

# Calf of Man Bird Observatory



Annual Report **2024**



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, 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 and 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) and the Bird Observatories Council (BOC) 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 2024, 307,571 birds of 169 species have been ringed on the island. Trapping is carried out using a variety of conventional traps, including mist nets and Heligoland and Crow Traps.



*Ringling in the Withy hide. ©Aron Sapsford*

# Visitor Information

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

The Calf of Man is open to the public daily. The Manx Museum and National Trust and its 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 birdlife 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 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> July.
- Visitors must leave no litter.
- Visitors must keep to paths and tracks.
- 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/vaping policy at all of its properties. Furthermore, smoking and vaping are prohibited across the entirety of the Calf of Man.

Visitor accommodation is available in the Observatory during the summer season – normally, from June to end of August. The accommodation consists of self-catering hostel-style accommodation for up to eight people with a visitor kitchen, lounge and log burner.

Intending over-night visitors must pre-book accommodation through Island Escapes. Web: <https://www.islandescapes.im/property/563693> Tel: 01624830200

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.

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# **CALF OF MAN**

## **BIRD OBSERVATORY REPORT**

### **2024**

Ornithological Warden

Aron Sapsford

Estate Warden

Chloe Hurst

Assistant Volunteer Wardens

Eleanor Grover

Mike Haigh

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# Wardens' Report 2024

Mike Haigh, Eleanor Grover and I were reunited on the Isle of Man on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Aron Sapsford was on annual leave. The first week involved PPE shopping, rope and radio training, volunteering with the mid-week muckers, finalising contracts and lots of food shopping! This year, due to Shoprite being bought out by Tesco, logistics were yet to be confirmed and so we were to take out the majority of our tins and dried food in bulk.



A weather window enabled us to travel to the Calf on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March. We were joined by Shaun Murphy and Lara Howe. The arrival was short-lived for me as I was to return to the Isle of Man for Mental Health Training, which unfortunately then was cancelled. This meant that Mike and Eleanor were left to set up and clean and they both ended up working very long days! Due to the weather, I was unable to return until a few days later but then it was all hands on deck. Most of this first month was spent cleaning; making the old, damp farmhouse habitable once again. We carried out a vast amount of painting and decorating throughout the Observatory on both the warden and guest sides.

Another top priority project for Mike and I this year was to get the allotment up and running. We began weeding and clearing the very overgrown vegetable patch in preparation for the growing season ahead and also installed two IBC tanks and a new roof on the old outdoor privy for water collection. The decoy puffins were planted, the mist nets were put up, our first wildlife surveys and moth trapping sessions took place, and we began work on overhauling the various outbuildings. By late March, all Calf Wardens were accounted for and the first bird volunteer, Brennig Hughes, arrived. As well as assisting with ringing, he was here to focus on nest finding.



Mental Health training did take place in April and both Aron and I completed the course and are now Mental Health First Aiders. Estate-wise, Mike carried out inside and outside window repairs on all the windows at the Obs. Various other tasks included repairs to Lighthouse window boards, mortaring a crack in the silo, improving living conditions for the team with the arrival of new beds, chairs and desks, the drains and downpipes were cleared and fixed, and the Heras fencing was removed from the fog horn building and the area was properly roped off. The Bowers came out to repair the first dry stone walls of the season and the Mylchreests to repair the Mitsubishi generator. I spent around 40 hours shifting stone, a very time-consuming task, in preparation for the planned Dry Stone Walling (DSW) course in June. Ann Playford, the second bird volunteer arrived at the end of this month to assist with ringing.

Due to lack of takers for the planned DSW course, the only course that took place this year was the Birdwatching Course, hosted by Tim Earl. Three aspiring birders joined Tim and seemed to really enjoy both the island and learning about the birdlife. A highlight for us was hosting His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor and Lady Lorimer for a one-night stay on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We all dined al fresco and tucked into a wonderful spread provided by Government House. Lady Lorimer enjoyed a sea swim the following day and they both left feeling refreshed and relaxed – the Calf providing a welcome break within their busy social schedules. It was a pleasure to share time with them.

Mike and I undertook Obs porch refurbishment (involving a new lintel, sealing of external roof edges, a new door threshold strip and redecoration). The hallway and stairwell were repainted as was the warden kitchen – the latter requiring a primer and undercoat solution to resolve the flaky wall problem in the warden kitchen. We installed clear and beautifully painted new track markers on all the tracks and overhauled the bin store. Mike finished the concrete steps outside the generator barn (they are now safe), began flailing the newly marked tracks and fields, created new shelving for the workshop and generator barn to compliment the new racking supplied by Shaun (a big project but one that has transformed the barns and provided us with a huge amount of storage). We also built a mezzanine floor in the workshop, providing us with even more storage and a safe working space. Ann left and Sophie Elliott, the Manx Shearwater and Seabird Monitoring volunteer arrived. The Manx Ornithological Society visited and the Bowers returned for more wall repairs.

Although the DSW course did not go ahead, Pat Griffiths and David Fisher, our long-term walling volunteers, with assistance from Mike and I, set about repairing a large section of wall next to the main track near the corner of the Lighthouse field to protect a stone stile. The repairs went very well and we thank both them and Gillian and Ned Bowers for their work.

Guest season began and what we thought would be a busy month, ended up being fairly quiet due to cancellations and bad weather. The main project for Mike and I was to paint all three gable ends of the Obs and the chimney stack. We reached new heights...literally! The allotment renovations were complete and a new lean-to built to provide some shelter from the elements. We improved the drainage at South Store, overhauled the tool barn and also spent time on collating various proposals for future work, including a second bathroom, new water system and benches for the general public. A second bird volunteer, Izzy Burns, joined us to aid Sophie with Manx Shearwater callbacks and to carry out early-morning Puffin patrol surveys. Sophie contributed to estate work by hand-painting new signs for the Obs and tracks. Both she and Izzy left us at the end of the month. Mike and I represented the Calf at an event hosted by His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor and Lady Lorimer at Government House. It was a real treat.



July started with a very exciting project – Motus and the first of our radio-tags deployed on our breeding Wheatears. We all received training from Lucy Mitchell, a postdoctoral researcher, ornithologist and expert Motus tagger.

July also saw another exciting development on a project that has been on the work plan for many years and one that has never quite come to fruition until this year – South Harbour Quay repairs! Both the first (12<sup>th</sup>) and second (31<sup>st</sup>) stage were completed this month with Mike and I taking delivery of tons of material beforehand (the two stages of quay repairs used approximately 12 tonnes of aggregate). Thanks to several helpers – Geoff, Oz, Shaun, Carl and Dave. We had our first trip to Kitterland to assess the Longtail situation and to carry out nest checks. Other estate jobs included finishing painting the Lighthouse window boards, strimming and flailing, overhauling the water barn, repairing the Withy boardwalk, moving stone for the Bowers (who joined us again on their holiday) and work began on painting the NLB store. More guests were cancelled due to the weather, leaving the Obs emptier than we would have liked.



An August highlight for Mike and I was assisting James, Andrew and Justin, along with the star of the show – Guy Martin, who came to the Calf to film and showcase life and the jobs we do here as part of a new TV series. We spent five days with the film team and were heavily involved both on-screen and off. Guy Martin was effectively a Warden for the few days they were here, getting stuck in with a variety of tasks we had lined up for him, from bird-watching, to flailing, to fixing the tractor brakes, to painting, to moth-trapping and to Puffin repairs. We all thoroughly enjoyed working together and grew quite close over the week. They left feeling just as captivated by the Calf as we all are. The programme will air next year and we think it will carry some important environmental messages as well as raising awareness about what we do on the Calf and the important work being carried out by MWT and MNH. Mike and I landed on the Stack for the first time to ring a Fulmar chick and we also drained the Millpond and received an aggregate delivery in preparation for sluice repairs with contractor, Rob Jones. We finished painting the Obs back wall (this means, in addition to last year's work, the whole Obs has now been painted!), the tractor barn was tidied and a new ladder rack assembled. The last of the outbuildings – the chemical store – was overhauled, more flailing took place and Mike installed wireless onto the guest side in time for the arrival of the seal volunteers. Overhauling the generator barn was a big task but was also completed. The Mylchreests, whilst on holiday with their family, repaired a broken gear cable on the Polaris and fixed a Mitsi generator starting problem.

Andrew Jacobs, a new bird volunteer, joined us all the way from Canada and I went away on annual leave. We welcomed Daisy and Duncan, our seal volunteers.





The main project completed in September was repairing the Millpond. Rob Jones custom built a new sluice gate, which Mike and I helped install. Daisy and Duncan assisted us with filling 100 sandbags for extra protection around the bank. The new installation looks very smart and it has already been tested by heavy rains! Whilst Rob was here, with his help, Mike dismantled the old (and dangerous) Observatory radio mast – another good job done. Other jobs included building a new



section of priority boardwalk at the Obs, finishing the new steps and gate by the dog leg, Middle Lighthouse cesspit repair and adding a new IBC water collection tank to the outdoor ringing shed.

At the beginning of October, we said goodbye to Aron, the Calf's longest serving warden, who is moving to pastures new. Two trips to Kitterland took place in October to assess the Longtail situation. Mike and I spent a total of 20 hours completing the painting of the ex Northern Lighthouse building. We were relieved to finish this gruelling job that had been on the job list for many years!

Mike built a Chough box and this is now in place at Jane's – providing building protection and a nesting site for a pair of Choughs. Three Manx Shearwater boxes were also made for use in 2025. Mike spent most of the season chopping wood and clearing space in the wood store, shifting a huge amount of material and providing wood for us to burn. The overhaul of this outbuilding was completed in October. Work to improve drainage around the tractor barn involved excavating an external perimeter wall ditch, inserting a slotted pipe and mortaring some of the wall. This has reduced

some water ingress but more work still needs to be done. Due to the time of year and it being so wet, this job will be carried over to next season. Mike and I completed the last of the main jobs – the tractor barn doors were repaired, rehung internally, and now close properly. We also clad the south facing wall of the Withy hide to protect it from the elements during the winter and the final round of Fixed Point Photography was completed with new posts installed. Mist nets were taken down and the Obs cleaned and closed for the end of season. Grey Seals enjoyed a successful breeding season with 98 pups been recorded in total – a new record. The seal team's use of a thermal drone was extremely successful.

The Calf 2024 team left the island on 6<sup>th</sup> November with a final debrief meeting taking place at the Manx Museum on 7<sup>th</sup> November.



# Monthly Summaries 2024

## January & February

Camera traps at the Millpond revealed four **Mallard** regularly throughout the winter. A **Grey Heron** was recorded on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

Two day-trips were made during January. Four **Turnstone**, three **Cormorant** and 75 **Shag** were the pick of 11<sup>th</sup>, while 12<sup>th</sup> saw a variety of waders: nine **Curlew**, 12 Turnstone, two **Purple Sandpiper** and a **Redshank**. A **Merlin** was sighted from the Sound as it crossed to the Calf on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A total of 22 species were recorded during January. There were no records for February.

## March

*Weather: Light easterly on 11<sup>th</sup>, swinging to moderate south-westerlies from 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. Moderate north-westerly on 14<sup>th</sup>, then light to moderate south-westerly from 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. 20<sup>th</sup> saw another light north-westerly, 21<sup>st</sup> was a moderately strong south-westerly and 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> were moderate west to north-westerlies. A moderate southerly on 25<sup>th</sup> switched to a light north-easterly on 26<sup>th</sup> before swinging back to moderate-to-strong southerlies from 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. 31<sup>st</sup> ended the month with a moderate north-easterly.*

*A very wet month, most days were dominated by rain showers or fog.*

The Millpond camera traps continued to provide records into March, with a drake **Teal** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a Grey Heron on 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>.

The season started on 11<sup>th</sup> – the crossing produced four **Eider** at Cletts and a **Black Guillemot**. Shortly after arriving, five **Canada Geese** were seen from South Harbour (the 17<sup>th</sup> Calf record). The day was devoted to unpacking and cleaning but a **Kestrel** and a **Great Tit** were sighted. Five Curlew and three **Snipe** were present on 12<sup>th</sup>, while two **Kittiwake** and 49 Razorbill were offshore. A Merlin was hunting and two **Skylark** hunkered down. Five Chiffchaff, 18 Goldcrest, 22 **Starling**, four **Song Thrush** and eight **Redwing** were around the Observatory, and two **Duncock** and a **Reed Bunting** were at the Withies. Thick fog pervaded on 13<sup>th</sup>, with two Turnstone and 12 Purple Sandpiper at Cow Harbour being the only birds of note. The first **Wheatear**

made an appearance on 14<sup>th</sup>; although star bird went to a **Firecrest** feeding at the Triangle.

On 15<sup>th</sup>, 800 Herring Gull were counted in the colonies, and 54 Fulmar and 75 Gannet were out at sea. A **Peregrine** was hunting and numbers of Chiffchaff, Goldcrest and thrushes remained low. Two **Greylag Goose** circled Caigher on 16<sup>th</sup>, while four Shelduck were on Rarick and Eider numbers climbed to 18. A **Woodpigeon** and a Grey Heron were sighted, and waders included seven Curlew, a Purple Sandpiper and a Snipe. A small movement of short-distance migrants occurred: two **Magpie**, one **Jackdaw**, a **Blue Tit** and three Great Tit. A **Fieldfare** and a **House Sparrow** were around the Observatory as well as a retrap Dunnock – confirming that this species overwintered. Flyovers included a **Grey Wagtail**, the first **Linnet** of the year and five **Siskin**. Waders were the main feature of 17<sup>th</sup>, including a **Whimbrel** on Caigher, 11 Turnstone and a Snipe. 18<sup>th</sup> held more variety: a Woodpigeon, two Black Guillemot, two Cormorant and a Grey Heron. Two Jackdaw and a Skylark flew over, while 10 Goldcrest, 47 Starling, a Redwing and two Fieldfare were at the Observatory. A Grey Wagtail called and 41 Rock Pipit were around the coast.

Seawatching on 19<sup>th</sup> produced the first **Common Scoter** (1N) and **Manx Shearwater** (4S & 1N) of the year. Elsewhere, a **Golden Plover**, a ringtail **Hen Harrier** and a **Greenfinch** were recorded. Two **Sparrowhawk** arrived on 20<sup>th</sup> and a **Dunlin** was spied with four Purple Sandpiper near South Harbour. Goldcrests reached 55, and other migrants included two Chiffchaff, 35 Starling, three Wheatear (including a singing male) and a Greenfinch. Wind and rain stopped much moving on 21<sup>st</sup>, and continued over the next few days. A Sparrowhawk, a Hen Harrier and a Merlin were hunting on 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Snipe was flushed on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a Firecrest was seen at the Withy, where it remained until 27<sup>th</sup>. On 24<sup>th</sup>, a Turnstone and two Purple Sandpiper were on Burroo Neck, while five Great Tit, 37 Starling and a **Lesser Redpoll** were at the Observatory; being joined by eight Chiffchaff, a male **Blackcap** and 31 Goldcrest on 25<sup>th</sup>. Two Greylag Goose flew over on 26<sup>th</sup>, with duck numbers increasing to five Shelduck and 27 Eider. A Woodpigeon was in the Glen, while 49 Oystercatcher, 12 Curlew and a Turnstone were at Cow Harbour – with a Snipe being flushed elsewhere. Records around the Observatory included a Jackdaw, a **Rook**, a **Willow Warbler**, 11 Chiffchaff and 73 Goldcrest. Full-island coverage enabled good counts of 34 Wren, 51 Starling,



12 Wheatear and 358 Meadow Pipit. Finches also increased in number, including 20 Chaffinch, three **Twite** at Kione ny Halby, 31 Linnet, 29 Goldfinch and 18 Siskin.

Four Black Guillemot, 109 Gannet and two Merlin were present on 27<sup>th</sup>. Migrant numbers were low, although two Song Thrush, two Fieldfare and 18 Wheatear were counted. A Redshank flew into the Puddle on 28<sup>th</sup> and the first **Sand Martin** of the year was sighted – as were 23 Redwing and a Grey Wagtail. A single Greylag Goose was seen on 29<sup>th</sup>, Oystercatchers reached 56 at Cow Harbour high-tide roost, while raptor counts included a Sparrowhawk, a Kestrel and a Merlin. 23 Goldcrest, 43 Starling and 3 Redwing were in the Glen, while 15 Stonechat, 24 Wheatear, five Siskin and four Reed Bunting were scattered around the island. 30<sup>th</sup> saw 58 Kittiwake, 20 Manx Shearwater and six Cormorant. Buzzards increased to five, while warbler numbers included 12 Willow Warbler, and 10 Chiffchaff, along with 14 Goldcrest. 31<sup>st</sup> finished the month with a high of 35 Eider. A Woodpigeon was joined by two **Collared Dove**, a **Woodcock** was flushed from the Lighthouses and 221 Razorbill were counted around the coast. A female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was attracted to the peanut feeder – the first ever March record. Three Sand Martin, a **Swallow** and five **House Martin** flew over, while 40 Willow Warbler, 22 Chiffchaff, eight Blackcap and 29 Goldcrest were around the Observatory. Further to this, 22 Wheatear, 11 Pied Wagtail, 64 Linnet and eight Siskin were counted.

A total of 81 species were recorded during the month.

## **April**

*Weather: 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> saw light northerlies, before swinging round to moderately-strong southerlies from 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. A light southerly on 8<sup>th</sup> soon gave way to a strong north-westerly on 9<sup>th</sup>. A south-easterly on 10<sup>th</sup> settled into moderate south-westerlies from 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> and a strong north-westerly on 16<sup>th</sup> gradually dropped off until a light westerly on 18<sup>th</sup>. A moderate north-westerly on 19<sup>th</sup> saw things settle into light winds from the northerly quadrant from 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, becoming calm on 28<sup>th</sup>. 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> picked up again, with moderate to strong southerly winds.*

*A rather cold, windy, and very wet month, with a lot of fog.*

1<sup>st</sup> saw six Shelduck and six Mallard, with two Collared Dove at the Observatory and a Snipe in the Glen. A ringtail Hen Harrier and two Merlin were seen, and the female Great Spotted Woodpecker remained until 17<sup>th</sup>. A Skylark and 21 Starling were recorded, a single Redwing was joined by a male **Ring Ouzel** and a Greenfinch was in the back garden. The first Manx Shearwater on land were sighted on 2<sup>nd</sup>, when Eider numbers reached 40 and a **Water Rail** was heard calling at the Withies. 147 Razorbill and two Black Guillemot were offshore, and a Sparrowhawk and five Buzzard joined the raptor totals. Four Jackdaw flew over on 2<sup>nd</sup> and thrushes included a Fieldfare and another Ring Ouzel. A Dunnock was joined by an increase in finches: nine Chaffinch, 40 Linnet, a Lesser Redpoll, 38 Goldfinch and two Siskin. A Snipe and seven Redwing were the pick of 3<sup>rd</sup>, with two Greylag flying south on 4<sup>th</sup>. Waders included 41 Oystercatcher, a Golden Plover and two Curlew. A passage of corvids was noted, including five Magpie, three Rook, four Carrion Crow, 22 Hooded Crow and seven 'hybrid' crows. A Swallow was seen and warbler numbers stood at six Willow Warbler, three Chiffchaff, a Blackcap and 16 Goldcrest. A **Mistle Thrush** appeared and other notable counts were 20 Stonechat and 18 Pied Wagtail, and a Twite at Eider Gully. Males and females of both Sparrowhawk and Merlin were present on 5<sup>th</sup>. Two Sand Martin and a House Martin were sighted and the Twite moved to South Harbour.

Sixteen Turnstone and five Purple Sandpiper were at Cow overnight on 6<sup>th</sup>, while during the day a Redwing and a Fieldfare were joined by a male Ring Ouzel, and a **Tree Pipit** flew over (the 2<sup>nd</sup> earliest Calf record). Strong winds on 7<sup>th</sup> produced most counts from seawatching: 11 Common Scoter, seven Black Guillemot, 78 Fulmar, 95 Manx Shearwater and 254 Gannet. Six Greylag Goose were unusual on 8<sup>th</sup> in that they landed in the Front Field, while counts at all gull colonies revealed 171 Lesser Black-backed Gull. A Kestrel, Peregrine and three Magpie were seen, along with three Great Tit, nine Swallow, 16 Willow Warbler and five Blackcap. Wheatear increased to 31, two Dunnock were sighted and finches included 72 Linnet, three Lesser Redpoll and four Siskin. Despite torrential rain on 9<sup>th</sup>, seawatching produced some star birds.

Cow – Common Scoter 20, Golden Plover 25W, Kittiwake 95, **Sandwich Tern 1S**, Black Guillemot 12, **Great Northern Diver 2W** (3<sup>rd</sup> April record), Fulmar 323, Manx Shearwater 13, Gannet 303

Culbery – **Tufted Duck 2N** (19<sup>th</sup> Calf record), Common Scoter 8S, Golden Plover 4N, Black Guillemot 1N, Manx Shearwater 2S & 5N.

Additionally, 56 Oystercatcher and six Turnstone were sighted, and a **Common Gull** was on the Dub. One each of Magpie, Sand Martin and House Martin were counted. 10<sup>th</sup> was quiet with a Purple Sandpiper, a ringtail Hen Harrier, and a Song Thrush being the only birds of note. A **Feral Pigeon** was seen on 11<sup>th</sup> and warbler numbers finally saw a slight increase: 28 Willow Warbler, nine Chiffchaff and two Blackcap. Good coverage produced counts of 20 Wren, four Starling, 20 Stonechat and 155 Meadow Pipit. A Lesser Redpoll and 36 Goldfinch were joined by three Siskin. Numbers remained similar on 12<sup>th</sup>, with a Curlew joining the mix. On 13<sup>th</sup>, a Black-headed Gull and a Common Gull were at Cow Harbour, where 11 Black Guillemot and 49 Manx Shearwater were offshore. Raptors included singles of Sparrowhawk, Hen Harrier, Kestrel and Peregrine. Despite the thick fog, the first real push of warblers came through: 118 Willow Warbler, nine Chiffchaff, two **Sedge Warbler**, a **Grasshopper Warbler** and 16 Blackcap. A Curlew, a Magpie and 31 Chough were present on 14<sup>th</sup>, and 11 Swallow and two House Martin passed through. Warbler numbers stood at 56 Willow Warbler, 12 Chiffchaff, a Grasshopper Warbler, and 65 Blackcap (the highest Calf day-count for this species). Seawatching from Cow Harbour and Culbery on 15<sup>th</sup> revealed nine Common Scoter, four Golden Plover, 697 Kittiwake, 448 Auk sp., 232 Fulmar, 56 Manx Shearwater and 596 Gannet. A female Teal flew past, while eight Turnstone joined 53 Oystercatcher. A Buzzard was displaying at Big Head and a Ring Ouzel called from above the Tractor Barn.



*Three Canada Geese at the Dub, captured by camera trap.*

On 16<sup>th</sup>, three Canada Goose were on the Dub overnight, Eider numbered 32, and a Snipe was seen. A Common Gull was feeding around Cow, where a **Little Egret** flew in to land on the rocks. 20 Starling and the first White Wagtail of the year were present, and 53 Goldfinch and a Siskin were seen. Five male Pheasant were calling on 17<sup>th</sup>, a Woodpigeon was at the Observatory and a Whimbrel was at South Harbour. Four Sand Martin, eight Swallow and a House Martin passed over, while 20 Willow Warbler, five Blackcap and three Goldcrest were present. Around the island, 23 Stonechat and 109 Linnet were counted. 18 Greylag Goose flew south past Leodan on 18<sup>th</sup>, when a Water Rail was calling at the Withy and singles of Woodpigeon and Collared Dove were at the Observatory. Golden Plover and Whimbrel flew over, while the **Great Skua** made its first appearance over Central Heath. A Mistle Thrush, a female Ring Ouzel and a Redwing were seen, three Tree Pipit called, and Goldfinch increased to 77. 19<sup>th</sup> saw 52 Eider and more variety of waders: two Turnstone, two Snipe and a **Common Sandpiper**. Other sightings include four Sand Martin, four House Martin, 27 Wheatear, a White Wagtail, 118 Linnet and three Siskin. 20<sup>th</sup> saw the first calm spell in days and everything took the advantage to pass through. Singles of Golden Plover and **Grey Plover** flew over the Glen, and two Common Sandpiper were at Gibdale. Nine Rook and three Great Tit were seen, while four Sand Martin and 25 Swallow were present. A rush of warblers included 65 Willow Warbler, a Sedge Warbler, a Grasshopper Warbler and 28 Blackcap. Finches also passed through in numbers: 149 Linnet, seven Lesser Redpoll, 54 Goldfinch and seven Siskin.

A Water Rail called on 21<sup>st</sup> and 45 Common Scoter flew south – the largest spring day-total. Eight Whimbrel and a Curlew were joined by two Purple Sandpiper and a Snipe, the Great Skua was marauding, and a **Red-throated Diver** and a Little Egret flew past the Lighthouses. At the Observatory, a Magpie, a Blue Tit and two Sand Martin were present. Warblers decreased in number, with 35 Willow Warbler, eight Chiffchaff, 16 Blackcap, a **Whitethroat** and two Goldcrest. In the fields, a Starling, a male **Whinchat**, 65 Wheatear and a White Wagtail were present. On 22<sup>nd</sup>, two Greylag Goose flew over and a **Swift** flew in off the sea. A **Cuckoo** and a Collared Dove were at the Observatory, where the Great Tit pair were seen carrying nest material. Hirundines numbered eight Sand Martin, 20 Swallow and three House Martin. A Water Rail, a Golden Plover and a Whimbrel were heard calling on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Most species were low in number, but with some nice variety:

a Kestrel, two Rook, a Sedge Warbler, a Grasshopper Warbler, a Firecrest, and a male **Black Redstart**. Conversely, finch numbers were high with 116 Linnet, nine Lesser Redpoll, 74 Goldfinch, and a Siskin. 15 Greylag Goose flew towards the Lighthouses on 24<sup>th</sup>, and waders included five Whimbrel, six Turnstone and a Purple Sandpiper. A Sparrowhawk, a Hen Harrier and a Merlin were seen, while a female House Sparrow and a Dunnock were at the Observatory. Three Shelduck and 80 Eider were counted on 25<sup>th</sup>, with four Black Guillemot and three Cormorant out at sea. Migrants included three Rook, 34 Swallow, three House Martin, 43 Wheatear and a Greenfinch.

Six more Greylag flew over on 26<sup>th</sup>, with 40 Purple Sandpiper in the Lighthouse Cave. Three Peregrine put in an appearance, along with four Jackdaw, nine Rook and 26 Swallow. 30 Willow Warbler, a Sedge Warbler and two Grasshopper Warbler were joined by a **Garden Warbler** and two Whitethroat. A Whinchat, 63 Wheatear and two Tree Pipit were also recorded. Additionally, four Lesser Redpoll, 62 Goldfinch and three Reed Bunting were seen. The first brood of Mallard ducklings were at Cow Harbour on 27<sup>th</sup>, with 95 Eider and six Common Scoter sighted. A Whimbrel, two Turnstone, 14 Purple Sandpiper (on Chicken Rock) and a Common Sandpiper were recorded. A Rook flew over, while 21 Swallow were joined by a House Martin, and a female **Redstart** was seen. On 28<sup>th</sup>, a second Mallard brood was at the Millpond and a month high of 110 Eider was counted. A Cuckoo and a Woodpigeon were at the Observatory, while seven Whimbrel, two Common Sandpiper and a Redshank were sighted. Full-island coverage resulted in large seabird counts with 769 Herring Gull and 169 Lesser Black-backed Gull in the colonies, and a Sandwich Tern went through the Sound. The Great Skua was present and offshore were 161 Guillemot, 353 Razorbill, five Black Guillemot and seven Cormorant. A Grey Heron and a Sparrowhawk were seen, and a Great Spotted Woodpecker was, bizarrely, at Fold Point. A Magpie was at the Observatory, eight Rook flew over, and a **Lesser Whitethroat** and a Song Thrush were recorded. Poor weather resulted in the month ending quietly, with 62 Oystercatcher and 14 Manx Shearwater being the pick of 29<sup>th</sup>, and a Cuckoo and a **Spotted Flycatcher** on 30<sup>th</sup>.

A total of 104 species were recorded during the month, 10 more than the previous April record.

## May

*Weather: The month had a calm start with winds mostly from the south. On 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> were light to moderate northerlies, before swinging back round to light southerlies from 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> were light northerlies and 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> saw moderate easterlies. 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> were calm, while 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> was dominated by moderate north-westerlies (strong winds from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>). On 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> were light south-easterlies, with moderate south-westerlies from 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> ending the month with moderate-strong north westerlies.*

*Some brighter days and sunshine but still a wet month with frequent spells of precipitation.*

A Water Rail on 1<sup>st</sup> was the start of near-daily records throughout the month. A Swift and a Woodpigeon were sighted, 15 Whimbrel were with a Curlew, and two Black-headed Gull flew up the Glen. A Sparrowhawk joined five Buzzard and a Kestrel, with a Magpie, a Jackdaw and three Rook also being seen. Hirundines numbered three Sand Martin, 37 Swallow and two House Martin, while warblers included 66 Willow Warbler, nine Chiffchaff, a **Reed Warbler**, a Garden Warbler and two Lesser Whitethroat. Adding to the mix were a male Redstart and three Tree Pipit. On 2<sup>nd</sup>, Swift increased to two, a Dunlin was at Cow Harbour and the Great Skua was seen (the first of 25 sightings throughout the month). Two Rook, 32 Swallow and three House Martin were seen, and warbler numbers remained high with 61 Willow Warbler, ten Sedge Warbler, a (different) Reed Warbler, 15 Blackcap, a Garden Warbler and eight Whitethroat. Two Starling and 76 Wheatear were present, while a **Tree Sparrow** joined a pair of House Sparrow. Other good counts included two Dunnock, 161 Meadow Pipit, 16 Lesser Redpoll and 43 Goldfinch. 84 Eider were present on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17 Whimbrel were on Caigher, five Black Guillemot were sighted and the first **Puffin** was seen off South Harbour. Warbler numbers decreased but 12 Sedge Warbler and a Reed Warbler were counted, and sparrow numbers increased to four Tree Sparrow and five House Sparrow. A White Wagtail, three Tree Pipit, and six Siskin were also recorded. Two Golden Plover were the only birds of note on 4<sup>th</sup>, but a boat trip on 5<sup>th</sup> enabled a count of 140 Eider. A Cuckoo and two Woodpigeon were sighted, two Water Rail were calling at the Withies and 23 Whimbrel were seen – the second highest spring count.



The boat trip revealed two Dunlin and two Purple Sandpiper, a Black-headed Gull, 109 Razorbill and nine Black Guillemot, and finished with a Great Northern Diver crossing the Sound. A **Short-eared Owl** was in the Glen, and migrant numbers increased again with a Sand Martin, 37 Swallow, 41 Willow Warbler, 18 Chiffchaff, 23 Sedge Warbler, a Grasshopper Warbler, a Lesser Whitethroat and 14 Whitethroat. Further counts included four Goldcrest, a Starling, a Spotted Flycatcher and four Tree Pipit.

A **Wood Warbler** was the star bird of 6<sup>th</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup> saw a Cuckoo, six Purple Sandpiper, a Puffin and a Hen Harrier. Higher counts included 58 Wheatear and 10 Lesser Redpoll. On 8<sup>th</sup>, two Shelduck and two Collared Dove were counted, and a pair of Water Rail acted as though feeding young. Singles of Redshank and Puffin were seen. A **Bittern** boomed through the fog (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Calf record) and a **Woodlark** called as it flew over (the 7<sup>th</sup> Calf record). Commoner migrants included 23 Swallow and seven Spotted Flycatcher. The Water Rail pair were seen with eight chicks on 9<sup>th</sup> – the first breeding record since 1994. A Golden Plover, Sandwich Tern and Merlin were also sighted. Two Jackdaw and two Rook flew over, Sedge Warbler numbered 10 and two Reed Bunting were present. Two Greylag Goose flew over on 10<sup>th</sup>, and a Black-headed Gull flew up the Glen. 116 Guillemot were counted, and raptors included a **Red Kite**, a Kestrel and a Peregrine. Corvids included six Carrion Crow and 28 Hooded Crow, while three Sand Martin, 17 Swallow and six House Martin made up the hirundines. Warbler numbers remained low but finches increased: 51 Linnet, 42 Lesser Redpoll and 46 Goldfinch. On 11<sup>th</sup>, eight Greylag Goose flew over, a Grey Heron was present and the first **Osprey** of the year was sighted. Two Peregrine, 25 Jackdaw and four Rook were counted, and a House Sparrow was at the Observatory.

A Feral Pigeon and a Collared Dove were present on 12<sup>th</sup>, along with three Cormorant and the Red Kite. High counts of 76 Eider and 43 Oystercatcher were made on 13<sup>th</sup>, with a Garden Warbler, three Spotted Flycatcher and 18 Lesser Redpoll around the Observatory. A Cuckoo and a Garden Warbler were present on 14<sup>th</sup>, and counts increased on 15<sup>th</sup> with three Shelduck, 75 Eider, 137 Lesser Black-backed Gull and 36 Fulmar recorded. At the Observatory, seven House Martin and a White Wagtail were joined by a **Nightingale** – the first record since 2019. On 16<sup>th</sup>, the Rarick Shelduck pair were seen with 10 newly-hatched ducklings. A Whimbrel, a Common Sandpiper and a Magpie were seen, and 26 Jackdaw, eight Rook and three

House Martin were counted. 11 Sedge Warbler, three Reed Warbler and eight Whitethroat were also recorded, along with three Starling, two Siskin and two Reed Bunting. A Cuckoo and a Woodpigeon were seen on 17<sup>th</sup>.

Further sightings included a Garden Warbler, a Grey Wagtail and 17 Lesser Redpoll. Thick fog on 18<sup>th</sup> resulted in a **Ringed Plover** being the only bird of note. On 19<sup>th</sup>, the weather improved and a **Stock Dove** was in the Glen, four Purple Sandpiper were on Chicken Rock and a Black-headed Gull flew past South Harbour. At sea, counts of two Puffin and seven Cormorant were made, while inland sightings included 10 Jackdaw, four Rook, 24 Swallow and seven Goldcrest. Birds of prey started on 20<sup>th</sup>: two Red Kite, five Buzzard and a Short-eared Owl. A Magpie, 11 Jackdaw and four House Martin were also recorded. Singles of Woodpigeon and Collared Dove were present on 21<sup>st</sup>, with three Purple Sandpiper on Chicken Rock. Hirundines numbered 23 Swallow and 10 House Martin, and warbler numbers remained low. Other counts included three Spotted Flycatcher, 19 Stonechat and 20 Rock Pipit.

Seabird counts were high on 22<sup>nd</sup>, including 145 Great Black-backed Gull, 95 Lesser Black-backed Gull and 232 Shag. Additionally, an Osprey flew past the East Coast. Strong winds and rain put pay to much activity on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and on 24<sup>th</sup> a Peregrine and 32 Wheatear were the highlights. On 25<sup>th</sup>, three Shelduck, a Swift and two Feral Pigeon were sighted, and a **Greenshank** was heard calling over the Withy. Raptors included six Buzzard, a Kestrel and a Peregrine, while corvids numbered one Magpie, 36 Chough and 10 Jackdaw. The Great Tit pair fledged five young, and two Sand Martin, 73 Swallow and 17 House Martin were counted. Eight Whitethroat and seven Spotted Flycatcher were seen, a female **Brambling** was around the Observatory and a male **Common Rosefinch** was trapped. 60 Eider were counted on 26<sup>th</sup>, along with one Cuckoo, a Feral Pigeon and two Woodpigeon. Waders included 50 Oystercatcher, a Golden Plover and a Whimbrel. High seabird counts included 774 Herring Gull, 131 Guillemot, 259 Razorbill and 501 Auk sp. A Sparrowhawk and a Hen Harrier joined the usual raptors, and 37 Swallow, a Goldcrest and the first two juvenile Starling were recorded. Furthermore, eight Spotted Flycatcher, a Grey Wagtail and three Reed Bunting were seen.

A Kestrel and six Spotted Flycatcher were sighted on 27<sup>th</sup>, and a Common Rosefinch was singing at the Observatory. On 28<sup>th</sup>, two Swift, 48 Oystercatcher and a Short-eared Owl were seen. Also recorded were 35

Swallow, two House Martin and 41 Wheatear. A Woodpigeon and a Curlew were present on 29<sup>th</sup>, along with 149 Guillemot, four Puffin, 186 Manx Shearwater and 225 Shag. 22 Chough, three Jackdaw and four Sand Martin were counted, while a Song Thrush, a Spotted Flycatcher and a Dunnock were at the Observatory. A Swift, 72 Manx Shearwater and five Cormorant were the highlights of 30<sup>th</sup>. Six Shelduck were on Rarick on 31<sup>st</sup>, and an **Arctic Skua** flew past South Harbour. To finish, three Chiffchaff, two Whitethroat and three Siskin were in the Glen.

A total of 100 species were recorded during the month.

## **June**

*Weather: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> saw moderate northerlies, with a stronger south-westerly on 4<sup>th</sup> and moderate westerlies on 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> were decreasing north-westerlies, followed by a strong southerly on 13<sup>th</sup> and light south-westerlies on 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, while 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> saw another north-west spell, 20<sup>th</sup> was calm and 21<sup>st</sup> a strong southerly. Wind direction varied from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, before settling into a north-westerly for the remainder of the month.*

*A warm and muggy month, with admixed spells of sun and rain.*

June started with a month high of five Shelduck. Water Rail, low numbers of Curlew and the Great Skua were recorded near-daily throughout the month. 1<sup>st</sup> also saw a Peregrine, one Magpie, a Jackdaw and seven Raven. Hirundines numbered 22 Swallow and 11 House Martin, and warbler numbers were low. Two Spotted Flycatcher, two Dunnock and nine Lesser Redpoll were also recorded. Five Mallard and 37 Eider were the start of the decrease in duck numbers, while six Black Guillemot, six Cormorant and 311 Shag were seen on the sea. A Kestrel joined high corvid numbers of 21 Chough and 25 Hooded Crow. A Canada Goose flew over the Observatory on 3<sup>rd</sup>, where a Garden warbler, four Spotted Flycatcher and a Greenfinch were also present. A Swift flew over on 4<sup>th</sup>, two **Lapwing** were in the Seafield and the first Pied Wagtail juveniles fledged. 5<sup>th</sup> saw good seabird counts: 172 Guillemot, 87 Razorbill, a Puffin, 61 Fulmar and 162 Manx Shearwater. Also recorded were 38 Wheatear and 22 Rock Pipit, with a Collared Dove (present to 10<sup>th</sup>), a Sand Martin and seven House Martin seen on 6<sup>th</sup>. High gull counts on 7<sup>th</sup> included 512 Herring Gull and 78 Lesser Black-backed Gull, with a Hen Harrier also being seen. 8<sup>th</sup> saw 25 Eider, 197 Guillemot, 79 Gannet, 57 Wheatear and 153 Linnet.

Two Puffin and 369 Shag were counted on 9<sup>th</sup>, with singles of Grey Heron, Kestrel and Peregrine. On 10<sup>th</sup>, two Feral Pigeon and a Woodpigeon fed in the back garden and the resident pair of Great Tit were joined by a third adult. A Blackcap and a Starling were present on 11<sup>th</sup>, along with 21 Goldfinch and a Siskin. A round-island trip on 12<sup>th</sup> produced counts of one Lapwing, 453 Razorbill, eight Cormorant and a Magpie. On 13<sup>th</sup>, 427 Guillemot and three Puffin flew past South Harbour and a Short-eared Owl was seen, while 14<sup>th</sup> saw two Starling and 54 Wheatear. A surprise **Barnacle Goose** was feeding at Cow Harbour gull colony on 15<sup>th</sup> (the first June record), with 12 Eider also recorded. Four juvenile Water Rail were seen, with 84 Kittiwake, five Puffin and 268 Manx Shearwater being counted. Two Jackdaw, a Song Thrush and three Grey Wagtail were the pick of the migrants. Two Woodpigeon and a Collared Dove were seen on 16<sup>th</sup>, with a Lapwing being recorded and an overnight session resulted in the first three **Storm Petrel** of the year. Things were fairly quiet over the next few days, with three Greylag Goose (17<sup>th</sup>), eight Puffin (18<sup>th</sup>) and six Woodpigeon and a Short-eared Owl (19<sup>th</sup>) being the highlights. On 20<sup>th</sup>, a drake **Red-breasted Merganser** flew east past South Harbour. Also of note were 333 Guillemot, four Grey Heron and 18 Starling.



The Barnacle Goose reappeared after a week's absence on 21<sup>st</sup>, remaining up to 25<sup>th</sup>. Oystercatcher numbered 57 and a Sparrowhawk and a Lesser Redpoll were sighted. 22<sup>nd</sup> saw the last summer Shelduck (a pair), 18 Eider, three Common Scoter past South Harbour, and a **Green Sandpiper** called as it flew over the Observatory. High

seabird counts included 308 Kittiwake, 164 Razorbill and 96 Fulmar, with singles of Grey Heron, Hen Harrier, Peregrine and Magpie. Good coverage produced counts of 21 Stonechat, 54 Wheatear, three Grey Wagtail, 23 Goldfinch and a Reed Bunting. A Redshank was at the Puddle on 23<sup>rd</sup>, with 272 Kittiwake on Burroo and nine Puffin seen around the coast. Fog

descended over the next couple of days, with two Grey Heron and a Magpie on 25<sup>th</sup> being the only birds of note. A Swift, 15 Curlew and a Snipe were seen on 26<sup>th</sup>. A Skylark was singing at the Observatory, where 22 Starling, a House Sparrow and a Grey Wagtail were also present. The next two days were devoted to seawatching from South Harbour:

27<sup>th</sup> – Kittiwake 111W, Guillemot 422W, Razorbill 19W, Puffin 13W, Fulmar 7W, Manx Shearwater 113W.

28<sup>th</sup> – Eider 1W, Kittiwake 79W, Guillemot 245W, Razorbill 30W, Puffin 25W, Manx Shearwater 284W, Gannet 52W.

29<sup>th</sup> saw two Mallard broods (on the Millpond), six Black Guillemot, a Short-eared Owl and a Song Thrush, whilst 30<sup>th</sup> ended the month with good counts of 76 Oystercatcher (2<sup>nd</sup> highest ever count), four Common Sandpiper, 74 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 551 Shag and 48 Chough. Also recorded were 31 Wren, 158 Meadow Pipit, 41 Rock Pipit and 179 Linnet.

A total of 81 species were recorded during the month.

## **July**

*Weather: The month began with moderate winds from the westerly quadrant from 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> were light-moderate south-easterlies, then moderate and decreasing northerlies from 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. A light southerly on 15<sup>th</sup> was interrupted by a strong north-westerly on 16<sup>th</sup>, before swinging back to strong-to-moderate south-westerlies from 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. Wind direction was highly variable for the rest of the month, but wind strength remained light to moderate.*

*Often overcast but with less precipitation and more sun, becoming hot towards the end of the month.*

Four Common Sandpiper, the Great Skua and five Puffin on 1<sup>st</sup> were a promising start to the month, with westerly winds allowing for seawatching.

2<sup>nd</sup> (Culbery) – Sandwich Tern 1N, Kittiwake 271S & 97N, Common Gull 1N, Puffin 4S & 9N, Razorbill 10S & 299N, Guillemot 165S & 292N, Auk sp. 261S & 53N, Manx Shearwater 48S & 342N, Gannet 13S & 55N.

4<sup>th</sup> (South Harbour) – Black-headed Gull 1W, Puffin 16W, Black Guillemot 1W, Razorbill 32W, Auk sp. 250E, Guillemot 399W, Fulmar 7W, Manx Shearwater 95W, Cormorant 1W.

350 Shag were counted on 2<sup>nd</sup>, along with a Grey Heron, a Hen Harrier and a juvenile Blackcap. Six Starling, five Grey Wagtail and two Reed Bunting were also present. A Redshank was the pick of 3<sup>rd</sup>, while 4<sup>th</sup> had another Common Sandpiper. A new brood of Water Rail appeared on 5<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile Mistle Thrush was around the Observatory from 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. A small increase in migrants on 7<sup>th</sup> saw three Willow Warbler, four Blackcap, four Song Thrush and seven Grey Wagtail. A Snipe, five Common Sandpiper and a Skylark were seen on 8<sup>th</sup>, with eight Storm Petrel and 62 Manx Shearwater recorded overnight. 9<sup>th</sup> saw a Swift and a Woodpigeon, with 121 Meadow Pipit and 76 Linnet counted. Two more Swift flew past on 10<sup>th</sup>, with Curlews increasing (16), 13 Black-headed Gull moving through the Sound, and the Short-eared Owl put in another appearance.

A Kestrel, 30 Chough and five Raven were present on 11<sup>th</sup>. Three Lapwing and 10 Curlew were counted on 12<sup>th</sup>, along with seven Buzzard, two Sand Martin and 12 Swallow. Warbler numbers remained low but 24 Goldfinch and a Reed Bunting were seen. A Swift, 57 Oystercatcher and a Common Sandpiper were seen on 13<sup>th</sup>, with two Sandwich Tern flying through the Sound. A Hen Harrier and Magpie were recorded, as well as three Lesser Redpoll and two Siskin. A juvenile Cuckoo was trapped on 14<sup>th</sup>, (present to 16<sup>th</sup>), while four Puffin, 173 Guillemot and 34 Fulmar were counted offshore. Overnight saw seven Storm Petrel and 169 Manx Shearwater, while further counts included two Grey Wagtail and 20 Rock Pipit. Swift peaked (4) on 15<sup>th</sup>, with other good counts including 42 Chough, a White Wagtail, 87 Linnet and 40 Goldfinch.

A Swift and a Feral Pigeon were fly-bys on 16<sup>th</sup>, when waders included 60 Oystercatcher, 23 Curlew and a Common Sandpiper. Some good seabird counts were 112 Kittiwake, 10 Black-headed Gull, eight Puffin, 149 Guillemot, 133 Gannet and 236 Shag. 18 Wheatear, two Dunnock and 128 Linnet were also sighted. Two Swift and a Cuckoo joined three Common Sandpiper and three Black-headed Gull on 17<sup>th</sup>. An autumn Sparrowhawk and Sedge Warbler were seen. On 18<sup>th</sup>, a female Mallard was at the Dub, 69 Oystercatcher were at Cow Harbour and 39 Curlew were in the Front Field. 513 Herring Gull were counted on 19<sup>th</sup>, along with a Kestrel, a Magpie and 17 Swallow. Similar numbers were present on 20<sup>th</sup>, with the addition of 19 Black-headed Gull and 39 Goldfinch. On 21<sup>st</sup>, a Redshank was at the Puddle, and nine Black Guillemot and a Grey Heron were seen. Island coverage

produced counts of one Whitethroat, 29 Stonechat, 22 Wheatear, a Dunnock and three Grey Wagtail. A female Eider and a Swift were sighted on 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a further two Sandwich Tern passing through the Sound and five Black-headed Gull in the Front Field. Shag numbers reached 451, a single House Martin joined 14 Swallow and Goldfinch rose to 54.

Small movements on 23<sup>rd</sup> included a Woodpigeon, nine Willow Warbler, three Sedge Warbler, two Blackcap, four Grey Wagtail and six White Wagtail. Two Whimbrel, a Common Sandpiper and a Turnstone were at Cow Harbour on 24<sup>th</sup>, while overnight counts included 15 Storm Petrel and 355 Manx Shearwater. A Cuckoo, 68 Oystercatcher and 322 Kittiwake were recorded on 25<sup>th</sup>, along with a Skylark, seven Sedge Warbler and 24 Wheatear. Most counts came from seawatching at Culberty on 26<sup>th</sup>: Puffin 6S & 17N, Razorbill 6N, Auk sp. 81S & 22N, Guillemot 25S & 25N, Manx Shearwater 360S & 14N, and Gannet 42S & 93N. The last summer Eider was on 27<sup>th</sup>, with three Kestrel and 30 Swallow also seen. Also recorded were 15 Pied Wagtail, 174 Linnet, 51 Goldfinch and two Siskin. Another Cuckoo appeared on 28<sup>th</sup> and overnight were a Common Sandpiper, five Redshank and a Dunlin. On 29<sup>th</sup>, 535 Shag, two Sparrowhawk and 189 Linnet were counted. A Swift, a Woodpigeon and a Collared Dove were present on 30<sup>th</sup>, as was the long-staying Great Skua. Four Kestrel were joined by a Peregrine, and 34 Swallow, six House Martin and 11 Willow Warbler were sighted. Three Lapwing and two Whimbrel appeared on 31<sup>st</sup>, with 72 Lesser Black-backed Gull counted. A Short-eared Owl was seen and 129 Swallow, four House Martin and 26 Willow Warbler were recorded. The first autumn House Sparrow (2) and Tree Pipit (1) finished off the month.

A total of 81 species were recorded during the month.

## **August**

*Weather: 1<sup>st</sup> was light north-west, then settled into a spell of moderate south to westerly winds 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. A light north-easterly on 11<sup>th</sup> was a short break before 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> swung back a strong southerly. 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> saw moderate westerlies, with a strong southerly on 19<sup>th</sup> and then strong winds from the westerly quadrant from 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup> was finally calm, with a light north-easterly on 31<sup>st</sup>.*

*Generally overcast with sunny spells, the latter half of the month was dominated by storms.*

A Water Rail, 20 Curlew and a Common Sandpiper were present on 1<sup>st</sup>. 570 Shag were counted, and 11 Storm Petrel and 86 Manx Shearwater were recorded overnight. Two Sparrowhawk and a Hen Harrier joined a Peregrine, whilst migrants included 27 Swallow, 12 Willow Warbler, two Sedge Warbler and two Whitethroat. A Cuckoo at Fold Point was the highlight of 2<sup>nd</sup>, with a Whimbrel, five Kestrel and a Magpie on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also present were two Blackcap, a House Sparrow, 11 Pied Wagtail and 134 Linnet. The pick of the next couple of days were a Lapwing on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18 Turnstone on 5<sup>th</sup>. Dire weather on 6<sup>th</sup> meant that the only notable records came from seawatching.

6<sup>th</sup> – Common Scoter 1N, Sandwich Tern 1S & 2N, Kittiwake 224S & 322N, Black Guillemot 1S & 1N, Fulmar 34S & 25N, Manx Shearwater 486S & 4N, Gannet 47S & 214N

70 Lesser Black-backed Gull were present on 7<sup>th</sup>, along with singles of Magpie, Skylark and Goldcrest. Two Common Sandpiper were the highlight of 8<sup>th</sup>, with seven Turnstone and the Great Skua on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Better weather on 10<sup>th</sup> saw more variety: a Hen Harrier, five Kestrel and 21 Chough. 67 Swallow and a House Martin were present, along with a Tree Pipit. On 11<sup>th</sup>, a Woodpigeon and a Short-eared Owl were seen. Hirundine numbers remained high and warbler numbers increased: a Wood Warbler, 19 Willow Warbler and two Whitethroat. A Whimbrel joined 14 Curlew on 12<sup>th</sup>, while a flock of 27 Black-headed Gull flew past South Harbour and two Black Guillemot were offshore. On 13<sup>th</sup>, raptors included two Sparrowhawk, five Buzzard and three Kestrel. 14 Wheatear were in the fields, Pied Wagtail rose to 33 and 275 Linnet were recorded. Wader variety increased on 14<sup>th</sup> with singles of Golden Plover, Lapwing, Snipe and Redshank. A **Long-eared Owl** bounced out of the mist nets, and hirundines numbered 13 Sand Martin, 183 Swallow and 30 House Martin. Two Song Thrush and two House Sparrow were around the Observatory, and 11 Tree Pipit flew overhead. Heavy rain made 15<sup>th</sup> a wash out, but the wind swinging round to the west resulted in good seawatching weather over the next week.

16<sup>th</sup> – Common Scoter 3N, Curlew 21N, Purple Sandpiper 2S & 6N, Kittiwake 195S & 243N, Arctic Skua 1N, Fulmar 38S & 17N, Manx Shearwater 497S & 8N, Gannet 24S & 121N.

17<sup>th</sup> – Curlew 1N, Sandwich Tern 1S, Kittiwake 31S & 198N, Manx Shearwater 594S & 17N, Gannet 99S & 70N.



18<sup>th</sup> – Common Scoter 4S, Kittiwake 19S & 71N, Manx Shearwater 528S & 20N, Gannet 48S & 114N.

20<sup>th</sup> – Common Scoter 3S, Purple Sandpiper 5S, Kittiwake 187S & 381N, Black-headed Gull 11S, Manx Shearwater 1337S & 44N, Gannet 137S & 27N.

21<sup>st</sup> – Curlew 13S, Dunlin 1S, Kittiwake 125S & 969N, Fulmar 21S & 37N, Manx Shearwater 429S & 70N.

22<sup>nd</sup> – Common Scoter 1N, Purple Sandpiper 7S, Kittiwake 298S & 58N, Arctic Skua 2S, Red-throated Diver 1S, Manx Shearwater 707S & 92N.

11 Cormorant, 32 Chough and a Grey Wagtail were sighted on 16<sup>th</sup>, with the last sighting of the Great Skua on 17<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of the next few days included a Magpie (18<sup>th</sup>), four Purple Sandpiper (19<sup>th</sup>), a Spotted Flycatcher (20<sup>th</sup>) and 216 Shag (21<sup>st</sup>). On 22<sup>nd</sup>, four Turnstone were on Chicken Rock, an Osprey flew over the Twin Fields and a House Sparrow was at the Observatory. Three Common Scoter, a Dunlin and an Arctic Skua flew south past Cow Harbour on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Two Whimbrel and a Dunlin were seen on 24<sup>th</sup>, with a Redshank and a Purple Sandpiper at South Harbour. Two Peregrine chased one another, and 32 Wren, 122 Meadow Pipit and three Tree Pipit were counted. The next few days were very quiet, including a Song Thrush (25<sup>th</sup>), Water Rail (26<sup>th</sup>), Grey Heron (27<sup>th</sup>) and a Grey Wagtail (28<sup>th</sup>).

Raptors on 29<sup>th</sup> included a Sparrowhawk, two Hen Harrier and six Kestrel. One Sand Martin was with 85 Swallow, while 12 Willow Warbler, a Grasshopper Warbler and a Spotted Flycatcher were recorded. Three Water Rail were heard on 30<sup>th</sup>, with waders including three Golden Plover, a flyover Ringed Plover, three Whimbrel and two Snipe. Three Storm Petrel were caught overnight, two Little Egret were at South Harbour and 12 Buzzard rode the thermals. A large movement of hirundines occurred: 79 Sand Martin, 677 Swallow and the highest-ever day-total of House Martin (328). Warblers included six Chiffchaff, three Sedge Warbler, a Grasshopper Warbler and five Whitethroat, with three Song Thrush and two Spotted Flycatcher also recorded. Furthermore, 19 Grey Wagtail, seven White Wagtail, 18 Tree Pipit and 12 Lesser Redpoll. A Ringed Plover, one Sandwich Tern, 27 Black-headed Gull and two Common Gull flew past on 31<sup>st</sup>. It was a 'flying ant day' and 529 Herring Gull, 22 Lesser Black-backed Gull, nine Buzzard, 90 Chough and 34 Hooded Crow enjoyed the feast. Smaller birds included 14 Sand Martin, 121 Swallow and 100 White Wagtail.

A total of 88 species were recorded during the month.

## **September**

*Weather: The wind was dominated by north-westerlies from 1<sup>st</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>; mostly light but stronger from 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> were moderate south-westerly, then it swung round to light north-easterlies from 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> saw a slight shift to north-westerlies, then 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> were moderate northerlies. A strong southerly on 29<sup>th</sup> switched to a decreasing north-easterly on 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*Lacking the strong September storms of the past couple of years, it was nevertheless a generally wet and overcast month.*

Numbers on 1<sup>st</sup> remained high from the previous day, with an additional Common Sandpiper and three Hen Harrier. Cough increased to 95 (2<sup>nd</sup> highest-ever count) and 33 Wren, 42 Robin and 26 Wheatear were counted. Wagtails also increased: 192 White, 80 'Alba' and 22 Pied. A Snipe, a Short-eared Owl and two Dunnock were seen on 2<sup>nd</sup>, with wagtail numbers remaining high. A female Teal was on the Millpond on 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a Golden Plover flyover and nine Grey Heron – the highest ever day-count – at Cow. Warbler numbers were low but 31 Grey Wagtail and five Tree Pipit were sighted. On 4<sup>th</sup>, a **Sanderling** called from Fold Point overnight and a **Pied Flycatcher** was trapped at the Observatory. A Water Rail was at Central Heath on 5<sup>th</sup>, and a Red-throated Diver flew through the Sound. Good numbers of raptors haunted the equally numerous hirundines. Other high counts included 40 Wren, 70 Robin and 475 Meadow Pipit.

A Snipe, Jackdaw and two Skylark were new in on 6<sup>th</sup>. Sedge Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat were the pick of the warblers, while 12 Tree Pipit and a **Crossbill** were also recorded. Four Water Rail were counted on 7<sup>th</sup>, with a flyover Ringed Plover and a Common Sandpiper at Fold Point. 55 Cough, 38 Swallow and 17 House Martin were seen. Seven Whitethroat and four Spotted Flycatcher were in the Glen, while some finch passage included 10 Lesser Redpoll and 75 Goldfinch. A Redshank was heard on 8<sup>th</sup>, with a Dunlin over Rarick. On 9<sup>th</sup>, a Puffin, three Guillemot and 25 Fulmar were off Cow Harbour, with a Skylark and 64 Rock Pipit on 10<sup>th</sup>. Further records from the next few days came from seawatching:

10<sup>th</sup> – Arctic Skua 1S, Razorbill 10S & 74N, Red-throated Diver 1S, Storm Petrel 1S, Manx Shearwater 40S & 24N

11<sup>th</sup> – **Pale-bellied Brent Goose 5N**, Red-throated Diver 1S, Fulmar 13S & 72N, Manx Shearwater 16S & 49N.

12<sup>th</sup> – Pale-bellied Brent Goose 3N, **Wigeon 6S**, Arctic Skua 1S, **Pomarine Skua 1S**

A Sanderling was the highlight of 11<sup>th</sup>, with **35 Pink-footed Goose**, a Common Sandpiper and 553 Meadow Pipit on 12<sup>th</sup>. Curlew increased to 16 on 13<sup>th</sup>, with 11 Buzzard, two Merlin and a Peregrine also seen. Further sightings included a Sedge Warbler and 51 Chaffinch. Seabird counts dominated 14<sup>th</sup>: eight Lesser Black-backed Gull, 262 Gannet and 220 Shag. A Dunlin and a Little Egret were recorded on 15<sup>th</sup>, with a Common Rosefinch trapped at the Obs. Two Golden Plover and a Purple Sandpiper were eclipsed by a flyover **Dotterel** seen on 16<sup>th</sup> – only the 2<sup>nd</sup> Calf record. Two Sparrowhawk, a **Goshawk**, three Hen Harrier and 23



*The second Common Rosefinch trapped of the year. @Chloe Hurst*

Buzzard circled in a flock on the thermals. Hirundines numbered one Sand Martin, 295 Swallow and 80 House Martin, with warblers including five Willow Warbler, 11 Chiffchaff and a Whitethroat. 53 Wren, 56 Robin and a peak of 880 Meadow Pipit were recorded, while other counts included nine Tree Pipit, 139 Chaffinch and 33 Siskin.

A Collared Dove, two Ringed Plover and singles of Golden Plover and Snipe were seen on 17<sup>th</sup>. Corvids included 25 Cough, six Rook and 14 Raven. 11 Skylark and a **Barred Warbler** were at the Observatory, while 22 Stonechat, four Greenfinch and a Reed Bunting were around the isle. Numbers dropped over the next couple of days with 398 Meadow Pipit on 18<sup>th</sup>, and a **Mute Swan**, female Mallard and Tree Sparrow on 19<sup>th</sup>. One Common Sandpiper, a Red-throated Diver and four Kestrel were sighted on 20<sup>th</sup>. Two Blue Tit and a House Sparrow were at the Observatory, with high counts of 30 Rock Pipit, 49 Chaffinch and 58 Goldfinch. Eight Turnstone and two Grey Heron were recorded on 21<sup>st</sup>, while a Long-eared Owl called first thing in the morning of

22<sup>nd</sup>. Seven House Martin and a Spotted Flycatcher were seen, with a Common Gull and 13 Cormorant sighted on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Four Turnstone and 43 Pied Wagtail were counted on 24<sup>th</sup>, with additional records coming from seawatching: Common Scoter 5S, Lesser Black-backed Gull 1N, Red-throated Diver 2S, Great Northern Diver 1S.

On 25<sup>th</sup>, a Little Egret, six Magpie and 24 Skylark were seen. 39 Swallow and 14 House Martin were counted, and 10 Chiffchaff included a '*tristis*' individual. A House Sparrow and three Dunnock were recorded, Pied Wagtail (42) and Meadow Pipit (829) numbers increased, and a Tree Pipit, 86 Chaffinch and five Reed Bunting were sighted. An Eider, 10 Common Scoter, an Arctic Skua and 148 Gannet were off Cow Harbour on 26<sup>th</sup>, with 50 Pink-footed Goose, 169 Great Black-backed Gull and eight Cormorant at the same location on 27<sup>th</sup>. 167 Shag, 13 Raven and 88 Skylark were seen on 28<sup>th</sup>. Also present were a *tristis* Chiffchaff, 17 Starling and a House Sparrow, with high counts of 25 Pied Wagtail and 57 Chaffinch. Two Black-headed Gull and a Little Egret were the only birds of note on 29<sup>th</sup> but 30<sup>th</sup> saw a good wader diversity: a Golden Plover, one Whimbrel, 17 Curlew, three Snipe and a Turnstone. Other records included a Tree Pipit and 23 Siskin.

A total of 103 species were recorded during the month.

## **October**

*Weather: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> started with moderate north-easterlies. A spell of strong southerlies followed, before swinging back to moderate winds from the northerly quadrant from 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup> saw a moderate south-westerly and 13<sup>th</sup> was back to a light north-westerly. The rest of the month was dominated by winds from the southerly quadrant. Mostly moderate in strength, 20<sup>th</sup> saw a storm with winds of f12, which decreased into light winds at the end of the month.*

*Sunny and cold for the first half of the month, with the latter half becoming dull with light showers.*

A **Jack Snipe** was flushed from the Withy on 1<sup>st</sup>, and a Little Egret and two Grey Heron were seen. Herring Gull numbered 303, nine Buzzard and two Magpie were seen, and the first Redwing (22) of autumn arrived. A Wigeon was at Cow on 3<sup>rd</sup>, when a Lapwing was in the Seafeld and a Black-headed

Gull and three Common Gull flew past. Thrushes numbered four Song Thrush and 34 Redwing, a House Sparrow was present, and finches included 43 Chaffinch and nine Siskin. Five Chiffchaff and 11 Goldcrest were recorded on 4<sup>th</sup> – thrush numbers were low but included a Mistle Thrush and a Ring Ouzel. On 5<sup>th</sup>, waders included 30 Oystercatcher, a Golden Plover and a Snipe. Two Lesser Black-backed Gull joined 198 Great Black-backed Gull, and 110 Gannet and 94 Shag were counted. Three Wheatear were at the Lighthouses – remaining up to 8<sup>th</sup>. Four Wigeon and a Common Scoter were seen on 6<sup>th</sup>, while 22 Curlew and 28 Turnstone were on Kitterland. Six Great Tit and 19 Starling were in the Glen, with 83 Robin and 12 Dunnock also counted.

A Water Rail and a Golden Plover were recorded on 7<sup>th</sup>, and a juvenile Ringed Plover landed at Cow (where it remained up to 20<sup>th</sup>). Flyovers included 14 Jackdaw, eight Skylark and 15 Swallow. At the Observatory, a **Yellow-browed Warbler** was trapped and a male Black Redstart appeared. Additionally, five White Wagtail were at Cow Harbour. Five Pink-footed Geese flew over on 8<sup>th</sup>, as well as four Common Gull and a Red-throated Diver. 28 Cough, nine House Martin and two Mistle Thrush were present. Also recorded were 42 Stonechat, 17 Dunnock and four Reed Bunting. On 9<sup>th</sup>, seawatching produced six Common Scoter, a **Knot**, 29 Common Gull, 400 Auk sp. and a Great Northern Diver. Three Golden Plover flew over the Triangle, a Whimbrel called from Caigher and a Tree Pipit was in the Glen. A drake Eider was at Baie Fine on 10<sup>th</sup>, while two Hen Harrier included an adult male (still present on 11<sup>th</sup>). Corvids numbered one Magpie, 35 Cough, 38 Jackdaw and nine Carrion Crow. 58 Skylark flew over, while thrushes included 20 Song Thrush, a Mistle Thrush, 53 Redwing and the first Fieldfare of autumn. Seven House Sparrow and 12 Dunnock were at the Observatory, where finches numbered 145 Chaffinch, 12 Greenfinch, 33 Goldfinch and 14 Siskin. Magpie increased to three and Skylark to 95 on 11<sup>th</sup>, with further increases to 56 Linnet, 57 Goldfinch and 15 Siskin.

Seawatching was good on 12<sup>th</sup>: Whimbrel 3S, Common Scoter 18S, Kittiwake 51S & 326N, Arctic Skua 1N, Auk sp. 1464S & 38N, Great Northern Diver 1N, and Manx Shearwater 1S. Additionally, a male Eider was at the Dock, large gulls numbered 141 Herring and 122 Great Black-backed, and a Wheatear was at the Lighthouses. Six **Whooper Swan** flew up the Glen on 13<sup>th</sup>, with Lesser Black-backed Gull and Little Egret also recorded. A single Swallow was

present, along with 17 Song Thrush and two Mistle Thrush. Large counts included 379 Meadow Pipit, 51 Chaffinch, 73 Linnet and 20 Siskin. Five Common Gull and a Black Guillemot were off Cow on 14<sup>th</sup>, with corvids including a Magpie, 68 Jackdaw and three Rook. Thrush and finch numbers decreased but two House Sparrow were present and 21 Skylark were joined by a Brambling. Four Eider flew through the Sound on 16<sup>th</sup>, while waders included 35 Oystercatcher, 16 Curlew and 21 Turnstone. Seven Teal, a Sparrowhawk and a Merlin were seen on 16<sup>th</sup>, and good coverage saw counts of 62 Wren, 59 Redwing and 102 Robin.

On 17<sup>th</sup>, 44 Oystercatcher and 114 Shag were at Cow. Three Swallow, a Yellow-browed Warbler and a Lesser Whitethroat were at the Observatory, and a **Snow Bunting** flew across the Sound. The Lesser Whitethroat moved to the Withy on 18<sup>th</sup>, while on 19<sup>th</sup> three Canada Goose flew over the Observatory and three Barnacle Goose circled the isle. Four 'ringtail' Hen Harrier came to roost, while 42 Jackdaw and 55 Skylark flew overhead. Two Yellow-browed Warbler and 619 Starling were counted, along with 19 Song Thrush and 67 Redwing. Finches numbered 126 Chaffinch, one Brambling, 17 Greenfinch, 20 Lesser Redpoll, 41 Goldfinch and 17 Siskin. A Common Scoter flew south on 20<sup>th</sup>, with seawatching on 21<sup>st</sup> also producing good records: Pale-bellied Brent Goose 2N, Common Scoter 27S & 2N, Knot 8N, Kittiwake 1599S & 113N, Black Guillemot 9S, Auk sp. 1915S & 532N, Red-throated Diver 2S, **Black-throated Diver 1S**, and Great Northern Diver 1S.

On 22<sup>nd</sup>, 250 Woodpigeon, 94 Jackdaw, 23 Hooded Crow and 113 Skylark flew over. Two Blackcap, 437 Starling, 29 Song Thrush and 32 Redwing were present, along with two Brambling, 34 Greenfinch and 91 Linnet. A Stock Dove joined 805 Woodpigeon on 23<sup>rd</sup>, with two Magpie, 334 Jackdaw and six Rook also passing over. Two Yellow-browed Warbler were present and thrushes increased to 48 Song Thrush, a Mistle Thrush, 65 Redwing and a Fieldfare. A House Sparrow was at the Observatory, finches increased in number, and five Reed Bunting were seen. Two Purple Sandpiper and a Red-throated Diver were seen from Cow Harbour on 24<sup>th</sup>, but passerine numbers plummeted. Seventeen Lapwing flew past the Observatory on 25<sup>th</sup>, while 59 Wren were counted and thrushes increased again (77 Song Thrush, two Mistle Thrush, 82 Redwing, 76 Blackbird and two Fieldfare). A Black Redstart was at the Lighthouses, while seven Dunnock and a Brambling were at the Observatory. Two Mallard and a Peregrine were seen on 26<sup>th</sup>, along with 100 Jackdaw and 224 Starling.

Remarkably, four Whooper Swan landed on the Millpond on 27<sup>th</sup>, while a Woodcock, a Red-throated Diver and a Great Northern Diver were also sighted. Other migrants included 30 Jackdaw, four Rook and 406 Starling. The highlight of 28<sup>th</sup> was a **Long-tailed Skua** flying north past Cow Harbour on a seawatch. Another Woodcock was flushed on 29<sup>th</sup>, and four Swallow and a Yellow-browed Warbler were recorded. Flocks of Twite were at South Harbour (23) and Kitterland (26), with a **Yellowhammer** briefly dropping into the garden. A different Yellow-browed Warbler arrived on 30<sup>th</sup> and a large thrush movement occurred: 83 Song Thrush, six Mistle Thrush, 634 Redwing, 42 Blackbird and 156 Fieldfare. Also present were five Brambling, six Siskin and two Reed Bunting. A Jack Snipe was caught at the Observatory on 31<sup>st</sup> – and the Yellow-browed Warbler and 208 Starling were also present.

A total of 100 species were recorded during the month.



*Jack Snipe: a surprise catch in Heligoland One.*

*©Andrew Jacobs*

## **November**

*Weather: Light to moderate winds. 1<sup>st</sup> was from the north-west, switching to southerly from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> and south-east on 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>.*

*A calm end to the season but very dull, finishing with thick fog.*

A Wigeon flew south on 1<sup>st</sup> and a Snipe was flushed from the Millpond. Three Greenfinch were joined by 161 Goldfinch and 18 Siskin. Eleven Eider were recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and waders included 38 Oystercatcher, 18 Curlew and singles of Ringed Plover, Lapwing and Whimbrel. Good counts included 164 Great Black-backed Gull, 10 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 38 Wren and three Crossbill. Waterfowl, pigeons and waders all had good variety on 2<sup>nd</sup>, including Greylag Goose (2), Whooper Swan (1), Mallard (2), Stock Dove (1), Lapwing (33), Woodcock (2) and Snipe (1). A small corvid passage and two Swallow were seen, while 1335 Redwing and 178 Fieldfare descended on mass. A House Sparrow and 14 Dunnock were in the Glen, while 41 Rock Pipit, 119 Chaffinch and two Twite were 'out and about'. Two Water Rail and a Little Egret were present on 4<sup>th</sup>, along with 83 Blackbird and a Brambling. A Wigeon and a Teal were both seen on 5<sup>th</sup>, along with 1040 Woodpigeon, two Woodcock and 13 Turnstone. Two Blackcap were sighted but migration was dominated by Redwing (511), Fieldfare (239), Chaffinch (261) and Goldfinch (101). Fog enshrouded the final day of the season, yet a Golden Plover, six Black-headed Gull and two Fulmar were nevertheless recorded.

A total of 74 species were recorded during the month, and 149 species were recorded during the year.



# 2024 Systematic List

The nomenclature and taxonomic order follows that of the Tenth edition of the British List published by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU 2025), available online at <https://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.

Those species marked with an \* denote new species added to the Manx Bird List.

A brief statement regarding the status of each species is given, including a summary of any breeding details. 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:

- |             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Vagrant   | ≤5 records                          |
| • Very rare | 6–10 records                        |
| • Rare      | 11–100 records, or less than annual |
| • Scarce    | 1–10 records annually               |
| • Uncommon  | 11–100 records annually             |
| • Common    | 100+ records annually               |

The following are used to describe the breeding status of relevant species:

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Historic breeder   | Has bred, last record pre-2000       |
| • Former breeder     | Has bred, last record from 2000–2019 |
| • Occasional breeder | Has bred in the last five years      |
| • Annual breeder     | Bred in each of the last five years  |

**Brent [Brant] Goose *Branta bernicla***

Guiy doo

*Rare. Passage migrant, more regular in autumn.*

Five Pale-bellied Brent (*B.b. hrota*) flew south past Culbery on 11<sup>th</sup> September, followed by three north past Cow Harbour on 12<sup>th</sup>. A further two Pale-bellied passed north past Cow Harbour on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> – 35<sup>th</sup> Calf records.

**Canada Goose *Branta canadensis***

Guiy Canadagh

*Rare. Visitor, more regular in the summer.*

An exceptional year with four records. In spring: a group of five landed on the sea off South Harbour on 11<sup>th</sup> March, three were captured on the Caigher Dub trail camera at 04:23 on 16<sup>th</sup> April and a single flew over the Observatory at 05:00 on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

One autumn record consisted of three individuals flying north over the Observatory on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

This feral species is becoming increasingly common as a resident breeder on the Isle of Man, likely resulting in the increasing regularity of Calf records. The 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Calf records, of which eleven have occurred during eight years in this century.



*Canada Geese off South Harbour ©Lara Howe*

### **Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis***

Guiry bayrnag

*Very rare. Visitor and passage migrant.*

The 9<sup>th</sup> Calf record – and first ever in June – was a single that was seen on the grass above the Herring Gull colony at Cow Harbour on 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> June.

The 10<sup>th</sup> record was three individuals circling the Calf on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Bizarrely, this was just 10 minutes after three Canada Geese flew overhead.

### **Greylag Goose *Anser anser***

Guiry glass

*Scarce. Visitor and passage migrant.*

An unprecedented number of records began with two on both 16<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March, a single on 29<sup>th</sup> and three on 31<sup>st</sup>. Seven more records, on eight dates, occurred in April: two on 4<sup>th</sup>, six on 8<sup>th</sup>, 18 on 18<sup>th</sup>, one on 21<sup>st</sup>, two on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 15 on 24<sup>th</sup> and six on 26<sup>th</sup>. Finally, two May records involved two on 10<sup>th</sup> & eight on 11<sup>th</sup>, and three flew south over the Observatory at 12:30 on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

The flock of 18 equals the previous highest count recorded on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1997, whilst the total of 15 becomes the second highest count recorded.

In the autumn, two individuals were recorded on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Additionally, two 'grey geese' seen on 1<sup>st</sup> April were almost certainly of this species.

### **Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus***

Guiry Eeslynnagh

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

Approximately 35 flew south over Cow Harbour on 12<sup>th</sup> September, with roughly 50 flying north over the same location on 27<sup>th</sup>. An additional five flew north over South Harbour on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

The 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Calf records, continuing the recent run of records in the last five years.

### **Mute Swan *Cygnus olor***

Ollay valloo

*Rare. Visitor or passage migrant.*

The 11<sup>th</sup> Calf record, and 6<sup>th</sup> September record, was a single flying down the Glen at 08:15 on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Ollay chiaullee

*Scarce. Passage migrant – irregular in spring.*

In October, six adults flew north up the Glen on 13<sup>th</sup>. Two adults and two juveniles landed on the Millpond before flying up the Glen on 27<sup>th</sup>, then were captured by camera trap again at the Millpond at 06:42 on 28<sup>th</sup>. A single adult flew south over the Observatory on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

## **[Common] Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Laagh chryss-ruy

*Uncommon. Annual breeder; irregular passage migrant.*

Up to five birds were seen on eight dates during March. After six on 1<sup>st</sup> April and five on 2<sup>nd</sup>, at least one or two birds were seen almost daily throughout the month, with three on four dates and four on 10<sup>th</sup>.

One pair again nested in a rabbit burrow on Rarick and were recorded on trail camera visiting the nest site from 4<sup>th</sup> April until the female appeared at the entrance on 16<sup>th</sup> May with 10 ducklings. A second pair were potentially present with one or two birds seen daily through the month – with up to three birds seen on four dates, four seen on 24<sup>th</sup> and six on 31<sup>st</sup>.

After five on 1<sup>st</sup> June, one or two birds were seen on seven dates up to 22<sup>nd</sup>, plus three on 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **[Eurasian] Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

Laagh ruy

*Scarce. Passage migrant – irregular in spring.*

Recorded with more regularity than in recent years. Six flew south past Cow Harbour on 12<sup>th</sup> September, with October records including one on 3<sup>rd</sup>, four on 6<sup>th</sup> and three on 12<sup>th</sup>. Further singles were recorded on 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November.

The increase in records could likely be due to the increase in seawatching hours this autumn.

## **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Thunnag feie

*Common. Annual breeder; winter visitor.*

Pre-season records were of four on the Millpond on 12<sup>th</sup> January and singles recorded on the Kitterland trail camera on 29<sup>th</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Recorded almost daily from the start of the season and throughout spring and early summer. At least two pairs were regularly recorded on the Millpond, with a third female and two additional males being seen

occasionally. The first brood of 13 young were seen at Cow Harbour on 27<sup>th</sup> April. A second brood appeared on the Millpond on 13<sup>th</sup> June, with 14 ducklings counted on 15<sup>th</sup>, dwindling to just one by the end of the month with another brood of 11 young appearing on 29<sup>th</sup>. Records of just one or two birds became irregular during July and the first fortnight of August. The first returning bird was off South Harbour on 19<sup>th</sup> September. A pair reappeared on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and remained to the end of the season.

**[Eurasian] Teal *Anas crecca***

Laaghag

*Uncommon. Passage migrant and winter visitor.*

A drake recorded by trail camera on the Millpond on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and a female flying south-west past Cow Harbour during the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> April were the only spring records.

The first of autumn was a female flushed from the Millpond on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. A further single flew in to the Millpond after dusk on 15<sup>th</sup> September, with seven flushed from this location on 16<sup>th</sup> October. A drake was at South Harbour on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula***

Thunnag happagh

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

Two flew north off Culberty during a morning seawatch on 9<sup>th</sup> April. The 19<sup>th</sup> Calf record and first since 2012.

**[Common] Eider *Somateria mollissima***

Laagh Loughlinagh

*Common. Annual breeder; occasional passage migrant and winter visitor.*

*Formerly a rare passage migrant.*

Four on 11<sup>th</sup> March was the first record of the year, increasing to 18 by the 16<sup>th</sup>, with birds then being seen daily from 20<sup>th</sup> (peaks of 27 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 35 on 31<sup>st</sup>). Counts ranged from single figures up to 40 during the first half of April, with 52 on 19<sup>th</sup> heralding the arrival of larger numbers, rising to 80 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 110 by 28<sup>th</sup>. Early May saw the peak of 140 on 5<sup>th</sup>: an all-time high count for the Calf, with a ratio of 4 males to every female present. It is known that some females were already sitting on nests by this time and were therefore missed during the count.

The breeding season was likely affected by the cold and wet spring, with the first sitting female not located until 5<sup>th</sup> May. Breeding numbers were lower than recent years, although it was not possible to complete a full census of

the breeding population. Records decreased quickly through June after a peak of 37 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, with mostly single figure counts during the second half of the month and then even more sporadically through July, with 1–3 birds seen on just 14 dates up to 27<sup>th</sup>.

Returning singles were recorded on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September. Records increased in number through October, and a flock of 11 was recorded on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Ushag vreck varrey

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

Spring records began with a single north off Culbery on 19<sup>th</sup> March. In April, further counts from Culbery were 11S on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8S on 9<sup>th</sup> (plus 20 off Cow Harbour), 5S & 1N on 15<sup>th</sup> (plus three off Cow Harbour), 45S on 21<sup>st</sup> and 6N on 27<sup>th</sup>.

The three higher counts represent the highest numbers recorded during April, with the count of 45 being the fourth highest count ever and coinciding with a large movement of Scoter noted off the main island during the same day.

Three flying east past South Harbour on 22<sup>nd</sup> June were the only summer record and only the 11<sup>th</sup> record for the month.

Autumn passage began with a single north off Culbery on 6<sup>th</sup> August, with further records there of 3N on 16<sup>th</sup>, 4S on 18<sup>th</sup>, 3S on 20<sup>th</sup> and 1N on 22<sup>nd</sup> (plus 3S off Cow Harbour on 23<sup>rd</sup> August). There were three records in September: 4S off South Harbour (14<sup>th</sup>), 5S off Culbery (24<sup>th</sup>) and 10 off Cow Harbour (26<sup>th</sup>). Seven records in October included highs of 13S off Cow Harbour (2<sup>nd</sup>), 18S off Culbery (12<sup>th</sup>) and 27S & 2N off Culbery (plus two off Cow Harbour) on 21<sup>st</sup>.

An excellent series of records that is indicative of the increased number of seawatching hours.

### **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Sheeltey yiarg

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A drake seen flying west past South Harbour on 20<sup>th</sup> June was just the third record for that month, following records in 1971 and 1987. Curiously, there had been a drake seen in Peel Bay on the 18<sup>th</sup> and at Port Erin Bay on 19<sup>th</sup>, and it would seem feasible that this was the same bird seen as it made its way south along the island's coastline.

**[Common] Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus***

Kellagh keylley

*Common. Annual breeder; resident. Formerly rare visitor pre-2018.*

Recorded almost daily from the beginning of the season, with counts of up to four birds being regularly recorded. Territorial males were often heard calling from above Gibdale, the Central Heath, South plateau, the Glen and the Triangle. No young were seen this year.

**[Common] Swift *Apus apus***

Gollan mooar

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 12<sup>th</sup> April 1996, with the latest departure date being 27<sup>th</sup> October 1976.*

One seen off South Harbour on 22<sup>nd</sup> April was the earliest record since 2016. One or two birds were then seen on five dates in May and a single on 4<sup>th</sup> June were the only other records during another poor spring showing for the species.

A single over the Observatory on 26<sup>th</sup> June and an above average number of summer records saw eight records between 9<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July, with one or two birds on eight dates and four on 15<sup>th</sup>. There were no August records.

**[Common] Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***

Cooag

*Uncommon. Former breeder; summer and autumn migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

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

A single on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April was followed by two on 24<sup>th</sup>. Further singles on 28<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> May completed an average spring passage.

A juvenile was trapped at the Observatory on 14<sup>th</sup> and remained until 16<sup>th</sup> July, with further singles being seen at Baie Fine on 25<sup>th</sup> and at the Quarry on 28<sup>th</sup>, plus a single near Fold Point on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The latter sighting was the first August record since 2016.



Cuckoo  
©Brennig  
Hughes

### **Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Calmane ny creggey

*Uncommon. It is likely that most, if not all, records involve racing pigeons.*

One to three birds were recorded infrequently throughout the season, with single records in April, July and October, four in May, nine in June, three in August and two in September.

The increase in records is thought to due to the absence of breeding Peregrine.

### **Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Calmane gorrym

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

A single at the Top Withy on 19<sup>th</sup> May was the only spring record.

The two autumn records were singles with Woodpigeon flocks on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November.



**Woodpigeon [Common Wood Pigeon] *Columba palumbus***

Calmane keylley

*Uncommon. Former breeder; passage migrant – less regular in spring.*

An above average spring and early summer period, with 1–2 birds seen on six dates in March, seven dates in April and 12 dates in May. Records on 11 dates in June were mostly of 1–2 birds, with three on 17<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> and a high of six on 19<sup>th</sup>. The absence of any Peregrines breeding this season undoubtedly helped.

Summer records were typically scarce with just three singles in July and one on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Autumn passage started with 250 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, with 805 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 110 on 26<sup>th</sup>. Continuing passage in November saw 701 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1040 on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**[Eurasian] Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

Calmane coillaragh

*Uncommon. Former breeder; passage migrant – less regular in autumn.*

Two birds present between 31<sup>st</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April were the start of an excellent spring, with up to two birds were seen, mostly around the farmhouse, on a further six dates in April & May and nine dates in June. Some birds lingered for a few days and the number of records were undoubtedly helped by the lack of any breeding Peregrines on the islet this year.

Summer records were typically scarce with singles on 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and a bird present from 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July. Also typically scarce in autumn, with one recorded on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus***

Ushag ny shast

*Scarce. Occasional breeder; passage migrant and winter visitor.*

The presence of at least one bird at the Millpond throughout April gave hope that the species may again be breeding and, on 8<sup>th</sup> May this was confirmed when a pair were seen accompanied by eight young. A second brood was noted on 5<sup>th</sup> July, although taller vegetation made it difficult to determine the number of young present. The first breeding records since 1994.

Unsurprisingly, autumn records were regular from the Millpond and the Front Field, with up to three birds seen on occasions. Additionally, one was heard calling from the Central Heath on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September, and one was at Jane's House on 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October.

### **[Eurasian] Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Garee breck

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Present throughout the year with breeding birds already on territory during March with an early high spring count of 57 on 31<sup>st</sup> March, which included 38 additional birds using the high tide roost at Cow Harbour. Counts remained high through spring with a peak of 62 on 29<sup>th</sup> April and regular counts of 30–50 birds during May.

Breeding numbers were again relatively high, with 25 pairs located around the coastline and numbers present during late summer and early autumn would suggest that productivity was high, with a count of 76 on 30<sup>th</sup> June being the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest ever. A feature during late summer was the presence of a flock of up to 44 birds feeding in the glen fields, with peak island counts of 69 on 18<sup>th</sup> July and 71 on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

Numbers dropped off during the autumn, with most counts between 15 & 25 and a peak of 44 on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Feddag ghlass

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A single flew north up the Glen on 20<sup>th</sup> April, the first ever April occurrence of the species and the first record since 2021.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Calf record.

### **[European] Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Ushag reaisht

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

Singles on 19<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April were followed by a flock of 25 heading west off Cow Harbour during a morning seawatch on 9<sup>th</sup> and a further four heading north past Culbery in the afternoon. This day total of 29 is the highest ever spring day count, beating 25 in May 2016. More typical numbers were recorded during the remainder of spring, with four on 15<sup>th</sup> April and singles on three more dates in April, two on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> May and further singles on 9<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May.

The first autumn records were singles on 14<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> August, and three on 30<sup>th</sup>. A further 16 singles were seen throughout the remainder of the season, with two on 16<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> November, and three on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Eurasian Dotterel** *Eudromias morinellus*

Feddag volvaneagh

*Vagrant.*

A single called and was seen flying over the Observatory on 16<sup>th</sup> September (AS, ABJ). This represents the second Calf record, and ties in with other sightings of this species around the UK at that time.

**[Common] Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Feddag fainnagh

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

A single which flew over the Lighthouse Fields on 18<sup>th</sup> May was the only spring record.

Autumn records included singles flying over on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September. Two birds flew over on 17<sup>th</sup> September, and a long-staying juvenile was at Cow Harbour from 7<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October. A further single called from Cow Harbour on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.



*The long-staying Ringer Plover at Cow Harbour.*

©Daisy MacDonald

**[Northern] Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Eairkan

*Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant.*

Late spring, or perhaps early autumn dispersal records involved two birds on 4<sup>th</sup> June and singles on 12<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn records consisted of three in the Seafield on 12<sup>th</sup> July, another three in the front field on 31<sup>st</sup>, and singles on 4<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> August. Four singles were

recorded in October and November, with flocks of 17 flying past the Observatory on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 33 in the Seafield on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Crottag houree

*Uncommon. Passage migrant (more regular in spring), has overwintered.*

*Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

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

A single seen on Caigher on 17<sup>th</sup> March may have involved an over-wintering bird, with spring migration being evident between 17<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> May. An excellent passage saw up to eight birds recorded during the second half of April, followed by 15 on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 17 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23 on 5<sup>th</sup>. The latter count being just one bird below the all-time high count of 24 on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1989. The counts of 15 & 17 are also notable being within the top 10 counts for the species. Numbers dropped quickly to five on 6<sup>th</sup> and then just 1–2 through to the end of the month.

Autumn records began with a single on 15<sup>th</sup> July, two on 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, and up to three birds were seen on 14 dates in August. Up to five birds were recorded on 16 dates in September. Singles were seen on four dates in October, as well as the first three days of November.

### **[Eurasian] Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Crottag

*Common. Historic breeder; passage migrant that overwinters.*

Rather scarce during spring passage with mostly single figure counts almost daily through March and a peak of 12 on 29<sup>th</sup> March. One or two birds were then seen on eight dates in April, 12 dates in May and 10 dates in June up to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Return passage was obvious from the 24<sup>th</sup> June with three birds, rising to 15 by 26<sup>th</sup>. Records were daily from July with low double figure counts continuing throughout, with monthly peaks of 39 on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 30 on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 17 on 30<sup>th</sup> September and 26 on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Gob-kiare mooar

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A single was heard in the Glen at 20:35 on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Calf record and the first since 2018.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Coar-heddagh veg

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

A single was flushed from the Withy on 1<sup>st</sup> October, and an adult was

trapped in Heligoland One on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**[Eurasian] Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Ushag rhennee

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

The only spring record was of a single flushed near to the Lighthouses on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Autumn records began with singles on 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October. Birds were present daily from 2<sup>nd</sup> November with two on each 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**[Common] Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Coar heddagh

*Uncommon. Historic breeder, increasingly uncommon passage migrant.*

Spring records consisted of three on 12<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March, two on 1<sup>st</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April and singles on a further six dates in March and three dates in April up to 21<sup>st</sup>.

A rare summer (or early autumn) record was of a single heard flying over during the early hours of 8<sup>th</sup> July, followed by a single on 14<sup>th</sup> August and two individuals on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn started with 12 records in September – mostly singles, with two on 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and three on 30<sup>th</sup>. Six singles were recorded in October, with one bird on 1<sup>st</sup> November and two on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Feddanagh

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018, with the latest departure date being 16<sup>th</sup> October 1995.*

Spring passage was typically light with singles on 19<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> May, and two on 20<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Return passage birds began with two at South Harbour on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Following four on 30<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July, an above average number of records continued through July with 1–3 birds on 22 dates plus a high of five on 8<sup>th</sup>.

Further singles were seen on four dates during early August up to 11<sup>th</sup>, with two on 8<sup>th</sup>. The final records of the season were singles at Fold Point on 1<sup>st</sup> September, flying over the Withy on 7<sup>th</sup>, at Cow on 12<sup>th</sup> and over the Withy again on 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Feddanagh geayney

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A single flew north along the back of the Observatory on 22<sup>nd</sup> June (AS, CH). Only the second ever June record and the 52<sup>nd</sup> Calf record.

### **[Common] Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Goblan marrey

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

A single was present during a winter day visit on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Spring records were singles on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 28<sup>th</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Return passage began with singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> July and five tape-lured at South Harbour during the early hours of 28<sup>th</sup> July. August and September both produced singles on five dates, with the last record on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

### **[Common] Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Goblan glass

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A single flying over the Withy on 25<sup>th</sup> May was just the sixth record ever for that month and the 86<sup>th</sup> Calf record.

### **[Ruddy] Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Ronseyder traie

*Uncommon. Passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Winter day visits produced six on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12 on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Records of 1–3 birds occurred on seven dates during the second half of March, plus a month high of 11 on 17<sup>th</sup>. Following 12 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 16 on 6<sup>th</sup> April, there were records of up to eight birds on a further five dates in the month (plus a single on 30<sup>th</sup>).

The first returning birds were a single at Cow Harbour on 24<sup>th</sup> July and three there on 28<sup>th</sup>. Records were rather scarce during August with a single on 4<sup>th</sup>, a night-time roost at Cow Harbour containing 18 on 5<sup>th</sup>, seven on 9<sup>th</sup> and four on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Five single figure records occurred at the latter end of September, with a high of 20 on 29<sup>th</sup>. Sightings were more frequent in October, with nine single figure records and highs of 28 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 21 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 26 on 21<sup>st</sup>, with a further three records in November.

### **[Red] Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Feddanagh ruy

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A single in summer plumage was seen flying north past Cow Harbour on 9<sup>th</sup> October, with a further eight in winter plumage heading south on 21<sup>st</sup>.

The 52<sup>nd</sup> & 53<sup>rd</sup> Calf records.

### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Feddanagh glass

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A single was heard at the Cletts on 4<sup>th</sup> September and another at South Harbour on 11<sup>th</sup>.

The 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Calf records, and just the third and fourth records for that month. Records of the species have increased markedly in recent years, with 50% of records since 2019.

### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Breckag hraie

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

A single on rocks close to South Harbour on 20<sup>th</sup> March was a rare spring sighting, being just the 12<sup>th</sup> recorded for the month with the last occurring in 1986. More typical records for spring were a single on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and two on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

The first of autumn was a single heard flying over South Harbour during the early hours of 28<sup>th</sup> July, followed by further singles in August on 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. September saw singles on 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, with two birds over the Front Fields overnight on 15<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, there were several records of small waders seen offshore during seawatches in August. Birds were too distant to identify but are likely to involve this species with records of seven south off Culbery on 6<sup>th</sup>, a single north on 16<sup>th</sup>, two north on 21<sup>st</sup> and two south on 22<sup>nd</sup> plus three through the Sound on 23<sup>rd</sup>. A single was seen on 11<sup>th</sup> September and a further single was off the Puddle on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Feddanagh gorrym

*Uncommon. Passage migrant and winter visitor. A small wintering population of approximately 20–45 birds is resident in several caves below the lighthouses. Due to the only access to these caves being by boat, records are infrequent, but birds are regularly seen by local boatman from late autumn through to mid-May.*

Two in the Puddle on 12<sup>th</sup> January were the only record outside of the main season.

Twelve at Cow Harbour on 13<sup>th</sup> March were the start of a series of spring records, with up to four on three other dates in the month. Up to five were recorded on four dates in April, plus higher counts of 40 (in the cave below the Lower Lighthouse) on 29<sup>th</sup> and 14 on Chicken Rock on 30<sup>th</sup>. Two were still in the cave on 5<sup>th</sup> May, with six outside South Harbour on 7<sup>th</sup> and finally four on Chicken Rock on 19<sup>th</sup> (and three still there on 21<sup>st</sup>) were the last records of spring.

Seawatching passage provided the first returning records of autumn with 6S & 2N off Culbery on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 5S on 20<sup>th</sup> and 7S on 22<sup>nd</sup>, plus four at Cow Harbour on 19<sup>th</sup>, two additional birds on 22<sup>nd</sup> and a single on rocks below Culbery on 24<sup>th</sup> August. A single was recorded on 16<sup>th</sup> September, with two on 24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Gollan-marrey mooar

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

| 60-year<br>average | 1959 to<br>1968 | 1969 to<br>1978 | 1979 to<br>1988 | 1989 to<br>1998 | 1999 to<br>2008 | 2009 to<br>2018 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 09-May             | 04-May          | 26-Apr          | 12-May          | 14-May          | 05-May          | 18-May          |
| 14-Sep             | 03-Sep          | 25-Sep          | 24-Sep          | 07-Sep          | 21-Sep          | 01-Sep          |



*The earliest arrival date was 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1975 & 1988, with the latest departure date being 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1996.*

Singles were seen in the Sound on 9<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May. The highest number of spring records since 2011.

Further records occurred in during the summer months, with a single north off Culbery on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and two flying east through the Sound on 13<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, plus three off Culbery on 6<sup>th</sup> August and a single heading south on 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **[Black-legged] Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Pirragh

*Common. Former breeder; summer visitor and passage migrant.*

Records were irregular during March with single figure counts on just seven dates, a count of 58 on 30<sup>th</sup> and two dates with sea passage off Culbery, involving 71S & 79N on 19<sup>th</sup> and 128S & 9N on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sightings became more frequent after the first week of April, generally involving low double figure counts plus 95 off Cow Harbour on 9<sup>th</sup>, 99 on 13<sup>th</sup> and a notable sea passage on 15<sup>th</sup>, with 456S & 39N off Culbery and 202 seen off Cow Harbour. After 47 on 1<sup>st</sup> May, counts were infrequent for much of the month with just six single figure counts up to 19<sup>th</sup>, then daily records from 21<sup>st</sup> (with a month peak of 69 on 23<sup>rd</sup>).

Records of mostly low double figures were much more frequent during June and July, with the regular movements of birds passing South Harbour as local breeding birds travel between their colonies along the south coast of the Isle of Man and feeding grounds to the west of the Calf. Greater numbers of birds also occurred during late June and during July when flocks of between 200–300 birds were occasionally found roosting on Rarick, Burroo and The Stack.

Early autumn passage was recorded during August, with passage off Culbery involving counts of 224S & 322N on 6<sup>th</sup>, 195S & 243N on 16<sup>th</sup>, 187S & 381N on 20<sup>th</sup>, 125S & 969N on 21<sup>st</sup> and 298S & 58N on 22<sup>nd</sup>, plus 305S off Cow Harbour on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Numbers were generally low throughout September and October, with the only notable sea passage occurring on 11<sup>th</sup> September (3S & 748N), and 12<sup>th</sup> (51S & 326N), 21<sup>st</sup> (1599S & 113N) and 28<sup>th</sup> October (214S & 3N).

### **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Foillan kione-doo

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

One north off Culbery during an early morning seawatch on 22<sup>nd</sup> March was the first of the season, with a sub-adult off Cow Harbour on 13<sup>th</sup> April and nine on 14<sup>th</sup>. The latter record is the fourth ever highest day count for the month. In May, two were seen on 1<sup>st</sup> and then singles on 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>. Autumn passage began with a single flying west past South Harbour on 4<sup>th</sup> July, followed by an above-average passage involving 13 through the Sound on 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 on 16<sup>th</sup>, three on 17<sup>th</sup>, 19 on 20<sup>th</sup>, two on 21<sup>st</sup>, 30 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and a final single on 24<sup>th</sup>. These numbers continued through August with three notable sightings including a single flock of 27 past South Harbour on 12<sup>th</sup>, 11S off Culbery on 20<sup>th</sup> and a total of 27 birds seen on 31<sup>st</sup>. The latter record involving a number of birds seen in small parties offshore, but also one or two individuals that joined other gull species in the field systems that were taking advantage of the emergence of millions of flying ants. Singles were recorded on 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> September, with two on 24<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. There were only two records from the beginning of October, with a further nine records from 21<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, including a high of nine on 21<sup>st</sup>. A final six flew past South Harbour on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Common [Mew] Gull *Larus canus***

Foillan cadjin

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

Spring records are noteworthy: with a 2<sup>nd</sup>-winter recorded on the Dub trail camera on 9<sup>th</sup>, another flying south off Cow Harbour on 13<sup>th</sup> and two 2<sup>nd</sup>-summer birds seen offshore on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

An early autumn record involved an adult flying north past Culbery on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Two adults were seen on 31<sup>st</sup> August, one most typically offshore but the other spent the morning in the front field where it accompanied other gulls in pursuit of the many thousands of flying ants. Records continued through September with singles offshore on seven dates, two on 16<sup>th</sup> and five on 27<sup>th</sup>. The species was recorded on 18 dates in October, with peaks coming from seawatching: 19 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 11 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 21 on 28<sup>th</sup>. A further four were recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, with singles on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **(European) Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***

Foillan

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Counts were achieved on two dates in January with 31 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18 on 12<sup>th</sup>, and birds were recorded on the Kitterland trail camera on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Present throughout the season with birds already in their colonies when we arrived in March. Counts of up to 600 birds were regular and generally reflect the presence of breeding birds, with spring monthly peaks of 800 on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 769 on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 774 on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

As with other gull species, the cold and wet spring meant delays to egg laying, whilst storms at the critical point of hatching caused significant losses within several of the colonies, particularly on the south and west coasts. Overall breeding numbers were the lowest since 2019, with a 17% decrease on 2023 figures. The breeding season was rather protracted with nests containing eggs and recently hatched young being found in the Kione ny Halby colony on 4<sup>th</sup> July, when other large chicks that were around six weeks old were also present.

| Location                       | AON | Location                       | AON        |
|--------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|------------|
| Gibdale Point                  | 11  | Kione ny Halby (Puffin colony) | 3          |
| Baie Fine                      | 2   | SHKNH (south of Puffin colony) | 5          |
| Baie n O'oig                   | 9   | Kione ny Halby main            | 36         |
| Below Lower Lighthouse Field   | 6   | Kione ny Halby (Shag colony)   | 1          |
| Ghaw Laing                     | 15  | Ghaw Yairn                     | 1          |
| Promontory South of Ghaw Laing | 1   | Big Park / Twin Peaks          | 4          |
| Kittiwake / Gloop Caves        | 6   | Big Head                       | 1          |
| Caigher Point                  | 5   | Fold Point / Cletts            | 2          |
| Caigher Dub                    | 86  | The Dock                       | 1          |
| Rarick                         | 65  | Cow Harbour                    | 115        |
| Puddle                         | 6   | Kione Beg                      | 4          |
| Burroo Neck / South Harbour    | 17  | Gibdale                        | 11         |
| Burroo                         | 12  | The Stack                      | 1          |
| Central Heath Top Withy Field  | 46  | Kitterland                     | 23         |
| Central Heath Main             | 60  |                                |            |
| Central Heath Bluffs           | 41  | <b>Total</b>                   | <b>596</b> |

*Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade:*

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

Counts of up to 550 birds were regular through the summer months of June, July and the first half of August but from 19<sup>th</sup> a noticeable exodus of birds occurred with daily counts of just 16–99. Birds returned on 31<sup>st</sup>, to take advantage of an emergence of flying ants, with 529 counted in the Glen. Numbers remained low (7–120) in September, with highs of 207 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 179 on 7<sup>th</sup>. October had similar numbers with more frequent peaks of 303 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 165 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 141 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 245 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 200 on 28<sup>th</sup>. The final count of the season was 180 on 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

Juan mooar

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Counts were achieved on two dates in January with 19 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12 on 12<sup>th</sup>.

Recorded daily throughout spring with sightings in the late double figures being usual and peak monthly counts of 111 on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 108 on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 145 on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

The cold and wet spring would appear to have delayed breeding, with many nests not having eggs until well into the second week of May. A number of previously regular sites were unoccupied and overall breeding numbers were low, with a decrease of 19% from last year.

| Location        | AON | Location                         | AON       |
|-----------------|-----|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Cow Harbour     | 1   | Seafield                         | 1         |
| Kione Beg       | 1   | Upper Withy                      | 2         |
| Gibdale Point   | 1   | Central Heath/ Twin Peaks/Quarry | 3         |
| Baie Fine       | 1   | South Plateau                    | 1         |
| Baie n' Ooig    | 1   | Kione ny Halby / Bowl            | 2         |
| Creg Veneagh    | 1   | Main Colony – Caigher            | 17        |
| Stack           | 1   | Cletts                           | 1         |
| Purp Cave       | 1   | Kitterland                       | 20        |
| Rarick / Puddle | 1   |                                  |           |
| Burroo          | 1   | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>57</b> |

*Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade:*

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

Productivity was very low with only 22 pulli ringed. The poor numbers of young were a result of severe storms that struck the island in late May and early June. These storms caused a high failure rate among nests, affecting both eggs and recently hatched chicks. By mid-June, it was estimated that eight of the 17 nests (47%) in the main colony at Caigher Point had failed. Mid-to-high double figure counts through the summer months likely reflected the presence of breeding birds, although occasionally numbers would be bolstered by birds taking shelter on Caigher, with monthly peaks of 82 on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 125 on 4<sup>th</sup> July and 187 on 17<sup>th</sup> August. Autumn counts were generally low-to-mid double figures. As in summer, occasional larger flocks would gather on Kitterland or Caigher, resulting in monthly peaks of 169 on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 198 on 5<sup>th</sup> October and 164 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

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

Foillan saggyrt

*Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.*

Birds were already present at their colonies when we arrived on the island in March, with a count of 82 on 11<sup>th</sup> and a monthly peak of 135 by 20<sup>th</sup>. Counts increased to peaks of 171 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 169 on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Other than 137 on 15<sup>th</sup> May all other counts during the month were in double figures.

Breeding numbers were at their highest level since 2002, with notable increases of 42% (Central Heath) and 38% (East Coast) on 2023 figures.

However, productivity was generally poor at both the larger colonies, whilst the five outlying pairs were all believed to have failed at either egg or young stage.

| Location                  | AON       |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Caigher Dub               | 2         |
| Central Heath / Top Withy | 21        |
| East coast/KNH            | 40        |
| Rarick                    | 1         |
| Ghaw Laing                | 2         |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>66</b> |

*Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade:*

| 10-YEAR<br>(m) | 1959 to<br>1968 | 1969 to<br>1978 | 1979 to<br>1988 | 1989 to<br>1998 | 1999 to<br>2008 | 2009 to<br>2018 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| AON            | 39              | 41              | 40              | 31              | 36              | 45              |

Adult birds remained at their breeding colonies throughout the summer months with peak counts of 78 on 7<sup>th</sup> June and 72 on 31<sup>st</sup> July. After 70 on 7<sup>th</sup> August, numbers decreased quickly – although daily counts of up to 35 occurred between 8<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. From 21<sup>st</sup> just five single figure counts occurred during the remainder of the month, except for 22 on 31<sup>st</sup> with some birds returning to take advantage of a flying ant emergence. Nineteen single figure counts were recorded in September, decreasing to 11 single figure counts in October and three in November, with a high of 10 birds at Cow Harbour on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

### **Long-tailed [Jaeger] Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus***

Maarliagh fammanagh

*Rare. Autumn passage migrant.*

A single heading north past Cow Harbour on 28<sup>th</sup> October was just the 23<sup>rd</sup> Calf record.

### **Arctic Skua [Parasitic Jaeger] *Stercorarius parasiticus***

Shirragh varrey

*Uncommon. Passage migrant, more regular in autumn.*

A rare spring record was of a single seen off South Harbour on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Seawatching during August produced a couple of records off Culbery with a single north on 16<sup>th</sup> and four on 22<sup>nd</sup>, plus a single south off Cow Harbour on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Five singles were recorded in September, with one on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus***

Maarliagh Pomareenagh

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Calf record was pale-phase individual that flew south past Cow Harbour on 12<sup>th</sup> September (ABJ).

### **Great Skua *Stercorarius skua***

Maarliagh mooar

*Uncommon. One summer resident, otherwise passage migrant.*

The presumed returning bird, now present for its 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, appeared on 18<sup>th</sup> April and was seen almost daily from 21<sup>st</sup> April through to 17<sup>th</sup> August. All records were believed to refer to this bird.

**Skua sp. *Stercorarius sp.***

One seen distantly off South Harbour on 31<sup>st</sup> May was believed to have possibly been *S. pomarinus*. Another off Culbery on 22<sup>nd</sup> August was likely to have been *S. parasiticus*.

**[Atlantic] Puffin *Fratercula arctica***

Pibbin

*Uncommon. Historic breeder; summer visitor and passage migrant.*

*Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 16<sup>th</sup> March 1982, with the latest departure date being 6<sup>th</sup> November 1996.*

First seen during early May with singles on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, then 2–4 birds on six dates during the second half of the month. Recorded most frequently during June with single figure counts on 21 dates. Birds were seen regularly on the sea below the Lighthouses and along the east coast between Ghaw Yairn and South Harbour. Records continued from these locations during July with up to eight birds seen on 10 dates up to 20<sup>th</sup>. Seawatching from South Harbour provided several notable counts during the summer months with 13W on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 25W on 28<sup>th</sup> and 16W on 4<sup>th</sup> July, whilst passage past Culbery produced 4S & 9N on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 6S & 17N on 26<sup>th</sup>. A final late record was a single north past Cow Harbour on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

The count of 30 individuals on 28<sup>th</sup> June is the highest day total since 2000. Other UK breeding colonies usually have birds arriving on their breeding grounds during March, with the first young hatching during mid-May. Whilst birds are regularly seen offshore from known former breeding sites on the Calf, their peak arrival during June would suggest that most of these birds are either non-breeders or birds that have already failed elsewhere.

## **Black Guillemot** *Cepphus grylle*

Stronnag ghoo

*Common. Annual breeder; uncommon passage migrant.*

Spring records were relatively numerous with one to four birds seen on 10 dates between 11<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March, then up to seven birds on 21 dates in April and 17 dates in May, plus higher counts of 14 (including 12 off Cow) on 9<sup>th</sup> & 11 on 13<sup>th</sup> April and nine on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Up to three pairs were regularly seen near the Stack with other single pairs seen along the east coast and off Gibdale, suggesting that up to five pairs may have bred. Up to nine birds continued to be seen around the islet through June and July, with records becoming more scarce during August when records were of just 1–2 birds on seven dates up to the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Winter passage birds included three single figure records in October and a peak of 12 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Coltrag

*Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.*

There were no winter records, although small numbers (10) were present at the beginning of the season, and this had increased to 126 by 20<sup>th</sup> and 221 by 31<sup>st</sup>. Double figure records were regular through April and May with higher counts of 147 on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 105 on 27<sup>th</sup> & 353 on 28<sup>th</sup>, and 109 on 5<sup>th</sup> May & 259 on 26<sup>th</sup>. Breeding season counts were only possible on two dates during June, with a combined mean count of 318 IAs and an estimated 191 pairs. This represents the highest breeding count since 2010 and an 87% increase on 2023 breeding figures.

- *Mean estimate of breeding pairs per decade:*

| 10-YEAR<br>(m) | 1959 to<br>1968 | 1969 to<br>1978 | 1979 to<br>1988 | 1989 to<br>1998 | 1999 to<br>2008 | 2009 to<br>2018 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| AON            | 154             | 129             | 127             | 63              | 115             | 128             |

Double figures were counted near daily in June and the first half of July, with highs of 453 on 12<sup>th</sup> & 386 on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, and 123 on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Numbers rapidly dropped off in the latter half of July and only two singles were recorded in August. Records were rather sparse in the autumn. Peaks included 84 on 10<sup>th</sup> September, and 183 on 12<sup>th</sup> & 279 on 21<sup>st</sup> October.



## Common [Murre] Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Stronnag

*Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.*

Three birds were seen in the Puddle on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Counts were rather sporadic during spring with single figure counts on six dates in March plus a high of 12 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. In April, up to 48 were recorded on 13 dates plus highs of 103 on 27<sup>th</sup> and 161 on 28<sup>th</sup>. Records became more regular during May with birds seen on their ledges at Ghaw Yairn from 15<sup>th</sup> and a monthly peak of 149 on 29<sup>th</sup>. Breeding counts were conducted during June with land counts at Ghaw Yairn and boat counts made at Big Head and below the Upper Lighthouse. Comparing counts from land and sea shows that boat counts may undercount by up to 25%. The combined counts give a population of 264 IAs with an estimated 159 pairs, an increase of 15% on 2023 figures. The last chick was seen on the ledges at Big Head on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

- *Mean estimate of breeding pairs per decade:*

| 10-YEAR<br>(m) | 1959 to<br>1968 | 1969 to<br>1978 | 1979 to<br>1988 | 1989 to<br>1998 | 1999 to<br>2008 | 2009 to<br>2018 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| AON            | 143             | 95              | 258             | 175             | 157             | 108             |

Records were almost daily through the summer months, with sometimes large numbers of birds moving past the southern tip of the Calf as they travel between feeding grounds to the west and breeding sites along the southern coastline of the Isle of Man. Notable counts past South Harbour were 464S on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 427S on 13<sup>th</sup> & 422W on 27<sup>th</sup>, and 399W on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Additionally, a passage of 165S & 292N passed off Culbery on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

Numbers of birds present reduced significantly after mid-July, with just 10 birds on ledges on 22<sup>nd</sup> and the last bird of the summer being a single on 28<sup>th</sup>. August produced just four records, with two on 2<sup>nd</sup> and singles on 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.

Similar to Razorbill, autumn records were decidedly sparse, with just six records in September (all <20) and seven records in October (peak of 5 on 9<sup>th</sup>).

## Large Auk sp. *Alca/Uria* sp.

Non-specifically identified Razorbill/Guillemot 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 501 on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 422 on 28<sup>th</sup> June and 364 on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

Records were generally scarce during the early autumn months with nine records of <5 birds in August. Nine records in September included a peak of 50S & 55N off Culbery on 11<sup>th</sup>. Records did not increase in October but the number of birds involved did, with 397S & 3N off Cow Harbour on 9<sup>th</sup>, 1464S & 38N off Culbery on 12<sup>th</sup> and 1905S & 532N on 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

Lhargey yiarg

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

One flying south off the Lighthouses on 21<sup>st</sup> April was only the 2<sup>nd</sup> spring record since 2012.

Early autumn records included a summer-plumaged bird south off Culbery on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and one south off Cow Harbour on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Seawatching produced five singles in September, with two on 24<sup>th</sup>. A further three singles were seen in October, with two on 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

Lhargey ghoo

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

The 58<sup>th</sup> Calf record was a summer-plumaged bird flying south off Cow Harbour at 09:00 on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

### **Great Northern Diver [Common Loon] *Gavia immer***

Arrag vooar

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

Rare spring records involved two flying west off Cow Harbour on 9<sup>th</sup> April and a single through the Sound on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The first autumn records were singles south off Culbery on 24<sup>th</sup> September and south past Cow Harbour on 27<sup>th</sup>. Further singles were recorded on 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October.

### **European [Storm Petrel] Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus***

Kirree varrey

*Uncommon. Summer visitor and passage migrant.*

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

| Date                  | Location      | No. | Date                    | Location      | No. |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----|-------------------------|---------------|-----|
| 16 <sup>th</sup> June | South Harbour | 3   | 28 <sup>th</sup> July   | South Harbour | 14  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> June | South Harbour | 3   | 31 <sup>st</sup> July   | South Harbour | 7   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July  | South Harbour | 2   | 1 <sup>st</sup> August  | South Harbour | 11  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> July  | South Harbour | 8   | 10 <sup>th</sup> August | South Harbour | 3   |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> July | South Harbour | 1   | 11 <sup>th</sup> August | South Harbour | 5   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> July | South Harbour | 7   | 18 <sup>th</sup> August | South Harbour | 2   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> July | South Harbour | 15  | 19 <sup>th</sup> August | South Harbour | 1   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> July | South Harbour | 3   | 30 <sup>th</sup> August | Cow Harbour   | 3   |

Additionally, one was seen past Rarick on a seawatch on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**[Northern] Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Foillan Albinagh

*Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.*

Winter records were five on 11<sup>th</sup> and two on 12<sup>th</sup> January.



*Fulmar with newly hatched chick*  
©Eleanor Grover

Recorded almost daily from the start of the season through to the end of August, with mid-range double figure counts normally representing the presence of prospecting birds during the early part of the season and breeding birds during the summer months. Spring passage was noted off Cow Harbour during April, with 323 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 175 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 88W & 113E on 16<sup>th</sup>.

Counts of Apparently Occupied Sites were 59 on 5<sup>th</sup> May and 50 on 12<sup>th</sup> & 59 on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The latter two counts did not include AOS in Ghaw Yairn, which is more accurately counted from land. A combination of land and sea counts provide an estimate of 95 AOS, which is comparable to recent trends over the past decade.

| Location           | AOS       |
|--------------------|-----------|
| End of Wall        | 1         |
| West of Ghaw Yairn | 3         |
| Ghaw Yairn         | 39        |
| Big Head           | 2         |
| Kione Beg          | 1         |
| Amulty             | 6         |
| Baie n Ooig        | 14        |
| Stack              | 4         |
| Lighthouses        | 12        |
| Clet Elby          | 4         |
| Ghaw Laing         | 2         |
| Burroo             | 7         |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>95</b> |

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

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

Despite the apparent stability of the current breeding population, productivity was extremely poor and mainly single figure daily counts during July and August reflects the desertion of many breeding sites. Only three young were known to have fledged, with just two successful sites on the Burroo and one at the Stack.

A light autumn passage was noted during August on eight dates, when movements of up to 73 birds were seen offshore from Cow Harbour and Culbery. Passage continued through the beginning of September, with highs of 58 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 87 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 43 on 12<sup>th</sup>. Only three records were in the latter half of September, with a further four records in October. Two birds flew past South Harbour on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus***

Scraayl

*Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.*

Four south and one north off Culbery on 19<sup>th</sup> March were the first sightings of the year, with a further 20S on 30<sup>th</sup>. At least 10 birds were ashore overnight on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, with birds then seen or heard regularly ashore on suitable nights during the spring and summer months, with peak counts of 100 on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 88 on 11<sup>th</sup> June and 150+ on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Callback monitoring was conducted between 21<sup>st</sup> May to 26<sup>th</sup> June resulting in an overall response rate of 39%. A full burrow census was conducted in South Harbour on 12<sup>th</sup> June, with a total of 57 responses from 382 burrows giving a daily response rate of 15%, which is identical to the average daily response rate for the entire callback survey period.

There were no significant concentrations of rafting birds seen offshore during the summer months, although a couple of small evening gatherings were noted off South Harbour with 50+ on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 156 on 15<sup>th</sup> June and 76 off Chicken Rock on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Regular counts of birds passing the south and west coasts of the islet were made in July with 300 exceeded on four dates in the month. August produced the peak in offshore passage past Culbery with 486S on 6<sup>th</sup>, 497S on 16<sup>th</sup>, 594S on 17<sup>th</sup>, 528S on 18<sup>th</sup>, 1,337S on 20<sup>th</sup>, 429S & 70N on 21<sup>st</sup> and 707S & 92N on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Single and double figure counts were recorded on 11 dates in the first fortnight of September, with a peak of 84 on 10<sup>th</sup>. There were then no further records until the final sightings of the season: singles on 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October.

## **[Northern] Gannet *Morus bassanus***

Gant

*Common. Summer visitor and passage migrant.*

Birds were seen offshore almost daily throughout the season with generally higher counts and with greater frequency than in 2023, although most counts were below one hundred. Notable spring peaks were 254 on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 502 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 596 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 175 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

Late summer and early autumn also produced higher numbers with peak counts of 133 on 15<sup>th</sup> & 179 on 26<sup>th</sup> July, whilst seawatching from Culbery in August yielded 47S & 214N on 6<sup>th</sup>, 24S & 121N on 16<sup>th</sup>, 48S & 114N on 18<sup>th</sup>, 137S & 37N on 20<sup>th</sup> and from Cow Harbour 250S on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mostly double figure counts were seen daily throughout the autumn, with monthly peaks of 262 on 14<sup>th</sup> September and 221 on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**[Great] Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Feeagh marrey

*Common. Historic breeder; non-breeding resident and passage migrant.*

Counts of up to seven birds were common throughout the spring and early summer, with regular haul-out sites at the Cletts and Caigher Point usually holding up to four birds at each.

A slight increase in the volume of records during the summer and autumn months, is likely attributable to the arrival of dispersing juveniles with up to eight birds recorded during June and peak counts of 12 on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 11 on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 13 on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 10 on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**[European] Shag** *Gulosus aristotelis*

Fannag varrey

*Common. Annual breeder; resident.*

Winter records were 75 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 14 on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Birds were recorded daily throughout the season, with counts in March and April likely representing local breeding populations. The highest counts during this period were 121 on 26<sup>th</sup> March and 150 on 20<sup>th</sup> April, though average numbers remained below 50. Numbers began to rise in early May as birds started forming feeding flocks near the Calf, with seven days recording over 100 birds, peaking at 232 on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Throughout the summer, feeding and roosting flocks became more frequent, with 13 days in June and nine in July reaching three-figure counts. The highest numbers were 551 on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 535 on 29<sup>th</sup> July and 570 on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

The breeding season can only be described with one word – “disastrous”, with a productivity of 0.06 young per nest across five colonies that were monitored. The first checks along the east coast, at the Kione ny Halby bowl in late March, suggested that the season might be poor with none of the five nests there containing eggs or young. Due to continuing lengthy periods of strong winds and cold weather in general, further nest checks were delayed until late April when the main colony at Kione ny Halby contained just nine active nests with eggs. Unfortunately, further checks during May revealed that five of these had subsequently failed. The situation was similar on the west coast with just seven nests out of 31 monitored raising young.

| Location                        | AON        |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Cletts                          | 3          |
| Big Head / Kione Roauyr         | 1          |
| Ghaw Yairn                      | 3          |
| Kione ny Halby main colony      | 12         |
| Wall                            | 1          |
| Puffin colony & Table Rock      | 4          |
| Upper Lighthouse (Creg Veneagh) | 18         |
| Lower Lighthouse Field (below)  | 3          |
| Baie n' Ooig                    | 40         |
| Baie Fine (West)                | 28         |
| Gibdale Bay                     | 6          |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>119</b> |

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

| 10-YEAR<br>(m) | 1959 to<br>1968 | 1969 to<br>1978 | 1979 to<br>1988 | 1989 to<br>1998 | 1999 to<br>2008 | 2009 to<br>2018 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| AON            | 232             | 317             | 312             | 268             | 179             | 147             |

Numbers dropped off throughout August, becoming generally in double figures for the rest of the autumn. Peaks included 232 on 1<sup>st</sup> September and 114 on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

### **[Eurasian] Bittern *Botaurus stellaris***

Ushag ny boob

*Vagrant.*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ever Calf record was of a bird heard calling somewhere in the Glen during the foggy morning of 8<sup>th</sup> May (EMG). Heard to call six times, the conditions meant the bird was unfortunately not seen.

### **Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

Coar-vane veg

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

The first ever April records involved a single at Cow Harbour during the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> and another bird seen flying west off the Lighthouses on 21<sup>st</sup>. Two birds seen flying off South Harbour on 30<sup>th</sup> August were just the second record for that month. A single was then seen occasionally throughout the autumn, with four records in September being the first records for this

month, and a further 14 sightings in October and daily from 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November.

A spectacular run of autumn records reflecting the increasing regularity of this species. The 16<sup>th</sup> – 41<sup>st</sup> Calf records – more records were seen in this year than all of the previous years of the Observatory combined. Autumn records may have involved a single individual, however, given the large numbers at Langness, there may well have been multiple individuals involved.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Coar ny hastan

*Uncommon. Passage migrant, more regular in autumn.*

Winter records consisted of an individual captured on trail camera at the Millpond on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> and then seen at the Puddle during a day visit on 12<sup>th</sup> January. Spring records consisted of singles on 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March, 28<sup>th</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Sightings became more frequent and numerous during June (presumably with post-breeding dispersal of birds from the main island), resulting in singles recorded on eight dates, plus four on 20<sup>th</sup> and two on 25<sup>th</sup>. Records were rather scarce in July with just four singles, but increased again through the autumn with 1–2 birds on nine dates in August, 16 dates in September, 12 dates in October and three dates at the beginning of November. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the highest ever count of nine individuals was roosting on the rocks above Cow Harbour.

**[Western] Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Shawk eeastee

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

Spring records involved one seen over Caigher during the afternoon of 11<sup>th</sup> May before heading slowly north and another bird that flew along the east coast on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The only record of autumn was a single flying west over the Twin Fields on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

The 62<sup>nd</sup> – 64<sup>th</sup> Calf records.

**[Eurasian] Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Shawk sperriu

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*



One or two birds were seen frequently through the spring, with eight bird-days in March, 19 bird-days in April and nine bird-days in May.

A male present around the Withies on 21<sup>st</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June was the likely start of autumn dispersal and on the latter date was confirmed to involve a 3<sup>rd</sup> year bird that was originally ringed in 2022. Records remained sparse during the first part of July, with singles on 1<sup>st</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, then became more regular from 27<sup>th</sup> with two on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> and a further single on 31<sup>st</sup>. This regularity continued through August with 1–2 birds on 19 dates plus three on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. One to four birds were seen on 24 dates in September, with 1–2 birds present near-daily through October and November.

### **[Northern] Goshawk** *Astur gentilis*

Shawk vooar ny sperriu

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A single joined a large raptor flock spiralling on thermals over the Triangle on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The 12<sup>th</sup> Calf record, and the first for September.

### **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Shirragh ny giark

*Common. Former breeder; non-breeding resident and passage migrant.*

Rather scarce at the start of the season with just three singles during March and on 18 dates in April. A single was then present between 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May with the only other record during the month being one on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Four singles occurred during June, with the frequency of records then increasing through autumn with singles on 12 dates in July and 1–3 birds almost daily through August to the end of the season, with a peak of four coming in to roost on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Except for an adult male on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> October, all records were of ‘ringtails’.

### **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Shirragh famman-mooar

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

The first record involved a distinctive adult which was moulting the inner primaries and outer secondaries on both wings, and which was initially seen over Cagher Dub during the afternoon of 10<sup>th</sup> May before slowly heading north towards the Observatory. A second sightings of a bird exhibiting similar wing moult spent much of the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> May above the Observatory and back field and was initially thought to have perhaps been the same bird

as the one on 10<sup>th</sup>. However, on 20<sup>th</sup> May, two birds showing identical wing moult patterns were seen together above the Observatory before one drifted north and was subsequently seen over Cregneash.

There were several sightings on the main island during this period, and it will seem likely that a number of birds were involved, and it is possible that from these three sightings there were four different birds.

The 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Calf records.

### **[Common] Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

Shirragh ruy

*Common. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.*

Recorded almost daily throughout the season with counts of up to six birds being regular and likely reflecting the presence of up to three pairs.

Following the first successful breeding occurrence in 2023, a pair again held territory along the north-west coast whilst an additional pairs was also present at Ghaw Laing, with a further male displaying at Ghaw Yairn. None of these breeding attempts were believed to be successful.

Post-breeding dispersal from the main island and passage birds provided some higher counts during early autumn: 12 on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 11 on 13<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> September and 23 on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***

Hullad eairkagh

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

One bounced out of a mist net on 14<sup>th</sup> August, and another was calling first thing in the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> & 83<sup>rd</sup> Calf records.

### **Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***

Hullad ghiare-chleayshagh

*Rare. Former breeder; passage migrant.*

One flew over the Observatory during the morning of 5<sup>th</sup> May, before disappearing over towards the Central Heath and what was probably the same bird was seen briefly during the early morning of 6<sup>th</sup>. Further sightings were made during the spring with singles on 20<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May. Occasional records continued through the summer months with singles on 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> June, 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> August, as well as feathers being found on several occasions. Autumn records involved singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September.

Records were also frequent at several nearby locations on the main island, and it would seem likely that the Calf was occasionally being used as a hunting area.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus major*

Snoggeyder mooar

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A female that arrived during the afternoon of 31<sup>st</sup> March remained around the Observatory area until 17<sup>th</sup> April. Presumably a second individual was seen on rocks at Fold Point on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

The 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Calf records.

**[Common] Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Stannair

*Uncommon. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.*

Records were scarce through the spring and early summer with just single birds recorded on three dates in March, 14 dates in April (plus two on 15<sup>th</sup>), 12 dates in May and five dates in June.

Post-breeding dispersal was recorded during July with an increase in both frequency and numbers, with 1–2 birds on 11 dates and up to four birds during the last week of the month. This higher level of records continued through August with daily records of up to five birds and a peak of six on 29<sup>th</sup>. Mostly 1–2 (with occasional records of three or four) birds were present near-daily from September to the end of the season.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Shawk veg

*Uncommon. Passage migrant and winter visitor.*

The only winter record was of a single seen crossing the Sound towards the Calf on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

Records were frequent from the start of the season with 1–2 birds seen on 13 dates in March and 16 dates in April, with the last record of spring being a single on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

The first of the autumn were two birds seen in the front field on 9<sup>th</sup> September. One to two birds were seen on a further 11 dates in the month, remaining consistent to the end of the season.



*First-year Merlin ©Chloe Hurst*

**Peregrine [Falcon] *Falco peregrinus***

Shirragh y ree

*Uncommon. Occasional breeder.*

Records were very infrequent throughout the spring, with 1–2 birds seen on just four dates in March, six dates in April (plus three birds on 26<sup>th</sup>), eight dates in May and four dates in June. There was no breeding attempt this year (the first time since 2015) and records remained scarce through July with two on 24<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile attempting to catch a Woodpigeon on 30<sup>th</sup>. Records remained scarce at the start of the autumn with 1–2 birds seen on just five dates in August.

**[Eurasian] Magpie *Pica pica***

Pieanat

*Uncommon. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.*

Early spring records consisted of two on 16<sup>th</sup> March, five on 4<sup>th</sup>, three on 8<sup>th</sup> and a single on 9<sup>th</sup> April. From the 14<sup>th</sup> April, a single (ringed) was seen in the Glen sporadically through the remainder of spring, summer and early autumn, with records on a further four dates in April, eight dates in May, five dates in June, 13 dates in July and 12 dates in August. Three further singles in September may have been the same individual or may have involved migrant individuals, such as the six on 25<sup>th</sup>. Four singles were recorded in both October and November. Two were seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> October, with three on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**[Red-billed] Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Caaig

*Common. Annual breeder; resident.*

Four present on 12<sup>th</sup> January was the only winter record.

Recorded daily throughout the season with counts of 20–30 birds being regular during spring and reflecting the presence of 11 pairs, plus a few non-breeding birds.

At least 11 young were known to have fledged. With newly fledged young around counts during June increased, with a high of 48 on 30<sup>th</sup> and remained at similar levels through July and August. However, an emergence of flying ants on 31<sup>st</sup> August presumably attracted birds from across the Sound, resulting in a peak of 90 birds – increasing to 95 on 1<sup>st</sup> September (the third highest ever day-count). Dropping to 64 on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, counts during the autumn were otherwise generally between 20 and 40.

**[Western] Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*

Juan teayst

*Uncommon. Passage migrant – irregular in spring.*

Spring records involved occasional excursions of 1–4 birds from the main island on four dates between 16<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March, two dates in April and three dates between 1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May. Following a count of 25 on 11<sup>th</sup> May (the highest spring count since 1992), an unusually large number of records occurred, with 26 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 10–19 birds on a further five dates between 17<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. Three more birds were seen on 29<sup>th</sup> May and records unusually continued into June, with singles on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> and two on 15<sup>th</sup>.

The first autumn record was a single on 6<sup>th</sup> September, with two on 17<sup>th</sup> and six on 20<sup>th</sup>. There were 18 records in October and November, with a peak of 334 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Trogh

*Uncommon. Passage migrant – irregular in spring.*

An above-average number of spring records began with a single on 26<sup>th</sup> March, then 1–3 on four dates in April plus eight on 28<sup>th</sup> and nine on 20<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. During May, 1–4 were recorded on seven dates, plus 17 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and eight on 16<sup>th</sup>.

The count of 17 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest spring count ever, only beaten by 19 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2005 and 26 on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1983.

A rather poor autumn with only eight records, all in single figures.

### **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Fannag ghoo

*Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.*

Single figure counts were recorded near-daily during the season, reflecting the presence of breeding birds. Spring peaks were seven on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April. Records decreased throughout the summer as breeding birds became more localised, but picked up again in the autumn. The latter was likely supplemented by small numbers of migrant birds, such as 11 on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

A single Carrion Crow pair nested out on Caigher, yet for all their appearance the pair produced three 'hybrid' young. A further three mixed Carrion x Hooded Crow pairs bred.

### **Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

Fannag

*Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.*

Recorded daily throughout the season, numbers between 2 and 20 reflecting resident breeding birds. The spring peak was 28 on 10<sup>th</sup> May. At least 11 pairs bred, although at least seven of these contained 'hybrid' individuals – producing an eclectic mix of plumages.

Fledged young bolstered counts in June, with a peak of 25 on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.

Numbers then dropped off to mostly single figure counts for the rest of summer as birds dispersed, before being bolstered in the autumn by migrating individuals. Autumn monthly peaks were 20 on 27<sup>th</sup> September and 23 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October & 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

In addition, 1–7 'hybrid' individuals were recorded near daily in the season.

### **[Northern] Raven** *Corvus corax*

Feeagh

*Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.*

Two on the 12<sup>th</sup> January was the only winter record.

Recorded almost daily throughout the season, with two pairs being resident. Birds were already defending territories when we arrived in mid-March, with the pair at Amulty going on to fledge three young in early May, whilst the Lighthouses pair were unsuccessful.

The majority of sightings after May likely referred to the residents and their young. Some passage occurred in autumn, including 14 on 17<sup>th</sup> September, eight on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> and 13 on 28<sup>th</sup>, and eight on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**[Eurasian] Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Kione gorrym

*Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant, irregular in spring.*

Two spring records involved a single at the Observatory on 16<sup>th</sup> March and another trapped at the Withy on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Two birds at the Observatory from 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September and a single at the withies on 27<sup>th</sup> were the only autumn records.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Myntan mooar

*Uncommon. Occasional breeder; passage migrant, more regular in autumn.*

During spring, between 1–3 birds were recorded almost daily from 11<sup>th</sup> March, with four recorded on five dates and five on 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March.

However, ringing records show that at least eight females and one male were involved. A female (830) was present from 11<sup>th</sup> March and remained throughout the spring, breeding with 508. A second female arrived on 16<sup>th</sup> March and remained until 8<sup>th</sup> April, and these were joined by further females on 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> (2), 26<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April.

The male (508) was caught on 19<sup>th</sup> March and had originally been ringed in spring 2023 and was part of last year's successful breeding pair. This year he gained a new partner and in mid-May the pair were seen visiting a nest box on the generator barn. Six young were ringed on 1<sup>st</sup> June and the first young were seen to fledge on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

A very poor autumn showing for tits, with most birds of this species believed to be of the breeding pair and their young (only re-trap birds were caught). Singles at Kione ny Halby and Jane's House were believed to be the only migrant individuals of the autumn.

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

Ushag cheylley

*Very rare. Migrant.*

The 7<sup>th</sup> Calf record – and first record for May – was of a bird seen and heard as it flew north over the Observatory on 8<sup>th</sup> May (AS, AMP).

**[Eurasian] Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Usagh happagh

*Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant (more regular in autumn).*

A good series of early spring records, with 1–2 birds seen on nine dates between 12<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March and a single on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

An unusual series of summer records began with a singing bird that flew north-west over the Observatory during the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> June – the first record for the month since 2009. Four singles in July on 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> were the first sightings for that month since 2000 and two singles in August on 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> were the first since 2018.

The first autumn passage birds were two on 6<sup>th</sup> September. 1–11 birds were then recorded on 14 occasions in the month, with 24 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 88 on 28<sup>th</sup>. Counts were near-daily in October and November, with notable numbers including 58 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 95 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 113 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

### **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Gollan geinnee

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 12<sup>th</sup> March 1990, with the latest departure date being 11<sup>th</sup> October 1999 and 2005.*

The first records of the season were a single on 28<sup>th</sup> and three on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Spring passage was light, with 1–4 birds seen on 11 dates in April and six dates in May, plus a high count of eight on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. A single on 6<sup>th</sup> June was the last record of spring passage.

Two on 12<sup>th</sup> July were the only summer record. Autumn passage began with 13 on 14<sup>th</sup> August, followed by a single on 29<sup>th</sup>, 79 on 30<sup>th</sup> and 14 on 31<sup>st</sup>. The count on 30<sup>th</sup> being the tenth highest count ever and coincided with a significant passage of Swallows and record-breaking numbers of House Martin. Three birds were seen on 5<sup>th</sup> September, with a final single on 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **[Barn] Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Gollan geayee

*Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.*

*Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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



*The earliest arrival date was 17<sup>th</sup> March 1995, with the latest departure date being 28<sup>th</sup> November 1994.*

A single on 31<sup>st</sup> March was the first of the year, and was followed by a further single on 4<sup>th</sup> April and a light passage in mostly single figures between 6<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.



*Swallow chick @Sophie Elliott*

From 20<sup>th</sup> April passage increased to low double figures where it remained for much of spring, with a high count of just 73 on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

Seven pairs were recorded as breeding, with three at Jane's House and the remainder in the Observatory barns. Productivity was extremely poor, with prolonged periods of rain and cold weather resulting in nine out of 13 breeding attempts failing at either egg or young stages.

A light autumn passage was evident during the last third of July with daily counts of 13–34 birds and peaking with 129 on 31<sup>st</sup>. Counts during August generally continued at the same low double figure level, although a slight increase during 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> saw three dates with between 61 & 69 birds and 183 on 14<sup>th</sup>. Counts returned to low double figures until the end of the month when a sudden surge of birds included 85 on 29<sup>th</sup>, 677 on 30<sup>th</sup> and 121 on 31<sup>st</sup>. September saw the return to low double figures, with highs of 225 on 5<sup>th</sup>, 80 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 83 on 7<sup>th</sup>, then 295 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 67 on 17<sup>th</sup>. Sightings dropped off rapidly in October, with just singles on nine dates, 15 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. The last birds of the season were two on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **[Common] House Martin *Delichon urbicum***

Gollan thie

*Uncommon. Summer visitor and passage migrant – more regular in autumn.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2001, with the latest departure date being 31<sup>st</sup> October 1976.*

Five on 31<sup>st</sup> March were the first of the season and equalled the earliest spring arrival date since 2001. A light passage continued through April and early May, with 1–4 birds seen on 11 dates in April and 12 dates between 1<sup>st</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May, plus six on 10<sup>th</sup> and seven on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Peak passage occurred during the last third of May, with 10 on 21<sup>st</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> and 17 on 25<sup>th</sup> being the peak count for the spring. Other than 11 on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1–7 birds were seen through late May and on 14 dates in June.

July records were scarce with the first autumn movement being a single on 22<sup>nd</sup>, then six on 30<sup>th</sup> and four on 31<sup>st</sup>. Passage during August was also generally very poor with singles on three dates plus 30 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 328 on 30<sup>th</sup> and six on 31<sup>st</sup>. The count on 30<sup>th</sup> being the highest day total ever, with birds presumably having been held from moving and then all deciding to move at once as the weather improved. Fourteen records in September were most single figure or low double figures, with 79 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 80 on 16<sup>th</sup>. The last record was nine on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Kiaulleyder keylley

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1978, with the latest departure date being 26<sup>th</sup> September 1985.*

The first spring record since 2019, was of a male trapped at the Top Withy on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Upon release the bird flew up into the Sitka outside the Observatory and began to sing, much to the delight of the assembled birdwatchers.

In autumn a single was trapped at the Cuckoo flower net in the Glen on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

The first records since 2020.

### **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*\*

Kiaulleyder gruaie-wuigh

*Rare. Autumn passage migrant.*

A good autumn passage, reflecting the influx of this species into Britain. Birds were found at both the withies and the Observatory, favouring the front

hedge. The first bird was caught at the Observatory on 7<sup>th</sup> October, followed by a second from 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. A third bird was present on 19<sup>th</sup>, two different birds were present on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a single was heard calling at the far end on 27<sup>th</sup>. The final birds were one on 29<sup>th</sup> and another from 30<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November. A total of eight birds were recorded – the 69<sup>th</sup> – 76<sup>th</sup> Calf records.

*Yellow-browed Warbler*  
©Andrew Jacobs



### **Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus rochilus***

Drean vane

*Common. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016, with the latest departure date being 17<sup>th</sup> November 1991.*

Spring passage began with singles on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March, with arrivals of 12 on 30<sup>th</sup> and 40 on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Passage during April was generally light with single figures on 12 dates, counts of 10–65 on 17 dates and a peak of 118 on 13<sup>th</sup>. Following 66 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 61 on 2<sup>nd</sup> May numbers decreased quickly and other than 14 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 41 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 6<sup>th</sup>, all other counts for the month were of between 1–7 birds. Singles on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June were the last birds of spring migration.

Two moulting adults arrived on 26<sup>th</sup> June and were still present on 7<sup>th</sup> July, when the first autumn juvenile arrived. Single figure records were then almost daily until the end of the month, with a month high of 26 on 31<sup>st</sup>. Passage throughout August was poor with no records on five dates, single figure counts on 20 dates and low double figure counts on six dates, with a

peak of just 19 on 11<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen records of 1–7 were the last birds passing through in September, with the final single on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Overall passage was 14% lower this season than in 2023.

**[Common] Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Beeallerey

*Common. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 4<sup>th</sup> March 1978, with the latest departure date being 4<sup>th</sup> December 1992.*

Spring passage began with one on 11<sup>th</sup> March, then single figure counts daily through to 25<sup>th</sup> – after which passage increased to 11 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 on 30<sup>th</sup> and 22 on 31<sup>st</sup> (the peak count of spring). Passage during April was light with single figure counts on 25 days plus a high count of 12 on 14<sup>th</sup>, whilst a similar pattern occurred in May, with single figure counts on 27 days and a high count of 18 on 5<sup>th</sup>. 1–3 birds were seen during June and ringing records showed that three adults were present plus juveniles were trapped on 16<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. Birds were very elusive during July, although up to three birds were seen on four dates including juveniles on 8<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Three adults were present throughout the summer, including two territorial males, however it was considered that only one pair bred (at the Top Withy).

Although a single was present on 12<sup>th</sup>, autumn passage did not begin until the end of August, with a single on 28<sup>th</sup>, four on 29<sup>th</sup>, six on 30<sup>th</sup> and two on 31<sup>st</sup>. Single figures were recorded daily in September, with 11 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. 1–9 were recorded near daily in October and November.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Kiaulleyder shiast

*Common. Former breeder; passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

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

Two on 13<sup>th</sup> April were the earliest spring arrivals since 1991 and were just one day later than the earliest ever recorded in 1980 and 1981. Despite this early start there was only 1–2 birds on a further four dates in the month from the 20<sup>th</sup>. Peak passage occurred during the first third of May, with low double figure counts on four dates to the 9<sup>th</sup> (including a peak of 23 on 5<sup>th</sup>). Other than 11 on both 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May, counts for the remainder of the month were of just 1–5 birds, with the last bird of spring seen on 30<sup>th</sup> May. Autumn passage began with a single on 17<sup>th</sup> July, with up to three birds seen on a further seven dates in the month, and a high of seven on 25<sup>th</sup> August began with two on 1<sup>st</sup> but poor weather conditions throughout the remainder of the month meant that the only other record was of three on 30<sup>th</sup>. The last record of the year was also three, on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Overall passage was 30% lower this season than in 2023.

**[Eurasian] Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*\***

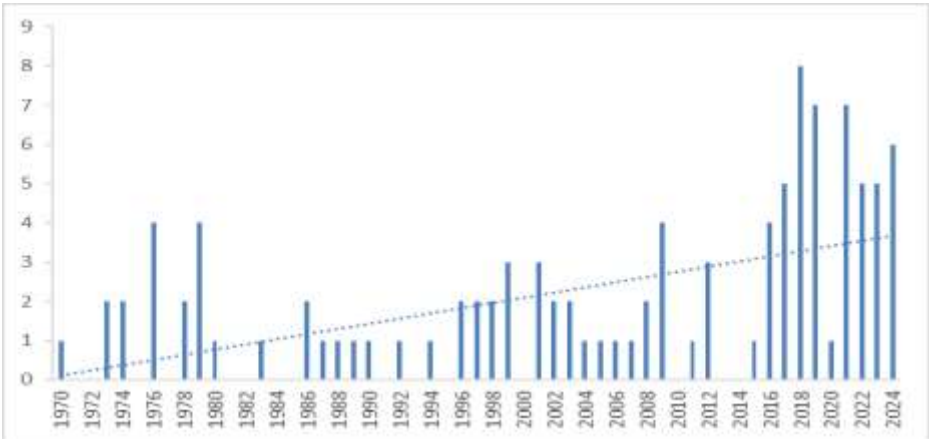
Guilckag

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

- Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

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

The earliest arrival date was 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019, with the latest departure date being 17<sup>th</sup> November 1998.



Number of records by year, since the species was first recorded in 1970:  
The precedence for May records continued with six different individuals recorded: singles were trapped at the Withy on 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Observatory on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> and three different individuals were present on 16<sup>th</sup>. The individual on 2<sup>nd</sup> May was bearing a British-control ring and was originally ringed in Londonderry, Eire in May 2022.

**[Common] Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Reeleyder

*Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2004, with the latest departure date being 19<sup>th</sup> October 1985.*

A reasonable spring passage consisted of singles on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> April, with two on 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> and further singles on 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The only record of autumn was an immature trapped at the front hedge on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

**[Eurasian] Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Kione doo

*Common. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1977, with the latest departure date being 28<sup>th</sup> November 2001 and 2009.*

Spring passage began with a single on 25<sup>th</sup> March, then 1–3 daily through to 29<sup>th</sup> and eight on 31<sup>st</sup> (the highest ever day count for the month).

Counts of 1–7 were regular during the first half of April, with passage increasing to 16 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 65 on 14<sup>th</sup> (a new spring record day count) and 20 on 15<sup>th</sup>. The second half of the month saw mostly single figure counts,

although higher counts of 28 on 20<sup>th</sup>, 16 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 11 on 24<sup>th</sup>. After 11 on 1<sup>st</sup> May and 15 on 2<sup>nd</sup> numbers decreased to seven on 3<sup>rd</sup> and six on 5<sup>th</sup> and then remained at 1–3 birds between 6<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.

A female with brood patch was trapped on 25<sup>th</sup> and heralded the beginning of summer dispersal with three on 26<sup>th</sup> May & 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 1–2 birds sporadically through June, including a singing male and the first juvenile of autumn on 30<sup>th</sup>. Records were frequent during July with up to three birds on 17 dates in the month, plus a high of four on 7<sup>th</sup>. In comparison passage through August was about 50% less than in 2023 with 1–2 birds recorded on 12 dates, plus three on 24, four on 30<sup>th</sup> and a high of five on 14<sup>th</sup>. 1–4 were recorded on 14 dates in September, 1–3 on seven dates on October and 1–2 on four dates in November.

Overall passage was 41% lower this season than in 2023.

### **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Kiaulleyder garagh

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 13<sup>th</sup> April 1963, with the latest departure date being 18<sup>th</sup> November 1998.*

A slight improvement on last year's poor spring passage, saw a single trapped at the Observatory on 26<sup>th</sup> April and separate individuals seen at the Triangle and Withy on 30<sup>th</sup>. In May, one was trapped at the Observatory on 1<sup>st</sup>, another was seen at the bushes above Jane's House on 2<sup>nd</sup> and one was trapped at the Observatory on 12<sup>th</sup> (remained until 13<sup>th</sup>). The last of spring was a single trapped at the Observatory on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

The only record of autumn was a single trapped at the Observatory on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Barred Warbler** *Curruca nisoria*

Kiaulleyder schimmeighagh

*Rare. Autumn passage migrant.*

For the fourth year running a first-year bird was trapped in the autumn (on 17<sup>th</sup> September). The 44<sup>th</sup> Calf record.

### **Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

Fynnag veg

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009, with the latest departure date being 18<sup>th</sup> November 1998.*

An above average spring saw singles trapped at the Observatory on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> May (with another bird trapped at the Withy on 1<sup>st</sup> May).

Two autumn records involved a single on 6<sup>th</sup> September (that was seen briefly in the Plantation before disappearing and then reappearing in the Glen) and a first-year bird trapped in Heligoland 2 on 17<sup>th</sup> October (relocating to the withies on 18<sup>th</sup>).

### **(Common) Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

Fynnag ny keylley

*Common. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 6<sup>th</sup> April 1961, with the latest departure date being 30<sup>th</sup> October 1973.*

Spring passage began with a single on 21<sup>st</sup> and was followed by two on both 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> April. There were no further records until nine on 1<sup>st</sup> and eight on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and then 1–4 almost daily through May. Higher counts included 14 on 5<sup>th</sup>, seven on 11<sup>th</sup>, 15 on 17<sup>th</sup> and eight on 25<sup>th</sup>. After six on 1<sup>st</sup> June, counts during the remainder of the month were of 1–3 birds and mostly involved two singing males present in the Glen, although no breeding was suspected.

The first dispersing juvenile was trapped on 8<sup>th</sup> July, with further singles on nine dates to the end of the month, plus two on 24<sup>th</sup>. As with other warbler



species, passage during August was extremely poor and following two on 1<sup>st</sup>, there were no more records until 1–2 birds were seen on five dates between 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> and then at the end of the month, five on 30<sup>th</sup> and two on 31<sup>st</sup>. 1 – 3 birds were seen on 10 dates in September, with seven on 7<sup>th</sup>. Overall passage was 36% lower this season than in 2023.

### [Common] Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Drean ailey

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 11<sup>th</sup> March 1966, with the latest departure date being 29<sup>th</sup> November 2002.*

A single seen at the Triangle on 14<sup>th</sup> March may have been the same bird that was then present at the Withy from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. A probable female was also trapped at the Withy on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

The 98<sup>th</sup> & 99<sup>th</sup> Calf records.

### Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Ushag fuygh

*Common. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013, with the latest departure date being 16<sup>th</sup> December 2012.*

The first migrants were likely present before the island was manned, with six being present when we arrived on 11<sup>th</sup>. Passage during the remainder of March was light and rather sporadic with single figure counts on nine dates, counts of between 10–31 on 10 dates and high counts of 55 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 73 on 26<sup>th</sup>. This light passage continued through April with daily counts of 5–21 during the first 10 days of the month, decreasing to 2–6 birds up to 20<sup>th</sup> and

then just 1–2 birds through to 28<sup>th</sup> April and in May on 17 dates up to 26<sup>th</sup>, plus four on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Ringing records show that one female remained between 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May and developed a brood patch towards the end of its stay, although no other evidence of breeding was present. The last single of spring was present on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and summer records included birds on 12<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

The initial sightings of dispersing birds are typically noted in August, but this season's migration was exceptionally sparse. Only one bird was observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, followed by two on the 30<sup>th</sup> and three on the 31<sup>st</sup>, marking the beginning of the autumn migration. In contrast, 81 bird-days were recorded in August 2023, while this year saw just seven. Single-figures were recorded daily throughout the autumn, with highs of 11 on 13<sup>th</sup> September & 4<sup>th</sup> October, and 10 on 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Overall passage was 52% lower this season than in 2023.

### **[Eurasian] Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Drean

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Present throughout the season, with an estimate of at least 35 pairs breeding. Daily counts were normally of up to 20 birds, although counts of 30–34 occurred in most months.

### **[Common] Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Truitlag

*Common. Historic breeder; summer visitor and passage migrant.*

It is likely that any significant winter movements or spring passage occurred prior to the Observatory being manned, and just a light passage was evident from 12<sup>th</sup> March with single figures on six dates and counts of 12–51 birds on 11 dates up to the end of the month. Following 21 on 1<sup>st</sup> April, counts for the remainder of the month were of just 1–6 birds on 14 dates, plus 20 on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

1–3 birds were present on just six dates in May and then more regularly between 1<sup>st</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June, with the first two juveniles being seen on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Small flocks of dispersing juveniles and adults were seen from 19<sup>th</sup> June, but counts were extremely low with just four counts of between 11–22 birds. Counts of up to 16 occurred on 16 dates in July, with peaks of 22 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 24 on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There was just one record during August with a single seen on 30<sup>th</sup> and records remained scarce into early September, with singles 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. A

further four singles were recorded in the latter half of the month, with 5–17 on three further dates. Records became more frequent in October, with <100 recorded near-daily – until 19<sup>th</sup> when 619 were present. 20<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> thereafter generally saw counts of 100+ birds, with this trend continuing into November. A relatively low autumn passage.

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Treshlen

*Common. Former breeder; passage migrant.*

A light spring passage was evident when we arrived on the island, with four on 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March, seven on 14<sup>th</sup> and 1–2 birds present on six dates up to 27<sup>th</sup>. Sporadic records occurred during April with singles seen on six dates, but there were no records during May until an adult arrived on 29<sup>th</sup> (remaining until at least 2<sup>nd</sup> June).

Autumn dispersal began when an adult female arrived on 15<sup>th</sup>, staying until 17<sup>th</sup>, being followed by juveniles trapped at the Observatory on 20<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> and an adult male caught at the Withy on 25<sup>th</sup> June. A light passage continued through July with up to two birds on 14 dates and a month high of four on 7<sup>th</sup>, whilst the poor weather during August restricted sightings to two on 14<sup>th</sup>, a single on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> and three on 30<sup>th</sup>. 1–3 birds were recorded on 17 dates in September. Counts became daily in October and generally numbered 2–20, picking up towards the end of the month. 48 were recorded on 23<sup>rd</sup>, with 77 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 83 on 30<sup>th</sup>. November numbers were between 9 & 37.

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Treshlen vooar

*Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant.*

Rare spring and summer records were of singles on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April plus a juvenile on 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July.

The first of autumn passage was a single on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Ten records of 1–2 birds followed, with a peak of six on 30<sup>th</sup> – when a large thrush movement occurred. Three were seen on 1<sup>st</sup> November and singles were then daily to the end of the season.

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Treshlen Loughlinagh

*Uncommon. Passage migrant and winter visitor.*

- *Average spring departure and autumn arrival dates:*

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

*The latest spring departure date was 4<sup>th</sup> June 1977, with the earliest autumn arrival date being 16<sup>th</sup> September 1972.*

As with most other thrushes, numbers during spring were relatively low with 1–8 birds seen on eight dates between 12<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March, plus higher counts of 16 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 23 on 28<sup>th</sup>. In April there were seven on 3<sup>rd</sup>, three on 4<sup>th</sup> and singles on 1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, and the last record of spring on 18<sup>th</sup>.

A flock of 22 on 2<sup>nd</sup> October were the first returning autumn birds, followed by 34 on 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1–3 were seen daily from 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, with numbers increasing to 10–55 from 9<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, with highs of 59 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 67 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 65 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 82 on 25<sup>th</sup>. A large thrush movement occurred at the end of the month, with 89 on 29<sup>th</sup>, 634 on 30<sup>th</sup> and 263 on 31<sup>st</sup>. Numbers remained high through the beginning of November, peaking at 1355 on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Migration was still in full flow when we left the isle on 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **[Common] Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Lhondhoo

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Recorded throughout the season in relatively low numbers, with most counts being in single figures, although up to 12 birds were reported on occasions in most months between March–August. Any spring passage was likely to have occurred before the opening of the season and the highest count during spring was just 15 on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Ten pairs were known to have bred, with single pairs at The Triangle, Central Heath and Jane's House, plus three pairs in the Withies and four around the Observatory. Productivity and post-fledging survival was again low, with just 20 young ringed of which just 11 were subsequently re-captured.

Particularly low numbers were present during late July and through August when counts rarely exceeded 1–2 birds, and with no birds recorded on five dates in August. Reasons for this may be that birds are typically elusive when moulting, but the inclement weather experienced during this summer is likely to have also had a negative effect on both adult and juvenile survival and the conspicuousness of birds particularly on stormy days.

Counts of 1–8 were prevalent through early autumn, with passage beginning at the end of October, with a peak of 76 on 25<sup>th</sup>. 20–40 were then recorded daily from 30<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November, with a peak of 83 on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris***

Ushag sniaghtee

*Uncommon. Passage migrant and winter visitor.*

- *Average spring departure and autumn arrival dates:*

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

*The latest spring departure date was 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017, with the earliest autumn arrival date being 19<sup>th</sup> August 1971.*

Spring records were very few, with just 1–2 birds on five dates between 16<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March and then singles on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Autumn records were sparse, with 1–2 recorded on four dates in October. A large thrush movement occurred at the end of the month, with 156 on 30<sup>th</sup> and 72 on 31<sup>st</sup>. Records were then daily through the beginning of November, with 10–40 recorded most days, and 178 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 239 on 5<sup>th</sup>. The rest of migration was missed when we left the isle on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus***

Lhon ny greg

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*



*Male Ring Ouzel*  
©Brennig Hughes

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 6<sup>th</sup> March 1966, with the latest departure date being 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015.*

Five different birds were recorded in spring, with males seen around the Observatory area on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> April, and a female which flew north on 18<sup>th</sup>.

The only autumn record was a single present at the Triangle from 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata***

Skybbyltagh lheeah

*Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant – more regular in spring.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2007, with the latest departure date being 20<sup>th</sup> October 1968.*

The first record of spring was a single on 30<sup>th</sup> April, only the tenth April record in the Observatory's history.

Spring passage was very poor with just single figures recorded and peak counts of six on 27<sup>th</sup>, seven on 8<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> and eight on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Otherwise counts of 1–4 birds occurred on 11 dates in May and just seven dates in June up to the 10<sup>th</sup>.

As with many other passerine species, records during August were low with singles on 20<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> and two on 30<sup>th</sup>. Three singles were recorded in the beginning of September, with four on 7<sup>th</sup> and a final single on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **[European] Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

Cleeau-yiarg

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Present throughout the season, with daily counts during spring recording mostly single figures but sometimes up to 16 birds being present. Ringing records show that there was very little if any real spring passage and most birds present at the start of the season had likely over-wintered.

At least 10 pairs were present with single pairs at The Triangle, Mill Giau and Jane's House, three pairs in the Glen and four pairs around the farmhouse.

The first juvenile appeared in the Withies on 19<sup>th</sup> May with 27 locally bred young being ringed over the summer.

The first signs of any autumn passage did not occur until late August with mostly single figure counts during the month, until 19 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27 on 30<sup>th</sup> and 24 on 31<sup>st</sup> provided the first evidence of migration. Counts of 20–60 then dominated September, with highs of 111 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 70 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 78 on 6<sup>th</sup>. Numbers remained similar for the first half of October – peaking at 102 on 16<sup>th</sup> before dropping off to 15–40 for the rest of the season.

**[Common] Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*\*

Ushag ving ny hoie

*Rare. Spring passage migrant.*

A single was trapped in the Observatory garden on 15<sup>th</sup> May (AS et al).

The 19<sup>th</sup> Calf record and first since 2019.



Nightingale  
©Aron Sapsford

**[European] Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Skybbyltagh breck

*Scarce. Passage migrant – formerly common.*

- Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:

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

The earliest arrival date was 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018, with the latest departure date being 15<sup>th</sup> November 1995.

There were no spring records. Autumn records began with a single trapped at the Observatory on 4<sup>th</sup> September. The only other record was a single caught on a camera trap in Mill Giau on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Thoy-n-yiarg ghoo

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 7<sup>th</sup> March 1966, with the latest departure date being 30<sup>th</sup> November 1982. Has overwintered.*

The only spring record was a full adult male which appeared near the Crow Trap during the morning of 23<sup>rd</sup> April. It then spent a short time around the Silo, before heading down to the Top Withy and then on to the Seafeld (where it was last seen later that morning).

There were two autumn records. A male was at the Observatory on 7<sup>th</sup> October and moved to the Lighthouses on 8<sup>th</sup>, with a different bird at the Lighthouses from 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **[Common] Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Thoy-n-yiarg

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 24<sup>th</sup> March 1961, with the latest departure date being 31<sup>st</sup> October 1987.*

Another very poor showing, with a single female trapped at the Observatory on 27<sup>th</sup> April and a male there on 1<sup>st</sup> May (AS). This species is rapidly approaching rarity status.



### **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Eean yn aittin

*Scarce. Historic breeder; passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008, with the latest departure date being 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009.*

Spring passage consisted of singles on 21<sup>st</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April. There were no autumn records. This species is rapidly approaching rarity status.

### **[European] Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Boid-y-chonnee

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Present throughout the season with counts of up to 15 birds in March, rising to 23 in April – perhaps reflecting a small immigration of birds into the island's breeding population which was estimated at 15 pairs. Young birds were evident from mid-May, although most counts remained in the low double figures, with monthly maxima of 22 on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 27 on 30<sup>th</sup> June and 29 on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

The poor weather during August resulted in lower numbers being recorded, with just single figure counts on 25 dates and a high of 16 on 14<sup>th</sup>. Dispersing individuals bolstered numbers in September, with counts often ranging from 10–30. The rest of the autumn saw either single figure or low double figure counts, with the exception of 42 on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

### **[Northern] Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Claghyn-cloie

*Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016, with the latest departure date being 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019.*

First of the season was a single on 14<sup>th</sup> March, followed by three birds on 20<sup>th</sup> and then daily records from 22<sup>nd</sup> building to a month high of 24 on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Passage through April and May was steady with no significant arrivals, and daily counts were mostly in the low double figures with monthly highs of 68 on 21<sup>st</sup> April and 76 on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

Following arrival, breeding birds quickly established territory and although it was not possible to complete a full census the breeding population was estimated at 40+ pairs. The first juvenile birds appeared from 26<sup>th</sup> May and their presence swelled numbers through June with eight counts of between 47–57 individuals. Following a month high of 36 on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, numbers decreased quickly with low double figure counts on 20 dates and eight further dates with just single figures. Counts were very low through August with single figures on 25 dates and just two higher counts of 18 on 4<sup>th</sup> & 14 on 13<sup>th</sup>.

Counts were daily from 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September, with highs of 21 on 1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> and 18 on 5<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen counts of 1–5 were recorded through the rest of the month. Just seven counts of 1–3 were recorded in October, with the final sighting being a single at the Lighthouses on 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **[Eurasian] Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Sparrow ny miljyn

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

Spring records were of a single trapped at the Observatory on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and at least four birds present on 4<sup>th</sup>.

The occurrence of Tree Sparrows on the Calf in early May is remarkably consistent, with 39% of records occurring in the month.

Autumn records were all 'flyovers', with singles recorded on 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Sparrow

*Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant.*

Spring records consisted of singles on 16<sup>th</sup> March & 24<sup>th</sup> April, followed by a series of records in May involving two on 2<sup>nd</sup>, five on 3<sup>rd</sup> and singles on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.

Summer and early autumn records were of a single at the Withy on 26<sup>th</sup> June, at the Observatory on 6<sup>th</sup> July, with two there on 31<sup>st</sup> and then singles on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> August, and two on 14<sup>th</sup>. Four singles were in September, with a single on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, up to seven from 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> and a final single on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Dunnoch *Prunella modularis***

Boght-keeir

*Uncommon. Former breeder; passage migrant.*

A light and rather sporadic spring passage was recorded, with 1–2 birds seen on eight dates between 12<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March plus a high count of three on 16<sup>th</sup>. During April, singles were seen on seven dates plus two on 8<sup>th</sup> and in May two were present on 2<sup>nd</sup>, with singles then seen on three dates up to 7<sup>th</sup>. A single appeared on 29<sup>th</sup> May, with two on 1<sup>st</sup> June including a new bird trapped at the Observatory and further singles were recorded on six dates between 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Ringling records show that one bird (PL47259), which had been ringed originally in October 2023, was present on 28<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March, but then not re-trapped until 18<sup>th</sup> April. Whilst TV37862 which was ringed in September 2023 and known to be present on the Calf up to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023, was re-trapped on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024 suggesting that it may have over-wintered. Single new birds were trapped during March and May.

Summer and early autumn records continued in this sporadic nature with singles on five dates from 6<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July, plus two on 16<sup>th</sup> July, singles on three dates in August from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> and 1–2 from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September. Autumn passage started at the end of September, with 2–5 present near daily from 25<sup>th</sup>. Single figure counts were then frequent to the end of the season, with monthly peaks of 12 on 6<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> October and 14 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

Skibbag ghlass

*Uncommon. Dispersal visitor and passage migrant (more gular in autumn).*

Spring passage consisted of singles on 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March, 17<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Summer post-breeding dispersal was evident from mid-June, with three on 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, plus singles on four other dates in the month. Passage continued through July with up to four birds seen on 12 dates plus higher counts of five on 2<sup>nd</sup> and seven on 7<sup>th</sup>. Ringling records show that most birds are juveniles, although an adult female was trapped on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

Records were sparse during much of August with singles on just five dates, plus the first significant movement of passage birds with 19 on 30<sup>th</sup>. This movement continued into September, with 31 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 30 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 22 on 5<sup>th</sup>. Counts decreased to single figure or low double figures for the rest of the

month. 1–3 birds were recorded on 17 dates in October, with the final a single on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Pied [White] Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii***

Ushag vreck

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Daily counts through spring and summer were of mostly single figures and are likely to reflect the presence of resident birds, with at least seven pairs recorded as breeding. Evidence of a light spring passage occurred with 11 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March and 18 on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Juvenile dispersal was evident during mid to late July, with seven counts of 10–15 birds and passage increased through August with 14 counts 10–26 and three higher counts of 33 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 34 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 30 on 20<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued throughout September with high counts of 22 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 43 on 24<sup>th</sup>, 42 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 25 on 28<sup>th</sup>. Counts in October and November dropped off to mostly single figures, with a peak of 14 on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

### **White Wagtail *M.a. alba***

*Uncommon. Passage migrant, more regular in autumn.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017, with the latest departure date being 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.*

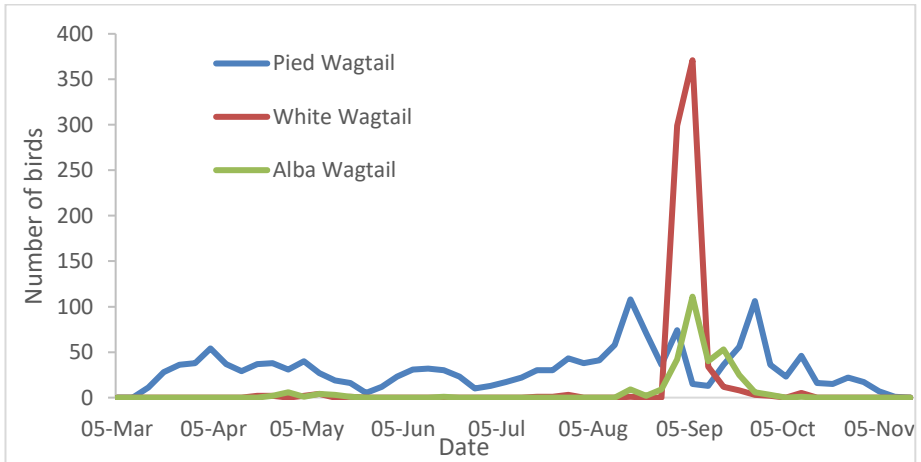
Spring records involved singles on four dates from 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April and on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> May, plus four on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Summer records of a single in the front field on 15<sup>th</sup> and from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July preceded autumn passage, which other than a single on 16<sup>th</sup> August was delayed by inclement weather during the second half of the month.

However, conducive migration conditions at the end of the month saw a significant passage with 100 on 31<sup>st</sup>. Significant passage continued through early September with 192 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 183 on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Counts remained in high double figures from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> before dropping off into single figures. The last birds recorded were five at Cow Harbour on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

### **“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 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*.



Spring records were restricted to 1–3 birds recorded on 10 dates from 20<sup>th</sup> April – 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Autumn records began mid-August. Counts were mostly single figures, with 15 on 30<sup>th</sup> and 26 on 31<sup>st</sup> reflecting the large numbers of Pied and White Wagtails passing through at that time. Counts were similarly high at the beginning of September (peaking at 80 on 1<sup>st</sup>) before gradually dropping off throughout the month.

### **Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

Billy yn tweet

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Undoubtedly the commonest passerine to be found on the Calf, recorded daily throughout the season with counts of up to 150 birds being relatively common. Spring passage was evident during the last week of March with 358 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 235 on 29<sup>th</sup> being the highest counts.

A full census of the breeding population was not possible, but breeding figures were estimated to have remained stable at an estimate of 70 pairs. As with many species, breeding success is likely to have been affected by a

very cold and wet season and counts during much of August were often of just low double figures.

Autumn passage began during early September with counts of 300–500 regular throughout the month. High counts included 553 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 880 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 604 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 829 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued in the first half of October, with most counts over 100 and a peak of 379 on 13<sup>th</sup>. Counts for the rest of the season were mostly double figures.

### **Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

Tweet keylley

*Uncommon. Passage migrant, irregular in spring.*

- *Average spring arrival and autumn departure dates:*

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

*The earliest arrival date was 4<sup>th</sup> April 1985 and 1988, with the latest departure date being 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022.*

An excellent spring passage began with an early individual on 6<sup>th</sup> April, the joint 2<sup>nd</sup> earliest spring date. Further April records included three on 18<sup>th</sup> and two on 26<sup>th</sup>, whilst in May there were three on both 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> and four on 5<sup>th</sup>. Autumn passage began with a single on 31<sup>st</sup> July but inclement weather during much of August hampered movements, with no further records until 10<sup>th</sup>. However, during the remainder of the month up to three birds were recorded on seven dates, five on 31<sup>st</sup>, six on 11<sup>th</sup>, 11 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 18 on 30<sup>th</sup>. 1–5 were recorded on nine dates from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> of September, with higher counts of 12 on 6<sup>th</sup> and nine on 16<sup>th</sup>. Late records were singles on 30<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> October.

### **[Eurasian] Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus***

Fushag varrey

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Recorded almost daily throughout the season, although most counts of single or low double figures do not reflect the true status of this largely resident species. Spring high counts of 41 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 48 on 26<sup>th</sup> March are likely a reflection of greater coverage of the areas that these birds frequent rather than any evidence of passage.

Although there was no full breeding census, the numbers of pairs was believed to be slightly less than last year, with 48 territories mapped.

Similarly counts during autumn reflect coverage, with mostly low double figure counts recorded. A peak of 64 on 10<sup>th</sup> included a flock of 50 birds at Culbery and no doubt included some passage individuals.

**[Common] Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Ushag veg vreck

*Common. Occasional breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Recorded daily throughout the season, with at least three pairs present, although breeding success was very poor. A pair at the Observatory raised two young in May but all other attempts were unsuccessful.

A light spring passage was evident from 16<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April, with a high count of 20 on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Otherwise, single figure counts through the remainder of spring and summer reflect the presence of the breeding pairs and some offspring. From late June, counts decreased further to mostly 1–2 birds and remained at this level until the second half of August when a slight increase occurred as some signs of early passage, with a peak of six on 28<sup>th</sup>. Occasional light passage occurred in the first half of September, before passage picked up with 15–60 birds recorded on 10 dates in the latter half of the month, with higher counts of 139 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 86 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued throughout October with most counts in mid-range double figures and three higher counts of 145 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 126 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 114 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. A rush of movement occurred in early November, with 213 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 119 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 261 on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Corkan drine

*Scarce. Passage migrant – irregular in spring.*

Perhaps one of the most unexpected records of the spring was the trapping of a female in the Observatory garden on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The latest May record ever by some 11 days, although not the latest spring record which involved another female at the Observatory on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

Autumn passage began with a single on 14<sup>th</sup> October. Further singles were recorded on 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, with two on 22<sup>nd</sup> and five on 30<sup>th</sup>. A final single was recorded on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*\*

Rose-ghlassan jiarg

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A 'brown' male was singing from the Observatory garden during the early morning of 25<sup>th</sup> May and was subsequently trapped in the front hedge. A bird heard singing briefly on 27<sup>th</sup> was thought likely to have been the same individual.

A second 'brown' individual trapped at the Observatory on 15<sup>th</sup> September was the only record of the autumn.

The 35<sup>th</sup> & 36<sup>th</sup> Calf records, with the May record being only the 7<sup>th</sup> record for that month. The fourth consecutive year for records of this species.

### **[European] Greenfinch *Chloris chloris***

Corkan-keylley glass

*Uncommon. Former breeder; passage migrant (more regular in autumn).*

Spring records were of singles on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Early autumn records were four on 17<sup>th</sup> and one on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Passage became near-daily from 12<sup>th</sup> October, with 1–20 birds recorded on 16 dates during the month and peaking at 34 on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. Single figures were recorded daily for the beginning of November. A poor autumn passage.

### **Twite *Linaria flavirostris***

Bytermyn slieau

*Scarce. Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.*

Three at Kione ny Halby on 26<sup>th</sup> March and then singles near to the Puffin colony on 4<sup>th</sup> April and at South Harbour on 5<sup>th</sup> were the only spring records. Autumn records involved two flocks on 29<sup>th</sup> October (23 at South Harbour and 29 at Kitterland) and two birds that flew over the Withy on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.



*Twite on  
Kitterland  
©Andrew  
Jacobs*



**[Common] Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

Fillip-ny-kempey

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Single figure counts occurred between 16<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March, before higher numbers arrived during the last week of March, with a peak monthly count of 64 on 31<sup>st</sup>. Spring passage peaked during the middle third of April with seven counts of 72–149 during 12<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> plus a peak of 165 on 21<sup>st</sup>. After 93 on 1<sup>st</sup> May, numbers decreased to mostly low double figure counts through the remainder of the month and much of June (reflecting the presence of breeding birds that was estimated at 10–15 pairs). Locally bred young began to swell numbers through June and larger numbers of post-breeding flocks began to gather towards the end of the month and through July and August. Three figure counts occurred on seven dates during the second half of July and six dates in August, with a peak of 275 on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Numbers throughout the autumn were generally low double figures, with monthly peaks of 126 on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 91 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 49 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Lesser Redpoll [Redpoll]** *Acanthis flammea cabaret*

Kione-jiarg beg

*Uncommon. Passage migrant.*

A single on 24<sup>th</sup> March was the only record for the month, rather surprisingly given the excellent spring passage that followed. Records during April involved counts of 1–4 birds on 15 dates plus peak counts of nine on 23<sup>rd</sup> and six on 24<sup>th</sup> April. May provided the peak of passage with records on 26 dates, mostly of single figures but also included counts of between 10–22 on seven dates and a high of 42 on 10<sup>th</sup> May. After nine on 1<sup>st</sup> June numbers decreased to four on 2<sup>nd</sup> and then 1–3 on 12 dates in the month up to 30<sup>th</sup>.

It is difficult to establish when summer/autumn dispersal began with a single on 5<sup>th</sup> July, then daily records of 1–3 birds between 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> then three on 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> and two on 25<sup>th</sup>. One of the birds trapped on 21<sup>st</sup> had been originally ringed on 17<sup>th</sup> May. August records were scarce with seven on 11<sup>th</sup> and a single on 14<sup>th</sup> then no further records until 12 on 30<sup>th</sup> and nine on 31<sup>st</sup>. Single figures were recorded on 11 dates in September, with a peak of 10 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

Four further single figures counts were recorded in the beginning of October, with passage picking up in the latter half of the month. Ten single figure counts were recorded from 18<sup>th</sup> October – 6<sup>th</sup> November, with higher counts of 20 on 19<sup>th</sup> & 60 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, and 41 on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**[Red] Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Gob-cam

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

A single flew over the Twin Fields on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Three over the Observatory on 2<sup>nd</sup> November coincided with an increase of records for this species on the main island.

**[European] Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Lossyr ny keylley

*Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.*

Mostly single figure counts were made through the first two weeks of the season before spring migration became more obvious, although remained in the low double figures through the remainder of March and the first half of April. The peak of spring passage occurred between 16<sup>th</sup> April – 11<sup>th</sup> May with 14 counts of between 37–77. Counts during the remainder of the spring and the summer months were mostly of low double figures and reflect the presence of 10–15 breeding pairs and their offspring. A total of 64 locally bred young were ringed between May and August.

Post-breeding flocks began to build up during the second half of July and feeding opportunities encouraged small flocks to congregate with a peak count of 54 on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, but numbers then decreased significantly through August when single figures were recorded on 19 dates and there was a monthly high of just 23.

Low-mid double figures were common throughout the autumn, with monthly peaks of 75 on 7<sup>th</sup> September and 83 on 29<sup>th</sup> October. A later passage occurred at the beginning of November, with 10–50 recorded on three dates and higher counts of 161 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 82 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 101 on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**[Eurasian] Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

Corkan airhey

*Common. Passage migrant.*

Spring passage was at its strongest during March, with 1–5 recorded on nine dates from 16<sup>th</sup>, plus highs of 18 on 26<sup>th</sup> and eight on 31<sup>st</sup>. Passage continued throughout April and May, with counts of 1–4 on 17 dates in April and 1–3 on 14 dates in May, plus monthly peaks of seven on 20<sup>th</sup> April and six on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Small numbers continued through June and July with 1–3 recorded on 12 dates in June and 1–2 on five dates in July.

Autumn passage began with two on 30<sup>th</sup> August. 1–10 birds were recorded on nine dates in September, with higher counts of 33 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 23 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Single figures were then recorded near-daily throughout October, with 14–20 birds on five dates and a peak of 45 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. 5–18 birds were recorded daily at the beginning of November.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Pompee niaghtee

*Rare. Passage migrant.*

A single flew across the Sound towards the Isle of Man on 17<sup>th</sup> September. The 80<sup>th</sup> Calf record and 4<sup>th</sup> record for September.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

Ushag wee

*Scarce. Passage migrant.*

A single very briefly dropped down into the back garden on the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> October (ABJ).

**[Common] Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Pompee ny guirtlagh

*Common. Occasional breeder; resident and autumn passage migrant.*

One to two birds were recorded on 12 dates during March, plus three on 24<sup>th</sup> and four on 26<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> perhaps providing evidence of some spring passage through the Calf during the last week of the month. Records remained frequent during April and May, with 1–2 birds on 14 dates in April (plus three on 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>) and 16 dates in May plus three on 26<sup>th</sup>. Singles were reported on nine dates in both June and July, with two seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> July, with just one unsuccessful breeding attempt.

As with many passerine species, records during August were scarce and it wasn't until the end of the month that the species was recorded, with a single on 30<sup>th</sup> and two on 31<sup>st</sup>. Autumn records were also lacking, with 1–5 recorded on eight dates in September and 11 dates in October. 1–4 were recorded on three dates in the beginning of November.

# Rarity Reports

## **Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Calf record**

I had just started a routine net round in the thick fog when I heard the booming of a Bittern. Recognising the distinctive call, I quickly scanned the area but the fog made visibility non-existent and so I tried to get a recording instead, by which time the bird had stopped calling. I radioed the Observatory to let others know and about an hour later a tape was played in an attempt to encourage the bird to call again. Despite the fact that I remained in the area for the whole morning running the mist nets, the bird was not sighted at all, nor heard again.

Call: a deep, monosyllabic ‘boom’ sound. Hints of vibration undertones – slightly similar to a note being played on a brass instrument but a lot smoother and softer at both start and finish. The call remained smooth and constant, it did not waver in tone or intensity. An unmistakeable call, not similar to anything else I am familiar with. The call wasn’t forceful, yet the sound carried easily (especially in the fog), making it hard to judge how far away the bird was. The bird called a total of six times. Call duration was approximately 1.5s with a similar gap (perhaps marginally longer) between booms.

## **Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Calf record**

Following a busy morning’s visual migration monitoring & bird ringing on the Calf, myself, ABJ and AMM were sitting outside the tractor barn, when both ABJ & I picked up on an unusual call coming from above the Silo. The noise was a ‘buzzing’ call and my initial impression was that it could be a Bunting, however it was quite loud and then we saw a wader flying away from us across the front field. The bird looked like a Plover or largish Sandpiper, but the call was unfamiliar to any of us, and unfortunately by now the bird was disappearing quickly towards the east coast of the Calf. ABJ was managing to get some photos of the bird and we were trying to rule out possible options. ABJ is a Canadian birder and was confident that it didn’t match any calls he was familiar with. The bird was about to disappear from our view, and it looked like the bird was heading towards Langness when suddenly it turned left and left again and began heading back towards us. As it got closer, we could now see that it was a plover and the pale underwings, white underparts with a faint band below the throat was making us consider

Dotterel. The bird passed close overhead and we quickly referred to a couple of 'back of the camera' pictures, confirming the presence of a long white supercilium and pale leading edge to the first primary.



*Dotterel ©Andrew Jacobs*

## 2024 Breeding Totals

| Species                  | 2024      | Status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shelduck                 | 1–2 Pairs | One or two pairs bred in all years since 2002. A pair was present on Rarick through spring with the female being filmed leaving their burrow with 10 young. A second pair may have bred, with a male seen defending (young?) at the South plateau on 3 <sup>rd</sup> May. |
| Mallard                  | 3–4 Pairs | Two pairs at the Millpond, plus a third/maybe fourth pair at Cow / Kitterland. Three broods were seen on the Millpond.                                                                                                                                                    |
| Eider                    | 50+ Pairs | First bred in 1992, with an estimated 70 pairs in each year 2018–2021 & 100+ in 2022–2023. Fifty nests were located during 2024, although not all suitable areas were sufficiently surveyed, due to a lack of manpower.                                                   |
| Pheasant                 | 4–5 Pairs | Bred for the first time in 2018. At least five males held territory, although no young were seen – perhaps a result of poor weather during the summer.                                                                                                                    |
| Water Rail               | 1 Pair    | Bred for the first time since 1994. Two broods successfully raise at the Millpond.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Oystercatcher            | 25 Pairs  | Mean of 16 pairs during 2014 – 2023. Joint third highest breeding total.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Herring Gull             | 596 AON   | Mean of 497 AON during 2014 – 2023. A reduction of 17% on 2023 figures.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Great Black-backed Gull  | 57 AON    | Mean of 54 AON during 2014 – 2023. A reduction of 19% on 2023 figures.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | 66 AON    | Mean of 43 AON during 2014 – 2023. An increase of 38% on 2023 figures.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Species               | 2024          | Status                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Black Guillemot       | 5 Pairs       | First recorded breeding in 1972 with 1–3 pairs less than annually. Three pairs seen regularly below the Lighthouses; with a pair each on the east coast and at Gibdale. |
| Razorbill             | 318 IAs       | Mean of 178 IAs during 2014 – 2023. An increase of 87% on 2023 figures.                                                                                                 |
|                       | 191 Pairs     | Mean of 102 pairs during 2014 – 2023.                                                                                                                                   |
| Common Guillemot      | 264 IAs       | Mean of 184 IAs during 2014 – 2023. An increase of 18% on 2023 figures.                                                                                                 |
|                       | 159 Pairs     | Mean of 114 pairs during 2014 – 2023.                                                                                                                                   |
| Fulmar                | 97 AOS        | Mean of 73 AOS during 2014 – 2023. Productivity was very low, with just three fledged young.                                                                            |
| Manx Shearwater       | 1000–1200 AOB | Mean of 593 AOB during 2014 – 2023.                                                                                                                                     |
| Shag                  | 119 AON       | Mean of 100 AON during 2014 – 2023. An apparent increase of 32% on 2023 figures, however, more comprehensive surveying of the west coast colonies was achieved.         |
| Buzzard               | 2–3 Pairs     | First attempted breeding in 2021. Gibdale pair failed, pair at Ghaw Laing didn't lay and a male was displaying at Big Head.                                             |
| Chough                | 11 Pairs      | Average of 8 pairs during 2014 – 2023.                                                                                                                                  |
| Hooded / Carrion Crow | 15–17 Pairs   | Mean of 7 pairs during 2014 – 2023. At least 8 pairs are mixed Carrion x Hooded or "hybrid" Crows with one apparent Carrion Crow pair, which produced hybrid young.     |
| Raven                 | 2 Pairs       | 1–2 pairs breed annually. The pair at Amulty fledged three young, whilst the Lighthouse pair were unsuccessful.                                                         |
| Great Tit             | 1 Pair        | 6 <sup>th</sup> breeding attempt. Pair at the Observatory fledged five young.                                                                                           |
| Swallow               | 7 Pairs       | Four pairs bred at the Observatory, with three pairs at Jane's House                                                                                                    |

| Species      | 2024        | Status                                                                                                           |
|--------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chiffchaff   | 1 Pair      | 1–2 pairs in five years from 2014–2023. Recently fledged juveniles caught at Withy.                              |
| Wren         | 35 Pairs    | Mean of 19 pairs during 2014–2023; max of 73 pairs in 1974.                                                      |
| Blackbird    | 10 Pairs    | Average of 7 pairs during 2014–2023 with max of 22 pairs in 1979.                                                |
| Robin        | 10 Pairs    | 1–5 pairs in five years since 2015; max of 14 pairs in 2022 & 2023.                                              |
| Stonechat    | 15 Pairs    | Mean of 5 pairs during 2014–2023, with max of 20 pairs in 1977.                                                  |
| Wheatear     | 40+ Pairs   | Mean of 38 pairs during 2014–2023 with max 64 pairs in 2022.                                                     |
| Pied Wagtail | 7 Pairs     | Mean of 3 pairs during 2014–2023, with max of 8 pairs in 2016 & 2022.                                            |
| Meadow Pipit | c.70 Pairs  | Mean of 51 pairs during 2014–2023, with max 110 pairs in 1982.                                                   |
| Rock Pipit   | 48 Pairs    | Mean of 30 pairs during 2014–2023, with max 66 pairs in 2023.                                                    |
| Chaffinch    | 3 Pairs     | 1–3 pairs recorded in eight years from 2014–2023. Two young fledged at Observatory, other attempts unsuccessful. |
| Linnet       | 10–15 Pairs | Mean of 14 pairs during 2014 – 2023, with max of 50 pairs in 1982.                                               |
| Goldfinch    | 10–15 Pairs | Mean of 10 pairs during 2014–2023, with max 20 pairs.                                                            |
| Reed Bunting | 1 Pair      | 1–2 pairs in eight out of last 10 years, with max 19 pairs in 1980.                                              |



# 2024 Ringing Report

The grand total of 5990 birds of 72 species were ringed, placing 2024 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> least successful year since 2017 for the total ringed (only Covid in 2020 resulted in lower numbers). This is due to the poor weather and low numbers of birds present, not trapping effort.

Table 1: Notable species and numbers ringed during 2024. Species in **bold** denote a record annual total:

| Species                         | No.       | Ranking                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Woodpigeon                      | 2         | 39 <sup>th</sup> – 40 <sup>th</sup> ever ringed                                                |
| Collared Dove                   | 3         | 50 <sup>th</sup> – 52 <sup>nd</sup> ever ringed and joint 2 <sup>nd</sup> highest annual total |
| Oystercatcher                   | 18        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> highest annual total                                                           |
| Jack Snipe                      | 1         | 13 <sup>th</sup> ever ringed and first since 2021                                              |
| Woodcock                        | 2         | 28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> ever ringed                                                |
| Redshank                        | 5         | 44 <sup>th</sup> – 48 <sup>th</sup> ever ringed                                                |
| Turnstone                       | 6         | 53 <sup>rd</sup> – 58 <sup>th</sup> ever ringed and joint 2 <sup>nd</sup> highest annual total |
| Sparrowhawk                     | 10        | Joint 3 <sup>rd</sup> highest annual total                                                     |
| <b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>8<sup>th</sup> ever ringed and first March record</b>                                       |
| Merlin                          | 1         | 44 <sup>th</sup> ever ringed                                                                   |
| <b>Hooded Crow</b>              | <b>17</b> | <b>Record annual total, beating 12 in 2022</b>                                                 |
| Wood Warbler                    | 2         | First since 2020                                                                               |
| <b>Yellow-browed Warbler</b>    | <b>7</b>  | <b>Record annual total, beating six in 2020</b>                                                |
| Reed Warbler                    | 4         | 5 <sup>th</sup> highest annual total                                                           |
| Blackcap                        | 233       | 6 <sup>th</sup> highest annual total                                                           |
| Barred Warbler                  | 1         | 32 <sup>nd</sup> ever ringed                                                                   |
| Lesser Whitethroat              | 5         | Joint 4 <sup>th</sup> highest annual total                                                     |
| Redwing                         | 179       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> highest annual total                                                           |
| Nightingale                     | 1         | 11 <sup>th</sup> ever ringed and first since 2019                                              |
| Grey Wagtail                    | 88        | 6 <sup>th</sup> highest annual total                                                           |
| Pied/White Wagtail              | 90        | 5 <sup>th</sup> highest annual total                                                           |
| <b>Common Rosefinch</b>         | <b>2</b>  | <b>18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> ever ringed</b>                                           |
| Lesser Redpoll                  | 108       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> highest annual total                                                           |
| Goldfinch                       | 672       | 5 <sup>th</sup> highest annual total                                                           |

Table 2: Monthly ringing totals. New-bird ringing totals by month for 2024, with the five and ten-year averages for comparison.

|       | 2024 | 5-yr average<br>(2019-23) | 10-yr average<br>(2014-23) |
|-------|------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mar   | 353  | 375                       | 364                        |
| Apr   | 1012 | 1094                      | 1140                       |
| May   | 823  | 837                       | 769                        |
| Jun   | 380  | 388                       | 354                        |
| Jul   | 470  | 665                       | 514                        |
| Aug   | 322  | 699                       | 584                        |
| Sep   | 1560 | 1825                      | 1364                       |
| Oct   | 824  | 1601                      | 1333                       |
| Nov   | 246  | 311                       | 231                        |
|       |      |                           |                            |
| Total | 5990 | 7333                      | 6425                       |

Table 3: Top Ten Species

| 2024             | Species        | Total | 2023             | 2022             | 2021              | 2020*            |
|------------------|----------------|-------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Meadow Pipit   | 1165  | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 1 <sup>st</sup>   | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Willow Warbler | 685   | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Goldfinch      | 672   | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | 7 <sup>th</sup>  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Robin          | 365   | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | = 5 <sup>th</sup> | 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Goldcrest      | 287   | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | = 5 <sup>th</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Chiffchaff     | 251   | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 9 <sup>th</sup>   | 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Blackcap       | 233   | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 10 <sup>th</sup>  | 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Chaffinch      | 219   | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 4 <sup>th</sup>   | 1 <sup>st</sup>  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Redwing        | 179   | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 7 <sup>th</sup>   | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Song Thrush    | 168   | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 13 <sup>th</sup>  | 8 <sup>th</sup>  |

\*Covid

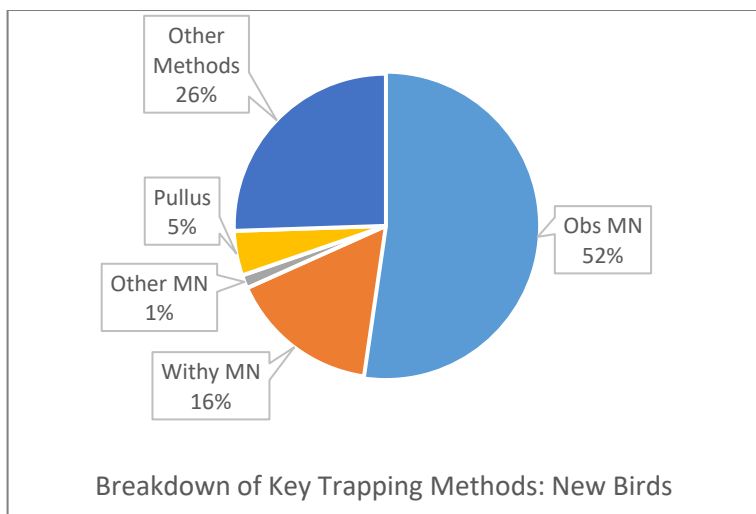
## The Season's Centuries:

| <i>Date</i>                | <i>Main species</i>                                                   | <i>No. of birds ringed /<br/>No. of species</i> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 14 <sup>th</sup> April     | Willow Warbler 40, Blackcap 40, Goldfinch 13                          | 105 /<br>6 species                              |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> April     | Willow Warbler 52, Blackcap 20, Goldfinch 18                          | 102 /<br>11 species                             |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> April     | Goldfinch 33, Willow Warbler 31, Blackcap 16                          | 104 /<br>14 species                             |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> May        | Willow Warbler 48, Goldfinch 13, Blackcap 9, Whitethroat 7            | 110 /<br>17 species                             |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> May        | Willow Warbler 39, Chiffchaff 17, Sedge Warbler 22, Whitethroat 14    | 132 /<br>16 species                             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> September  | Robin 71, Meadow Pipit 26, Grey Wagtail 15, Swallow 6                 | 136 /<br>13 species                             |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> September | Meadow Pipit 66, Robin 24, Chaffinch 14, Grey Wagtail 10              | 134 /<br>15 species                             |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> September | Meadow Pipit 53, Chaffinch 17, Chiffchaff 9, Robin 8                  | 105 /<br>12 species                             |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> September | Meadow Pipit 104, Chaffinch 20, Pied Wagtail 8, Chiffchaff 6, Robin 6 | 164 /<br>15 species                             |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> October   | Redwing 58, Blackbird 20, Song Thrush 15, Chaffinch 10, Goldfinch 8   | 120 /<br>11 species                             |

## Trapping Methods:

Table 4: Key Trapping Methods

|                      | New         | Retrap      | Control   | Total       |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Obs MN               | 3133        | 592         | 15        | <b>3740</b> |
| Withy MN             | 958         | 312         | 4         | <b>1274</b> |
| Other MN             | 85          | 13          | 9         | <b>107</b>  |
| Pullus               | 285         |             |           | <b>285</b>  |
| Other Methods        | 1529        | 247         | 2         | <b>1778</b> |
| <b>Total trapped</b> | <b>5990</b> | <b>1164</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>7184</b> |



As usual, most birds were caught using conventional methods – with mist nets accounting for 69% of all birds trapped during 2024. This represents a decrease of 4% on the 2023 figure, which likely represents the lack of calm, dry weather periods in which nets could be opened and the consequent reliance on other methods.

Table 5: Other catching methods

| Other Methods        | New         | Retrap     | Control  | Total       |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| HG1                  | 136         | 38         | 0        | 174         |
| HG2                  | 54          | 10         | 0        | 64          |
| Pipit trap           | 931         | 36         | 0        | 967         |
| Crow trap            | 232         | 33         | 0        | 265         |
| Spring trap          | 33          | 17         | 0        | 50          |
| On Nest              | 30          | 56         | 0        | 86          |
| Wire trap            | 2           | 3          | 0        | 5           |
| Dazzled / Hand       | 106         | 53         | 2        | 161         |
| Whoosh net           | 5           | 1          | 0        | 6           |
| <b>Total trapped</b> | <b>1529</b> | <b>247</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1778</b> |

The percentage of birds trapped using Other Methods increased by 7%. This is largely down to the success of the Pipit Trap, which rivalled the numbers of birds caught at the Withies this year. Mobile walk-in traps were only used infrequently this year due to this success of the Pipit Trap.

Other trapping methods were split similarly to 2023, although numbers were decreased across the board. Dazzling for waders in August proved quite productive, although no dazzling of autumn gull roosts occurred this year. 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, Stonechat and Chough were continued and are returning some interesting results, which are detailed in the recoveries & controls section of this report.

A new colour-ring project was initiated for Rock Pipit, and ten individuals were ringed. We also contributed to the national colour-ringing project of Yellow-browed Warbler, fitting combinations to five birds. An exciting advancement in our studies of Wheatear was attaching our first Motus tags to local-bred juveniles. A total of 26 tags were fitted, although only six were detected by our Motus tower.



*Wheatear with Motus tag* ©Chloe Hurst



*Yellow-browed Warbler* ©Andrew Jacobs.

The appalling breeding season for Shag had a knock-on effect on colour-ringing, with only five rings fitted. The colour-ringing of the three large *Larus* gulls also continues, and it was pleasing to receive our second sighting of Herring Gull from France (with the only previous French sighting being in 1968).

## Re-traps and Re-sightings

|                       | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | Previous                                                             |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mallard               | 1    |      |      |      |      |      | 2017 x 1                                                             |
| Eider                 | 3    | 6    | 4    |      | 2    | 3    | 2017 x 2                                                             |
| Oystercatcher         | 2    |      |      |      | 1    |      |                                                                      |
| Razorbill             | 4    |      | 1    |      |      | 1    | 2017 x 1                                                             |
| European Storm-petrel | 1    | 1    |      |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Fulmar                |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2013 x 1                                                             |
| Manx Shearwater       | 18   | 4    | 8    | 4    | 2    | 3    | 2003 x 1<br>2005 x 3<br>2008 x 2<br>2013 x 1<br>2014 x 1<br>2016 x 8 |
| Shag                  | 1    |      |      | 1    |      |      |                                                                      |
| Sparrowhawk           |      | 1    |      |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Chough                |      |      |      |      |      | 1    |                                                                      |
| Carrion Crow          |      |      |      |      |      | 1    |                                                                      |
| Hooded Crow           | 1    |      |      | 1    |      |      |                                                                      |
| Great Tit             | 1    |      |      |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Blackcap              | 4    |      |      |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Whitethroat           | 1    | 2    |      |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Wren                  | 5    | 2    |      |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Blackbird             | 6    | 1    | 1    |      |      | 1    | 2017 x 1                                                             |
| Robin                 | 10   | 3    |      |      | 3    |      |                                                                      |
| Stonechat             | 4    |      |      |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Wheatear              | 4    | 2    |      | 2    |      |      |                                                                      |
| Duncock               | 3    |      |      |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Pied Wagtail          | 1    |      | 1    |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Meadow Pipit          | 32   | 4    | 1    |      | 2    |      |                                                                      |
| Chaffinch             |      | 1    | 1    |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Linnet                | 1    | 1    |      |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Goldfinch             | 15   | 4    | 2    |      |      |      |                                                                      |
| Reed Bunting          |      |      |      |      | 1    |      |                                                                      |

Table 7: Birds colour-ringed on the Calf in previous years and re-sighted in 2024.

|                 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | Previous                                                 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Herring Gull    | 10   | 4    | 22   | 9    | 42   |      | 3    | 1    | 7    | 4    | 2001 x 1<br>2005 x 1<br>2011 x 7<br>2012 x 3<br>2013 x 2 |
| Great B-b Gull  | 5    | 2    | 5    | 1    | 3    | 2    | 2    | 1    | 3    | 1    |                                                          |
| Lesser B-b Gull | 1    |      |      |      | 3    |      |      |      |      |      |                                                          |
| Shag            |      |      | 2    |      |      | 1    |      |      |      |      | 2007 x 1                                                 |
| Chough          | 2    |      | 2    |      |      |      | 1    |      |      |      |                                                          |
| Stonechat       | 4    | 5    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                                                          |
| Wheatear        | 5    | 5    | 3    | 3    | 2    |      |      |      |      |      |                                                          |

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Mark Fitzpatrick continues to provide invaluable assistance with management of the colour-ringing sightings.

## 2024 Ringing Totals:

| Species       | Full grown | Pulli | Total     |
|---------------|------------|-------|-----------|
| Mallard       | 2          | 0     | <b>2</b>  |
| Eider         | 10         | 0     | <b>10</b> |
| Cuckoo        | 1          | 0     | <b>1</b>  |
| Woodpigeon    | 2          | 0     | <b>2</b>  |
| Collared Dove | 3          | 0     | <b>3</b>  |
| Oystercatcher | 11         | 7     | <b>18</b> |
| Jack Snipe    | 1          | 0     | <b>1</b>  |
| Woodcock      | 2          | 0     | <b>2</b>  |
| Redshank      | 5          | 0     | <b>5</b>  |
| Turnstone     | 6          | 0     | <b>6</b>  |

| <b>Species</b>           | <b>Full grown</b> | <b>Pulli</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Herring Gull             | 8                 | 110          | <b>118</b>   |
| Great Black-backed Gull  | 1                 | 22           | <b>23</b>    |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | 1                 | 5            | <b>6</b>     |
| Razorbill                | 9                 | 15           | <b>24</b>    |
| European Storm-petrel    | 65                | 0            | <b>65</b>    |
| Fulmar                   | 0                 | 1            | <b>1</b>     |
| Manx Shearwater          | 85                | 1            | <b>86</b>    |
| Shag                     | 7                 | 14           | <b>21</b>    |
| Sparrowhawk              | 10                | 0            | <b>10</b>    |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | 1                 | 0            | <b>1</b>     |
| Kestrel                  | 2                 | 0            | <b>2</b>     |
| Merlin                   | 1                 | 0            | <b>1</b>     |
| Chough                   | 0                 | 10           | <b>10</b>    |
| Hooded Crow              | 2                 | 15           | <b>17</b>    |
| Blue Tit                 | 3                 | 0            | <b>3</b>     |
| Great Tit                | 9                 | 6            | <b>15</b>    |
| Swallow                  | 55                | 19           | <b>74</b>    |
| Wood Warbler             | 2                 | 0            | <b>2</b>     |
| Yellow-browed Warbler    | 7                 | 0            | <b>7</b>     |
| Willow Warbler           | 685               | 0            | <b>685</b>   |
| Chiffchaff               | 251               | 0            | <b>251</b>   |
| Sedge Warbler            | 133               | 0            | <b>133</b>   |
| Reed Warbler             | 4                 | 0            | <b>4</b>     |
| Grasshopper Warbler      | 8                 | 0            | <b>8</b>     |
| Blackcap                 | 233               | 0            | <b>233</b>   |
| Garden Warbler           | 6                 | 0            | <b>6</b>     |
| Barred Warbler           | 1                 | 0            | <b>1</b>     |
| Lesser Whitethroat       | 5                 | 0            | <b>5</b>     |
| Whitethroat              | 109               | 0            | <b>109</b>   |
| Firecrest                | 1                 | 0            | <b>1</b>     |
| Goldcrest                | 287               | 0            | <b>287</b>   |
| Wren                     | 83                | 0            | <b>83</b>    |
| Starling                 | 21                | 0            | <b>21</b>    |
| Redwing                  | 179               | 0            | <b>179</b>   |
| Blackbird                | 130               | 7            | <b>137</b>   |
| Fieldfare                | 2                 | 0            | <b>2</b>     |
| Spotted Flycatcher       | 49                | 0            | <b>49</b>    |
| Robin                    | 360               | 5            | <b>365</b>   |
| Nightingale              | 1                 | 0            | <b>1</b>     |
| Pied Flycatcher          | 1                 | 0            | <b>1</b>     |



| Species            | Full grown | Pulli | Total |
|--------------------|------------|-------|-------|
| Redstart           | 2          | 0     | 2     |
| Whinchat           | 1          | 0     | 1     |
| Stonechat          | 58         | 24    | 82    |
| Wheatear           | 121        | 6     | 127   |
| Tree Sparrow       | 3          | 0     | 3     |
| House Sparrow      | 3          | 0     | 3     |
| Dunnock            | 26         | 0     | 26    |
| Grey Wagtail       | 88         | 0     | 88    |
| Pied/White Wagtail | 90         | 0     | 90    |
| Meadow Pipit       | 1162       | 3     | 1165  |
| Tree Pipit         | 11         | 0     | 11    |
| Rock Pipit         | 6          | 4     | 10    |
| Chaffinch          | 216        | 3     | 219   |
| Brambling          | 1          | 0     | 1     |
| Common Rosefinch   | 2          | 0     | 2     |
| Greenfinch         | 14         | 0     | 14    |
| Linnet             | 51         | 3     | 54    |
| Lesser Redpoll     | 108        | 0     | 108   |
| Goldfinch          | 666        | 6     | 672   |
| Siskin             | 37         | 0     | 37    |
| Reed Bunting       | 7          | 0     | 7     |

# Recoveries & Controls

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

- Capture code:

|    |   |                                                  |
|----|---|--------------------------------------------------|
| N  | - | Initial capture, ringing and release by a ringer |
| R  | - | Recaptured and released by a ringer              |
| S  | - | Rings read in the field (colour marks)           |
| X  | - | Found dead; unknown length of time               |
| xA | - | Found freshly dead; less than a week             |
| xL | - | Found long dead; over a week                     |

An increasing number of reports are received from observations 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 alphanumeric 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
- Rock Pipit
- Stonechat
- Chough



Combinations of plain colour-rings have also been used previously on Chough. Where more than one colour-ring is used, the colour of each ring and position on the tarsus 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



2024 Recoveries

Recoveries are of birds ringed on the Calf that have subsequently been found elsewhere. A total of 227 reports were received during 2024, comprising one record from 1991, 1999, 2001–2003, 2009, 2011 & 2013, two from 2012 & 2014, three from 2015, five from 2018, seven from 2020, eight from 2017, 14 from 2019, 26 from 2022, 35 from 2021 and 59 from both 2023 & 2024.

Details within species are recorded thus:

Ring Number

Age/Sex   Code   Date   Location Details

Mallard

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|
| Up to 2023 | 1    | 1       | 1   | 1                |
| 2024       | 0    | 0       | 1   | 0                |

GY42601

6M    N    14/05/24    Calf of Man  
6M    xA   05/10/24    Poyllvaish, Isle of Man  
134 days, 8 km (ENE)

Shot for human consumption. The first Mallard recovery since 1981.

Eider

|            | IOM | Northern Ireland |
|------------|-----|------------------|
| Up to 2023 | 3   | 1                |
| 2024       | 1   | 0                |

MA28285

6F N 22/05/22 Calf of Man  
6F xA 19/07/24 Derbyhaven, Isle of Man  
789 days, 10 km (E)

### Great Black-backed Gull

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales | Irish Sea |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|-----------|
| Up to 2023 | 128  | 62      | 95  | 106              | 10       | 85    | 3         |
| 2024       | 1    | 0       | 8   | 16               | 1        | 0     | 0         |

|            | FRANCE |
|------------|--------|
| Up to 2024 | 3      |

HT95140 **T8ZU**

1 N 26/06/13 Calf of Man  
10 S 16/10/21 Skerries, Dublin, Eire  
3034 days, 99 km (WSW)  
10 S 18/08/24 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man  
4071 days, 8 km (ENE)

HT95232 **S62:M**

1 N 22/05/15 Calf of Man  
9 S 31/03/18 Bullock Harbour, Dublin, Eire  
1013 days, 120 km (SW)  
9 S 14/05/18 Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland  
1057 days, 57 km (WNW)  
10 S 07/08/20 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man  
1873 days, 8 km (ENE)  
10 S 11/12/20 Mill Bay, Carlingford Loch, Down, N. Ireland  
1999 days, 82 km (W)  
10 S 27/10/21 Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland  
2319 days, 71 km (WNW)  
10 S 18/08/24 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 3345 days  
10 S 01/11/24 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, N. Ireland  
3420 days, 56 km (NW)

HT95278 **S41:M**

1 N 25/06/17 Calf of Man  
7 S 13/09/19 Skerries, Dublin, Eire  
810 days, 99 km (WSW)  
\*Also 02/10/19 829 days  
10 S 11/06/24 Monreith Bay, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland  
2543 days, 78km (NNE)

HT95289 **S08:M**

|                                    |   |          |                                                      |
|------------------------------------|---|----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 3                                  | N | 31/10/17 | Calf of Man                                          |
| 3                                  | S | 03/11/17 | Howth Harbour, Dublin, Eire<br>3 days, 111 km (SW)   |
| 5                                  | S | 09/01/18 | Howth Harbour, Dublin, Eire, 70 days                 |
| 10                                 | S | 24/05/21 | Calf of Man, 1301 days                               |
| 10                                 | S | 07/07/21 | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>1345 days, 8 km (ENE) |
| 10                                 | S | 02/05/22 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>1644 days, 4 km (ENE)   |
| 10                                 | S | 21/03/24 | Calf of Man, 2333 days                               |
| *Also 11 dates from March–May 2024 |   |          |                                                      |
| 10                                 | S | 27/04/24 | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>2370 days, 9 km (ENE)     |
| 10                                 | S | 02/05/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 2375 days                 |
| 10                                 | S | 17/12/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 2604 days                 |

HT95292 **S36:M**

|    |   |          |                                                     |
|----|---|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 8  | N | 09/05/18 | Calf of Man                                         |
| 10 | S | 06/08/20 | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>820 days, 8 km (ENE) |
| 10 | S | 25/04/24 | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 2178 days              |
| 10 | S | 08/09/24 | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>2314 days, 9 km (ENE)    |

HT95335 **S51:M**

|    |   |          |                                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | N | 23/06/18 | Calf of Man                                                           |
| 4  | S | 02/02/19 | The Lizard, Cornwall, England<br>224 days, 459 km (S)                 |
| 6  | S | 12/06/21 | Skerries, Dublin, Eire<br>1085 days, 99 km (WSW)                      |
| 8  | S | 15/05/22 | Mill Bay, Carlingford Lough, Down, N. Ireland<br>1422 days, 82 km (W) |
| 10 | S | 18/08/24 | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>2248 days, 8 km (ENE)                  |

HT95424 **U22:M**

|   |   |          |                                                   |
|---|---|----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 17/06/21 | Calf of Man                                       |
| 3 | S | 31/12/21 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>197 days, 4 km (ENE) |
| 5 | S | 19/01/22 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 216 days               |

\*Also three dates from May–August 2022.

|                      |   |                                            |                                                                               |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5                    | S | 01/08/22                                   | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>410 days, 8 km (ENE)                           |
| 9                    | S | 18/08/24                                   | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 1158 days                                        |
| HT95426 <b>U25:M</b> |   |                                            |                                                                               |
| 1                    | N | 17/06/21                                   | Calf of Man                                                                   |
| 3                    | S | 09/10/21                                   | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>114 days, 8 km (ENE)                           |
| 5                    | S | 08/09/22                                   | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>448 days, 57 km (WNW)                   |
| 7                    | S | 23/03/23                                   | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 644 days                                  |
| 9                    | S | 11/04/24                                   | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 1029 days                                 |
| 9                    | S | 15/04/24                                   | Calf of Man, 1033 days                                                        |
| 9                    | S | 06/08/24                                   | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland<br>1146 days, 56 km (WNW) |
| HT95428 <b>U29:M</b> |   |                                            |                                                                               |
| 1                    | N | 17/06/21                                   | Calf of Man                                                                   |
| 3                    | S | 21/09/21                                   | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>96 days, 8 km (ENE)                            |
| 5                    | S | 08/04/22                                   | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>295 days, 57 km (WNW)                   |
|                      |   | *Also 08/09/22                             | 448 days                                                                      |
| 7                    | S | 23/03/23                                   | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 644 days                                  |
| 7                    | S | 11/10/23                                   | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>846 days, 9 km (ENE)                               |
| 9                    | S | 01/04/24                                   | Ardglass Harbour, Down N. Ireland, 1019 days                                  |
| HT95464 <b>M87:M</b> |   |                                            |                                                                               |
| 5                    | N | 24/03/20                                   | Calf of Man                                                                   |
| 10                   | S | 02/11/24                                   | Glynne, Larne Lough, Antrim, N. Ireland<br>1684 days, 108 km (NW)             |
| MA28253 <b>U10:M</b> |   |                                            |                                                                               |
| 1                    | N | 08/07/21                                   | Calf of Man                                                                   |
| 3                    | S | 08/12/21                                   | Rush Harbour, Dublin, Eire<br>153 days, 104 km (SW)                           |
| 5                    | S | 08/04/22                                   | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>274 days, 57 km (WNW)                   |
|                      |   | *Also three dates from June–September 2022 |                                                                               |
| 7                    | S | 23/03/23                                   | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 623 days                                  |
| 9                    | S | 30/01/24                                   | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 936 days                                  |

|   |   |          |                                               |
|---|---|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 9 | S | 17/03/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 983 days  |
| 9 | S | 28/04/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 1025 days |
| 9 | S | 06/07/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 1094 days |
| 9 | S | 22/07/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 1110 days |
| 9 | S | 29/12/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 1270 days |

#### MA28260 U55:M

|   |   |                |                                                      |
|---|---|----------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 14/07/21       | Calf of Man                                          |
| 3 | S | 03/09/21       | Port St Mary Bay, Isle of Man<br>51 days, 4 km (ENE) |
| 3 | S | 02/12/21       | Portavogie, Down, N. Ireland<br>141 days, 60 km (NW) |
|   |   | *Also 30/12/21 | 169 days                                             |
| 5 | S | 04/08/22       | Portavogie, Down, N. Ireland, 386 days               |
| 9 | S | 06/02/24       | Portavogie, Down, N. Ireland, 937 days               |

#### MA28307 P40:M

|   |   |          |                                                   |
|---|---|----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 20/06/22 | Calf of Man                                       |
| 7 | S | 27/12/24 | Duncannon, Wexford, Eire<br>921 days, 250 km (SW) |

#### MA28344 M29:M

|    |   |          |                                                             |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7  | N | 11/11/22 | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 9  | S | 23/03/23 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>132 days, 57 km (WNW) |
| 10 | S | 17/03/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 492 days                |
| 10 | S | 11/04/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 517 days                |

#### MA61306 M40:M

|   |   |          |                                                            |
|---|---|----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 17/07/24 | Calf of Man                                                |
| 3 | S | 21/12/24 | Boatstrand Beach, Waterford, Eire<br>157 days, 270 km (SW) |

#### MA61333 U15:M

|   |   |          |                                                         |
|---|---|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 08/07/24 | Calf of Man                                             |
| 3 | S | 12/10/24 | Kilkeel Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>96 days, 78 km (W) |

#### MA61334 U16:M

|   |   |          |                                                                           |
|---|---|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 08/07/24 | Calf of Man                                                               |
| 3 | S | 13/10/24 | Kilclief Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland<br>128 days, 57 km (WNW) |

## Herring Gull

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales | Irish Sea |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|-----------|
| Up to 2023 | 323  | 182     | 416 | 235              | 25       | 41    | 6         |
| 2024       | 17   | 2       | 50  | 35               | 1        | 4     | 0         |

|            | DENMARK | FRANCE | NORWAY | THE NETHERLANDS |
|------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| Up to 2023 | 2       | 1      | 1      | 3               |
| 2024       | 0       | 1      | 0      | 0               |

GC91185 **H24:M**

1 N 20/06/11 Calf of Man  
 10 S 18/08/24 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man  
 4808 days, 8 km (ENE)

GR64506 **T8ZH**

1 N 20/06/12 Calf of Man  
 3 S 11/12/12 St Stephen's Green, Dublin, Eire  
 174 days, 127 km (SW)  
 10 S 09/07/17 Calf of Man, 1845 days  
 \*Also seven dates from July 2017–July 2018.  
 10 S 11/04/20 Port Erin, Isle of Man  
 2852 days, 1 km (E)  
 10 S 18/07/22 Calf of Man, 3680 days  
 10 S 09/07/23 Port Erin, Isle of Man, 4036 days  
 10 S 03/07/24 Baie Fine, Port Erin, Isle of Man, 4396 days

GR64955 **T9YH**

1 N 24/06/14 Calf of Man  
 10 S 12/10/21 Strandhall, Isle of Man  
 2667 days, 9 km (ENE)  
 10 S 28/06/24 Poyllvaish, Isle of Man  
 3657 days, 8 km (ENE)

GR64972 **T1YL**

1 N 28/06/14 Calf of Man  
 5 S 16/11/15 Duncannon Beach, Wexford, Eire  
 506 days, 248 km (SW)  
 9 S 10/02/17 Rosslare, Wexford, Eire  
 958 days, 225 km (SSW)  
 10 S 16/08/18 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland  
 1510 days, 56 km (WNW)  
 10 S 18/10/18 Calf of Man, 1573 days

\*Also three dates from August 2020–April 2022



|    |   |                |                                                         |
|----|---|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | S | 10/10/22       | Cloughey Bay, Down, N. Ireland<br>3026 days, 61 km (NW) |
| 10 | S | 24/04/23       | Calf of Man, 3222 days                                  |
| 10 | S | 29/08/23       | Portavogie, Down, N. Ireland<br>3349 days, 60 km (NW)   |
| 10 | S | 29/08/23       | Calf of Man, 3597 days                                  |
|    |   | *Also 10/08/24 | 3696 days                                               |
| 10 | S | 28/09/24       | Cloughey Bay, Down, N. Ireland<br>3745 days, 61 km (NW) |

GR98814 **R67:M**

|    |   |                                                                       |                                                      |
|----|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | N | 20/06/15                                                              | Calf of Man                                          |
| 3  | S | 21/10/15                                                              | Peel, Isle of Man<br>123 days, 20 km (NNE)           |
| 7  | S | 17/02/16                                                              | Castletown, Isle of Man<br>242 days, 10 km (E)       |
| 10 | S | 19/06/18                                                              | Peel, Isle of Man, 1095 days                         |
| 10 | S | 27/03/19                                                              | Calf of Man, 1376 days                               |
|    |   | *Also 02/04/19                                                        | 1382 days                                            |
| 10 | S | 28/08/20                                                              | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>1896 days, 8 km (ENE) |
| 10 | S | 03/09/21                                                              | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>2267 days, 4 km (ENE)   |
|    |   | *Also one further date in 2021, one date in 2022 and one date in 2023 |                                                      |
| 10 | S | 16/03/23                                                              | Calf of Man, 2826 days                               |
|    |   | *Also six dates from March–July 2023                                  |                                                      |
| 10 | S | 15/01/24                                                              | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 3131 days                 |
| 10 | S | 01/03/24                                                              | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 3177 days                 |

GR99031 **L38:M**

|    |   |                |                                                             |
|----|---|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | N | 02/07/17       | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 5  | S | 29/07/18       | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>392 days, 57 km (WNW) |
|    |   | *Also 22/08/18 | 416 days                                                    |
| 9  | S | 14/06/20       | Calf of Man, 1078 days                                      |
|    |   | *Also 04/07/20 | 1098 days                                                   |
| 9  | S | 11/09/20       | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>1167 days, 8 km (ENE)        |
| 10 | S | 10/10/21       | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 1561 days                      |
| 10 | S | 02/06/22       | Calf of Man, 1796 days                                      |
|    |   | *Also 23/02/23 | 2062 days                                                   |
| 10 | S | 27/04/24       | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>2491 days, 4 km (ENE)          |

GR99093 **T7VP**  
 10 N 27/05/19 Calf of Man  
 10 S 09/03/24 Peel Inner Harbour, Peel, Isle of Man  
 1748 days, 20 km (NNE)

GV61706 **L10:M**  
 1 N 25/06/17 Calf of Man  
 10 S 31/08/24 Port St Mary, Isle of Man  
 2624 days, 4 km (ENE)

GV61739 **L70:M**  
 1 N 05/07/17 Calf of Man  
 7 S 28/06/19 Dalkey Island, Dublin, Eire  
 723 days, 123 km (SW)  
 10 S 16/08/22 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man  
 1868 days, 8 km (ENE)  
 10 S 21/11/23 Port St Mary, Isle of Man  
 2330 days, 4 km (ENE)  
 10 S 15/01/24 Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 2385 days  
 10 S 02/03/24 Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 2432 days

GV61886 **T8WE**  
 1 N 23/06/19 Calf of Man  
 9 S 16/08/22 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man  
 1150 days, 8 km (ENE)  
 10 S 31/03/23 Calf of Man, 1377 days  
 10 S 02/03/24 Port St Mary, Isle of Man  
 1714 days, 4 km (ENE)

GV61952 **TOYS**  
 1 N 27/06/19 Calf of Man  
 3 S 16/11/19 Peel, Isle of Man  
 142 days, 20 km (NNE)  
 5 S 04/01/20 Peel, Isle of Man, 191 days  
 \*Also three further dates in 2020  
 7 S 28/03/21 Peel, Isle of Man, 640 days  
 8 S 05/06/22 Clones, Wexford, Eire  
 1074 days, 96 km (W)  
 10 S 04/01/24 Peel, Isle of Man, 1652 days

GV61963 **T2YU**

|    |   |                |                                                        |
|----|---|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | N | 27/06/19       | Calf of Man                                            |
| 3  | S | 06/12/19       | Peel, Isle of Man<br>162 days, 20 km (NNE)             |
| 5  | S | 20/01/20       | Bull Island, Dublin, Eire<br>207 days, 117 km (SW)     |
| 5  | S | 07/11/20       | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>499 days, 4 km (ENE)      |
| 7  | S | 03/01/21       | Alexander Basin, Dublin, Eire<br>556 days, 122 km (SW) |
| 9  | S | 30/03/22       | Calf of Man, 1007 days                                 |
| 10 | S | 24/04/23       | Calf of Man, 1397 days                                 |
|    |   | *Also 18/07/23 | 1482 days                                              |
| 10 | S | 27/04/24       | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 1766 days                   |

GV61971 **T8YV**

|    |   |                                          |                                                         |
|----|---|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | N | 27/06/19                                 | Calf of Man                                             |
| 3  | S | 17/10/19                                 | Gormanston Beach, Meath, Eire<br>112 days, 103 km (WSW) |
| 5  | S | 29/01/20                                 | Bray Harbour, Wicklow, Eire<br>216 days, 130 km (SW)    |
|    |   | *Also 30/01/20 and 05/02/20.             |                                                         |
| 5  | S | 14/04/20                                 | East Wall, Tolka, Dublin, Eire<br>292 days, 122 km (SW) |
|    |   | *Also 25/04/20                           |                                                         |
| 5  | S | 04/07/20                                 | Bray Harbour, Wicklow, Eire, 373 days                   |
|    |   | *Also three dates from July–August 2020. |                                                         |
| 5  | S | 17/09/20                                 | Gormanstown, Dublin, Eire<br>448 days, 103 km (WSW)     |
| 7  | S | 06/01/21                                 | Bray Harbour, Wicklow, Eire, 559 days                   |
| 7  | S | 26/07/21                                 | Gormanstown, Dublin, Eire, 760 days                     |
| 7  | S | 20/09/21                                 | Skerries Beach, Dublin, Eire<br>816 days, 101 km (WSW)  |
| 10 | S | 24/04/23                                 | Calf of Man, 1397 days                                  |
| 10 | S | 28/07/24                                 | Calf of Man, 1858 days                                  |
| 10 | S | 17/12/24                                 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>2000 days, 4 km (ENE)      |

GY06297 **T8YW**

|   |   |          |                                                                              |
|---|---|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 03/07/19 | Calf of Man                                                                  |
| 5 | S | 13/07/20 | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland<br>376 days, 56 km (WNW) |

|   |   |          |                                                                             |
|---|---|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 | S | 26/08/20 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>420 days, 57 km (WNW)                 |
| 7 | S | 10/03/21 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 616 days                                |
| 7 | S | 08/08/21 | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland<br>767 days             |
| 9 | S | 11/01/22 | Queen's Park Lake, Blackburn, Lancashire, England<br>923 days, 158 km (ESE) |

\*Also four dates from January–February 2022

|    |   |          |                                                                |
|----|---|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | S | 30/04/23 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 1519 days                  |
| 10 | S | 25/04/24 | Calf of Man, 1759 days                                         |
| 10 | S | 24/12/24 | Queen's Park Lake, Blackburn, Lancashire, England<br>2001 days |

GY06312 **T7YX**

|    |   |          |                                                    |
|----|---|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | N | 03/07/19 | Calf of Man                                        |
| 10 | S | 15/01/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>1657 days, 4 km (ENE) |

GY06338 **T6VE**

|    |   |                                              |                                                                        |
|----|---|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | N | 03/07/19                                     | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 5  | S | 27/07/20                                     | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, N. Ireland<br>390 days, 56 km (WNW) |
| 5  | S | 19/08/20                                     | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland<br>413 days, 71 km (WNW)                 |
|    |   | *Also 09/09/20                               | 434 days                                                               |
| 7  | S | 13/05/21                                     | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 680 days                                |
|    |   | *Also five dates from August–October 2021.   |                                                                        |
| 9  | S | 02/04/22                                     | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 1004 days                               |
|    |   | *Also 11/10/22 and 28/10/22                  |                                                                        |
| 10 | S | 19/06/23                                     | Calf of Man, 1447 days                                                 |
| 10 | S | 18/09/23                                     | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 1538 days                               |
|    |   | *Also five dates from October–November 2023. |                                                                        |
| 10 | S | 27/08/24                                     | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 1882 days                               |
| 10 | S | 05/10/24                                     | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 1921 days                               |
| 10 | S | 17/10/24                                     | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 1933 days                               |

GY06354 **T1VC**

|   |   |                |                                                                        |
|---|---|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 03/07/19       | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 5 | S | 06/06/20       | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, N. Ireland<br>339 days, 56 km (WNW) |
|   |   | *Also 24/07/20 | 387 days                                                               |
| 5 | S | 10/10/20       | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>465 days, 9 km (ENE)                        |

|                              |   |          |                                                            |
|------------------------------|---|----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7                            | S | 17/07/21 | Calf of Man, 745 days                                      |
| 7                            | S | 16/09/21 | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, N. Ireland<br>806 days  |
| *Also 30/09/21 and 25/10/21. |   |          |                                                            |
| 7                            | S | 17/12/21 | Strandhall, Isle of Man, 898 days                          |
| *Also 25/12/21               |   |          |                                                            |
| 10                           | S | 10/04/23 | Calf of Man, 1377 days                                     |
| 10                           | S | 27/09/24 | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, N. Ireland<br>1913 days |
| 10                           | S | 09/10/24 | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, N. Ireland<br>1925 days |

GY06420 **T7YD**

|    |   |          |                                                                        |
|----|---|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | N | 12/07/19 | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 5  | S | 02/07/20 | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, N. Ireland<br>356 days, 56 km (WNW) |
| 10 | S | 30/07/23 | Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire<br>1479 days, 98 km (WSW)        |
| 10 | S | 01/08/24 | Calf of Man, 1847 days                                                 |
| 10 | S | 17/11/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>1985 days, 4 km (ENE)                     |

GY06446 **T4WW**

|    |   |          |                                                 |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | N | 29/06/20 | Calf of Man                                     |
| 10 | S | 31/12/24 | Derbyhaven, Isle of Man<br>1646 days, 10 km (E) |

GY06473 **T8WY**

|                                                  |   |          |                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|----------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 10                                               | N | 12/09/20 | Calf of Man                                      |
| 10                                               | S | 07/11/20 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>56 days, 4 km (ENE) |
| *Also eight dates from August 2021–November 2023 |   |          |                                                  |
| 10                                               | S | 02/03/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 1267 days             |
| 10                                               | S | 17/12/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 1557 days             |

GY06508 **K72:M**

|                |   |          |                                                             |
|----------------|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1              | N | 15/07/21 | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 7              | S | 30/01/23 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>564 days, 57 km (WNW) |
| *Also 08/02/23 |   |          |                                                             |
| 9              | S | 12/10/24 | 573 days<br>Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 1185 days   |

GY06521 **K85:M**

|   |   |                |                                                       |
|---|---|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 19/07/21       | Calf of Man                                           |
| 3 | S | 09/09/21       | Skerries Beach, Dublin, Eire<br>52 days, 101 km (WSW) |
| 3 | S | 17/12/21       | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>151 days, 9 km (ENE)       |
|   |   | *Also 23/12/21 | 157 days                                              |
| 5 | S | 18/10/22       | Skerries Beach, Dublin, Eire, 456 days                |
| 5 | S | 25/12/22       | Poyllvaish, Isle of Man<br>524 days, 8 km (E)         |
| 9 | S | 13/04/24       | Calf of Man, 999 days                                 |
| 9 | S | 31/12/24       | Strandhall, Isle of Man, 1261 days                    |

GY06548 **TOYE**

|   |   |          |                                                      |
|---|---|----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | N | 31/10/21 | Calf of Man                                          |
| 9 | S | 06/06/24 | Portavogie, Down, N. Ireland<br>949 days, 61 km (NW) |

GY06556 **J73:M**

|   |   |          |                                                 |
|---|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | N | 01/11/21 | Calf of Man                                     |
| 9 | S | 25/04/24 | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>906 days, 9 km (ENE) |

GY06560 **J57:M**

|   |   |                |                                                                              |
|---|---|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | N | 01/11/21       | Calf of Man                                                                  |
| 5 | S | 14/07/22       | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland<br>255 days, 56 km (WNW) |
|   |   | *Also 08/09/22 | 311 days                                                                     |
| 9 | S | 06/08/24       | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland<br>1009 days             |
| 9 | S | 14/09/24       | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland<br>1048 days             |

GY06563 **U59:M**

|    |   |                                            |                                                        |
|----|---|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 7  | N | 01/11/21                                   | Calf of Man                                            |
| 9  | S | 17/02/22                                   | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland<br>108 days, 71 km (WNW) |
|    |   | *Also 02/04/22 and 15/07/22.               |                                                        |
| 10 | S | 25/01/23                                   | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 452 days                |
|    |   | *Also four dates from March–November 2023. |                                                        |
| 10 | S | 27/07/24                                   | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 999 days                |
| 10 | S | 30/11/24                                   | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 1125 days               |

|         |   |          |                                                                        |
|---------|---|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GY06564 |   | U76:M    |                                                                        |
| 3       | N | 01/11/21 | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 5       | S | 09/09/22 | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland<br>312 days, 71 km (WNW)                 |
| 7       | S | 06/10/23 | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 704 days                                |
| 9       | S | 13/04/24 | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 894 days                                |
| 9       | S | 28/04/24 | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 909 days                                |
| 9       | S | 30/11/24 | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 1125 days                               |
| GY06576 |   | G05:M    |                                                                        |
| 1       | N | 01/07/22 | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 5       | S | 18/08/23 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>413 days, 57 km (WNW)            |
| 7       | S | 17/03/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 625 days                           |
| 7       | S | 04/10/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 826 days                           |
| GY06579 |   | G09:M    |                                                                        |
| 1       | N | 01/07/22 | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 3       | S | 28/09/22 | 19 Arches Bridge, Wicklow, Eire<br>89 days, 169 km (SSW)               |
| 7       | S | 25/08/24 | 19 Arches Bridge, Wicklow, Eire, 786 days                              |
| 7       | S | 01/12/24 | Clone, Wexford, Eire<br>884 days, 175 km (SSW)                         |
| GY06589 |   | G19:M    |                                                                        |
| 1       | N | 01/07/22 | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 5       | S | 15/03/23 | Castletown, Isle of Man<br>257 days, 10 km (E)                         |
| 7       | S | 15/01/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>563 days, 4 km (ENE)                      |
| 7       | S | 02/02/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 581 days                                    |
| 7       | S | 29/02/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 608 days                                    |
| GY06611 |   | G51:M    |                                                                        |
| 1       | N | 04/07/22 | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 7       | S | 12/10/24 | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, N. Ireland<br>831 days, 56 km (WNW) |
| GY06640 |   | G80:M    |                                                                        |
| 1       | N | 09/07/22 | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 3       | S | 10/08/22 | River Liffey, Dublin, Eire<br>32 days, 129 km (SW)                     |

|                      |   |                                        |                                                                        |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3                    | S | 02/09/22                               | Bray Harbour, Wicklow, Eire<br>55 days, 130 km (SW)                    |
|                      |   | *Also 16/09/22                         | 69 days                                                                |
| 7                    | S | 02/06/24                               | Unnamed Site, Wexford, Eire<br>694 days, 171 km (SW)                   |
| GY06690 <b>H14:M</b> |   |                                        |                                                                        |
| 8                    | N | 15/10/22                               | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 10                   | S | 09/08/23                               | Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, N. Ireland<br>298 days, 56 km (WNW) |
| 10                   | S | 17/12/24                               | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>794 days, 6 km (ENE)                      |
| GY06691 <b>H15:M</b> |   |                                        |                                                                        |
| 5                    | N | 15/10/22                               | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 9                    | S | 05/04/24                               | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>538 days, 57 km (WNW)            |
| 9                    | S | 27/04/24                               | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>560 days, 4 km (ENE)                      |
| GY06695 <b>H26:M</b> |   |                                        |                                                                        |
| 7                    | N | 01/11/22                               | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 10                   | S | 03/02/24                               | Peel Inner Harbour, Peel, Isle of Man<br>459 days, 20 km (NNE)         |
| GY06696 <b>H19:M</b> |   |                                        |                                                                        |
| 8                    | N | 11/11/22                               | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 10                   | S | 02/01/23                               | Castletown, Isle of Man<br>52 days, 10 km (E)                          |
|                      |   | *Also four dates from March–July 2023. |                                                                        |
| 10                   | S | 06/20/24                               | Castletown, Isle of Man, 452 days                                      |
| GY06699 <b>H23:M</b> |   |                                        |                                                                        |
| 10                   | N | 16/03/23                               | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 10                   | S | 25/04/24                               | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>406 days, 8 km (ENE)                    |
| GY06706 <b>H28:M</b> |   |                                        |                                                                        |
| 1                    | N | 24/06/23                               | Calf of Man                                                            |
| 5                    | S | 15/01/24                               | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>205 days, 4 km (ENE)                      |
| 5                    | S | 30/04/24                               | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>311 days, 9 km (ENE)                        |



|                      |   |          |                                                                             |
|----------------------|---|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5                    | S | 02/08/24 | Strandhall, Isle of Man, 405 days                                           |
| 5                    | S | 20/11/24 | Strandhall, Isle of Man, 515 days                                           |
| GY06710 <b>H32:M</b> |   |          |                                                                             |
| 1                    | N | 24/06/23 | Calf of Man                                                                 |
| 5                    | S | 23/03/24 | Queen's Park Lake, Blackburn, Lancashire, England<br>273 days, 157 km (ENE) |
| GY06716 <b>H38:M</b> |   |          |                                                                             |
| 1                    | N | 24/06/23 | Calf of Man                                                                 |
| 5                    | S | 02/03/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>252 days, 4 km (ENE)                           |
| GY06722 <b>H44:M</b> |   |          |                                                                             |
| 1                    | N | 29/06/23 | Calf of Man                                                                 |
| 5                    | S | 15/01/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>200 days, 4 km (ENE)                           |
| 5                    | S | 01/03/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 246 days                                         |
| GY06742 <b>H64:M</b> |   |          |                                                                             |
| 1                    | N | 29/06/23 | Calf of Man                                                                 |
| 5                    | S | 20/06/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>357 days, 57 km (WNW)                 |
| GY20519 <b>T8WZ</b>  |   |          |                                                                             |
| 1                    | N | 30/06/20 | Calf of Man                                                                 |
| 3                    | S | 11/09/20 | Boosterstown, Dublin, Eire<br>73 days, 123 km (SW)                          |
| 9                    | S | 13/04/23 | Calf of Man, 1017 days                                                      |
| 10                   | S | 31/12/24 | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>1645 days, 9 km (ENE)                            |
| GY20525 <b>T4XE</b>  |   |          |                                                                             |
| 1                    | N | 02/07/20 | Calf of Man                                                                 |
| 8                    | S | 25/02/24 | Point-Croix, Aube, France<br>1333 days, 934 km (SE)                         |
| GY20553 <b>J18:M</b> |   |          |                                                                             |
| 1                    | N | 26/06/21 | Calf of Man                                                                 |
| 7                    | S | 07/06/23 | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>711 days, 9 km (ENE)                             |
| 9                    | S | 17/12/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>1270 days, 4 km (ENE)                          |

## GY20557 J23:M

|   |   |          |                                                     |
|---|---|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 26/06/21 | Calf of Man                                         |
| 3 | S | 08/09/21 | Bray Harbour, Wicklow, Eire<br>74 days, 130 km (SW) |
| 9 | S | 28/06/24 | Poyllvaish, Isle of Man<br>1098 days, 8 km (ENE)    |

## GY20581 J47:M

|    |       |          |                                                     |
|----|-------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | N     | 27/06/21 | Calf of Man                                         |
| 3  | S     | 09/10/21 | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>104 days, 8 km (ENE) |
| 5  | S     | 05/04/22 | Calf of Man, 282 days                               |
|    | *Also | 10/04/22 | 287 days                                            |
| 5  | S     | 30/06/22 | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 368 days               |
| 10 | S     | 15/01/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>932 days, 4 km (ENE)   |

## GY20594 J60:M

|   |       |          |                                                    |
|---|-------|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N     | 27/06/21 | Calf of Man                                        |
| 3 | S     | 26/09/21 | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>91 days, 8 km (ENE) |
| 5 | S     | 16/08/22 | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 415 days              |
|   | *Also | 08/09/22 | 438 days                                           |
| 8 | S     | 13/04/24 | Calf of Man, 1021 days                             |
| 9 | S     | 27/04/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>1035 days, 4 km (ENE) |

## GY20684 K48:M

|   |   |          |                                                   |
|---|---|----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 10/07/21 | Calf of Man                                       |
| 7 | S | 08/07/23 | Port Erin, Isle of Man<br>728 days, 1 km (NE)     |
| 7 | S | 01/12/23 | Peel, Isle of Man<br>874 days, 20 km (NNE)        |
| 9 | S | 02/02/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man<br>937 days, 4 km (ENE) |
| 9 | S | 29/02/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 964 days               |

## GY20693 K57:M

|   |   |          |                                                        |
|---|---|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 11/07/21 | Calf of Man                                            |
| 5 | S | 09/01/22 | Bulloch Harbour, Dublin, Eire<br>182 days, 121 km (SW) |
| 5 | S | 23/04/22 | Sandycove, Dublin, Eire<br>286 days, 122 km (SW)       |

|                      |   |          |                                                                |
|----------------------|---|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9                    | S | 31/12/24 | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>1269 days, 9 km (ENE)               |
| GY42502 <b>H74:M</b> |   |          |                                                                |
| 1                    | N | 01/07/23 | Calf of Man                                                    |
| 5                    | S | 03/03/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>246 days, 57 km (WNW)    |
| 5                    | S | 10/05/24 | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland<br>287 days, 71 km (WNW)         |
| 5                    | S | 19/05/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 323 days                   |
| 5                    | S | 17/10/24 | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland, 474 days                        |
| GY42505 <b>H77:M</b> |   |          |                                                                |
| 1                    | N | 01/07/23 | Calf of Man                                                    |
| 5                    | S | 11/05/24 | Kilpatrick, Wexford, Eire<br>315 days, 172 km (SSW)            |
| 5                    | S | 20/08/24 | Clone Strand, Wexford, Eire<br>416 days, 174 km (SSW)          |
| GY42513 <b>H85:M</b> |   |          |                                                                |
| 1                    | N | 02/07/23 | Calf of Man                                                    |
| 5                    | S | 04/03/24 | Peel Inner Harbour, Peel, Isle of Man<br>246 days, 20 km (NNE) |
| GY42524 <b>H94:M</b> |   |          |                                                                |
| 1                    | N | 03/07/23 | Calf of Man                                                    |
| 5                    | S | 01/02/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>213 days, 57 km (WNW)    |
| 5                    | S | 18/02/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 230 days                   |
| 5                    | S | 01/04/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 273 days                   |
| GY42532 <b>D03:M</b> |   |          |                                                                |
| 1                    | N | 03/07/23 | Calf of Man                                                    |
| 5                    | S | 01/09/24 | Arklow, Wicklow, Eire<br>426 days, 167 km (SSW)                |
| GY42551 <b>D22:M</b> |   |          |                                                                |
| 1                    | N | 07/07/23 | Calf of Man                                                    |
| 5                    | S | 29/08/24 | Knockinelder Bay, Down, N. Ireland<br>419 days, 57 km (NW)     |

|         |   |              |                                                             |
|---------|---|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| GY42576 |   | <b>D47:M</b> |                                                             |
| 1       | N | 11/07/23     | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 5       | S | 11/04/24     | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>275 days, 57 km (WNW) |
| 5       | S | 19/04/24     | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 283 days                |
| GY42599 |   | <b>D70:M</b> |                                                             |
| 8       | N | 08/11/23     | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 10      | S | 16/03/24     | Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man<br>129 days, 20 km (NNE)        |
| GY42605 |   | <b>D72:M</b> |                                                             |
| 1       | N | 26/06/24     | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 3       | S | 10/10/24     | Arklow, Wicklow, Eire<br>106 days, 165 km (SSW)             |
| GY42608 |   | <b>D74:M</b> |                                                             |
| 1       | N | 26/06/24     | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 3       | S | 09/09/24     | Kilkeel Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>75 days, 77 km (W)     |
| GY42617 |   | <b>D84:M</b> |                                                             |
| 1       | N | 26/06/24     | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 3       | S | 18/08/24     | Arklow, Wicklow, Eire<br>53 days, 165 km (SSW)              |
| 3       | S | 20/08/24     | Arklow, Wicklow, Eire, 55 days                              |
| 3       | S | 21/12/24     | Tramore, Waterford, Eire<br>178 days, 261 km (SW)           |
| GY42620 |   | <b>D87:M</b> |                                                             |
| 1       | N | 26/06/24     | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 3       | S | 21/12/24     | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>178 days, 57 km (WNW) |
| GY42631 |   | <b>D98:M</b> |                                                             |
| 1       | N | 26/06/24     | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 3       | S | 23/09/24     | Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales<br>89 days, 247 km (S)  |
| 3       | S | 24/09/24     | Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales, 90 days                |
| GY42632 |   | <b>D99:M</b> |                                                             |
| 1       | N | 26/06/24     | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 3       | S | 17/10/24     | Dundrum Bay, Down, N. Ireland<br>113 days, 71 km (WNW)      |

|         |       |          |                                                               |
|---------|-------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| GY42635 | F00:M |          |                                                               |
| 1       | N     | 26/06/24 | Calf of Man                                                   |
| 3       | S     | 29/08/24 | Portavogie, Down, N. Ireland<br>64 days, 59 km (NW)           |
| GY42645 | F10:M |          |                                                               |
| 1       | N     | 28/06/24 | Calf of Man                                                   |
| 3       | S     | 09/09/24 | Douglas Harbour, Douglas, Isle of Man<br>73 days, 24 km (ENE) |
| GY42653 | F19:M |          |                                                               |
| 1       | N     | 28/06/24 | Calf of Man                                                   |
| 3       | S     | 25/08/24 | Arklow, Wicklow, Eire<br>58 days, 165 km (SSW)                |
| GY42668 | F34:M |          |                                                               |
| 1       | N     | 28/06/24 | Calf of Man                                                   |
| 3       | S     | 11/10/24 | Langness, Isle of Man<br>105 days, 13 km (E)                  |
| GY42670 | F36:M |          |                                                               |
| 1       | N     | 28/06/24 | Calf of Man                                                   |
| 3       | S     | 06/09/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>70 days, 57 km (WNW)    |
| 3       | S     | 01/12/24 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland, 156 days                  |
| GY42674 | F40:M |          |                                                               |
| 1       | N     | 28/06/24 | Calf of Man                                                   |
| 3       | S     | 01/09/24 | Bray, Dublin, Eire, 65 days, 125 km (SW)                      |
| 3       | S     | 27/10/24 | Bray, Dublin, Eire, 121 days                                  |
| 3       | S     | 11/11/24 | Bray, Dublin, Eire, 136 days                                  |
| 3       | S     | 08/12/24 | Barnhill Park, Dalkey, Dublin, Eire<br>164 days, 120 km (SW)  |
| 3       | S     | 28/12/24 | Bray, Dublin, Eire, 183 days                                  |
| GY42676 | F42:M |          |                                                               |
| 1       | N     | 28/06/24 | Calf of Man                                                   |
| 3       | S     | 01/09/24 | Bray Harbour, Wicklow, Eire<br>65 days, 130 km (SW)           |
| 3       | S     | 12/10/24 | Kilkeel Harbour, Down, N. Ireland<br>106 days, 77 km (W)      |

GY42685 **F50:M**  
 1 N 02/07/24 Calf of Man  
 3 S 31/08/24 Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, Eire  
 60 days, 120 km (SW)

GY42690 **F57:M**  
 1 N 02/07/24 Calf of Man  
 3 S 04/09/24 Howth Harbour, Dublin, Eire  
 64 days, 111 km (SW)

GY42692 **F56:M**  
 1 N 02/07/24 Calf of Man  
 3 S 09/09/24 Kilkeel Harbour, Down, N. Ireland  
 69 days, 77 km (W)

GY42698 **F62:M**  
 1 N 02/07/24 Calf of Man  
 3 S 24/12/24 Millisle Beach, Millisle, Down, N. Ireland  
 176 days, 76 km (NW)

GY42710 **F75:M**  
 1 N 04/07/24 Calf of Man  
 3 S 30/08/24 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales  
 57 days, 143 km (S)  
 3 S 21/10/24 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales, 109 days

GY42721 **F79:M**  
 1 N 08/07/24 Calf of Man  
 3 S 21/11/24 Port Erin, Isle of Man  
 136 days, 1 km (NE)

### Lesser Black-backed Gull

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 3    | 9       | 7   | 2                | 1        | 2     |
| 2024       | 0    | 1       | 1   | 0                | 0        | 0     |

|            | FRANCE | MOROCCO | NORWAY | PORTUGAL | SPAIN |
|------------|--------|---------|--------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2024 | 1      | 1       | 1      | 67       | 13    |

GR64679 **T52H**  
 1 N 13/07/12 Calf of Man  
 5 S 09/11/13 San Sebastian, Guipuzcoa, Spain  
 484 days, 1211 km (SSE)

|                      |   |                              |                                                                     |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7                    | S | 16/01/14                     | Quarteira Port, Faro, Portugal<br>552 days, 1904 km (S)             |
|                      |   | *Also 18/02/14               | 585 days                                                            |
| 9                    | S | 29/01/15                     | Quarteira Port, Faro, Portugal, 930 days                            |
|                      |   | *Also 28/02/15 and 04/03/15. |                                                                     |
| 10                   | S | 26/03/16                     | Ericeira, Lisboa, Portugal<br>1352 days, 1712 km (SSW)              |
| 10                   | S | 23/02/18                     | Sesimbra, Setubal, Portugal<br>2051 days, 1766 km (SSW)             |
| 10                   | S | 14/09/20                     | Treogat, Finistere, France<br>2985 days, 686 km (S)                 |
| 10                   | S | 11/07/21                     | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>3285 days, 8 km (ENE)                |
| 10                   | S | 17/07/23                     | Strand hall, Isle of Man<br>4021 days, 9 km (ENE)                   |
| 10                   | S | 19/02/24                     | Strand hall, Isle of Man, 4238 days                                 |
| GR99096 <b>T2VL</b>  |   |                              |                                                                     |
| 10                   | N | 03/06/19                     | Calf of Man                                                         |
| 10                   | S | 25/02/21                     | Fishguard Harbour, Pembrokeshire, Wales<br>633 days, 229 km (S)     |
| 10                   | S | 07/08/21                     | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man<br>796 days, 8 km (ENE)                 |
| 10                   | S | 19/06/23                     | Calf of Man, 1477 days                                              |
| 10                   | S | 07/02/24                     | Hayle Estuary, Cornwall, England<br>1710 days, 432 km (S)           |
| GY06701 <b>H27:M</b> |   |                              |                                                                     |
| 10                   | N | 19/04/23                     | Calf of Man                                                         |
| 10                   | S | 19/09/23                     | Molhe Norte S, Jacinto, Aveiro, Portugal<br>153 days, 1519 km (SSW) |
|                      |   | *Also 07/11/23               | 202 days                                                            |
| 10                   | S | 11/12/23                     | Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal<br>236 days, 1539 km (SSW)         |
| 10                   | S | 01/11/24                     | Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal, 562 days                          |
| 10                   | S | 02/11/24                     | Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal, 563 days                          |
| GY20681 <b>K45:M</b> |   |                              |                                                                     |
| 1                    | N | 08/07/21                     | Calf of Man                                                         |
| 5                    | S | 29/10/22                     | Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal<br>478 days, 1539 km (SSW)         |
| 5                    | S | 29/11/22                     | Praia da Torreir, Portugal<br>509 days, 193 km (SSW)                |

|   |   |          |                                             |
|---|---|----------|---------------------------------------------|
| 5 | S | 05/12/22 | Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal, 515 days  |
| 9 | S | 03/11/24 | Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal, 1214 days |
| 9 | S | 04/11/24 | Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal, 1215 days |

### Razorbill

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 8    | 21      | 2   | 1                | 6        | 15    |
| 2024       | 0    | 0       | 0   | 0                | 1        | 0     |

|            | BELGIUM | FRANCE | ITALY | NORWAY | PORTUGAL | SPAIN |
|------------|---------|--------|-------|--------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2024 | 4       | 14     | 1     | 1      | 1        | 7     |

|            | THE NETHERLANDS |
|------------|-----------------|
| Up to 2024 | 2               |

K31438

|   |   |          |                                                                                              |
|---|---|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 | N | 15/06/20 | Calf of Man                                                                                  |
| 6 | R | 28/06/23 | Carnach Mohr, Garbh Eilean, Shiant Isles, Western Isles, Scotland<br>1108 days, 436 km (NNW) |

Re-ringed as K40527.

### Storm Petrel

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 52   | 23      | 8   | 86               | 449      | 64    |
| 2024       | 0    | 0       | 0   | 3                | 1        | 2     |

|            | FAROEES | FRANCE | ICELAND | NORWAY | PORTUGAL | SOUTH AFRICA |
|------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|----------|--------------|
| Up to 2024 | 2       | 3      | 1       | 3      | 6        | 1            |

2357034

|   |   |          |                                                                     |
|---|---|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | N | 24/07/24 | Calf of Man                                                         |
| 4 | N | 16/08/24 | Copeland Bird Observatory, Down, N. Ireland<br>23 days, 84 km (NNW) |

2357041

|   |   |          |                                                                     |
|---|---|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | N | 24/07/24 | Calf of Man                                                         |
| 4 | R | 16/08/24 | Copeland Bird Observatory, Down, N. Ireland<br>23 days, 84 km (NNW) |



2591686

- 4 N 27/06/09 Calf of Man  
 4 R 26/07/21 Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales  
 4412 days, 259 km (S)  
 \*Also 16/07/22 and 23/07/22.  
 4 R 20/07/24 Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales, 5502 days

2718091

- 4M N 22/07/18 Calf of Man  
 6 R 25/06/24 Lunga, Treshnish Isles, Argyll & Bute, Scotland  
 2165 days, 290 km (NNW)

2764817

- 4 N 24/08/21 Calf of Man  
 4 R 12/07/24 Strumble, Pembrokeshire, Wales  
 1053 days, 225 km (S)

2764895

- 4 N 17/08/23 Calf of Man  
 4 R 28/07/24 Sheepland Harbour, Ardglass, Down, N. Ireland  
 346 days, 55 km (WNW)

## Manx Shearwater

|            | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 0       | 4   | 15               | 2        | 18    |
| 2024       | 1       | 0   | 0                | 0        | 0     |

|            | BRAZIL |
|------------|--------|
| Up to 2024 | 1      |

EZ87725

- 3 N 01/09/22 Calf of Man  
 4 R 14/07/24 Lundy Island, Devon, England  
 682 days, 317 km (S)

The first recovery of a Calf Manx Shearwater from England.

## Shag

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Irish Sea | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|-----------|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 8    | 45      | 327 | 1         | 23               | 187      | 25    |
| 2024       | 0    | 0       | 5   | 0         | 0                | 0        | 0     |

|            | THE NETHERLANDS |
|------------|-----------------|
| Up to 2024 | 1               |

1180494

8M N 16/05/91 Calf of Man  
0 xL 16/09/24 Port Grenaugh, Isle of Man  
12177 days, 16 km (ENE)

Ring only found on beach.

1343937

1 N 27/04/99 Calf of Man  
0 xL 12/04/24 Port Lewaigue, Ramsey, Isle of Man  
9117 days, 48 km (NE)

Ring only found.

1365253

1 N 03/05/01 Calf of Man  
0 xA 09/03/24 Blue Point, Isle of Man  
8346 days, 44 km (NE)

1379586

1 N 01/06/02 Calf of Man  
0 xA 10/03/24 Blue Point, Isle of Man  
7953 days, 44 km (NE)

1379744

1 N 15/05/03 Calf of Man  
8 xA 12/04/24 Killane, Ballaugh, Isle of Man  
7638 days, 35 km (NNE)

Found dying.

## Chough

|            | IOM | Northern Ireland |
|------------|-----|------------------|
| Up to 2023 | 101 | 1                |
| 2024       | 7   | 0                |

EZ87598 N/Y, R/M

4F N 30/10/21 Calf of Man  
0 X 30/12/24 Balladoole, Castletown, Isle of Man  
1157 days, 10 km (ENE)

Washed up dead on beach.

EZ87647 G/W, R/M

1 N 26/05/22 Calf of Man  
2 S 13/02/23 Sandwick, Isle of Man  
263 days, 18 km (E)

\*Also 19/03/23 and 01/04/23.

|   |   |          |                                                                  |
|---|---|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | S | 06/02/24 | Derbyhaven, Isle of Man<br>621 days, 10 km (ENE)                 |
| 4 | S | 07/02/24 | Derbyhaven, Isle of Man, 622 days                                |
| 4 | S | 22/05/24 | Derbyhaven, Isle of Man, 727 days                                |
| 4 | S | 19/08/24 | Castletown Bay, Castletown, Isle of Man<br>816 days, 10 km (ENE) |

EZ87814

AAC

|   |   |          |                                                 |
|---|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 20/05/23 | Calf of Man                                     |
| 2 | S | 11/11/24 | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>541 days, 9 km (ENE) |

EZ87873

AZ

|   |   |          |                                                 |
|---|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | N | 13/05/24 | Calf of Man                                     |
| 2 | S | 20/11/24 | Strandhall, Isle of Man<br>191 days, 9 km (ENE) |

### Blue Tit

|            | IOM | Scotland |
|------------|-----|----------|
| Up to 2023 | 54  | 1        |
| 2024       | 2   | 0        |

BCB7246

|    |   |          |                                                             |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3  | N | 15/10/23 | Calf of Man                                                 |
| 5  | R | 31/03/24 | Lower Ballabeg, Lonan, Isle of Man<br>168 days, 33 km (ENE) |
| 5M | R | 14/04/24 | Lower Ballabeg, Lonan, Isle of Man, 182 days                |

### Great Tit

|            | IOM | Northern Ireland |
|------------|-----|------------------|
| Up to 2023 | 57  | 2                |
| 2024       | 2   | 0                |

BCB7026

|    |   |          |                                                         |
|----|---|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 3M | N | 12/10/23 | Calf of Man                                             |
| 4M | R | 15/11/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man<br>400 days, 10 km (ENE) |
| 4M | R | 26/11/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 411 days                |

### Willow Warbler

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 3    | 30      | 15  | 6                | 11       | 9     |
| 2024       | 0    | 0       | 0   | 1                | 0        | 0     |

|            | BELGIUM | CHANNEL ISLANDS | FRANCE | GAMBIA | PORTUGAL | SPAIN |
|------------|---------|-----------------|--------|--------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2024 | 1       | 1               | 5      | 1      | 1        | 5     |

NYR906

4 N 01/05/24 Calf of Man  
 4F R 27/07/24 Runkerry, Portballintrae, Antrim, N. Ireland  
 87 days, 171 km (NW)

### Sedge Warbler

|            | Eire | England | Northern Ireland | Scotland |
|------------|------|---------|------------------|----------|
| Up to 2023 | 2    | 10      | 2                | 2        |
| 2024       | 0    | 1       | 0                | 0        |

|            | CHANNEL ISLANDS | FRANCE | PORTUGAL | SPAIN |
|------------|-----------------|--------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 1               | 11     | 0        | 1     |
| 2024       | 0               | 0      | 1        | 0     |

ADX3484

4 N 03/05/23 Calf of Man  
 4 R 31/08/24 Paul do Taipal, Coimbra, Portugal  
 486 days, 1570 km (SSW)

The first Portuguese recovery of a Calf Sedge Warbler.

AVZ5473

3 N 24/07/23 Calf of Man  
 4 R 28/07/24 Litlington, East Sussex, England  
 370 days, 495 km (SE)

### Blackcap

|            | England | IOM | Wales |  | FRANCE | PORTUGAL | SPAIN |
|------------|---------|-----|-------|--|--------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 3       | 2   | 1     |  | 1      | 1        | 1     |
| 2024       | 1       | 0   | 0     |  | 0      | 0        | 0     |

AVZ6024

3F N 21/09/23 Calf of Man  
 4F R 14/04/24 Stansore Point, Hampshire, England  
 206 days, 432 km (SSE)

## Robin

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 11   | 12      | 23  | 4                | 8        | 5     |
| 2024       | 0    | 0       | 0   | 1                | 0        | 0     |

|            | CHANNEL ISLANDS | THE NETHERLANDS |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Up to 2024 | 1               | 1               |

BPE1119

3 N 13/09/24 Calf of Man  
 0 xA 15/10/24 Rathfriland, Newry, Down, N. Ireland  
 32 days, 94 km (WNW)

## Stonechat

|            | England | IOM |  | FRANCE | PORTUGAL | SPAIN |
|------------|---------|-----|--|--------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 4       | 7   |  | 1      | 1        | 1     |
| 2024       | 0       | 3   |  | 0      | 0        | 0     |

ADX0181 [ANB](#)

3J N 13/06/22 Calf of Man  
 4M R 12/08/24 The Chasms, Isle of Man  
 791 days, 4 km (ENE)

ADX0347 [AAF](#)

3J N 26/05/22 Calf of Man  
 4F S 23/04/24 Slieau Mooar Plantation, Isle of Man  
 698 days, 13 km (NNE)

BPE0168 [AXA](#)

3J N 20/06/24 Calf of Man  
 3 S 29/08/24 Ballacannell, Isle of Man  
 70 days, 11 km (NNE)

## Wheatear

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 1    | 12      | 4   | 1        | 10    |
| 2024       | 0    | 1       | 1   | 0        | 1     |

|            | ALGERIA | CHANNEL ISLANDS | FRANCE | GERMANY | MOROCCO |
|------------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|---------|
| Up to 2024 | 1       | 1               | 2      | 2       | 6       |

|            | SPAIN | THE NETHERLANDS |
|------------|-------|-----------------|
| Up to 2024 | 1     | 1               |

AVZ5006 **DGN**  
 3J N 20/06/23 Calf of Man  
 5M R 06/04/24 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales, 291 days, 144 km (S)

BCB8137 **DTT**  
 5F N 02/05/24 Calf of Man  
 5F S 03/05/24 Hilbre Island, Wirral, Merseyside, England  
 1 day, 129 km (SE)

BPE0282 **E46**  
 3J N 08/07/24 Calf of Man  
 3 S 18/08/24 Derbyhaven, Isle of Man, 41 days, 10 km (ENE)

### Grey Wagtail

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 1    | 0       | 6   | 1        | 1     |
| 2024       | 1    | 1       | 2   | 1        | 0     |

ADX2312 **AHT**  
 3 N 18/09/22 Calf of Man  
 4F S 02/05/24 Grandtully, Perth & Kinross, Scotland  
 592 days, 296 km (NNE)

AVZ5675 **AKX**  
 3 N 15/08/23 Calf of Man  
 4 S 30/08/24 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 381 days, 8 km (ENE)

AVZ6830 **APD**  
 3 N 14/09/23 Calf of Man  
 3 S 15/12/23 Grangecastle Business Park, Dublin, Eire  
 92 days, 135 km (SW)  
 4 S 30/09/24 Grangecastle Business Park, Dublin, Eire, 382 days

BPE0230 **ATL**  
 3J N 03/07/24 Calf of Man  
 3 S 13/07/24 Peel Inner Harbour, Peel, Isle of Man, 10 days, 20 km (NNE)

BPE0553 **AVD**  
 3 N 28/08/24 Calf of Man  
 3 S 27/09/24 Clennon Lakes, Paignton, Torbay, England  
 30 days, 413 km (S)

## Chaffinch

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 3    | 19      | 64  | 4                | 19       | 5     |
| 2024       | 0    | 0       | 24  | 0                | 2        | 0     |

|            | NORWAY | SWEDEN | THE NETHERLANDS |
|------------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| Up to 2024 | 1      | 1      | 1               |

ADX2894

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 02/10/22 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 6F | R | 16/02/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 502 days, 10 km (ENE) |
| 6F | R | 07/06/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 614 days              |

ADX3202

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 18/10/22 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 6F | R | 20/04/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 550 days, 10 km (ENE) |

AFL4932

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 18/09/21 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 6F | R | 02/04/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 927 days, 10 km (ENE) |
| 6F | R | 26/05/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 981 days              |
| 6F | R | 11/06/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 997 days              |
| 6F | R | 20/06/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 1006 days             |

BCB6134

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 23/09/23 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 5F | R | 13/02/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 143 days, 10 km (ENE) |
| 5F | R | 19/06/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 270 days              |
| 5F | R | 15/11/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 419 days              |

BCB6152

|    |    |          |                                                       |
|----|----|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N  | 23/09/23 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 5F | xA | 17/05/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 237 days, 10 km (ENE) |

BCB6355

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 30/09/23 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 5F | R | 22/04/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 205 days, 10 km (ENE) |

BCB6361

|    |    |          |                                                                    |
|----|----|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3M | N  | 30/09/23 | Calf of Man                                                        |
| 0  | xA | 28/04/24 | Waterhead, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland<br>211 days, 137 km (NNE) |

Caught by a cat.

**BCB6363**

|    |   |          |                                                           |
|----|---|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 30/09/23 | Calf of Man                                               |
| 5F | R | 09/06/24 | Lower Ballabeg, Lonan, Isle of Man, 253 days, 33 km (ENE) |

**BCB6420**

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 30/09/23 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 5F | R | 24/01/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 116 days, 10 km (ENE) |

**BCB6557**

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 02/10/23 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 5F | R | 24/04/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 205 days, 10 km (ENE) |

**BCB6609**

|    |   |          |                                                 |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 02/10/23 | Calf of Man                                     |
| 5F | R | 10/02/24 | Ballaclucas, Isle of Man, 131 days, 42 km (NNE) |

**BCB6861**

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 12/10/23 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 5F | R | 26/01/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 106 days, 10 km (ENE) |

**BCB6876**

|    |   |          |                                                      |
|----|---|----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 12/10/23 | Calf of Man                                          |
| 3F | R | 29/12/23 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 78 days, 10 km (ENE) |
| 5F | R | 24/05/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 225 days             |

**BCB6960**

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 12/10/23 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 5F | R | 15/03/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 155 days, 10 km (ENE) |

**BCB7166**

|    |   |          |                                                 |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 15/10/23 | Calf of Man                                     |
| 4F | R | 26/12/24 | Morar, Highland, Scotland, 438 days, 330 km (N) |

**BCB7170**

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 3F | N | 15/10/23 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 5F | R | 13/02/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 121 days, 10 km (ENE) |

**BCB7196**

|    |   |          |                                                       |
|----|---|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 4F | N | 15/10/23 | Calf of Man                                           |
| 6F | R | 02/04/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 170 days, 10 km (ENE) |



BCB7467

3F N 21/10/23 Calf of Man  
5F R 24/01/24 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 95 days, 10 km (ENE)

BPE1121

4F N 13/09/24 Calf of Man  
4F R 22/09/24 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 9 days, 10 km (ENE)

BPE1540

4F N 21/09/24 Calf of Man  
4F R 13/10/24 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 22 days, 10 km (ENE)

### Greenfinch

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 1    | 3       | 65  | 1                | 4        | 1     |
| 2024       | 0    | 0       | 1   | 0                | 0        | 0     |

PL47234

3M N 12/10/23 Calf of Man  
5M R 18/03/24 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 158 days, 10 km (ENE)

### Lesser Redpoll

|            | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland |
|------------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|
| Up to 2023 | 21      | 1   | 1                | 5        |
| 2024       | 3       | 0   | 0                | 0        |

|            | BELGIUM |
|------------|---------|
| Up to 2024 | 1       |

ADB2883

3 N 20/10/18 Calf of Man  
4F R 10/04/24 Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria, England  
1999 days, 153 km (ENE)

BCB8368

4 N 17/05/24 Calf of Man  
4F R 09/11/24 Smallfield, South Yorkshire, England  
176 days, 221 km (ESE)

BPE2350

3 N 31/10/24 Calf of Man  
3 R 24/12/24 Confidential Site, East Riding of Yorkshire, England  
54 days, 259 km (E)

## Goldfinch

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 3    | 25      | 29  | 5                | 23       | 6     |
| 2024       | 0    | 3       | 9   | 1                | 4        | 0     |

|            | BELGIUM | FRANCE | SPAIN |
|------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 2       | 6      | 1     |

ADX3657

5F N 02/04/23 Calf of Man  
 6F R 02/11/24 South Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, England  
 580 days, 105 km (E)

AFL2785

5M N 26/05/21 Calf of Man  
 6M R 17/03/24 Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire, England  
 1026 days, 239 km (N)

AFL2785

3J N 14/07/21 Calf of Man  
 6M R 04/04/24 Cnoc, Argyll & Bute, Scotland  
 995 days, 239 km (N)

AJT6630

5M N 29/03/22 Calf of Man  
 6M R 03/04/24 Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland  
 736 days, 100 km (N)

AJT7293

5F N 29/04/23 Calf of Man  
 6F R 24/04/24 Shebster, Highland, Scotland  
 361 days, 505 km (N)

AJT7325

5 N 01/05/23 Calf of Man  
 6F R 22/04/24 Dunton, Buckinghamshire, England  
 357 days, 358 km (SE)

AJT7631

5M N 20/05/23 Calf of Man  
 4M R 03/09/24 Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man  
 472 days, 12 km (ENE)

|                 |    |          |                                                                       |
|-----------------|----|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AVZ6457         |    |          |                                                                       |
| 3J              | N  | 08/09/23 | Calf of Man                                                           |
| 0               | xA | 06/04/24 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 211 days, 4 km (ENE)                       |
| Taken by a cat. |    |          |                                                                       |
| BCB7991         |    |          |                                                                       |
| 5F              | N  | 04/04/24 | Calf of Man                                                           |
| 5F              | R  | 24/05/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 50 days, 10 km (ENE)                  |
| 5F              | R  | 28/05/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 54 days                               |
| BCB8168         |    |          |                                                                       |
| 5M              | N  | 03/05/24 | Calf of Man                                                           |
| 5M              | R  | 11/06/24 | Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 39 days, 10 km (ENE)                  |
| BCB8747         |    |          |                                                                       |
| 6M              | N  | 21/04/24 | Calf of Man                                                           |
| 0               | xA | 09/08/24 | Mull of Galloway, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland<br>18 days, 65 km (N) |
| BCB8885         |    |          |                                                                       |
| 5F              | N  | 26/04/24 | Calf of Man                                                           |
| 6F              | R  | 04/09/24 | Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man, 131 days, 12 km (ENE)            |
| BCB8915         |    |          |                                                                       |
| 5F              | N  | 27/04/24 | Calf of Man                                                           |
| 4F              | R  | 09/11/24 | Strangford, Down, N. Ireland, 196 days, 60 km (NW)                    |
| BPE2363         |    |          |                                                                       |
| 3M              | N  | 01/11/24 | Calf of Man                                                           |
| 3M              | R  | 11/11/24 | Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man<br>10 days, 12 km (ENE)           |
| BPE2375         |    |          |                                                                       |
| 3M              | N  | 01/11/24 | Calf of Man                                                           |
| 3               | R  | 05/11/24 | Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man<br>4 days, 12 km (ENE)            |
| BPE2390         |    |          |                                                                       |
| 3               | N  | 01/11/24 | Calf of Man                                                           |
| 3M              | R  | 04/11/24 | Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man<br>3 days, 12 km (ENE)            |

## Siskin

|            | England | Scotland |
|------------|---------|----------|
| Up to 2024 | 4       | 4        |

|            | NORWAY |
|------------|--------|
| Up to 2023 | 0      |
| 2024       | 1      |

AVZ6604

3M N 10/09/23 Calf of Man  
4M R 11/04/24 Børsesjø, Telmark, Norway  
214 days, 1049 (ENE)

The first foreign recovery of a Calf Siskin.

## Reed Bunting

|            | IOM |
|------------|-----|
| Up to 2023 | 2   |
| 2024       | 1   |

BCB6896

3F N 12/10/23 Calf of Man  
5F R 07/01/24 Ballawhetstone, Isle of Man  
87 days, 11 km (ENE)

## 2023 Controls

Controls are birds ringed elsewhere and recorded subsequently on the Calf.  
A total of 61 reports were received in 2024.

Details within species are recorded thus:

*Ring Number*

*Age/Sex      Code      Date      Location Details*

## Oystercatcher

|            | England | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|---------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 1       | 0        | 3     |
| 2024       | 0       | 1        | 0     |

FP72851

1 N 08/07/13 Loch of Hundland (South), Birsay, Orkney  
8 R 05/08/24 Calf of Man, 4046 days, 567 km (S)

Dazzled at a hightide roost at Cow Harbour – the first Scottish control Oystercatcher.

## Great Black-backed Gull

|            | Eire | Wales |
|------------|------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 11   | 1     |
| 2024       | 9    | 0     |

MA29044

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

\*Also on three dates from May–August 2022 and four dates from May–June 2023.

- 10 S 19/04/24 Calf of Man, 5031 days  
 10 S 12/05/24 Calf of Man, 5054 days  
 10 S 19/05/24 Calf of Man, 5061 days  
 10 S 25/05/24 Calf of Man, 5067 days  
 10 S 14/06/24 Calf of Man, 5087 days  
 10 S 28/06/24 Calf of Man, 5101 days

Confirmed as a breeding bird from 2022–2024.

MA47637

- 1 N 18/06/19 Dalkey Island, Dublin, Eire  
 10 S 17/06/23 Ireland's Eye, Dublin, Eire  
 10 S 15/04/24 Calf of Man, 1763 days, 121 km (NE)

MA47672

- 1 N 04/07/20 Dalkey Island, Dublin, Eire  
 5 S 17/03/21 Bulloch Harbour, Dublin, Eire  
 10 S 17/04/24 Calf of Man, 1383 days, 121 km (NE)

MA61065

- 1 N 10/06/23 Dalkey Island, Dublin, Eire  
 5 S 01/03/24 Port St Mary, Isle of Man  
 5 S 19/03/24 Calf of Man, 283 days, 121 km (NE)

## Herring Gull

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 1    | 0       | 30  | 1                | 1     |
| 2024       | 0    | 1       | 7   | 1                | 1     |

GR21842 **T9XT**

- 3 N 08/08/11 Poyllvaaish, Isle of Man  
 10 S 28/03/24 Calf of Man, 4616 days, 8 km (WSW)

GR53346 **7M3B**

9 N 01/05/15 Rufford Waste Disposal Site, York, England  
 10 S 31/03/24 Calf of Man, 3257 days, 236 km (W)  
 The first Calf controlled Herring Gull from England.

GR79312 **T3VR**

10 N 15/07/14 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man  
 10 S 16/12/15 Ardglass Harbour, Down, N. Ireland  
 10 S 05/04/24 Calf of Man, 3552 days, 20 km (SSW)

GR79481 **T2VM**

3 N 30/07/14 Poyllvaaish, Isle of Man  
 10 S 05/04/24 Calf of Man, 3537 days, 8 km (WSW)

GR97473 **V18:M**

6 N 08/07/15 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man  
 10 S 16/07/17 Calf of Man, 739 days, 20 km (SSW)  
 \*Also on two dates in July 2018 and four dates from March–April 2019.  
 10 S 25/09/20 Strandhall, Isle of Man  
 10 S 06/11/20 Calf of Man, 1948 days  
 \*Also on two dates from July–August 2021 & seven dates from March–August 2022.  
 10 S 10/09/22 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man  
 10 S 12/03/23 Calf of Man, 2804 days  
 \*Also on eight dates from April – May 2023.  
 10 S 12/03/24 Calf of Man, 3170 days  
 10 S 15/03/24 Calf of Man, 3173 days  
 10 S 31/03/24 Calf of Man, 3189 days  
 10 S 30/06/24 Calf of Man, 3280 days  
 A regular nesting bird at Cow Harbour.

GV85165 **B:060**

1 N 23/06/20 Carreg Fawr, Gwynedd, Wales  
 4 S 08/04/23 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales  
 10 S 25/04/24 Calf of Man, 1402 days, 143 km (N)

GY61293 **118:C**

1 N 01/07/23 Copeland Bird Observatory, Down, N. Ireland  
 5 S 10/04/24 Calf of Man, 284 days, 85 km (SSE)

### Lesser Black-backed Gull

|            | England | IOM | Scotland |
|------------|---------|-----|----------|
| Up to 2023 | 1       | 7   | 0        |
| 2024       | 0       | 1   | 2        |

FH38319 31M:C

1 N 17/07/18 Pladda, Ayrshire, Scotland  
 10 S 31/07/24 Calf of Man, 2206 days, 153 km (S)  
 10 S 10/08/24 Calf of Man, 2216 days

The first Calf controlled Lesser Black-backed Gull from Scotland.

GR79416 **T7VD**

8 N 25/05/15 Point of Ayre, Isle of Man  
 10 S 20/06/19 Calf of Man, 1487 days, 48 km (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  
 10 S 03/05/24 Calf of Man, 3266 days

## Storm Petrel

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 82   | 84      | 9   | 87               | 368      | 63    |
| 2024       | 1    | 0       | 0   | 0                | 3        | 5     |

|            | CHANNEL ISLANDS | PORTUGAL |
|------------|-----------------|----------|
| Up to 2024 | 1               | 8        |

2672212

4 N 28/07/23 Sanda Island, Kintyre, Scotland  
 4 R 08/07/24 Calf of Man, 346 days, 140 km (SSE)

2737180

4 N 02/08/17 Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland  
 4 R 30/08/24 Calf of Man, 2585 days, 683 km (SSW)

2739416

4 N 18/07/23 Strumble, Pembrokeshire, Wales  
 4 R 16/06/24 Calf of Man, 334 days, 225 km (N)

2773204

4 N 29/07/22 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales  
 4 R 20/06/24 Calf of Man, 692 days, 143 km (N)

2773284

4 N 08/07/23 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales  
4 R 16/06/24 Calf of Man, 344 days, 143 km (N)

2773290

4 N 09/07/23 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales  
4 R 24/07/24 Calf of Man, 381 days, 143 km (N)

2784054

4 N 16/07/24 Mangarstadh, Western Isles, Scotland  
4 R 31/07/24 Calf of Man, 15 days, 480 km (SSE)

2787306

4 N 24/07/24 Strumble, Pembrokeshire, Wales  
4 R 28/07/24 Calf of Man, 4 days, 225 km (N)

2791187

4M N 08/07/24 Malin Beg, Donegal, Eire  
4 R 24/07/24 Calf of Man, 16 days, 267 km (ESE)

## Manx Shearwater

|            | Northern Ireland | Wales |
|------------|------------------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 58               | 18    |
| 2024       | 0                | 1     |

FB19419

3 N 28/08/05 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales  
6 R 14/05/13 Calf of Man, 2816 days, 144 km (N)  
6 R 15/08/23 Calf of Man, 6561 days  
6 R 06/08/24 Calf of Man, 6918 days

## Chough

|            | Isle of Man | Wales |
|------------|-------------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 23          | 2     |
| 2024       | 3           | 0     |

EY84934

ACA

1 N 24/05/23 Close ny Chollagh, Isle of Man  
4 S 28/02/24 Sandwick, Derbyhaven, Isle of Man  
4 S 01/09/24 Calf of Man, 466 days, 10 km (NE)  
4 S 03/09/24 Calf of Man, 468 days  
4 S 31/09/24 Calf of Man, 478 days



## Willow Warbler

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 1    | 47      | 6   | 5                | 20       | 14    |
| 2024       | 0    | 2       | 0   | 0                | 0        | 1     |

|            | BELGIUM | CHANNEL ISLANDS | FRANCE | THE NETHERLANDS |
|------------|---------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| Up to 2024 | 5       | 2               | 6      | 1               |

KHP910

4F N 23/08/19 Thorpe Marsh, South Yorkshire, England  
 4 R 26/04/24 Calf of Man, 1708 days, 249 km (WNW)

PAH094

3J N 14/08/22 Kenfig National Nature Reserve, Bridgend, Wales  
 4 R 05/08/24 Calf of Man, 630 days, 291 km (NNW)

PKC711

3 N 31/08/23 Normandy Marsh, Hampshire, England  
 4 R 20/04/24 Calf of Man, 233 days, 430 km (NNW)

## Chiffchaff

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 1    | 19      | 3   | 0                | 2        | 6     |
| 2024       | 0    | 1       | 0   | 1                | 0        | 0     |

|            | BELGIUM | DENMARK | FRANCE | GAMBIA | NORWAY | SENEGAL |
|------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Up to 2024 | 4       | 1       | 2      | 1      | 1      | 6       |

|            | SPAIN | SWEDEN |
|------------|-------|--------|
| Up to 2024 | 7     | 1      |

NAJ839

3 N 08/10/23 Eastriggs Depot, Cumbria, England  
 4 R 21/04/24 Calf of Man, 196 days, 148 km (SW)

PDL116

4M N 08/05/24 Copeland Bird Observatory, N. Ireland  
 4 R 17/05/24 Calf of Man, 9 days, 84 km (SSE)

The first Calf controlled bird from Northern Ireland.

## Sedge Warbler

|            | Eire | England | Northern Ireland | Scotland |
|------------|------|---------|------------------|----------|
| Up to 2023 | 2    | 14      | 1                | 1        |
| 2024       | 1    | 0       | 0                | 0        |

|            | FRANCE | NORWAY | SENEGAL | SPAIN | THE NETHERLANDS |
|------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| Up to 2024 | 23     | 1      | 2       | 2     | 1               |

AXT5026

|   |   |          |                                      |
|---|---|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 3 | N | 20/07/21 | Shannon Airport Lagoon, Clare, Eire  |
| 4 | R | 23/04/24 | Calf of Man, 1008 days, 312 km (ENE) |

## Reed Warbler

|            | Northern Ireland |
|------------|------------------|
| Up to 2023 | 0                |
| 2024       | 1                |

|            | CHANNEL ISLANDS | FRANCE |
|------------|-----------------|--------|
| Up to 2024 | 2               | 2      |

AFR8034

|    |   |          |                                      |
|----|---|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 4M | N | 29/05/22 | Traad Point, Londonderry, N. Ireland |
| 4  | R | 02/05/24 | Calf of Man, 704 days, 133 km (SE)   |

The first UK controlled Reed Warbler.

## Blackcap

|            | England | IOM | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|---------|-----|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 6       | 1   | 2        | 2     |
| 2024       | 1       | 0   | 0        | 1     |

|            | BELGIUM | CHANNEL ISLANDS | DENMARK | FRANCE | THE NETHERLANDS |
|------------|---------|-----------------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| Up to 2024 | 1       | 1               | 1       | 1      | 2               |

BAC6608

|    |   |          |                                       |
|----|---|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 5F | N | 13/04/24 | Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales |
| 5F | R | 20/04/24 | Calf of Man, 7 days, 263 km (N)       |

BLB3123

|    |   |          |                                    |
|----|---|----------|------------------------------------|
| 3M | N | 09/09/23 | Icklesham, East Sussex, England    |
| 4M | R | 20/04/24 | Calf of Man, 224 days, 510 km (NW) |

## Chaffinch

|            | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Scotland |
|------------|---------|-----|------------------|----------|
| Up to 2023 | 12      | 21  | 1                | 4        |
| 2024       | 0       | 1   | 0                | 0        |

|            | BELGIUM | DENMARK | NORWAY | THE NETHERLANDS |
|------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| Up to 2024 | 1       | 1       | 1      | 1               |

ATV6097

3J N 21/06/24 Close Taggart, Isle of Man  
 3F R 25/09/24 Calf of Man, 96 days, 36 km (SW)

## Lesser Redpoll

|            | England | IOM | Northern Ireland | Wales |
|------------|---------|-----|------------------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 48      | 1   | 7                | 1     |
| 2024       | 3       | 0   | 0                | 0     |

|            | BELGIUM |
|------------|---------|
| Up to 2023 | 1       |
| 2024       | 1       |

ABX3058

5M N 17/02/24 Bevercotes Mine, Nottinghamshire, England  
 5M R 26/04/24 Calf of Man, 69 days, 270 km (WNW)

BCC2073

3 N 03/11/23 Wyke Farm, Dorset, England  
 5 R 17/05/24 Calf of Man, 196 days, 381 km (NNW)

BFB7224

3 N 05/10/23 Minsmere Nature Reserve, Suffolk, England  
 5 R 17/05/24 Calf of Man, 225 days, 473 km (WNW)

17854711

3 N 22/11/23 Staden, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium  
 5 R 10/05/24 Calf of Man, 170 days, 630 km (WNW)

## Goldfinch

|            | Eire | England | IOM | Scotland | Wales |
|------------|------|---------|-----|----------|-------|
| Up to 2023 | 0    | 28      | 12  | 1        | 3     |
| 2024       | 1    | 0       | 1   | 1        | 0     |

|            | BELGIUM | FRANCE |
|------------|---------|--------|
| Up to 2023 | 5       | 1      |
| 2024       | 0       | 1      |

ARV2846

3F N 27/10/22 Altidore Estate, Kilpeddar, Wicklow, Eire  
 6F R 04/04/24 Calf of Man, 525 days, 135 km (NE)

BJA9669

5F N 11/04/23 Leswalt, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland  
 6F R 02/11/24 Calf of Man, 571 days, 100 km (S)

BVE9541

3J N 23/09/24 Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man  
 3 R 14/10/24 Calf of Man, 21 days, 12 km (WSW)

9251218

5M N 28/03/23 L'Eglise, Bournonville, Pas-de-Calais, France  
 6M R 19/05/23 Calf of Man, 52 days, 585 km (NW)

## Siskin

|            | Eire | England | Northern Ireland | Scotland |
|------------|------|---------|------------------|----------|
| Up to 2023 | 0    | 2       | 1                | 1        |
| 2024       | 1    | 0       | 0                | 0        |

AKR5987

4M N 02/05/23 Glenwhinney Hill, Fermanagh, Eire  
 6M R 26/03/24 Calf of Man, 329 days, 198 km (ESE)

# Non-Avian Report 2024

## Grey Seal:

This season has seen multiple seal records broken, including the highest daily count (**456**), highest season count (**15564**) and a total of 98 pups born this year.

## Pygmy Shrew:

Thanks to intensive camera trap use this season, we sighted a record number of shrews, **421** compared to the previously highest count (in 2023) of **117**.

## Brown Rat:

Once again, thanks to the increase in, and intensive monitoring of wildlife cameras around the island, some remarkable, ground-breaking discoveries have been made. We can confirm that only one ‘Longtail’ was present on the island but was recorded on 61 dates, travelled the length of the island and even crossing the Sound on multiple occasions. See separate report.

## Cetaceans:

This year has generally been quite a poor year for cetaceans, especially the autumn. However, we did record the highest amount of Harbour Porpoise in Calf history, predominantly during April. Sightings per month of Harbour Porpoise are shown below:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 0   | 0   | 32  | 183 | 24  | 29  | 79  | 38  | 25  | 0   | 8   | 0   |

## Marine:

There were no sightings of Basking Shark. A Thresher Shark seen from a boat off South Harbour on 13<sup>th</sup> July was notable.

## Day Visitors:

This season had the lowest day visitor count of the past five years. This was due to a combination of factors, mainly the weather and lack of boats e.g. both Shona vessels were out of the water for three weeks in August. A comparison of the past five years day visitor counts is shown below.

| Year | Days | Individuals | Peak count |
|------|------|-------------|------------|
| 2020 | 66   | 1474        | 65         |
| 2021 | 112  | 2776        | 105        |
| 2022 | 109  | 1828        | 66         |
| 2023 | 89   | 1402        | 55         |
| 2024 | 91   | 1310        | 56         |

## 2024 Non-avian Species Accounts

\*Species highlighted in blue represent potential new species for the Calf.

| Vernacular                | Taxon                             | Records | Individuals | Peak Count | First peak date | First date | Last date |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Mammals</b>            |                                   |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Grey Seal                 | <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>         | 235     | 15564       | 456        | 23-Oct          | 10-Mar     | 05-Nov    |
| Common Seal               | <i>Phoca vitulina</i>             | 19      | 25          | 5          | 15-Jun          | 15-Mar     | 10-Oct    |
| Rabbit                    | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>      | 4       | 393         | 126        | 24-May          | 19-Apr     | 07-Aug    |
| Black Rabbit              |                                   | 237     | 902         | 11         | 02-May          | 11-Mar     | 05-Nov    |
| Brown Rat                 | <i>Rattus norvegicus</i>          | 61      | 61          | 1          | 11-Aug          | 06-May     | 08-Oct    |
| Pygmy Shrew               | <i>Sorex minutus</i>              | 193     | 421         | 5          | 17-Apr          | 13-Mar     | 03-Nov    |
| Pipistrelle Bat spp.      | <i>Pipistrellus</i> sp.           | 12      | 17          | 6          | 15-Sep          | 08-Jun     | 28-Sep    |
| Bat spp.                  |                                   | 12      | 14          | 2          | 14-Jul          | 04-May     | 22-Sep    |
| <b>Cetaceans</b>          |                                   |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Harbour Porpoise          | <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>          | 95      | 418         | 19         | 26-Apr          | 12-Mar     | 05-Nov    |
| Risso's Dolphin           | <i>Grampus griseus</i>            | 17      | 91          | 12         | 16-May          | 20-Mar     | 20-Aug    |
| Common Dolphin            | <i>Delphinus delphis</i>          | 15      | 160         | 70         | 21-Apr          | 27-Mar     | 27-Sep    |
| Common Bottlenose Dolphin | <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>         | 6       | 72          | 22         | 27-Jul          | 24-Mar     | 27-Jul    |
| Dolphin spp.              |                                   | 6       | 28          | 12         | 07-Jun          | 12-Mar     | 14-Aug    |
| Minke Whale               | <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> | 2       | 2           | 1          | 20-Apr          | 20-Apr     | 08-Jul    |
| <b>Marine</b>             |                                   |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Thresher Shark            | <i>Alopius pelagicus</i>          | 1       | 1           | 1          | 13-Jul          | 13-Jul     | 13-Jul    |
| Sea Slater                | <i>Ligia oceanica</i>             | 8       | 18          | 10         | 08-Sep          | 10-Jul     | 01-Nov    |

| Vernacular            | Taxon                       | Records | Individuals | Peak Count | First peak date | First date | Last date |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Lion's Mane Jellyfish | <i>Cyanea capillata</i>     | 40      | 182         | 36         | 18-Sep          | 25-May     | 05-Nov    |
| Blue Jellyfish        | <i>Cyanea lamarkii</i>      | 14      | 37          | 9          | 08-Jul          | 25-May     | 29-Jul    |
| Moon Jellyfish        | <i>Aurelia aurita</i>       | 7       | 15          | 8          | 28-Jul          | 25-May     | 28-Jul    |
| Compass Jellyfish     | <i>Chrysaora hysoscella</i> | 3       | 5           | 2          | 28-Jul          | 08-Jul     | 29-Jul    |
| Barrel Jellyfish      | <i>Rhizostoma pulmo</i>     | 1       | 1           | 1          | 25-May          | 25-May     | 25-May    |
| Sea Gooseberry        | <i>Pleurobrachia pileus</i> | 3       | 127         | 100        | 02-Jun          | 02-Jun     | 10-Jun    |
| Cork-winged Wrass     |                             | 1       | 2           | 2          | 06-Sep          | 06-Sep     | 06-Sep    |
| Mackerel              |                             | 1       | 5           | 5          | 22-Sep          | 22-Sep     | 22-Sep    |
| Pollock               |                             | 1       | 15          | 15         | 22-Sep          | 22-Sep     | 22-Sep    |
| Cuckoo Wrass          |                             | 1       | 1           | 1          | 22-Sep          | 22-Sep     | 22-Sep    |
| Cod Worm              | <i>Phocanema decipens</i>   | 1       | 1           | 1          | 24-Sep          | 24-Sep     | 24-Sep    |
| <b>Freshwater</b>     |                             |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| European Eel          | <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>    | 2       | 2           | 1          | 11-May          | 11-May     | 18-Sep    |
| <b>Reptiles</b>       |                             |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Common Lizard         | <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>     | 73      | 273         | 23         | 06-Sep          | 18-Mar     | 23-Sep    |
| <b>Dragonflies</b>    |                             |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Blue-tailed Damselfly | <i>Ischnura elegans</i>     | 44      | 604         | 59         | 10-Jun          | 16-May     | 07-Sep    |
| Common Darter         | <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i> | 30      | 100         | 16         | 14-Aug          | 14-Jul     | 07-Oct    |
| Migrant Hawker        | <i>Aeshna mixta</i>         | 17      | 38          | 6          | 16-Sep          | 15-Aug     | 08-Oct    |
| Hawker spp.           | <i>Aeshna</i> sp.           | 2       | 2           | 1          | 17-Aug          | 17-Aug     | 10-Sep    |
| Emperor               | <i>Anax imperator</i>       | 7       | 10          | 3          | 17-Jul          | 12-Jul     | 30-Jul    |

| Vernacular                 | Taxon                                  | Records | Individuals | Peak Count | First peak date | First date | Last date |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Beetles</b>             |                                        |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Minotaur Beetle            | <i>Typhaeus typhoeus</i>               | 117     | 490         | 25         | 26-May          | 11-Mar     | 03-Nov    |
| Bronze Beetle              | <i>Carabus granulatus</i>              | 20      | 20          | 1          | 14-Mar          | 14-Mar     | 23-Sep    |
| Violet Ground Beetle       | <i>Carabus problematicus/violaceus</i> | 28      | 39          | 6          | 01-Nov          | 13-Mar     | 04-Nov    |
| Green Tiger Beetle         | <i>Cicindela campestris</i>            | 22      | 70          | 13         | 21-May          | 20-Apr     | 12-Jul    |
| Dor Beetle                 | <i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>          | 1       | 1           | 1          | 17-May          | 17-May     | 17-May    |
| Devil's Coach Horse Beetle | <i>Ocypus olens</i>                    | 35      | 55          | 6          | 09-Sep          | 11-Jun     | 03-Nov    |
| Black Clock Beetle         | <i>Pterostichus madidus</i>            | 33      | 43          | 7          | 23-Sep          | 26-Mar     | 28-Oct    |
|                            | <i>Pterostichus nigrita</i>            | 28      | 34          | 3          | 01-Aug          | 09-Apr     | 08-Oct    |
| Black Snail Beetle         | <i>Phosphuga atrata</i>                | 4       | 4           | 1          | 17-May          | 17-May     | 13-Sep    |
| Black Sexton Beetle        | <i>Nicrophorus humator</i>             | 9       | 29          | 7          | 02-Apr          | 02-Apr     | 07-Sep    |
| Banded Sexton Beetle       | <i>Nicrophorus investigator</i>        | 12      | 327         | 103        | 11-Aug          | 07-Jul     | 24-Sep    |
| Shore Sexton Beetle        | <i>Necrodes littoralis</i>             | 6       | 20          | 12         | 07-Sep          | 11-Aug     | 30-Oct    |
| Night-flying Dung Beetle   | <i>Acrossus rufipes</i>                | 3       | 3           | 1          | 27-Jun          | 27-Jun     | 08-Sep    |
| Rain Beetle                | <i>Pterositichus melanorius</i>        | 2       | 2           | 1          | 18-May          | 18-May     | 13-Sep    |
| Click Beetle spp.          | Elateridae sp.                         | 3       | 3           | 1          | 30-May          | 30-May     | 24-Jun    |
| Brown Chafer               | <i>Serica brunnea</i>                  | 1       | 1           | 1          | 16-Jul          | 16-Jul     | 16-Jul    |



| Vernacular                      | Taxon                                 | Records | Individuals | Peak Count | First peak date | First date | Last date |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Common Red Soldier Beetle       | <i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>               | 10      | 17          | 5          | 23-Jul          | 04-Jul     | 27-Jul    |
| Pedacious Water Beetle spp      | Agabinae spp.                         | 1       | 1           | 1          | 07-Sep          | 07-Sep     | 07-Sep    |
| Clay-coloured Weevil            | <i>Otiorhynchus singularis</i>        | 1       | 1           | 1          | 04-May          | 04-May     | 04-May    |
| Vine Weevil                     | <i>Otiorhynchus sulcatus</i>          | 14      | 15          | 2          | 24-Sep          | 04-May     | 30-Oct    |
| 7-spot Ladybird                 | <i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>      | 1       | 1           | 1          | 31-Mar          | 31-Mar     | 31-Mar    |
| 10-spot Ladybird                | <i>Adalia decempunctata</i>           | 1       | 14          | 14         | 05-Jul          | 05-Jul     | 05-Jul    |
| Harlequin Ladybird              | <i>Harmonia axyridis</i>              | 3       | 3           | 1          | 17-Jun          | 17-Jun     | 06-Jul    |
| <b>Bugs</b>                     |                                       |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Hawthorn Shield Bug             | <i>Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale</i>     | 1       | 1           | 1          | 17-Sep          | 17-Sep     | 17-Sep    |
| Green Shield Bug                | <i>Palomena prasina</i>               | 1       | 1           | 1          | 28-Sep          | 28-Sep     | 28-Sep    |
| <b>Bees, Sawflies and Wasps</b> |                                       |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| White-tailed Bumblebee agg.     | <i>Bombus lucorum</i> agg.            | 72      | 586         | 50         | 04-Apr          | 16-Mar     | 20-Oct    |
| Buff-tailed Bumblebee           | <i>Bombus terrestris</i>              | 79      | 280         | 22         | 31-Mar          | 18-Mar     | 03-Nov    |
| White/Buff Bumblebee spp.       | <i>Bombus lucorum</i> agg./terrestris | 72      | 350         | 50         | 14-May          | 18-Mar     | 05-Nov    |
| Garden Bumblebee                | <i>Bombus hortorum</i>                | 22      | 95          | 14         | 30-Mar          | 28-Mar     | 11-Jun    |
| Heath Bumblebee                 | <i>Bombus jonellus</i>                | 6       | 9           | 3          | 31-Aug          | 20-Jun     | 16-Sep    |
| Red-tailed Bumblebee            | <i>Bombus lapidarius</i>              | 1       | 1           | 1          | 20-Apr          | 20-Apr     | 20-Apr    |
| Common Carder Bee               | <i>Bombus pascuorum</i>               | 33      | 96          | 22         | 29-May          | 07-Apr     | 21-Sep    |

| Vernacular            | Taxon                            | Records | Individuals | Peak Count | First peak date | First date | Last date |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Carder Bee spp.       | <i>Bombus muscorum/pascuorum</i> | 20      | 32          | 5          | 11-Jun          | 20-Apr     | 03-Oct    |
| Forest Cuckoo Bee     | <i>Bombus sylvestris</i>         | 1       | 1           | 1          | 27-Apr          | 27-Apr     | 27-Apr    |
| Common Colletes       | <i>Colletes succinctus</i>       | 20      | 503         | 60         | 24-Aug          | 12-Aug     | 01-Oct    |
| Leafcutter Bee spp.   | <i>Megachile</i> sp.             | 15      | 63          | 20         | 21-Jun          | 20-May     | 21-Jul    |
| Gwynne's Mining Bee   | <i>Andrena bicolor</i>           | 1       | 1           | 1          | 24-Apr          | 24-Apr     | 24-Apr    |
| Buffish Mining Bee    | <i>Andrena nigroanea</i>         | 3       | 3           | 1          | 24-Apr          | 24-Apr     | 27-Apr    |
| Mining Bee spp.       | <i>Andrena</i> sp.               | 2       | 7           | 5          | 17-May          | 17-May     | 01-Jun    |
| Long-faced Furrow Bee | <i>Lasioglossum punctatus</i>    | 1       | 1           | 1          | 28-Apr          | 28-Apr     | 28-Apr    |
| Ruby-tailed Wasp      | <i>Chrysis ignita</i>            | 8       | 14          | 5          | 07-Jul          | 10-Jun     | 10-Sep    |
| Common Wasp           | <i>Vespula vulgaris</i>          | 45      | 182         | 22         | 03-Nov          | 25-Apr     | 04-Nov    |
| Ichneumon Wasp spp.   | Ichneumonidae sp.                | 23      | 52          | 11         | 11-Aug          | 02-Apr     | 31-Oct    |
|                       | <i>Ophion obscuratus</i>         | 1       | 1           | 1          | 05-May          | 05-May     | 05-May    |
| Maritime Mason Wasp   | <i>Ancistrocerus scoticus</i>    | 1       | 1           | 1          | 07-Jul          | 07-Jul     | 07-Jul    |
| Black Slip Wasp       | <i>Pimpla rufipes</i>            | 2       | 2           | 1          | 17-Sep          | 17-Sep     | 19-Sep    |
| <b>Ants</b>           |                                  |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
|                       | <i>Formica lemani</i>            | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
|                       | <i>Lasius flavus</i>             | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
|                       | <i>Myrmica ruginodis</i>         | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
|                       | <i>Tetramorium caespitum</i>     | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |

| Vernacular              | Taxon                         | Records | Individuals | Peak Count | First peak date | First date | Last date |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Flies</b>            |                               |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Common Drone Fly        | <i>Eristalis tenax</i>        | 16      | 169         | 35         | 20-Sep          | 11-Sep     | 26-Oct    |
| Marmalade Hoverfly      | <i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>   | 7       | 33          | 15         | 20-Sep          | 04-Sep     | 01-Oct    |
| Pied Hoverfly           | <i>Scaeba pyrausti</i>        | 1       | 1           | 1          | 05-Sep          | 05-Sep     | 05-Sep    |
| Bumblebee Plumehorn     | <i>Volucella bombylans</i>    | 3       | 3           | 1          | 30-Jun          | 30-Jun     | 31-Aug    |
| Hoverfly spp.           | Syrphidae sp.                 | 8       | 25          | 10         | 19-Jun          | 03-May     | 04-Sep    |
| White-footed Hoverfly   | <i>Platycheirus albimanus</i> | 5       | 21          | 12         | 20-Sep          | 15-Sep     | 28-Sep    |
| Chequered Hoverfly      | <i>Melanostoma scalare</i>    | 4       | 17          | 9          | 20-Sep          | 15-Sep     | 21-Sep    |
| Spotted Thintail        | <i>Meliscaeva auricollis</i>  | 4       | 13          | 5          | 20-Sep          | 19-Sep     | 03-Nov    |
| Eurasian Dronefly       | <i>Eristalis arbustorum</i>   | 1       | 1           | 1          | 19-Sep          | 19-Sep     | 19-Sep    |
|                         | <i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i>  | 1       | 1           | 1          | 28-Apr          | 28-Apr     | 28-Apr    |
| Common Flower Fly       | <i>Syrphus ribesii</i>        | 3       | 32          | 20         | 20-Sep          | 19-Sep     | 21-Sep    |
| Large Tiger Fly         | <i>Helophilus trivittatus</i> | 1       | 1           | 1          | 19-Sep          | 19-Sep     | 19-Sep    |
| Tapered Drone Fly       | <i>Eristalis pertinax</i>     | 3       | 3           | 1          | 19-Sep          | 19-Sep     | 21-Sep    |
|                         | <i>Melangyna umbellatarum</i> | 1       | 1           | 1          | 20-Sep          | 20-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
|                         | Hebecnema spp                 | 1       | 1           | 1          | 15-Sep          | 15-Sep     | 15-Sep    |
| Common Green Bottle Fly | <i>Lucilia sericata</i>       | 5       | 15          | 7          | 08-Jun          | 17-May     | 02-Oct    |

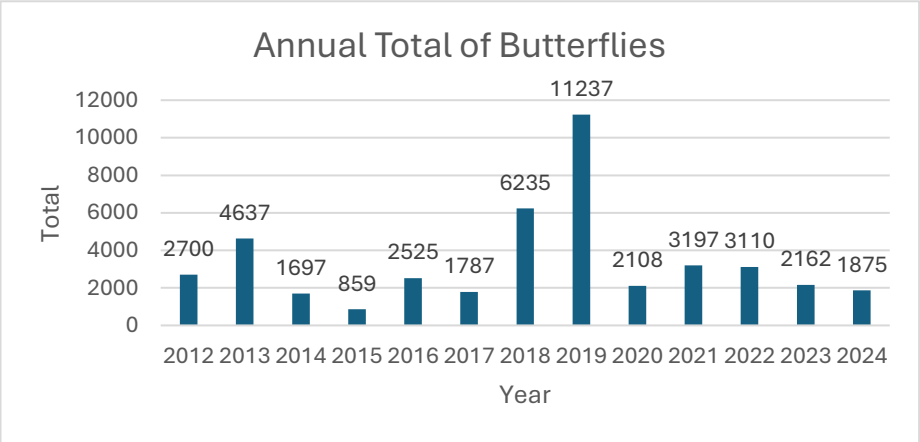
| Vernacular                 | Taxon                          | Records | Individuals | Peak Count | First peak date | First date | Last date |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Yellow Dung Fly            | <i>Scathophaga stercoraria</i> | 7       | 19          | 11         | 15-May          | 15-May     | 01-Oct    |
| Smoky-winged Woodlouse Fly | <i>Melanophora roralis</i>     | 24      | 39          | 4          | 06-Aug          | 22-Jun     | 04-Sep    |
| St Marc's Fly              | <i>Bibio marcii</i>            | 1       | 1           | 1          | 05-Apr          | 05-Apr     | 05-Apr    |
| Crane fly spp.             | <i>Tipula</i> sp.              | 37      | 260         | 55         | 24-Sep          | 03-May     | 30-Oct    |
| Giant Crane fly            | <i>Tipula maxima</i>           | 1       | 1           | 1          | 21-May          | 21-May     | 21-May    |
|                            | <i>Pedicia rivosa</i>          | 1       | 1           | 1          | 02-Sep          | 02-Sep     | 02-Sep    |
| Blue Bottle spp.           | <i>Calliphora</i> sp.          | 39      | 5793        | 900        | 19-Sep          | 26-Mar     | 05-Nov    |
| Horse Fly spp.             | <i>Haematopota</i> sp.         | 2       | 2           | 1          | 23-Jun          | 23-Jun     | 29-Jun    |
| Common Tiger Fly           | <i>Coenosia tigrina</i>        | 2       | 2           | 1          | 10-Sep          | 10-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
| Common House Fly           | <i>Musca domestica</i>         | 9       | 119         | 70         | 20-Sep          | 10-Sep     | 30-Sep    |
|                            | <i>Linnaemya vulpina</i>       | 2       | 4           | 3          | 20-Sep          | 19-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
| Black Kelp Fly             | <i>Coelopa frigida</i>         | 2       | 3           | 2          | 25-Sep          | 21-Sep     | 25-Sep    |
|                            | <i>Phaonia subventa</i>        | 1       | 1           | 1          | 20-Sep          | 20-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
|                            | <i>Helina evecta</i>           | 1       | 1           | 1          | 20-Sep          | 20-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
| Green Lacewing             | <i>Chrysoperia carnea</i>      | 1       | 1           | 1          | 07-Sep          | 07-Sep     | 07-Sep    |
| Caddis Fly spp.            | Trichoptera sp.                | 17      | 106         | 30         | 02-Apr          | 02-Apr     | 07-Oct    |
| Culicine Mosquito          | <i>Culcinae</i> sp             | 1       | 1           | 1          | 18-Sep          | 18-Sep     | 18-Sep    |
| <b>Grasshoppers</b>        |                                |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Common Field Grasshopper   | <i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>    | 22      | 65          | 11         | 12-Jul          | 21-May     | 03-Oct    |

| Vernacular                       | Taxon                                    | Records | Individuals | Peak Count | First peak date | First date | Last date |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Common Green Grasshopper         | <i>Omocestus viridus</i>                 | 7       | 13          | 3          | 12-Jul          | 22-Jun     | 28-Aug    |
| <b>Spiders</b>                   |                                          |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| European Garden Spider           | <i>Araneus diadematus</i>                | 6       | 14          | 5          | 30-Jun          | 23-Jun     | 19-Sep    |
| Missing Sector Orb Weaver        | <i>Zygiella x-notata</i>                 | 1       | 1           | 1          | 07-Jul          | 07-Jul     | 07-Jul    |
| Zebra Jumping Spider             | <i>Salticus scenicus</i>                 | 4       | 4           | 1          | 28-Apr          | 28-Apr     | 24-Oct    |
| Harvestman                       | <i>Araneus diadematus</i>                | 2       | 2           | 1          | 01-Sep          | 01-Sep     | 29-Sep    |
| <b>Woodlice</b>                  |                                          |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Common Shiny Woodlouse           | <i>Oniscus ascellus</i>                  | 2       | 3           | 2          | 17-May          | 31-Mar     | 17-May    |
| Common Rough Woodlouse           | <i>Porcellio scaber</i>                  | 7       | 7           | 1          | 18-Sep          | 18-Sep     | 27-Sep    |
| <b>Gastropods</b>                |                                          |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
| Tree Slug                        | <i>Lehmania marginata</i>                | 7       | 17          | 7          | 02-Apr          | 30-Mar     | 11-Aug    |
| Large Red Slug/Black Slug        | <i>Arion rufus/</i><br><i>Arion ater</i> | 6       | 15          | 6          | 04-May          | 31-Mar     | 11-Aug    |
| Common Garden Snail              | <i>Cornu aspersum</i>                    | 2       | 90          | 50         | 10-May          | 10-May     | 28-May    |
| <b>Centipedes and Millipedes</b> |                                          |         |             |            |                 |            |           |
|                                  | <i>Cryptops hortensis</i>                | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
|                                  | <i>Cylindroiulus punctatus</i>           | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
| Pill Millipede                   | <i>Glomeris marginata</i>                | 35      | 79          | 8          | 26-May          | 04-Apr     | 20-Sep    |
|                                  | <i>Lamyctes emarginatus</i>              | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |

| Vernacular             | Taxon                         | Records | Individuals | Peak Count | First peak date | First date | Last date       |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
|                        | <i>Lithobius forficatus</i>   | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug          |
|                        | <i>Lithobius variegatus</i>   | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug          |
|                        | <i>Strigamia maritima</i>     | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug          |
| <b>Earthworms</b>      |                               |         |             |            |                 |            |                 |
|                        | <i>Bimastos rubidus</i>       | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug          |
|                        | <i>Dendrobaena veneta</i>     | 1       | 1           | 1          | 11-Aug          | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug          |
| <b>Others</b>          |                               |         |             |            |                 |            |                 |
| Common European Earwig | <i>Forficula auricularia</i>  | 9       | 31          | 20         | 08-Jul          | 17-Jun     | 18-Aug          |
| Bristletail spp.       | <i>Archaeognatha</i> sp.      | 12      | 39          | 20         | 17-May          | 04-May     | 30-Oct          |
| <b>Flora</b>           |                               |         |             |            |                 |            |                 |
| Common Spotted Orchid  | <i>Dactylorhiza fushcii</i>   | 2       | 2           | 1          | 03-Jul          | 12-Jul     | 03-Jul & 12-Jul |
| Early Marsh Orchid     | <i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> | 8       | 407         | 79         | 01-Jun          | 15-Jun     | 11-Jun          |
| <b>Fungi</b>           |                               |         |             |            |                 |            |                 |
| Yellow Waxcap          |                               | 1       | 1           | 1          | 04-Sep          | 04-Sep     | 04-Sep          |
| Yellow Spindle Coral   |                               | 1       | 1           | 1          | 04-Sep          | 04-Sep     | 04-Sep          |
| <b>Day Visitors</b>    |                               |         |             |            |                 |            |                 |
|                        | <i>Homo sapiens</i>           | 91      | 1310        | 56         | 31-Aug          | 24-Mar     | 05-Nov          |

# Butterfly Report 2024

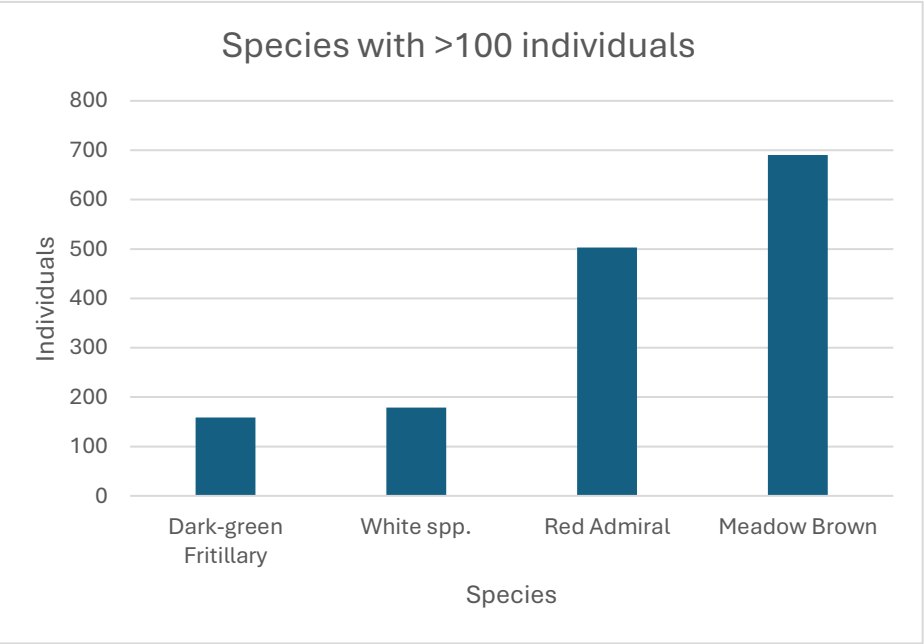
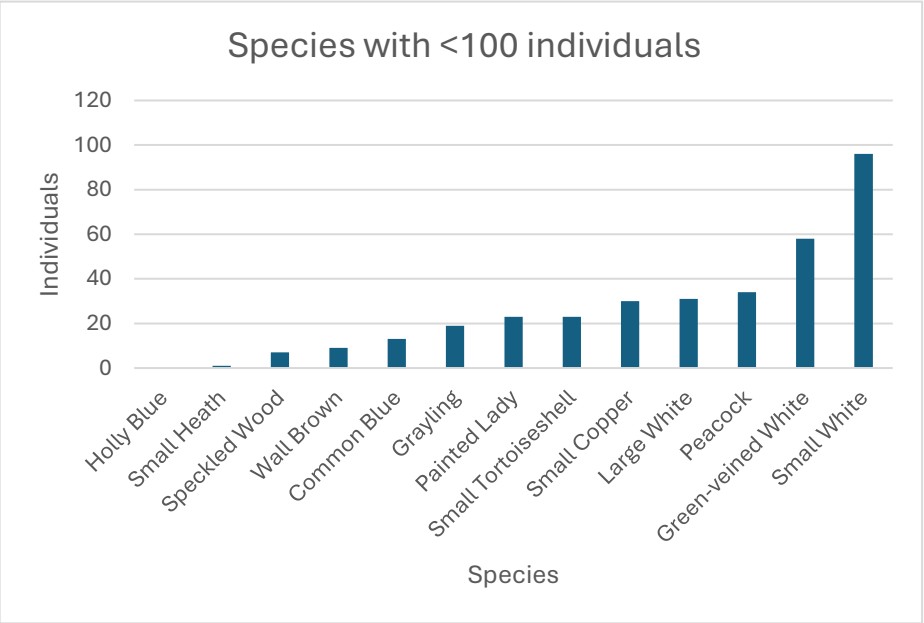
This year was a poor year for butterflies with a total of 1875 individuals recorded, one of the lowest counts since 2012. Since 2021, butterfly numbers have been decreasing on the Calf. The quite significant decline in numbers this year was not only experienced here but across the UK, as butterfly numbers hit a record low. The reason for this was the weather, after a wet spring and summer. The UK had its wettest spring since 1986 and the sixth wettest on record, as an average 301.7mm (11.87in) of rain fell across March, April and May, nearly a third (32%) more than usual for the season. The extra rain is not the only problem. Combined with habitat loss, climate breakdown and pesticide use, 80% of butterfly species in the UK have declined since the 1970s.



The Red Admiral was the most frequently recorded species this year with 67 records, 503 individuals and a highest individual count of 67. The Meadow Brown was the most numerous species recorded with 690 individuals recorded over the season.

The first butterfly survey as part of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) took place on 4<sup>th</sup> April and continued weekly (bar 3) with the last survey on 7<sup>th</sup> September. As mentioned above, due to the weather, especially strong winds, conditions were not ideal for butterfly surveying and the lack of butterflies on a wider scale, reflects this. The transect remained the same as previous years.

2024 species totals





## 2024 Butterfly Species Account

| Taxon                        | Vernacular            | Total | Records | Peak Date | First Date | Last Date |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| <i>Pieris napi</i>           | Green-veined White    | 58    | 32      | 25-May    | 01-May     | 07-Sep    |
| <i>Pieris brassicae</i>      | Large White           | 31    | 14      | 06-Aug    | 16-May     | 19-Sep    |
| <i>Pieris rapae</i>          | Small White           | 96    | 25      | 01-Aug    | 10-May     | 08-Oct    |
| <i>Pieris</i> spp.           | White spp.            | 179   | 51      | 03-Aug    | 28-Apr     | 07-Oct    |
| <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>       | Small Copper          | 30    | 15      | 23-Aug    | 16-May     | 11-Sep    |
| <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>    | Common Blue           | 13    | 5       | 06-Sep    | 08-Jun     | 06-Sep    |
| <i>Speyaria aglaja</i>       | Dark-green Fritillary | 159   | 33      | 06-Jul    | 15-Jun     | 07-Sep    |
| <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>      | Red Admiral           | 503   | 97      | 19-Sep    | 03-May     | 04-Nov    |
| <i>Vanessa cardui</i>        | Painted Lady          | 23    | 13      | 03-May    | 02-May     | 20-Sep    |
| <i>Aglais io</i>             | Peacock               | 34    | 15      | 06-Sep    | 24-Mar     | 22-Sep    |
| <i>Aglais urticae</i>        | Small Tortoiseshell   | 23    | 20      | 23-Apr    | 19-Mar     | 25-Sep    |
| <i>Pararge aegeria</i>       | Speckled Wood         | 7     | 4       | 19-Sep    | 30-Jun     | 22-Oct    |
| <i>Lasiommata megera</i>     | Wall Brown            | 9     | 6       | 21-May    | 11-May     | 31-Aug    |
| <i>Hipparchia semele</i>     | Grayling              | 19    | 8       | 21-Jul    | 11-Jul     | 31-Aug    |
| <i>Maniola jurtina</i>       | Meadow Brown          | 690   | 58      | 13-Aug    | 21-May     | 20-Sep    |
| <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> | Small Heath           | 1     | 1       | 22-Jun    | 22-Jun     | 22-Jun    |

*This Dark-Green Fritillary initially set hearts racing when a “fritillary species” was reported on 7<sup>th</sup> Sep – the second latest Calf record. Photo: Duncan Kenny.*



# Moth Report 2024

The 2024 season followed a similar moth surveying method to previous seasons with the use of mercury vapour trap and day-time observations. The only trapping location that was used this year was the back courtyard in front of the workshop door. The trap used was a Skinner-type (box trap).

|             | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Trap nights | 38   | 84   | 44   | 55   | 65   | 38   | 27   |
| Individuals | 4047 | 9151 | 3180 | 3742 | 6925 | 3652 | 3354 |
| Species     | 91   | 211  | 126  | 152  | 156  | 141  | 149  |

A total of 3354 individual moths were recorded from 16<sup>th</sup> March until 2<sup>nd</sup> November, including 149 species, 40 of which were micro and 109 of which were macro moth species. A total of 27 trap nights took place with a further 45 day observations. The number of trap nights is lower than the previous 6 years. This is due to weather conditions not being good for moth-trapping. We had an exceptionally wet spring with high winds most of the season. However, a point of interest to note, we still recorded a reasonable number of moths, with traps producing a good range of species. This demonstrates that moth-trapping on the right nights with the right conditions is an efficient use of time and effort.

The two Calf moth traps (a Skinner and a Robinson type) both require attention on bulb holder electrics. A portable trap (to replace an existing old and broken actinic trap) would be hugely beneficial for Calf moth surveying in the future.

The species account in the table below is sorted by ABH reference (D.J. Agassiz, D.B. Beavan & R.J. Heckford). A selected number of rarer Calf species recorded in 2024 are documented in more detail below. Species highlighted in blue indicate that they are new additions to the Calf list.

## 2024 Moth Species Accounts

| BF   | ABH    | Taxon                                | Vernacular                | Records | Count | Peak Count | Peak Date | First Date | Last Date |
|------|--------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 18   | 3.003  | <i>Korscheltellus fusconebulosa</i>  | Map-winged Swift          | 4       | 6     | 2          | 05-Jun    | 05-Jun     | 07-Jul    |
| 227  | 12.036 | <i>Monopis laevigella</i>            | Skin Moth                 | 1       | 1     | 1          | 26-Aug    | 26-Aug     | 26-Aug    |
| 288  | 15.01  | <i>Caloptilia stigmatella</i>        | White-triangle Slender    | 1       | 1     | 1          | 02-Apr    | 02-Apr     | 02-Apr    |
| 464  | 18.001 | <i>Plutella xylostella</i>           | Diamond-back Moth         | 3       | 3     | 1          | 04-May    | 04-May     | 07-Sep    |
| 647  | 28.01  | <i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i> | Brown House-moth          | 1       | 1     | 1          | 10-May    | 10-May     | 10-May    |
| 692  | 32.015 | <i>Agonopterix subpropinqua</i>      | Ruddy Flat-body           | 1       | 1     | 1          | 04-May    | 04-May     | 04-May    |
| 705  | 32.029 | <i>Agonopterix umbellana</i>         | Gorse Flat-body           | 1       | 1     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 07-Sep    |
| 714  | 32.035 | <i>Agonopterix yeatiana</i>          | Coastal Flat-body         | 1       | 1     | 1          | 20-Sep    | 20-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
| 787  | 35.04  | <i>Bryotropha terrella</i>           | Cinereous Neb             | 1       | 2     | 2          | 24-Jul    | 24-Jul     | 24-Jul    |
| 826  | 35.13  | <i>Caryocolum vicinella</i>          | Coast Groundling          | 1       | 1     | 1          | 24-Jun    | 24-Jun     | 24-Jun    |
| 829  | 35.131 | <i>Caryocolum marmorea</i>           | Beautiful Groundling      | 1       | 1     | 1          | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 16-Jul    |
| 1288 | 44.001 | <i>Alucita hexadactyla</i>           | Twenty-plume Moth         | 1       | 1     | 1          | 11-Oct    | 11-Oct     | 11-Oct    |
| 1524 | 45.044 | <i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>          | Common Plume              | 1       | 1     | 1          | 20-Apr    | 20-Apr     | 20-Apr    |
| 970  | 49.025 | <i>Pandemis cerasana</i>             | Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix | 1       | 10    | 10         | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 16-Jul    |
| 972  | 49.026 | <i>Pandemis heparana</i>             | Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix   | 2       | 6     | 4          | 28-Jul    | 28-Jul     | 11-Aug    |
|      |        | <i>Acleris ferrugana/notana</i> agg. |                           | 1       | 1     | 1          | 02-Apr    | 02-Apr     | 02-Apr    |
| 1062 | 49.071 | <i>Acleris emargana</i>              | Notch-wing Button         | 2       | 3     | 2          | 07-Sep    | 11-Aug     | 07-Sep    |
| 1053 | 49.08  | <i>Acleris hastiana</i>              | Sallow Button             | 1       | 1     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 07-Sep    |
| 945  | 49.127 | <i>Aethes cnicana</i>                | Thistle Conch             | 2       | 2     | 1          | 07-Jul    | 07-Jul     | 16-Jul    |

| BF   | ABH    | Taxon                           | Vernacular                      | Records | Count | Peak Count | Peak Date | First Date | Last Date |
|------|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 966  | 49.139 | <i>Cochylis atricapitana</i>    | Black-headed Conch              | 6       | 13    | 4          | 21-May    | 21-May     | 19-Aug    |
| 1076 | 49.166 | <i>Celypha lacunana</i>         | Common Marble                   | 2       | 2     | 1          | 24-Jul    | 24-Jul     | 19-Aug    |
| 1163 | 49.259 | <i>Zeiraphera ratzeburgiana</i> | Spruce Bud Moth                 | 1       | 1     | 1          | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 16-Jul    |
| 1201 | 49.265 | <i>Eucosma cana</i>             | Hoary Belle                     | 3       | 3     | 1          | 05-Jun    | 05-Jun     | 16-Jul    |
| 1184 | 49.285 | <i>Epiblema scutulana</i>       | Thistle Bell                    | 4       | 2     | 2          | 03-May    | 03-May     | 21-May    |
| 1175 | 49.294 | <i>Notocelia uddmanniana</i>    | Bramble Shoot                   | 1       | 1     | 1          | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 16-Jul    |
| 169  | 54.008 | <i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>     | Six-spot Burnet                 | 3       | 7     | 4          | 06-Aug    | 14-Jul     | 10-Aug    |
| 1428 | 62.001 | <i>Aphomia sociella</i>         | Bee Moth                        | 1       | 1     | 1          | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 16-Jul    |
| 1378 | 63.018 | <i>Anania coronata</i>          | Elderberry Pearl or Elder Pearl | 1       | 1     | 1          | 11-Aug    | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
| 1376 | 63.025 | <i>Anania hortulata</i>         | Small Magpie                    | 2       | 2     | 1          | 15-Jun    | 15-Jun     | 24-Jun    |
| 1395 | 63.031 | <i>Udea ferrugalis</i>          | Rusty-dot Pearl                 | 2       | 9     | 8          | 30-Oct    | 03-Oct     | 30-Oct    |
| 1388 | 63.033 | <i>Udea lutealis</i>            | Pale Straw Pearl                | 1       | 1     | 1          | 19-Aug    | 19-Aug     | 19-Aug    |
| 1405 | 63.038 | <i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>       | Mother of Pearl                 | 2       | 2     | 1          | 07-Aug    | 07-Aug     | 19-Aug    |
| 1408 | 63.048 | <i>Palpita vitrealis</i>        | Olive-tree Pearl                | 2       | 2     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 24-Sep    |
| 1398 | 63.052 | <i>Nomophila noctuella</i>      | Rush Veneer                     | 1       | 2     | 2          | 19-Aug    | 19-Aug     | 19-Aug    |
| 1356 | 63.057 | <i>Evergestis forficalis</i>    | Garden Pebble                   | 1       | 3     | 3          | 19-Aug    | 19-Aug     | 19-Aug    |
| 1340 | 63.073 | <i>Eudonia trunciolella</i>     | Ground-moss Grey                | 1       | 1     | 1          | 07-Jul    | 07-Jul     | 07-Jul    |
| 1342 | 63.069 | <i>Eudonia angustea</i>         | Narrow-winged Grey              | 1       | 1     | 1          | 20-Sep    | 20-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
| 1293 | 63.08  | <i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>   | Garden Grass-veneer             | 4       | 32    | 24         | 11-Aug    | 24-Jul     | 19-Aug    |
| 1302 | 63.088 | <i>Crambus perlella</i>         | Satin Grass-veneer              | 1       | 1     | 1          | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 16-Jul    |

| BF   | ABH    | Taxon                           | Vernacular                | Records | Count | Peak Count | Peak Date | First Date | Last Date |
|------|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1304 | 63.093 | <i>Agriphila straminella</i>    | Straw Grass-veneer        | 1       | 8     | 8          | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 16-Jul    |
| 1309 | 63.095 | <i>Agriphila geniculea</i>      | Elbow-stripe Grass-veneer | 4       | 32    | 19         | 07-Sep    | 11-Aug     | 13-Sep    |
| 1345 | 63.114 | <i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>      | Brown China-mark          | 3       | 3     | 1          | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 07-Sep    |
| 1638 | 66.008 | <i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>       | Fox Moth                  | 2       | 1     | 1          | 17-Aug    | 17-Aug     | 17-Aug    |
| 1643 | 68.001 | <i>Saturnia pavonia</i>         | Emperor Moth              | 1       | 2     | 2          | 04-May    | 04-May     | 04-May    |
| 1981 | 69.003 | <i>Laothoe populi</i>           | Poplar Hawk-moth          | 5       | 6     | 2          | 24-Jun    | 21-May     | 07-Jul    |
| 1972 | 69.004 | <i>Agrius convolvuli</i>        | Convolvulus Hawk-moth     | 1       | 1     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 07-Sep    |
| 1984 | 69.01  | <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i> | Humming-bird Hawk-moth    | 2       | 2     | 1          | 02-May    | 02-May     | 12-Aug    |
| 1991 | 69.016 | <i>Deilephila elpinor</i>       | Elephant Hawk-moth        | 4       | 4     | 1          | 21-May    | 21-May     | 16-Jul    |
| 1708 | 70.011 | <i>Idaea dimidiata</i>          | Single-dotted Wave        | 6       | 7     | 2          | 16-Jul    | 07-Jul     | 07-Sep    |
| 1702 | 70.013 | <i>Idaea biselata</i>           | Small Fan-footed Wave     | 4       | 5     | 2          | 28-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 19-Aug    |
| 1713 | 70.016 | <i>Idaea aversata</i>           | Riband Wave               | 2       | 3     | 2          | 24-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 24-Jul    |
| 1689 | 70.023 | <i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>  | Mullein Wave              | 4       | 5     | 2          | 07-Sep    | 15-Jun     | 07-Sep    |
| 1722 | 70.053 | <i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>     | Flame Carpet              | 2       | 2     | 1          | 11-May    | 11-May     | 24-May    |
| 1742 | 70.059 | <i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>   | Yellow Shell              | 6       | 7     | 2          | 16-Jul    | 13-May     | 23-Aug    |
| 1738 | 70.061 | <i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>       | Common Carpet             | 4       | 6     | 3          | 11-Aug    | 11-May     | 11-Aug    |
| 1777 | 70.074 | <i>Hydriomena furcata</i>       | July Highflyer            | 2       | 3     | 2          | 07-Sep    | 11-Aug     | 07-Sep    |
| 1752 | 70.087 | <i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i>       | Purple Bar                | 5       | 11    | 4          | 11-Aug    | 16-Jul     | 20-Sep    |
| 1755 | 70.09  | <i>Eulithis testata</i>         | Chevron                   | 6       | 11    | 3          | 07-Sep    | 07-Aug     | 13-Sep    |
| 1760 | 70.095 | <i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>    | Red-green Carpet          | 1       | 2     | 2          | 30-Oct    | 30-Oct     | 30-Oct    |

| BF   | ABH    | Taxon                           | Vernacular            | Records | Count | Peak Count | Peak Date | First Date | Last Date |
|------|--------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1764 | 70.097 | <i>Dysstroma truncata</i>       | Common Marbled Carpet | 1       | 1     | 1          | 03-Oct    | 03-Oct     | 03-Oct    |
| 1776 | 70.1   | <i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>  | Green Carpet          | 2       | 2     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
| 1808 | 70.138 | <i>Perizoma flavofasciata</i>   | Sandy Carpet          | 1       | 1     | 1          | 21-May    | 21-May     | 21-May    |
| 1862 | 70.141 | <i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i> | Double-striped Pug    | 3       | 5     | 3          | 07-Sep    | 02-Apr     | 07-Sep    |
| 1823 | 70.155 | <i>Eupithecia venosata</i>      | Netted Pug            | 1       | 1     | 1          | 21-May    | 21-May     | 21-May    |
| 1846 | 70.168 | <i>Eupithecia nanata</i>        | Narrow-winged Pug     | 8       | 13    | 4          | 15-Jun    | 05-Jun     | 20-Sep    |
| 1826 | 70.175 | <i>Eupithecia trisignaria</i>   | Triple-spotted Pug    | 1       | 1     | 1          | 15-Jun    | 15-Jun     | 15-Jun    |
| 1830 | 70.179 | <i>Eupithecia absinthiata</i>   | Wormwood Pug          | 3       | 7     | 3          | 24-Jul    | 24-Jul     | 11-Aug    |
| 1834 | 70.183 | <i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>       | Common Pug            | 3       | 3     | 1          | 21-May    | 21-May     | 15-Jun    |
| 1837 | 70.19  | <i>Eupithecia subfuscata</i>    | Grey Pug              | 1       | 1     | 1          | 07-Jul    | 07-Jul     | 07-Jul    |
| 1867 | 70.192 | <i>Aplocera plagiata</i>        | Treble-bar            | 1       | 1     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 07-Sep    |
| 1883 | 70.2   | <i>Acasis viretata</i>          | Yellow-barred Brindle | 1       | 1     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 07-Sep    |
| 1902 | 70.222 | <i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>    | Brown Silver-line     | 11      | 98    | 29         | 21-May    | 25-Apr     | 16-Jul    |
| 1906 | 70.226 | <i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i> | Brimstone Moth        | 4       | 9     | 4          | 07-Sep    | 15-Jun     | 07-Sep    |
| 1912 | 70.233 | <i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>      | August Thorn          | 2       | 2     | 1          | 11-Aug    | 11-Aug     | 19-Aug    |
| 1917 | 70.237 | <i>Selenia dentaria</i>         | Early Thorn           | 1       | 2     | 2          | 02-Apr    | 02-Apr     | 02-Apr    |
| 1921 | 70.241 | <i>Crocallis elinguarina</i>    | Scalloped Oak         | 1       | 1     | 1          | 11-Aug    | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
| 1937 | 70.258 | <i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i> | Willow Beauty         | 1       | 3     | 3          | 11-Aug    | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
| 1952 | 70.275 | <i>Ematurga atomaria</i>        | Common Heath          | 8       | 36    | 13         | 01-May    | 23-Apr     | 24-May    |
| 1962 | 70.284 | <i>Hylaea fasciaria</i>         | Barred Red            | 1       | 1     | 1          | 11-Aug    | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
| 2003 | 71.013 | <i>Notodonta ziczac</i>         | Pebble Prominent      | 2       | 2     | 1          | 05-May    | 05-May     | 11-May    |

| BF   | ABH    | Taxon                          | Vernacular         | Records | Count | Peak Count | Peak Date | First Date | Last Date |
|------|--------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 2469 | 72.001 | <i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>   | Herald             | 1       | 1     | 1          | 30-Sep    | 30-Sep     | 30-Sep    |
| 2474 | 72.002 | <i>Rivula sericealis</i>       | Straw Dot          | 3       | 3     | 1          | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 20-Sep    |
| 2061 | 72.019 | <i>Spilosoma lutea</i>         | Buff Ermine        | 9       | 114   | 47         | 16-Jul    | 15-Jun     | 19-Aug    |
| 2060 | 72.02  | <i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>   | White Ermine       | 4       | 9     | 3          | 05-Jun    | 11-May     | 15-Jun    |
| 2064 | 72.024 | <i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i> | Ruby Tiger         | 6       | 9     | 4          | 15-Jun    | 16-Mar     | 07-Sep    |
| 2057 | 72.026 | <i>Arctia caja</i>             | Garden Tiger       | 10      | 68    | 23         | 16-Jul    | 02-May     | 19-Aug    |
| 2069 | 72.031 | <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>         | Cinnabar           | 19      | 457   | 129        | 07-Jul    | 11-May     | 28-Jul    |
| 2047 | 72.046 | <i>Eilema complana</i>         | Scarce Footman     | 1       | 1     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 07-Sep    |
| 2450 | 73.001 | <i>Abrostola tripartita</i>    | Spectacle          | 9       | 22    | 5          | 16-Jul    | 11-May     | 19-Aug    |
| 2449 | 73.002 | <i>Abrostola triplasia</i>     | Dark Spectacle     | 1       | 1     | 1          | 28-Jul    | 28-Jul     | 28-Jul    |
| 2434 | 73.012 | <i>Diachrysia chrysitis</i>    | Burnished Brass    | 1       | 2     | 2          | 11-Aug    | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
| 2441 | 73.015 | <i>Autographa gamma</i>        | Silver Y           | 23      | 259   | 98         | 20-Sep    | 12-May     | 30-Oct    |
| 2439 | 73.022 | <i>Plusia festucae</i>         | Gold Spot          | 4       | 9     | 4          | 19-Aug    | 11-Aug     | 20-Sep    |
| 2289 | 73.045 | <i>Acronicta rumicis</i>       | Knot Grass         | 5       | 7     | 2          | 07-Jul    | 05-Jun     | 28-Sep    |
| 2216 | 73.052 | <i>Cucullia umbratica</i>      | Shark              | 1       | 1     | 1          | 07-Jul    | 07-Jul     | 07-Jul    |
| 2394 | 73.061 | <i>Stilbia anomala</i>         | Anomalous          | 2       | 2     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
| 2243 | 73.069 | <i>Xylocampa areola</i>        | Early Grey         | 1       | 2     | 2          | 02-Apr    | 02-Apr     | 02-Apr    |
| 2381 | 73.096 | <i>Hoplodrina alsines</i>      | Uncertain          | 3       | 21    | 13         | 11-Aug    | 24-Jul     | 19-Aug    |
| 2382 | 73.097 | <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>       | Rustic             | 5       | 12    | 5          | 07-Aug    | 16-Jul     | 21-Aug    |
| 2306 | 73.113 | <i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>  | Angle Shades       | 12      | 90    | 25         | 20-Sep    | 04-May     | 02-Nov    |
| 2305 | 73.114 | <i>Euplexia lucipara</i>       | Small Angle Shades | 3       | 3     | 1          | 15-Jun    | 15-Jun     | 28-Jul    |
| 2364 | 73.121 | <i>Gortyna flavago</i>         | Frosted Orange     | 3       | 4     | 2          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
| 2353 | 73.131 | <i>Luperina testacea</i>       | Flounced Rustic    | 6       | 16    | 5          | 07-Sep    | 11-Aug     | 17-Sep    |
| 2350 | 73.144 | <i>Denticucullus pygmina</i>   | Small Wainscot     | 6       | 16    | 6          | 19-Aug    | 16-Jul     | 24-Sep    |

| BF        | ABH     | Taxon                             | Vernacular               | Records | Count | Peak Count | Peak Date | First Date | Last Date |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 2321      | 73.162  | <i>Apamea monoglypha</i>          | Dark Arches              | 9       | 92    | 40         | 16-Jul    | 07-Jul     | 07-Sep    |
| 2343<br>x | 73.1695 | <i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg.     | Common Rustic agg.       | 9       | 64    | 23         | 11-Aug    | 24-Jul     | 20-Sep    |
| 2343<br>a | 73.170  | <i>Mesapamea didyma</i>           | Lesser Common Rustic     | 1       | 1     | 1          | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 16-Jul    |
| 2342      | 73.171  | <i>Litoligia literosa</i>         | Rosy Minor               | 2       | 4     | 3          | 19-Aug    | 11-Aug     | 19-Aug    |
| 2337<br>x | 73.1735 | <i>Oligia strigilis</i> agg.      | Marbled Minor agg.       | 2       | 2     | 1          | 07-Aug    | 07-Aug     | 11-Aug    |
| 2263      | 73.189  | <i>Agrochola lota</i>             | Red-line Quaker          | 2       | 6     | 5          | 11-Oct    | 03-Oct     | 11-Oct    |
| 2264      | 73.19   | <i>Agrochola macilenta</i>        | Yellow-line Quaker       | 1       | 2     | 2          | 30-Oct    | 30-Oct     | 30-Oct    |
| 2262      | 73.192  | <i>Agrochola circellaris</i>      | Brick                    | 1       | 1     | 1          | 30-Oct    | 30-Oct     | 30-Oct    |
| 2270      | 73.193  | <i>Omphaloscelis lunosa</i>       | Lunar Underwing          | 6       | 54    | 21         | 24-Sep    | 13-Sep     | 11-Oct    |
| 2398      | 73.194  | <i>Conistra vaccinii</i>          | Chestnut                 | 1       | 1     | 1          | 02-Nov    | 02-Nov     | 02-Nov    |
| 2232      | 73.233  | <i>Aporophyla nigra</i>           | Black Rustic             | 9       | 200   | 42         | 24-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 02-Nov    |
| 2255      | 73.235  | <i>Polymixis lichenea</i>         | Feathered Ranunculus     | 2       | 5     | 4          | 24-Sep    | 24-Sep     | 30-Oct    |
| 2187      | 73.244  | <i>Orthosia cerasi</i>            | Common Quaker            | 1       | 1     | 1          | 02-Apr    | 02-Apr     | 02-Apr    |
| 2190      | 73.249  | <i>Orthosia gothica</i>           | Hebrew Character         | 1       | 2     | 2          | 04-May    | 04-May     | 04-May    |
| 2176      | 73.254  | <i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>        | Antler Moth              | 4       | 4     | 1          | 11-Aug    | 11-Aug     | 13-Sep    |
| 2150      | 73.261  | <i>Polia nebulosa</i>             | Grey Arches              | 1       | 1     | 1          | 15-Jun    | 15-Jun     | 15-Jun    |
| 2160      | 73.267  | <i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>         | Bright-line Brown-eye    | 12      | 122   | 43         | 16-Jul    | 11-May     | 11-Aug    |
| 2163      | 73.271  | <i>Ceramica pisi</i>              | Broom Moth               | 8       | 78    | 26         | 21-May    | 11-May     | 28-Jul    |
| 2147      | 73.273  | <i>Hada plebeja</i>               | Shears                   | 2       | 2     | 1          | 05-Jun    | 05-Jun     | 15-Jun    |
| 2171      | 73.283  | <i>Hadena confusa</i>             | Marbled Coronet          | 2       | 3     | 2          | 21-May    | 21-May     | 15-Jun    |
| 2174      | 73.285  | <i>Hadena caesia</i>              | Grey                     | 3       | 3     | 1          | 05-Jun    | 05-Jun     | 16-Jul    |
| 2167      | 73.286  | <i>Hadena perplexa capsophila</i> | Pod Lover / Tawny Shears | 7       | 29    | 16         | 11-May    | 11-May     | 16-Jul    |
| 2192      | 73.29   | <i>Mythimna conigera</i>          | Brown-line Bright Eye    | 1       | 1     | 1          | 11-Aug    | 11-Aug     | 11-Aug    |



| BF    | ABH    | Taxon                             | Vernacular                             | Records | Count | Peak Count | Peak Date | First Date | Last Date |
|-------|--------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 2199  | 73.291 | <i>Mythimna pallens</i>           | Common Wainscot                        | 1       | 1     | 1          | 16-Jul    | 16-Jul     | 16-Jul    |
| 2198  | 73.293 | <i>Mythimna impura</i>            | Smoky Wainscot                         | 6       | 13    | 7          | 11-Aug    | 16-Jul     | 07-Sep    |
| 2193  | 73.298 | <i>Mythimna ferrago</i>           | Clay                                   | 1       | 1     | 1          | 28-Jul    | 28-Jul     | 28-Jul    |
| 2080  | 73.312 | <i>Euxoa obelisca</i>             | Square-spot Dart                       | 4       | 10    | 5          | 07-Sep    | 11-Aug     | 13-Sep    |
| 2089  | 73.317 | <i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>      | Heart and Dart                         | 6       | 40    | 20         | 24-Jul    | 07-Jul     | 07-Sep    |
| 2090  | 73.324 | <i>Agrotis trux ssp. Lunigera</i> | Crescent Dart                          | 6       | 56    | 25         | 11-Aug    | 16-Jul     | 20-Sep    |
| 2091  | 73.327 | <i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>            | Dark Sword-grass                       | 1       | 2     | 2          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 07-Sep    |
| 2102  | 73.329 | <i>Ochropleura plecta</i>         | Flame Shoulder                         | 7       | 10    | 3          | 07-Sep    | 11-May     | 07-Sep    |
| 2102a | 73.33  | <i>Ochropleura leucogaster</i>    | Radford's Flame Shoulder               | 1       | 1     | 1          | 30-Oct    | 30-Oct     | 30-Oct    |
| 2122  | 73.332 | <i>Diarsia brunnea</i>            | Purple Clay                            | 1       | 1     | 1          | 24-Jun    | 24-Jun     | 24-Jun    |
| 2120  | 73.333 | <i>Diarsia mendica</i>            | Ingrailed Clay                         | 5       | 11    | 6          | 11-Aug    | 16-Jul     | 19-Aug    |
| 2123  | 73.334 | <i>Diarsia rubi</i>               | Small Square-spot                      | 5       | 11    | 5          | 21-Aug    | 28-Jul     | 17-Sep    |
| 2139  | 73.336 | <i>Cerastis rubricosa</i>         | Red Chestnut                           | 1       | 5     | 5          | 02-Apr    | 02-Apr     | 02-Apr    |
| 2118  | 73.338 | <i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>       | True Lover's Knot                      | 11      | 398   | 142        | 11-Aug    | 15-Jun     | 07-Sep    |
| 2107  | 73.342 | <i>Noctua pronuba</i>             | Large Yellow Underwing                 | 14      | 113   | 46         | 07-Sep    | 07-Jul     | 11-Oct    |
| 2110  | 73.343 | <i>Noctua fimbriata</i>           | Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing        | 2       | 2     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 20-Sep    |
| 2109  | 73.345 | <i>Noctua comes</i>               | Lesser Yellow Underwing                | 7       | 16    | 7          | 07-Sep    | 11-Aug     | 03-Oct    |
| 2111  | 73.348 | <i>Noctua janthe</i>              | Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing | 8       | 87    | 29         | 11-Aug    | 24-Jul     | 24-Sep    |
| 2135  | 73.356 | <i>Xestia agathina</i>            | Heath Rustic                           | 6       | 41    | 24         | 07-Sep    | 11-Aug     | 24-Sep    |

| BF   | ABH    | Taxon                      | Vernacular                 | Records | Count | Peak Count | Peak Date | First Date | Last Date |
|------|--------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 2134 | 73.357 | <i>Xestia xanthographa</i> | Square-spot Rustic         | 9       | 105   | 61         | 07-Sep    | 11-Aug     | 03-Oct    |
| 2133 | 73.358 | <i>Xestia sexstrigata</i>  | Six-striped Rustic         | 1       | 1     | 1          | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 07-Sep    |
| 2126 | 73.359 | <i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>     | Setaceous Hebrew Character | 7       | 57    | 30         | 07-Sep    | 05-Jun     | 30-Oct    |
| 2117 | 73.365 | <i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i> | Autumnal Rustic            | 5       | 54    | 31         | 07-Sep    | 07-Sep     | 24-Sep    |
| 2078 | 74.004 | <i>Nola confusalis</i>     | Least Black Arches         | 2       | 2     | 1          | 15-Jun    | 15-Jun     | 16-Jul    |
|      |        | <i>Eudonia/Scoparia</i>    | Eudonia/Scoparia spp       | 10      | 39    | 10         | 16-Jul    | 07-Jul     | 20-Sep    |
|      |        | Gelechiidae                |                            | 2       | 4     | 3          | 07-Jul    | 07-Jul     | 30-Oct    |
|      |        |                            | Unidentified pug           | 4       | 6     | 2          | 11-May    | 11-May     | 28-Jul    |
|      |        |                            | Tortrix spp.               | 6       | 17    | 6          | 07-Jul    | 07-Jul     | 07-Sep    |

## Notable Calf Moth Species 2024

32.035 *Agonopterix yeatiana*

Coastal Flat-body



A single on 20<sup>th</sup> September is the 6<sup>th</sup> Calf record.

*Coastal Flat-body*

35.13 *Caryocolum vicinella*

Coast Groundling



This distinctive *Caryocolum* was found by day on 24<sup>th</sup> June and is the 5<sup>th</sup> Calf record.

*Coast Groundling*

*Acleris ferrugana/notana* agg.

Not recorded to species level (dissection required) this *Acleris*, common in the UK, would have been new for the Isle of Man had we submitted it for analysis.

63.088 *Crambus perlella*

Satin Grass-veneer

An individual to light on 16<sup>th</sup> July was the first record for the Calf.

66.008 *Macrothylacia rubi*

Fox Moth

A caterpillar found above Jane's on 17<sup>th</sup> August and another on Kitterland on 2<sup>nd</sup> October were the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Calf records.

69.004 *Agrius convolvuli*



Convolvulus Hawk-moth  
Trapped on 7<sup>th</sup> September, this immigrant moth from Southern Europe was the 4<sup>th</sup> record for the Calf and the first since 2021.

*This impressive Convolvulus Hawk-moth (pictured alongside a 20p coin for scale) weighed 1.9g.*

70.175 *Eupithecia trisignaria*

Triple-spotted Pug

A fourth record of this species for the Calf came to light on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

70.192 *Aplocera plagiata*

Treble-bar

Trapped on 7<sup>th</sup> September, this is just the third record for the Calf and the first since 2005.

70.233 *Ennomos quercinaria*

August Thorn

The first on the Calf since 2017 came to light on 11<sup>th</sup> August, with another on 19<sup>th</sup> August. These were the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> records for the Calf.



*Treble-bar*



*August Thorn*

70.284 *Hylaea fasciaria*

Barred Red

The first since 2010 was trapped on 11<sup>th</sup> August. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> record for the Calf.

73.261 *Polia nebulosa*

Grey Arches

A new species for the Calf of Man, a single came to light on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

73.052 *Cucullia umbratica*

Shark

The 6<sup>th</sup> record for the Calf was trapped on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

73.194 *Conistra vaccinii*

Chestnut

The first record of this species for the Calf came to light on 2<sup>nd</sup> November – the last moth trap of the season.

73.33 *Ochropleura leucogaster*

Radford's Flame Shoulder

A new species for the Calf and the Isle of Man, this migrant from the near continent came to light on 30<sup>th</sup> October. The Calf record coincided with an influx of the species to Britain.



*Radford's Flame Shoulder*

# A review of the status of Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) and Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) on the Calf of Man.

The presence of the Brown Rat on the Calf of Man has had significant and long-lasting impacts on the local population of Manx Shearwater, a seabird with a rich historical presence on the islet. The following review details the historical context, the effects of rat predation on the shearwater population, and the ongoing efforts to eradicate rats from the Calf, highlighting the successes and challenges encountered.

## Historical Overview of Manx Shearwater Decline

17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> Century Harvesting: The Calf of Man supported large numbers of breeding Manx Shearwaters, with thousands of young birds harvested annually for food. These birds were considered valuable by the Lord of Mann, and despite significant culling, the population remained large enough to sustain such losses.

- Rat Introduction (1780s): The decline of the Manx Shearwater population began with the arrival of Brown Rats on the Calf and was believed to stem from the <sup>1</sup>shipwreck of the *Three Sisters* in 1781s. From the Quayle Bridge House Papers held by Manx National Heritage, we know that rats, known for preying on eggs and chicks, devastated the shearwater population, leading to their near extinction on the islet. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1786, Thomas Quayle had written to his father John Quayle who held a lease of the Calf of Man at the time: “I am sorry to hear y<sup>e</sup> rats have committed such great Devastation on y<sup>e</sup> Calf”. Three

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<sup>1</sup> “The large Prussian cargo ship *Three Sisters*, Captain G Winek, master, from Liverpool for Ostend, with a cargo rock salt, herrings etc., was lost on the Thousla Rock when going through the Calf Sound during late December 1781 and all of the crew perished in the rough waves very close to shore. This was only the *Three Sisters*’ second voyage.

It seems that this is the wreck which is renown for first introducing rats to the Calf of Man. The rats went on to decimate the large seabird colonies that existed on the Calf of Man up until the 1780s, in particularly the puffins and Manx shearwaters”. *Manx National Heritage – Historic Environment Record*

years later, on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1789, he wrote: “The Duchess [of Atholl] says she was very fond of the Puffins and much regrets their extermination”

### **Rat Eradication Efforts and Manx Shearwater Recovery**

- Early Control Efforts (1979): Attempts to control the rat population on the Calf had begun in the <sup>2</sup>1960’s, but efforts were sporadic and only marginally effective. It wasn’t until the discovery of three active Manx Shearwater burrows in 2000 that rat eradication efforts intensified.
- Manx Shearwater Recovery Project (2012): A more systematic and large-scale eradication project was launched in 2012 by a partnership project led by Manx National Heritage (MNH), and with support from Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT), FERA (Food and Environment Research Agency), RSPB and others. The project aimed to systematically eliminate rats from the Calf with the use of rodenticides in bait stations deployed at 50-metre intervals across the islet.

### **Initial Eradication Success**

- Baiting (2012–2013): A grid of 1020 bait stations was set up across the Calf and Kitterland, checked multiple times per week. The last confirmed rat activity occurred on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012. From March 2013 onwards, non-toxic wax blocks replaced rodenticides, which continued to be monitored up until 2023.
- Reduction in Rat Population: The project successfully reduced the rat population, leading to a partial recovery of Manx Shearwaters, with more burrows being observed.

### **Ongoing Challenges with Rat Presence (2014–2024)**

Despite the initial success, occasional sightings and evidence of rats continued nearly every year since the project’s inception. Some notable occurrences include:

- 2014–2019: Rats were occasionally spotted via trail cameras or seen by observers, especially near the compost bin at the Observatory and in areas such as Kitterland. Fenn traps and rodenticide were deployed each time, leading to isolated instances of successful trapping or suspected deaths from poisoning.

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<sup>2</sup> Reported in Manx Museum and National Trust Minutes

- 2020–2023: Like previous years, sporadic sightings of single rats were recorded, particularly near the Observatory and in remote areas like Mill Giau. Although some rats were killed using traps, evidence suggested that not all individuals were eradicated.
- 2023–2024: The monitoring shifted towards the increased use of trail cameras after it became clear that this method was more effective in detecting rat presence compared to wax discs. The 2024 season saw intensive efforts to trap rats, but trail camera footage showed that the rats avoided traps, indicating behavioural shifts or increased trap-shyness.

### **Rat Monitoring Methods**

- Trail Cameras vs. Wax Discs: Evidence from the last decade of rat control efforts suggests that trail cameras were significantly more effective than wax discs in detecting rat activity. As a result, wax disc monitoring was scaled back in favour of increased reliance on cameras in 2024. This method has provided more accurate and timely detection of rat presence.

### **Impact on Manx Shearwater Population**

- Rat Presence and Shearwater Burrows: Even a small presence of rats poses a threat to the Manx Shearwater population, particularly to their eggs and chicks. While rat numbers have been kept low, ongoing vigilance is necessary to prevent population rebounds.
- Shearwater Recovery: Despite the continued sightings of rats, the systematic efforts to reduce their numbers have allowed the Manx Shearwater population to make a partial recovery. However, the population is still vulnerable to occasional rat predation.

### **Manx Shearwater burrow survey methodology**

The survey methodology for Manx Shearwaters on the Calf of Man has evolved significantly over the years to accommodate the growing breeding population and the expanding colonies. Below is a summary of the key survey methodologies used over time:

#### **Early Methods**

- Burrow-by-burrow checking: Initially used when the population was small, this method involved manually inspecting each burrow but became too time-consuming as the population expanded.



### **Quadrant Sampling (2014–2017)**

- Trialled between 2014 and 2017, quadrat sampling involved dividing the colony into sections and sampling burrows within specific quadrants.
- Findings: Large fluctuations in population estimates across seasons were more likely caused by differences in surveyor diligence than real population changes.

### **Booker & Price Method (2018 onwards)**

- This method was first trialled in 2018 and is based on a technique used on Lundy Island to estimate breeding populations.
- It involves callback sampling, where a recording of Manx Shearwater calls (male and female) is played at burrow entrances to elicit a response from the birds inside.
- 2018 Trial: Only 50 burrows in South Harbour were sampled, and the survey was run for 10 days. However, it was found that this period was too short to capture the peak response.

### **Expanded Booker & Price Method (2019 onwards)**

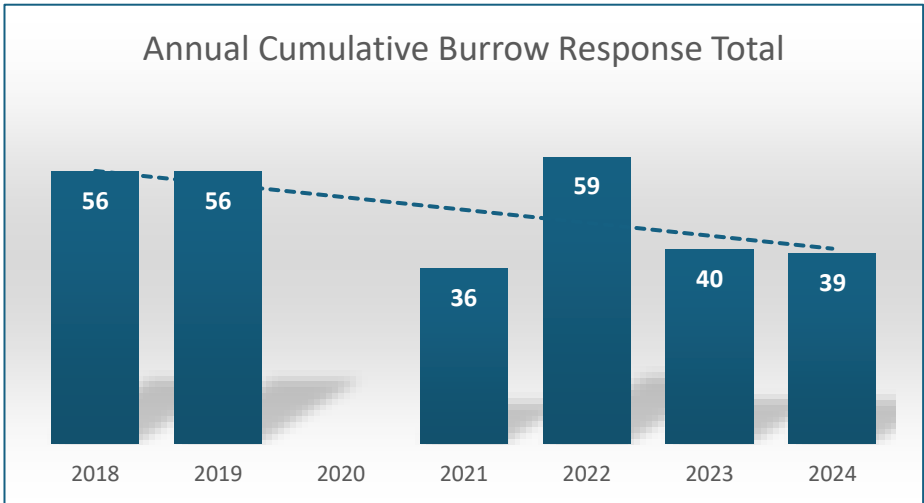
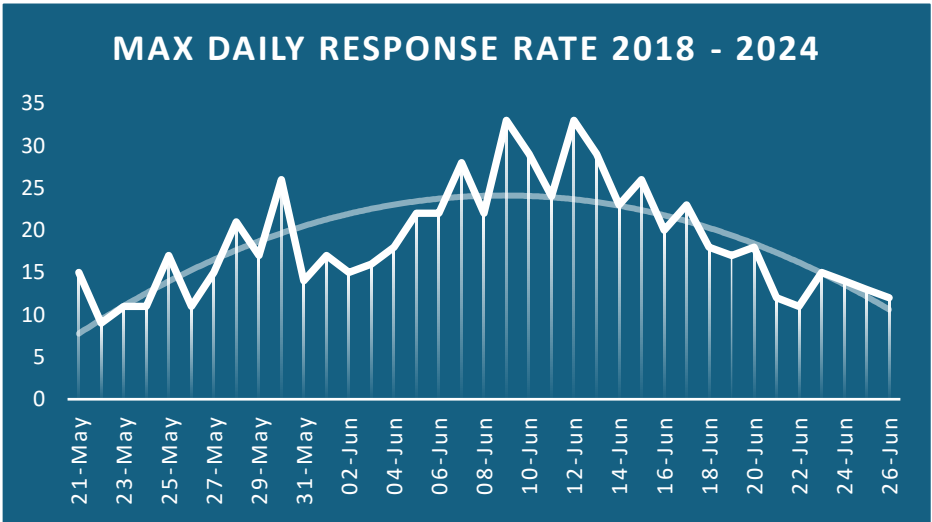
- 2019: The method was extended to 100 burrows (50 in South Harbour and 50 in Kione ny Halby), with the survey period increased to 14 days. The method has since been refined, and a 21-day period was adopted from 2022, later expanded to 35 days in 2024.
- A complete colony burrow count was conducted in South Harbour, measuring all burrows deeper than arm's length and recording responses during playback.

### **Callback Monitoring**

- Callback Methodology: Callback monitoring was used to estimate the presence of *apparently occupied burrows (AOB)*. Calls are played at burrow entrances, and surveyors record any responses (male, female, or undetermined). This method has shown that not all occupied burrows respond daily; only about half of the burrows with occupants gave a response during daily monitoring.

Survey Results and Population Estimates

- Response Rates: Response rates during callbacks have varied, with peak response periods occurring between 28<sup>th</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> June each season. The median number of responses per day is around 17, and the cumulative response rate indicates between 36% and 59% of burrows are occupied.

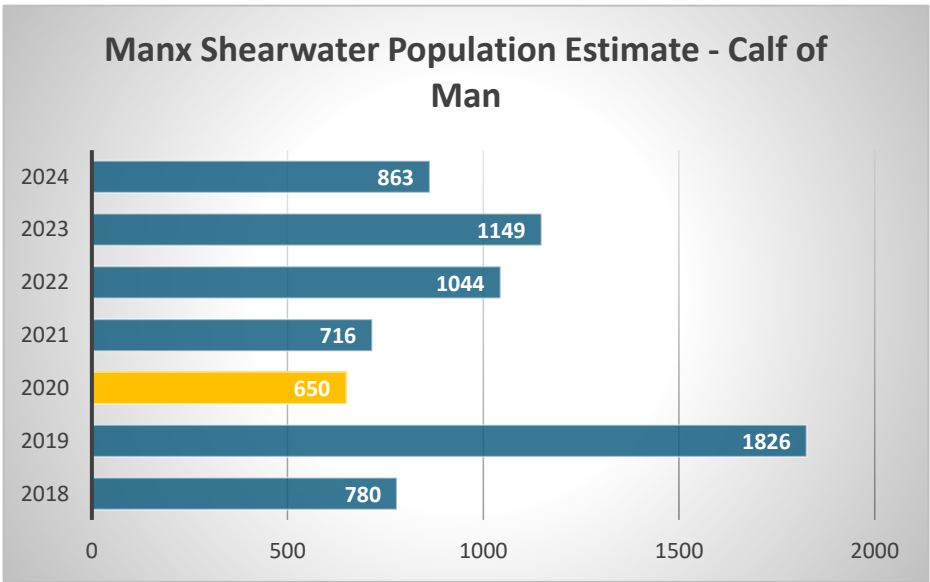


- Burrow Counts: A complete count of burrows in South Harbour was conducted yearly (except for 2020), and the number of square metres

per burrow varied by season. The average m<sup>2</sup> per burrow over the six years is about 31. This data helps extrapolate population estimates for other colonies across the Calf of Man based on an assumed similar burrow density.

| Table 1 | South Harbour<br>Burrow Count | m <sup>2</sup> per burrow<br>(n = 12164) |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 2018    | 392                           | 31                                       |
| 2019    | 385                           | 32                                       |
| 2020    | No count                      |                                          |
| 2021    | 482                           | 25                                       |
| 2022    | 450                           | 27                                       |
| 2023    | 313                           | 39                                       |
| 2024    | 382                           | 32                                       |
| Mean    | 389                           | 31                                       |

- Extrapolated Population Estimates: Using the average number of AOBs per square metre and cumulative response rates, an estimated population figure for the entire Calf of Man is calculated each year.



## Discussion

- **Sporadic Presence of Rats:** Despite a large-scale eradication effort, rats continue to be detected nearly every year. What are the possible reasons for the failure to completely eradicate the population? Could this be due to reinvasion from neighbouring areas, or are some rats evading traps and monitoring efforts?
- **Behavioural Adaptation:** The 2023–2024 monitoring revealed increased trap-shyness and avoidance behaviours in rats. What methods can be employed to counteract this learned behaviour in pest species?
- **Monitoring Technology:** Trail cameras have been more effective than wax discs for detecting rats. Are there other emerging technologies or methodologies (e.g., drones, scent-detection dogs) that could further improve monitoring accuracy?
- **Booker & Price method:** Paired with callback monitoring, this method has provided a reliable and repeatable way to monitor the breeding population of Manx Shearwaters in both the South Harbour and Kione ny Halby colonies on the Calf of Man.
- **Random sampling:** Although random sampling is designed to be representative, small sample sizes may result in unrepresentative samples due to random chance. Fluctuations in population estimates are likely a result of the small sample size monitored annually and the ‘random’ chance of an active or inactive burrow being selected.
- **Callback Monitoring Effectiveness:** The use of callback monitoring for estimating occupied burrows has been central to population estimates. How reliable are these methods compared to other bird population survey techniques, and are they scalable as the population grows? Should we also consider a ‘full island’ burrow census, as is carried out on Lundy every ten years?
- **Variability in Burrow Counts:** The variability in burrow counts across years raises questions about the accuracy of population estimates. What improvements could be made to standardize the methods and minimize discrepancies between different survey periods?

- Biosecurity review: The Calf Manx Shearwater Recovery Project  
Biosecurity Plan was last updated in March 2017. However, many elements of that review are now significantly outdated, particularly in areas such as monitoring, surveillance, and contingency response. A comprehensive revision of the Biosecurity Plan should be a critical part of the Calf of Man Management Plan and should be treated as an urgent priority, with publication as soon as possible.

## **Conclusion**

The review of the status of Brown Rats and Manx Shearwaters on the Calf of Man highlights the intricate relationship between invasive species and vulnerable seabird populations. While significant progress has been made in reducing rat populations and supporting the partial recovery of Manx Shearwaters, the presence of rats continues to pose a considerable threat. Despite the success of the 2012/13 rat eradication project, ongoing monitoring and control efforts reveal that complete eradication remains elusive, with sporadic rat sightings complicating the conservation strategy.

The use of advanced monitoring techniques such as trail cameras has enhanced detection accuracy, but behavioural adaptations in rats, such as trap-shyness, present new challenges. Additionally, the gradual shift in survey methodologies for Manx Shearwaters, including the adoption of callback monitoring and extended sampling periods, has improved population estimates, although variability in burrow counts underscores the need for consistent and refined techniques.

Overall, while the Manx Shearwater population has made a promising recovery, sustained vigilance, innovative approaches, and continued collaboration between government, conservation groups, and the local community will be essential for ensuring the long-term success of rat eradication efforts and the protection of the Calf of Man's unique ecological heritage.

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

Aron Sapsford

Senior Ornithological Warden

# Brown Rat (Longtail) Report

## Management Summary

The increased use of trail cameras to detect longtail in 2024 proved significantly more successful than the previous method of bait tubes. Longtail were sighted on 61 dates between 6<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> October in four main areas (Observatory, Mill Giau, Withy and Kitterland). An individual was trapped at the Observatory on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. This single male, remarkably, is thought to account for all records in 2024 including those on Kitterland. It is recommended the monitoring with trail cameras should continue and could be expanded with more cameras. That longtail can cross the Sound back and forth further illustrates the need for an updated Calf biosecurity plan and one that should encompass the southern shores of the Isle of Man.

## Approach

In 2024 we adopted a different approach to longtail monitoring on the Calf. The monthly monitoring of hundreds of wax block bait tubes undertaken for the past decade had become increasingly ineffective and labour intensive. In 2024 just two bait areas were retained (around the Observatory and at Cow Harbour) and monitoring was changed to use an increased number of remote trail cameras.

In addition to six existing (Reconyx) trail cameras, MNH supplied 12 new (model T45), and Mike Haigh lent two (H85) cameras. When significant longtail activity was found during August, MWT supplied another ten (CY95) trail cameras. This gave a total of 30 trail cameras specifically deployed to monitor longtail activity in 2024.

The cameras were placed in likely areas around the island and checked approximately weekly. Where longtail activity was recorded, the frequency of checking increased and some cameras were moved around to try to track the longtail. Trapping effort was intensified in areas where activity was identified.

Overall, the use of trail cameras was extremely productive, providing rapid diagnosis and flexibility to monitoring.

## Longtail Sightings 2024

Longtail were detected on the Calf and Kitterland on 61 dates between 6<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> October (when a longtail was trapped and killed at the Obs Compost Heap). This is the highest number of confirmed sightings ever recorded on the Calf (the previous high was 21 in 2023). Activity occurred in four main areas – the Observatory, Mill Giau, The Withy, and on Kitterland. There was a record of longtail at Grants beach on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept (from a seal trail camera).

No longtail presence was detected on the bait tube surveys in the Observatory and Cow areas. The only non-trail camera record was a visual sighting (using thermal camera) at the Withy on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept.

As noted, up to 30 trail cameras were deployed in 2024. Some cameras were retained in fixed positions throughout the season even where no longtail was recorded. The camera locations used, frequency of checks and number of dates on which longtail appeared (indicating frequency of activity) are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1** – Longtail camera positions, frequency of checks and number of days longtail sighted per camera.

| Camera location      | Checks | Last check | Fixed position all season? | Longtail dates recorded |
|----------------------|--------|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cow beach            | 2      | 02-Oct     |                            |                         |
| Cow Hide             | 17     | 30-Oct     | Yes                        |                         |
| Cow winch house      | 9      | 27-May     |                            |                         |
| Dock                 | 15     | 23-Sep     |                            |                         |
| Grants beach         | 3      | 26-Oct     |                            |                         |
| Janes                | 6      | 05-Nov     | Yes                        |                         |
| Kitterland 1         | 4      | 29-Oct     | Yes                        | 20                      |
| Kitterland 2         | 4      | 29-Oct     |                            |                         |
| Kitterland 3         | 5      | 29-Oct     |                            |                         |
| KNH - Eider gulley 1 | 2      | 21-Sep     |                            |                         |
| KNH - Eider gulley 2 | 2      | 21-Sep     |                            |                         |
| Middle LH            | 9      | 03-Nov     | Yes                        |                         |
| Mill                 | 17     | 03-Nov     |                            | 1                       |
| Mill Giau - beach    | 9      | 03-Nov     |                            | 1                       |
| Mill Giau - pool     | 13     | 19-Sep     |                            | 5                       |
| Mill Giau stream     | 14     | 30-Oct     |                            | 20                      |
| Mill Giau stream 2   | 7      | 23-Sep     |                            | 1                       |

| Camera location                 | Checks | Last check    | Fixed position all season? | Longtail dates |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| NLB store external              | 17     | 31-Oct        | Yes                        |                |
| Obs. Compost                    | 35     | 05-Nov        | Yes                        | 38             |
| Obs. garden east gate           | 3      | 10-Oct        |                            |                |
| Obs. garden east wall           | 1      | 04-Oct        |                            |                |
| Obs. garden feeder              | 8      | 05-Nov        |                            | 2              |
| Obs. old toilet                 | 14     | 31-Aug        |                            | 11             |
| Obs. orchard gate               | 1      | 08-Oct        |                            |                |
| Obs. Orchard west wall          | 1      | 04-Oct        |                            |                |
| Obs. Allotment privy            | 3      | 23-Sep        |                            |                |
| Obs. Rear drain                 | 18     | 29-Oct        | Yes                        | 13             |
| Obs. Rear drain 2               | 3      | 02-Oct        |                            |                |
| Obs. Well                       | 4      | 04-Oct        |                            |                |
| Puddle east 1                   | 4      | 31-Oct        |                            |                |
| Puddle east 2                   | 5      | 31-Oct        |                            |                |
| South store                     | 5      | 31-Oct        |                            |                |
| Top Withy wall                  | 5      | 27-Oct        |                            |                |
| Withy - MDH cam                 | 20     | 03-Nov        | Yes                        | 4              |
| Withy 30' boardwalk             | 4      | 30-Oct        |                            |                |
| Withy Hide                      | 28     | 30-Oct        | Yes                        |                |
| Withy mud net stream            | 9      | 03-Nov        |                            | 2              |
| Withy sluice                    | 34     | 03-Nov        |                            |                |
| Withy sluice front              | 8      | 28-Oct        |                            | 1              |
| Withy sluice rear               | 14     | 03-Nov        |                            | 2              |
| Withy south culvert             | 6      | 28-Oct        |                            |                |
| Withy south wall                | 19     | 03-Nov        |                            | 2              |
| <i>Seal camera Grants beach</i> |        | <i>29-Sep</i> |                            | <i>1</i>       |

A few cameras had been left running on the Calf over Winter 2023/24. All but one had failed due to various errors made when setting them. The exception was a camera on Kitterland that worked through the winter and recorded longtail from 6<sup>th</sup> May. Given the frequency of records during the remainder of 2024, this does at least suggest that no longtail were present on the Calf or Kitterland from mid-March (when cameras were first set) to 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Table 1 illustrates sightings per camera per date. Some of these records involve the same animal that was tracked across multiple cameras on the same night. Removing duplicate dates and reveals longtail was recorded on 61 separate dates in four main areas of activity (Table 2).



**Table 2** – Longtail presence by date and area

| Date   | Obs. | Withy/ Mill Giau | Grants | Kitterland | Notable sighting times      |
|--------|------|------------------|--------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 06-May |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 08-May |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 12-May |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 13-May |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 25-May |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 29-May |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 30-May |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 31-May |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 17-Jun |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 18-Jun |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 10-Jul |      |                  |        | Y          |                             |
| 12-Jul |      |                  |        | Y          | Kitterland 00:56            |
| 16-Jul |      | Y                |        |            | Withy 22:57                 |
| 21-Jul |      | Y                |        |            |                             |
| 26-Jul | Y    |                  |        |            | Obs. 22:11                  |
| 27-Jul |      | Y                |        |            | Withy 3:48                  |
| 30-Jul | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 31-Jul | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 03-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 04-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 05-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 06-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 07-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 08-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 09-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 11-Aug | Y    | Y                |        |            | Obs. 22:26, Withy 23:51     |
| 12-Aug | Y    | Y                |        |            | Mill Giau 00:46, Obs. 03:00 |
| 14-Aug | Y    | Y                |        |            | Mill Giau 01:30, Obs. 04:53 |
| 15-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            | Obs. 22:49                  |
| 16-Aug | Y    | Y                |        |            | Mill Giau 03:26, Obs. 04:39 |
| 18-Aug | Y    | Y                |        |            | Mill Giau 03:50, Obs. 04:48 |
| 19-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 20-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 21-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 22-Aug |      | Y                |        |            |                             |
| 24-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |
| 25-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                             |

| Date   | Obs. | Withy/ Mill Giau | Grants | Kitterland | Notable sighting times          |
|--------|------|------------------|--------|------------|---------------------------------|
| 26-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                                 |
| 27-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            |                                 |
| 28-Aug | Y    |                  |        |            | Obs. 22:10                      |
| 03-Sep |      |                  |        | Y          | Kitterland 01:45                |
| 04-Sep |      |                  |        | Y          |                                 |
| 06-Sep |      |                  |        | Y          |                                 |
| 11-Sep |      |                  |        | Y          |                                 |
| 13-Sep |      |                  |        | Y          |                                 |
| 15-Sep |      | Y                |        | Y          | Kitterland 01:10, Withy c.20:45 |
| 19-Sep |      | Y                |        |            |                                 |
| 20-Sep |      | Y                |        |            |                                 |
| 21-Sep |      | Y                |        |            |                                 |
| 24-Sep |      | Y                |        |            |                                 |
| 27-Sep | Y    | Y                |        |            |                                 |
| 28-Sep |      | Y                |        |            | Mill Giau 20:41                 |
| 29-Sep | Y    |                  | Y      |            | Grants 03:12, Obs. 22:24        |
| 30-Sep |      | Y                |        |            | Withy 23:40                     |
| 01-Oct |      | Y                |        |            |                                 |
| 03-Oct | Y    | Y                |        |            |                                 |
| 04-Oct |      | Y                |        |            | Mill Giau 22:24                 |
| 05-Oct | Y    |                  |        |            | Obs. 00:43                      |
| 06-Oct |      | Y                |        |            |                                 |
| 07-Oct |      | Y                |        |            | Mill Giau 20:00                 |
| 08-Oct | Y    |                  |        |            | Obs. 03:20 then TRAPPED         |

## Analysis

Longtail were recorded on 61 dates in 2024 between 6<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> October (Table 2). Records came from Kitterland on 18 dates, the Observatory on 29 dates, Mill Giau/The Withy on 22 dates and Grants on one date.

Confirmed facts from the camera records –

- Longtail are elusive and very trap shy. Behaviour seemed to change to avoid traps (e.g. as soon as Fenn traps were placed in the Obs drain, the animal stopped using it).
- All longtail records occurred at night (the exception being the visual sighting on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at the Withy, at dusk, and even then, the animal was only seen with a thermal camera).

- Longtail followed phases of regular patterns of behaviour e.g. when in same area for a few days it would appear before cameras at similar times each night.
- Weather affected longtail behaviour (wet and windy weather reduced sightings) and even if a longtail was nearby, it could miss a camera by a few metres and go undetected.
- The longtail frequenting Mill Giau and the Withy was the same individual. It was tracked on cameras placed along the freshwater stream. It could move from Mill Giau beach to the Mill Pond in 24 minutes (21<sup>st</sup> Sept, Mill Giau stream at 20:32 to Withy Sluice at 20:56).
- The longtail was observed eating rabbit kits taken from the nest (30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July in Obs garden – old toilet).

### **How many individual longtail were involved in 2024?**

#### Calf of Man main island records

During the season it was thought that the longtail at Withy/Mill Giau was not the same individual as the Observatory animal. However, it is now clear that the longtail records on the Calf main island in 2024 concerned a single individual. The rationale for this is as follows:-

- The longtail was killed on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct at the Observatory and there were no subsequent sightings.
- Across all 61 sighting dates there are no clashes of times to confirm two animals present.
- A similar pattern of behaviour between areas on a cluster of dates suggests the same animal e.g.

12<sup>th</sup> August at Mill Giau 00:46 then Obs. drain 03:00 then Obs. compost 03:14

14<sup>th</sup> August at Mill Giau 01:30 then Obs. compost 04:53

16<sup>th</sup> August at Mill Giau 03:26 then Obs. drain 04:39

18<sup>th</sup> August at Mill Giau 03:50 then Obs. drain 04:48 then Obs. compost 05:14

As noted above, the longtail was confirmed moving from Mill Giau to the Withy in 24 minutes. The distance is 280 metres equating to a speed of 11.6 metres per minute. Using tracks, the distance to the Obs from Mill Giau is 950 metres. The shortest time between sightings in these two areas was 73 mins which equates to a feasible 13.0 metres per minute.

The dead animal from the Observatory and the longtail at Mill Giau are the same size. The longtail trapped at the Obs. on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct measured: body 20.75cm, tail 16.25cm, with a tail to body ratio of 78%. When scaled from a camera picture on 4<sup>th</sup> October, the Mill Giau animal measured: body 20.5cm, tail 16cm, with a tail to body ratio of 78%.



*Trapped longtail (top) at the Observatory on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct is same size as longtail at Mill Giau stream (bottom) on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct*



### Kitterland records

Table 2 clearly shows that when there were longtail records on Kitterland, there were none on The Calf and vice versa. This raises a very real possibility that, incredibly, all of the Calf and Kitterland records in 2024 involved the same individual.

If it is the same animal, then the longtail must have crossed the Sound from Kitterland between the 12<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> July. The longtail then crosses back to Kitterland between 28<sup>th</sup> Aug and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. It then returns to the Calf in the

early hours of 15<sup>th</sup> September. The latter crossing would have been made in calm and bright conditions (the full moon was on 18<sup>th</sup> September). A swim from Kitterland to Grants Beach (via Thousla) covers a distance of 425m. The swim distance is easily achievable for longtail and they have been recorded covering such distances between islands in other studies. Longtail can comfortably swim at 1km per hour hence the crossing of the Sound would take less than 30 minutes.

The land journey from Grants Beach to the Observatory is 1025m and as noted above would take the rodent less than two hours. Grants Beach is referred to here as a landing point because an intriguing sighting was made there on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. Did the animal think about crossing back to Kitterland on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept but got cold feet? Two Grey Seal pups born on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept on Grants Beach. Perhaps the presence of fresh blood/placenta brought the longtail to the beach in the first place, or, having found fresh food, it decided to remain on the Calf.

### **Traps**

As soon as longtail appeared snap traps were deployed. Footage shows the it carefully avoiding the traps no matter what bait was used. To make matters worse, slugs ate every type of bait overnight, so the traps had to be rebaited every day. The picture above of the longtail beside a box trap was about as close as it got to a trap (but it never went inside).

Five Goodnature A24 gas traps were deployed but were, quite frankly, a waste of time – bait being consumed by earwigs and batteries expiring within a few months.

The longtail was eventually trapped along a wall run (identified by camera) using an unbaited Fenn trap that was covered in leaves. The longtail walked into the trap without knowing it was there. This method was not without risk. Despite covering hidden Fenn traps with mesh, a Blackbird and a Manx Shearwater were trapped (the latter survived with a damaged leg).

### **Future**

The use of trail cameras for longtail monitoring must continue on the Calf and there is scope to expand the number by at least another ten.

Proof that a single longtail can roam so widely and easily across the Calf and Kitterland illustrates the need for continued vigilance. Had a female arrived on the Calf or Kitterland in 2024 breeding might have occurred. Disappointingly, time and resource has not been found to revise the Calf Biosecurity Plan during 2024. It is essential that the Calf ecosystem is protected by appropriate biosecurity measures. Any plan needs to consider and mitigate the risk of longtail influx from the Southern shores of the Isle of Man (notably the Sound and Port Erin).



*Trail  
camera on  
Kitterland*

5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – M.D.Haigh

# Maintenance of Dry-stone Walls on the Calf of Man

A visitor to the Calf of Man cannot avoid noticing - and hopefully admiring - the dry-stone walls that stretch out over much of the island, forming an integral part of the Calf's wonderful landscape.



*Photo Credit – Mike Radcliffe Photography*

## History of dry-stone walls on the Calf of Man

When the <sup>3</sup>dry-stone walls were built is uncertain and it is an area that warrants further research. A clue is perhaps provided by the discovery of the <sup>4</sup>Calf Crucifixion Stone in 1773. The stone was found by workmen two feet below ground recovering stone from the ruins of a <sup>5</sup>keel to use for wall building. If this wall building happened to coincide with a concerted period

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<sup>3</sup> Dry stone – so named because mortar is not used in their construction

<sup>4</sup> *The Calf of Man Crucifix – Ancient Monuments Society's Transactions – L M Angus-Butterworth*

<sup>5</sup> *An early simple place of worship, "keel" being the Manx for "chapel"*

of wall building on the Calf, then it is conceivable that the answer may be found in “The <sup>6</sup>Quayle Bridge House Papers” or “The Atholl Papers”.

The Duke of Atholl’s tenant of the Calf at the time of the discovery of the stone was John Quayle, Clerk of the Rolls to the House of Keys but also the father of George Quayle, whose papers form the Bridge House papers. The correspondence between George and his father includes references to the Calf during this period, including the decimation of the Manx Shearwater population as a result of a shipwreck and the consequent arrival on the island of “longtails”. It is also possible that references to wall building activity on the Calf while Quayle was the tenant may be contained within these papers.

The Duke of Atholl maintained their manorial rights and estates following revestment of their feudal sovereignty of the Isle of Man in 1765 to the Crown, including the Calf. The Atholl family’s management and control of the Calf then continued until their residual property interests in the Isle of Man were conveyed to the Crown in 1828. Again, further research of these papers may yield information about any wall building undertaken on the Calf of Man in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Enclosure of fields had <sup>7</sup>begun in Scotland in the early 1700s while in England, especially from the 1750s onwards, the passing of many Enclosure Acts allowed common rights over land to be overturned and land was “enclosed” by the construction of hedges and walls. Although common rights would not have applied on the Calf of Man, the construction of walls on the island in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century would have been consistent with moves elsewhere at this time to improve agricultural productivity and to bring more land into agricultural use.

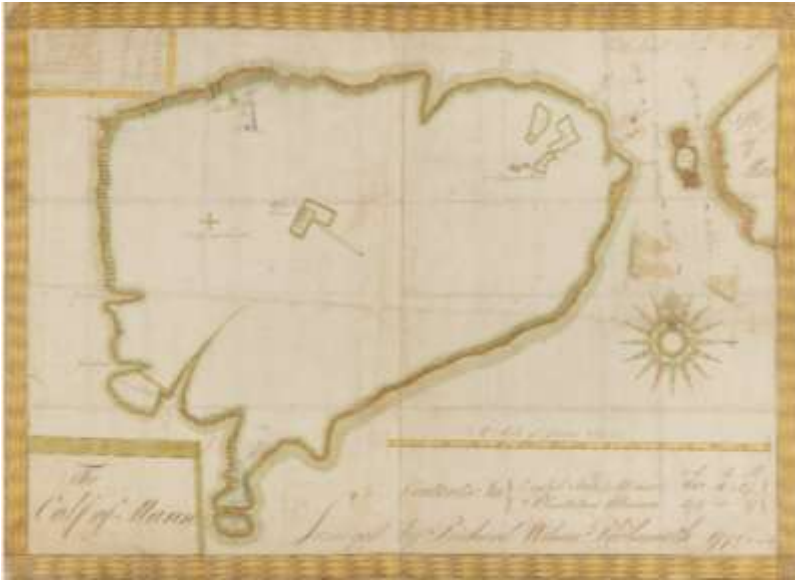
Mapping of the Calf carried out by Richard Wilson in 1771 does not record the existence of any walling with the exception of an area of “sheep foldings” in the south-west of the island – but this may not be conclusive and may simply reflect the level of detail included within the mapping at that time.

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<sup>6</sup> The Manx National Heritage archives contain extensive archive of documents named “The Quayle Bridge House Papers” and “The Atholl Papers”

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.dswa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/A-BRIEF-HISTORY-OF-THE-CRAFT-IN-BRITAIN.pdf>





*The Calf of Man surveyed by Richard Wilson 1771 – Manx National Heritage collection*

## **Maintenance and Repair of the Calf of Man's walls.**

The standing walls on the Calf do require on-going maintenance and repair. The main causes of damage are due to the Calf's resident population of Loaghtan sheep but also the fluctuating rabbit population. The Loaghtans are renowned for their "hedge hopping" capabilities and when the top capstones are pushed off the wall by passing sheep, this can soon lead to a steady deterioration of that section of wall as it progressively becomes an established shortcut for the sheep. In conjunction with the sheep, rabbit burrows also serve to undermine the walls, causing their eventual collapse. Two hundred plus years also takes its toll on any areas of less well-built walling.

Aside from damage caused by nature, it must also be highlighted that in recent times – the late 1980s/early 1990s – lighthouse keepers removed stone from sections of accessible walls in order to undertake track repairs. Other significant damage was caused to walls surrounding the 1968 lighthouse at the time of its construction. It is regrettable that adequate controls were not in place during this period to prevent these historic walls from being dismantled.

For all of the above reasons, continuous repair but also considerable rebuilding of walls has been an ever-present item on the Calf's annual work programme.

To reverse the decline of the Calf's walls, MNH has been extremely fortunate to have had two key people, David Fisher and Pat Griffiths, who have been unstinting in their efforts as volunteers in undertaking wall rebuilding and repairs over the past 25 years or so. Often spending several weeks on the Calf annually, David and Pat have worked very effectively as a pair but they have also led and schooled wardens, corporate groups and other volunteers in the art of dry-stone walling. Notable work undertaken over this period has included rebuilding of a challenging section of wall to the north of the Back Field behind the Observatory, attending to Fuchsia infested walling next to the Observatory and then the complete rebuilding of a lengthy section of missing walling to the south-west corner of the Sea Field, close to South Harbour. The latter has been especially helpful in terms of sheep management

In 2021, as Covid raged and travel away from the main island was restricted, David and Pat successfully ran two paid residential dry stone walling courses organised by MNH. The focus of the courses was the broken-down walling surrounding the 1818 Upper and Lower Lighthouses and the two groups made some meaningful progress so that in total, over the course of that year, in excess of 75 metres of walling was rebuilt. Following subsequent work, the pleasing result is that the majority of the walls in the Lighthouse complex have now been repaired or rebuilt as necessary.

Another very positive outcome from the courses was that Ned and Gillian Bowers, long-term stalwarts and visitors to the Calf, began undertaking walling repairs in their own right and during the intervening period, they have carried out excellent repair work to walling adjacent to the Smithy and to the Twin Field's roadside track.

The estate wardens have provided great support to the wall workers, since material has to be removed from the sacrificial wall, loaded into the tractor bucket and then transported to the work site, often some distance away, and so a time-consuming task to add to the estate warden's general workload. The skill with which wall repairs and rebuilding have been undertaken has meant that the repaired walls blend in seamlessly with the standing walls and

it is now very difficult to visualise the extent of broken-down walls that prevailed on the Calf prior to David and Pat's involvement.



*Wall on approach to Lower Lighthouse (June 2022)*



*Wall on approach to Lower Lighthouse – part completed (June 2022) and completed trackside wall to eastern boundary of lighthouse fields (June 2024)*



*End wall to approach to 1968 Lighthouse – before and after (May 2025)*



*Start of building trackside wall to eastern boundary of lighthouse fields (June 2024)*

## **Future Challenges**

**Material** - one of the key issues to be confronted is the availability of suitable material to undertake rebuilding or repairs. Often some material can be reclaimed from adjacent broken-down walls, but additional replacement material is normally required, especially where a complete rebuild is necessary. In the absence of the availability of any new quarried stone, the only solution has been to use sacrificial walls in poor condition to provide replacement material. The two main sacrificial walls that have been utilised are the next internal wall in from the south-western boundary of the Sea Field and the remnants of a wall leading from the 1968 lighthouse towards the bottom perimeter wall of the Upper Lighthouse.

For future walling work, as suitable material from the sacrificial wall is close to depletion, serious consideration should be given to trialling the chemical splitting of rock from a previously quarried area of the Calf close to the Observatory. This involves the use of calcium oxide (quick lime) to create an exothermic reaction, a process that compared to explosive blasting is environmentally friendly and unskilled labour can be readily trained to undertake this work.

**Skills** – the majority of the walling work is currently undertaken by older volunteers and so that the momentum of repair and maintenance that has been established over the past two decades can be continued, ideally proactive recruitment from a younger generation is required so that walling skills can be passed on. After the successful 2021 courses, subsequent attempts to run courses failed to generate sufficient interest and so perhaps a different approach to pricing of the courses is required.

**Tractor** – the Calf's Pasquali tractor is an essential item of equipment to facilitate walling – but it is also critical for many other work activities/haulage on the Calf. The tractor is now over 20 years old and it is showing its age and becoming less reliable. Ideally, a replacement vehicle should be factored into a budget in the near term.

Shaun Murphy



*Calf of Man dry stone walling course – June 2021*

*L to R: Gillian Bowers, David Fisher, Steven Crowe, Pat Griffiths, Ned Bowers*

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# Photographic Credits

**Front Cover:**

- Little Egret - Andrew Jacobs

**Warden’s Report:**

- All photos - Chloe Hurst

**Recoveries and Controls:**

- Great Black-backed Gull - Mike Barth
- Stonechat - Stuart Martinez
- Chough - Unknown

**Moth Report:**

- All photos - Mike Haigh

**All other photos credited where displayed.**





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