 days
10	S	28/06/18	Calf of Man 2199 days
10	S	04/07/18	Calf of Man 2205 days
10	S	11/04/20	Port Erin, Isle of Man 2852 days 4 km 50deg (NE)
10	S	18/07/22	Calf of Man 3680 days
10	S	09/07/23	Port Erin, Isle of Man 4036 days 3 km 50deg (NE)

GR64895 TOYA

1	N	23/06/14	Calf of Man
10	S	08/04/18	Calf of Man 1385 days
10	S	28/03/19	Calf of Man 1739 days
10	S	31/03/19	Calf of Man 1742 days
10	S	02/04/19	Calf of Man 1744 days
10	S	03/04/19	Calf of Man 1745 days
10	S	08/04/19	Calf of Man 1750 days
10	S	04/07/20	Calf of Man 2203 days
10	S	26/04/21	Calf of Man 2499 days
10	S	27/04/21	Calf of Man 2500 days
	xL	14/08/23	Green Island, Carlingford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 3339 days 85 km 268deg (W)

GR94848 L01:M

1	N	25/06/17	Calf of Man
5	S	04/03/18	Bull Wall, Dublin Bay, Co. Dublin, Eire 252 days 113 km (SW)
7	S	05/07/19	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 740 days 57 km 294deg (WNW)
7	S	18/07/19	Calf of Man 753 days
7	S	07/09/19	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 804 days 100 km (SW)
10	S	07/08/22	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 1869 days

An additional sighting from 2022.

GR94898 **R63:M**

1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
5	S	15/08/16	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 422 days 57 km 302deg (WNW)
	S	31/07/23	Castletown, Isle of Man 2963 days 10 km 91deg (E)

GR98814 **R67:M**

1	N	20/06/15	Calf of Man
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 & 02/04/19 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)
10	S	22/11/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 2347 days
8	S	11/01/22	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 2397 days
10	S	23/02/23	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 2805 days

GR98854 **R48:M**

1	N	22/06/15	Calf of Man
5	S	07/02/16	Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 230 days 96 km 254deg (WSW)
10	S	12/11/20	Salterstown, Co. Louth, Eire 1970 days 99 km 260deg (W)
10	S	17/10/21	Lurganboy Beach, Co. Louth, Eire 2309 days 98 km 256deg (WSW)

An additional sighting from 2021.

GR98899 **R13:M**

1	N	23/06/15	Calf of Man
7	S	11/03/17	Aberaeron, Ceredigion, Wales 627 days 207 km 171deg (S)
7	S	25/04/17	Peel, Isle of Man 672 days 21 km (NNE)
	S	04/08/17	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 773 days 56 km (WNW)
10	S	04/05/22	Calf of Man 2507 days
	S	14/08/22	Strandhall, Isle of Man 2609 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
	S	27/10/23	Castletown, Isle of Man 3048 days 10 km 80deg (E)

GV61734 L75:M

1	N	02/07/17	Calf of Man
7	S	30/05/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 697 days 100 km 244deg (W)
7	S	02/10/19	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 822 days 100 km (SW)
7	S	24/10/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 844 days
7	S	30/10/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 850 days
9	S	20/08/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 1145 days 102 km 245deg (WSW)
10	S	18/06/21	Calf of Man 1447 days
10	S	22/11/21	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 1604 days

Additional records from Gormanston in October 2019 and November 2021.

GV61739 L70:M

1	N	05/07/17	Calf of Man
	S	28/06/19	Dalkey Island, Co. Dublin, Eire 723 days 122 km 225deg (SW)
	S	16/08/22	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1150 days 6 km 72deg (ENE)
	S	21/11/23	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 2330 days 5 km 91deg (E)

GV61851 T2WT

1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
3	S	17/08/19	Calf of Man 55 days
8	S	01/04/22	Rogerstown Estuary, Co. Dublin, Eire 1013 days 107 km 236deg (WSW)
9	S	14/04/22	Calf of Man 1026 days
10	S	16/03/23	Calf of Man 1362 days
10	S	02/07/23	Calf of Man 1470 days
10	S	21/07/23	Calf of Man 1489 days
10	S	05/11/23	Calf of Man 1596 days

GV61897 T9WE

1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
10	S	12/07/23	Taravika, Rogaland, NORWAY 1480 days 826 km 48deg (N)

Our most northerly movement ever and first recovery of the species to Norway.

GV61900 T6WB

1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
3	S	17/10/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 116 days 100 km (W)
3	S	29/10/19	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 128 days 101 km 238deg (WSW)

An additional report from the Skerries.

GV61904 T9WB

1	N	23/06/19	Calf of Man
5	S	09/07/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 382 days 132 km 220deg (SW)
7	S	04/08/21	between Malahide & Swords, Co. Dublin, Eire 773 days 113 km 233deg (SW)

An additional sighting from 2020.

GV61920 T4VG

1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
3	S	19/09/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 85 days 129 km 222deg (SW)

Also, Bray Harbour on an additional 13 dates up to 13th September 2020

7	S	05/04/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 649 days
7	S	27/04/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 671 days
7	S	08/08/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 649 days

An additional three records from 2021.

GV61921 T6VP

1	N	26/06/19	Calf of Man
3	S	17/10/19	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 113 days 100 km (W)
5	S	26/06/20	Mill Bay, Carlingford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 366 days 84 km 269deg (W)
5	S	28/09/20	Knockinelder Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 460 days 57 km 309deg (NW)
7	S	09/11/21	Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath, Eire 867 days

GV61954 T7YS

1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
3	S	30/10/19	Gormanston, Co. Meath, Eire 125 days 103 km 244deg (WSW)
5	S	02/03/20	Southport Marine Lake, Merseyside 249 days 126 km ESE

7	S	27/11/21	Gormanston, Co. Meath, Eire 884 days
9	S	30/06/22	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Meath, Eire 1099 days 102 km 245deg (WSW)

GV61965 T8YU

1	N	27/06/19	Calf of Man
9	S	04/05/22	Calf of Man 1042 days
8	S	09/06/22	Gormanston, Co. Meath, Eire 1078 days 103 km 244deg (WSW)
10	S	22/03/23	Calf of Man 1364 days

GV61994 T3WG

1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
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
9	S	29/05/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1064 days
	S	18/07/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1479 days

GY06252 T1WF

1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
3	S	27/12/19	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 180 days 127 km 222deg (SW)
5	S	24/05/20	River Dargle, Co. Wicklow, Eire 329 days 127 km 223deg (SW8)
5	S	09/07/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 375 days

Also, Bray Harbour on a further 18 sightings between 25th February 2020 to 30th April 2021

7	S	10/05/21	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 680 days
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Additional sightings from 2020 and May 2021.

GY06268 T5WJ

1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
5	S	25/05/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 330 days 127 km 222deg (SW)
5	S	10/07/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 376 days

GY06283 T4YZ

1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
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	16/06/20	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 352 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 in June 2020 is included above.

GY06289 T6YZ

1	N	30/06/19	Calf of Man
10	S	20/02/23	Poyllvaish, Isle of Man 1331 days 9km 78deg (ENE)
10	S	28/03/23	Calf of Man 1367 days

GY06303 T2YZ

1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
3	S	27/10/19	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 116 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
7	S	10/10/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 830 days
	S	04/01/22	Lundy Island, Devon 916 days 321 km 179deg (S)
8	S	28/07/22	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 1121 days 99 km 239deg (WSW)
	S	23/08/22	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1147 days 56 km 303deg (WNW)

An additional 2022 record from the Skerries, Co. Dublin showing the progression of this bird from the Bristol Channel, then across to Ireland where it made its way up along the Irish east coast.

GY06320 T5VC

1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
	S	23/07/23	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1481 days 56 km 303deg (WNW)
	S	29/07/23	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1487 days

GY06338 T6VE

1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
10	S	19/06/23	Calf of Man 1447 days
	S	05/10/23	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1555 days 71 km 289deg (WNW)
	S	06/10/23	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1556 days
	S	03/11/23	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1584 days
	S	17/11/23	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1598 days

GY06341 T0VB

1	N	03/07/19	Calf of Man
5	S	09/11/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 495 days 102 km 245deg (WSW)
5	S	19/11/20	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 505 days
7	S	17/08/21	Bullock Harbour, Co. Dublin, Eire 776 days 120 km 225deg (SW)

GY06404 T5YR

1	N	13/07/19	Calf of Man
5	S	22/11/20	Grangecastle Business Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 498 days 135 km 233deg (SW)
7	S	03/09/21	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 783 days 5 km 91deg (E)

An additional record from 2020.

GY06415 T2YP

1	N	12/07/19	Calf of Man
5	S	08/09/20	Annagassan, Co. Louth, Eire 424 days 102 km 260deg (W)
7	S	08/07/21	Dundalk Bay, Co. Louth, Eire 727 days 96 km 267deg (W)

An additional report from 2021.

GY06420 T7YD

1	N	12/07/19	Calf of Man
	S	02/07/20	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 356 days 57 km 302deg (WNW)

10 S 30/07/23 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Co. Louth, Eire
1479 days 97 km 254deg (WSW)

GY06473 T8WY

10 N 12/09/20 Calf of Man
S 15/08/21 Port St Mary, Isle of Man 337 days 4 km 91deg (E)
S 03/09/21 Port St Mary, Isle of Man 356 days
S 13/09/21 Port St Mary, Isle of Man 366 days
S 25/09/21 Port St Mary, Isle of Man 378 days
S 20/06/22 Port St Mary, Isle of Man 646 days
S 04/08/22 Port St Mary, Isle of Man 691 days
S 23/02/23 Port St Mary, Isle of Man 894 days
S 21/11/23 Port St Mary, Isle of Man 1165 days

GY06483 FIVE

10 N 10/05/21 Calf of Man
10 S 15/07/21 Calf of Man
10 S 29/07/21 Calf of Man
10 S 17/01/23 Whinney Hill Tip, Altham, Lancashire
617 days 164 km 102deg (ESE)

GY06498 J13:M

1 N 26/06/21 Calf of Man
5 S 08/01/22 Tramore, Waterford, Eire
196 days 261 km 217deg (SW)
5 S 12/02/22 Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, Eire
231 days 258 km 215deg (SW)

GY06506 K72:M

1 N 14/07/21 Calf of Man
3 S 24/12/21 Dungarvan, Kilkenny, Co. Waterford, Eire
163 days 236 km 227deg (SW)

GY06508 K72:M

1 N 15/07/21 Calf of Man
7 S 30/01/23 Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
564 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
7 S 08/02/23 Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 573 days

GY06521 K85:M

1 N 19/07/21 Calf of Man
3 S 09/09/21 Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire
52 days 99 km 239deg (WSW)

3	S	17/12/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 151 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
5	S	23/12/21	Strandhall, Isle of Man 157 days
5	S	18/10/22	Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire 456 days 101 km 238deg (WSW)
5	S	25/12/22	Poyllvaish, Isle of Man 524 days 8 km 91deg (E)
GY06558 J90:M			
7	N	01/11/21	Calf of Man
	S	28/07/23	Strandhall, Isle of Man 634 days 8 km 61deg (ENE)
	S	26/10/23	Langness, Isle of Man 724 days 11 km 91deg (E)
GY06563 U59:M			
7	N	01/11/21	Calf of Man
	S	17/02/22	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 108 days 72 km 289deg (WNW)
	S	15/07/22	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 256 days
	S	25/01/23	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 450 days
	S	12/03/23	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 496 days
	S	26/03/23	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 510 days
	S	05/10/23	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 703 days
	S	17/11/23	Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 746 days
GY06564 U76:M			
3	N	01/11/21	Calf of Man
7	S	06/10/23	Dundrum (Inner Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 704 days 72 km 289deg (WNW)
GY06566 U70:M			
3	N	01/11/21	Calf of Man
	S	01/08/23	Derbyhaven, Isle of Man 638 days 12 km 81deg (E)
	S	24/10/23	Strandhall, Isle of Man 722 days
GY06567 P16:M			
3	N	01/11/21	Calf of Man
5	S	27/11/22	Peel Inner Harbour, Peel, Isle of Man 391 days 20 km 20deg (NNE)
5	S	25/11/22	Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, Eire 389 days 103 km 241deg (WSW)
5	S	19/12/22	Mayor Square, D1, Co. Dublin, Eire 413 days 124 km 230deg (SW)

7 S 15/02/23 Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, Eire 471 days
 S 16/11/23 Peel Inner Harbour, Peel, Isle of Man 745 days
 Includes an additional report from Nov 2022

GY06576 **G05:M**

1 N 01/07/22 Calf of Man
 5 S 18/08/23 Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
 413 days 57 km 294deg (WNW)

GY06579 **G09:M**

1 N 01/07/22 Calf of Man
 3 S 26/08/22 Calf of Man 56 days
 3 S 28/09/22 Arcklow, Co. Wicklow, Eire
 89 days 167 km 213deg (SSW)

GY06581 **G11:M**

1 N 01/07/22 Calf of Man
 5 S 29/01/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 240 days
 212 days 132 km 220deg (SW)
 5 S 15/02/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 229 days
 5 S 26/02/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 240 days
 5 S 06/03/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 248 days
 5 S 08/03/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 250 days
 5 S 16/03/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 258 days
 5 S 19/07/23 Traeth Dulas, Isle of Anglesey, Wales
 383 days 85 km 158deg (SSE)

GY06589 **G19:M**

1 N 01/07/22 Calf of Man
 3 S 21/07/22 Calf of Man 20 days
 3 S 23/07/22 Calf of Man 22 days
 5 S 15/03/23 Castletown, Isle of Man 257 days 10 km 91deg (E)

GY06607 **G37M**

1 N 03/07/22 Calf of Man
 5 S 06/02/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire
 218 days 130 km 220deg (SW)

GY06615 **G55:M**

1 N 04/07/22 Calf of Man
 5 S 04/03/23 Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
 243 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)

GY06634	G74:M		
1	N	04/07/22	Calf of Man
3	S	05/11/22	Grangecastle Business Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 124 days 133 km 234deg (SW)
5	S	29/04/23	Grangecastle Bus. Park, Co. Dublin, Eire 299 days
GY06640	G80:M		
1	N	09/07/22	Calf of Man
3	S	10/08/22	River Liffey, Co. Dublin, Eire 32 days 128 km 233deg (SW)
3	S	02/09/22	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 55 days 130 km 220deg (SW)
3	S	16/09/22	Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 69 days
GY06649	G49:M		
1	N	04/07/22	Calf of Man
	S	23/04/23	Gronant, Denbighshire, Wales 293 days 124 km 130deg (SE)
GY06650	G50:M		
1	N	04/07/22	Calf of Man
	S	06/01/23	Swanpool Beach, Falmouth, Cornwall 186 days 436 km 183deg (S)
GY06674	H04:M		
1	N	10/07/22	Calf of Man
5	S	10/02/23	Tyrella Beach, Co. Down, N. Ireland 215 days 65 km 289deg (WNW)
GY06679	H09:M		
3	N	25/09/22	Calf of Man
5	S	01/07/23	Broadmeadow Estuary, Swords, Dublin, Eire 279 days 113 km 235deg (SW)
5	S	30/07/23	Broadmeadow Estuary, Swords, Dublin, Eire 308 days
GY06681	H11:M		
8	N	25/09/22	Calf of Man
	S	23/08/23	Port Erin, Isle of Man 332 days 5 km 31deg (NNE)
GY06690	H14:M		
8	N	15/10/22	Calf of Man
	S	09/08/23	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland 298 days 56 km 303deg (WNW)

GY06692 H16:M

8	N	15/10/22	Calf of Man
	S	18/08/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 307 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)

GY06696 H19:M

8	N	11/11/22	Calf of Man
8	S	02/01/23	Castletown, Isle of Man 52 days 12 km 81deg (E)
	S	18/03/23	Castletown, Isle of Man 127 days
	S	30/05/23	Castletown, Isle of Man 200 days
	S	31/07/23	Castletown, Isle of Man 262 days

GY06698 H21:M

10	N	16/03/23	Calf of Man
	S	24/09/23	Strandhall, Isle of Man 192 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)
	S	01/11/23	Peel Bay, Isle of Man 230 days 21 km 23deg (NNE)

GY06724 H46:M

1	N	29/06/23	Calf of Man
3	S	09/09/23	Great South Wall, Co. Dublin, Eire 72 days 121 km 229deg (SW)

GY20510 T9WY

1	N	30/06/20	Calf of Man
3	S	12/10/20	Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, Eire 104 days 256 km 215deg (SW)
5	S	09/02/21	Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, Eire 224 days
	S	10/04/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 649 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
	S	31/07/22	Coney Island (Bay), Co. Down, N. Ireland 761 days 57 km 294deg (WNW)
7	S	08/09/22	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 800 days
	S	07/08/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1133 days
	S	05/11/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1223 days

An additional sighting from 2021.

GY20517 T6WZ

1	N	30/06/20	Calf of Man
	S	08/03/23	Strandhall, Isle of Man 981 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)
	S	22/11/23	Strandhall, Isle of Man 1240 days

GY20522 T1XE

1	N	02/07/20	Calf of Man
3	S	26/08/20	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland 55 days 133 km 231deg (SW)
3	S	04/09/20	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland 64 days
3	S	11/11/20	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland 132 days
5	S	04/02/21	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland 217 days
5	S	29/07/21	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland 392 days
5	S	30/08/21	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland 424 days
7	S	09/11/22	Sean Walsh Park, Co. Dublin, N. Ireland 860 days

GY20550 T9WL

1	N	11/07/20	Calf of Man
5	S	02/08/21	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 387 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)
9	S	18/07/23	Rossglass Beach, Dundrum Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland 1102 days 62 km 292deg (WNW)

GY20553 J18:M

1	N	26/06/21	Calf of Man
7	S	07/06/23	Strandhall, Isle of Man 711 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)

GY20568 J34:M

1	N	26/06/21	Calf of Man
5	S	06/08/22	Gormanston, Co. Meath, Eire 406 days 103 km 244deg (WSW)

GY20575 J41:M

1	N	26/06/21	Calf of Man
7	S	30/01/23	Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland 583 days 57 km 296deg (WNW)
	S	01/07/23	Broadmeadow Estuary, Swords, Dublin, Eire 735 days 112 km 235deg (SW)

GY20583 J49:M

1	N	27/06/21	Calf of Man
3	S	14/07/21	Cow Harbour, Calf of Man 17 days
3	S	28/07/21	Cow Harbour, Calf of Man 31 days
3	S	21/09/21	Ben Head, Gormanston, Co. Dublin, Eire 86 days 104 km 245deg (WSW)
3	S	11/11/21	Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire 137 days 98 km 253deg (WSW)

An additional sighting from November 2021.

GY20586 J52:M

1 N 27/06/21 Calf of Man
 xA 05/05/23 Millisle, Co. Down, N. Ireland
 677 days 76 km 322deg (NW)

Died from discarded fishing tackle.

GY20587 J53:M

1 N 27/06/21 Calf of Man
 3 S 19/07/21 Calf of Man 22 days
 3 S 28/07/21 Calf of Man 31 days
 7 S 10/06/23 Calf of Man 713 days
 S 31/08/23 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
 795 days 6 km 72deg (ENE)

GY20590 J56:M

1 N 27/06/21 Calf of Man
 S 11/08/23 Strandhall, Isle of Man 775 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)

GY20600 J66:M

1 N 27/06/21 Calf of Man
 xL 14/01/23 Port Erin, Isle of Man
 566 days 3 km 50deg (NE)

GY20602 J66:M

1 N 27/06/21 Calf of Man
 7 S 22/02/23 Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
 605 days 57 km 294deg (WNW)

GY20604 J70:M

1 N 27/06/21 Calf of Man
 S 22/11/23 Strandhall, Isle of Man 878 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)

GY20613 J79:M

1 N 27/06/21 Calf of Man
 5 S 31/01/23 Ardglass Harbour, Co. Down, N. Ireland
 583 days 57 km 294deg (WNW)

GY20616 J82:M

1 N 27/06/21 Calf of Man
 3 S 28/07/21 Calf of Man 31 days
 3 S 23/10/21 Port Oriel, Clogherhead, Co. Louth, Eire
 118 days 98 km 253deg (WSW)

GY20646 **K10:M**

1 N 03/07/21 Calf of Man
 3 S 19/10/21 Gormanston, Co. Meath, Eire
 108 days 103 km 244deg (WSW)

GY20654 **K18:M**

1 N 03/07/21 Calf of Man
 5 S 22/10/22 Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Eire
 476 days 165 km 213deg (SSW)

GY20672 **K36:M**

1 N 06/07/21 Calf of Man
 3 S 08/10/21 River Dargle, Co. Wicklow, Eire
 94 days 128 km 223deg (SW)
 5 S 19/02/22 Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, Eire
 228 days 256 km 215deg (SW)
 5 S 23/04/22 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire
 291 days 127 km 222deg (SW)
 7 S 04/01/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 547 days
 7 S 21/02/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 595 days
 7 S 28/02/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 602 days
 7 S 08/03/23 Bray Harbour, Co. Wicklow, Eire 610 days

GY20675 **K39:M**

1 N 06/07/22 Calf of Man
 7 S 23/02/23 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
 597 days 5 km 67deg (ENE)

GY20684 **K48:M**

1 N 10/07/21 Calf of Man
 3 S 28/07/21 Calf of Man 18 days
 7 S 08/07/23 Port Erin, Isle of Man 728 days 5 km 31deg (NNE)
 S 01/12/23 Peel Hill Quarry, Peel 874 days 20 km 17deg (NNE)

GY42510 **H82:M**

1 N 01/07/23 Calf of Man
 xL 05/11/23 Point of Ayre, Isle of Man
 127 days 49 km 36deg (NE)

GY42506 **H78:M**

1 N 01/07/23 Calf of Man
 3 S 22/08/23 Ballygannon, Co. Wicklow, Eire
 52 days 133 km 219deg (SW)

HT95324 **S15:M**

1 N 23/06/18 Calf of Man
S 07/09/23 Tyrella Beach, Co. Down, N. Ireland
1902 days 65 km 289deg (WNW)

HT95458 **M66:M**

1 N 18/07/19 Calf of Man
3 S 10/09/19 Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire
54 days 99 km 239deg (WSW)
S 17/08/21 Cruisetown, Co. Louth, Eire
761 days 97 km 256deg (WSW)
S 27/06/22 Rue Point, Rathlin Island, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland
1075 days 162 km 327deg (NNW)
S 27/08/22 Rue Point, Rathlin Island, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland
1136 days
10 S 14/02/23 Strandhall, Isle of Man
1307 days 10 km 67deg (ENE)

HT95459 **M60:M**

1 N 18/07/19 Calf of Man
5 S 06/08/20 Gormanston, Co. Meath, Eire
385 days 103 km 244deg (WSW)
5 S 11/08/20 Gormanston, Co. Meath, Eire 390 days
S 10/09/21 Colt Island, Co. Dublin, Eire
785 days 99 km 239 km (WSW)

Additional records from 2020 & 2021.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	3	9	5	2	1	2
2023	0	0	2	0	0	0

	FRANCE	MOROCCO	NORWAY	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
Up to 2022	1	1	0	60	12
2023	0	0	1	7	1

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) also 24/0/19 & 07/03/19
10	S	12/06/19	Calf of Man 1449 days
10	S	23/01/20	Barra de Fusetas, Algarve, PORTUGAL 1674 days 1905 km (S) also 10/09/20 1905 days
10	S	08/12/20	Olhao Port, Faro, PORTUGAL 1994 days
10	S	09/10/21	Barra de Fusetas, Algarve, PORTUGAL 1905 days
10	S	08/11/21	Fusetas Salinas, Algarve, PORTUGAL 2329 days 1900 km (S) also 15/11/21 & 03/12/21
10	S	02/01/22	Fusetas Salinas, Algarve, PORTUGAL 2384 days also, 11/01/22, 13/09/22, 29/09/22, 11/10/22, 04/11/22 & 10/11/22
10	S	07/01/23	Fusetas Salinas, Algarve, PORTUGAL 2754 days
10	S	22/01/23	Fusetas Salinas, Algarve, PORTUGAL 2769 days
10	S	17/05/23	Calf of Man 2884 days

An excellent life history of a bird bred on the Calf and that is now breeding there.

GR64679 T5ZH

1	N	13/07/12	Calf of Man
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
10	S	17/07/23	Strandhall, Isle of Man 4021 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)

GR64687 T8ZN

1	N	23/06/13	Calf of Man
6	S	24/03/16	Calf of Man 1005 days
10	S	28/06/18	Calf of Man 1831 days
10	S	29/06/18	Calf of Man 1832 days

10 S 29/10/19 Skerries, Co. Dublin, Eire
2319 days 101 km 238deg (WSW)

10 S 29/07/21 Calf of Man 2958 days

An additional sighting from 2019.

GR64972 T1YL

1 N 28/06/14 Calf of Man

5 S 16/11/15 Duncannon Beach, Co. Wexford, Eire
506 days 248 km (SW)

9 S 10/02/17 Rosslare, Co. Wexford, Eire
958 days 225 km 207deg (SSW)

10 S 16/08/18 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Co. Down, N. Ireland
1510 days 57 km 302deg (WNW)

10 S 18/10/18 Calf of Man 1573 days

10 S 08/08/20 Calf of Man 2233 days

10 S 08/08/21 Calf of Man 2598 days

10 S 10/04/22 Calf of Man 2843 days

S 10/10/22 Cloughey Bay, Co. Down, N. Ireland
3026 days 61 km 315deg (NW)

10 S 24/04/23 Calf of Man 3222 days

S 29/08/23 Portavogie, Co. Down, N. Ireland
3349 days 60 km 318deg (NW)

GV61814 T66:M

1 N 28/06/18 Calf of Man

5 S 09/09/19 Matosinhos, PORTUGAL 438 days 1683 km (S)

5 S 08/10/19 Matosinhos, PORTUGAL 467 days

7 S 06/02/20 Matosinhos, PORTUGAL 588 days

10 S 20/12/22 Playa de Serantes, Asturias, SPAIN
1644 days 1174 km (S)

10 S 21/03/23 Byparken, Bergen, Hordaland, NORWAY
1727 days 930 km 41deg (NE)

Our first movement of a Calf-ringed Lesser Black-backed Gull to Norway. A particularly intriguing movement given the resighting history of this bird and that usually birds are arriving back on the breeding grounds in March, rather than nearly being a thousand kilometres further north.

GY06441 T1WK

10 N 24/03/20 Calf of Man

S 08/03/23 Strandhall, Isle of Man
1079 days 8 km 61deg (ENE)

GY06481 T6YN

10 N 07/05/21 Calf of Man
10 S 14/12/23 Ria do Burgo, La Coruna, SPAIN
951 days 1221 km 193deg (SSW)

GY06701 H27:M

10 N 19/04/23 Calf of Man
S 19/09/23 Aveiro, PORTUGAL 153 days 1519 km 191deg (S)
10 S 07/11/23 Aveiro, PORTUGAL 202 days
10 S 11/12/23 Praia de Mira, Coimbra, PORTUGAL
236 days 1557 days 191deg (SSW)

GY20681 K45:M

1 N 08/07/21 Calf of Man
5 S 05/12/22 Praia de Mira, Coimbra, PORTUGAL
515 days 1557 days 191deg (SSW)

GY42569 D40:M

1 N 08/07/23 Calf of Man
3 S 04/11/23 Sesimbra, Setabul, PORTUGAL
119 days 1735 km (S)

GY42578 D50:M

1 N 11/07/23 Calf of Man
3 S 19/10/23 Matosinhos Harbour, Porto, PORTUGAL
100 days 1459 km 192deg (SSW)

Storm Petrel

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	52	21	8	85	445	63
2023	0	2	0	0	3	1

	FAEROES	FRANCE	ICELAND	NORWAY	PORTUGAL	SOUTH AFRICA
Up to 2023	2	3	1	3	6	1

2591800

4 N 13/07/15 Calf of Man
4 R 21/07/23 Brazen Ward, Lundy Island, Devon
2930 days 319 km 179deg (S)

2738353

4	N	12/07/20	Calf of Man
4	R	09/08/23	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
			1123 days 143 km 180deg (S)

2764847

4	N	18/07/23	Calf of Man
4	R	26/07/23	Lundy Island, Devon
			8 days 321 km 179deg (S)

2764860

4	N	19/07/23	Calf of Man
4	R	27/07/23	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll & Bute, Scotland
			8 days 144 km 340deg (NNW)

2764979

4	N	18/08/22	Calf of Man
4	R	28/07/23	Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll & Bute, Scotland
			344 days 144 km 340deg (WNW)

2764992

4	N	18/08/22	Calf of Man
6	R	05/07/23	Eilean An Taighe, Shiant Isles, Western Isles, Scotland
			321 days 439 km 348deg (NNW)

Manx Shearwater



	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	BRAZIL
Up to 2022	3	15	2	18	1
2023	1	0	0	0	0

EZ87984

3 N 15/09/23 Calf of Man
 xA 20/09/23 Strandhall, Isle of Man 5 days 9 km 65deg (ENE)

Apparently, a casualty of autumn storms.

Shag

	Eire	England	IOM	Irish Sea	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	8	45	321	1	23	187	25
2023	0	0	6	0	0	0	0

	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2023	1

1406413

8F N 03/05/11 Calf of Man
 xL 25/03/23 Point of Ayre, Isle of Man
 4344 days 48 km 39deg (NE)

1406459

8 N 25/05/11 Calf of Man
 xA 01/01/23 Brighthouse, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland
 4239 days 94 km 30deg (NNE)

1474146

1 N 23/06/18 Calf of Man
 xL 17/08/23 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
 1881 days 7 km 75deg (ENE)

1474387

1 N 19/05/21 Calf of Man
 3 S 23/06/21 Calf of Man 35 days
 7 S 22/03/23 Monreith, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland
 672 days 77 km 14deg (NNE)

1474428

1 N 08/07/21 Calf of Man
 5 S 13/06/22 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
 340 days 4 km 61deg (ENE)

5	S	15/06/22	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 342 days
5	S	11/03/23	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 611 days

1705751

1	N	30/06/22	Calf of Man
3	S	12/12/22	Douglas Harbour, Isle of Man 165 days 25 km 63deg (ENE)
5	S	10/02/23	Douglas Harbour, Isle of Man 225 days

1705760

1	N	07/07/22	Calf of Man
	xA	10/04/23	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 277 days 6 km 91deg (E)

1705774

1	N	09/06/23	Calf of Man
	xA	27/08/23	Rue Point, Point of Ayre, Isle of Man 79 days 47 km 33deg (NNE)



*CAEZ 'demanding' fish from
local anglers at Douglas
Harbour
(Photo by Brian Walmsley)*

Chough

	IOM	Northern Ireland
Up to 2022	97	1
2023	4	0

EZ87647 G,W R,m

1	N	26/05/22	Calf of Man
4	S	13/02/23	Derbyhaven, Isle of Man 263 days 10 km
4	S	19/03/23	Derbyhaven, Isle of Man 297 days 10 km
4	S	01/04/23	Derbyhaven, Isle of Man 310 days 10 km

EZ87649 W,R R,m

1	N	26/05/22	Calf of Man
4	S	22/02/23	Derbyhaven, Isle of Man 272 days 10 km

Coal Tit

	IOM
Up to 2022	12
2023	1

BCB7692

3	N	25/10/23	Calf of Man
	xA	26/10/23	Port Erin, Isle of Man 1 day 6 km 50deg (NE)

Great Tit

	IOM	Northern Ireland
Up to 2022	56	2
2023	1	0

BCB7251

3F	N	15/10/23	Calf of Man
3F	R	01/12/23	Ballachurry MWT reserve, Isle of Man 47 days 7 km 56deg (ENE)

Swallow

	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Wales	France	Spain
Up to 2022	5	27	2	1	2	2
2023	0	0	0	1	0	0

AVZ5407

3	N	21/07/23	Calf of Man
3	R	26/08/23	Cors Ddyga, Llangefni, Isle of Anglesey, Wales 36 days 99 km 161deg (SSE)

Willow Warbler

	Eire	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	3	30	15	9	9
2023	0	0	0	2	0

	BELGIUM	CHANNEL ISLANDS	FRANCE	GAMBIA	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
Up to 2023	1	1	5	1	1	5

LDE970

3	N	31/07/22	Calf of Man
4	R	21/07/23	Corrie Cravie, Isle of Arran, Scotland 355 days 159 km 349deg (N)

LDE971

4	N	31/07/22	Calf of Man
	xA	12/05/23	West Loch, Tarbet, Argyll & Bute, Scotland 285 days 202 km 349deg (N)

Both these birds were presumably beginning to head south when caught on the Calf in 2022 and provides an indication of their likely breeding grounds when found in 2023.

Sedge Warbler

	Eire	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland
Up to 2022	2	10	2	2
2023	0	0	0	0

	CHANNEL ISLANDS	FRANCE	SPAIN
Up to 2022	1	8	1
2023	0	3	0

AJT7411

4	N	03/05/23	Calf of Man
4	R	30/07/23	Donges, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE 88 days 776 km 166deg (SSE)

AVZ5443

3	N	24/07/23	Calf of Man
4	R	05/08/23	Donges, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE 12 days 776 km 166deg (SSE)

AVZ5444

3 N 24/07/23 Calf of Man

3 R 08/08/23 Reserve de Massereau, Frossay, Loire Atlantique, FRANCE
15 days 783 km 165deg (SSE)

Three French recoveries in one year is outstanding, and even more so for consecutive ringed birds to have made rapid movements to the same area of France during their passage towards wintering grounds.

Goldcrest

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK Channel
Up to 2022	1	53	78	3	4	13	1
2023	0	1	0	0	0	2	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE
Up to 2023	2	1

LYH514

3F N 29/09/22 Calf of Man

5F R 01/04/23 Carreg Fawr, Gwynedd, Wales (Bardsey BO)
184 days 143 km 180deg (S)

LYH546

4M N 19/03/23 Calf of Man

4M R 12/10/23 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales (Bardsey BO)
207 days 143 km 180deg (S)

NYP599

3M N 13/09/23 Calf of Man

3M R 04/10/23 Litlington, East Sussex
21 days 495 km 138deg (SE)

Blackbird

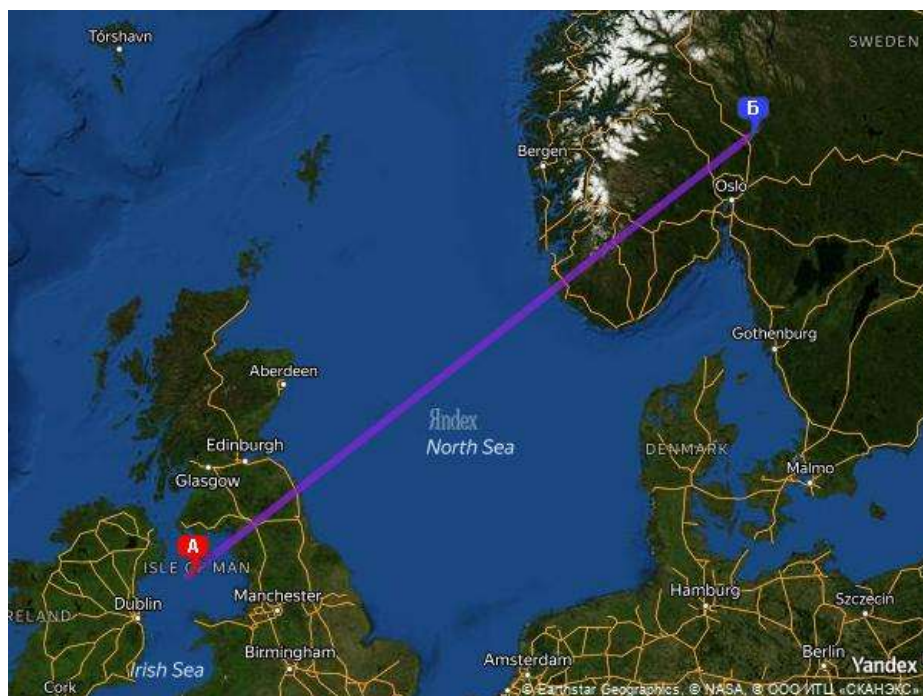
	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2023	15	53	38	5	7	1

	SWEDEN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2023	11	8

	DENMARK	FINLAND	FRANCE	GERMANY	NORWAY	SPAIN
Up to 2022	15	3	1	8	25	1
2023	0	0	0	0	1	0

LR01310

3M N 01/11/22 Calf of Man
 xF 06/04/23 Slettringen, Ridabu, Hedmark, NORWAY
 156 days 1215 km 52deg (NE)



Stonechat

	England	IOM
Up to 2022	2	5
2023	2	2

	FRANCE	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
Up to 2023	1	1	1

ADX0726 **ACH**

3J N 04/07/22 Calf of Man
 4M S 16/05/23 The Chasms, Isle of Man
 316 days 4 km 61deg (ENE)

ADX1113 **AHS**

3J N 06/08/22 Calf of Man
 4M S 11/03/23 Paxton Pits, Cambridgeshire
 217 days 363 km 124deg (SE)

ADX3145 **AJS**

3F N 14/10/22 Calf of Man
 4F S 08/02/23 Meadow Lane, Burscough, Lancashire
 117 days 141 km 111deg (ESE)

AJT7952

CAH

3J N 12/06/23 Calf of Man
 S 01/12/23 Fenella Beach, Peel
 172 days 21 km 23deg (NNE)

Some excellent results from the first year of our new colour-ringing project. With 2870 Stonechat ringed between 1959 – 2022, the recovery rate was at just 0.34%. However, by colour-ringing our birds we have raised the reporting rate to 3.36%.

Wheatear

	Eire	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	0	10	3	1	10
2023	1	2	1	0	0

	ALGERIA	CHANNEL ISLANDS	FRANCE	GERMANY	MOROCCO	SPAIN
Up to 2022	1	1	2	2	6	1
2023	0	0	0	0	0	0

	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2023	1

ADX0510

3J N 22/06/22 Calf of Man
 4 S 18/04/23 Poolbeg, Co. Dublin, Eire
 300 days 121 km 229deg (SW)

Our first recovery of the species in Eire.

AFL2826

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

4M S 11/04/23 South End, Walney Island, Cumbria
633 days 105 km 91deg (E)

An excellent supplementary observation of this bird – perhaps indicating where it may breed.

AVZ5109

3J N 29/06/23 Calf of Man
3 S 09/07/23 Point of Ayre, Isle of Man
10 days 49 km 37deg (NE)

TV37715

4 N 12/09/22 Calf of Man
4M S 07/04/23 Winter Hill, Greater Manchester
207 days 159 km 108deg (ESE)

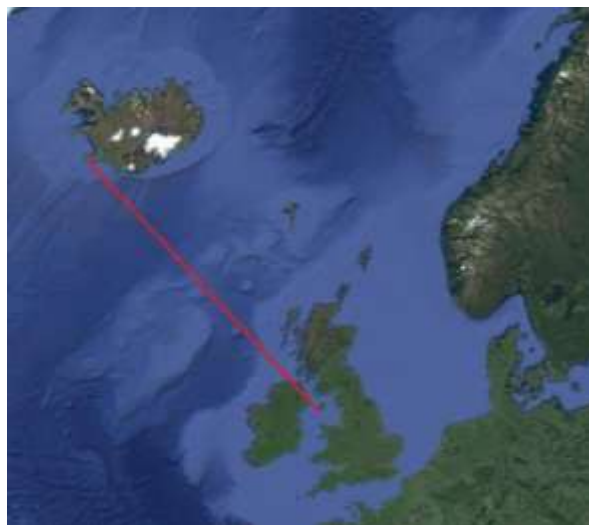
TV37715 was believed to be of the 'Greenland' race *O.o leucorrhea* when it was ringed.

Pied / White Wagtail

	IOM	France	Iceland
Up to 2022	2	1	0
2023	0	0	1

ADX1600

3 N 30/08/22 Calf of Man
2 V 09/05/23 Þórkötlustaðir, Grindavík, Gullbringusýsla,
ICELAND 252 days 1477 km 318deg (NW)



A significant passage of White Wagtails passes through the Calf during autumn en-route from their breeding grounds in Iceland. Our first ever recovery of the subspecies *M.a alba* and only the 2nd ever Calf-ringed bird to be found in Iceland. All credit to the observer who managed to read the combination on the metal ring in the field. Perhaps another species we should be colour-ringing?

Grey Wagtail

	Eire	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2021	0	6	1	1
2023	1	0	0	0

AVZ6830

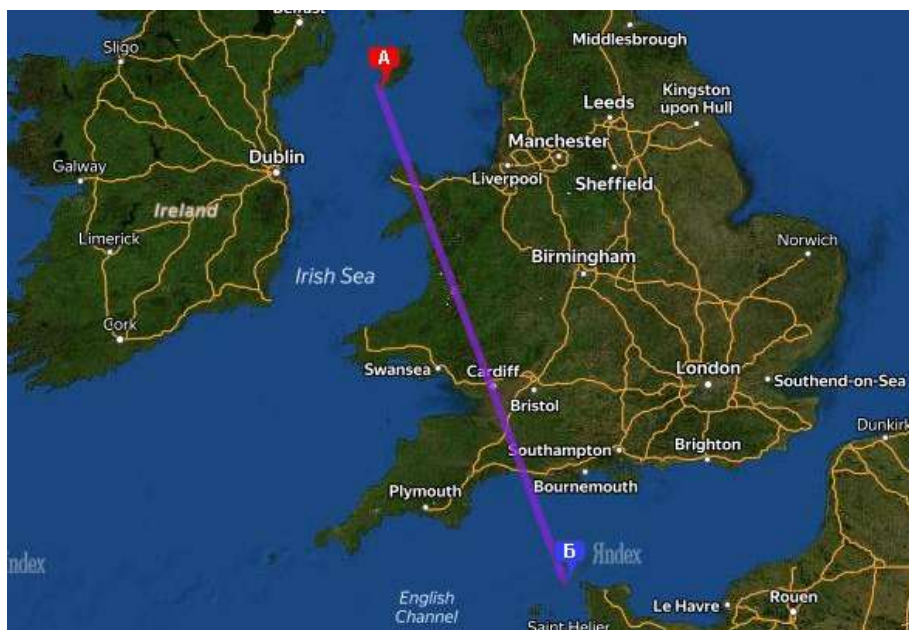
3 N 14/09/23 Calf of Man
 S 15/12/23 Grangecastle Business Park, Co. Dublin, Eire
 92 days 133 km 234deg (SW)

Tree Pipit

	Channel Islands	England	Mauritania
Up to 2022	0	1	1
2023	1	0	0

3 N 25/08/22 Calf of Man
 3 R 01/09/23 Longis Reserve, Alderney, Channel Islands
 372 days 515 km 160deg (SSE)

Just the third ever recovery of a Calf-ringed Tree Pipit, the previous two being in 1985 & 1970. A record number of Tree Pipit were ringed in 2022, with this recovery showing the value of trying to increase the numbers of these lesser ringed species.



Chaffinch

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	3	19	57	4	18	4
2023	0	0	7	0	1	1

	NORWAY	SWEDEN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2023	1	1	1

ADX2806

3F	N	28/09/22	Calf of Man
4F	R	11/12/23	Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man 439 days 12 km 72deg (ENE)

AFL1476

3F	N	14/10/20	Calf of Man
4F	R	24/09/23	Morar, Highland, Scotland 1075 days 331 km 350deg (N)

AFL1955

4M	N	05/11/20	Calf of Man
6M	R	12/02/23	Cwm Cywarch, Gwynedd, Wales 829 days 163 km 153deg (SSE)

BCB6018

3F	N	21/09/23	Calf of Man
3F	R	28/10/23	Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man 37 days 11 km 58deg (ENE)

BCB6575

3F	N	02/10/23	Calf of Man
4F	R	09/10/23	Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man 7 days 11 km 58deg (ENE)

BCB6671

3F	N	08/10/23	Calf of Man
4F	R	09/10/23	Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man 1 day 11 km 58deg (ENE)

BCB6707

3F	N	08/10/23	Calf of Man
3F	R	01/12/23	Ballachurry MWT reserve, Isle of Man 54 days 7 km 56deg (ENE)

BCB6876

3F N 12/10/23 Calf of Man
 3F R 29/12/23 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
 78 days 11 km 58deg (ENE)

BCB7438

3F N 21/10/23 Calf of Man
 4F R 25/10/23 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
 4 days 11 km 58deg (ENE)

A useful series of records showing that some Chaffinches moving through the Calf in autumn return to the main Island where they may winter.

Greenfinch

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	1	3	64	1	4	1
2023	0	0	1	0	0	0

TV37823

3M N 03/11/22 Calf of Man
 5M R 02/01/23 Ballachurry MWT Reserve, Isle of Man
 60 days 7 km 56deg (ENE)

Goldfinch

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	3	23	25	5	23	6
2023	0	1	4	0	0	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	SPAIN
Up to 2023	2	6	1

ADX0453

3J N 18/06/22 Calf of Man
 xA 30/09/23 Surby, Isle of Man 469 days 8 km 39deg (NE)

AJT7086

5F N 26/04/23 Calf of Man
 4F R 21/10/23 Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man
 178 days 12 km 72deg (ENE)

AJT7653

5M N 21/05/23 Calf of Man
 4M R 20/11/23 Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man
 183 days 12 km 72deg (ENE)

AVZ5173

3J N 30/06/23 Calf of Man
3F R 14/11/23 South Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria
137 days 106 km 91deg (E)

BCB7011

3M N 12/10/23 Calf of Man
4F R 19/10/23 Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man
7 days 12 km 72deg (ENE)

2023 Controls

Controls are birds ringed elsewhere and caught subsequently on the Calf. A total of 42 reports were received in 2023.

Oystercatcher

	England	Wales
Up to 2022	1	2
2023	0	1

Ring number

Age/Sex Code Date Location Details

FH86604

8 N 23/11/14 Penmon Quarry, Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey, Wales
8 R 15/07/23 Calf of Man 3156 days 98 km 329deg (NNW)

Controlled as a breeding bird on Caigher, presumably it was originally ringed on its wintering grounds.

Hen Harrier

	IOM
Up to 2022	15
2023	1

FH88375

1F N 01/07/23 Site Confidential
3F R 07/09/23 Calf of Man 68 days 28 km

Great Black-backed Gull

	Eire	Wales
Up to 2022	7	1
2023	4	0

MA29044

1	N	11/07/10	Ireland's Eye, Co. Dublin, Eire
10	S	20/09/20	Calf of Man 3724 days 112 km 49deg (NE)
10	S	12/05/22	Calf of Man 4323 days
10	S	21/05/22	Calf of Man 4332 days
10	S	28/08/22	Calf of Man 4429 days
10	S	16/05/23	Calf of Man 4692 days
10	S	07/06/23	Calf of Man 4714 days
10	S	14/06/23	Calf of Man 4721 days
10	S	19/06/23	Calf of Man 4726 days

Confirmed as a breeding bird during both 2022 & 2023.

Herring Gull

	EIRE	IOM	Northern Ireland	Wales
Up to 2022	1	20	1	1
2023	0	10	0	0

GR48859 **T0ZJ**

1	N	04/07/12	Point of Ayre Gravel Pits, Isle of Man
10	S	26/07/21	Calf of Man 3309 days 46 km 217deg (SW)
	xL	17/05/23	Calf of Man 3969 days

GR97473 **V18:M**

6	N	08/07/15	Peel Bay
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
10	S	31/03/21	Calf of Man 2458 days
10	S	04/04/22	Calf of Man 2462 days
10	S	18/07/22	Calf of Man 2567 days
10	S	20/07/22	Calf of Man 2569 days
10	S	21/07/22	Calf of Man 2560 days
10	S	11/08/22	Calf of Man 2591 days
10	S	12/03/23	Calf of Man 2804 days

10	S	03/04/23	Calf of Man 2826 days
10	S	20/04/23	Calf of Man 2843 days
10	S	23/04/23	Calf of Man 2846 days
10	S	25/04/23	Calf of Man 2848 days
10	S	27/04/23	Calf of Man 2850 days
10	S	29/04/23	Calf of Man 2852 days
10	S	30/04/23	Calf of Man 2853 days
10	S	04/05/23	Calf of Man 2857 days

A regular nesting bird at Cow Harbour.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

	England	Isle of Man
Up to 2022	1	4
2023	0	3

GR79416

T7VD

8	N	25/05/15	Point of Ayre Gravel Pit, Isle of Man
10	S	20/06/19	Calf of Man 1487 days 49 km 216deg (SW)
10	S	21/06/19	Calf of Man 1488 days
10	S	12/07/20	Calf of Man 1875 days
10	S	24/04/23	Calf of Man 2891 days
10	S	05/05/23	Calf of Man 2902 days
10	S	19/06/23	Calf of Man 2947 days

Presumably this bird is now breeding on the Calf.

Storm Petrel

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	82	84	9	87	368	61
2023	0	0	0	0	0	2

	CHANNEL ISLANDS	PORTUGAL
Up to 2023	1	8

2649770

4	N	25/07/23	Porth Iago, Llangwnnadi, Gwynedd, Wales
4	R	29/08/23	Calf of Man 35 days 134 km 358deg (N)

2746296

4	N	27/07/19	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
4	R	29/06/23	Calf of Man 1433 days 263 km 7deg (N)

Manx Shearwater

	Northern Ireland	Wales
Up to 2022	57	16
2023	1	2

FB19419

3	N	28/08/05	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
4	R	15/08/23	Calf of Man 6561 days 145 km 360deg (N)

FB54377

1	N	07/08/18	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
4	R	08/05/23	Calf of Man 1735 days 143 km 360deg (N)

EL90062

1	N	06/09/05	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down, N. Ireland
4	R	28/07/16	Calf of Man 3978 days 85 km 147deg (NNE)
4	R	13/06/23	Calf of Man 6489 days



Willow Warbler

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	1	43	6	5	20	13
2023	0	4	0	0	0	1

	BELGIUM	CHANNEL ISLANDS	FRANCE	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2022	5	2	5	1
2023	0	0	1	0

LJP913

4 N 19/04/23 Porth Hellick, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly
4 R 26/04/23 Calf of Man 7 days 471 km 13deg (NNE)

NBA498

4 N 27/04/23 Hilbre Island, Wirral, Merseyside
4 R 02/05/23 Calf of Man 5 days 129 km 307deg (NW)

PAE234

4 N 22/04/23 Lundy Island, Devon
4 R 28/04/23 Calf of Man 6 days 321 km 359deg (N)

PCH028

3 N 02/09/22 Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
4 R 01/05/23 Calf of Man 241 days 263 km 7deg (N)

PEK065

3 N 28/08/22 Lancing College, Lancing, West Sussex
4 R 21/04/23 Calf of Man 236 days 469 km 320deg (NW)

FRP 4X8135

3F N 23/08/22 Chenal, Chenac-Saint-Seurin-d'Uzet, Charante-Maritime,
FRANCE
4 R 18/06/23 Calf of Man 299 days 992 km 344deg (NNW)

Chiffchaff

	Eire	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	1	19	3	2	6

	BELGIUM	DENMARK	FRANCE	GAMBIA	NORWAY	SENEGAL
Up to 2022	4	1	2	1	1	6

	SPAIN	SWEDEN
Up to 2022	6	1
2023	1	0

2Z33802

2 N 20/03/23 Palos de Frontera, Huelva, SPAIN
4 R 31/03/23 Calf of Man 11 days 1885 km 5deg (N)
An average of 171 km a day for a bird weighing less than 8gms.

Sedge Warbler

	Eire	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland
Up to 2022	2	14	1	1

	FRANCE	NORWAY	SENEGAL	SPAIN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2022	22	1	2	2	1

FRP8673429

3 N 11/09/18 Trunvel, Treogat, Finistere, FRANCE

4 R 10/05/19 Calf of Man 241 days 686 km 358deg (N)

A delayed report of a bird caught in 2019.

Blackcap

	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	6	1	2	2

	BELGIUM	CHANNEL ISLANDS	DENMARK	FRANCE	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2022	1	0	1	0	2
2023	0	1	0	1	0

AE87229

3F N 25/09/22 Grouville Marsh, Jersey, CHANNEL ISLANDS

4F R 23/04/23 Calf of Man 210 days 574 km 341deg (NNW)

FRP 9101416

2F N 26/09/22 Plaisance, Saint-Froult, Charante-Maritime, FRANCE

4F R 02/05/23 Calf of Man 218 days 945 km 344deg (NNW)

Our first controls for the species from both the Channel Islands and France, are in line with the increased frequency with which this species is being found on the Calf.

Goldcrest

	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	20	10	1	3	7
2023	1	0	0	0	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	RUSSIA	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2022	1	1	1	1

NNX798

3M N 30/10/22 Grimston, East Riding of Yorkshire

4M R 26/03/23 Calf of Man 147 days 314 km 276deg (W)

Grey Wagtail

	Scotland
Up to 2022	1
2023	1

ALX4932

3J N 19/07/23 Balfon, Stirling, Scotland

3 R 21/09/23 Calf of Man 64 days 227 km 189deg (S)

Our 2nd ever control for the species and an indication of the origin of birds migrating through the Calf in autumn. Fitted with a colour-ring as part of our on-going project we can hope it might be seen during its onward travels.

Chaffinch

	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland
Up to 2022	11	20	1	3
2023	1	1	0	1

	BELGIUM	DENMARK	NORWAY	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2023	1	1	1	1

AHV1712

5M N 24/04/23 South Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria

5M R 16/06/23 Calf of Man 53 days 106 km 270deg (W)

BEB7040

3 N 10/08/23 Cnoc, Argyll & Bute, Scotland

3F R 11/10/23 Calf of Man 62 days 239 km 182deg (S)

S999795

3F N 25/08/23 Ballachurry MWT reserve, Isle of Man

3F R 21/09/23 Calf of Man 27 days 7 km 236deg (WSW)

Goldfinch

	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2022	26	11	1	3
2023	2	1	0	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE
Up to 2023	5	1

ALZ5760

3M N 20/10/22 Icklesham, East Sussex

5F R 21/04/23 Calf of Man 183 days 509 km 314deg (NW)

ARV4527

3M N 26/10/22 Corby, Northamptonshire

5M R 26/04/23 Calf of Man 182 days 326 km 303deg (WNW)

ATV5659

4M N 24/10/22 Gordon, Patrick, Isle of Man

6M R 25/03/23 Calf of Man 152 days 17 km 208deg (SSW)

Non-Avian Report – 2023

Mammals

Pygmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

173 records from the 1st April to the 6th November, with peak counts of five on the 13th and 14th September and the 12th October.

The Pygmy Shrew can be found almost anywhere on the island, although most sightings were in and around the Observatory there were two sightings at South Harbour. There was plenty of evidence of Pygmy Shrew activity across the island on the non-toxic wax blocks used to detect Long-tail presence.

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

Four individuals believed to be on the Calf this year, with one individual appearing on camera trap 15 times in March. Two dispatched with rodenticide at the Observatory and one dispatched with a Fenn MK 4 trap at the Withy.

The Kitterland camera trap showed multiple sightings, contingency measures were put in place in the form of rodenticide and A24 Goodnature gas traps.

Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

One sighting on the 13th June, seen roosting in Jane's house.
There was one sighting in 2022, down from six sightings in 2021.

Pipistrelle Bat spp. (*Pipistrellus sp.*)

One sighting at the lighthouses on 5th September.
A decline on the 15 sightings in 2022.

Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)

One sighting on the 28th August, seen feeding at South Harbour.

Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)

One sighting on the 17th August, found in the wardens' lounge.



Bat spp. (*Chiroptera spp.*)

11 records from the 7th September to 9th November. A decline from 19 in 2022.

Several single picked up by Noc Mig recorder in September and October.

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)



The rabbit population for 2023 seemed to be reduced from that of 2022. Numerous sightings of Black rabbits, with one individual seen on Burroo.

Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)

28 sightings from the 11th March to the 31st October. A decline from the 121 seen in 2022.

This species was seen sporadically throughout the season. A yellow tagged seal, number 3150 was seen on the 11th March. An individual with a green tag was seen on the 11th September.

	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Max.	2	1	1	2	0	3	15	4	0

Grey Seal (*Halichoerus gryphus*)

8,805 records between the 11th March and the 10th November with a peak count of 292 on the 22nd October.

90 pups were recorded for 2023, an increase of 25 from 2022.

	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
Max.	134	110	164	181	140	97	148	292	223

Cetaceans

Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

145 sightings between the 14th March and 10th October, an increase on the 121 seen in 2022.

A peak count of 15 recorded on the 1st October.

Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)

13 sightings between the 7th April and the 20th August with peak counts of five on the 29th April and 20th August.

Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

Three records from two dates. Two sighted on the 13th May and one on the 30th August.

Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)

36 records between the 27th May and 22nd October with an unspecified amount seen in a large pod in Calf waters on the 8th September.

Dolphin spp.

Five records on two dates, three spotted on the 1st August and two seen on the 18th September.

Minke Whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)

15 records between the 27th May and 5th November, an increase of six on last year.

A peak count of five on the 4th June were spotted off the west coast.

Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

One sighting on the 4th November off the coast at Spanish Head heading North East.

Fish

European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)

Seven records between the 5th May and the 13th September, with a peak count of three on the 29th May.

An increase on the one seen in 2022, more work was carried out on the millpond this season which resulted in more sightings.

Blenny (*Lipophrys pholis*)

Seven sighted on only one date, the 2nd June.

Sunfish (*Mola mola*)

One sighting on the 8th September, reported to MWDW.

Reptiles

Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*)

121 records between the 24th March and 14th September. An increase of 46 on the 2022 total of 75.

May was the highest month with 35 sightings. Peak sightings of seven recorded on three dates, the 7th April, 25th April and the 6th May.

Odonata

Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

194 sightings between the 24th May and 4th September. A decline of 345 from 2022.

A peak count of 55 on the 29th June where some were seen mating.

Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

58 recorded between the 7th August and the 12th October. A peak count of six on the 6th September.

Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*)

31 recorded between the 15th June and 14th September. An increase of 11 on last year's total, making this the highest count in 20 years.

On the 9th July an individual was seen ovi-positing.

Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

26 sightings between the 29th June and 26th September. A decline on last year's total of 107.

Beetles

Minotaur beetle (*Typhaeus typhoeus*)

1160 records between the 12th March and the 8th November, a slight decrease on the 13 on last year's total.



This beetle can be seen crawling slowly almost anywhere around the island. It had high numbers recorded in May and June, numbers trailed off over July and August with an increase in sightings in October.

Violet Ground Beetle (*Carabus violaceus*)

26 records between the 18th April and the 7th November, four less than in 2022.

Can be found almost anywhere across the island.



Green Tiger Beetle (*Cincidela campestris*)

30 records between the 7th April and the 7th July, an increase on 10 on last year's figure.

This common beetle is most often found between May and June, with frequent counts in late May and early June.

Dor Beetle (*Geotrupes stercorarius*)

One sighting on the 7th July, a decrease on the two that were seen in 2022.

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

41 records between the 18th April and the 18th October, a large increase on the 19 seen in 2022.

Can be found almost anywhere on the island.

Black Clock Beetle (*Pterostichus madidus*)

26 records between the 22nd March and the 28th September, same amount seen in 2022.

July saw the highest count with 10 seen that month.

Black Snail Beetle (*Silpha atrata*)

Three seen between 28th July and 7th August, an increase on the one seen in 2022.

Black Sexton Beetle (*Nicrophorus humator*)

24 records between the 1st April and 13th October, a decrease on the 56 seen in 2022.

Banded Sexton Beetle (*Nicrophorus investigator*)

27 sightings between the 30th May and 30th September, a decline on the 2022 total of 538.

Shore Sexton Beetle (*Necrodes littoralis*)

Six recorded on two dates, the 9th August and the 2nd October.

New species for the Isle of Man.

Night-flying Dung Beetle (*Aphodius rufipes*)

One record on the 8th October.

Click Beetle

Four records between the 19th May and the 17th June.

Brown Chafer (*Serica brunnea*)

Two records on the 29th June and the 26th July.

Common Red Soldier Beetle (*Rhagonycha fulva*)

185 records between the 7th July and 28th July, with a peak count of 89 on the 28th July.

Pterostichus nigrita

Nine sightings between the 11th May and 23rd September.

Most sightings have occurred around the Observatory but can be found anywhere across the island.

Carabus granulatus

25 sightings between the 5th May and the 8th September with a peak count of three on the 28th July.

Leistus spinibarbis

One sighting on the 18th June.

Hairy Rove Beetle (*Creophilus maxillosus*)

Two recorded on the 7th August.

Heather Beetle (*Lochmaea suturalis*)

Eight recorded between the 28th April and the 4th November.

Vine Weevil (*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*)

32 records between the 24th March and the 21st October.

Red-Legged Weevil (*Otiorhynchus clavipes*)

One record on the 19th May. There was only one record in 2022, also on the 19th May.

Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*)

Three sightings on two dates, the 2nd and 9th September. One was found in the moth trap.

Whirligig spp (*Gyrinidae spp.*)

One record on the 13th August.

Beetle spp.

Three records, two on the 10th August and one on the 18th August.

Myriapoda**Pill Millipede (*Glomeris marginata*)**

10 sightings between the 8th May and the 11th October with a peak count of five on the 12th May.

A decrease of four on the 2022 total.

Common Shiny Woodlouse (*Oniscus asellus*)

Two were sighted on the 25th July.

Woodlice are common in and around the Observatory and very much under-recorded.

Bombus

White-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*)

79 records between the 25th March and 9th September, with a peak count of eight on the 27th March.

A slight increase on the 2022 total of 71.

Buff-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)

108 sightings between the 19th March and the 10th November, with a peak count of seven on the 25th April.

A decrease from last year's total of 143.

White/Buff-tailed Bumblebee spp. (*Bombus sp.*)

458 records between the 24th March and the 5th November with a peak count of 50 on the 3rd September.

Garden Bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*)

Six records between the 30th March and 25th July. A decrease on the 11 seen in 2022.

Heath Bumblebee (*Bombus jonellus*)

Eight recorded on three dates, the 7th, 9th and 10th September.

Common Carder Bee (*Bombus pascuorum*)

138 records between the 24th April and the 18th September. A decrease on the 227 recorded in 2022.

Brown-banded Carder Bee (*Bombus humilis*)

Two recorded on two dates, the 16th and 17th July.

Carder Bee spp.

Seven sightings between the 30th March and 18th May, with a peak count of four on the 23rd April.

Hymenoptera

Common Colletes (*Colletes succinctus*)

296 recorded between the 4th August and the 9th September with a peak count of 50 on the 7th August.

Leaf Cutter Bee spp. (*Megachile sp.*)

51 records between the 27th May and the 11th August, with a peak count of seven on the 20th July.

Ruby-tailed Wasp (*Chrysis ignita*)

22 sightings between the 5th June and the 14th August, a decrease of four on last year's total.

Can be seen across the island.

Common Wasp (*Vespidae vulgaris*)

44 records between the 12th May and the 5th November.

Ichneumon Wasp spp. (*Ichneumonidae sp.*)

20 sightings between the 20th May and the 2nd September, with a peak count of five on the 29th August.

Maritime Mason Wasp (*Ancistrocerus scoticus*)

Four sightings on three dates, the 7th, 8th and 18th July.

Seen at Caigher Point, the Observatory and Big Head.

Hemiptera

Green Shieldbug

Two sightings on the 4th and 8th June.

Hawthorn Shieldbug (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*)

Four records, three seen on the 9th September and one seen on the 28th September.

Common Pond Skater (*Gerris lacustris*)

Six recorded on one date, the 22nd October.

Diptera

Smoky-winged Woodlouse-fly (*Melanophora roralis*)

46 recorded between the 2nd July and 3rd September, with July seeing the highest count.

St. Mark's Fly (*Bibio marci*)

Two sighted, one each on the 5th and 6th May.

A decrease on the 12 seen in 2022.

Black Fungus Gnat (*Asindulum nigrum*)

One record on the 29th August, 1st record for the Isle of Man.



Hoverfly spp. (*Syrphidae* sp.)

43 records between the 6th April and the 21st October with a peak count of 20 on the 10th September.

Horsefly spp. (*Tabanidae* sp.)

Seven sightings on three dates, the 13th, 15th and 20th June, with a peak count of five on the 13th June.

Crane-fly spp. (*Tipulidae* sp.)

89 sightings between the 3rd July and 30th September, with a peak count of 74 on the 27th September.

Trichoptera

Caddisfly sp.

19 records between the 1st April and 30th September.

Neuroptera

Green Lacewing (*Chrysoperla carnea*)

One record on the 16th March, seen in the generator barn.



Molluscs

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

63 recorded between the 20th March and the 10th August with a peak count of 45 on the 19th June.

Tree Slug (*Limax marginatus*)

51 sightings between the 16th March and the 7th October with a peak count of 12 on the 20th April.

Yellow Slug (*Limax flavus*)

One record on the 30th March.

Brown-lipped Snail (*Cepaea nemoralis*)

Five found on three dates, the 26th, 27th and 28th October.

Common Garden Snail (*Cornu aspersum*)

Found commonly around the Observatory.

Annelida

Horse Leech (*Haemopsis sanguisuga*)

One record on the 12th August.

Araneae

Zebra Jumping Spider (*Salticus scenicus*)

Five records between the 26th May and 14th September, with September having the highest count.

European Garden Spider (*Araneus diadematus*)

155 records between the 28th June and 15th September with a peak count of 62 on the 10th September.

Can be commonly seen on Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) anywhere across the island.

Cave Spider (*Meta menardi*)

One record on the 8th June, seen in the manhole at the Upper Lighthouse.

Snake-back Spider (*Segestria* sp. (*senoculata*))

One record on the 1st May.

Common Crab Spider (*Xysticus cristatus*)

One record on the 1st May.

Missing Sector Orb Weaver (*Zygiella x-notata*)

One record on the 26th July.

Toothed Weaver (*Tetrax denticulata*)

One record on the 10th August.

Lace Weaver Spider (*Amaurobius ferox*)

Three seen on three dates, the 1st, 5th and 8th of July.

Orthoptera

Common Field Grasshopper (*Chorthippus brunneus*)

127 recorded between the 6th June and 1st October, with a peak count of 60 on the 15th June.

Can be found anywhere in long grass and likely under-recorded considerably.

Zygentoma

Silverfish (*Lepisma saccharinum*)

117 recorded between 1st April and the 4th August, with a peak count of 63 on the 30th June.

Often found in the hide at Cow Harbour but also around the Observatory and in the Withy hide.

Crustacea

Common Sea Slater (*Ligia oceanic*)

21 records between the 28th June and the 7th September.

Commonly found at both Cow Harbour and South Harbour.

Velvet Crab (*Necora puber*)

One seen on the 28th May.

Crab (*Macropodia sp.*)

One sighting on the 18th June.

Cnidaria

Lion's Mane Jellyfish (*Cyanea capillata*)

48 sightings between the 23rd April and the 9th September, with a peak count of 10 on the 31st August.

Found commonly throughout the waters of the Calf, often spotted in South Harbour.

Barrel Jellyfish (*Rhizostoma pulmo*)

179 recorded between the 30th March and the 9th July, with June seeing the highest amount.

A large increase on the 22 recorded in 2022.

Compass jellyfish (*Chrysaora hysoscella*)

One record on the 23rd April.

Moon Jellyfish (*Aurelia aurita*)

83 sightings between the 18th May and 31st August.

An increase on the 30 recorded in 2022. Can be found anywhere in the waters around the Calf.

Comb Jellyfish (*Beroe cucumis*)

220 sightings between the 3rd and the 20th June.

Cyaneidae

Blue Jellyfish (*Cyanea lamarckii*)

38 recorded between the 24th May and 26th June, an increase on the 19 recorded in 2022.

Salpidae

Salp (*Salpidae*)

26 seen between the 5th and 14th July at Cow Harbour.

Ctenophora

Sea Gooseberry (*Pleurobrachia pileus*)

831 recorded between the 25th May and the 21st June.

Orchids

Early Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*)

Two on 29th June at the Millpond.

Heath Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculate*)

Two on 28th June in Upper Twin Field.

Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsia*)

Two on 28th June in Upper Twin Field, Three on 9th July in the Top Withy Field.

Other Plants

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Observed around rocks east of Cow Harbour.

Tawny Sedge (*Carex hostiana*)

Observed around rocks east of Cow Harbour.

Cotton Grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*)

Observed around west of gull colony at Cow Harbour.

2023 Moth Report

2023 followed a similar moth surveying method to previous seasons with the use of a mercury vapour trap and day-time observations. The primary trapping location was at the Plantation with a few traps set in the front garden, by the front hedge and in the back yard during the early part of the season.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Trap nights	84	44	55	65	38
Individuals	9151	3180	3742	6925	3652
Species	211	126	152	156	141

A total of 141 species of moth were recorded this season.

We arrived on the Calf on the 11th March with the first moth sighting on the 18th March, a Brown House-moth (*Hofmannophila pseudospretella*) seen at the Observatory. The first moth trapping night took place on the evening of the 1st April and the last trapping night was on the 12th October with the last recorded observation on the 27th October.

A total of 38 trap nights occurred with a further 72 dates where casual observations were made. The total number of individuals seen this year was 3652.

Four Thrift Clearwing (*Pyropteron muscaeformis*) were observed at South Harbour and the puddle using a lure on the 2nd June.

The species account in the table below is organised by the recent ABH (D.J. Agassiz, S.D. Beavan & R.J. Heckford) recording system showcasing the full extent of our species list from this season. Selected species of interest will be mentioned below, species highlighted in **bold** typeface indicate that they are new additions to the Calf list.

2023 Species Account

BF	ABH	Taxon	Vernacular	Sum	Days	Peak	Peak date	Earliest	Latest
18	3.003	<i>Korscheltellus fusconebulosa</i>	Map-winged Swift	2	2	1	11-Jun	11-Jun	16-Jun
247	12.033	<i>Tinea trinotella</i>	Bird's-nest Moth	1	1	1	18-Jul	18-Jul	18-Jul
425	16.002	<i>Yponomeuta padella</i>	Orchard Ermine	1	1	1	09-Jul	09-Jul	09-Jul
464	18.001	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	Diamond-back Moth	5	3	3	11-Jun	11-Jun	03-Jul
418	20.019	<i>Argyresthia conjugella</i>	Apple Fruit Moth	1	1	1	18-May	18-May	18-May
648	28.009	<i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	White-shouldered House Moth	7	7	1	30-Apr	30-Apr	01-Oct
647	28.01	<i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i>	Brown House-moth	6	4	3	31-Jul	18-Mar	31-Jul
649	28.019	<i>Esperia sulphurella</i>	Sulphur Tubic	1	1	1	20-May	20-May	20-May
697	32.017	<i>Agonopterix arenella</i>	Brindled Flat-body	1	1	1	01-May	01-May	01-May
716	32.023	<i>Agonopterix rotundella</i>	Rolling Carrot Flat-body	1	1	1	11-May	11-May	11-May
776	35.146	<i>Teleiopsis diffinis</i>	Large Groundling	8	5	2	03-Jun	03-Jun	04-Sep
610	38.004	<i>Elachista argentella</i>	Swan-feather Dwarf	1	1	1	02-Jun	02-Jun	02-Jun
1288	44.001	<i>Alucita hexadactyla</i>	Twenty-plume Moth	1	1	1	12-Aug	12-Aug	12-Aug
1524	45.044	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>	Common Plume	1	1	1	01-Oct	01-Oct	01-Oct
970	49.025	<i>Pandemis cerasana</i>	Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	25	8	6	29-Jun	16-Jun	09-Aug
937	49.109	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	Common Yellow Conch	4	3	2	29-Jun	11-Jun	29-Jun
966	49.139	<i>Cochylis atricapitana</i>	Black-headed Conch	8	5	2	30-May	14-May	22-Jun
1063	49.161	<i>Celypha striana</i>	Barred Marble	1	1	1	09-Jul	09-Jul	09-Jul
1109	49.185	<i>Lobesia littoralis</i>	Shore Marble	1	1	1	02-Jun	02-Jun	02-Jun
1197	49.269	<i>Eucosma campoliliana</i>	Marbled Bell	1	1	1	09-Jul	09-Jul	09-Jul
1184	49.285	<i>Epiblema scutulana</i>	Thistle Bell	5	3	3	18-May	18-May	09-Aug
1174	49.292	<i>Notocelia cynosbatella</i>	Yellow-faced Bell	1	1	1	16-Jun	16-Jun	16-Jun

BF	ABH	Taxon	Vernacular	Sum	Days	Peak	Peak date	Earliest	Latest
383	52.016	<i>Pyropteron muscaeformis</i>	Thrift Clearwing	4	1	4	02-Jun	02-Jun	02-Jun
1458	62.042	<i>Myelois circumvoluta</i>	Thistle Ermine	1	1	1	16-Jun	16-Jun	16-Jun
1376	63.025	<i>Anania hortulata</i>	Small Magpie	13	9	3	29-Jun	01-Jun	09-Jul
1395	63.031	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	Rusty-dot Pearl	2	2	1	01-Apr	01-Apr	09-Sep
1405	63.038	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	Mother of Pearl	4	3	2	29-Jun	29-Jun	18-Jul
1398	63.052	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	Rush Veneer	1	1	1	01-May	01-May	01-May
1334	63.064	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	Common Grey	1	1	1	11-Jun	11-Jun	11-Jun
1338	63.067	<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>	Little Grey	8	3	6	26-Jul	16-Jun	26-Jul
1342	63.069	<i>Eudonia angustea</i>	Narrow-winged Grey	3	2	2	02-Sep	16-Jun	02-Sep
1344	63.074	<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	Small Grey	3	2	2	16-Aug	09-Aug	16-Aug
1293	63.08	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	Garden Grass-veneer	370	18	119	16-Jun	05-Jun	16-Aug
1301	63.086	<i>Crambus lathoniellus</i>	Hook-streak Grass-veneer	1	1	1	03-Jun	03-Jun	03-Jun
1303	63.092	<i>Agriphila selasella</i>	Pale-streak Grass-veneer	4	2	3	16-Aug	09-Aug	16-Aug
1304	63.093	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	Straw Grass-veneer	2	1	2	16-Aug	16-Aug	16-Aug
1309	63.095	<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>	Elbow-stripe Grass-veneer	76	6	25	29-Aug	16-Aug	09-Sep
1643	68.001	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	Emperor Moth	2	2	1	20-Apr	20-Apr	08-Jul
1981	69.003	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	Poplar Hawk-moth	5	5	1	01-Jun	01-Jun	29-Jun
1984	69.01	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	10	9	2	13-Aug	28-Jun	12-Oct
1708	70.011	<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>	Single-dotted Wave	2	2	1	18-Jul	18-Jul	26-Jul
1702	70.013	<i>Idaea biselata</i>	Small Fan-footed Wave	2	2	1	26-Jul	26-Jul	30-Jul
1713	70.016	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	Riband Wave	6	5	2	18-Jul	16-Jun	16-Aug
1689	70.023	<i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>	Mullein Wave	7	5	2	29-Aug	01-Jun	04-Sep
1692	70.025	<i>Scopula immutata</i>	Lesser Cream Wave	1	1	1	16-Aug	16-Aug	16-Aug
1728	70.049	<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	Garden Carpet	2	2	1	10-Jun	10-Jun	21-Jun

BF	ABH	Taxon	Vernacular	Sum	Days	Peak	Peak date	Earliest	Latest
1722	70.053	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	Flame Carpet	1	1	1	16-Jun	16-Jun	16-Jun
1742	70.059	<i>Campptogramma bilineata</i>	Yellow Shell	133	18	69	13-Jun	06-Jun	26-Jul
1738	70.061	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	Common Carpet	3	2	2	29-Aug	09-Aug	29-Aug
1768	70.081	<i>Thera obeliscata</i>	Grey Pine Carpet	1	1	1	09-Jul	09-Jul	09-Jul
1752	70.087	<i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i>	Purple Bar	2	2	1	09-Aug	09-Aug	29-Aug
1755	70.09	<i>Eulithis testata</i>	Chevron	4	3	2	16-Aug	09-Aug	02-Sep
1764	70.097	<i>Dysstroma truncata</i>	Common Marbled Carpet	1	1	1	05-Jun	05-Jun	05-Jun
1776	70.1	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet	2	2	1	09-Aug	09-Aug	09-Sep
1862	70.141	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	Double-striped Pug	1	1	1	01-Apr	01-Apr	01-Apr
1846	70.168	<i>Eupithecia nanata</i>	Narrow-winged Pug	5	5	1	10-Jun	10-Jun	09-Sep
1825	70.173	<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>	Lime-speck Pug	1	1	1	11-Jun	11-Jun	11-Jun
1830	70.179	<i>Eupithecia absinthiata</i>	Wormwood Pug	1	1	1	05-Jun	05-Jun	05-Jun
1834	70.183	<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	Common Pug	5	1	5	16-Jun	16-Jun	16-Jun
1883	70.2	<i>Acasis viretata</i>	Yellow-barred Brindle	1	1	1	30-May	30-May	30-May
1884	70.205	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	Magpie Moth	1	1	1	29-Jun	29-Jun	29-Jun
1887	70.207	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	Clouded Border	2	1	2	21-Jun	21-Jun	21-Jun
1902	70.222	<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>	Brown Silver-line	92	18	22	13-Jun	29-Apr	01-Jul
1906	70.226	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	4	4	1	11-Jun	11-Jun	16-Aug
1917	70.237	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	Early Thorn	2	1	2	02-Apr	02-Apr	02-Apr
1937	70.258	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	Willow Beauty	1	1	1	16-Aug	16-Aug	16-Aug
1952	70.275	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>	Common Heath	2	2	1	01-May	01-May	06-May
1956	70.278	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	Common Wave	1	1	1	11-Jun	11-Jun	11-Jun
1995	71.003	<i>Cerura vinula</i>	Puss Moth	4	4	1	29-Apr	29-Apr	05-Jun
2003	71.013	<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	Pebble Prominent	1	1	1	18-May	18-May	18-May

BF	ABH	Taxon	Vernacular	Sum	Days	Peak	Peak date	Earliest	Latest
2474	72.002	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	Straw Dot	1	1	1	10-Jun	10-Jun	10-Jun
2061	72.019	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	Buff Ermine	124	14	22	22-Jun	05-Jun	13-Oct
2060	72.02	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	White Ermine	11	6	5	22-Jun	11-May	22-Jun
2064	72.024	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	Ruby Tiger	20	8	11	03-Oct	29-Apr	18-Oct
2057	72.026	<i>Arctia caja</i>	Garden Tiger	39	10	14	18-Jul	30-Apr	09-Aug
2069	72.031	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar	571	38	272	28-Jul	17-May	14-Aug
2051	72.041	<i>Lithosia quadra</i>	Four-spotted Footman	1	1	1	29-Jun	29-Jun	29-Jun
2450	73.001	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	Spectacle	15	11	3	22-Jun	14-May	09-Jul
2441	73.015	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	84	23	22	18-Jun	03-May	27-Oct
2439	73.022	<i>Plusia festucae</i>	Gold Spot	1	1	1	29-Aug	29-Aug	29-Aug
2284	73.038	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	Grey Dagger	1	1	1	11-Jun	11-Jun	11-Jun
2289	73.045	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass	21	12	7	11-Jun	14-May	01-Sep
2216	73.052	<i>Cucullia umbratica</i>	Shark	1	1	1	18-Jul	18-Jul	18-Jul
2243	73.069	<i>Xylocampa areola</i>	Early Grey	13	4	6	07-Apr	01-Apr	01-Jun
2382	73.097	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Rustic	23	5	9	09-Aug	09-Jul	29-Aug
2306	73.113	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	Angle Shades	5	5	1	27-May	27-May	24-Oct
2305	73.114	<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>	Small Angle Shades	7	6	2	16-Jun	01-Jun	29-Jun
2364	73.121	<i>Gortyna flavago</i>	Frosted Orange	1	1	1	16-Aug	16-Aug	16-Aug
2353	73.131	<i>Luperina testacea</i>	Flounced Rustic	10	4	5	04-Sep	16-Aug	04-Sep
2350	73.144	<i>Denticucullus pygmina</i>	Small Wainscot	2	2	1	26-Jul	26-Jul	02-Sep
2330	73.154	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Dusky Brocade	2	2	1	07-Jun	07-Jun	11-Jun
2321	73.162	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	Dark Arches	20	9	4	22-Jun	03-Jun	16-Aug
2343x	73.169 5	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg.	Common Rustic agg.	44	9	19	18-Jul	11-Jun	02-Sep
2340	73.176	<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>	Middle-barred Minor	1	1	1	16-Jun	16-Jun	16-Jun
2273	73.181	<i>Xanthia togata</i>	Pink-barred Sallow	3	2	2	30-Sep	02-Sep	30-Sep
2267	73.186	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	Beaded Chestnut	1	1	1	02-Oct	02-Oct	02-Oct
2263	73.189	<i>Agrochola lota</i>	Red-line Quaker	1	1	1	02-Oct	02-Oct	02-Oct

BF	ABH	Taxon	Vernacular	Sum	Days	Peak	Peak date	Earliest	Latest
2270	73.193	<i>Omphaloscelis lunosa</i>	Lunar Underwing	86	4	56	27-Sep	27-Sep	12-Oct
2232	73.233	<i>Aporophyla nigra</i>	Black Rustic	127	7	57	30-Sep	04-Sep	18-Oct
2255	73.235	<i>Polymixis lichenea</i>	Feathered Ranunculus	1	1	1	30-Sep	30-Sep	30-Sep
2190	73.249	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	Hebrew Character	1	1	1	02-Apr	02-Apr	02-Apr
2176	73.254	<i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>	Antler Moth	11	3	9	16-Aug	26-Jul	16-Aug
2160	73.267	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	Bright-line Brown-eye	293	17	81	22-Jun	14-May	18-Jul
2163	73.271	<i>Ceramica pisi</i>	Broom Moth	169	18	27	03-Jun	11-May	11-Aug
2162	73.272	<i>Papestra biren</i>	Glaucous Shears	1	1	1	18-May	18-May	18-May
2147	73.273	<i>Hada plebeja</i>	Shears	2	2	1	01-Jun	01-Jun	05-Jun
2166	73.276	<i>Sideridis rivularis</i>	Campion	10	4	5	11-Jun	30-May	22-Jun
2173	73.281	<i>Hadena bicruris</i>	Lychnis	2	2	1	18-May	18-May	29-Aug
2171	73.283	<i>Hadena confusa</i>	Marbled Coronet	12	6	4	11-Jun	18-May	22-Jun
2174	73.285	<i>Hadena caesia</i>	Grey	14	5	7	11-Jun	30-May	11-Jun
2167	73.286	<i>Hadena perplexa capsophila</i>	Pod Lover / Tawny Shears	48	19	8	18-May	29-Apr	26-Jul
2199	73.291	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	Common Wainscot	2	2	1	16-Aug	16-Aug	04-Sep
2198	73.293	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	5	5	1	20-Jun	20-Jun	04-Sep
2080	73.312	<i>Euxoa obelisca</i>	Square-spot Dart	215	7	73	29-Aug	09-Aug	12-Sep
2089	73.317	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Heart and Dart	82	12	16	29-Jun	03-Jun	18-Jul
2090	73.324	<i>Agrotis trux ssp. Lunigera</i>	Crescent Dart	143	11	54	26-Jul	29-Jun	09-Sep
2091	73.327	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Dark Sword-grass	1	1	1	30-Sep	30-Sep	30-Sep
2102	73.329	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	9	8	2	07-Jun	18-May	16-Aug
2120	73.333	<i>Diarsia mendica</i>	Ingrailed Clay	5	4	2	09-Aug	26-Jul	29-Aug
2123	73.334	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Small Square-spot	19	7	5	30-May	18-May	11-Jun
2139	73.336	<i>Cerastis rubricosa</i>	Red Chestnut	9	4	3	02-Apr	01-Apr	29-Apr
2118	73.338	<i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>	True Lover's Knot	252	12	118	26-Jul	16-Jun	09-Sep
2107	73.342	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	79	19	9	04-Sep	03-Jun	30-Sep
2109	73.345	<i>Noctua comes</i>	Lesser Yellow Underwing	6	4	3	16-Aug	16-Aug	04-Sep

BF	ABH	Taxon	Vernacular	Sum	Days	Peak	Peak date	Earliest	Latest
2111	73.348	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	17	4	9	16-Aug	09-Aug	02-Sep
2134	73.357	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	Square-spot Rustic	31	5	9	29-Aug	29-Aug	12-Sep
2133	73.358	<i>Xestia sexstrigata</i>	Six-striped Rustic	1	1	1	26-Jul	26-Jul	26-Jul
2126	73.359	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	Setaceous Hebrew Character	18	10	5	02-Sep	27-May	30-Sep
2117	73.365	<i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Autumnal Rustic	12	4	5	04-Sep	29-Aug	09-Sep
2078	74.004	<i>Nola confusalis</i>	Least Black Arches	4	4	1	03-Jun	03-Jun	26-Jul
		<i>Bryotropha spp.</i>	Bryotropha spp.	2	1	2	18-May	18-May	18-May
xxxxx	xxxxx	<i>Eudonia/Scoparia</i>	Eudonia/Scoparia spp	25	7	12	16-Jun	16-Jun	02-Oct
xxxxx	xxxxx	<i>Pug spp.</i>	Unidentified pug	3	3	1	22-Jun	22-Jun	09-Aug
xxxxx	xxxxxx		Tortrix sp.	3	2	2	18-Jul	03-Jul	18-Jul
xxxxx	xxxxxx	xxxxx	Minor agg.	1	1	1	16-Aug	16-Aug	16-Aug
xxxxx	xxxxxx	<i>Yponomeuta sp.</i>	Ermine sp	1	1	1	26-Jul	26-Jul	26-Jul
1991	69.016	<i>Deilephila elpinor</i>	Elephant Hawk-moth	11	9	3	11-Jun	18-May	28-Jun
xxxxx	22.003	<i>Prays ruficeps</i>	Dark Ash-Bud Moth	9	5	5	11-Jun	11-Jun	29-Aug
2280	73.040	<i>Acronicta leporina</i>	The Miller	1	1	1	20-Aug	20-Aug	20-Aug
xxxxx	xxxxxx	<i>Acronicta aceris</i>	The Sycamore	1	1	1	07-Sep	07-Sep	07-Sep



2023 Selected Records of Interest

22.003 **Dark Ash-Bud Moth** *Prays ruficeps*

Nine individuals seen between the 11th June and 29th August with a peak count of five seen on the 11th June. Mostly caught in the MV trap in the Plantation.

69.016 (1991) **Elephant Hawk-moth** *Deilephila elpinor*

11 sightings between the 18th May and the 28th June with a peak count of three on the 11th June. Caught mostly in the MV trap in the Plantation, with some recorded through daily observations



70.278 (1956) **Common Wave** *Cabera exanthemata*

One individual was recorded on 11th June after using the MV trap in the Plantation. This is the seventh Calf record.

73.181 (2273) **Pink-barred Sallow** *Xanthia togata*

Three individuals were recorded after using the MV trap in the plantation on the 2nd and 30th September. These were the 12th, 13th and 14th records for this species on the Calf.

73.040 (2280) **The Miller** *Acronicta leporina*

One individual, a caterpillar, recorded on the 20th August, seen in the net at the Withy.

The Sycamore

Acronicta aceris

One individual seen on the 7th September via daily observation. New species for the Calf.



Longtail Report – 2023

Sadly, 2023 saw an increase in the number of longtails sighted on the Calf of Man. Four confirmed sightings, three at the Observatory and one at the Withy. Three confirmed kills, two via rodenticide blocks inside the Observatory, one via Fenn MK4 trap at the Withy.



Longtail by the compost bin

January 26th – One longtail caught on compost bin camera trap, present almost nightly up to March 13th.

March 12th – Wardens arrived on Calf.

March 14th – Camera trap footage reviewed, longtail presence discovered.

March 16th – Discovered evidence of longtail in garbage barn. Fenn MK IV traps baited with peanut butter placed in courtyard, compost bin area and back garden.

March 19th – Poison blocks placed in attic, Garbage store and workshop.

March 27th – Poison blocks placed inside hole in the wall of Assistant Wardens room.

March 30th – More poison blocks placed in wall, no further sightings on camera traps.

April 3rd – Strong smell of decomposition in Warden's lounge.

17th May – 1st trip to Kitterland, wax blocks placed in bait tubes. Camera trap footage retrieved. Evidence of multiple long tails spotted on camera trap footage.

2nd June – 2nd trip to Kitterland, poison blocks placed in bait tubes around the island, Longtail spotted by OOS and CF

6th June – Longtail sighting on Kitterland cam trap.

9th June – Longtail sighting on Kitterland cam trap.

12th June – Longtail sighting on Kitterland cam trap.

16th June – 3rd trip to Kitterland. A24 Good nature gas traps placed around island. Longtails sighted on Kitterland camera trap.

18th June – Longtail sighting on Kitterland cam trap.

22nd June – Longtail sighting on Kitterland cam trap – interested in bait tube.

24th June – Longtail sighting on Kitterland cam trap.

27th June – suspicious hole at "The Dock". Camera trap and A24 Good nature gas traps placed around area. Nothing sighted. Later established the hole was a former post hole for seal team camera trap.

20th July – Noises heard in walls at Obs. Check of compost camera trap show one sighting from 17th July. Goodnature gas trap placed by compost bin.

20th July – Return trip to Kitterland. A24 gas traps checked/replenished, and camera footage recovered.

21st July – Poison blocks placed in wall in Assistant Wardens bedroom, as before.

27th July – Assistant Warden Ben Roworth reported strong decomposition smell in the attic, an area the longtail was known to frequent.

12th September – Longtail spotted at Millpond by EMG during the night. Camera trap footage of compost area reveals a longtail on the 7th and 12th September.

13th September – A24 gas traps, Fenn MK4 traps and poison baits set up by compost bin at Observatory and around the Millpond. OOS and BR used thermal imager in both locations during the night. No sightings

14th September – Camera trap footage checked, no sightings. tomato plants in courtyard show signs of being chewed, possibly by longtail. Fenn MK4 traps placed in area.

25th September – Longtail killed at Withy with Fenn trap by creek. Tail removed and frozen for DNA analysis. Traps reset for continued monitoring.

29th September – Camera trap by tomato plants picked up a rabbit eating the tomatoes, no longer suspect a longtail is the culprit.

14th October – Still no further sightings. Fenn MK 4 traps disabled due to lack of longtail activity and accidental killing of a song thrush.

15th October – Final visit to Kitterland, A24 gas traps replenished, and camera trap set for the winter.



Longtail on Kitterland

After the success of the Manx Shearwater Recovery Project in 2012 a couple of Longtails have still been sighted each year. In the last nine years sightings have been made at:

2013 – A bite on a wax block at Bushell's made in early June. A contingency grid was placed around the tube with no further sightings.

2014 – A visitor in May thought that they saw one at Spaghetti Junction, but it was thought to be a young rabbit. One was captured by a camera at Cow hide with another seen at Kitterland at the same time in October.

2015 – One seen by camera trap at Observatory Garden in early July which was later killed by a Fenn trap.

2016 – A potential bite on a wax block at Top Withy in October with a contingency grid placed out no further signs detected.

2017 – A dead Longtail found near Grants Harbour in March, with another sighted by a camera trap at compost bin in August. A contingency grid was placed out with last sighting made in October with the assumption it eventually died from poison. There were numerous signs of Longtail on Kitterland with poison baiting undertaken twice in this season.

2018 – No sign of any Longtail made at Kitterland suggesting poison baiting was a success in 2017. A bite on a wax block near Cow Harbour in March with a contingency grid placed out with no further sign. A Longtail(s) were captured by a camera trap at the compost bin, Cow hide and Millpond with none killed. It was hard to tell how many individuals were on the island.

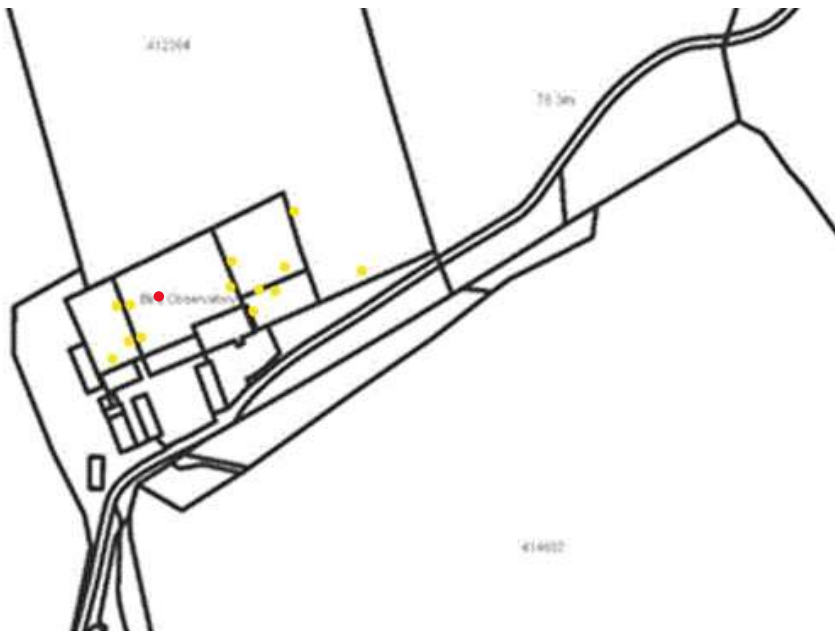
2019 – One Longtail remained over winter at compost bin and was killed by a Fenn trap upon arrival in March. Another was sighted again at the compost bin in August which was also killed by a Fenn trap.

2020 – One sighted at compost bin in late October with Fenn traps placed out but with no luck. A volunteer saw ‘out of the corner of his eye’ a potential Longtail at Leodan with Fenn traps placed out but with no luck. This sighting is considered to be a rabbit.

2021 – A single Longtail remained over winter at the compost bin and was killed by a Fenn trap upon arrival in April. Two singles in September and October seen at compost bin were both dispatched by a Fenn trap.

2022- Single individual spotted on camera trap at Kitterland. Rodenticide placed and no further sightings occurred. One half consumed dead longtail found on track by Mill Giau, believed to have been dropped by gull or raven.

2023 – Three individuals sighted at the Observatory via camera trap in March, June, September. The first two were heard in the Observatory walls, both killed with poison. The third was seen on camera trap only once, on the same night that one was sighted in the Withy, possibly same individual but unconfirmed. The Withy individual was dispatched with a Fenn trap MK 4.



This map shows where previous wardens have placed the Fenn traps for the last four years which have proved effective. It is important to place the traps right along the wall where their potential runs will be with a wire mesh over the top of the trap to prevent accidental killings of birds and rabbits. The red dot is the location of the A24 gas trap, near the compost bin. There is another A24 gas trap located in the hide at Cow harbour and three A24 gas traps located on Kitterland.

During this season we had issues maintaining the wax bait monitoring stations, initially due to lack of personnel and later due to GPS failure. It was also noted that at times when longtails were known to be in an area that none of the bait monitoring stations showed any signs of longtail activity. This was noticed both on the Calf at the Observatory and Withy and repeatedly on the Kitterland bait stations. A review of the bait monitoring process is needed to reduce the number of bait stations and to consider alternative methods in light of their apparent ineffectiveness.

Records of Dung Fungus collected on the Calf of Man

During July 2007 a total of 87 samples of dung fungi were collected for a wider study conducted across the British Isles. The data relating to the Calf of Man has recently been made available for inclusion in this report.

Fungus	Rabbit	Sheep	Total
<i>Ascobolus stictoides</i> Speg.	1	1	2
<i>Coniochaeta ligniaria</i> (Grev.) Cooke	2		2
<i>Coprinellus heptemerus</i> (M. Lange & A.H. Sm.) Vilgalys, Hopple & Jacq. Johnson		3	3
<i>Coprinopsis radiata</i> (Bolton) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo		1	1
<i>Coprinopsis stercorea</i> (Fr.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo	1	1	2
<i>Coprinopsis vermiculifer</i> (Joss. ex Dennis) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo		3	3
<i>Coprotus disculus</i> Kimbr., Luck-Allen & Cain		1	1
<i>Coprotus sexdecimsporus</i> (P. Crouan & H. Crouan) Kimbr. & Korf		2	2
<i>Delitschia winteri</i> (W. Phillips & Plowr.) Sacc.	2		2
<i>Didymium megalosporum</i> Berk. & M.A.Curtis		1	1
<i>Iodophanus carneus</i> (Pers.) Korf		1	1
<i>Lasiobolus cuniculi</i> Velen.	1	3	4
<i>Parasola misera</i> (P. Karst.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Hopple	2		2
<i>Phomatospora coprophila</i> M. J. Richardson		1	1
<i>Pilaira anomala</i> (Ces.) J. Schröt.	1		1
<i>Pilaira moreaui</i> Y.Ling	3	1	4
<i>Pilobolus crystallinus</i> (F.H. Wigg.) Tode	1	2	3
<i>Pilobolus lentiger</i> Corda	1		1
<i>Podosordaria tulasnei</i> (Nitschke) Dennis	3		3
<i>Podospora decipiens</i> (G. Winter ex Fuckel) Niessl		1	1
<i>Podospora pleiospora</i> (G. Winter) Niessl	2	1	3
<i>Podospora</i> sp. immature		1	1

Fungus	Rabbit	Sheep	Total
<i>Psilocybe merdaria</i> (Fr.) Ricken	2	2	4
<i>Saccobolus versicolor</i> (P. Karst.) P. Karst.	4	3	7
<i>Schizothecium glutinans</i> (Cain) N. Lundq.		1	1
<i>Schizothecium nanum</i> N. Lundq.	1		1
<i>Schizothecium tetrasporum</i> (G. Winter) N. Lundq.	4	2	6
<i>Schizothecium vesticola</i> (Berk. & Broome) N. Lundq.	1	2	3
<i>Sphaeronaemella fimicola</i> Marchal	1		1
<i>Sporormiella australis</i> (Speg.) S.I. Ahmed & Cain	4	2	6
<i>Sporormiella intermedia</i> (Auersw.) S.I. Ahmed & Cain	4		4
<i>Sporormiella minima</i> (Auersw.) S.I. Ahmed & Cain		1	1
<i>Thelebolus nanus</i> Heimerl	2	1	3
<i>Thelebolus polysporus</i> (P. Karst.) Y. Otani & Kanzawa	3	1	4
<i>Trichodelitschia bisporula</i> (P. Crouan & H. Crouan) Munk	2		2
Grand Total	48	39	87

Staff & Long-term Volunteers

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Ben Roworth
Aron Sapsford (AS)

Manx National Heritage

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Geoff Mitchell

Shaun Murphy
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Kevin Scott

Photographic Credits:

Front Cover:

Radde's Warbler	-	Aron Sapsford
Ringing equipment	-	Aron Sapsford

Ringing Report:

Gull ringing at Cow	-	Aron Sapsford
Motus antenna	-	Oliver O'Sullivan

Ringing Recoveries:

Stonechat	-	Stuart Martinez
Great Black-backed Gull	-	Mike Barth
Chough	-	Unknown
Eider	-	Aron Sapsford
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	Aron Sapsford
Manx Shearwater	-	Eleanor Grover
Shag	-	Brian Walmsley
Manx Shearwater (chick)	-	Aron Sapsford



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