

Calf of Man Bird Observatory



Annual Report **2025**



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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 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 36 species breeding annually and being located on one of western Britain's major migration routes. Breeding seabirds include Manx Shearwater, Fulmar, Razorbill, Guillemot, 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 65 'new' species to the Isle of Man bird list, with two new species for the British Isles discovered amongst the 289 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 (MWT) 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 2025, 314,101 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 always 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. These regulations are made in the best interests of preserving those aspects of the Calf of Man which we all treasure and enjoy.

Help us maintain this beautiful environment by observing the following:

- Visitors must keep to paths and tracks.
- 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/or 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 always have access to the harbours.
- No fishing from 1st April to 31st July.
- Visitors must leave no litter.
- 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 its properties. Furthermore, smoking and vaping are prohibited across the entirety of the Calf of Man.

Staying on the Calf of Man

Visitor accommodation is available in the Observatory during the summer season, normally, from June until the 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 overnight visitors must pre-book accommodation through Island Escapes.

Web: [Calf of Man Bird Observatory - Island Escapes](#)

Tel: 01624 830200

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

For more information, please contact:

- Steve Clague – Port St Mary Boat Excursions (Scraayl)
Tel: (07624) 490615
- Chris Burton & Jason Fleming – Shona Boat Trips
email: shonaboattrips@manx.net
Tel: (07624) 322765 or (07624) 480682
- Tom Keggen – Isle of Man Dive Charters
Tel: (07624) 209807

CALF OF MAN

BIRD OBSERVATORY REPORT 2025

Ornithological Warden

Eleanor Grover

Estate Warden

Kate Fox

Volunteer Assistant Wardens

Dominic Arkell, Ed Betteridge & Matthew Livsey

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Ornithological Warden's Summary Report

The season started on the Isle of Man in early March, with the new wardens – Ed Betteridge (Assistant Ornithological Warden), Kate Fox (Estate Warden) and Dominic Arkell (Assistant Estate Warden) – and I prepping for the season ahead with paperwork and training. With a killer combination of weather delaying the boat and a few too many ciders, the tone was set for a fun-filled season ahead!



The Calf Team 2025, left to right: Dominic Arkell, Kate Fox, Edward Betteridge and Eleanor Grover. ©Lara Howe

Our first full day on the island spoke of a promising spring; with the first March record of Red Kite and the earliest records of Sand Martin and Wheatear. The rest of spring did not disappoint with good numbers of migrants passing through. There was also an interesting variety, the highlight of which was a Red-rumped Swallow found by Ed on 13th May. Although not as “wow factor” rare, it was also pleasing to have a good run of some scarcer migrants, notably Whinchat, Black Redstart and Ring Ouzel.

From April to June, we welcomed our spring volunteers. We had three dedicated volunteer roles this spring: mapping Rock Pipit territories, searching for nesting Eiders and continuing the Manx Shearwater callback study. Elizabeth Jackson (1st to 29th April) did an amazing job surveying the Rock Pipits, mapping the territories and finding a record number of pairs. She was assisted in this by shorter-term volunteers Lola Donnelly and Tony Corscadden. Ann Playford returned for her third year of two weeks of ringing and assisted Rebecca Cheape, who assumed the mantle of Eider volunteer. Finally, Liam Northfield and Kevin Hand completed the three-week Manx Shearwater callback survey.



*Left: Dom setting up the rope kit for assisting in walking to a Raven nest ©Kate Fox.
Right: Ed and Kate after ringing a Hooded Crow chick.*

As we said goodbye to our last volunteers of the spring/summer, the breeding season was already well underway. The dry spring resulted in many species having a bumper year – with five species setting records for highest numbers of breeding pairs. It was pleasing to see that Shags did better than in recent years (both in terms of number of pairs and productivity) – and indeed, as usual, some of my favourite memories of the season come from scrambling about in the colonies. As a product of this, 2025 saw us break the record for the highest number of adult Shags ringed in a single year. Another elusive brood of Rock Pipits was ringed this year, and whilst still far off historic numbers, Herring Gulls also produced a bumper crop of chicks. The biggest surprise of the summer was a breeding-plumage Laughing Gull found by Ed on 2nd July!

Our best efforts at surveying Meadow Pipits yielded a record number of pairs – highlighting the need for a dedicated survey next year. We also struggled to find any of the Buzzard nests – again, next year! The numbers of Black Guillemots around the island (including young birds) encouraged us to believe that this species may increase in breeding numbers soon. Similarly, Cormorants continue to increase, and a single individual was seen flying along the west coast carrying nesting material. Perhaps most optimistically, the number of Puffins sighted on land this year was especially encouraging, although no pairs were suspected to be breeding yet.

Come the autumn, we welcomed our amazing volunteers Maia Jones (September) and Ellen Bielinski (October) to assist with migration monitoring. As per the “norm” of recent years, the autumnal weather was windier and more unsettled than ideal. Despite the great autumn the rest of the British Isles were experiencing, movement was a little stilted on the Calf – with all the birds saving up and then migrating all at once in a massive rush whenever a calm spell appeared.

The early autumn saw large numbers of Goldfinches and Linnets – attracted to the Marsh Thistle that flowered in abundance this year. After their disappearance, migration continued at a steady trickle. Some rougher spells made for some enjoyable seawatching, notably Storm Amy resulted in some of the best seawatching that I have experienced on the Calf. After the storm, a week of flat calm made for a hectic week as migrants rushed through. In this period, the Calf’s first ever Cetti’s Warbler was caught. The rest of the autumn was sadly quieter. After an absence of a year, Treecreeper and Coal Tit returned to the Calf (the latter in an influx). Long-tailed Tits also experienced an influx year, and it always made me smile to be able to go outside and eat breakfast to the soundtrack of their high, piping calls.



Autumn ringing @Kate Fox

Throughout the year, maintenance and repair of our various traps and rides went ahead. To start the season, the funnel had fallen out of the Crow Trap. Both Heligoland traps received extensive repair to the mesh, wooden supports and both catching boxes were replaced. The boardwalk at the withies received ad hoc TLC as needed and the boardwalks at the observatory were extended – including using some very inventive methods of logs and tree stumps! Estate volunteer Dylan did a great job of topping some of the trees out back, and fuchsia management was a constant job. All cage traps were deployed successfully throughout the season – with Ed catching many adult gulls in the spring, and the traps being redeployed for large raptors in the autumn. To finish the season, the catching box to the Meadow Pipit trap fell to pieces with just days to spare – a task for next year!



*Top left: Crow Trap repairs
©Kate Fox.*

*Top right: New catching
box for Heligoland Trap
Two ©Ellen Bielinski.*

*Bottom left: Heligoland
Trap repairs ©Kate Fox.*

All in all, it's been an amazing year. Great birds, and just as importantly, a super team. I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who was involved (both on and off the Calf) in making this year as enjoyable as it was.

Estate Warden's Report

The 2025 Calf of Man Warden Team comprised of Eleanor Grover (Ornithological Warden), Edward Betteridge (Assistant Ornithological Warden), Dominic Arkell (Assistant Estate Warden) and myself (Estate Warden). We started with the Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) on Monday 3rd March for our induction, with us all being new to the roles aside from Eleanor who was returning for her fourth season, and her first full season as the Ornithological Warden after taking on the role the previous autumn. Our arrival on the Calf was delayed due to storms, but a weather window enabled us to travel to the Calf on Friday 7th March. We were joined by Shaun Murphy, Lara Howe and Mike Haigh on the boat. Lara stayed for a few days to help clean and get the Observatory habitable while the Ornithology Team set up the ringing sites and the Estate Team were shown the ropes by Mike, who was over for two weeks. Mike gave Dom and I a crash course in how to run the Calf, with an overview of water and power systems, vehicle and implement training, and an introduction into the general admin tasks (e.g. guest bookings, supply requests). Ed was with us until 6th July, when he left for a full-time paid opportunity to run a ringing site down in Dorset. Matthew Livsey joined the Calf Team on 5th August to fill the Assistant Ornithological position. The season ended on Saturday 8th November when the Warden Team closed the Observatory for the winter and left the Calf.

We were pleased with the progress we made on many projects this season, despite several challenges relating to vehicles, staff changes and wider resources. We were sad to say goodbye to Shaun Murphy as one of the Calf managers when he retired in the spring after decades of supporting the Calf in his role at Manx National Heritage (MNH). Following his retirement, Lara took on a larger role in supporting the Calf Team while MNH filled this position. Since, Chris Bridson has taken on part of this responsibility, organising of many projects from the MNH side.



Left: The Calf team in Port St Mary at the start of the season. Right: The Calf team preparing to leave at the end of the season. ©Mike Haigh

There are many people I would like to thank for helping to make this season a success. Firstly, to all our amazing volunteers who assisted us with projects and general jobs throughout the season. I would also like to thank David Fisher, Pat Griffiths, and Gillian and Ned Bowers for all their hard work on the endless task of skilfully restoring the Calf's drystone walls this season and for the many years prior. We are also grateful for the help of James Mylchreest and John Collister for all their time servicing and repairing our vehicles and generators, without which we'd be scuppered! Big thanks too to Geoff Mitchell and Howard Ozbourne ('Oz') for sharing their expertise on a range of technical jobs around the Calf, and to Mike Haigh for all his help and advice from start to finish – a man of many talents which we were very lucky to benefit from!

Being on an island, we would get nowhere (quite literally) without our amazing boatman Steve Clague and his trusty crewman Quentin. The duo was a massive help throughout the season, taking us out for our seabird monitoring trips, transporting personnel, and the mammoth task of running the supply boats and shifting materials (of all kinds, from fridge-freezers to sheep!). I very much enjoyed seeing their friendly faces and our quayside chats.

We were also lucky to have a brilliant support team back on the main island. Thank you also to our supervisors Lara Howe and David Bellamy at MWT. Also, to Chris Bridson, Matt Dawson, and the rest of the team at MNH. A special mention is due to Shaun Murphy for his many decades of dedicated service to the Calf Wardens, we wish him a lovely and well-deserved retirement! I would also like to thank Tim Earl for kindly accommodating and transporting volunteers either side of their Calf adventures, the DOI Dive Team for ferrying us over to Kitterland for our biosecurity and breeding bird monitoring, and finally the teams at Tesco in Douglas and Port Erin for organising our weekly food shops.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as Estate Warden this year, getting to know the Calf and its characters, learning new skills (many of which I never thought I'd need!), and working alongside a brilliant team. I hope I have done the island justice and wish the Calf Team good luck with the future. Thank you all for a brilliant season!

Volunteers

We had a brilliant team of volunteers throughout this season. On the Estate Team, we were joined by Matt and Cathy Prescott in May - who were over from Australia to help out for three weeks.

With September came our first autumn volunteers: our Seal volunteers Alex Leaver and Bea O'Neil who were out until the end of the season. For the latter half of September, the Estate Team were joined by Phil Corlett for two weeks, and in October we also welcomed Dylan Donnelly for four weeks as part of his university placement year. We were also joined by Alison Roberts, an intern at Manx Wildlife Trust, for a week in late October.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time to help us on the Calf this season. It really wouldn't have been possible without you!

Storm damage

During the winter of 2024/25 the Calf was exposed to some of the most severe storms the west coast of Britain has experienced in recent years. This caused significant damage to much of the Calf infrastructure.



Clockwise from top-left: damage to foghorn building, the Cow store roof, Cow Harbour jetty, and the ruined front gate. ©Kate Fox

The worst affected areas included:

- Cow Harbour: store door blown out of the frame leading to the eastern facing roof to be destroyed, hide roof damaged, and a big chunk of the slipway washed away.
- Foghorn building outer wall collapsed.
- Lost roof tiles – Observatory outbuildings, Janes House, NLB store.
- Window boards blown out at Upper and Lower Lighthouse.

- Interior wall lath and plaster on Lower Lighthouse stairwell fallen onto stairs (resulting from weather ingress due to lost window board opposite).
- Solar panels lost from Middle Lighthouse roof.
- Trees down at Observatory – behind generator barn and tractor barn.
- Observatory front gate destroyed, and other gates and fences broken around the Observatory area.
- Large amounts of shingle washed into South Harbour, including chunks of concrete from outer harbour wall.
- Fallen trees in the Observatory area, including one Sycamore narrowly missing the Tractor Barn roof and three Sycamores behind the Generator Barn.

Building and infrastructure maintenance

Much of the building maintenance that took place this season focused on repairs following the winter storm damage. At Cow Harbour, Mike Haigh reinstated the doorframe of the store, and Dom and I tidied up the fallen roof material, moving the intact slates into the store and stacking up the fallen roof slats. As the roof is unstable, we also roped off the perimeter of the store to visitors to prevent injury from falling slates. We have also repaired the roof of the hide at Cow as the plywood had rotten through.

We replaced the lost window boards at the Upper and Lower Lighthouses to keep them secure from visitors and weather, and Geoff Mitchell replaced the solar panels on the roof of the Middle Lighthouse. Dom also painted the older window boards on the Upper Lighthouse green in keeping with the Lower Lighthouse to smarten it up and help the wood last longer against the elements.

Around the Observatory, at the start of the season Mike Haigh replaced lost roof tiles on the outbuildings. Ahead of the guest season, we deep cleaned and redecorated the guest side. Thanks to the work Chloe and Mike put into

decorating last season, only a few rooms needed touching up (Fulmar, Chough, the porch and parts of the lounge), and we also painted the whole floor downstairs on the guest side. On arrival in the spring, we also found the wall above the door in the guest porch was very damp, which we suspected was due to holes in the wall where the outside emergency light connects, so we sealed these with all-weather sealant. During the guest season we had to make some emergency repairs to the hob in the guest kitchen when the burners collapsed leading to carbon monoxide being produced. Gillian and Ned Bowers were out at the time and kindly took on the challenge of drilling out the old screws and bolting them back up.

We also gave some of the wider infrastructure attention, repairing broken fences and gateways, re-erecting the fire beater support post at Spaghetti Junction, and giving the very weathered lower Sea Field gate a lick of paint. We also took down the old hide at the Withy as it had fallen into disrepair.



Dom repairing a broken section of fence. ©Kate Fox



The old Withy hide before (left) and after (right). ©Kate Fox

There are still some issues which we are unable to resolve owing to lack of time, resources or expertise which will require attention in the future. Firstly, the old tractor barn roof lintel has continued to rot and collapse, and some slates have been lost. It has held up with the props that James Mylchreest and John Collister put in place in a previous year, however this is not a permanent solution and will require significant work to restore it. It's also worth noting that the old Fordson tractor and other heritage agricultural tools are still stored in there and falling into worse states of repair. The roofs of the NLB store and Jane's House also require attention due to lost slates in winter storms, as does Cow Store for which half of the building needs re-roofing. We also did not have time to clear up the debris on the stairs of the Lower Lighthouse.

Other building faults include a leak in the workshop roof, leading to water seeping down the wall between the workshop and guest side. It is presumed that this is because of cracks in the mortar between the slates and wall on the outside. The tractor barn floor also needs drainage options assessed as water ingress is still an issue. The exterior ground drain surrounding the building installed last year is collecting some of this and easing the flow, and we have kept this clear of debris during the season, however it has not solved the problem. Inside the Observatory, the door between the guest side and main hallway needs a door closing device fitted for fire safety.

Generators

The MUA generator had been left running on auto throughout the winter. On arrival, we discovered an issue when we attempted to switch it back to manual operation, with no power being sent to the battery bank. This left us with only one generator, the Mitsubishi ('Mitsi'), and the MUA had to be sent off to be checked. This relied on the crane being re-erected and load tested, and the brakes on the trailer to be serviced as they had ceased from it being in one place for almost two years. Geoff, Shaun and Chris disconnected the generator and serviced the brakes in April, and it was eventually sent off in late-May.

Owing to this, the team relied entirely on the Mitsi, without a back-up, for most of the season. Inevitably, the issue grew more urgent when the Mitsi's alternator failed on the evening of 27th September, and the team had to act fast to arrange for the return of the MUA. Thankfully this occurred during a calm weather spell, allowing the MUA to be returned on Monday 29th September.

At the end of the season, we are back running on the MUA generator, with the Mitsi as a back-up, although this needs to be serviced and the alternator looked at and potentially replaced. Both generators have been left with full fuel tanks, and the MUA has been set to 'auto' to keep the batteries charged over the winter.

Housing the MUA in the generator barn must be a priority over the winter, or at the very latest at the start of next season. Space has been cleared for it to go in, so it is now a case of getting it into the building, wired up and the exhaust plumbed in.

We also discovered near the end of the season that the small portable Honda generator had a corroded throttle spring, meaning that also wasn't producing power. A new spring will be needed for next season as it is the portable power source.

Vehicles

A seemingly recurring theme on the Calf each season is vehicle trouble, and this year was no exception. On arrival, there were issues starting the Polaris so we were down to one vehicle for the first few days. A combination of cleaning the battery connection, using the power pack starter and some strong perseverance eventually got it running.

Due to lost wheel bolts, presumably as they had worked loose, the rear-left tractor wheel fell off on 5th April. Fortunately, no one was injured, but the bolt holes needed re-threading and bolts replacing, which Geoff Mitchell lent his

expertise to when on island a few days later. Vehicle trouble continued when the Polaris starter motor failed on 11th April, leaving us with just one vehicle until 19th May. In early June, the Polaris started having issues with the throttle sticking on, and when James and John came to look at it at the start of July it was officially written off over safety concerns about the steering. This was a real blow, particularly during the guest season when the tractor and trailer were required to move guest luggage several times a week, putting us behind on many jobs which required a vehicle (the flail or bucket, or just transporting tools or materials).

At the start of the season Manx National Heritage confirmed they had had funding approved for a replacement ATV, and I created a comparison table of suggested options to help them make their decision. A temporary replacement ATV, a Kawasaki Viking, was sent over on 12th August to be used for the remainder of the season. We were very grateful to Chris Bridson for arranging this, as it put us back up to two vehicles enabling us to play catch up on some jobs.

It was then relatively smooth sailing until the 29th September, when the clutch cable on the tractor snapped as we went to tow the MUA generator off the slipway. Thankfully, we could still start the vehicle and force it into a low gear to creep the generator up to the Observatory. However, it was not safe to drive so this took the tractor out of action for over two weeks, until a new clutch cable was delivered and Mike Haigh and Ned Bowers replaced it – a very fiddly job that they did well to complete!

We are very grateful for all the time James Mylchreest and John Collister have put into servicing and repairing our vehicles this season, they have certainly been kept busy! They have strongly advised that the tractor comes off for a full service over the winter to deal with some of the major issues. These include leaks in the hydraulic system and steering column, issues starting the vehicle (suspected the starter motor or stop solenoid), reattaching the front right mudguard which needs re-welding, and adjusting the clutch cable when

the tractor is split to allow better access. I also suggest that MNH consider sourcing a spare tractor wheel, as the Calf is without one meaning that a serious puncture would take it out of use, especially given how heavily the team rely on the vehicle for their work, and that it already has a slow puncture and perishing tyres.

The Viking and Polaris also need to return to the main island, although note that care must be taken getting the Polaris down the slipway with the throttle issue, as once it is on and in gear it will pull itself. Running it down in neutral using the brakes may be the best method, and then using the engine only to drive it up onto the crane section may be the safest option.

Water supply and new water tanks

Owing to an extremely dry spring come mid-May our rainwater tanks were worryingly low, so we enlisted the help of Geoff and Oz to service our well water pump. We switched to the well system which bought us time until the heavens finally opened again in late-May. This highlights the need for expanding our water storage capacity, and we were pleased to see progress made on this during the season.

Following a proposal from Mike Haigh in 2024, MNH sourced new water tanks to replace the old oil tanks currently in use and increase the water storage capacity at the Observatory. Throughout the season, Chris Bridson arranged for the delivery of six new water tanks: three 3000L tanks to collect water off of the north-facing Observatory roof, to sit behind the workshop, one 5000L tank to replace the old oil tanks outside the front of the Observatory, and two more 3000L tanks to store water from the old oil tanks while the new 5000L tank is replaced. Before the new rear tanks can be installed, a supporting base must be created to even out the weight and ensure that it does not impact the rear-drain retaining wall – a project that Chris Bridson is overseeing. The Manx Utilities Agency have also offered their assistance in plumbing these in, as well as clearing out the hill well and dealing with a blockage in the pipe.

In late summer we replaced the IBC that sits behind the Generator Barn as it had sprung a leak. We also took receipt of a new, very large non-potable water tank which was donated from a farm on the main island. We did not have time to repair it or get it plumbed in before the end of the season, but a suitable place for it could be on the hard standing in the corner of the courtyard by the Water Barn to collect water off the roof of that building.



*The Scraayl
bringing in
new water
tanks
©Kate Fox.*

Quay repairs and further damage

No work was carried out on the South Harbour Quay repairs this season, due to a culmination of factors. However, in preparation for when this can resume, we received deliveries of aggregate. To aid unloading the material and shovelling when the time comes to use it, and prevent unsightly dumpsy bags being strewn across the harbour area only to degrade in the harsh weather, we constructed two bunds next to the NLB Store for the material to be stored in, based on an idea from Steve Clague. The dumpsy bags were lifted over the trailer and cut to release the material into the trailer, which could then be shovelled into the bund. It worked a treat! The condition of the slipway and quay at South Harbour has continued to degrade throughout the season, with chunks of concrete breaking off with each spring tide and powerful storm, and cracks worsening suggesting that sections are pulling apart. This should be considered a priority for next season before it becomes unsafe and unusable.



The new bunds at South Harbour. ©Kate Fox

After the damage from the winter storms destroying the upper section of the slipway at Cow Harbour, a Notice to Mariners was released officially closing Cow Harbour to passengers. As a result, only a few landings took place, all with prior approval from Manx National Heritage, and all only when conditions prevented using South Harbour. These included delivery of supplies with Scraayl, Kirree Varrey collecting overnight guests in exceptional circumstances, and for biosecurity trips to Kitterland with the DOI Harbour Dive Team. The team continued to routinely clean the slipway throughout the season in case of emergency use. The condition of the slipway has worsened throughout the season, with further chunks of concrete lost. The main section of the slipway is also majorly undercut and tapping on it reveals that it must be hollow underneath, so it is at a major risk of deteriorating further over forthcoming winter. This will require significant work to repair, with the added complication of most of the slipway being covered at high tide.

Guest season

The guest season officially began at the start of June, however bad weather and illness meant that we did not welcome our first guest until Monday 9th. June was relatively quiet, with the Observatory rarely full. However, it got busier into July and August, presumably in part because of school holidays. Overall, the guest season went very well with many happy visitors and some lovely comments in the guest book. Our final guests left on Tuesday 2nd September.

Wildlife monitoring and highlights

Our non-avian monitoring continued this year – for further details, see the [Non-avian Report](#), the [Butterfly Report](#), the [Moth Report](#) and the [Longtail Report](#).

The moth traps were put out regularly, most often using the mercury vapour bulb with the Robinson trap. Of note, we had several firsts for the Calf. The most exciting of these was the Clifden Nonpareil on 18th August, and the first confirmed record of Oleander Hawk-moth for the Isle of Man on 14th October. We continued our weekly butterfly transects for the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKMBS), and recorded ad-hoc records in our non-avian log. As around much of Britain, this year was exceptionally good for Clouded Yellow butterflies in the late summer and early autumn.



Left: Clifden Nonpareil. Right: Oleander Hawkmoth. ©Kate Fox

We did trial weekly Common Lizard surveys using refugia placed along a transect, however this proved to be an ineffective method owing to the extent of suitable habitat around, so the decision was made to discontinue this. We did still record any Common Lizard sightings in the non-avian log. The Estate Team also assisted the Ornithology Team during the busiest times in the breeding and migration seasons, helping with seabird monitoring boat trips, gull nest counts and chick ringing, and bird ringing on the busiest mornings during the autumn when it was all hands-on deck.

One of the biggest non-avian highlights for the team this season was four records of Basking Shark seen off the coast, with one recorded on 18th May, three on 20th May, two on 23rd May and one on 3rd June. A first for many of us and an increasingly scarce sight off the Isle of Man, we were all very excited to see these gentle giants drift past the Calf!



Basking Shark watching at South Harbour. ©Kate Fox

This season also saw the record for the most Grey Seal pups born on the Calf broken for a second year in a row thanks to help from the thermal drone, with 111 pups recorded (92 confirmed to be born on the Calf).

Bracken and heather management

Many hours were spent on the tractor carrying out bracken control this season, largely undertaken by Dom. This season's bracken and heather control was held up by the vehicle issues experienced this season, with the tractor being required for other tasks such as transporting guest luggage and tools. As a result, we had to prioritise certain areas, such as the footpaths and firebreaks, Back Field and Twin Fields. Therefore, areas which progress had been made on in recent years, such as the Withy Fields and Sea Field were sadly not touched.



Flailing in action. ©Kate Fox

In the Twin Fields we trialled using a combination of the bracken bruiser and flail as bruising is considered to be a more effecting method of control. Bruising commenced bruising in mid-June when the fronds had almost fully opened. The upper field was bruised once and then flailed, and the lower field was bruised twice and then flailed. The bruising seemed to be effective where the fronds were taller than the length of the gap between the bars on the bruiser, killing off much of the bracken fronds after the first hit. However, this method was also tested in the Back Field but after years of cutting it is now at the stage where the fronds are only a few inches tall, so the flail is best there.

The Back Field and Twin Fields would benefit from more flailing of the heather, as time did not allow us to do a big hit of the heather in these areas, and it noticeably sprouted up in the autumn.

An overview of the work completed is illustrated in the map overleaf.



Annotated map illustrating the bracken and heather management on the Calf of Man in 2025. ©Kate Fox

Millpond clearance

The Millpond was drained in early September to allow for the team to begin clearing the Water Horsetail. Due to other projects, including the new sluice gate, no clearing had been done in 2024, so the pond was very choked up. During several long, muddy days over the next two months we managed to clear over half of the pond of horsetail, dumping the material on the bank in front of the hide. The best method we found was using small pruning saws to cut chunks out of the root bed and passing them to the person on the bank so they could hook them out with a ditching fork and wheelbarrow them up to the dumping area. It was a real team effort, with all volunteers chipping in, and we also had the help from Lara and the corporate group 'Mayfly', an e-

gaming company, for a day. We completed our work on this and closed the sluice on 13th October allowing the water level to rise. We were pleased to see that within 24 hours the ducks had found it, with Mallards and Teal on the water the next day!

The new sluice is working well, although we found that lowering it again requires hitting it on the top of the main shaft with a sledgehammer to tap it back down. Unfortunately, despite attempts to block it last season there is still a significant leak in the bank of the Millpond, just west of the sluice.



Top row: the Millpond before (left) and after (right) clearing. Bottom row: horsetail clearance in action, with corporates from Mayfly on the left. ©Kate Fox

Tree clearance and pollarding

One of the big projects in the autumn was clearing the fallen Sycamores behind the generator barn. Mike and Lara made a head start on this at the beginning of the season, as well as clearing the fallen tree that narrowly missed the tractor barn. We were very lucky to have Dylan Donnelly, an

experienced tree surgeon, join us in October as an Estate volunteer as part of his university placement. He kindly brought his chainsaw kit with him, and over several days (once the risk assessments were approved by MWT and MNH) cleared the fallen trees and logged up the material to be stored and dried for use on the wood burners in future years. He also logged up the older logs that had been drying in one of the outbuildings, allowing us to split them and store them in the log store ready to be used. This also cleared space for the new logs to be stored and gave access to the other items that kept in there. In the strong winds of late October, one of the conifers in the back garden also fell. Perfect timing, as a calm weather window the following day enabled Dylan and Matt to clear this in a matter of hours. Several of the trees in the back garden were also pollarded to bring the height down and improve the area for mist netting.

Dylan also felled the smaller of the two trees close to the rear of the generator barn which was at risk of falling on the barn now that the shelter from the larger Sycamores is gone. This was following the approval of the Tree Felling Licence from DEFA applied for by David Bellamy, incorporating several trees around the Observatory which pose a risk to the buildings. This licence expires on 15th October 2026.

We burned as much of the brash as the weather windows allowed and have left the remainder in a deadwood pile with some larger logs to create additional habitat.



Tree pruning and logging. ©Kate Fox



One of the fallen sycamore before (left) and after (right) logging. ©Kate Fox

Observatory garden and other vegetation control

As well as the tree work, we gave some attention to other areas of the Observatory garden. In the spring, we pruned back the Buddleias in the front courtyard, which came to fruition in the summer when they were absolutely teeming with butterflies. We also planted four new fruit trees kindly donated by the Manx Ornithological Society – two apple and two pear – which are doing well in the shelter of the back garden. The Estate Team also assisted the Ornithology Team throughout the season by keeping the net rides cut back at the Observatory and the Withies.

We also put effort into the allotment, prepping the ground in the first few weeks and digging in compost from the compost heap. With the help of Steve Wright who visited in April, we planted an array of vegetables and transplanted the first seedlings later in the spring. We had a bountiful harvest, with the most successful crops included potatoes, courgettes, lettuce, peas, tomatoes, spring onions and radishes, which we very much enjoyed!



Left: Dom after planting our new fruit trees. Right: the allotment. ©Kate Fox

We have also carried out some invasive vegetation control in line with the Calf Biosecurity Plan written by Mike Haigh. This has involved digging up Daffodils from areas away from the Observatory to prevent their spread – largely around the Lower and Middle Lighthouses – and removing clumps of Pendulous Sedge from around the Observatory gardens and near HG1. The Daffodil bulbs were dumped in the north-west corner of the back garden under other vegetation, and the sedge that could not be burnt was dumped in the pit created from one of the fallen sycamores behind the generator barn. We removed the roots as best we could, but this will probably take several years of clearing to finally remove all of it from the focal areas (front courtyard, plantation, HG1).

Track repairs

Some work was carried out to repair the worst potholes in the main track, predominately leading up to (from the Observatory direction) and between the Twin Fields, above the Puddle and near Heligoland 1. We took advantage of the bulk of shingle that had washed into South Harbour in the winter storms, and in the first week utilised the additional manpower of Mike and Lara to load bucketfuls into the trailer at low tide to be spread on the tracks.

Later in the season, when the crane was in place and the idea had popped into my head, we refined the method, filling a tonne dumpy bag in the base of the harbour and craning it into the trailer. This allowed us to collect around three tonnes of material for track repairs over two sessions. Unfortunately, this idea came a bit too late, and the windy weather and pupping seals soon put a stop to this, but I would recommend it for future years.



Using the crane to lift a dumpy bag filled with shingle. ©Kate Fox

Drystone walling

We were grateful to welcome back our expert drystone wallers David Fisher, Pat Griffiths, and Gillian and Ned Bowers this season to continue their work restoring the drystone walls around the Calf, an important part of the island's heritage.

David and Pat visited four times, in mid-May, early June, late September and mid-October. They completed the end pillar to the wall as you approach the Middle Lighthouse (leading up to the Upper Lighthouse), repaired a section of wall along the track bordering the Lighthouse Fields which collapsed mid-season, and completed the wall below the Lower Lighthouse which had two large gaps in it.



David Fisher and Pat Griffiths drystone walling at the Lighthouses. ©Kate Fox

Gillian and Ned also made four trips to the Calf, in mid-May, mid-June, early August (for their annual holiday) and in mid-October. They continued their work on the section of wall along the Twin Fields track and made great progress.



Gillian and Ned Bowers drystone walling in the Twin Fields. ©Kate Fox

Dom and I did our best to keep up with the supply demands, with many hours spent shifting stone from the sacrificial wall to the worksites, getting a head start and moving some of the best stone from the top section early in the season to avoid disturbing the breeding gulls as the spring progressed. We also enjoyed working with Pat and Dave on the section at the Lower Lighthouse, getting a crash course in the art of drystone walling!

Sheep

No sheep were taken off the Calf in 2024, meaning that there was a higher than recommended density of Loaghtans at the start of this season. The first lambs appeared within the first few weeks of the season, with no obvious signs of illness or injury among the flock. We began collecting the sheep into the fields in June following Jim Middleton's first visit of the season. The big round-up wasn't until late-August, in which we upped the numbers in the fields to just over 100, although around 50 were missed and remained living freely around the Calf owing to limited man-power and the sheepdog getting stuck on the slopes by Gibdale (requiring the rope kit to rescue him, which slowed progress). Jim returned to shear the flock and send some off on 23rd/24th September. Around 65 sheep were sent off (a mix of lambs, rams and ewes) and 45 remained, plus the 50 or so which we did not manage to round up.

Puffin project

The Puffin project continued this year, with decoys 'planted' at Kione ny Halby and below the Upper Lighthouse in early March. We also placed solar-powered speakers in these locations, with the Upper Lighthouse speaker a new addition built by Mike Howland. We also placed some new decoys on the eastern side of the Burroo Neck, although these were sent out later and were not planted until May. The decoys and speakers were packed away in early autumn to prevent damage from winter storms and inquisitive sheep.



Left: Puffin planting. Right: Puffin decoys in situ. ©Kate Fox

Manx Shearwater Webcam

The live Manx Shearwater camera was deployed again this year, this time at Kione ny Halby. This had three cameras: one looking ‘outside’ down the slope in the colony to capture the birds coming in at night, and two in custom-made nest boxes. Both boxes were occupied, one with a prospecting pair which remained for much of the spring and summer, and the other had a pair incubating an egg. Sadly, the egg was abandoned before it was ready to hatch, and so was not successful. Nevertheless, it was a very special insight into the lives of these enigmatic birds! This could be viewed on the Manx Wildlife Trust’s webcam page (www.mwt.im/webcams), thanks to support from Ramsey Crookall and 4G data connectivity provided by Manx Telecom.

We had several technical problems with the set-up throughout the season, with issues with the solar charger, inverter and antenna meaning that it was offline for some of the time. However, thanks to the help of Mike Howland we managed to get it up and running again so hopefully it will be smooth sailing next year.



Left: A shearwater box with nest cam. ©Kate Fox. Right: A pair of Manx Shearwater captured in the box by the live camera.

Social media

This season we posted news to our followers on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Bluesky](#). The latter was new for this season, with an account created in line with Manx Wildlife Trust’s decision to move away from posting on ‘X’

(formerly 'Twitter'). Facebook proved to be the most popular in terms of engagement with posts, but we know from speaking with volunteers that some came through Instagram having seen our posts and stories about volunteer positions.

Media coverage

After the episode of 'Guy Martin: Proper Job' featuring the Calf aired over the winter and put our little island in the spotlight, we had several media requests this season.

In late April, a film maker visited the Calf to do a piece for Visit Isle of Man on sustainable tourism, in which they interviewed Lara Howe and myself. We also played host to a film crew at the start of May for a short thriller directed by David Armstrong, starring Lucy Russel, John Rhys Davis, and Hisham Abdel Razek, mostly filming around the Lighthouses.

We were also involved in a couple of documentaries during the summer. The first was for a German television crew who visited in July for a segment on the Calf on a 60-minute special for the monthly programme "[Nordseereport](#)" on NDR television. I spoke to them about the Manx Shearwater Recovery Project, Longtail biosecurity monitoring, and general life on the island.

We welcomed another documentary crew in mid-August who were out to film for the Channel 4 series 'Our Tiny Islands'. They joined us for two days, filming Dom and I doing a range of activities to portray what it's like to be an Estate Warden on the Calf, such as shifting stone for the wallers and flailing bracken, taking down the old Withy hide, and getting an insight into other aspects of island life such as Dom fishing and us making a meal from the allotment produce.



Filming for 'Our Tiny Islands'. ©Kate Fox

We also welcomed journalists for written pieces about the Calf for the BBC and Country Life Magazine, and BBC Isle of Man took an interest in several of our social media posts leading to phone interviews and online articles about the Raven rescue, the Pink-footed Goose caught in the autumn, and the Oleander Hawk-moth.

Festival of the Sea

In mid-July I left the Calf to assist with the Manx Wildlife Trust's annual 'Festival of the Sea' in Port Erin. I had prepared some materials in the weeks leading up to the event, including some information sheets and activities about the Isle of Man's breeding seabirds, as well as



Kate and Mike running the Calf stand

some nature finds from around the Calf. Mike Haigh helped me run the Calf of Man stand, and we had a brilliant weekend speaking with members of the public about the Calf, our special seabirds and highlighting the new Marine Code of Conduct.

Other notable events

On 12th April we enjoyed hosting the Manx Ornithological Society (MOS), for a touching service and opening of a garden in memory of Anne Kaye – a wonderful woman who was strongly connected with Manx conservation efforts and who dearly held the Calf close to her heart. She will be missed by many, not least her daughters, Tina and Aly, who share Anne's love of the Calf. Several fruit trees have been donated by the MOS and planted by the Estate Team in Anne's memory, which shall, it is hoped, one day provide both habitat and foraging opportunities for native species, and fruit for future Wardens.



Tree planting in memory of Anne Kaye ©Mike Radcliffe

After their original trip in the spring was postponed due to the weather, we were pleased to welcome His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Lady Lorimer for a one-night stay in mid-June. They very kindly brought food with them for a delicious group meal with the Calf Team and the two other guests who were staying at the time. The following morning before they departed, Lady Lorimer enjoyed a session carrying out the daily the callback survey with volunteer Liam, hearing some real-life Manx Shearwaters!

On 16th June, we played host to a group as part of a guided wildlife holiday run by the Manx Wildlife Trust. With the help of Mike Haigh, we gave them a guided tour of the island, speaking about the conservation work we carry out. As part of this we brought them up to the Observatory, showing them bird ringing and going through the previous night's moth trap catch. The feedback was very positive, with several people saying it was a highlight of the week!

On 2nd November as things were starting to wind down, Eleanor and Dom gave a talk over zoom for Manx BirdLife's 'Celebrating Manx Birds 2025' event. The talk gave an overview of the Ornithological work on the Calf, interesting findings and trends, and the Manx Shearwater Recovery Project.

Monthly Summaries

January & February

A daytrip on January 20th revealed 13 Curlew, 32 Turnstone, 20 Redwing and a Fieldfare, with Fulmars present on ledges.

More camera traps were deployed overwinter than in previous years, revealing that Water Rail, Woodcock, Sparrowhawk, Song Thrush and Dunnock had overwintered (as well as the usual species). Grey Herons were recorded on 18th & 30th January and 15th, 16th & 21st February. A single Teal was recorded on 21st – 22nd February.

A total of 28 species were recorded in the two months.

March

Weather: Starting with moderate northeast winds, swinging to northerly from 14th – 16th, then back to east again from 17th – 22nd. A strong northerly on 23rd decreased gradually, before on 26th swinging to the southerly quadrant until the end of the month.

Mostly sunny – the driest March since 1953.

Camera traps revealed a female Teal on 3rd. The season proper began on 7th, with a Woodcock flushed, 43 Fulmar on ledges and a Fieldfare at the Observatory. A Shelduck pair were at the Dub on 8th, with two female Teal on the Millpond. The first March record of **Red Kite** flew north over the Observatory, with the earliest records of **Sand Martin** and **Wheatear** also recorded. Additionally, 200 Meadow Pipit and a **Greenfinch** were seen. On 9th, a **Whimbrel** was with five Curlew – whilst raptors included eight Buzzard, a female Merlin and a Peregrine. Two **Rook** flew over, a Skylark was present and a **Reed Bunting** was heard. A Woodpigeon and a Lesser Redpoll were new in on 10th; while on 11th Rarick had four **Purple Sandpiper** mixed with 15 Turnstone, and four **Great Tit** and a **Grey Wagtail** were recorded. Gulls were the main sight on 12th with an immature **Common Gull** along the north coast and counts of 913 Herring and 170 Great Black-backed Gulls in the colonies.

A **Greylag Goose** flew over on 13th, whilst grounded migrants included three Chiffchaff and three Goldcrest. A Redwing was the highlight of 14th, whilst on 15th 19 Turnstone and 59 Purple Sandpiper were scattered along the coast. A Grey Heron flew through the sound, Buzzards were displaying, and singles of Peregrine and **Magpie** were seen. 16th saw the highest day-count of **Whooper Swan** (22) flying west over the Lighthouses, with a **Jack Snipe** and two Snipe recorded overnight. Razorbills numbered 358 and a **Twite** flew over Gibdale. The next couple of days were quiet, with two Merlin (17th) and two Rook (18th) the highlights. Herring Gull rose to 921 on 19th, with other high counts of 227 Great and 85 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. A Greenfinch and two Lesser Redpoll were heard, and a Twite flew over the Withies.



A flock of 22 Whooper Swans passing overhead ©Ed Betteridge

Overnight on 20th saw two Teal, a Jack Snipe and the first **Manx Shearwater** ashore. Around the Observatory were a Skylark, six each Chiffchaff and Goldcrest, and 19 Starling. A small influx of thrushes included four Song Thrush, a Redwing and 11 Blackbird, with a **Black Redstart** briefly over the Observatory. A **Collared Dove** was new in on 21st, with warblers increasing: a **Willow Warbler**, ten Chiffchaff and two male **Blackcap**. Robins numbered 16 and 188 Meadow Pipit were counted. On 22nd, a **Golden Plover** flew over the Glen, two Jack Snipe and 13 Snipe were seen overnight, and five **Black-headed Gull** flew past Culbery. A high count of 21 Black Guillemot was made, with warblers and thrushes still present in small numbers. Two **Redshank** were on Leodan on 23rd and a male **Sparrowhawk** was captured on a trail camera at Mill Giau. Waders on 24th included a Golden Plover and three Purple Sandpiper, while raptors included a female **Goshawk** over Gibdale, a ringtail Hen Harrier, and a Merlin. Corvids saw a flock of 18 Cough, and three Magpie, whilst finches increased to a Greenfinch, 17 Goldfinch and a Siskin.

A series of flybys on 25th included one Jackdaw, three Rook, a Skylark and two Sand Martin. Both warblers and thrushes rose in number – decreasing back to single figures over the next couple of days. A satellite-tracked Whooper Swan over Cow Harbour was the highlight of 26th, with five Turnstone and 12 Purple Sandpiper on 27th. The first **Swallow** was recorded on 28th, with a couple of days seawatching yielding a **Red-throated Diver** (28th), five **Common Scoter** (29th) and an early **Puffin** (29th – the first March record since 1996). A **House Sparrow** was trapped at the Observatory and Goldfinches rose to 34. A Puffin was still present near Chicken Rock on 30th, while ten Sand Martin and seven Swallow were joined by two **House Martin**. Highlight of the day went to a flyover **Lapland Bunting** at the Observatory. 31st finished the month with high counts of 48 Eider and 117 Lesser Black-backed Gull, with a Twite at Kione ny Halby.

A total of 86 species were recorded in the month.

April

Weather: 1st – 10th kicked off the month with moderate winds from the easterly quadrant. 11th – 17th was then highly variable in direction but generally lighter in strength, with 18th – 21st back to moderate easterlies. A brief interlude of northerlies from 22nd – 24th, before the wind settled back into light south-easterlies until the end of the month.

Another very dry month, with more cloud and light precipitation in the latter half of the month.

A Woodpigeon and Rook were sighted on 1st, along with 13 Sand Martin, 12 Willow Warbler and seven Chiffchaff. A Greylag flew over on 2nd, four Snipe were seen and gulls numbered 206 Great Black-backed and 86 Lesser Black-backed. It was a good day for both raptors (one Sparrowhawk, eight Buzzard and a Merlin) and corvids (a Jackdaw, five Carrion Crow, 31 Hooded Crow and eight 'hybrids'). Flyovers included a Skylark and 24 Sand Martin, while ten Blackcap and 41 Goldcrest were at the Observatory. A Redwing and three Fieldfare were seen, whilst 44 Wheatear included some Greenland-race individuals. To finish off a busy day, 226 Meadow Pipit and 34 Rock Pipit were counted, and three Twite were along the East Coast.

Four Shelduck were present on 3rd and 82 Gannet fed in the Sound. A **Mistle Thrush** and a male **Ring Ouzel** joined nine Starling and three Song Thrush around the Observatory, whilst a female-type Black Redstart was at the Lighthouses. On 4th, warblers increased, the Ring Ouzel was still present and a **White Wagtail** was at the Lighthouses. A movement of finches occurred, including 13 Lesser Redpoll, ten Chaffinch, 52 Goldfinch and two Siskin. Three Greylag Goose and two Golden Plover were over the Glen on 5th, and 30 Willow Warbler and 26 Chiffchaff were seen.

The highlight of 6th was a movement of 73 Rock Pipit, whilst larger numbers on 7th included 251 Razorbill, 154 Sand Martin and 192 Meadow Pipit. Also sighted were six Turnstone, 23 Rook and a female-type Black Redstart. Seven Purple Sandpiper were off the Lighthouses on 8th, and a Grey Heron flew over the Glen. A **Blue Tit** was trapped, while hirundine passage numbered 105 Sand Martin, 36 Swallow and 21 House Martin. Twenty-seven Chiffchaff included a '*tristis*' individual and other notable birds were a **Tree Pipit**, one Greenfinch and a **Crossbill**. A **Cuckoo** was new in on 9th, along with an influx of warblers: 79 Willow Warbler, 42 Chiffchaff, three **Grasshopper Warbler** and 30 Blackcap. Singles of Black Redstart and House Sparrow were at the Observatory on 10th, with a **Common Sandpiper** recorded at the Puddle.



Members of the Manx Ornithological Society and Assistant Warden Ed looking out for a Grasshopper Warbler reeling in the Front Field ©Kate Fox

On 11th, a round-island saw 79 Eider and 78 Rock Pipit. A raft of 72 Fulmar was off the Lighthouses on 12th, with a Great Tit, a young male Black Redstart and three White Wagtail also seen. Gulls were notable on 13th: 13 Black-headed Gull flew past Big Head and colony counts totalled 868 Herring and 162 Great Black-backed Gulls. The next few days were rather quiet, with a **Feral Pigeon** on 14th, the returning **Great Skua** first seen on 15th and 106 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 16th. A **Ringed Plover** was at Cow Harbour on 17th, with other waders including 11 Whimbrel and a Common Sandpiper. Seven Rook, one Skylark and 103 Swallow were seen, while Linnets rose to 58. Two **Whitethroat** and a male **Whinchat** were recorded on 18th, with a **Sedge Warbler**, Grasshopper Warbler and Tree Pipit on 20th.

A **Stock Dove** joined a Woodpigeon and a Collared Dove on 21st, with waders including 47 Oystercatcher and two Whimbrel. Fifty-two Swallow, a White Wagtail and another Tree Pipit were also recorded. On 22nd, two Greylag Goose flew over, and seabirds included 172 Razorbill, 72 Gannet and 89 Shag. A pair of House Sparrow and 28 Goldfinch were at the Observatory. Oystercatchers peaked at 63 on 23rd, with two Turnstone at South Harbour and six Purple Sandpiper off the Lighthouses. Eider numbers reached 109 on 24th, while three Whitethroat, a female Whinchat and a White Wagtail were also present. Two Woodpigeon, 11 Whimbrel and two Snipe were counted on 25th, along with six Lesser Redpoll and a Siskin.

26th was busy, with the first **Swift** and **Lapwing** of the year, along with one Cuckoo and three Feral Pigeon. A Snipe and a Common Sandpiper were sighted, with two Turnstone in Mill Giau and two Black-headed Gull flying south. A Magpie was seen, a Skylark sang in the Seafeld, and seven Sand Martin, 127 Swallow and 11 House Martin flew over. Twenty-six Willow Warbler, five Sedge Warbler and six Whitethroat were counted, along with one Fieldfare, 73 Wheatear and 11 Pied Wagtail. Also notable were 185 Meadow Pipit and 74 Linnet. Seawatching on 27th produced 171 Shag and a **Sandwich Tern**. Swallow numbers remained high (97), warblers dropped off and finches included 33 Goldfinch and one Siskin. A Grasshopper Warbler was the highlight of 28th, while 29th saw two Shelduck, four Whimbrel and six Sandwich Tern. Four Rook, a Skylark and 159 Swallow were also seen. Two new Chaffinch arrived, along with a Greenfinch and eight Lesser Redpoll. The month finished strongly with an **Osprey** north over the Observatory on 30th. Two Magpie and five Jackdaw flew over, a '*tristis*' Chiffchaff was ringed and

other warblers included seven Sedge Warbler, a **Reed Warbler** and one **Lesser Whitethroat**. Further records were a Whinchat and a Tree Pipit.

A total of 94 species were recorded in the month.

May

Weather: Light-to-moderate northerly winds made for a cold start to the month. 8th – 17th saw light winds from the easterly quadrant, with a brief westerly interlude on 18th, before back to easterlies 19th – 20th. A short spell of light northerlies from 21st – 22nd led into south-westerlies that increased in strength up to the end of the month.

Very sunny for most of the month, with rain arriving in the last week.

On 1st a Cuckoo was sighted, whilst waders included four Whimbrel, a Curlew and two Common Sandpiper. The two Magpie from the day previous decided they liked the Calf and remained present throughout the month. Additionally, five Jackdaw, a Rook and a Blue Tit were seen. Warblers numbered 23 Willow Warbler, 30 Sedge Warbler and 23 Whitethroat. A Ring Ouzel was at Gibdale (present to 6th), whilst the first **Spotted Flycatcher** (five), **Pied Flycatcher** and **Redstart** were at the Observatory. Numbers increased on 2nd, including two Whinchat, 28 Stonechat and 74 Wheatear (many of which were the Greenland race). Things dropped off on 3rd, except for 80 Gannets.

Two Swift flew over on 4th, the Observatory Water Rail chicks hatched, and an immature Common Gull was present. A Sparrowhawk, two Kestrel and one Peregrine wreaked chaos amongst the six Sand Martin, 96 Swallow and 11 House Martin that were passing through. A **Grasshopper Warbler** was seen, and finches included 64 Linnet and three Lesser Redpoll. On 5th, a round-island produced eight Whimbrel, a single Purple Sandpiper, and high seabird counts of 144 Razorbill, 151 Guillemot and 49 Fulmar.

The Withies Water Rails hatching and two Tree Pipits over were the highlight of 6th, with 269 Shag on 7th, and a Snipe, a Reed Warbler and a young male Pied Flycatcher were sighted on 8th. A **Dunlin** was recorded on 9th, along with high counts of 725 Herring Gull, and 141 Lesser Black-backed Gull. A Grey Heron, ten Jackdaw and one Rook were counted on 10th, along with two Reed

Warbler and a Garden Warbler. One Puffin and five Black Guillemot were seen on 11th, with two Swift, an Osprey and ten Buzzard on 12th.

A busy day on 13th started with seven Common Scoter and a Ringed Plover. Fifty-three Swallow and three House Martin included in their ranks a **Red-rumped Swallow**, that wheeled around the Observatory for ten minutes. Six Chiffchaff included a '*tristis*' individual, a Grasshopper Warbler and 13 Whitethroat were present, while also notable were 22 Spotted Flycatcher, a Whinchat and 30 Stonechat. A female **Yellow Wagtail** (*flavissima*) was in the Front Field, a Tree Pipit flew over, and high counts included 30 Rock Pipit, 50 Linnet and 27 Goldfinch. A Magpie and a Reed Warbler were new in on 14th, and a Yellow Wagtail was again sighted in the Glen. On 15th, two Swift and a Common Sandpiper were eclipsed by a young male **Western Subalpine Warbler** ringed at the Observatory. Fourteen Spotted Flycatcher, a Tree Pipit and a Crossbill were also recorded.



Female Yellow Wagtail ©Ed Betteridge

A **Marsh Harrier** was sighted on 16th (present to 17th), along with two Reed Warbler, a Lesser Whitethroat and a Reed Bunting. Singles of Whimbrel, Common Sandpiper and Turnstone were seen on 17th, as well as three Purple Sandpiper and three Puffin. Two Hen Harrier included "The White Knight" – a pure white female known from the Isle of Man. A Feral Pigeon joined two Woodpigeon and a Collared Dove on 18th, while other unusual species included a Lapwing and a Common Gull. One each of Dunlin, Rook and Crossbill were the highlights of 19th, with a Garden Warbler and another Crossbill on 20th.

A Lapwing was in the Glen on 21st, eight Puffin were counted (included one calling at the playback speaker), and one Skylark was seen. A **Barnacle Goose** flew over on 22nd, with a **Sanderling** at Cow Harbour and a **Short-eared Owl** hunting around South Harbour. Three Shelduck, a Common Sandpiper and three Puffin were recorded on 23rd. Seabirds numbered 487 Razorbill, 233 Guillemot and 203 Shag; while five Crossbill, one Siskin and a Grey Wagtail were sighted. The Short-eared Owl was still present on 24th and the first Wheatear fledgelings appeared, along with high counts of 159 Meadow Pipit, 45 Rock Pipit and 65 Linnet.

Seawatching provided the only records of note on 24th: Kittiwake 38S & 213N, Puffin 8S & 8N, Auk sp. 805S & 289N and Manx Shearwater 852S & 47N. The wind and rain halted much movement over the next few days, with highlights including 61 Oystercatcher (27th), 95 Swallow (27th) and a Short-eared Owl (29th). 30th provided some high counts: 813 Herring Gull, 200 Meadow Pipit and 55 Rock Pipit. Unfortunately, fog closed in again on 31st and the best bird sighted was a Grey Heron.

A total of 99 species were recorded in the month.

June

Weather: The first third of the month was moderate-strong winds from the westerly quadrant. 11th – 12th saw light south-easterlies, 13th a moderate south-westerly and 14th a light north-easterly. Back into the westerly quadrant, 15th – 18th had light winds and 19th – 21st saw a brief interlude of light south-easterlies before the rest of the month was dominated by light-to-moderate south-westerlies.

Showery for the first half of the month (with a big storm), thereafter a mixture of sun and fog.

The Great Skua was seen on all but three days during the month. Similarly, at least one of the Magpie pair made a daily appearance, a male Song Thrush took up territory, and a ringtail Hen Harrier was present throughout the month. The main highlights of 1st – 4th came from seawatching, however, an Osprey flying north over the Observatory on 2nd was a nice addition.

1st (South Harbour) – Ringed Plover 11W, Kittiwake 189W & 46E, Black Guillemot 5W, Auk sp. 29W & 162E, Guillemot 1622W & 1529E

3rd (Culberty) – Kittiwake 381S & 199N, Puffin 2S & 11N, Razorbill 128S & 151N, Guillemot 585S & 392N, **Sooty Shearwater 1S** (the first June record), Manx Shearwater 2672S & 191N

A round-island boat trip on 5th produced seabird counts of 284 Razorbill, 128 Fulmar and 244 Shag. Elsewhere, a Willow Warbler was at Top Withy, and a House Sparrow was at the Observatory. Some high counts over the next few days included 178 Meadow Pipit (6th), 73 Linnet (7th), and 72 Oystercatcher, 93 Wheatear and 35 Goldfinch (8th). A Lesser Whitethroat was at the Observatory on 8th, while two Shelduck were at the Dub on 9th. Offshore saw 459 Auk sp., 48 Stonechat were recorded, and a Lesser Redpoll flew over. The month's second round-island produced some different species: 28 Eider, a Feral Pigeon and six Puffin. Furthermore, a Blackcap, three Whitethroat and a Crossbill were at the Observatory.

Shelduck rose to four on 11th, a Lapwing was in the Glen, and six Black-headed Gull were in the Sound. Flyovers included six Jackdaw, nine Siskin and a Merlin in Gibdale (present to 12th). Three Swift bombed overhead on 13th, while seawatching produced seven Black-headed Gull, a **Pomarine Skua** and 50 Gannet. A Cuckoo appeared on 14th, Shag climbed to 200, and one each of Sedge Warbler and Greenfinch were seen. Ten Puffin on 15th included one that landed on Burroo Neck (and again on 16th – the first individual on land since 2021). Also sighted were a Lesser Whitethroat, a second Song Thrush and seven Crossbill.

A juvenile Redstart (16th) at the Withies was the highlight of the next couple of days, with a Golden Plover, one Curlew and a Grey Heron sighted on 18th. A female Merlin was also present, along with an adult Reed Warbler and four Grey Wagtail. The final round-island of the month on 19th saw a Redshank (bizarrely at the top of Ghaw Laing), a Black-headed Gull and 13 Cormorant. The first overnight **Storm Petrel** session produced just one bird, but on 20th the first Swallows fledged and a further three Puffin were on land (this time below the Lighthouses).



*Above: Can you spot the real Puffin? ©Kate Fox
Left: Guest children helping to release a Storm Petrel ©Katie O'Meara*

Thirteen Eider on 21st included an eclipse male, while four Swift and two Woodpigeon were recorded. A small arrival of waders included 63 Oystercatcher, 11 Curlew and a Redshank. A Kestrel and six Sand Martin were present, along with six Starling and a total of 13 Crossbill. A surprise two **Quail** were flushed from rocks on Burroo Neck on 22nd, with a juvenile Mistle Thrush at the Observatory on the same day (present to 25th). The rest of the month was very quiet, with some highlights including a Cuckoo, ten Black Guillemot and nine Siskin (all 25th). There were also four Swift (26th), a Common Sandpiper at Cow (27th & 30th), two Puffin on land below the Lighthouses (28th) and a Lapwing in the Glen (28th & 30th). Additionally, on 29th were three Grey Heron (flying west), 30 Swallow and nine House Martin, as well as the first juvenile Willow Warbler and a single Crossbill.

A total of 84 species were recorded in the month.

July

Weather: Light-moderate north-westerlies on 1st – 2nd moved to west-south-westerlies from 3rd – 5th. 6th – 8th was north-westerly again and 9th – 10th were light westerlies, switching to northerlies on 10th – 11th. Moderate southerlies dominated from 14th – 21st (with northerly interludes on 16th & 20th), before 22nd – 31st saw moderate winds mostly from the westerly quadrant.

Predominantly sunny, with high temperatures and some fog towards the end of the month.

The usual quiet start to the month was thrown out of the window by the appearance of a breeding-plumage **Laughing Gull** on the 2nd! Loafing with Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Kione ny Halby, it hung around just long enough for all the team to connect with it, before heading off towards the Isle of Man. A juvenile Great Tit arrived on 3rd (present to 18th) and two **Little Egret** (an adult and a juvenile) were present in South Harbour on 4th. A summer-plumage Red-throated Diver flew north on 5th, whilst finch numbers started to climb (83 Linnet, a Lesser Redpoll and 31 Goldfinch).

*The Isle of Man's first
Laughing Gull ©Ed Betteridge*



A Common Sandpiper was seen on 6th, and the juvenile Little Egret reappeared, remaining to 9th. Goldfinch climbed to 138 on 7th, whilst numbers on 8th included two Common Sandpiper, 230 Shag and eight Rook. The highlight of 9th was a new brood of Water Rail at the Observatory, with a Grey Wagtail and 11 Pied Wagtail also recorded. On 10th, an overnight session produced eight Storm Petrel and a small movement of hirundines included one Sand Martin and 31 Swallow.

Singles of Swift and Feral Pigeon were recorded on 11th, whilst a count of seven full-grown Water Rail included dispersed fledgelings. Swift climbed to three on 12th, with a Lapwing in the Lower Withy Field and a **Greenshank** on rocks below Kione ny Halby. One each of Woodpigeon and Grey Heron were the highlight of 13th, with a focus on waders on 14th (one Whimbrel, 18 Curlew and a Redshank) and finches on 15th (108 Linnet, 53 Goldfinch and a Siskin). Sightings of interest over the next few days included six Lapwing and two Hen Harrier on 16th, singles of Eider, Kestrel and Rook on 17th and a Blackcap on 18th.

A further Swift, 33 Swallow and ten Willow Warbler were recorded 19th, with a Whimbrel and three Common Sandpiper on 20th. Two Whimbrel, 20 Curlew and 32 Chough were counted on 21st. Small numbers of warblers included seven Willow Warbler, a Sedge Warbler and four Whitethroat, whilst finch numbers remained high (86 Linnet and 72 Goldfinch). A single Eider was seen on 22nd, along with four Common Sandpiper and a Redshank. High counts of breeding seabirds included 811 Herring Gull, 93 Lesser Black-backed Gull and 435 Shag. Some warbler and finch variety on 23rd saw a Grasshopper Warbler and a male Crossbill.

Four Lapwing and a Peregrine were present on 24th, and finch numbers remained high to the end of the month (peaking at 88 Linnet on 24th and 63 Goldfinch on 30th). A Collared Dove was seen on 25th, and an overnight session on 25th/26th produced nine Storm Petrel, with a Crossbill the following morning. Both the Lighthouse and Baie Fine Buzzard pairs had flying juveniles on 27th, with a further two Crossbill sighted. Highlights of the final few days were a Black Guillemot carrying food to the Lighthouse Cave (28th), a Ringed Plover over the Puddle (29th), 58 Willow Warbler (30th) and singles of Sparrowhawk and Kestrel (31st).

A total of 78 species were recorded in the month.

August

Weather: Winds were from the westerly quadrant from 1st – 11th, with variable strength. 12th – 13th were light easterlies, with a light south-westerly on 14th before switching to moderate north-easterlies from 15th – 21st. Winds were variable but light from 22nd – 24th, before coming from the southerly quadrant for the remainder of the month (moderate in strength).

Mostly sunny, with an increased tendency towards showers during the final quarter of the month.

Two Lapwing were in the Front Field on 1st, with a female Eider off Cow Harbour on 2nd and 13 Willow Warbler, three Sedge Warbler and the first Tree Pipit of autumn at the Observatory. A high of 436 Manx Shearwater was recorded overnight on 4th, a small wader arrival occurred on 5th (two Whimbrel, 34 Curlew, and one each of Redshank and summer-plumage Dunlin at South Harbour), and a juvenile Cuckoo was at the Observatory on

7th (present to 9th). Most records of note, however, largely came from seawatching at Culberty:

5th – Sandwich Tern 1N, Kittiwake 46S & 445N, Common Gull 1N, Gannet 29S & 112N

8th – Kittiwake 17S & 225N, Manx Shearwater 167S & 31N, Gannet 47S & 234N

9th – Common Scoter 1N, Kittiwake 215S & 186N, Fulmar 14S & 39N, Manx Shearwater 203S & 727N, Gannet 94S & 128N

The first returning Spotted Flycatcher was sighted on 8th. On 10th, high counts included 36 Cormorant, four Kestrel and 20 Raven. Hirundines numbered three Sand Martin, 39 Swallow and a House Martin, seven Tree Pipit flew over, and finches included one Greenfinch, 108 Linnet and two Crossbill. Swallows increased to 50 on 11th, while on 12th nine Turnstone were at Cow Harbour and a Purple Sandpiper was in the Lighthouse Cave. Additionally, a Sandwich Tern was east of Big Head and 11 Cormorant and 266 Shag were recorded. Singles of Spotted Flycatcher and House Sparrow were at the Observatory on 13th, with a Ringed Plover near South Harbour (present to 23rd) on 14th and nine Storm Petrels overnight on 14th/15th. Notable counts on 15th were ten Turnstone, 31 Chough and two House Sparrow. Further to this, a White Wagtail was with 23 Pied Wagtail.

A push of hirundines on 16th numbered one Sand Martin, 101 Swallow and 19 House Martin, while at the Observatory were singles of Sedge Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Redstart. An Osprey flew west over Baie Fine on 17th, with other counts including nine Tree Pipit and four Siskin. A Collared Dove was seen on 18th, with a juvenile Cuckoo at the Observatory on 19th (present to 22nd). Curlew reached a monthly peak of 39 and a Snipe was in the Glen, whilst Linnet numbers reached 166. The Osprey returned on 20th, while White Wagtail numbers climbed to 36.

Six Redshank were sighted on 21st, but passerines were the main feature: 41 Willow Warbler, five Whitethroat and 23 Goldcrest, as well as four Spotted Flycatcher, 41 Robin and 16 Tree Pipit. A Common Sandpiper was at South Harbour on 22nd, while two Sedge Warbler, three Blackcap and a **Barred**

Warbler were ringed at the Observatory. White Wagtail peaked at 63 on 23rd, with 11 Tree Pipit and 14 Siskin also seen. On 24th, a Great Tit was briefly at the Observatory and a small push of hirundines occurred (one Sand Martin, 61 Swallow and four House Martin). The highlight of 25th was a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** spotted in Gibdale, with a Pied Flycatcher in the same location and 110 Linnet scattered around the island.



First-year Barred Warbler ©Kate Fox

Wren numbers sat at 38 on 26th, with a Cuckoo at Baie n'Ooig on 27th. The winds picked up to finish the month and stopped much movement occurring, however, 102 Great Black-backed Gull (28th), 39 Curlew (29th) and 11 Grey Wagtail (29th) were recorded. Better numbers were obtained from seawatching at Culbery:

28th – Common Scoter 2S & 7N, Arctic Skua 2S, Kittiwake 226S & 209N, Puffin 1N, Manx Shearwater 47S & 155N

31st – Common Scoter 3N, Puffin 2N, Fulmar 54S & 11N, Gannet 108S & 72N

A total of 86 species were recorded in the month.

September

Weather: The winds were from the southerly quadrant from 1st – 19th. Within this period, the wind started strong, was light from 2nd – 5th and then moderate-strong for the remainder of the time. 20th – 24th saw light northerlies, followed by moderate south-easterlies from 25th – 27th, light north-westerlies from 28th – 29th and finally a moderate south-westerly on 30th.

Quite a mixed month, with frequent rain showers but also sunny spells.

1st (Culberty) – Shelduck 3N, **Wigeon 3S**, Common Scoter 4S & 33N, Sandwich Tern 3S, Kittiwake 378S & 311N, Black-headed Gull 1S & 2N, Arctic Skua 3S, Manx Shearwater 335S & 150N

Generally low numbers on 2nd included six Mallard, a Common Sandpiper (at Cow Harbour), four Chiffchaff, one Sedge Warbler, three Spotted Flycatcher, eight Grey Wagtail and a Crossbill. An Osprey passed over the Observatory on 3rd, along with a Grasshopper Warbler, eight Tree Pipit and a Reed Bunting. A Golden Plover was seen on 4th and 68 Swallow were joined by a House Martin. Robin numbers reached 59 and wagtail counts were 27 Grey, 16 White, two 'alba' and 34 Pied Wagtail. The next couple of days were quiet, until 7th when 54 Curlew were in the Lower Withy Field and an Osprey flew over Gibdale. Five Spotted Flycatcher and three Pied Flycatcher were counted, along with 52 Goldfinch. A Purple Sandpiper was at South Harbour on 8th, a Short-eared Owl was seen on 9th and better numbers on 10th included three Grey Heron, 23 White Wagtail and 34 Pied Wagtail. An extended spell of windy weather allowed for seawatching at Culberty:

8th – Common Scoter 1N, Kittiwake 1314S & 42N, Black-headed Gull 3S, Fulmar 53S & 31N, Manx Shearwater 46S & 4N, Gannet 71S & 52N

11th – Common Scoter 4S & 1N, Kittiwake 23S & 433N, Arctic Skua 1N, Razorbill 1S & 133N, Manx Shearwater 30S & 83N, Gannet 24S & 45N

12th – Common Scoter 3N, Arctic Skua 4N

13th – Common Scoter 6N, Oystercatcher 13S, Manx Shearwater 23S & 5N

16th – Common Scoter 1N, Curlew 4N, Kittiwake 563S & 55N, Common Gull 1N, Arctic Skua 6S & 1N, Auk sp. 1077S & 2N, Red-throated Diver 1S, Fulmar 54S & 63N, Manx Shearwater 98S & 49N, Gannet 25S & 70N

17th – Sandwich Tern 2S, Kittiwake 99S & 24N, Arctic Skua 1S, Razorbill 116S & 3N, Manx Shearwater 2S & 8N

18th – Common Scoter 3N, Kittiwake 82S & 353N, Arctic Skua 1N, Auk sp. 256S & 25N, Manx Shearwater 19S & 3N



*Assistant Matt ringing a Rock Pipit
©Eleanor Grover*

Two Feral Pigeon and three Redshank were sighted on 12th, wagtail passage continued and pipit numbers increased (210 Meadow and 33 Rock). Two Grey Heron and an Osprey were notable on 13th, with a grounded **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** and 14 Turnstone on 14th. A Great Skua was off South Harbour on 16th, while a Merlin haunted ten Siskin. A Skylark was seen on 17th, while ten Jackdaw, 25 Swallow and 19 House Martin were recorded on 18th. On 19th, four **Pink-footed Goose** landed in the Seafield and 13 of each Golden Plover and Redshank were seen. Three Blue Tit arrived, Swallow and Robin numbers increased

(60 and 88, respectively) and a **Common Rosefinch** was at the Observatory.

A break in the weather finally occurred on 20th, with geese (three Greylag and 25 Pink-footed), waders (six Golden Plover and one each of Ringed Plover and Redshank) and tit passage continuing (one **Coal Tit**, five Blue Tit and two Great Tit). However, it was hirundine passage that really exploded: 66 Sand Martin, 40 Swallow and a record-breaking 646 House Martin. A Whinchat was in the Glen, and the first six Dunnock of autumn were recorded. Pipits and finches also passed through in number: 820 Meadow Pipit, one Tree Pipit, 247 Chaffinch, a Greenfinch, 88 Goldfinch and 80 Siskin.

Four Pink-footed Geese, two Black-headed Gull and 14 Raven were counted on 21st. A Snipe was flushed on 22nd, Buzzard rose to 14, and 17 Jackdaw and four Rook were sighted. Eight Blue Tit and 27 Skylark were seen from the Observatory, while 89 Robin and 21 Dunnock were around the island. Two Magpie and three House Sparrow passed through on 23rd. On 24th, a **Great Northern Diver** flew past Chicken Rock, a **Treecreeper** was at the Observatory and Dunnock increased to 30. The last Manx Shearwater recorded on land were on the night of 25th.

A Snipe and two Peregrine were the pick of 26th, with 28 Swallow on 27th. Twenty-four Skylark, eight Chiffchaff and 30 Goldcrest were counted on 28th, with a Spotted Flycatcher being joined by a Red-breasted Flycatcher (present to the next day). Other migrants included seven Grey Wagtail, 254 Chaffinch, 31 Goldfinch. Two Kestrel and 55 Jackdaw were sighted on 29th, along with six Coal Tit, 11 Blue Tit and seven Great Tit. Additionally, 43 Skylark and 8 Goldcrest were counted, while a Pied Flycatcher, three House Sparrow and five Blackcap were new in. Passage continued with 255 Meadow Pipit, 14 Lesser Redpoll and 25 Siskin. 30th was much quieter, with a highlight of 166 Shag in the Sound.

A total of 96 species were recorded in the month.

October

Weather: A westerly storm raged at the start of the month, with winds remaining westerly but decreasing in strength up to 11th, from when light northerlies prevailed up to 17th. 18th – 20th were moderate south-easterlies, with 21st – 29th being variable in strength but from the westerly quadrant. The month finished with strong southerlies.

Storm Amy gave way to a period of fine (if grey) weather, before it became more unsettled and dominated by showers.

Thirty Oystercatcher and 19 Turnstone were at Cow Harbour on 1st, with a Common Scoter and 76 Gannet past Culbery on 2nd. An overnight session at Cow Harbour on 3rd produced nine Turnstone and 32 Purple Sandpiper, with 30 Siskin also counted before the storm hit and records became dominated by seawatching.

4th (Cow Harbour) – Wigeon 3W, Golden Plover 52W & 39S, Dunlin 1W, Kittiwake 352W, Common Gull 6W, **Long-tailed Skua 1W**, Arctic Skua 2W, Black Guillemot 5W, Red-throated Diver 1W, Manx Shearwater 8W, **Mediterranean Shearwater 1W**, Gannet 714W & 18S

5th (Cow Harbour) – Kittiwake 71W & 3S, Great Black-backed Gull 65W, Arctic Skua 1W, Black Guillemot 5W, Auk sp. 72W & 4S, Storm Petrel 3W, Great Northern Diver 1S, **Leach's Petrel 4W**, Gannet 289W & 20S

6th (Culbery) – Common Scoter 1N, Kittiwake 3S & 257N, Auk sp. 82S & 1451N

7th (Culbery) – Kittiwake 26S & 224N, Auk sp. 121S & 280N

A Tree Pipit flew over on 4th, and a Snipe was found by a Hen Harrier on 5th. Wagtails included three Grey Wagtail, 31 'alba' Wagtail and 24 Pied Wagtail, with 220 Meadow Pipit and 28 Rock Pipit. The highlights of a couple of quiet days were a Magpie and three Crossbill (6th), and eight Mallard and two Reed Bunting (7th). Three Whooper Swan were heard overnight on 8th, with Skylark passing through in number (477) and chats increasing (Song Thrush 16, a female Ring Ouzel and 71 Robin). Two House Sparrow were present and finches numbered 442 Chaffinch, 26 Greenfinch and 29 Lesser Redpoll. Counts decreased on 9th, but three Whooper Swan were seen, and the first Redwing of the year appeared. Nineteen Swallow and five House Martin were recorded on 10th, as were 55 Lesser Redpoll, 89 Goldfinch and 53 Siskin.

Eight Cormorant were at Cletts on 11th, and corvids included 57 Jackdaw, six Rook and ten Raven. Skylark passed through (173), and a Garden Warbler and 53 Goldcrest were recorded. Eleven House Martin and 34 Dunnock were counted, along with four Reed Bunting. On 12th, a returning Eider was seen, and short-distance migrants included two Magpie, 151 Jackdaw and 21 Coal Tit. Skylark climbed to 188 and 15 Song Thrush were joined by a Mistle Thrush and a Ring Ouzel. Additionally, a Tree Pipit flew over and Chaffinch numbered 109. Singles of Ringed Plover, Jack Snipe and Lesser Black-backed Gull were recorded on 13th. Thick fog restricted migrant movements, but also grounded 64 Wren, two Mistle Thrush, 163 Redwing, 133 Fieldfare, 112 Robin and a **Brambling** (trapped the next day).

Eight **Canada Goose** flew over on 14th, as well as 32 Greylag Goose and 20 Pink-footed Goose. A female Teal was present; 32 Lapwing were in the Seafield and 18 Snipe flew north over the course of the morning. Starling (114) and thrushes also passed through in number (one Mistle Thrush, 344 Redwing and 89 Blackbird). Waterfowl (two Barnacle Goose and 33 Pink-footed Goose) and waders (one each Whimbrel and Jack Snipe) were still of note on 15th. A **Cetti's Warbler** and two **Yellow-browed Warbler** were ringed, along with 18 Chiffchaff, five Blackcap and 69 Goldcrest. Thrush numbers remained high (504 Redwing, 121 Fieldfare and a Ring Ouzel), along with Robin (93), Dunnock (31), and finches (29 Lesser Redpoll and 60 Goldfinch).

A further eight Barnacle Goose flew past on 16th, along with flocks of Woodpigeon (171) and corvids (53 Jackdaw, six Carrion Crow and 30 Hooded Crow). Passage included 141 Skylark, three Swallow and 31 **Long-tailed Tit**. Two Yellow-browed Warbler were joined by a Garden Warbler, and 68 Wren were present. Pipit (215 Meadow and 57 Rock), finch (five Twite, 63 Linnet and two Crossbill) and Reed Bunting (6) numbers were also high. On 17th, flyovers included 13 Pink-footed Goose, 16 Magpie and ten Rook. Also present were a Yellow-browed Warbler, a Garden Warbler, 108 Goldcrest and one Brambling. Highlights over the next few days included a Jack Snipe (18th), one Swallow (18th & 19th) and four Hen Harrier (19th & 20th). Three Teal, a Lesser Black-backed Gull and three Twite were seen on 21st.



Long-tailed Tit ©Kate Fox

Corvids passed over on 22nd (47 Jackdaw, 14 Rook and 18 Carrion Crow), along with 107 Skylark, 401 Starling and a Tree Pipit. Twenty-six Long-tailed Tit arrived on 23rd, as well as 537 Starling, a **Hawfinch** and 54 Lesser Redpoll. A Crossbill was sighted on 24th, with Whooper Swans on 25th & 26th (19 and five, respectively). On 27th, four Eider, three Jack Snipe and two Lesser Black-backed Gull were recorded. Two Merlin and 817 Starling were also counted. A single Twite was the highlight of 28th, with a Grey Wagtail at the Dock on 29th.

A **Pintail** was the start of a good day on 30th, with other flyovers including 199 Woodpigeon, a Magpie, 112 Jackdaw, 37 Rook and 78 Skylark. Thirty-one Goldcrest and a Treecreeper were at the Observatory and 1300 Starling passed over. Finches included 248 Chaffinch, one Brambling and a Twite, and Reed Bunting peaked at 11. 31st had no notable passage.

A total of 103 species were recorded in the month.

November

Weather: 1st – 4th saw a moderate-strong south-westerlies, followed by moderate easterlies from 5th – 7th. The season finished with a very light southerly on 8th.

A grey and gloomy finish to the season, with a beautiful final day.

The first autumn Woodcock was flushed on 1st, and a Brambling was also present. Overhead passage on 2nd included 118 Woodpigeon, six Magpie, 168 Jackdaw and 817 Starling. Finches also passed through in good numbers: 313 Chaffinch, a Brambling, 13 Greenfinch, two Twite and 109 Goldfinch. A Treecreeper was seen on 3rd, with a Grey Heron on 4th and a Merlin on 5th.

6th was a better day – 277 Woodpigeon, two Woodcock and three Sparrowhawk. Thrushes climbed to two Mistle Thrush, 177 Redwing and 54 Blackbird, with finches also increasing again (1536 Chaffinch, seven Brambling, 58 Greenfinch, 138 Goldfinch and 42 Siskin).

Forty Woodpigeon and a further two Woodcock were spotted on 7th, along with 254 Jackdaw and 113 Rook. Starling (910) and thrush numbers rose (54 Song Thrush and 309 Fieldfare). Two House Sparrow were seen, and finch numbers (while lower) were still notable, especially 557 Chaffinch and one Brambling. A Ring Ouzel on 8th was a nice way to end the season.

A total of 64 species were recorded in the month, and 147 species were recorded for the year.

Systematic List

The nomenclature and taxonomic order follow that of the Tenth edition of the British List published by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU 2022), 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 species on the Manx Bird List that were first recorded on the Calf of Man.

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

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Ollay chiaullee

Scarce. Passage migrant – irregular in spring.

The 3rd & 4th March records involved a flock of 22 flying west over the Lighthouses on 16th (the highest ever day-count) and a satellite-tracked individual was recorded over Cow Harbour on 26th.

There were a further five records in autumn (all in October): five on 5th & 26th, three on 8th & 9th, and 19 on 25th.

Brent [Brant] Goose *Branta bernicla*

Guiy doo

Rare. Passage migrant, more regular in autumn.

The only record of the year was a single that landed on Caigher during strong winds on 14th September.

This represents the 36th Calf record.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Guiy Canadagh

Rare. Visitor, more regular in the summer.

The 21st Calf record (and only record of the year) was eight flying north on 14th October.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Guiy bayrnag

Rare. Visitor and passage migrant.

A single flew over the Lighthouses and then headed north past Rarick on 22nd May.

Two records in autumn consisted of two on 15th and eight on 16th October – the latter representing a new highest day-count.

The 11th – 13th Calf records.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Guiy glass

Scarce. Visitor and passage migrant.

Another good series of spring records, beginning with two singles (13th & 20th) and a flock of seven (16th) in March. Single figure counts were recorded on six dates in April – peaking at four on 14th. The final spring record was two flying over on 5th May.

There were only two records in autumn: three on 20th September and 32 on 14th October. The latter represents the highest day-count for the Calf.

The 92nd – 103rd Calf records.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*
Rare. Passage migrant.

Guiy Eeslynnagh

A good series of autumn records, starting with three dates in September (four in the Seafield on 19th, 25 on 20th and four overnight on 21st). October also had three records: 20 on 14th, 33 on 15th and 13 on 17th.

The 30th – 35th Calf records.

Right: a young female Pink-footed Goose, only the second ever to be ringed on the Calf. ©Maia Jones



[Common] Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
Uncommon. Annual breeder; irregular passage migrant.

Laagh chryss-ruy

A pair was present when the season began, with two birds recorded on three dates in March. One to four birds were recorded on 14 dates in April, 13 dates in May and five dates in early June. A pair was thought to once again breed in a rabbit burrow on Rarick, however, no ducklings were confirmed.

Three birds flying north past Culbery on 1st September were the only autumn record.

[Common] Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Laagh Loghlinagh

Common. Annual breeder; occasional passage migrant and winter visitor. Formerly a rare passage migrant.

The first returning birds (ten) were recorded on March 8th and were then recorded near-daily throughout the spring and summer – climbing to almost 50 by the end of March. Counts in the first half of April were generally between 15 and 50, increasing to 50–100 in the latter half of the month (peaking at 109 on 24th). The first three weeks of May saw similarly high numbers, including a record-breaking 171 on 5th. The last week of May saw numbers of 30–40, with 10–20 at the start of June quickly dropping off to single figures. One to two individuals were recorded on seven dates in July, with a final single on 2nd August.

A total of 77 females were located nesting on the Calf this year. The first female was recorded incubating on 27th April, with the last still incubating on 15th June. As ever, all ducklings paddled across the Sound to the Isle of Man shortly after hatching.

A returning single was present on 12th October, with four on 27th.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Ushag vreck varrey

Uncommon. Passage migrant.

Five north off Culbery on 29th represented only the tenth March record. The only other spring record came from seven past South Harbour on 13th May.

In the autumn, single figure counts were recorded on three dates in August, six dates in September and four dates in October. The highest count of the year was 37 (4S & 33N) off Culbery on 1st September.

[Eurasian] Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Laagh ruy

Scarce. Passage migrant – irregular in spring.

Three flew north past Culbery on 1st September, with a further three west past Cow Harbour on 4th October.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Thunnag feie

Common. Annual breeder; winter visitor.

Camera traps revealed that at least four individuals overwintered.

Records were daily from the start of the season until late June. Two pairs bred on the Millpond (each attempting two broods), with a further pair at Cow Harbour/Kitterland (also attempting two broods). Records throughout July and August largely referred to a female and three fledged ducklings around Cow Harbour.

Returning birds began to appear from September onwards, peaking at eight individuals on Kitterland on 7th October.

[Northern] Pintail *Anas acuta*

Laagh fammanagh

Rare. Passage migrant.

A single female-type individual flew north over Caigher on 30th October. The 17th Calf record.

[Green-winged] Teal *Anas crecca*

Laaghag

Uncommon. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

The only overwinter records were of a female on 21st & 22nd February and 3rd March. A pair was present from 7th – 22nd March, with the drake being trapped.

In the autumn, two females and a male were present on the Millpond on seven dates between 14th and 23rd October.

[Common] Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Kellagh keylley

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

Present on camera traps over winter and recorded near-daily from the beginning of the season, with fewer birds heard in the late summer when birds were moulting. At least five males held territory, with three large young seen at the Withies.

[Common] Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Quayl

Very rare. Migrant.



Two birds were flushed off rocks at Burroo Neck on 22nd June (EJB). The seventh Calf record and the first involving more than one individual.

Left: Quail ©Ed Betteridge

[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 1st April 2007, with the latest departure date being 7th September 1978.

The first individual was seen on 9th April, with further singles on 10th & 26th, and 1st May. Summer records consisted of singles on two dates in June.

Two separate juveniles were seen across five dates in August, with a final individual sighted at Baie n'Ooig on 27th (the latest date since 30th August 1963).

[Eurasian] Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Calmane coillaragh

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

Singles were sighted throughout spring and summer, with two records in March, four records in April, seven records in May and three records in June. Only once were multiple individuals recorded: two on 23rd May.

A light summer passage involved singles on two dates in July and seven dates in August. There were no autumn records.

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 individuals were recorded on 20 occasions from March to September, often peaking around bank holidays.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Calmane gorrym

Scarce. Passage migrant.

Spring records consisted of singles on 21st & 22nd April. The only other record was a single at the Observatory on 4th July.

Woodpigeon [Common Wood Pigeon] *Columba palumbus* Calmane keylley
Uncommon. Former breeder; passage migrant – less regular in spring.

A usual light spring passage, with one to two individuals recorded on seven dates in March, eight dates in April, ten dates in May and nine dates in June; peaking at three individuals on 21st May. Single on 13th July and 27th August were the only summer records.

Autumn records began with 171 on 16th October. Single figure counts followed on 20th & 23rd October and 3rd November, with larger dates of passage on 30th October (199), and 2nd (118), 6th (277) and 7th (40) November.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* Ushag ny shast
Scarce. Occasional breeder; passage migrant and winter visitor.

Seen sporadically on camera traps at the Withies over winter.

Throughout the spring, one to four individuals were recorded near-daily. Two pairs bred this year, and it is thought that most records related to these individuals. However, ringing and camera traps confirmed the presence of a migrant female in the Front Field in April.

The pairs bred at the Withies and in the Front Field, both successfully raising two broods. The ensuing juveniles resulted in records of one to seven throughout the late summer and autumn – including at Jane’s House, Central Heath and Cow Harbour.

[Eurasian] Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Garee breck
Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.

The early spring generally saw counts of 25–40 individuals. From late March, birds were back on territories and counts of over 40 became regular, with monthly peaks of 63 on 23rd April, 61 on 27th May and 72 on 8th June.

Breeding numbers reached a record high of 32 pairs. Numbers of individuals dropped off rapidly at the end of June and, combined with the low number of young ringed, unfortunately suggests that productivity was not very good.



A map of breeding Oystercatchers on the Calf in 2025. Circles represent territories.

Counts during the autumn were generally between ten and twenty, with a peak of 41 on 4th October.

[European] Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Ushag reasht

Uncommon. Passage migrant.

A relatively light spring passage, with singles on 22nd & 24th March, two on 5th April and a further single on 18th June.

Records picked up in the autumn, with one to six individuals recorded on 16 dates in September, nine dates in October and once in November. Double figure counts were 13 on 19th September and 91 individuals past Cow Harbour on 4th October (the second highest ever day-count).

[Common] Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Feddag fainnagh

Scarce. Passage migrant.

Two spring records involved a single on 13th May and a flock of 11 west past South Harbour on 1st June.

Autumn saw three records: a long-staying individual around South Harbour from 14th – 23rd August, with further singles on 20th September and 13th October.

[Northern] Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Eairkan

Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant.

In spring, singles were present in the Glen from 26th – 27th April and 18th – 22nd May. Into the summer, singles were present on three dates in June and five dates in July. Multiple individuals were present on 16th (6) & 24th (4) July and 1st August (2).

Autumn records were restricted to October, with 32 on 14th and single figure counts on 16th, 17th & 23rd.

[Eurasian] Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Crottage 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 21st February 1983, which is likely to have involved an overwintering individual, as is the latest record on 12th December 1994.

Singles were recorded on 9th and 30th March, which may have related to an overwintering individual. Spring passage proper began in the latter half of April, with counts of 1–10 on nine dates and a peak of 11 on 17th & 25th. Counts of one to eight were near-daily throughout May but dropped off suddenly, with the only June record a single on 22nd.

Late summer into autumn saw a light sprinkling of records, with one to two individuals sighted on ten dates in July, ten dates in August, four dates in September and five dates in October.

[Eurasian] Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Crottag

Common. Historic breeder; passage migrant that overwinters.

Single figures were near-daily throughout the spring. Returning individuals appeared from late June, with double figures from the latter half of July – peaking at 30 on 30th.

Counts were generally between ten and thirty through August and the first half of September (peaking at 54 in the Lower Withy Field on 7th September) before dropping off to single figures and teens for the rest of the autumn (peaking at 35 on 25th October).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Coar-heddagh veg

Scarce. Passage migrant.

A good series of records in 2025, which all came from overnight dazzling. In spring, singles were recorded on 16th and 20th March, with two on 22nd.

A similar run of records in autumn, with singles on 13th, 15th & 18th October, and three on 27th.

[Eurasian] Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Ushag rhennee

Uncommon. Passage migrant.

Shown to overwinter by the presence of a single seen repeatedly on a Mill Giau camera trap. The only spring record was a single flushed from around the Observatory on 7th March.

Autumn records began with a single on 1st November, followed by two on each 6th & 7th. Further singles were seen on camera traps at the Observatory and the Withies through November and December.

[Common] Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Coar heddagh

Uncommon. Historic breeder, increasingly uncommon passage migrant.

Several records of overwintering individuals were provided by camera traps.



A Snipe caught on camera trap at the Withies.

A brilliant series of spring records, with one to four individuals counted on 11 dates in March, eight dates in April and two dates in May. Spring peaks were 12 and 13 on 17th and 22nd March, respectively.

The first autumn record was a single on 16th August, followed by one further single in August and three in September. One to six individuals were recorded on 17 dates in October and November, with a peak of 18 birds on 14th October (the joint highest day-count).

As with Jack Snipe, many of these records and especially the higher counts can be attributed to an increase in dazzling efforts.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Feddanagh

Uncommon. 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>29-Apr</i>	<i>02-May</i>	<i>26-Apr</i>	<i>27-Apr</i>	<i>01-May</i>	<i>03-May</i>	<i>24-Apr</i>
<i>07-Sep</i>	<i>28-Aug</i>	<i>14-Sep</i>	<i>05-Sep</i>	<i>09-Sep</i>	<i>13-Sep</i>	<i>01-Sep</i>

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

The first spring individual was picked up by a camera trap at the Puddle on 10th April. A further four singles were recorded in April, with two on 20th. Two on 1st May were followed by four singles in the month.

Early autumn records began with singles on 27th & 30th June. One to three individuals were recorded on ten dates in July, with a peak of four birds on

22nd. Four singles were spread across August, with the final record of the year a single at Cow Harbour on 2nd September.

[Common] Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Goblan marrey

Uncommon. Passage migrant.

Only two spring records: two on 23rd March and a single on 18th April. Summer records were two singles in each June and July.

In the autumn, a single on 5th August was followed by six on 21st August, and three September records: three on 12th, a flock of 13 on 19th and a single on 20th.

[Common] Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Goblan glass

Rare. Passage migrant.

A single on the rocks at Kione ny Halby on the evening of 12th July was the 87th Calf record.

[Ruddy] Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Ronseyder traie

Uncommon. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

A high count of 32 individuals was made on a daytrip on 20th January. Single figure counts were made on four dates in March, with an additional 15 on 11th and 19 on 15th. A further five single figure counts were recorded in April, with one individual seen on each 17th & 18th May.

The first returning birds were two on 11th August. Records were sporadic, yet semi-regular, throughout the autumn. Mostly single digit counts, but with ten on 15th August, 14 on 14th September, 19 on 1st October and 12 on 9th October.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Feddanagh glass

Rare. Passage migrant.

A single at Cow Harbour on 22nd May represents the 15th Calf record.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Breckag hraie

Uncommon. Passage migrant.

Spring sightings were scarce as usual, with just singles on 9th & 20th May.

It was, however, more surprising that autumn records were equally sparse, with just singles on 5th August and 4th October.

Records of “small wader sp.” (which likely pertain to this species) involved birds distantly flying past Culberty during seawatches. Five south on 5th July were followed by more records in September: on 1st (2), 13th (9), 17th (3) & 18th (1).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Feddanagh gorrym

Uncommon. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

No trips to the Lighthouse Cave were made overwinter, so the first record of the year was four on Rarick on 11th March. Fifty-nine were in the cave and surrounding area on 15th. One to twelve were then recorded on four further dates in March, two dates in April and three dates in May. The final spring record was a single in the Lighthouse Cave on 18th May.

The first returning bird was seen in the Lighthouse Cave on 12th August, followed by another single on 17th. There was only one record in September (one on 10th) and three in October: 32 on 3rd, 12 on 4th and four in the Lighthouse Cave on 8th.

Arctic Skua [Parasitic Jaeger] *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Shirragh varrey

Uncommon. Passage migrant, more regular in autumn.

Two flying over Burroo on 5th July were the first seen during the year (only the eleventh July record). One to four were seen on five dates in September, with a peak of seven on 16th. The final records were of two off Cow Harbour on 4th October and a single on 5th.

Long-tailed [Jaeger] Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Maarliagh fammanagh

Rare. Autumn passage migrant.

A dark-phase bird was loafing around off Cow Harbour before heading west on 4th October (EMG). The 24th Calf record, and the third year on the trot that this species has been recorded.

Pomarine [Jaeger] Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Maarliagh Pomareenagh

Rare. Passage migrant.

The 94th Calf record (and the first record for June) was a pale-phase immature bird that flew north past the Calf on a seawatch on 13th June (EJB).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Maarliagh mooar

Uncommon. One summer resident, otherwise passage migrant.

The (presumed) same individual returned for its 10th season on the Calf on 15th April. Recorded near-daily until 1st September, all sightings during this period were thought to refer to this bird. A single on 16th September may potentially have been a separate migratory bird.

Skua sp. *Stercorarius sp.*

A single skua that was too far out to identify flew north past Culbery on 18th September. It was thought likely to be an Arctic Skua.

[Atlantic] Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Pibbin

Uncommon. Historic breeder; summer visitor and 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-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 16th March 1982, with the latest departure date being 6th November 1996.

The first March records since 1996 involved singles off the West coast on 29th and 30th. There were no further records until 29th April. One to three birds were recorded on seven dates in May, with highs of eight and 16 on 21st & 25th, respectively.

A continuing increase in records saw individuals recorded in over two-thirds of days in June. All counts were over one (bar 9th) and double digits were recorded four times: ten on 15th, 11 on 28th and 13 on 3rd & 16th. One to four individuals were seen in the first week of July, then no records until two on 23rd. There was another large gap in records until one on 28th and two on 31st, with the final bird of the year being a single past South Harbour on 8th September.

The “Puffin Project” continued, with the addition of a third decoy colony on Burroo Neck. A bird on the sea called back at the Kione ny Halby speaker on 21st May, and a bird was thought to fly from near Ghaw Yairn on 27th. On the evenings on 15th & 16th June a single flew in and landed on Burroo Neck. Further Puffins were sighted on land below the Lighthouses – three on 20th and two 28th June. A very encouraging series of records.



Left: decoy Puffin in action ©Kate Fox; Right: a real Puffin! ©Kate Fox

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Stronnag ghoo

Common. Annual breeder; uncommon passage migrant.

Counts of one to eight were regular throughout the spring, with a peak of 21 off the north coast on 22nd March (highest ever day-count). One to four birds were seen on 17 dates in June, with eight on 19th and ten on 25th. There were only seven records in July, with the last bird of the summer a single on 30th.

Three pairs were regularly seen near the Stack with other single pairs seen displaying along the east coast and off Gibdale. An adult was seen carrying fish into the Lighthouse Cave on July 28th. In addition, other non-breeders (including younger birds) were seen hauled out at Ghaw Laing, Baie n’Ooig and Gibdale, suggesting that species may increase in breeding totals in the future.

The only records in the autumn were five flying west off Cow Harbour on both 4th & 5th October.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Coltrag

Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.

A single was sighted on a daytrip on 20th January. Birds were already present when the season started, with 115 recorded on 8th March. The numbers fluctuated strongly with the weather, with further peaks of 171 (15th & 25th), 213 (31st) and 358 (16th). From April, records became near-daily (peak count of 325 on 10th), and double figure counts were daily in May (with counts of over 75 on 16 dates, and a peak of 487 on 23rd).

Three breeding season counts produced a mean of 203 Independent Adults (IAs), representing an estimated 122 pairs. This is a 36% decrease on 2024 figures but is still higher than the 10-year mean (179 IAs). One possible explanation for this decrease is that the winter storms could have resulted in a high mortality rate.

Mean estimate of breeding pairs per decade:

	1959 to 1968	1969 to 1978	1979 to 1988	1989 to 1998	1999 to 2008	2009 to 2018
AON	154	129	127	63	115	128

Records were still daily throughout June (peak of 303 on 3rd), but numbers decreased from 24th. July saw a dramatic reduction in numbers as breeding birds left, with mostly single figure counts and then no records from 19th, with only five records in August. Autumn records were sparse, with the vast majority coming from seawatching. Monthly peaks were 135 on 11th September and 44 on 7th October.

Common [Murre] Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Stronnag

Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.

Records were sporadic throughout March and April, generally single figure but with peaks of 73 on 15th March and 157 on 27th April. Records were near-daily in May and rose to generally above 50 in the latter half of the month (with a peak of 233 on 23rd).

Birds were back on ledges at Ghaw Yairn from 29th April. As well as the stronghold colonies at Ghaw Yairn and Kione Roauyr, small numbers of birds were seen carrying fish at the Stack, Lighthouse Cliffs and Burroo (the first time

in many years that pairs have bred away from the main colonies). Breeding counts came to 229 IAs, with an estimated 138 pairs. As with Razorbills, this represents a decrease (of 13%) on 2024 figures.

Mean estimate of breeding pairs per decade:

	1959 to 1968	1969 to 1978	1979 to 1988	1989 to 1998	1999 to 2008	2009 to 2018
AON	143	95	258	175	157	108

Counts were generally over 100 in June, with highs of 713 (23rd), 1001 (3rd) and 3186 (1st). The last week of the month saw numbers dropping off dramatically – down to low double figures by the second week of July and occasional single figure counts in the latter half of July. One to two birds were recorded on six dates in August.

Autumn records came from two dates in September, four dates in October and one date in November – peaking at 20 on 5th October.



A Razorbill with three Guillemots ©Liam Northfield

Large Auk sp. *Alca/Uria* sp.

Non-specifically identified Razorbill/Guillemot were recorded offshore between March and October, and with greater frequency and larger numbers during early summer and then again in mid-to-late autumn.

Records were irregular in spring, and summer movements largely involved 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 1094 on 25th May and 3186 on 1st June.

Sightings were scarce in late summer/early autumn (with all counts <30). Records were still infrequent later in autumn, but numbers were higher, peaking at 1079 on 16th September and 1533 on 6th October.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Gollan-marrey mooar

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	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 3rd April 1975 & 1988, with the latest departure date being 22nd October 1996.

A comparatively good year for records. There were two in spring, both of which were surprisingly April records: one south past Culbery on 27th, and six through the Sound on 29th.

Autumn records started with two singles in August (5th & 12th), followed by three south past Culbery on 1st September, and the final record of the year was two off Culbery on 17th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Gollan-marrey Arctagh

Rare. Passage migrant.

Two individuals flew south past Culbery on 28th August. Remarkably, this is only the 79th Calf record.

[Black-legged] Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Pirragh

Common. Former breeder; summer visitor and passage migrant.

Low numbers were irregular throughout March and April, with peaks coming from seawatching at Culbery: 115S & 31N on 28th March and 44S & 32N on 27th April. Sightings became more regular in May, generally low single figures but often climbing to 40–60, with a peak of 38S & 213N past Culbery on 25th.

Numbers were similar throughout June, with a windy spell at the beginning of the month bolstering sightings, with 247 on 1st and 604 on 3rd. There were no large flocks seen roosting around the Calf in the late summer this year. The first half of July saw regular low double figure counts, with both numbers and frequency dropping off in the second half of the month.

Autumn passage kicked off in August, with regular sightings and peaks coming from seawatching at Culbery. Counts included 46S & 445N on 5th, 17S & 225N on 8th, 45S & 186N on 9th, and 226S & 209N on 28th. All September records came from seawatching, with two counts of 75–95, four counts of 100–500, and a peak of 620 (563S & 55N). Similarly, in the first week of October seawatching produced four counts of 75–300. Small numbers were recorded on six further dates in October, with a final record of two individuals on 7th November.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Uncommon. Passage migrant.

Foillan kione-doo

Five past Culbery on 22nd March were the first of the season. On 13th April 13 flew past Kione Roauyr (3rd highest day-count for the month), with two on 26th and one on 29th. Further singles were recorded on 1st & 27th May.

In the summer, singles were recorded on two dates in June and three dates in July, with a peak of seven on 13th June.

Three were sighted past Culbery on each 1st & 8th September, with two on 21st and one on 25th. Two on 17th October were followed by five on 26th and a final two on 27th.

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla**
Vagrant.

Foillan gearagh

A breeding-plumage adult was at the gull colony at Kione ny Halby on 2nd July (EJB et al.). It flew around calling for roughly ten minutes before being lost from view, then reappeared out at sea, circled round a few times and flew north to the Isle of Man.

The first Manx record.



Left: Eleanor and Ed watching... ©Kate Fox
Right: ... the Laughing Gull ©Ed Betteridge

Common Gull *Larus canus*
Uncommon. Passage migrant.

Foillan cadjin

Always less common in spring, there were three records of singles on 12th March, and 4th & 18th May.

Autumn records started with a single on 5th August and three on 15th. A relatively light autumn passage followed, with one to eight birds recorded on two dates in September and five dates in October. A final two individuals were seen on 7th November.

(European) Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.

Foillan

Seventy-six were recorded on a daytrip on 20th January.

Present throughout the season, with birds already in colonies when we arrived in March. Up to 700 birds were regularly counted throughout the spring, reflecting the presence of breeding birds. Monthly peaks were 921 on 19th March, 868 on 13th April and 813 on 30th May.

Counts were generally between 300 and 500 during June and July, as birds were harder to see when incubating. The first chicks hatched on 13th May at Central Heath. The breeding season was once again rather protracted, and the number of pairs remained relatively similar to 2024. Productivity was thought to be very high, with the largest number of pulli ringed since 2019.

Numbers of breeding Herring Gull 2025:

Location	AON	Location	AON
Gibdale Point	15	Central Heath Top Withy Field	54
Baie Fine	2	Central Heath Lower Withy Field	3
Baie n'Ooig	7	Central Heath Main	116
Lighthouse Cliffs	12	Central Heath Bluffs	3
Ghaw Laing	15	Kione ny Halby	18
Smuggler's Cave	2	Kione Roauyr	2
Caigher Point	3	Fold Point / Cletts	3
Caigher Dub	91	The Dock	1
Rarick	62	Cow Harbour	85
Puddle	12	Kione Beg	9
South Harbour / Burroo Neck	18	Gibdale	12
Burroo	7	Kitterland	35
Central Heath Front Field	2	Total	589

Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade:

	1959 to 1968	1969 to 1978	1979 to 1988	1989 to 1998	1999 to 2008	2009 to 2018
AON	1378	1911	1380	888	481	353

Numbers began to peter out in August, dropping to below 100 on 26th. Totals continued to dwindle throughout September, with a peak of 130 on 2nd. Single figures and low double figures were prevalent through October, until numbers began to build up again around 26th.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Juan mooar

Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.

Present daily throughout the season, with some birds already on territories when we returned to the Calf in March. High double figures to over 100 were frequently counted in the early spring, with monthly peaks of 227 on 19th March and 206 on 2nd April. As wintering birds left, numbers generally stayed in the double figures, with peaks of 128 on 30th May, 112 on 10th June and 88 on 15th & 18th July.

Number of breeding Great Black-backed Gulls in 2025:

Location	AON	Location	AON
Gibdale Point	1	Burroo	1
Baie Fine	2	Bowl and Above	1
Amulty	1	Kione ny Halby	1
Baie n'Ooig	2	Kione Roauyr	1
Creg Veneagh	1	Fold Point / Cletts	1
Stack	2	Big Park / Twin Peaks	1
Above Lighthouse Cave	1	Central Heath Bluffs	1
Culbery	1	Central Heath Main	1
Dub	2	Upper Withy Field	2
South Ghaw Laing	1	Seafield	1
Kittiwake Cave to Gloop	1	Below Lower Twin Field	1
Caigher Main Colony	15	Cow Harbour	2
Caigher Point	1	Kione Beg	1
Leodan	1	Kitterland	22
Rarick / Puddle	2	Total	73
Burroo Neck	2		

Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade:

	1959 to 1968	1969 to 1978	1979 to 1988	1989 to 1998	1999 to 2008	2009 to 2018
AON	149	173	148	93	86	47



Breeding numbers increased by 24% from 2024, although productivity remained low (with 39 pulli ringed).

Numbers were generally in double figures through the autumn, with fewer than 50 through September and picking up again into October. Monthly peaks were 174 on 5th August, 78 on 6th September, 144 on 5th October and 128 on 3rd November.

Great Black-backed
Gull nest ©Kate Fox

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.

Foillan saggyrt

Birds were present in low double figures from the start of the season. Numbers began to build from late March and generally remained in high double figures throughout the rest of spring. Monthly peaks were 117 on 31st March, 146 on 23rd April, 128 on 30th May and 93 on 1st June.

It was quite a protracted breeding season, with many pairs not having laid (and some not even built nests) during our initial colony counts. Breeding pairs continued to increase (a 35% increase from 2024) – with 89 AONs being the highest since 1967. Unfortunately, productivity was very poor, with a spell of wind and heavy rain at the start of June wiping out most small chicks.

Number of breeding Lesser Black-backed Gulls in 2025:

Location	AON	Location	AON
Caigher Dub	3	Rarick	1
Central Heath / Glen Fields	33	Ghaw Laing	2
Kione ny Halby	50	Total	89

Mean count of apparently occupied nests per decade:

	1959 to 1968	1969 to 1978	1979 to 1988	1989 to 1998	1999 to 2008	2009 to 2018
AON	39	41	40	31	36	45

Numbers began to drop off from late July onwards. Low double figures were the norm throughout August, decreasing to single figures for the first fortnight in September, then generally no sightings from 21st. Singles were recorded on 13th, 21st & 26th October, with two on 27th.

Red-throated Diver [Loon] *Gavia stellata*
Scarce. Passage migrant.

Lhargey yiarg

Scarce spring records included one each on 28th & 29th March.

The first autumn record was a breeding-plumage individual off Culbery on 5th July. Quite a poor showing resulted in only two further records: singles on 24th September and 4th October.

Great Northern Diver [Common Loon] *Gavia immer*
Scarce. Passage migrant.

Arrag vooar

Only two individuals were recorded: flying north past Chicken Rock on 24th September and through the Sound on 5th October.

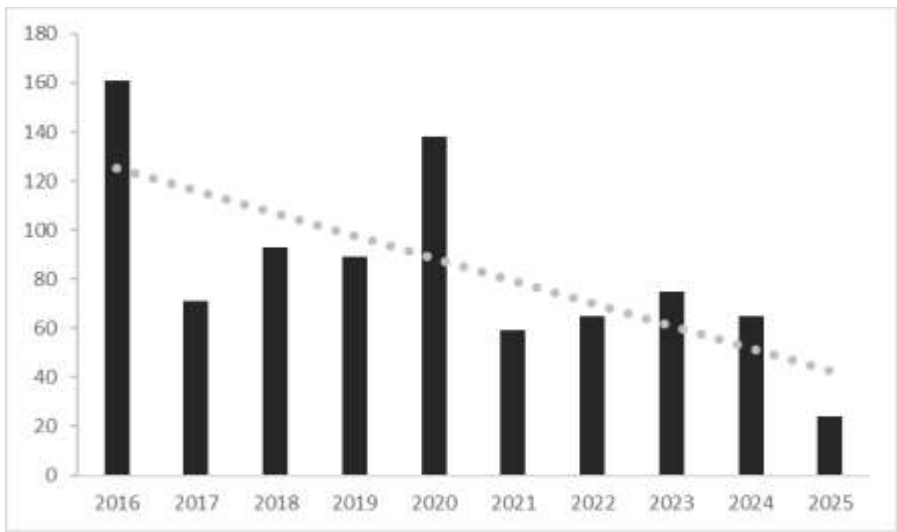
European [Storm Petrel] Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*
Uncommon. Summer visitor and passage migrant.

Kirree varrey

As ever, most records came from birds attracted to tape-lure during nighttime netting sessions. The number of petrels caught once again decreased – though this is likely more a reflection of increased periods of unsettled weather, preventing nets from being erected.

Mist netting sessions and the number of petrels caught:

Date	Location	No.	Date	Location	No.
3 rd July	South Harbour	1	14 th August	South Harbour	1
10 th July	South Harbour	8	15 th August	South Harbour	6
25 th July	South Harbour	2	22 nd August	South Harbour	1
26 th July	South Harbour	26	23 rd August	South Harbour	6



The number of new Storm-petrels caught from 2016–2025.

Additional records included a single at South Harbour on 19th June and three west past Cow Harbour on 5th October.

Leach's [Storm Petrel] Storm-petrel *Hydrobates leucorhous*

Kirree-varrey

*Rare. Passage migrant.**Leach*

Four singles flew west past Cow Harbour on the morning of 5th October. This is the first record since 2019.

[Northern] Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Foillan Albinagh

Common. Summer visitor and passage migrant.

Birds were recorded back on ledges on a daytrip on 20th January.

Recorded near-daily from March through to mid-September, with low double figure counts prevailing, becoming single figure counts from mid-July onwards. Monthly peaks no doubt included some spring passage movements as well as birds passing the Calf to feed: 77 on 28th March & 13th April, 70 on 25th May and 128 on 5th June.

Breeding sites were counted from both land and sea, giving a total of 93 Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS). This is comparable to recent years, although productivity remained extremely low (0.05), with only five chicks surviving to fledge (one at Ghaw Yairn, two on Burroo, one between Amulty and Baie n'Ooig and the last in Baie n'Ooig itself).

Number of breeding Fulmar in 2025:

Location	AOS	Location	AOS
Wall/Kione ny Halby	1	Creg Veneagh	3
West Ghaw Yairn	11	Stack	2
Ghaw Yairn	28	Lighthouse Cliffs N	9
Kione Roauyr	3	Clet Elby	2
Towards Cletts	1	Lighthouse Cliffs S	1
Amulty	3	Ghaw Laing	2
Amulty-Baie n'Ooig	8	Burroo	8
Baie n'Ooig	11	Total	61

Mean count of apparently occupied nest sites per decade:

	1959 to 1968	1969 to 1978	1979 to 1988	1989 to 1998	1999 to 2008	2009 to 2018
AOS	32	78	108	120	76	91

Light autumn passage included counts of over 50 on four dates in August and three dates in September (with a peak of 124 on 16th September). Counts of fewer than 15 were recorded on five dates in October, with a final three on 2nd November.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

Scraayl doo

Rare. Passage migrant, more frequent in autumn.

A single south past Culbery on 3rd June (EMG) represents the 87th Calf record, the first June record and only the second ever spring record.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Scraayl

Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.

The first returning bird was recorded on land on 20th March. Sightings were then regular through the spring, with peaks around the new moon periods (229 on 28th April and 904 on 25th May). Records were daily throughout June, with birds regularly seen flying past on their way to feeding grounds, with high counts including 257 on 1st, 2962 on 3rd and 466 on 23rd. Numbers were generally lower in July, although there was a peak of 562 on 5th.

Callback monitoring was conducted from 31st May to 23rd June, and a full-burrow census of South Harbour took place on 15th June. Combined, these calculated the breeding population of South Harbour to be 290 Apparently Occupied Burrows (AOB), which can be extrapolated to create a whole-island population estimate of ~1000 AOB.

Autumn passage began in August, with peaks of 436 on 4th, 906 on 5th and 945 on 9th. Counts continued to be regular low double figures for the first half of September (peaking at 485 on 1st), before dropping off completely in the latter half of the month. The final record of the season was eight past Cow Harbour on 4th October.

Mediterranean Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan**

Scraayl Balearagh

Rare. Passage migrant, more frequent in autumn.

A single was seen with Manx Shearwaters flying west past Cow Harbour on 4th October (EMG). Only the 47th Calf record and the first since 2018.

[Northern] Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Gant

Common. Summer visitor and passage migrant.

Recorded near-daily throughout the season. All spring and summer counts were below 100, with monthly peaks of 88 on 29th March, 97 on 27th April, 80 on 3rd May, 50 on 13th June and 65 on 5th July.

Early autumn passage began in August. Counts of over 100 were recorded on five dates in August (peak of 282 on 8th & 9th) and four dates in September (peak of 135 on 16th). A further large movement occurred after Storm Amy, with counts of 743, 309 and 110 on the 4th, 5th and 6th, respectively.

[European] Shag *Gulosus aristotelis*

Fannag varrey

Common. Annual breeder; resident.

Winter counts were restricted to 18 on 20th January. Recorded daily throughout the season, spring records were generally double figures and from March to April likely reflect the local breeding population (with peaks of 103 on 17th March and 171 on 27th April).

In a pleasing change to recent years, the breeding population increased to 151 pairs (a 29% increase on 2024 figures). This likely represents more thorough colony counts in the less accessible colonies, but also a definite increase was noted in the west coast colonies. Productivity at monitored colonies was 0.5, although this does not include the main west coast colonies. The east coast colonies seem to be especially suffering (with no young fledged from the Puffin Colony), likely due to the increased tendency for strong south-easterly winds in spring.



Looking for Shag nests ©Ann Playford

Number of breeding Shag in 2025:

Location	AON	Location	AON
Cletts	1	Baie n'Ooig	34
Ghaw Yairn to KNH	5	Amulty	3
Kione ny Halby Main	13	Baie Fine East	3
Wall	1	Baie Fine West	53
Puffin Colony & Table Rock	5	Gibdale Eye	1
Creg Veneagh	14	Gibdale Bay	14
Lighthouse Cliffs	4	Total	151

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

	1959 to 1968	1969 to 1978	1979 to 1988	1989 to 1998	1999 to 2008	2009 to 2018
AON	232	317	312	268	179	147

From May into June the population was bolstered by fledged juveniles, resulting in higher counts of 225 on 6th, 269 on 7th May and 244 on 5th June. In the late summer large flocks would haul out at Kione ny Halby, with peaks of 435 on 22nd July and 266 on 12th August. From September, numbers dropped off and were generally in the low double figures.

[Great] Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Feeagh marrey

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

One to eight birds were recorded near-daily throughout the season. Haul-outs were regular at the Cletts, Ghaw Yairn, Ghaw Laing, the Stack and Creg Veneagh. Whilst not thought to breed on the Calf this year, an adult was seen carrying nest material down the west coast.

A slight increase in the volume of records during the summer and autumn months is likely attributable to the arrival of dispersing juveniles. Nine to thirteen individuals were recorded on three dates in June, two dates in August and once each in September and October.

The peak count was 36 on 10th August (including a single flock of 26 over the Glen). This is the highest-ever day-count, beating 32 on 7th September 2006.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Coar-vane veg

Rare. Passage migrant.

An adult and a juvenile were present at South Harbour on 4th July. The juvenile remained present from 6th – 9th.

These represent the 42nd – 46th Calf records and the first July records.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Coar ny hastan

Uncommon. Passage migrant, more regular in autumn.

Quite a good year for records with birds seen on 89 dates throughout the season, the vast majority being single individuals. Winter records came from a camera trap at the Millpond, with singles recorded on 18th & 30 January, and 15th, 16th & 25th February.

Two singles were recorded in March, and a further three in April. During May and June, a juvenile bird took up residence between Cow Harbour and Cletts. Additional individuals were recorded on 13th, 19th & 29th June.

Records became more sporadic during July and August, then near-daily from September onwards. Two individuals were recorded on 7th & 16th October, with three on each 6th, 10th, 20th & 21st September.

[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 12th April 1996, with the latest departure date being 27th October 1976.

A single on 26th April was the first record for the year. Further spring records involved two on 4th, 12th & 15th May, with a single on 13th May. A good summer involved six records of 1–6 individuals in June, and two singles (11th & 19th) and a flock of three (12th) in July.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*
Rare. Former breeder; passage migrant.

Hullad yiare-chleayshagh

One was seen hunting above South Harbour on the evening of 22nd May, with what is likely the same individual being recorded on 24th & 29th.

In the autumn, singles were seen on 9th September and 1st October.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Rare. Passage migrant.

Shawk eeastee

Singles flew over on 30th April, 12th May and 2nd June. Further singles were recorded on 17th & 20th August and 3rd, 7th and 13th September. Most autumn records likely refer to the same individual – a juvenile '6A4' that was also frequently reported on the Isle of Man during this period.

The 65th – 72nd Calf records.



Left: Osprey ©Matt Livsey; Right: Sparrowhawk ©Maia Jones

[Eurasian] Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Uncommon. Passage migrant.

Shawk sperriu

Camera traps revealed that at least one bird overwintered. One to two birds were recorded regularly from the end of March to the first week of June, with three on 21st April.

The first autumn bird was sighted on 31st July. After that, 1–3 birds were recorded near-daily to the end of the season. Ringing records showed that a minimum of six individuals were involved.

[Eurasian] Goshawk *Astur gentilis*

Shawk vooar ny sperriu

Rare. Passage migrant.

The 13th Calf record was a female that soared north over Baie Fine on 24th March (EMG).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Shirragh ny giark

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

A ‘ringtail’ was in residence when we arrived in March and proceeded to over-summer, resulting in this species being recorded near-daily throughout the season. Through spring and summer, two birds were seen on eight dates in May, once in June and three dates in July. Most birds referred to ringtails, exceptions being a second-year male and an all-white female (known from the Isle of Man), both on 17th May.

From August, numbers were bolstered by dispersing juveniles and counts of 1–3 were regular. October onwards saw fewer singles, with records more regularly of up to four individuals. It is likely there was limited interchange of individuals within the latter period, as four harriers could be individually recognised through their markings.

[Western] Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Shirragh ny bogleeyn

Rare. Passage migrant.

The 42nd Calf record was a single that was hunting around the island on 16th & 17th May (EMG et al).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Shirragh famman-mooar

Rare. Passage migrant.

The 15th (and earliest) Calf record was a single that flew over the Observatory and Jane’s House on 8th March (EMG et al). This is likely the same individual that was around the Isle of Man that month.

[Common] Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

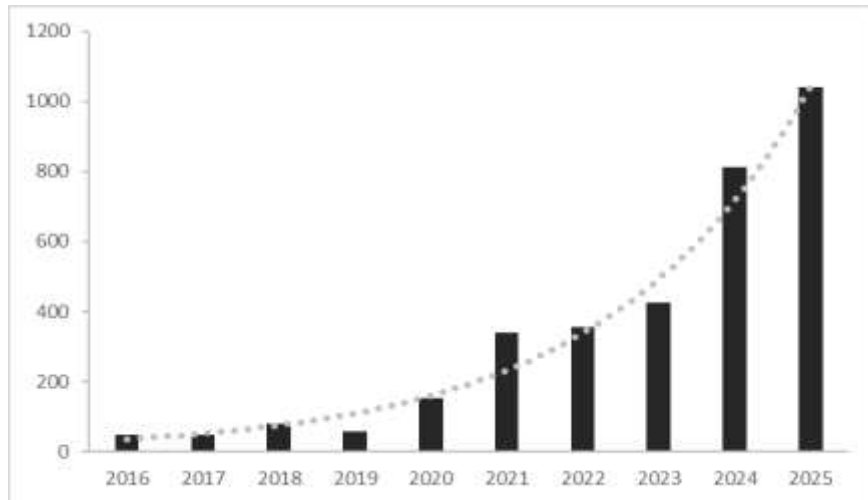
Shirragh ruy

Common. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.

Seen daily throughout the season with counts of up to six being common – reflecting the three resident pairs. Light passage or visiting individuals from the Isle of Man were recorded throughout the spring, with 7–8 individuals being counted on nine dates and ten on each 4th April and 10th May.

Three pairs attempted breeding this year. The newest pair at Kione Roauyr only built a nest and did not lay, while the pairs around the Lighthouses and Baie Fine both successfully fledged two young.

Records were largely limited to 1–3 individuals during June and July, as the adults became more secretive during incubation. From August, the juveniles bolstered numbers and counts of up to ten were regular. Light passage also boosted numbers, with peaks of 14 on 22nd September and 11 on 13th October.



Number of bird-days for Buzzard from 2016–2025.

[Common] Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Stannair

Uncommon. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.

Singles were recorded semi-regularly throughout the spring and summer, with two reported on 4th May. From August, records of 1–2 were more frequent as dispersing juveniles appeared. High counts were three on 12th and four on 10th August.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Shawk veg

Uncommon. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Sighted near-daily through March and the first fortnight of April, with two individuals recorded on six dates and three on 14th March. The last spring record was a single on 1st May. During the summer, singles were sighted on 11th, 12th & 18th June, and 11th July.

The first autumn individual was seen from 16th – 21st September. There were no further records until 7th October, whereafter sightings of singles became more regular and two were counted on 27th.

Peregrine [Falcon] *Falco peregrinus*

Shirragh y ree

Uncommon. Occasional breeder.

A pair was present throughout March and April (especially along the east coast) and were seen to attack an intruding male on 15th April. However, they were not thought to breed on the Calf (likely close by in the south of the Isle of Man) and sightings dropped off from May. Records were sporadic from June onwards, with 1–2 birds recorded on 23 occasions.

[Red-billed] Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Caaig

Common. Annual breeder; resident.

Winter records were 20 on 20th January and a single on a camera trap on 4th February.

Recorded daily throughout the season, with counts of 10–20 birds being regular during spring and reflecting the presence of nine pairs, plus a few non-breeding birds.

In total, 17 young were fledged. From June, the addition of these juveniles resulted in regular counts between 20 and 30. However, there was no notable build-up of communal flocks in the autumn, with the peak count being only 32, on 21st July.

[Eurasian] Magpie *Pica pica*

Pieanat

Uncommon. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.

One to three individuals were recorded on six dates in March and three dates in April. From 30th April, a pair took up territory in the Glen, although no breeding attempt was made. From September, only a single was seen regularly – it is possible that one of the pair died. Migrant birds included two on 23rd September and 12th & 14th October, 16 on 17th October and six on 2nd November.

[Western] Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Juan teayst

Uncommon. Passage migrant – irregular in spring.

Spring records involved occasional excursions of 1–5 birds on three dates in March, seven dates in April and eight dates in May. The spring peak was ten on 10th May. Summer records were limited to six on 11th June and singles on 15th & 16th August.

The first autumn record was ten on 18th September. Afterwards, counts from 5–120 were made on 11 dates from September to November, with highs of 151 on 12th October, and 168 and 285 on 2nd and 7th November, respectively.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Trogh

Uncommon. Passage migrant – irregular in spring.

Counts of 1–7 were made on a surprising 20 dates in spring, with an additional 23 recorded on 7th April. This latter count represents the 2nd highest spring count, only beaten by 26 on 1st April 1983.

In contrast, there were only three summer records, and a further two at the end of September. Mostly low counts were then made on eight dates in October and three dates in November (with monthly peaks of 37 on 30th October and 113 on 7th November).

[Northern] Raven *Corvus corax*

Feeagh

Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.

A pair was present on 20th January. Recorded daily throughout the season, with counts of up to six being most prevalent. In March and April the two resident pairs were joined by a non-breeding pair, and after these left the fledged young contributed to the numbers from May onwards.

Both pairs were incubating when we arrived on the island, with the Lighthouse pair going on to fledge one young. The Amulty pair failed but (it's thought to be the same pair) rebuilt at Gibdale. The resulting youngster was fortunately rescued by the coastguard on a training exercise, after becoming entangled in baler twine in the nest. It successfully rejoined its parents and was seen regularly around the island for the rest of the season.



The Coastguard team with rescued Raven chick ©Kate Fox

From August, some passage was noted, with 7–11 birds counted on three dates in August, two dates in September, eight dates in October and two dates in November. Larger flocks included 20 on 10th August and 14 on 21st September.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Fannag ghoo

Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.

A single winter record came from one sighted on a daytrip on 20th January.

One to four were recorded regularly throughout the season, reflecting the presence of known breeding birds. Sightings were scarcer during July and August (when adults were moulting), before increasing in frequency again in September. In October, migrant flocks were reported: 11 on 5th, 18 on 22nd, ten on 23rd and 12 on 24th.

One “Carrion-type” pair bred at Caigher Point again, although despite their appearance these birds are thought to be hybrids. Two mixed Carrion x Hooded Crow pairs bred.

Hooded Crow *Corvus corone cornix*
Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.

Fannag

Recorded four times over winter by daytrips and camera traps. After our arrival in March they were then sighted daily. Counts were generally between ten and 30, including the presence of seven “true” pairs. An additional eight hybrid pairs bred – resulting in the highest amount of breeding crows on the Calf.

It did not appear to be a particularly productive year, with no noticeable increase in numbers before they started dropping off to mostly single figures at the end of summer. As with Carrion Crows, numbers picked up again from September.

Furthermore, crows with a hybrid appearance were recorded near-daily throughout the season. Counts were generally between two and five, with a peak of nine on 1st April.

[Eurasian] Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*
Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant, irregular in spring.

Kione gorrym

Singles on 8th April and 1st May were the only spring records.

The first autumn sighting was three on 19th September. Thereafter, records were near-daily until mid-October, with monthly peaks of 11 on 29th September and five on 11th October.

Great Tit *Parus major*
Uncommon. Occasional breeder; passage migrant, more regular in autumn.

Myntan mooar

Eight counts of 1–4 were made in March. Great Tit did not breed this year; hence the last spring records were singles on 12th & 13th April. In July, one dispersing juvenile took up residence from 2nd – 18th.

A single was briefly present on 24th August, but autumn passage did not really begin until two on 20th September. Thereafter, counts of 1–4 were near-daily, with seven on 29 September & 16th October, nine on 11th September and ten on 12th.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Myntan doo

Uncommon. Passage migrant (irregular in spring); has overwintered.

After a year's absence in 2024, the first record was a single on 20th September. Further singles were seen on 23rd, 27th & 28th, with six on 29th. After a week with no sightings, two on 9th October were the start of near-daily records until the end of the season. Counts were generally single figures, with 21 on 12th October and 11 on each 13th & 14th.

[Eurasian] Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Usagh happagh

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

Five birds on 8th March were the start of a good series of spring records. Singles were recorded on eight dates in March and four dates in April. In May, a male was heard singing in the Seafield on three separate dates.

The first autumn record was a single on 10th September, followed by two on 12th. From 17th onwards, counts of 1–75 were made near-daily. The peak of passage was from 8th – 16th October, with 477 on 8th, 173 on 11th, 188 on 12th and 141 on 16th. Later peaks included 107 on 22nd and 78 on 30th.



Skylark ©Kate Fox

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Kiaulleyder shiast

*Uncommon. 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 12th April 1980 and 1981, with the latest departure date being 7th October 1975.

A single on 20th April was the first record of spring, with single figures recorded on a further six dates in the month. Peak passage was at the beginning of May,

starting with 30 on 1st. Three teen-figures followed, before counts rapidly dropped off again, with six counts of 1–2 after 18th. After an absence of over two weeks, singles were recorded on 14th & 15th June.

A juvenile on 18th July was the start of another poor autumn passage. One to two individuals were recorded on a further four dates in July and five dates in August. Three birds were seen on 31st July and 2nd August, with five on 30th July. The final autumn records were singles on 2nd & 3rd September.

[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 17th April 2019, with the latest departure date being 17th November 1998.

A record year with ten individuals recorded (all in the spring). Singles were recorded on 30th April, 8th & 14th May and 18th June, with two on each 9th, 10th & 16th May.

[Common] Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Reeleyder

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
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 2nd April 2004, with the latest departure date being 19th October 1985.

The first spring record was three individuals at the Withies on 9th April. Four singles were recorded in the month, with two on 22nd. One more single on 13th May was the end of a reasonable spring passage.

The only record of autumn was a juvenile ringed on 23rd July.

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 12th March 1990, with the latest departure date being 11th October 1999 and 2005.

The first returning bird was a single on 8th March – the earliest Calf record (beating 12th March 1990). Singles on 9th & 10th were followed by three on 24th and two on 25th. Ten on 30th was the real start of a great spring passage, with birds recorded near-daily throughout April and counts often in low double figures – with peaks of 154 and 105 on the 7th and 8th, respectively. The former count is the third highest day-count since 250 on 8th May 1983. Single figures were daily from 1st – 6th May, with a further three counts of 1–2 individuals later in the month.

Summer records consisted of six on 21st June, one on 22nd, a single on 10th July, three on 10th August and one on 16th. Singles on 24th & 25th August may represent early autumn migrants. Four singles were recorded in September, with 66 on 20th (the third-highest autumn day-count) being the final rush of the season.

[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 17th March 1995, with the latest departure date being 28th November 1994.

Two on 28th March were the first spring records. Single figures followed from 30th – 4th April, whereafter counts became daily and generally in double figures.

High counts included 103 on 17th, 127 on 26th, 97 on 27th and 159 on 29th. In May, peaks were 96 on 4th and 95 on 27th.

Summer counts generally ranged between six and 20. Only five pairs bred this year (one at Jane's House, three around the Observatory and one in the Upper Lighthouse), with two failing but the other three raising two broods.

Early autumn passage was noticeable from the second week of August, where counts became between 30 and 70 (peaking at 101 on 16th). The end of August and into September saw counts more often as single figures, although 20–60 were recorded on six dates in the month (with a peak of 68 on 4th). Single figures were recorded on eight dates in October, with 19 on 10th and 26 on 15th. The last sighting of the year was two on 23rd.

[Western] House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Gollan thie

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

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-Apr	23-Apr	22-Apr	21-Apr	23-Apr	17-Apr	13-Apr
03-Oct	05-Sep	16-Oct	15-Oct	03-Oct	02-Oct	05-Oct

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

Two on 30th March were the first of the season (the joint 2nd-earliest arrival date). Light passage continued with 1–11 recorded on 16 dates in April and near-daily in May, with a peak of 21 on 8th April. Single figures were recorded on 11 dates in June, two dates in July and eight dates in August, with 19 on 16th August.

Autumn passage started very lightly, with a single on 4th September, 19 on 18th and two on 19th. On 20th, a spell of calm weather at last allowed all the birds that had been backed up to pass through, with a spectacular 646 counted (almost double the previous highest day-count). After this massive movement, there were no further records until a final five on 10th October.

[European] Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis rufula**
Vagrant.

Gollan thoyrn-ruy
Oarpagh

On 13th May, a single spent 10–15 minutes hawking around the Observatory with a smattering of Swallows and House Martins (EJB et al).

The first Manx record.



*Left: The first Manx record of
Red-rumped Swallow
©Ed Betteridge*

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalus caudatus*
Rare. Passage migrant.

Caillagh veg y niarbyl

An arrival of 31 on 16th October was the first of the season, with the bulk heading straight towards the Observatory but others hopping around in short heather above Creg Veneagh. A single was seen on 18th, before another flock (26) arrived on 23rd. This number dropped to 19 by the next day, but thereafter the majority were recorded daily to the end of the season.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*
Vagrant.

Kiaulleyder Cetti

An individual caught at the Top Withy on 15th October (MDH et al.) was the long-awaited first Calf record, and the 2nd Manx record.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus**
Rare. Autumn passage migrant.

Kiaulleyder gruaie-wuigh

Two individuals were trapped and ringed on 15th October (MDH, ENB et al.), with one individual remaining to 16th – where another bird was seen and then caught (EMG et al.). A final individual was ringed on 17th (KEF et al.).

The 77th – 79th Calf records.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Common. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.

Drean vane

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
01-Apr	06-Apr	04-Apr	04-Apr	29-Mar	27-Mar	29-Mar
02-Oct	26-Sep	01-Oct	01-Oct	14-Oct	24-Sep	04-Oct

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

Spring passage began with a single on 21st March, followed by 1–3 from 22nd – 28th and rising to 22 on 31st. An average spring passage followed, with daily sightings in April (generally between 11 and 45, with a peak of 79 on 9th). Double figures prevailed for the first four days of May, before dropping off to 1–4 birds from 5th – 24th. Singles were recorded on 5th, 6th & 11th June.

A juvenile on 29th June was the first autumn record. One to three birds were recorded frequently in early July, until 15th, whereafter sightings became daily and gradually increased towards the end of the month (peaking at 58 on 30th). Daily sightings in August were generally in single figures, with double figures recorded on five dates (peak of 41 on 21st). One to six birds were recorded on 13 dates in September, with the final sighting a single on 20th.

[Common] Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Common. Occasional breeder; passage migrant.

Beeallerey

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 4th March 1978, with the latest departure date being 4th December 1992.

Spring passage was already underway when we arrived, with daily sightings in spring and 1–4 birds being recorded until 19th March. Thereafter, counts were generally between six and 20 prevailed until 13th April (with higher counts of 26

on 5th April, 27 on 8th and 42 on 9th). Counts of 2–6 dominated for the rest of spring. From 25th, it thought that all following spring/summer records related to a breeding pair at Top Withy (breeding success uncertain).

Autumn passage began with ten on 30th August, and afterwards records were near-daily to the end of the season. Records were generally single figures (September peak of 12 on 29th). A brief heavier spell from 12th – 17th October saw counts of 9–17, before dropping back down to 2–5 birds. The final sighting of the season was a single on 30th October.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Kiaulleyder garagh

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
08-May	11-May	12-May	05-May	07-May	03-May	07-May
08-Oct	19-Sep	20-Oct	17-Oct	15-Oct	01-Oct	30-Sep

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

The only records of spring were singles on 4th, 10th and 20th May

A further three records in autumn consisted of singles on 3rd September and late records of 11th and 16th – 17th October.

[Eurasian] Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Kione doo

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
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 2nd March 1977, with the latest departure date being 28th November 2001 and 2009.

Spring passage began with two on 21st March, with 1–4 then recorded near-daily for the rest of the month. Daily sightings included double figures on seven dates, with highs of 30 on 9th and 23 on 17th. Counts of three to eight were

common in the first half of May, whereafter sightings were generally restricted to 1–2 birds.

Sporadic sightings throughout the summer blurred the line between spring and autumn passage, with the first juvenile of the season recorded on 25th June. Singles were recorded on five dates in June, six dates in July and eight dates in August (with three on 22nd & 30th August, and two on 23rd). Counts of 1–6 were then regular through to the end of the season, with a peak of 13 on 17th October.

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*
Rare. Autumn passage migrant.

Kiaulleyder schimmeigagh

A first-year bird caught and ringed on 22nd August represents the 44th Calf record, and the fifth consecutive year that this species has been recorded in the autumn.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*
Scarce. Passage migrant.

Fynnag veg

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 19th April 2009, with the latest departure date being 18th November 1998.

A decent spring passage saw singles on 30th April, 16th – 17th May, and 8th & 15th June. There were no autumn records.

(Common) Whitethroat *Curruca communis*
Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.

Fynnag ny keylley

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 6th April 1961, with the latest departure date being 30th October 1973.

Spring passage began with two on 18th April, with 1–6 regularly recorded until ten on 30th. Peak passage was in the first half of May, with counts of 23 on 1st, 14 on 2nd, 17 on 4th, 12 on 8th and 13 on 13th. Thereafter, spring records were regular counts of between one and four. Summer records were near-daily – a pair bred near Mill Giau and successfully fledged two young.

A juvenile at the Observatory on 25th June was the first bird of autumn passage. Low counts (1–5) near-daily in July are likely to include the breeding birds and suggest a poor autumn passage. In August, 1–2 birds were recorded on 12 dates (with five on 21st), with September having three on 3rd and four additional singles (final record 21st).

Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae**

Kiaulleyder Fo-Alpagh Heear

Very rare. Spring migrant.

A young male ringed at the Observatory on 15th May represents the ninth Calf record.

Record confirmed by DNA analysis.



Subalpine Warbler ©Ed Betteridge

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Ushag fuygh

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

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

The bulk of spring Goldcrest passage appeared to have already occurred when we arrived on the island, with small numbers of mostly females trapped. Counts of three to five were recorded through March, with a peak of 6–9 from 20th – 27th. In April, 1–2 were recorded up to 9th, with further singles on 21st & 30th. Occasional summer records included one on 24th May and one on 21st June.

Singles on 5th & 6th July were the first autumn records. One to two birds were then recorded daily from 9th – 24th. A spell of bad weather meant that only two further singles were recorded until 20th August, when sightings became daily. After 23 on 21st, counts were generally between two and seven. In September, single figure counts dominated until a period of slightly heavier passage saw between 11 and 30 birds from 20th – 28th, with a peak of 81 on 29th. Another peak of passage occurred between 8th & 17th October (max of 108), but most other counts to the end of season were between four and 25.

[Eurasian] Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Snaueyder billagh

Rare. Dispersal visitor.

After being absent in 2024, a single was ringed at the Observatory on 24th September. A further individual was present from 30th October to 3rd November.

[Eurasian] Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Drean

Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.

Three winter records came from camera traps. Present throughout the season, with 62 breeding pairs. Counts of up to 30 were most common, although up to forty were also recorded every month. A peak of 55 – 68 from 9th – 17th October suggested that some autumn migration was occurring.

[Common] Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Truitlag

Common. Historic breeder; summer visitor and passage migrant.

Light spring passage occurred in March, with near-daily counts generally between five and 35 (peaking at 48 on 9th). Single figures were then recorded up to 11th April, with one to three birds counted on a further three dates in each April and May.

Summer dispersal began in June, with one to eight individuals recorded on 13 dates in June, 18 dates in July, four dates in August and just twice in September. A light autumn passage started in October, with counts generally between six and 45 for the first half of the month. From 19th, sightings were near-daily and 58% of records were counts of greater than 100. Peaks counts were 817 (27th October and 2nd November), 910 (7th November) and 1300 (30th October).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Treshlen vooar

Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant.

Scarcer spring and summer records included a single on 3rd April and a juvenile in the Glen from 22nd – 25th June.

The first autumn record was a single on 12th October, after which followed 1–2 birds on five dates in October and two dates in November.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Treshlen

Common. Former breeder; passage migrant.

A light spring passage was occurring when we arrived in March, with near-daily sightings of 1–5 up to 9th April. After this, singles were recorded on ten dates in April and eight days in early-to-mid May, with two on 19th & 21st April.

From 27th May, a male took up territory and was regularly heard singing throughout the summer. Counts of two on 9th, 15th, 16th & 18th June, and 6th July likely included the first dispersing juveniles. A period of light dispersal occurred from 11th to the end of the month, with counts generally between two and five. Singles were recorded on nine dates in August and eight dates in September.

Four on 29th September marked the start of autumn passage. Records were daily from 4th October, with counts generally from 10–20, with monthly peaks of 24 on 16th October and 34 on 7th November. Passage was still underway when we left the island on 8th November.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Treshlen Loughlinagh

*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
22-Apr	18-Apr	11-May	25-Apr	22-Apr	13-Apr	14-Apr
03-Oct	01-Oct	26-Sep	02-Oct	05-Oct	04-Oct	09-Oct

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

Birds were recorded throughout the winter on camera traps, with 20 counted on a daytrip on 20th January.

One to five were recorded on nine dates in March, with a higher count of 21 on 25th. In April, singles were recorded on just three dates before the final spring record (one) on 9th.

The first autumn record was a single on 9th October. Nine were present on 11th, then a rush of movement occurred with 163 on 13th, 344 on 14th, 504 on 15th and 55 on 16th. Thereafter, October saw near-daily counts of generally between seven and 30 birds, with 43 on 30th. Single figures were recorded on three dates in November, followed by 117 on 6th and 124 on 7th. This rise in numbers as another calmer spell hit implies that there was still passage occurring when we left the island.

[Common] Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Lhondhoo

Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.

Recorded in low numbers throughout the season. A small amount of passage was still occurring when we arrived on the island, with 14 birds counted on 21st March and 17 on 15th. Six pairs bred on the Calf this year. A total of 17 juveniles were ringed (although this may have included some early dispersers from the Isle of Man), of which only four were re-trapped.

August and September saw the typical low numbers of 1–3, as birds became more elusive when moulting. Autumn passage started in October, with counts generally between seven and 25. Higher figures included 89 on 14th October, 55 on 15th, 52 on 16th, and 54 on 6th 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 12th June 2017, with the earliest autumn arrival date being 19th August 1971.

Twelve on the 20th January was the only winter record. One to two individuals were recorded on seven dates in March and three dates in April. Higher counts were three on 27th March & 2nd April and four on 26th March, with the final spring record being a single on 26th April.

Autumn passage kicked off with a bang, with 133 on 13th October, 85 on 14th, 121 on 15th and 19 on 16th. Further counts of 1–8 were recorded on seven dates in the month. A single on 5th November gave way to higher counts of 98 on 6th, 309 on 7th and 47 on 8th. Migration was still very much underway when we left the island on 8th, with peak passage likely still to come.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*
Scarce. Passage migrant.

Lhon ny greg

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 6th March 1966, with the latest departure date being 20th November 2015.



The first Ring Ouzel of the year was a male at the Observatory on 3rd & 4th April, being joined by a second male on 5th & 6th. A male in Gibdale on 14th was the only other April record, before a female was present at the Observatory from 1st to 6th May.

Singles were recorded in October on 8th, 12th & 15th, with a final individual recorded on 8th November.

Ring Ouzel ©Ed Betteridge

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Skybbyltagh lheeah

*Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant – more regular 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
06-May	10-May	08-May	05-May	05-May	01-May	06-May
26-Sep	01-Oct	29-Sep	29-Sep	24-Sep	23-Sep	19-Sep

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

Spring records began with five on 1st May and were then daily up to 23rd. It was another poor spring passage, with counts mostly in single figures (higher counts of 22 on 13th, 11 on 14th and 14 on 15th). Additional sightings of 1–2 birds were made on two further dates in May and four dates in June – with the final record being a single on 19th.

The first autumn bird was a juvenile on 8th August. Thereafter, counts of 1–2 were made on nine dates in the month, with three on each 19th & 31st, and four on 21st & 30th. Two to five birds were sighted on four dates at the start of September, with five records of singles afterwards, including the final bird of the season on 28th.

[European] Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Cleeau-yiarg

Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.

Recorded regularly throughout the winter (camera traps and daytrips) and then daily throughout the season.

Spring and summer counts were generally between four and nine (with a spring peak of 16 on 21st March). Seven pairs bred around the island, but productivity was low (only three pulli and 12 juveniles ringed).

Juvenile dispersal and autumn passage bolstered numbers from August, with double figures becoming near-daily from 15th. Counts were generally between 20 and 45, with counts of 46–90 recorded on 24 dates. Peak passage occurred from late September to mid-October, and higher counts were 112 on 13th October, 93 on 15th and 94 on 16th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Skybbyltagh cleeau-yaarg

Rare. Passage migrant.

A female/immature type was seen briefly in Gibdale on 25th August (EMG) – the first record for this month. Interestingly, an individual was reported in Lancashire just hours after this bird vanished – could they be one and the same? A second record was of an immature that was ringed and stayed present around the Observatory from 28th – 29th September (MJ et al.).

[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 17th April 2018, with the latest departure date being 15th November 1995.



Spring records were singles at the Observatory on 1st and 8th May. The first autumn record was a single at Gibdale on 25th August (seen not long after the Red-breasted Flycatcher in the same location). Three were seen on 7th September, with a final single on 29th.

*Pied Flycatcher ©Matt Livsey***Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

Thoy-n-yaarg 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 7th March 1966, with the latest departure date being 30th November 1982. Has overwintered.

A good series of spring records began with a single flying over the Observatory on 20th March. Further singles were recorded on 3rd April, 7th – 8th, 10th and 12th.

This higher-than-expected spring passage mirrors the influx of this species into the UK. There were no autumn records.

[Common] Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Thoyrn-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 24th March 1961, with the latest departure date being 31st October 1987.

A female caught on 1st May was the only spring record (EMG et al.).

Autumn records consisted of a juvenile spotted at the Withies on 16th June (MDH) and a female at the Observatory on 16th August (EMG et al.).

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 17th April 2008, with the latest departure date being 7th November 2009.

The first of a good series of spring records was a male trapped at the Observatory on 18th & 19th April. Further singles were present on 21st (male), 24th (female) and 30th. Both a male and a female were seen on 1st, 2nd, 4th & 17th May, with single females on 3rd, 8th & 13th.

The only autumn record was a female-type seen near Top Withy on 20th September.

Whinchat ©Kate Fox



[European] Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*
Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.

Boid-y-chonnee

Present throughout the year, with counts of up to 20 in March and April. A total of 20 pairs bred (the 2nd highest recorded total, after 21 pairs in 1974), with some birds already on territory when we arrived in March. Pairs became more visible from the beginning of May when feeding young, and the first fledglings were seen from 11th May. With juveniles bolstering numbers, peaks were 40 on 17th May and 48 on 9th June.

Numbers began to dwindle from the end of June as juveniles dispersed. Little autumn passage was recorded and from September onwards counts were generally only single figures.

[Northern] Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Common. Annual breeder; passage migrant.

Claghan-ny-gleiee

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 8th March 2016, with the latest departure date being 8th November 2019.

The first returning birds were four on 8th March – the joint earliest Calf record. Single figures were then recorded up to 19th (where 13 individuals were counted) and thereafter numbers were generally in the low teens to the end of the month, with a peak of 21 on 21st. Passage rapidly rose from April, with most spring counts being between 22 and 50. A peak at the end of April to the first week of May saw higher counts of 58–78, with the population being boosted by the Greenland subspecies.

Birds established territories shortly after arrival and a total of 55 pairs bred. Of these, an impressive 30 nests were monitored. The first fledglings appeared from 24th May and the first half of June regularly saw counts of 43–83 (with a peak of 93 on 8th).

From late June through July, counts dwindled into the teens. August onwards saw predominantly single figures and the last bird of the season was a single at the Lighthouses on 17th October. Most of the later birds were of the Greenland subspecies.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Boght-keeir

Uncommon. Former breeder; passage migrant.

Camera traps revealed this species overwintered, and up to three were present until 31st March. There were no further spring or summer records.

The first autumn birds were six on 20th September, whereafter sightings became daily to the end of the season. Counts were generally in the low double figures, with monthly peaks of 31 on 23rd September and 34 on 11th October.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Sparroo

Uncommon. Historic breeder; passage migrant.

Spring records consisted of singles on 29th March, 10th April, 9th May and 5th June, with two on 22nd April.



One on 13th August and two on 15th were the first of the autumn. One to three were seen on four dates from 23rd – 29th September, two each on 8th & 9th October, with a peak of 11 on 11th. A final two were recorded on 7th November.

Male House Sparrow
©Ed Betteridge

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Skibbag glass

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

Spring passage consisted of singles on 10th, 11th, 15th & 22nd March, and 2nd April.

Autumn passage began with a dispersing juvenile on 11th June. One to four individuals were recorded on 11 dates in June, 15 dates in July and four dates in the first half of August. The latter half of August and through September saw regular counts of 3–15 individuals, with peaks of 17 on 23rd August and 27 on 4th September. One to three were counted on ten dates in early October (with seven on 8th) and the final records of the season were singles on 29th October and 2nd November.

[Western] Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Skibbag wuigh

Rare. Passage migrant.

Number of individuals recorded by decade:

	1959 to 1968	1969 to 1978	1979 to 1988	1989 to 1998	1999 to 2008	2009 to 2018
Count	92	54	86	28	16	4

A female *M.f. flavissima* was in the front field on the morning of 13th May (EJB et al.). Another was briefly seen flying over the Glen on 14th (EJB), which may have been the same individual.

Pied [White] Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Ushag vreck

Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.

Single figure counts throughout spring and summer likely reflect the presence of the six breeding pairs. Light spring passage was evident in late April/early May, with 10–11 birds counted on seven dates from 20th – 29th April, and a peak of 12 on 4th May.

Productivity was low, with numbers not picking up until autumn dispersal began in mid-July. Ten or more birds were counted on seven dates in July, with most August counts being between nine and 17 (peak of 23 on 15th). Passage continued through September, with over 30 individuals counted on five dates in the month. Numbers gradually dropped off throughout August, dropping back to single figures by 17th to the end of the season.

White Wagtail *M.a. alba*

Uncommon. Passage migrant, more regular in autumn.

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
21-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr	25-Apr	06-Apr
29-Sep	07-Oct	04-Oct	20-Sep	27-Sep	03-Oct	28-Sep

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

Spring records were singles on five dates in April and two on each 12th & 23rd April and 2nd May.

The first autumn record was a single on 15th August, whereafter sightings were daily to the end of September. Counts were generally between ten and 30 from 17th August – 12th September, with a peak of 63 on 23rd August. The remainder of September saw mostly single figures and the final record of the year was a single on 3rd 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 subspecies (generally fly-overs during migration periods).

Most 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*.

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 4th April 1985 and 1988, with the latest departure date being 11th November 2022.

Number of individuals recorded by decade:

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

A decent spring passage included singles on four dates in April and three dates in May, with two on 6th & 16th May.

Autumn passage began with singles on 2nd & 3rd August. Afterwards, up to seven birds were recorded on 12 further dates in the month, with nine on 17th, 16 on 21st and 11 on 23rd. One to two individuals were counted on three dates in the first week of September, with eight on 3rd, nine on 4th, and a later single on 20th. Three 'heard-only' singles were recorded in October, with the final record of the season on 22nd.

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 monthly peaks were 200 on 8th March & 30th May, and 226 on 2nd April.

A full census of the breeding population was not possible but breeding figures were estimated to have increased, with a minimum of 112 pairs mapped (beating the previous highest count of 110 in 1982). This increase in breeding numbers is partly due to a more concentrated effort in mapping breeding territories. Low numbers throughout July and August suggest a poor productivity.

Autumn passage was fairly poor, with September counts generally between 100–300. A peak of 820 on 20th was significantly higher than other counts. Over 100 were counted on eight dates in October (peak of 220 on 5th), with numbers dropping to mid-range double figures from 23rd onwards.

[European] 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. Volunteers dedicated to monitoring Rock Pipit saw regular numbers up to 50 throughout April. Higher counts of 73 (6th) and 78 (11th) were thought to include passage individuals.

A dedicated census took place, with a record-breaking 70 pairs mapped (beating 66 in 2023). For a complete map, see **Volunteer Reports**[CB1].

Right: Rock Pipit chicks in a well concealed nest ©Kate Fox



Numbers generally remained in the twenties throughout May and June, before dropping to mostly single figures throughout the autumn. Peaks of 33 on 12th September and 57 on 16th October were significantly higher than most days and likely reflect passage days.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Corkan drine

Scarce. Passage migrant – irregular in spring.

Singles were recorded on 13th, 14th, 17th and 30th October. Additional singles were present on 1st, 2nd and 7th November, with seven passing overhead amongst Chaffinches on 6th.

[Eurasian] Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Ushag veg vreck

Common. Occasional breeder; resident and passage migrant.

Present daily in single figures during the spring and early summer, with a peak of ten on 4th April. Although numbers were low, light passage was occurring – with only one pair remaining resident on the island. The pair failed during nesting and the female died, resulting in a single male being recorded from 11th June to 23rd July (with dispersing individuals recorded on 2nd, 4th and 11th July).

Four singles were recorded in August and one in early September, before passage began with 11 on 14th. From 18th, sightings became daily and counts were generally in the low double figures. Many days of larger movements occurred, however, with 247 on 20th September, 254 on 28th and 250 on 29th. Over 100 were recorded on four dates in October, with a peak of 442 on 8th. Passage continued into November, with 313 on 2nd and a rush of 1536 on 6th (the third highest day-count, and largest since 1972), dropping to 557 on 7th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Corkan skeag

Very rare. Migrant.

A single was flushed from the ground near the Upper Lighthouse with a flock of Goldfinches on 23rd October (ML).

Only the eight Calf record.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus**

Rose-ghlassan jiarg

Rare. Passage migrant.

An immature was heard singing and seen flying around the Observatory (eventually being caught and ringed) on 19th September (EMG et al.).



The 37th Calf record, and the fifth consecutive year for this species.

*Left: The Common Rosefinch pre-ringing
©Matt Livsey*

[European] Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Corkan-keylley glass

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

Spring records involved singles on four dates in March and two dates in April, with summer singles on 14th June, 10th August and 20th September.

A poor autumn passage began with 26 on 8th October. Two to 16 were recorded on 11 further dates in October and three dates in November, with an autumn peak of 58 on 6th November.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

Bytermyn slieau

Scarce. Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor.

Limited spring records were three singles in March, and three between Kione ny Halby and South Harbour on 2nd April.

Five on 16th October were the first of the autumn, followed by three on 21st and singles on 27th, 28th and 30th. Two on the morning of 2nd November were unusual in that they were loafing around the Observatory.

[Common] Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Fillip-ny-kempey

Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.

Present near-daily throughout the season, with single figures dominating March until 29 on 31st. During April breeding birds arrived, and counts were generally low double figures (peak of 74 on 26th). Records of 25–70 were made through May and June.

Although it was not possible to complete a full breeding census, at least 32 pairs were recorded. Post-breeding flocking, and the boom year of Marsh Thistle providing lots of seed heads, meant that counts of up to 100 were not uncommon in July and August (monthly peaks of 108 on 15th July and 166 on 19th August).

From the beginning of September, numbers very rapidly dropped off into low double figure and single figure counts – generally remaining so to the end of the season.

Lesser Redpoll [Redpoll] *Acanthis flammea cabaret*
Uncommon. Passage migrant.

Kione-jiarg beg

One to two were recorded on ten dates in March, with four on 31st. Peak spring passage occurred at the beginning of April, with 6–14 recorded regularly from 2nd –12th. Single figures were counted on a further nine dates in the month, and ten dates in May.

Summer records saw 1–2 counted on six dates in June and three dates in July. In August, there were four on 2nd, two on 6th and three on 22nd.

True autumn passage began with two on 20th September. One to six were then recorded on five more dates in the month, with 14 on 29th. Sightings became near-daily from 7th October and were generally between seven and 24. Higher counts were 29 on 8th October, 55 on 10th, 29 on 15th and 54 on 23rd.

[Red] Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*
Scarce. Passage migrant.

Gob-cam

Spring records began with a single on 8th April. Further singles were seen on 15th, 19th & 20th May, with five on 23rd.

Into the summer, singles were recorded on three dates in June and two dates in July. Larger counts included seven on 15th June, 13 on 21st and two on each 27th July and 10th August.

A single was recorded on 2nd September, with three on 6th October, two on 16th and a final single on 24th.

A good year for Crossbill sightings – mirroring the bumper year seen across the British Isles as a whole.



One of the bumper number of records of Crossbill in 2025 ©Ed Betteridge

[European] Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Lossyr ny keylley

Common. Annual breeder; resident and passage migrant.

Present near-daily throughout the season, with March counts generally single figures or low double figures. From the end of March through April, spring passage occurred and counts generally ranged from 22–36. Numbers dropped off again in May – mostly in the teens.

Seven pairs bred on the Calf this year – mainly around the Observatory and Withies. Each pair attempted at least two broods, with the first fledgling boosting June numbers into the twenties.

From mid-July through to August, higher than usual numbers were recorded as large flocks were attracted to the abundant Marsh Thistle seed heads (as with Linnets). Counts of 31–63 were recorded on 15 dates in July and eight dates in August, with peaks passage being the final week of July (peak of 72 on 21st and 82 on 22nd).

Counts were generally in the low double figures throughout autumn, with sporadic spikes in passage, including 52 on 7th September and 88 on 20th. The peak of October was 89 on 10th and 82 on 11th, whilst November saw higher counts of 109 on 2nd and 138 on 6th.

[Eurasian] Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Corkan airhey

Common. Passage migrant.

Spring passage was fairly uniform, with 1–5 individuals recorded on 13 dates in March and 14 dates in April, dropping off to eight dates in May. June saw a slight increase in numbers, with six singles, 2–5 on eight dates and nine on both 11th and 25th. July and the first half of August saw regular singles (15 dates in the former and nine dates in the latter), with two on 2nd July and four on 17th August.

From 20th August, autumn passage kicked off and counts became near-daily (generally between two and six). Fourteen on 23rd was the peak count of August, and September counts were also generally similarly, except for a rush of passage (80) on 20th. From 29th September to 16th October passage was slightly higher – with five counts of over 20 and a peak of 53 on 10th. The final peak before we left the Calf was 42 on 6th November.

Lapland Bunting [Longspur] *Calcarius lapponicus*

Pompee Laplannagh

Rare. Passage migrant.

A single flew over the Observatory calling on 30th March (EJB, KEF).

The 60th Calf record and only the third March record.

[Common] Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Pompee ny guirtlagh

Common. Occasional breeder; resident and autumn passage migrant.

One to two birds were recorded regularly throughout the spring and summer and reflect the presence of one breeding pair. The pair failed to produce any young, so it wasn't until autumn passage began in the beginning of October that numbers increased slightly.

Counts of 1–6 were recorded on 14 dates in October, with a peak of 11 on 30th. The final records of the season were two on 2nd November and three on 7th.

Rarity Reports

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis rufula*) – 1st Manx record

I noticed a small flock of hirundines circling above the hill outside the Observatory, I quickly scanned through them to count them. The majority were Swallows but clearly there were more than just the breeders with c12. I then noticed a Swallow-like bird with a clean underside and throat, like House Martin but the long tail streamers were obvious, and it had pale underwings. I immediately thought Red-rumped and fortunately the bird turned, showing me its back, which clearly had a red rump and a neck collar!

Panic set in as I didn't have a camera. I quickly ran across the field and into the Observatory whilst trying to radio fellow staff. On entering the Obs I grabbed my camera and by now other people had heard my shouting and were rushing outside. A nervous minute or so passed as we checked the hirundine flock locating a House Martin amongst the Swallows. Fortunately, the bird reappeared over the hill coming towards us. Incredibly, the bird then spent the next ten minutes or so circling and feeding over the Obs allowing great views for everyone and showing all the important features. The flock slowly drifted north before disappearing, presumably toward the Isle of Man.

With better, prolonged views the pale underside and throat stood out with a strong cut off to an all-dark tail. The bird had clear pale underwing with light streaking on the breast and a red/orange 'bandit' mask. The orange collar stood out when the upper side was in view with a two-toned orange/white rump that extended around the body.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) – 1st Manx record

I was heading into the gull colony at Kione ny Halby to conduct ringing activities late afternoon. I had just entered the colony when I heard a strange call. I looked up to see a high-flying gull above me with dark underwings and a dark head, which I wrote off as a LBBG with food in its mouth, as I had left my bins outside the colony. Five minutes later the bird appeared again loudly calling but this time was much lower and I had excellent views. The bird circled the colony, calling often for the next ten minutes before heading off south still calling. About ten minutes later the other staff members arrived with cameras, however, the bird had vanished. Fortunately, it was located out

to sea circling before it gained speed and headed off powerfully north towards the Isle of Man (here some distant record shots were taken).

The call was very distinctive and different to that of a Herring or LBBG, its higher pitch reminded me of the Kittiwakes that are often heard offshore but without the distinctive 'kittiwake' call. The bird was smaller than the LBBGs, however, whilst in amongst the flock of c50 birds it was hard to pick out on size. The bird has a clear dark head and long, thin red bill with limited white on primaries and an all-white tail. The back was between a Herring and LBBG in colouration and overall gave the impression of a BHG mixed with a LBBG.



Cetti's Warbler ©Kate Fox

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) – 1st Calf record

At approximately 8am on morning of 15th October, I was emptying the double mist net of birds at the Top Withy, Calf of Man. As I finished extracting a Goldcrest from the net, I looked down to my left to see what bird was next and clearly saw an unmistakable Cetti's Warbler. A small bird reminiscent of a large Wren, with a warm brown back, grey edges, and a clear white eye ring. I knew immediately what the bird was as I have previous experience of the Cetti's Warbler in the hand in mid Wales and England. The bird was carefully extracted and taken back to the Observatory for ringing. Closer inspection confirmed Cetti's Warbler and a photo was taken.

2025 Breeding Bird Totals

Species	2025	Status
Shelduck	1 Pair	One or two pairs bred in all years since 2002. A single pair bred at Rarick.
Mallard	3 Pairs	Two pairs at the Millpond had two broods each. A third pair at Cow/Kitterland successfully raised three of their second brood to fledging.
Eider	77 Pairs	First bred in 1992, with increasing numbers since. Seventy-seven nests were located during 2025, although not all suitable areas were sufficiently surveyed.
Pheasant	4–5 Pairs	Bred for the first time in 2018. At least five males held territory, with at least four young seen.
Water Rail	2 Pairs	In 2024 bred for the first time since 1994. Two broods were successfully raised at both the Front Field and Withies.
Oystercatcher	32 Pairs	Mean of 17 pairs during 2015–2024. 2025 saw the highest ever breeding total.
Herring Gull	589 AON	Mean of 505 AON during 2015–2024, with a max of 2150 in 1979. Similar figures to 2024 totals.
Great Black-backed Gull	73 AON	Mean of 52 AON during 2015–2024. An increase of 28% on 2024 figures.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	89 AON	Mean of 44 AON during 2015–2024. An increase of 35% on 2024 figures, but with low productivity.
Black Guillemot	5 Pairs	First recorded breeding in 1972 with 1–5 pairs less than annually. Three pairs seen regularly below the Lighthouses; with a pair each on the east coast and at Gibdale.

Species	2025	Status
Razorbill	203 IAs	Mean of 179 IAs during 2015–2024.
	122 Pairs	Mean of 114 pairs during 2015–2024. A decrease of 16% on 2024 figures.
Common Guillemot	229 IAs	Mean of 191 IAs during 2015–2024.
	138 Pairs	Mean of 122 pairs during 2015–2024. A decrease of 13% on 2024 figures.
Fulmar	93 AOS	Mean of 82 AOS during 2015–2024. Only five young survived to fledging.
Manx Shearwater	~1000 AOB	Mean of 529 AOB during 2015 – 2024. All colonies are expanding, with pairs in new locations around the island, including the Dock and Kione Beg.
Shag	151 AON	Mean of 98 AON during 2015–2024. The largest number of breeding pairs since 2013.
Buzzard	3 Pairs	First attempted breeding in 2021. The pair at Big Head did not lay but two pairs on the north-west coast each fledged two young.
Chough	9 Pairs	Mean of 9 pairs during 2015–2024.
Hooded / Carrion Crow	16 Pairs	Mean of 8 pairs during 2015–2024. Included one Carrion pair, seven Hooded Pairs and eight “hybrid” pairs.
Raven	2 Pairs	1–2 pairs breed annually. Both the Lighthouses and Gibdale pairs fledged one young.
Swallow	5 Pairs	Mean of 4 pairs during 2015–2024. Single pairs bred at Jane’s House and the Upper Lighthouse, with three pairs at the Observatory.
Chiffchaff	1 Pair	1–2 pairs have bred six times the last 10 years. One pair bred at Top Withy and another male held territory at the Observatory.

Species	2025	Status
Whitethroat	1 Pair	1–2 pairs have bred near-annually since 2016. A single pair fledged two young at Mill Giau, with a second male holding territory at the Withies.
Wren	62 Pairs	Mean of 22 pairs during 2015–2024, with max of 73 pairs in 1974. The 3 rd highest breeding number and the highest since 1975.
Song Thrush	1 Pair	A single male held territory throughout the season. The first breeding attempt since 2016.
Blackbird	6 Pairs	Mean of 8 pairs during 2015–2024; with max of 22 pairs in 1979.
Robin	7 Pairs	Max of 14 pairs in 2022 & 2023.
Stonechat	20 Pairs	Mean of 4 pairs during 2015–2024, with max of 21 pairs in 1974.
Wheatear	55 Pairs	Mean of 36 pairs during 2015–2024, with max 64 pairs in 2022.
Pied Wagtail	6 Pairs	Mean of 4 pairs during 2015–2024, with max of 8 pairs in 2016 & 2022.
Meadow Pipit	112+ Pairs	Mean of 53 pairs during 2015–2024. The highest number of pairs recorded, and an underestimate.
Rock Pipit	70 Pairs	Mean of 37 pairs during 2015–2024. 2025 saw the highest number of pairs ever recorded.
Chaffinch	1 Pair	1–3 pairs recorded in eight years from 2015–2024. One pair at the Observatory that failed to fledge any young.
Linnet	32 Pairs	Mean of 13 pairs during 2015–2024, with max of 50 pairs in 1982.
Goldfinch	7 Pairs	Mean of 13 pairs during 2015–2024. Max 20 pairs in 2018 & 2019.
Reed Bunting	1 Pair	1–2 pairs in nine out of last 10 years, with max 19 pairs in 1980. One pair, breeding attempt failed.

2025 Ringing Report

The grand total of 6533 birds of 77 species were ringed, placing 2025 as the 9th most successful year since the Observatory's inception.

*Notable species ringed during 2025 (species in **bold** denote a record annual total):*

Species	No.	Ranking
Pink-footed Goose	1	Only the 2 nd ever ringed
Eider	34	2 nd highest annual total
Teal	1	Only the 5 th ever ringed
Woodpigeon	1	The 41 st ever ringed
Water Rail	7	Record annual total, beating 5 in 1973
Whimbrel	1	Only the 2 nd ever ringed
Jack Snipe	2	The 14 th & 15 th ever ringed
Snipe	11	Record annual total, beating 8 in 1976
Purple Sandpiper	9	Joint 2 nd highest annual total
Lesser Black-backed Gull	16	Highest annual total since 2012
Shag	96	Highest annual total of adults ringed (33)
Buzzard	1	Only the 2 nd ever ringed
Raven	2	Joint highest annual total and 1 st ringed since 2014
Skylark	12	Record annual total, beating 10 in 2022
Reed Warbler	10	Record annual total, beating 8 in 2018
Long-tailed Tit	39	The 4 th highest annual total
Cetti's Warbler	1	First Calf record
Barred Warbler	1	The 33 rd ever ringed
Western Subalpine Warbler	1	The 8 th ever ringed
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	The 24 th ever ringed
Wheatear	210	Record annual total, beating 209 in 2019
Dunnock	106	The 3 rd highest annual total
Pied Wagtail	105	The 2 nd highest annual total
Rock Pipit	16	The 4 th highest annual total
Chaffinch	599	The 3 rd highest annual total
Common Rosefinch	1	The 20 th ever ringed

This year, special focus went into dazzling (especially in spring), cage-trapping and nest-finding. Not only were the cage-traps used in their regular purpose of nest-trapping (of gulls and Oystercatcher), but they were also utilized in the autumn for catching large birds of prey. Of the passerine nests located, by far the most effort was put into Wheatear. A spectacular 107 Wheatear pulli were ringed, of which an amazing 88 were re-trapped.

Monthly ringing totals - new-bird ringing totals by month for 2025, with the five and ten-year averages for comparison:

	2025	5-yr average (2020–24)	10-yr average (2015–24)
Mar	383	382	389
Apr	1029	1032	1208
May	678	789	810
Jun	473	372	358
Jul	664	611	547
Aug	386	688	594
Sep	1418	1662	1397
Oct	1463	1507	1334
Nov	39	312	238
Total	6533	6914	6634

Top ten species:

2025	Species	Total	2024	2023	2022	2021
1 st	Meadow Pipit	727	1	1	2	1
2 nd	Willow Warbler	614	2	3	1	2
3 rd	Chaffinch	599	8	5	8	4
4 th	Goldfinch	576	3	4	3	3
5 th	Goldcrest	554	5	2	5	=5
6 th	Chiffchaff	344	6	8	10	9
7 th	Herring Gull	311	14	16	18	8
8 th	Robin	291	4	6	4	=5
9 th	Blackcap	215	7	7	6	10
10 th	Wheatear	210	13	17	13	16

The Season's Centuries:

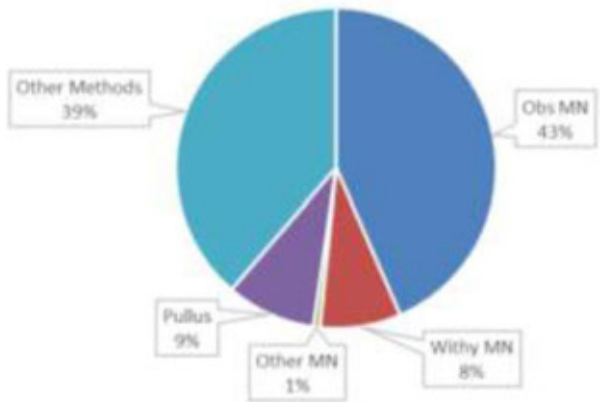
<i>Date</i>	<i>No. of birds ringed / No. of species</i>		
<i>Main species</i>			
9 th April	157	/	14 species
Willow Warbler 67, Chiffchaff 38, Blackcap 25			
22 nd September	108	/	9 species
Robin 33, Meadow Pipit 31, Goldcrest 16, Chaffinch 13			
28 th September	193	/	14 species
Chaffinch 104, Goldcrest 21, Meadow Pipit 20			
29 th September	302	/	19 species
Goldcrest 79, Chaffinch 64, Robin 37, Meadow Pipit 31			
10 th October	109	/	12 species
Goldcrest 35, Chaffinch 28, Goldfinch 10			
11 th October	160	/	17 species
Chaffinch 57, Goldcrest 31, Dunnock 13, Goldfinch 12			
12 th October	189	/	18 species
Chaffinch 52, Goldcrest 25, Coal Tit 20, Meadow Pipit 14, Goldfinch 13			
14 th October	110	/	14 species
Redwing 33, Blackbird 22, Goldcrest 14, Chaffinch 12			
15 th October	213	/	19 species
Chaffinch 57, Goldcrest 42, Goldfinch 30			
16 th October	200	/	21 species
Chaffinch 54, Goldcrest 35, Redwing 24, Long-tailed Tit 18			
17 th October	141	/	18 species
Goldcrest 66, Chiffchaff 11, Song Thrush 10, Chaffinch 10			

Trapping Methods:

Key trapping methods:

	New	Retrap	Control	Total
Obs MN	2840	536	11	3387
Withy MN	550	84	2	636
Other MN	43	4	5	52
Pullus	639	66		639
Other Methods	2461	537	17	3081
Total trapped	6533	1227	35	7795

As usual, most birds were caught using conventional methods – with mist nets accounting for 52% of all birds trapped during 2025. This represents a significant decrease of 19% on the 2024 figure. Such a decline is caused by many factors: a continued



Breakdown of key trapping methods.

increase in windy and wet days (when nets couldn't be opened), after June staff availability resulted in the Withies nets rarely being opened, and an increase in other trapping methods (including spring traps, potter traps, perch traps and walk-in traps). Only half as many birds were caught at the Withies in 2025 compared to 2024, but pullus increased by 5% (reflecting the good productivity of species such as Herring Gull and Shag, as well as increased nest finding efforts).

Other catching methods:

	New	Retrap	Control	Total
HG1	625	90	4	719
HG2	555	191	7	753
Pipit trap	643	30	0	673
Crow trap	233	26	1	260
Spring trap	1	6	0	7
On nest	54	28	0	82
Wire trap	108	91	1	200
Dazzled / Hand	7	3	0	10
Whoosh net	235	72	4	311

Total trapped	2461	537	17	3015
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The percentage of birds trapped using Other Methods increased by 14% from 2024. The Pipit Trap, Heligoland One and Heligoland Two represented approximately a quarter each of birds trapped using other methods. The Pipit Trap saw a reduced catch this year, likely reflecting a poorer pipit passage. An increased effort into running the Heligoland traps took place, especially HG2 (increased by 19% from 2024) – where the placing of feeders inside the trap became very effective at trapping finches on windy days. All other trapping methods were comparable to 2024.

Colour-ringing:

Eleven colour-ringing studies are carried out on the Calf and are returning some interesting results, which are detailed in the [Recoveries & Controls](#) section of this report.

Herring, Great Black-backed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls:

The gulls remain our most successful colour-ring projects – recovering the most re-sightings (both on the Calf within colonies and outside the Calf from multiple different countries). A total of 285 Herring Gull (244 pulli & 41 full-grown), 34 Great Black-backed Gull (26 pulli & 8 full-grown) and 16 Lesser Black-backed Gull (two pulli & 14 full-grown) were ringed.

Shag:

The 5th year of the project, with 93 individuals ringed. Due to the dwindling productivity of the more visible east coast colonies, the decision was made to colour-ring birds (both pulli and now also adults) at all colonies. Helps to assess fledging and productivity rates, and the return of adults to breeding colonies.

Chough:

The 2nd year that darvic rings have been fitted (superseding combinations). Eight individuals were ringed – all pulli.

Yellow-browed Warbler:

We continued to contribute to the national colour-ringing project of Yellow-browed Warbler, fitting combinations to four individuals.

Stonechat:

The 4th year of the project, with 81 individuals ringed (ten pulli & 71 full-grown). Very useful for helping to determine pairs and territories on the Calf, although migrant individuals have been resighted elsewhere.

Wheatear:

The 12th year of the project, with 119 individuals ringed (74 pulli & 45 full-grown). Re-sightings are valuable in both tracking migration routes and determining pairs / territories on the Calf itself.

Grey Wagtail:

The 4th year of the project, with 69 individuals ringed. Re-sightings come from both wintering and breeding sites.

Pied/White Wagtail:

A new colour-ring project was initiated for Pied/White Wagtails, with 105 individuals ringed (88 Pied & 17 White). Our first and second recoveries of Pied Wagtail were to France and Jersey, respectively (see [Recoveries & Controls](#) for full details).

Rock Pipit:

The 2nd year of the project, with 16 individuals ringed (four pulli & 12 full-grown). Re-sightings were made of singing males on territories.

Other Special-methods Projects:

Motus:

The Motus tower remains operational, constantly scanning for any tags. No Wheatear were fitted with Motus tags this year. Instead, focus was placed on moving the test-tag around the island and placing it at different heights to determine the effectiveness of the receiver in detecting tags.

Trans-Siberian Genoscape Project:

A national project that involves collecting feathers from eastern migrants to determine their origins, with the hope of plotting changing migration strategies. A total of four Yellow-browed Warblers and three Siberian Chiffchaff candidates were sampled.

Re-traps and Re-sightings:

A total of 1039 unique re-traps/re-sightings were recorded on the Calf in 2025. Some of the highlights are listed below; details are recorded thus (for codes, see [Recoveries & Controls](#)):

Species

<i>Ring Number</i>	<i>Age/Sex</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
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Eider

HT95024	4F	N	30/05/2009	Rarick
	4F	R	23/05/2022	Rarick
	4F	R	28/05/2025	Caigher Dub

At 15 years 11 months and 28 days, this female Eider claimed the Calf longevity record (beating 14 years one month and nine days set in 2023). She is also one of the few females recorded to have nested in two different subsites.

Oystercatcher

FC91783	1	N	25/06/2000	Calf of Man
	8	S	19/06/2025	Kitterland
	8	X	30/06/2025	Kitterland

This bird spent 25 years (its whole life) without ever being recovered. On 19th June, a camera trap captured a ringed Oystercatcher being attacked by a Herring Gull on Kitterland. The action went off camera, but just two weeks later a trip to Kitterland revealed this dead Oystercatcher just metres away from the camera.

FH88540	1	N	14/07/2019	South Harbour
> FJ84475	8	R	30/10/2025	Front Field

Ringed as a pullus in 2019, this bird was never recovered until being dazzled in October. Surprisingly, at only six years old its ring was already worn and needed to be replaced. It is suspected that this individual is one of the new pair that nested in the Upper Withy Field for the first time in 2024 (although this is yet to be confirmed).

Herring Gull

GF96075	1	N	17/06/1998	Calf of Man
	0	U	30/08/2025	Cow Harbour

This ring was found on the rocks at Cow Harbour. Having been ringed as a chick, it is possible that the bird didn't fledge and the ring has sat undiscovered all this time. However, it is impossible to say.

Manx Shearwater

FB04019	4	N	31/05/2003	Calf of Man
	4	R	25/05/2005	Calf of Man
	4	R	01/05/2016	South Harbour
	4	R	03/05/2021	South Harbour
	4	R	29/06/2023	South Harbour
> EM18357	4	R	27/08/2025	South Harbour

Whilst not a longevity record, the age of this Manx Shearwater makes it unsurprising that its ring needed replacing. What is notable, is the fact that it vanished without trace for 11 years before regularly reappearing again.

Shag

1365232	1	N	16/04/2001	Calf of Man
	0	U	31/08/2025	South Harbour

This ring was found on the beach over 20 years after the bird was ringed, with no sign of any remains.

Great Tit

Z610298	5F	N	25/03/2017	Calf of Man
	6F	R	13/03/2025	Observatory
	6F	R	14/03/2025	Observatory

At seven years 11 months and 17 days, this remarkable female not only smashed the Calf longevity record (three years six months and seven days, set in 2009) but also mysteriously wasn't seen in between the two records. Arriving on the Calf in spring with other migrant Great Tits, where has she been all this time?

Birds ringed on the Calf in previous years and re-trapped in 2025 (the final column shows birds that were ringed prior to 2019):

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	Previous
Eider	2	5	9	8		2	6	4			2009 x 2 2013 x 1
Mallard	1	1						1			
Oystercatcher						1					
Herring Gull											1998 x 1 2007 x 1
Lesser B-b Gull					1						
Razorbill	1	7		1		1	2				
Storm Petrel	2										
Fulmar											2013 x 1
Manx Shearwater	3	6	4	6	6	1	2	1	3	1	2003 x 1 2005 x 2 2009 x 1 2013 x 1
Shag						1					2001 x 1
Sparrowhawk	1										
Hooded Crow					1						

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	Previous
Great Tit								1			
Swallow	2		1								
Whitethroat			1								
Wren	6	1	1								
Blackbird	4	1	1					1			
Robin	5	2	1								
Stonechat			1								
Wheatear	6	4	1		1						
Dunnock	1										
Meadow Pipit	9	11	1	2	1						
Chaffinch	2		1								
Linnet	1										
Lesser Redpoll	1										
Goldfinch	7	1	1								

Birds colour-ringed on the Calf in previous years and resighted in 2025:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	Previous
Oystercatcher		1					1					2000 x 1
Herring Gull	6	9	4	26	7	33	1	6	3	8	6	2003 x 2 2005 x 1 2007 x 1 2009 x 2 2011 x 8 2012 x 3 2013 x 4
Great B-b Gull			2	4	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	
Lesser B-b Gull	1	1		2		2						
Shag	2			3	1		2				1	2007 x 1 2008 x 1 2011 x 1 2012 x 2
Chough							1	1				
Stonechat	5	4	2									
Wheatear	5	3	3		1							
Rock Pipit	3											

Acknowledgements:

As ever, many people have assisted with our work during the season. Gratitude is particularly due to Ed Betteridge, Kate Fox, Mike Haigh and Matthew Livsey, who provided invaluable help throughout the season.

Several other volunteers helped at various stages of the season, including Ellen Bielinski, Rebecca Cheape, Tony Corscadden, Dylan Donnelly, Elizabeth Jackson and Maia Jones.

Mark Fitzpatrick continues to provide invaluable assistance with management of the colour-ringing sightings, and Julie Quine has digitised the bulk of our historic ringing records.

2025 Ringing Totals:

Species	Full grown	Pulli	Total
Pink-footed Goose	1	0	1
Eider	34	0	34
Mallard	2	0	2
Teal	1	0	1
Collared Dove	1	0	1
Woodpigeon	1	0	1
Water Rail	3	4	7
Oystercatcher	4	8	12
Whimbrel	1	0	1
Jack Snipe	2	0	2
Snipe	11	0	11
Turnstone	3	0	3
Purple Sandpiper	9	0	9
Razorbill	21	25	46
Herring Gull	35	276	311
Great Black-backed Gull	7	39	46
Lesser Black-backed Gull	14	2	16
European Storm-petrel	24	0	24
Fulmar	3	0	3
Manx Shearwater	148	0	148
Shag	33	63	96

Species	Full grown	Pulli
Sparrowhawk	7	0
Buzzard	1	0
Chough	1	7
Magpie	1	0
Raven	0	2
Hooded Crow	1	9
Blue Tit	22	0
Great Tit	31	0
Coal Tit	31	0
Skylark	12	0
Sedge Warbler	108	0
Reed Warbler	10	0
Grasshopper Warbler	6	0
Swallow	26	27
Long-tailed Tit	39	0
Cetti's Warbler	1	0
Yellow-browed Warbler	4	0
Willow Warbler	614	0
Chiffchaff	344	0
Garden Warbler	6	0
Blackcap	215	0
Barred Warbler	1	0
Lesser Whitethroat	3	0
Whitethroat	124	0
Western Subalpine Warbler	1	0
Goldcrest	554	0
Treecreeper	2	0
Wren	83	6
Starling	10	0
Song Thrush	126	0
Redwing	87	0
Blackbird	139	0
Spotted Flycatcher	54	0
Robin	288	3
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	0
Pied Flycatcher	4	0
Black Redstart	3	0
Redstart	2	0
Whinchat	4	0
Stonechat	78	13

Total
7
1
8
1
2
10
22
31
31
12
108
10
6
53
39
1
4
614
344
6
215
1
3
124
1
554
2
89
10
126
87
139
54
291
1
4
3
2
4
91

Species	Full grown	Pulli
Wheatear	103	107
Dunnoek	106	0
House Sparrow	11	0
Grey Wagtail	72	0
Pied/White Wagtail	91	14
Tree Pipit	14	0
Meadow Pipit	710	17
Rock Pipit	12	4
Brambling	1	0
Chaffinch	599	0
Common Rosefinch	1	0
Greenfinch	18	0
Linnet	74	8
Lesser Redpoll	90	0
Goldfinch	571	5
Siskin	13	0
Reed Bunting	6	0

Total
210
106
11
72
105
14
727
16
1
599
1
18
82
90
576
13
6



Clockwise from top left: Wheatear pulli ©Ed Betteridge, Buzzard ©Kate Fox, Leucistic Meadow Pipit © Ed Betteridge, Shag © Kate Fox

2025 Recoveries & Controls

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

Details within species are recorded thus:

<i>Ring Number</i>	<i>Colour-ring</i>	<i>Original Ring (if applicable)</i>	
<i>Age/Sex</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location Details</i>
<i>Days between ringing and recovery, distance travelled (direction)</i>			

Where further records are listed, these will be for the location listed above.

Original ring

For some birds, especially on long-lived species, the ring becomes worn and difficult to read. In these instances when the bird is recaptured the old ring is removed and a new ring fitted.

Age codes

0	-	Bird dead or age completely unknown
1	-	Pullus (nestling or chick)
2	-	Fully grown, hatching year unknown
3	-	Hatched in the current calendar year
4	-	Hatched prior to calendar year of ringing
5	-	Hatched in previous calendar year
6	-	Hatched prior to previous calendar year
7	-	Hatched two years prior to calendar year of ringing
8	-	Hatched more than two years prior to calendar year of ringing
9	-	Hatched three years prior to calendar year of ringing
10	-	Hatched more than three years prior to calendar year of ringing

Sex codes

F	-	female
M	-	male

Where a code is not given, sex is either unknown or unrecorded.

Capture codes

N	-	Initial capture, ringing and release by a ringer
R	-	Recaptured and released by a ringer
S	-	Ring read in the field (metal and/or colour)
U	-	Ring only found
X	-	Found dead, unknown length of time
xF	-	Found freshly dead, less than a week
xL	-	Found long dead, over a week

Colour-rings

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.

- Herring Gull
ANN:A NAN:A ANAA
- Great Black-backed Gull
ANN:A
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
ANN:A NAN:A ANAA
- Shag
AAAA



Great Black-backed Gull ©Mike Barth



Wheatear © Hélène Cys

- Grey Wagtail
AAA
- Pied / White Wagtail
AAA
- Rock Pipit
- Stonechat
AAA
- Wheatear
AAN ANA
- Chough
AAA

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 – Violet/Purple
- W – White
- Y – Yellow



Chough ©Ann Playford

2025 Recoveries

Recoveries are of birds ringed on the Calf that have subsequently been found elsewhere. A total of 414 reports were received during 2025, comprising one record from 2000, 2009, 2013 & 2014, two from 2018, five from 2015, seven from 2017 & 2020, 14 from 2011, 21 from 2019, 24 from 2022, 35 from 2021, 39 from 2023, 79 from 2024 and 177 from 2025.

Oystercatcher

	Eire	England	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	1	1	1	0
2025	0	0	0	1

	FRANCE
Up to 2024	2
2025	1

FH88567

1 N 11/06/2021 Calf of Man
 8 R 11/10/2025 Llanfairfechan, Conwy, Wales
 1583 days, 104 km (SSE)

FJ64786

3 N 01/07/2024 Calf of Man
 0 xF 20/08/2025 Cherrueix, Ille-et-Vilaine, France
 415 days, 643 km (SSE)

Hunted.

Herring Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	English Channel & Irish Sea
Up to 2024	341	184	456	273	26	45	6
2025	42	15	191	73	4	6	0

	DENMARK	FRANCE	NORWAY	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2024	2	2	1	3

GE15203 **A07:M**

- 1 N 04/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 22/09/2025 Pig Island, Strangford Lough, Down, Northern Ireland
80 days, 76 km

GE15207 **A11:M**

- 1 N 04/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 24/09/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
82 days, 18 km (NNE)
- *Further records on 04/12/25 and 05/12/25.
- 3 S 22/12/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 171 days

GE15214 **A18:M**

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 18/09/2025 Bray, Dublin, Eire
75 days, 125 km (SW)

GE15224 **A28:M**

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 10/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
36 days, 8 km (ENE)
- 3 S 12/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 38 days

GE15228 **A34:M**

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 25/11/2025 Gormanston Beach, Meath, Eire
143 days, 103 km (WSW)

GE15229 **A33:M**

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 27/09/2025 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland
84 days, 55 km (WNW)
- 3 S 10/10/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
97 days, 56 km (WNW)
- 3 S 22/10/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
109 days, 18 km (NNE)

GE15230

A32:M

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 14/09/2025 Sean Walsh Memorial Park, Dublin, Eire
71 days, 133 km (SW)
- 3 S 02/12/2025 Baldonnell, Dublin, Eire
150 days, 136 km (SW)

GE15234

A38:M

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 21/10/2025 Darwen, Blackburn with Darwen, England
108 days, 159 km (ESE)
- 3 S 22/10/2025 Darwen, Blackburn with Darwen, England, 109 days
- 3 S 09/11/2025 Queen's Park, Blackburn, Lancashire, England
127 days, 158 km (ESE)
- 3 S 11/11/2025 Queen's Park, Blackburn, Lancashire, England
129 days

GE15237

A41:M

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 16/10/2025 Courtown Harbour, Wexford, Eire
103 days, 182 km (SSW)

GE15238

A42:M

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 30/09/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
87 days, 20 km (NNE)

GE15240

A44:M

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 27/10/2025 Rathlin Island, Antrim, Northern Ireland
114 days, 163 km (NNW)
- 3 S 28/10/2025 Rathlin Island, Antrim, Northern Ireland, 115 days

GE15250

A64:M

- 1 N 06/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 30/09/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
86 days, 20 km (NNE)
- 3 S 08/10/2025 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
94 days, 6 km (ENE)

- 3 S 03/11/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man, 120 days
 3 S 12/11/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man, 129 days

GE15253 **D96:M**

- 3F N 21/07/2025 Calf of Man
 3 S 13/09/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
 54 days, 18 km (NNE)
 *Further records on 16/09/25 and 27/09/25.
 3 S 11/10/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 82 days

GN53307 **K35:D**

- 1 N 20/06/2011 Calf of Man
 10 R 24/05/2023 Dalkey Island, Dublin, Eire
 4356 days, 123 km (SW)
 10 S 21/04/2025 Dalkey Island, Dublin, Eire, 5054 days

GR08555 **T8WJ**

- 1 N 30/06/2011 Calf of Man
 *Further records on 11/10/20 and 12/09/24.
 10 S 05/07/2025 Kilkeel Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
 5119 days, 77 km (W)
 10 S 22/07/2025 Calf of Man, 5136 days

GR64506 **T8ZH**

- 1 N 20/06/2011 Calf of Man
 *A further record on 13/07/2012
 3 S 11/12/2012 St Stephen's Green, Dublin, Eire
 174 days, 127 km (SW)
 10 S 09/07/2017 Calf of Man, 1845 days
 *Further recorded on three dates in 2017 and five dates in 2018.
 10 S 19/03/2020 Port Erin, Isle of Man
 2829 days, 3 km (NE)
 *Further recorded on three dates in 2020, two dates in 2021 and once in 2022.
 10 S 18/07/2022 Calf of Man, 3680 days
 10 S 16/08/2022 Port Erin, 3709 days
 *Further recorded once in each 2023 and 2024, and on three dates in 2025.
 10 S 30/09/2025 Port Erin, Isle of Man, 5216 days

GR64867

T7ZR

- 1 N 10/07/2013 Calf of Man
10 S 01/07/2019 King Edward Road, Onchan, Isle of Man
2182 days, 26 km (ENE)
0 xL 22/04/2025 Baldrine, Isle of Man
4304 days, 27 km (ENE)

GR64910

T5YC

- 1 N 23/06/2014 Calf of Man
10 S 10/09/2022 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
3001 days, 8 km (ENE)
10 S 14/10/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 4131 days

GR94848

L01:M

- 1 N 25/06/2017 Calf of Man
5 S 04/03/2018 Bull Wall, Dublin Bay, Bray, Wicklow, Eire
252 days, 128 km (SW)
7 S 05/07/2019 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
740 days, 58 km (WNW)
7 S 18/07/2019 Calf of Man, 753 days
7 S 07/09/2019 Skerries, Dublin, Eire
804 days, 101 km (WSW)
10 S 30/07/2021 Calf of Man, 1496 days
*Further recorded on 10/06/22 and 24/07/22.
10 S 07/08/2022 Skerries, Dublin, Eire, 1869 days
10 S 09/06/2023 Calf of Man, 2175 days
*Further recorded once in each 2023 and 2024, and on four dates in
2025.
10 S 08/09/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
2997 days, 8 km (ENE)

A breeding bird at Cow Harbour.

GR98814

R67:M

- 1 N 20/06/2015 Calf of Man
1 R 23/06/2015 Calf of Man, 3 days
3 S 21/10/2015 Peel, Isle of Man
123 days, 18 km (NNE)
5 S 17/02/2016 Castletown Outer Harbour, Castletown, Isle of Man
242 days, 10 km (E)

- 9 S 19/06/2018 Peel, Isle of Man, 1095 days
 10 S 27/03/2019 Calf of Man, 1376 days
 10 S 02/04/2019 Calf of Man, 1382 days
 *Further recorded on 02/04/19.
 10 S 28/08/2020 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
 1896 days, 8 km (ENE)
 10 S 03/09/2021 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
 2267 days, 6 km (ENE)
 *Further recorded once in each 2021, 2022 and 2023.
 10 S 16/03/2023 Calf of Man, 2826 days
 *Further records on six dates in 2023.
 10 S 15/01/2024 Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 3131 days
 10 S 01/03/2024 Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 3177 days
 10 S 31/03/2024 Calf of Man, 3207 days
 10 S 19/03/2024 Calf of Man, 3560 days
 10 S 14/10/2025 Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 3769 days
 A breeding bird at Cow Harbour.

GR98845

R24:M

- 1 N 22/06/2015 Calf of Man
 7 S 19/02/2017 Strandhall, Isle of Man
 608 days, 9 km (ENE)
 10 S 03/09/2021 Strandhall, Isle of Man, 2265 days
 10 S 14/10/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
 3767 days, 8 km (ENE)

GR98857

R88:M

- 1 N 23/06/2015 Calf of Man
 10 S 27/03/2019 Calf of Man, 1373 days
 10 S 11/08/2020 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
 1876 days, 8 km (ENE)
 10 S 31/08/2024 Calf of Man, 3357 days
 10 S 14/10/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 3766 days

GR98899

R13:M

- 1 N 23/06/2015 Calf of Man
 7 S 11/03/2017 Aberaeron, Ceredigion, Wales
 627 days, 207 km (S)

7	S	25/04/2017	Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man 672 days, 18 km (NNE)
7	S	04/08/2017	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland 773 days, 57 km (WNW)
10	S	04/05/2022	Calf of Man, 2507 days
10	S	14/08/2022	Strandhall, Isle of Man 2609 days, 9 km (ENE)
10	S	27/10/2023	Castletown Outer Harbour, Castletown, Isle of Man 3048 days, 10 km (E)
8	S	09/08/2025	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 3700 days, 8 km (ENE)

GR99031

L38:M

1	N	02/07/2017	Calf of Man
5	S	29/07/2018	Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland 392 days, 57 km (WNW)
5	S	22/08/2018	Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 416 days
9	S	14/06/2020	Calf of Man, 1078 days
9	S	04/07/2020	Calf of Man, 1098 days
9	S	11/09/2020	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1167 days, 8 km (ENE)
10	S	10/10/2021	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man,
10	S	02/06/2022	Calf of Man, 1796 days
10	S	23/02/2023	Calf of Man, 2062 days
10	S	27/04/2024	Port St Mary, Isle of Man 2491 days, 6 km (ENE)
10	S	12/08/2025	Calf of Man, 2963 days
10	S	08/10/2025	Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 3020 days

GR99083

T2VP

10	N	26/04/2019	Calf of Man *Further recorded on 24/05/19 and 29/06/20.
10	S	06/08/2020	Strandhall, Isle of Man 468 days, 9 km (ENE)
10	S	07/08/2020	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 469 days, 8 km (ENE)
10	S	22/03/2022	Calf of Man, 1061 days *Further recorded on six dates between April 2022 – April 2025.
10	S	09/08/2025	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 2297 days

GR99088

T2VG

- 10 N 26/04/2019 Calf of Man
- 10 S 08/08/2025 Strandhall, Isle of Man
2296 days, 9 km (ENE)
- 10 S 18/09/2025 Strandhall, Isle of Man, 2337 days

GV61770

C16:M

- 10 N 02/10/2017 Calf of Man
- 10 R 01/06/2025 Calf of Man, 2799 days
- 10 S 14/10/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
2934 days, 8 km (ENE)

GV61851

T2WT

- 1 N 23/06/2019 Calf of Man
- 3 S 17/08/2019 Calf of Man, 55 days
- 9 S 01/04/2022 Rogerstown Estuary, Dublin, Eire
1013 days, 109 km (SW)
- 9 S 14/04/2022 Calf of Man, 1026 days
*Further recorded on ten dates between March 2023 and August 2025.
- 10 S 12/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
2242 days, 8 km (ENE)

GV61874

T9WU

- 1 N 23/06/2019 Calf of Man
- 5 S 20/09/2020 Dundalk Docks, Louth, Eire
455 days, 104 km (W)
- 10 S 31/03/2023 Calf of Man, 1377 days
*Further recorded on seven dates between April 2023 and August 2025.
- 10 S 08/10/2025 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
2299 days, 6 km (ENE)

GV61886

T8WE

- 1 N 23/06/2019 Calf of Man
- 9 S 16/08/2022 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
1150 days, 8 km (ENE)
- 10 S 31/03/2023 Calf of Man, 1377 days

- 10 S 02/03/2024 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
1714 days, 6 km (ENE)
- 10 S 15/03/2024 Calf of Man, 1727 days
*Further records on 29/03/25 and 11/05/25.
- 10 S 12/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 2242 days

GV61963

T2YU

- 1 N 27/06/2019 Calf of Man
- 3 S 06/12/2019 Peel Inner Harbour, Peel, Isle of Man
162 days, 20 km (NNE)
- 5 S 20/01/2020 Bull Island, Dublin, Eire
207 days, 117 km (SW)
- 5 S 07/11/2020 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
499 days, 6 km (ENE)
- 7 S 03/01/2021 Alexander Basin, Dublin Port, Dublin, Eire
556 days, 122 km (SW)
- 9 S 30/03/2022 Calf of Man, 1007 days
*Further recorded on 24/04/23 and 18/07/23.
- 10 S 27/04/2024 Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 1766 days
- 10 S 22/07/2024 Calf of Man, 1852 days
*Further recorded on 28/07/24 and 15/04/25.
- 10 S 08/10/2025 Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 2295 days

GV61965

T8YU

- 1 N 27/06/2019 Calf of Man
- 9 S 04/05/2022 Calf of Man, 1042 days
- 9 S 09/06/2022 Gormanston Beach, Meath, Eire
1078 days, 103 km (WSW)
- 10 S 22/03/2023 Calf of Man, 1364 days
- 10 S 14/07/2024 Calf of Man, 1844 days
- 10 S 04/08/2025 Salterstown, Louth, Eire
2230 days, 99 km (W)

GY06262

T6WF

- 1 N 30/06/2019 Calf of Man
- 5 S 11/09/2020 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
439 days, 8 km (ENE)
- 7 S 26/07/2021 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland
757 days, 56 km (WNW)

- 7 S 19/09/2021 New Quay, Ceredigion, Wales
812 days, 207 km (S)
- 10 S 30/09/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
2284 days, 20 km (NNE)

GY06297

T8YW

- 1 N 03/07/2019 Calf of Man
- 5 S 13/07/2020 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland
376 days, 56 km (WNW)
- 5 S 26/08/2020 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
420 days, 58 km (WNW)
- 7 S 10/03/2021 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 616 days
- 7 S 08/08/2021 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland,
767 days
- 9 S 12/01/2022 Queen's Park, Blackburn, Lancashire, England
923 days, 158 km (ESE)
- *Further recorded on four dates from January to February 2022.
- 10 S 30/08/2023 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 1519 days
- 10 S 25/04/2024 Calf of Man, 1759 days
- 10 S 24/12/2024 Queen's Park, Blackburn, Lancashire, England,
2001 days
- *Further recorded on six dates from January to November 2025.
- 10 S 23/11/2025 Queen's Park, Blackburn, Lancashire, England
2335 days

GY06316

T2YW

- 1 N 03/07/2019 Calf of Man
- *Further recorded on 08/03/25 and 23/03/25.
- 8 S 04/09/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
2255 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY06343

T9VF

- 1 N 03/07/2019 Calf of Man
- 3 S 03/11/2019 Drumbeg Drive, Lisburn, Antrim, Northern Ireland
123 days, 95 km (WNW)
- *Further recorded on three dates between December 2019 and March 2020.
- 10 S 30/07/2024 Calf of Man, 1854 days

10	S	05/01/2025	Drumbeg Drive, Lisburn, Antrim, N. Ireland, 2013 days
10	S	12/01/2025	Drumbeg Drive, Lisburn, Antrim, N. Ireland, 2020 days
10	S	14/03/2025	Calf of Man, 2081 days
10	S	04/05/2025	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 2132 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY06354

T1VC

1	N	03/07/2019	Calf of Man
5	S	06/06/2020	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland 339 days, 55 km (WNW)
5	S	24/07/2020	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland 387 days
5	S	10/10/2020	Strandhall, Isle of Man 465 days, 9 km (ENE)
7	S	17/07/2021	Calf of Man, 745 days
7	S	16/09/2021	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland 806 days
			*Further recorded on 30/09/21 and 25/10/21.
7	S	17/12/2021	Strandhall, Isle of Man, 898 days
7	S	25/12/2021	Strandhall, Isle of Man, 906 days
10	S	10/04/2023	Calf of Man, 1377 days
10	S	27/09/2024	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland 1913 days
10	S	09/10/2024	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland 1925 days
10	S	13/04/2025	Calf of Man, 2111 days
10	S	04/07/2025	Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland 2193 days

GY06523

K87:M

1	N	19/07/2021	Calf of Man
3	S	17/09/2021	Port Oriel, Louth, Eire 60 days, 100 km (WSW)
5	S	13/08/2022	Strandhall, Isle of Man 390 days, 9 km (ENE)
5	S	23/08/2022	Strandhall, Isle of Man, 400 days
9	S	23/04/2024	Calf of Man, 1009 days
			*Further recorded on three dates between April and July 2025.
10	S	18/09/2025	Strandhall, Isle of Man, 1522 days

GY06558

J90:M

- 7 N 01/11/2021 Calf of Man
10 S 28/07/2023 Strandhall, Isle of Man
634 days, 9 km (ENE)
10 S 26/10/2023 Poyll Breinn, Langness, Isle of Man
724 days, 11 km (E)
10 S 20/06/2025 Whitehead, Belfast Lough, Antrim, Northern Ireland
1327 days, 97 km (NW)
10 S 27/07/2025 Whitehead, Belfast Lough, Antrim, Northern Ireland
1364 days

GY06563

U59:M

- 7 N 01/11/2021 Calf of Man
9 S 17/02/2022 Dundrum Bay, Down, Northern Ireland
108 days, 72 km (WNW)
*Further recorded on 11 dates from April 2022 to September 2025.
10 S 22/11/2025 Dundrum Bay, Down, Northern Ireland, 1482 days

GY06564

U76:M

- 3 N 01/11/2021 Calf of Man
5 S 09/09/2022 Dundrum Bay, Down, Northern Ireland
312 days, 72 km (WNW)
*Further recorded on eight dates between October 2023 and September 2025.
10 S 22/11/2025 Dundrum Bay, Down, Northern Ireland, 1482 days

GY06576

G05:M

- 1 N 01/07/2022 Calf of Man
5 S 18/08/2023 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
413 days, 56 km (WNW)
*Further recorded on three dates between March 2024 and February 2025.
9 S 13/04/2025 Calf of Man, 1017 days
9 S 14/07/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 1109 days

GY06584

G14:M

- 1 N 01/07/2022 Calf of Man
3 S 30/10/2022 Fr Collin's Park, Dublin, Eire
121 days, 116 km (SW)

9 S 08/07/2025 Calf of Man, 1103 days
 9 S 30/12/2025 Bull Island, Dublin, Eire
 1278 days, 118 km (SW)

GY06626

G66:M

1 N 04/07/2022 Calf of Man
 9 S 01/12/2025 Strangford Floodgates, Down, Northern Ireland
 1246 days, 82 km (NW)

GY06640

G80:M

1 N 09/07/2022 Calf of Man
 3 S 10/08/2022 River Liffey, Dublin, Eire
 32 days, 129 km (SW)
 3 S 02/09/2022 Bray, Dublin, Eire
 55 days, 131 km (SW)
 3 S 16/09/2022 Bray, Dublin, Eire, 69 days
 7 S 02/06/2024 Kilpatrick Strand, Wexford, Eire
 694 days, 173 km (SSW)
 9 S 17/07/2025 Bray, Dublin, Eire, 1104 days
 9 S 27/07/2025 Arklow, Wicklow, Eire
 1114 days, 165 km (SSW)

GY06649

G49:M

1 N 04/07/2022 Calf of Man
 5 S 23/04/2023 Gronant Clwyd, Denbighshire, Wales
 29 days, 125 km (SE)
 9 S 13/03/2025 New Quay, Ceredigion, Wales
 983 days, 206 km (S)
 9 S 25/04/2025 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland
 1026 days, 55 km (WNW)

GY06679

H09:M

3 N 25/09/2022 Calf of Man
 5 S 01/07/2023 Broadmeadow Estuary, Swords, Dublin, Eire
 279 days, 113 km (SW)
 *Further recorded on 30/07/23 and 16/05/25.
 9 S 12/07/2025 Broadmeadow Estuary, Swords, Dublin, Eire
 1021 days

GY06691 **H15:M**

5	N	15/10/2022	Calf of Man
9	S	05/04/2024	Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland 538 days, 58 km (WNW)
9	S	27/04/2024	Port St Mary Bay, Port St Mary, Isle of Man 560 days, 6 km (ENE)
10	S	17/02/2025	Strandhall, Isle of Man 856 days, 9 km (ENE)

GY06693 **H17:M**

8	N	15/10/2022	Calf of Man
10	S	01/08/2024	Calf of Man, 656 days
10	S	23/03/2025	Earystane Plantation, Isle of Man 890 days, 11 km (NE)

GY06695 **H26:M**

7	N	01/11/2022	Calf of Man
10	S	03/02/2024	Peel, Isle of Man 459 days, 20 km (NNE)
10	S	05/08/2025	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 1008 days, 8 km (ENE)
10	S	29/10/2025	Peel, Isle of Man, 1093 days

GY06707 **H29:M**

1	N	24/06/2023	Calf of Man
7	S	14/04/2025	Calf of Man, 660 days
7	S	08/09/2025	near Kentraugh, Isle of Man 807 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY06713 **H35:M**

1	N	24/06/2023	Calf of Man
7	S	23/03/2025	Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man 638 days, 20 km (NNE)

GY06714 **H36:M**

1	N	24/06/2023	Calf of Man
7	S	28/08/2025	Cruisetown, Louth, Eire 796 days, 100 km (WSW)

GY06722

H44:M

- | | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|
| 1 | N | 29/06/2023 | Calf of Man |
| 5 | S | 15/01/2024 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man
200 days, 6 km (ENE) |
| 5 | S | 01/03/2024 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 246 days |
| 5 | S | 19/03/2024 | Calf of Man, 264 days |
| 7 | S | 02/01/2025 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 553 days |
| 7 | S | 20/01/2025 | Strandhall, Isle of Man
571 days, 9 km (ENE) |
| 7 | S | 22/01/2025 | Port St Mary, Isle of Man, 573 days |
| 7 | S | 17/02/2025 | Strandhall, Isle of Man, 599 days |
| 7 | S | 18/09/2025 | Strandhall, Isle of Man, 812 days |
| 7 | S | 21/09/2025 | Strandhall, Isle of Man, 815 days |

GY06742

H64:M

- | | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|
| 1 | N | 29/06/2023 | Calf of Man |
| 5 | S | 20/06/2024 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
357 days, 58 km (WNW) |
| 7 | S | 15/01/2025 | Strandhall, Isle of Man
566 days, 9 km (ENE) |

GY20517

T6WZ

- | | | | |
|----|---|------------|---|
| 1 | N | 30/06/2020 | Calf of Man |
| 3 | S | 20/12/2020 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
173 days, 58 km (WNW) |
| 7 | S | 02/05/2022 | Strandhall, Isle of Man
671 days, 9 km (ENE) |
| | | | *Further recorded on 08/03/23 and 22/11/23. |
| 10 | S | 29/03/2024 | Calf of Man, 1368 days |
| 10 | S | 09/04/2024 | Calf of Man, 1379 days |
| 10 | S | 12/08/2025 | near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
1869 days, 8 km (ENE) |
| 10 | S | 18/09/2025 | Strandhall, Isle of Man, 1906 days |

GY20519

T8WZ

- | | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|
| 1 | N | 30/06/2020 | Calf of Man |
| 3 | S | 11/09/2020 | Booterstown/Blackrock, Dublin, Eire
73 days, 123 km (SW) |

- 9 S 13/04/2023 Calf of Man, 1017 days
 10 S 31/12/2024 Strandhall, Isle of Man
 1645 days, 9 km (ENE)
 10 S 12/06/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
 1808 days, 56 km (WNW)

GY20535

T4WR

- 1 N 06/07/2020 Calf of Man
 5 S 17/12/2021 Strandhall, Isle of Man
 529 days, 9 km (ENE)
 10 S 20/03/2024 Calf of Man, 1353 days
 *Further recorded on four dates from March 2024 to April 2025.
 10 S 29/09/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
 1911 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY20553

J18:M

- 1 N 26/06/2021 Calf of Man
 7 S 07/06/2023 Strandhall, Isle of Man
 711 days, 9 km (ENE)
 9 S 17/12/2024 Port St Mary Bay, Port St Mary, Isle of Man
 1270 days, 6 km (ENE)
 10 S 09/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
 1505 days, 8 km (ENE)
 10 S 23/08/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
 1519 days, 56 km (WNW)

GY20556

J22:M

- 1 N 26/06/2021 Calf of Man
 5 S 06/04/2022 Dundrum Bay, Down, Northern Ireland
 284 days, 72 km (WNW)
 5 S 08/09/2022 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland
 439 days, 56 km (WNW)
 9 S 13/04/2024 Calf of Man,
 10 S 04/10/2025 Knockinelder Bay, Down, Northern Ireland
 1561 days, 57 km (NW)

GY20587

J53:M

- 1 N 27/06/2021 Calf of Man
 *Further recorded on six dates from July 2021 to May 2025.

10 S 18/09/2025 Strandhall, Isle of Man
1544 days, 9 km (ENE)

GY20594 J60:M

1 N 27/06/2021 Calf of Man

3 S 26/09/2021 near Kenetraugh, Isle of Man
91 days, 8 km (ENE)

*Further recorded on 16/08/22 and 08/09/22.

9 S 13/04/2024 Calf of Man, 1021 days

9 S 27/04/2024 Port St Mary Bay, Port St Mary, Isle of Man
1035 days, 6 km (ENE)

10 S 11/03/2025 Calf of Man, 1353 days

*Further recorded on 15/03/25 and 19/03/25.

10 S 04/09/2025 near Kenetraugh, Isle of Man
1530 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY20621 J87:M

1 N 28/06/2021 Calf of Man

3 S 28/07/2021 Calf of Man, 30 days

5 S 30/09/2022 Dungarvan Bay, Dungarvan, Waterford, Eire
459 days, 96 km (W)

8 S 10/11/2025 Togher, Cork City, Cork, Eire
1596 days, 244 km (SW)

8 S 01/12/2025 Togher, Cork City, Cork, Eire

8 S 08/12/2025 Togher, Cork City, Cork, Eire

GY20691 K55:M

1 N 11/07/2021 Calf of Man

10 S 28/04/2025 Strandhall, Isle of Man
1387 days, 9 km (ENE)

GY42505 H77:M

1 N 01/07/2023 Calf of Man

5 S 11/05/2024 Kilpatrick, Wexford, Eire
315 days, 174 km (SSW)

5 S 20/08/2024 Clone Strand, Wexford, Eire
416 days, 174 km (SSW)

7 S 25/04/2025 Pendine Beach, Carmarthenshire, Wales
664 days, 258 km (S)

GY42520

H91:M

- 1 N 03/07/2023 Calf of Man
*Further recorded on four dates between July and August 2023.
- 7 S 22/01/2025 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
569 days, 6 km (ENE)
- 7 S 05/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
764 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY42559

D30:M

- 1 N 07/07/2023 Calf of Man
- 3 S 23/12/2023 Peel, Isle of Man
169 days, 20 km (NNE)
- *Further recorded on eight dates from August to December 2025.
- 7 S 11/12/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 888 days

GY42567

D38:M

- 1 N 08/07/2023 Calf of Man
- 7 S 02/06/2025 Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland
695 days, 61 km (NW)

GY42608

D74:M

- 1 N 26/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 3 S 09/09/2024 Kilkeel Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
75 days, 78 km (W)
- 5 S 22/03/2025 Calf of Man, 269 days
- 5 S 06/12/2025 Peel Bay, Isle of Man
528 days, 20 km (NNE)

GY42611

D78:M

- 1 N 26/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 09/09/2025 Swansea, Swansea, Wales
440 days, 277 km (SSE)

GY42612

D79:M

- 1 N 26/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 12/02/2025 Ballymount Park, Dublin, Eire
231 days, 135 km (SW)
- 5 S 05/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
405 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY42616

D83:M

- 1 N 26/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 11/05/2024 Newcastle, Down, Northern Ireland
319 days, 72 km (WNW)

GY42617

D84:M

- 1 N 26/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 3 S 18/08/2024 19 Arches Bridge, Arklow, Wicklow, Eire
53 days, 167 km (SSW)
- 3 S 20/08/2024 19 Arches Bridge, Arklow, Wicklow, Eire, 55 days
- 3 S 21/12/2024 Tramore, Waterford, Eire
178 days, 261 km (SW)
- 5 S 15/01/2025 Tramore, Waterford, Eire, 203 days

GY42618

D85:M

- 1 N 26/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 01/01/2025 Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland
189 days, 60 km (NW)

GY42634

H61:M

- 1 N 26/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 13/06/2025 Culzean Bay, South Ayrshire, Scotland
352 days, 144 km (N)

GY42635

F00:M

- 1 N 26/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 3 S 29/08/2024 Portavogie Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
64 days, 60 km (NW)
- 5 S 02/12/2025 Peel Bay, Isle of Man
524 days, 20 km (NNE)
- *Further recorded on four dates in December 2025.
- 5 S 22/12/2025 Peel Bay, Isle of Man, 544 days

GY42643

F08:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 3 S 23/12/2024 Port Erin, Isle of Man
178 days, 5 km (NE)
- 5 S 06/12/2025 Peel Bay, Isle of Man
526 days, 20 km (NNE)
- 5 S 08/12/2025 Peel Bay, Isle of Man, 528 days

GY42645

F10:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 3 S 09/09/2024 Douglas Harbour, Douglas, Isle of Man
73 days, 25 km (ENE)
- 5 S 06/04/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
282 days, 20 km (NNE)
- *Further recorded on 14 dates between June and December 2025.
- 5 S 17/12/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 537 days

GY42646

F11:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 24/07/2025 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland
391 days, 55 km (WNW)

GY42647

F12:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 01/04/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
277 days, 56 km (WNW)

GY42649

F14:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 10/08/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
408 days, 56 km (WNW)
- 5 S 16/09/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 445 days
- 5 S 10/10/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 469 days

GY42654

F20:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 08/07/2025 Arklow, Wicklow, Eire
375 days, 165 km (SSW)
- 5 S 26/07/2025 Dalkey Island, Dublin, Eire
393 days, 123 km (SW)
- 5 S 28/12/2025 Bray, Dublin, Eire
548 days, 125 km (SW)

GY42656

F22:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 13/03/2025 New Quay, Ceredigion, Wales
258 days, 206 km (S)

GY42658

F24:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
5 S 17/07/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
384 days, 20 km (NNE)
5 S 24/11/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 514 days
5 S 22/12/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 542 days

GY42662

F28:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
5 S 03/05/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
309 days, 56 km (WNW)
*Further recorded on three dates between May and October 2025.
5 S 08/10/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 467 days

GY42670

F36:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
3 S 06/09/2024 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
70 days, 56 km (WNW)
*Further recorded on three dates between December 2024 and May 2025.
5 S 07/09/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 436 days

GY42674

F40:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
3 S 01/09/2024 Bray, Dublin, Eire
65 days, 126 km (SW)
*Further recorded on 27/10/24 and 11/11/24.
3 S 08/12/2024 Bullock Harbour, Dalkey, Dublin, Eire
163 days, 121 km (SW)
3 S 28/12/2024 Bray, Dublin, Eire, 183 days
5 S 27/02/2025 Bray, Dublin, Eire
244 days, 125 km (SW)

GY42675

F41:M

- 1 N 28/06/2024 Calf of Man
5 S 16/03/2025 Redgate Recycling, Manchester, Greater Manchester
England 261 days, 184 km (ESE)
5 S 23/07/2025 Parton Beach, Cumbria, England
390 days, 98 km (NE)

GY42688

F53:M

- | | | | |
|---|---|------------|--|
| 1 | N | 02/07/2024 | Calf of Man |
| 5 | S | 17/07/2025 | Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire
380 days, 96 km (WSW) |
| 5 | S | 30/10/2025 | Strandhall, Isle of Man
485 days, 9 km (ENE) |

GY42692

F56:M

- | | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|
| 1 | N | 02/07/2024 | Calf of Man |
| 3 | S | 09/09/2024 | Kilkeel Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
69 days, 78 km (W) |
| 5 | S | 28/09/2025 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
453 days, 56 km (WNW) |
| 5 | S | 22/10/2025 | Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland
477 days, 60 km (NW) |

GY42694

F60:M

- | | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|
| 1 | N | 02/07/2024 | Calf of Man |
| 5 | S | 19/03/2025 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
260 days, 56 km (WNW) |

GY42698

F62:M

- | | | | |
|---|---|------------|--|
| 1 | N | 02/07/2024 | Calf of Man |
| 3 | S | 25/12/2024 | Millisle Beach, Millisle, Down, Northern Ireland
176 days, 76 km (NW) |
| | | | *Further recorded on three dates from June and August 2025. |
| 5 | S | 08/12/2025 | Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland
524 days, 60 km (NW) |
| 5 | S | 21/12/2025 | Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
537 days, 56 km (WNW) |

GY42701

F66:M

- | | | | |
|---|---|------------|--|
| 1 | N | 02/07/2024 | Calf of Man |
| 5 | S | 04/10/2025 | Gann Estuary, Dale, Pembrokeshire, Wales
459 days, 260 km (S) |

GY42705

F70:M

1 N 02/07/2024 Calf of Man
5 S 22/01/2025 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
204 days, 6 km (ENE)
5 S 30/09/2025 Peel Bay, Isle of Man
455 days, 20 km (NNE)

GY42728

D10:M

10M N 22/03/2025 Calf of Man
10M S 04/07/2025 Port St Mary
104 days, 6 km (ENE)
10M S 08/10/2025 Port St Mary, 200 days
10M S 14/10/2025 near Kentraugh
206 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY42732

D02:M

8IM N 28/03/2025 Calf of Man
8M S 03/09/2025 Youghal, Cork, Eire
159 days, 309 km (SW)
8M M 31/10/2025 Youghal, Cork, Eire, 217 days

GY42736

L57:M

Original ring: GR08619

1 N 06/07/2011 Calf of Man
10M R 16/04/2025 Calf of Man, 5033 days
10M S 18/09/2025 Strandhall, Isle of Man
5188 days, 9 km (ENE)

GY42752

C02:M

10M N 22/05/2025 Calf of Man
10M S 04/09/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
105 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY42754

C04:M

10M N 22/05/2025 Calf of Man
10M S 09/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
79 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY42755 **C05:M** Original ring: GR08624

1 N 06/07/2011 Calf of Man

10 R 22/05/2025 Calf of Man, 5069 days

10 S 14/10/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
5214 days, 8 km (ENE)

10 S 20/11/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
5251 days, 20 km (NNE)

*Further recorded on four dates between November and December 2025.

10 S 22/12/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man, 5283 days

GY42758 **C08:M**

10F N 23/05/2025 Calf of Man

10F S 30/10/2025 Strandhall, Isle of Man
160 days, 9 km (ENE)

GY42761 **C11:M**

10F N 23/05/2025 Calf of Man

10F S 05/07/2025 Kilkeel Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
408 days, 77 km (W)

GY42764 **C14:M**

10F N 30/05/2025 Calf of Man

10F S 05/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
67 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY42768 **C19:M** Original ring: GC91026

1 N 20/06/2009 Calf of Man

10F R 01/06/2025 Calf of Man, 5825 days

10F S 14/10/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
5960 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY42777 **C24:M**

1 N 23/06/2025 Calf of Man

3 S 09/11/2025 Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland
149 days, 60 km (NW)

3 S 08/12/2025 Portaferry, Down, Northern Ireland
168 days, 60 km (NW)

GY42791

C32:M

- 1 N 24/06/2025 Calf of Man
3 S 05/09/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
73 days, 20 km (NNE)

GY42798

C37:M

- 1 N 24/06/2025 Calf of Man
3 S 14/09/2025 Arklow, Wicklow, Eire
82 days, 165 km (SSW)

GY42806

C26:M

- 1 N 23/06/2025 Calf of Man
3 S 22/10/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
121 days, 20 km (NNE)
*Further recorded on three dates between November and
December 2025.
3 S 25/12/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man, 185 days

GY42810

C29:M

- 1 N 23/06/2025 Calf of Man
3 S 16/09/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
85 days, 18 km (NNE)

GY42826

C48:M

- 1 N 24/06/2025 Calf of Man
3 S 22/12/2025 Ballylibernagh, Bridgetown, Wexford, Eire
181 days, 234 km (SSW)

GY42842

C58:M

- 1 N 24/06/2025 Calf of Man
3 S 25/10/2025 Dundrum Bay, Down, Northern Ireland
123 days, 72 km (WNW)

GY42843

C59:M

- 1 N 24/06/2025 Calf of Man
3 S 26/12/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
185 days, 56 km (WNW)

GY42844

B22:M

- 1 N 24/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 02/12/2025 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire
161 days, 96 km (WSW)
- 3 S 29/12/2025 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire, 188 days
- 3 S 30/12/2025 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire, 189 days

GY42849

C63:M

- 1 N 24/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 04/10/2025 Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland
102 days, 60 km (NW)

GY42855

A55:M

- 1 N 25/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 09/10/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
106 days, 18 km (NNE)
- 3 S 17/12/2025 Dundalk, Louth, Eire
175 days, 102 km (W)

GY42859

C69:M

- 1 N 25/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 17/08/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
53 days, 18 km (NNE)
*Further recorded on nine dates between September and
December 2025.
- 3 S 03/12/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 161 days

GY42867

C76:M

- 1 N 25/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 07/09/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
74 days, 56 km (WNW)

GY42874

C81:M

- 1 N 25/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 12/11/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
140 days, 20 km (NNE)
*Further recorded on eight dates between November and
December 2025.
- 3 S 25/12/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man, 183 days

GY42879

A68:M

- 1 N 25/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 29/11/2025 Rosslare, Wexford, Eire
157 days, 224 km (SSW)

GY42884

A57:M

- 1 N 25/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 17/08/2025 Broad Lough, Wicklow, Eire
53 days, 144 KM (SW)

GY42891

C95:M

- 1 N 30/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 25/11/2025 Gormanston Beach, Meath, Eire
148 days, 103 km (WSW)

GY42896

B00:M

- 1 N 30/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 25/11/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
148 days, 20 km (NNE)
- 3 S 05/12/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man, 158 days
- 3 S 25/12/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man, 178 days

GY42898

B02:M

- 1 N 30/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 28/09/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
90 days, 56 km (WNW)
- 3 S 04/10/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 96 days

GY42909

B16:M

- 1 N 30/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 13/09/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
75 days, 18 km (NNE)
- 3 S 06/10/2025 Dalkey Island, Dublin, Eire
98 days, 123 km (SW)
- 3 S 03/11/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 126 days
*Further recorded on five dates between November and December 2025.
- 3 S 06/12/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 159 days

GY42916

B28:M

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 21/11/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
142 days, 86 km (WNW)
- 3 S 28/12/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 179 days

GY42922

B32:M

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 15/08/2025 Ratallagh Beach, Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland
44 days, 61 km (NW)
- 3 S 16/08/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
45 days, 56 km (WNW)
- 3 S 23/12/2025 Loch Ryan, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland
174 days, 97 km (N)
- 3 S 24/12/2025 Loch Ryan, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland, 175 days
- 3 S 30/12/2025 Loch Ryan, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland, 181 days

GY42928

B37:M

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 22/11/2025 Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland
143 days, 60 km (NW)

GY42929

B38:M

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 06/10/2025 Gann Estuary, Dale, Pembrokeshire, Wales
96 days, 260 km (S)

GY42932

B41:M

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 03/09/2025 Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland
63 days, 60 KM (NW)
- 3 S 26/09/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
86 days, 56 km (WNW)

GY42944

B53:M

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 28/10/2025 Bray, Dublin, Eire
118 days, 125 km (SW)

GY42952 **B60:M**

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 0 xF 17/08/2025 Ballamodha, Isle of Man
46 days, 13 km (ENE)

Road casualty.

GY42963 **B68:M**

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 30/09/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
90 days, 20 km (NNE)

GY42964 **B69:M**

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 09/09/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
69 days, 20 km (NNE)
- 3 S 11/10/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man, 101 days

GY42967 **B73:M**

- 1 N 03/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 12/11/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
132 days, 20 km (NNE)
*Further recorded on five dates between November and December 2025.
- 3 S 22/12/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man, 172 days

GY42976 **B80:M**

- 1 N 03/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 19/11/2025 Ballymacowen, Cork, Eire
139 days, 381 km (SW)

GY42977 **B81:M**

- 1 N 03/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 25/09/2025 Kilkeel Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
84 days, 77 km (W)

GY42978 **B82:M**

- 1 N 03/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 20/09/2025 Bolton, Greater Manchester, England
79 days, 168 km (ESE)

GY42981

B85:M

- 1 N 03/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 16/09/2025 Bray, Dublin, Eire
75 days, 125 km (SW)
- 3 S 25/12/2025 Sean Walsh Memorial Park, Dublin, Eire
175 days, 133 km (SW)

GY42984

B88:M

- 1 N 04/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 22/11/2025 Redgate Recycling, Manchester, Greater Manchester,
England 141 days, 184 km (ESE)

GY42985

B89:M

- 1 N 04/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 26/11/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
145 days, 20 km (NNE)

Great Black-backed Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Irish Sea
Up to 2024	129	62	103	122	11	85	3
2025	10	0	32	11	0	3	0

FRANCE

Up to 2024	3
2025	2

HT95255

S01:M

- 1 N 01/07/2015 Calf of Man
- 5 S 05/12/2016 Rosslare, Wexford, Eire
523 days, 227 km (SSW)
- 7 S 28/06/2017 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire
728 days, 96 km (WSW)
- 7 S 24/10/2017 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire, 846 days
- 9 S 31/03/2018 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire, 1004 days
- 10 S 20/06/2025 Lambay Island, Dublin, Eire
3642 days, 103 km (SW)

HT95281

S21:M

- 1 N 06/07/2017 Calf of Man
- 3 S 19/11/2017 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire
136 days, 96 km (WSW)
*Further recorded on 24/11/18 and 29/01/19.
- 7 S 30/08/2019 Millquarter Bay, Strangford Lough, Down, N. Ireland
785 days, 56 km (WNW)
- 9 S 19/12/2020 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire, 1262 days
- 10 S 20/02/2021 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire, 1325 days
- 10 S 30/07/2021 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
1485 days, 8 km (ENE)
- 10 S 11/11/2021 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire, 1589 days
*Further recorded on three dates between November and December 2021.
- 10 S 05/04/2024 Calf of Man, 2465 days
*Further recorded on three dates from May to August 2025.
- 10 S 27/11/2025 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire
3066 days, 96 km (WSW)

HT95284

S26:M

- 1 N 08/07/2017 Calf of Man
- 5 S 20/06/2018 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
347 days, 56 km (WNW)
*Further recorded on nine dates from July 2018 to May 2025.
- 10 S 07/11/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down Northern Ireland, 3044 days

HT95339

S58:M

- 1 N 24/06/2018 Calf of Man
- 3 S 01/12/2018 Howth Harbour, Howth, Dublin, Eire
160 days, 111 km (SW)
- 5 S 23/02/2019 Howth Harbour, Howth, Dublin, Eire, 244 days
- 5 S 31/03/2019 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire
280 days, 96 km (WSW)
*Further recorded on three dates between October 2021 and February 2022.
- 10 S 08/07/2022 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
1475 days, 8 km (ENE)
- 8 S 15/12/2025 Cruisetown, Louth, Eire
2731 days, 100 km (WSW)

HT95351

S73:M

- 1 N 09/07/2018 Calf of Man
- 9 S 30/09/2021 Gothic Sands, Gwithian, Cornwall, England
1179 days, 428 km (S)
- 10 S 20/02/2022 Anse du Loc'h, Plogoff, Finistère, France
1322 days, 669 km (S)
- 10 S 27/11/2022 Anse du Loc'h, Plogoff, Finistère, France, 1602 days
- 10 S 22/06/2023 Calf of Man, 1809 days
- 10 S 12/05/2025 Calf of Man, 2499 days
- 8 S 09/11/2025 Trunvel, Tréogat, Finistère, France
2680 days, 686 km (S)

HT95424

U22:M

- 1 N 17/06/2021 Calf of Man
- 3 S 31/12/2021 Port St Mary Bay, Port St Mary, Isle of Man
197 days, 6 km (ENE)
*Further recorded on 19/01/22 and 02/05/22.
- 5 S 01/08/2022 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
410 days, 8 km (ENE)
- 5 S 11/08/2022 Port St Mary Bay, Port St Mary, Isle of Man,
*Further recorded on 27/09/22 and 09/05/24.
- 9 S 18/08/2024 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 1158 days
- 10 S 15/01/2025 Strandhall, Isle of Man
1308 days, 9 km (ENE)
- 10 S 09/02/2025 Strandhall, Isle of Man, 1333 days
- 10 S 10/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 1515 days
- 10 S 12/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 1517 days
- 10 S 18/09/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man, 1554 days

HT95428

U29:M

- 1 N 17/06/2021 Calf of Man
- 3 S 21/09/2021 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
96 days, 8 km (ENE)
- 5 S 08/04/2022 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
295 days, 58 km (WNW)
*Further recorded on 08/09/22 and 23/03/23.
- 7 S 11/10/2023 Strandhall, Isle of Man
846 days, 9 km (ENE)

- 9 S 01/04/2024 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 1019 days
 10 S 02/10/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 1568 days

HT95464

M87:M

- 5 N 24/03/2020 Calf of Man
 10 S 02/11/2024 Glynn, Larne Lough, Antrim, Northern Ireland
 1684 days, 108 km (NW)
 10 S 31/03/2025 Muck Island, Island Magee, Antrim, Northern Ireland
 1833 days, 107 km (NNW)
 10 S 10/08/2025 Muck Island, Island Magee, Antrim, Northern Ireland
 1965 days

MA28253

U10:M

- 1 N 08/07/2021 Calf of Man
 3 S 08/12/2021 Ruh Harbour, Dublin, Eire
 153 days, 104 km (SW)
 5 S 08/04/2022 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
 274 days, 56 km (WNN)
 *Further recorded on ten dates from June 2022 to December 2024.
 10 S 15/01/2025 Ardglass Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland, 1286 days

MA28260

U55:M

- 1 N 14/07/2021 Calf of Man
 3 S 03/09/2021 Port St Mary Bay, Port St Mary, Isle of Man
 51 days, 6 km (ENE)
 3 S 02/12/2021 Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland
 141 days, 60 km (NW)
 *Further recorded on three dates between December 2021 and
 February 2024.
 10 S 01/01/2025 Portavogie, Down, Northern Ireland, 1267 days

MA28306

U08:M

- 1 N 20/06/2022 Calf of Man
 0 xL 15/05/2025 Point of Ayre, Isle of Man
 1060 days, 45 km (NE)

MA28316

M01:M

- 1 N 02/07/2022 Calf of Man
 3 S 14/09/2022 Peel, Isle of Man
 74 days, 18 km (NNE)

*Further recorded on 07/10/22 and 19/11/22.

- 5 S 23/02/2023 Portavogie Harbour, Down, Northern Ireland
236 days, 60 km (NW)
- 5 S 17/06/2023 Peel, Isle of Man, 350 days
- 7 S 31/03/2024 Calf of Man, 638 days
- 9 S 30/09/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 1186 days
- 9 S 11/10/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 1197 days

MA28328 **M13:M**

- 1 N 09/07/2022 Calf of Man
- 5 S 15/02/2023 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire
221 days, 96 km (WSW)
- *Further recorded on three dates between September 2023 and September 2025.
- 9 S 27/11/2025 Port Oriel, Clogher Head, Louth, Eire, 1237 days

MA28375 **U77:M**

- 1 N 20/07/2023 Calf of Man
- 7 S 23/05/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
673 days, 8 km (ENE)

MA28408 **P09:M**

- 10F N 02/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 10F S 28/12/2025 Bray, Dublin, Eire
209 days, 125 km (SW)

MA28412 **P59:M**

- 1 N 22/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 17/12/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
178 days, 20 km (NNE)
- 3 S 19/12/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man, 180 days

MA28413 **P57:M**

- 1 N 23/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 26/09/2025 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
95 days, 20 km (NNE)

MA28423 **P67:M**

- 1 N 30/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 31/10/2025 Newcastle, Down, Northern Ireland
123 days, 72 km (WNW)

MA28438 **P79:M**

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 13/12/2025 Bay of Guissey, Finistère, France
164 days, 602 km (S)

MA28439 **P80:M**

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 16/09/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
73 days, 18 km (NNE)
*Further recorded on ten dates from September to December 2025.
- 3 S 22/12/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 170 days

MA28443 **P84:M**

- 1 N 05/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 19/09/2025 Abermawr, near St Nicholas, Pembrokeshire, Wales
104 days, 232 km (S)

MA28450 **S54:M**

- 1 N 13/07/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 17/10/2025 Peel, Isle of Man
96 days, 18 km (NNE)
*Further recorded on three dates from October to December 2025.
- 3 S 29/12/2025 Peel, Isle of Man, 169 days

MA61305 **M39:M**

- 1 N 17/07/2024 Calf of Man
- 5 S 05/06/2025 Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
323 days, 245 km (S)
- 5 S 15/08/2025 Grassholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
394 days, 261 km (S)

MA61306 **M40:M**

- 1 N 17/07/2024 Calf of Man
 3 S 21/12/2024 Boatstrand Beach, Waterford, Eire
 157 days, 270 km (SW)
 5 S 30/11/2025 Helvick, Waterford, Eire
 501 days, 288 km (SW)

MA61316 **P50:M**

- 5F N 25/04/2025 Calf of Man
 5 S 25/06/2025 Derbyhaven, Isle of Man
 61 days, 12 km (E)
 5 S 09/08/2025 near Kentraugh Isle of Man
 106 days, 8 km (ENE)

MA61317 **P51:M**

- 9 N 24/04/2025 Calf of Man
 9 S 07/11/2025 Ballinclamper, Dungarvan, Waterford, Eire
 196 days, 285 km (SW)

MA61340 **P05:M**

- 1 N 08/07/2024 Calf of Man
 5 S 03/05/2025 Howth Harbour, Dublin, Eire
 299 days, 113 km (SW)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	3	10	8	2	2	2
2025	0	0	4	0	0	0

	FRANCE	MOROCCO	NORWAY	PORTUGAL
Up to 2024	1	1	1	67
2025	0	0	0	8

GY06441 **T1WK**

- 10 N 24/03/2020 Calf of Man
 10 S 08/03/2023 Strandhall, Isle of Man
 1079 days, 8 km (ENE)
 10 S 05/06/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
 1899 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY06701

H27:M

- 10 N 19/04/2023 Calf of Man
- 10 S 19/09/2023 Molhe Norte South Jacinto, Aveiro, Portugal
153 days, 1519 km (SSW)
- 10 S 07/11/2023 Molhe Norte South Jacinto, Aveiro, Portugal, 202 days
- 10 S 11/12/2023 Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal
236 days, 1539 km (SSW)
- 10 S 01/11/2024 Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal, 562 days
- 10 S 02/11/2024 Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal, 563 days
- 10 S 23/04/2025 Calf of Man, 735 days
- 10 S 25/09/2025 Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal, 890 days
*Further recorded on three dates in October 2025.
- 10 S 01/11/2025 Praia de Mira, Coimbra, Portugal, 927 days

GY42569

D40:M

- 1 N 08/07/2023 Calf of Man
- 3 S 04/11/2023 Sesimbra, Setúbal, Portugal
118 days, 1766 km (SSW)
- 7 S 01/08/2025 Torreira, Aveiro, Portugal
755 days, 1497 km (SSW)
- 7 S 04/08/2025 Torreira, Aveiro, Portugal, 758 days

GY42744

L97:M

- 10F N 15/04/2025 Calf of Man
- 0 xL 11/09/2025 Balladoole, Castletown, Isle of Man
149 days, 10 km (ENE)

Leg only was found.

GY42760

C10:M

- 10M N 23/05/2025 Calf of Man
- 10M S 12/08/2025 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
81 days, 8 km (ENE)

GY42766

C17:M

- 10M N 01/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 10M S 25/08/2025 Kionslieu, Foxdale, Isle of Man
85 days, 18 km (NE)

GY42949

B57:M

- 1 N 02/07/2025 Calf of Man
 3 S 31/12/2025 Praia de Esmoriz, Aveiro, Portugal
 182 days, 1481 km (SSW)

Storm Petrel

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	52	23	8	89	450	66
2025	0	0	0	0	0	1

	FAROEES	FRANCE	ICELAND	NORWAY	PORTUGAL
Up to 2024	2	3	1	3	6

	SOUTH AFRICA
Up to 2024	1

2357040

- 4 N 24/07/2024 Calf of Man
 4 R 29/06/2025 Strumble, Pembrokeshire, Wales
 340 days, 225 km (S)

2357074

- 4 N 11/08/2024 Calf of Man
 4 R 13/08/2025 Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll & Bute, Scotland
 367 days, 144 km (NNW)

2764860

- 4 N 19/07/2023 Calf of Man
 4 R 27/07/2023 Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll & Bute, Scotland
 8 days, 144 km (NNW)
 4 R 12/08/2025 Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, 755 days

2764919

- 4 N 04/08/2021 Calf of Man
 4 R 14/08/2025 Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll & Bute, Scotland
 1471 days, 144 km (NNW)
 4 R 15/08/2025 Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll & Bute, Scotland,
 1472 days

2764967

4 N 17/08/2022 Calf of Man

4 R 13/08/2025 Sanda Island, Kintyre, Argyll & Bute, Scotland
1092 days, 144 km (NNW)

Shag

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Irish Sea
Up to 2024	8	45	332	23	189	25	1
2025	0	0	4	0	2	0	0

THE NETHERLANDS

Up to 2024	1
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1365143

1 N 15/05/2000 Calf of Man

0 xL 09/02/2025 Barsalloch Point, near Monreith, Dumfries & Galloway,
Scotland 9036 days, 78 km (NNE)

1705761

CAHN

1 N 07/07/2022 Calf of Man

8 S 11/12/2025 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
1253 days, 6 km (ENE)

1705811

CAJN

8M N 25/04/2024 Calf of Man

*Further recorded on 23/06/24 and 10/06/25.

8M S 11/12/2025 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
595 days, 6 km (ENE)

1705842

1 N 20/06/2024 Calf of Man

0 X 30/03/2025 Conister or St Mary's Rock, Isle of Man
283 days, 24 km (ENE)

1705886

CARC

1 N 11/06/2025 Calf of Man

0 xF 21/12/2025 Jurby, Isle of Man
193 days, 39 km (NNE)

1705919

CAVA

1 N 29/06/2025 Calf of Man

0 xF 23/11/2025 Port Banntyne, Rothesay, Isle of Bute, Argyll & Bute,
Scotland 147 days, 199 km (N)**Chough**

	IOM	Northern Ireland
Up to 2024	108	1
2025	2	0

EZ87814

AAC

1 N 20/05/2023 Calf of Man

*Further recorded on 14/08/23 and 31/08/24.

4 S 11/11/2024 Strandhall, Isle of Man
541 days, 9 km (ENE)4 S 11/05/2025 Port St Mary, Isle of Man
722 days, 6 km (ENE)

EZ87873

AAZ

1 N 13/05/2024 Calf of Man

3 S 20/11/2024 Strandhall, Isle of Man
191 days, 9 km (ENE)4 S 15/01/2025 Poyllvaish, Isle of Man
247 days, 10 km (ENE)**Great Tit**

	IOM	Northern Ireland
Up to 2024	59	2
2025	1	0

BCB7026

3M N 12/10/2023 Calf of Man

3M R 13/10/2023 Calf of Man, 1 day

4M R 15/11/2024 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
400 days, 10 km (ENE)

4M R 26/11/2024 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 411 days

6M R 16/05/2025 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 582 days

Willow Warbler

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	3	30	15	7	11	9
2025	0	0	0	0	0	1

	BELGIUM	CHANNEL ISLANDS	FRANCE	GAMBIA	MOROCCO
Up to 2024	1	1	5	1	

	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
Up to 2024	1	5

PNP945

3 N 13/08/2025 Calf of Man

3 R 16/08/2025 Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
3 days, 263 km (S)

Chiffchaff

	Eire	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	2	14	9	1	4
2025	0	0	0	1	1

	CHANNEL ISLANDS	FRANCE	GAMBIA	MOROCCO
Up to 2024	1	1	1	1

	SENEGAL	SPAIN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2024	2	1	1

PNP464

5 N 30/04/2025 Calf of Man

5 R 01/05/2025 Calf of Man, 1 day

4M R 11/05/2025 Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
11 days, 263 km (S)

PNP668

4 N 30/04/2025 Calf of Man

4 R 30/08/2025 Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland
122 days, 637 km (NNE)

Goldcrest

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK Channel
Up to 2024	1	54	78	3	4	15	1
2025	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE
Up to 2024	2	1

RDY285

3M N 08/10/2025 Calf of Man

3M R 10/10/2025 St John's, Isle of Man
2 days, 19 km (NNE)

RDY602

3F N 17/10/2025 Calf of Man

3F R 29/10/2025 St Tudno's Well, Conwy, Wales
12 days, 102 km (SE)

Blackbird

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	15	53	38	5	7	1
2025	0	1	0	0	0	0

	DENMARK	FINLAND	FRANCE	GERMANY	NORWAY
Up to 2024	15	3	1	8	26

	SPAIN	SWEDEN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2024	1	11	8

LL61880

4F N 04/11/2021 Calf of Man

0 xF 25/02/2025 Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire, England
1209 days, 201 km (E)

Killed by a cat.

Wheatear

	Eire	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	1	13	4	1	11
2025	0	1	0	0	0

	ALGERIA	CHANNEL ISLANDS	FRANCE	GERMANY	MOROCCO
Up to 2024	1	1	2	2	6
2025	0	0	1	0	0

	SPAIN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2024	1	1

PT78949 **DDZ**

- 1 N 25/05/2025 Calf of Man
 3 S 23/08/2025 Dunkirk, Nord, France
 90 days, 587 km (SE)

PT78974 **DES**

- 1 N 27/05/2025 Calf of Man
 3 S 01/08/2025 Budleigh, Salterton, Devon, England
 66 days, 393 km (SSE)

Grey Wagtail

	Eire	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	2	1	5	2	1
2025	0	0	2	1	0

AVZ6124 **ANA**

- 3 N 01/09/2023 Calf of Man
 4 S 30/05/2025 Breich Water, West Lothian, Scotland
 637 days, 215 km (NNE)

BPE3617 **CSK**

- 3J N 16/06/2025 Calf of Man
 3 S 06/07/2025 Castletown, Isle of Man
 20 days, 11 km (E)

BPE4225 **CXF**

- 3 N 04/09/2025 Calf of Man
 3 S 07/09/2025 Abbeylands, Isle of Man
 3 days, 24 km (ENE)

Pied Wagtail

	IOM
Up to 2024	2
2025	0

	CHANNEL ISLANDS	FRANCE	ICELAND
Up to 2024	0	1	1
2025	2	1	0

BPE3672

ABP

- 1 N 26/06/2025 Calf of Man
- 3 S 06/12/2025 L'Etacq, Jersey, Channel Islands
163 days, 564 km (SSE)
- 3 S 07/12/2025 Le Pulec, St Ouen, Jersey, Channel Islands
164 days, 564 km (SSE)



Pied Wagtail 'ABP' in Jersey ©Romano da Costa

BPE3988

ADK

- 4M N 08/08/2025 Calf of Man
- 4 S 29/10/2025 St Hilaire de Riez, Vendée, France
82 days, 839 km (SSE)

Meadow Pipit

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	North Sea
Up to 2024	1	3	3	1	1	1	1
2025	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

	FRANCE	PORTUGAL	SPAIN
Up to 2024	12	7	11

BPE5131

3 N 29/09/2025 Calf of Man

3 R 22/10/2025 Slapton Ley, Devon, England
23 days, 426 km (S)

Chaffinch

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	3	19	92	4	21	5
2025	0	0	5	0	0	0

	NORWAY	SWEDEN	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2024	1	1	1

BCB6134

3F N 23/09/2023 Calf of Man

5F R 13/02/2024 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
143 days, 10 km (ENE)

*Further recorded on 19/06/24 15/11/24.

6F R 21/08/2025 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
698 days, 10 km (ENE)

BCB6876

3F N 12/10/2023 Calf of Man

3F R 29/12/2023 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
78 days, 10 km (ENE)

5F R 24/05/2024 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 225 days

6F R 23/06/2025 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 620 days

BCB7467

3F N 21/10/2023 Calf of Man

5F R 24/01/2024 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
95 days, 10 km (ENE)

6F R 11/10/2025 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man, 721 days

BPE5472

3F N 11/10/2025 Calf of Man

3F R 15/10/2025 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
4 days, 10 km (ENE)

BPE5808

3M N 16/10/2025 Calf of Man

3M R 17/10/2025 Surby, Isle of Man
1 day, 8 km (NE)

Lesser Redpoll

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland
Up to 2024	0	24	1	2	5
2025	0	1	0	0	0

	BELGIUM
Up to 2024	1

BPE1979

4F N 19/10/2024 Calf of Man

0 xF 06/01/2025 Congleton Edge, Cheshire, England
79 days, 200 KM (ESE)

Found dying by roadside with blood on head, possible road traffic accident.

Goldfinch

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	3	27	38	6	27	6
2025	0	1	1	1	0	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	SPAIN
Up to 2024	2	6	1

ADX2471

3M N 20/09/2022 Calf of Man

6M R 13/02/2025 Northward Hill, Medway, England
877 days, 461 km (SE)

AJT6697

5M N 08/04/2022 Calf of Man

0 xF 10/06/2025 Ardboe, Tyrone, Northern Ireland
1159 days, 131 km (WNW)

Killed by a cat.

BPE4005

3J N 12/08/2025 Calf of Man

3J R 06/10/2025 Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man
55 days, 12 km (ENE)

Siskin

	England	IOM	Scotland
Up to 2024	4	0	4
2025	0	1	0

	NORWAY
Up to 2024	1

BCB8162

5M N 03/05/2024 Calf of Man

6M R 24/02/2025 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
297 days, 10 km (ENE)

2025 Controls

Controls are birds ringed elsewhere and recorded subsequently on the Calf. A total of 52 reports were received in 2025.

Eider

	England
Up to 2024	0
2025	1

MA04817

4M N 20/07/2019 Foulney Island, Cumbria, England
 10M R 26/04/2025 Calf of Man, 2107 days, 108 km (W)
 Dazzled at Mill Giau, the first ever control Eider.

Oystercatcher

	England	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	1	1	3
2025	0	0	2

FH73437

8 N 16/10/2015 Whiteford Sand, Gower, Swansea, Wales
 8 R 01/06/2025 Calf of Man, 3516 days, 271 km (N)

FH86604

8 N 23/11/2014 Penmon Quarry, Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey, Wales
 8 R 15/07/2023 Calf of Man, 3156 days, 97 km (NNW)
 8 S 21/05/2025 Calf of Man, 3832 days

Herring Gull

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Wales
Up to 2024	1	1	37	2	2
2025	0	0	2	0	4

GR97473

V18:M

6 N 08/07/2015 Peel Bay, Peel, Isle of Man
 10 S 16/07/2017 Calf of Man, 739 days, 18 km (SSW)

*Further recorded on six dates from July 2018 and April 2019.

- 10 S 25/09/2020 Strandhall, Isle of Man
1906 days, 15 km (S)
- 10 S 06/11/2020 Calf of Man, 1948 days
*Further recorded on nine dates from July 2021 to August 2022.
- 10 S 10/09/2022 near Kentraugh, Isle of Man
2621 days, 15 km (S)
- 10 S 20/04/2023 Calf of Man, 2843 days
*Further recorded on ten dates from April 2023 to March 2025.
- 10 S 12/05/2025 Calf of Man, 3596 days
- A breeding bird at Cow Harbour.

GV85165

B:060

- 1 N 23/06/2020 Carreg Fawr, Gwynedd, Wales
- 9 S 08/04/2023 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
1018 days, 3 km (SSE)
- 10 S 24/04/2024 Calf of Man, 1400 days, 143 km (N)
*Further recorded on five dates from April 2024 to March 2025.
- 10 S 22/04/2025 Calf of Man, 1764 days
- A suspected breeding bird at Central Heath.

Great Black-backed Gull

	Eire	Wales
Up to 2024	22	1
2025	6	0

MA29044

1CC

- 1 N 11/07/2010 Ireland's Eye, Dublin, Eire
- 10 S 20/09/2020 Calf of Man, 3724 days, 110 km (NE)
*Further recorded on 20 dates between May 2022 and May 2025.
- 10 S 10/08/2025 Calf of Man, 5509 days
- A breeding bird at Cagher.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

	England	IOM	Scotland
Up to 2024	1	8	2
2025	0	2	2

FH38319

31M:C

- 1 N 17/07/2018 Pladda, North Ayrshire, Scotland

10 S 31/07/2024 Calf of Man, 2206 days, 153 km (S)

*Further recorded on 10/08/24 and 28/03/25.

10 S 08/05/2025 Calf of Man, 2487 days

GR79416

T7VD

8 N 25/05/2015 Point of Ayre Gravel Pit, Isle of Man

10 S 20/06/2019 Calf of Man, 1487 days, 48 km (SW)

*Further recorded on seven dates from June 2019 to May 2024.

10 S 11/06/2025 Calf of Man, 3670 days

Storm Petrel

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	83	84	9	87	371	68
2025	1	0	0	1	3	0

	CHANNEL ISLANDS	PORTUGAL
Up to 2024	1	8

2672867

4 N 07/08/2013 Isle of May, Fife, Scotland

4 R 23/08/2025 Calf of Man, 4399 days, 277 km (SSW)

2767560

4 N 12/08/2025 Cleats Shore, North Ayrshire, Scotland

4 R 23/08/2025 Calf of Man, 11 days, 156 km (S)

2791349

4F N 18/08/2024 Madman's Window, Antrim, Eire

4F R 25/06/2025 Calf of Man, 311 days, 125 km (SE)

2801204

4 N 09/07/2025 Galley Head, Cork, Cork, Eire

4 R 24/07/2025 Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales
15 days, 254 km (E)

4 R 26/07/2025 Calf of Man, 17 days, 394 km (NE)

2810315

4 N 13/08/2025 Argyll & Bute, Scotland

4 R 14/08/2025 Calf of Man, 1 day, 144 km (SSE)

Manx Shearwater

	Northern Ireland	Wales
Up to 2024	58	19
2025	1	2

EA93964

- 1 N 09/09/2021 Copeland Bird Observatory, Down, Northern Ireland
 4 R 20/04/2025 Calf of Man, 1319 days, 85 km (SSE)

FB39315

- 4 N 03/07/2020 Port Iago, Llangwnnadi, Gwynedd, Wales
 4 R 01/08/2025 Calf of Man, 1855 days, 133 km (N)

FB67449

- 4 N 08/05/2024 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, Wales
 4 R 28/04/2025 Calf of Man, 355 days, 143 km (N)

Great Tit

	IOM
Up to 2024	17
2025	2

BBD6869

- 3J N 29/06/2024 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
 *Further recorded on 17/07/24 and 30/07/24.
 5M R 26/03/2025 Calf of Man, 270 days, 10 km (WSW)

BZF8449

- 3J N 06/06/2025 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man
 3F R 11/10/2025 Calf of Man, 127 days, 10 km (WSW)

Sedge Warbler

	Eire	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland
Up to 2024	3	14	1	1

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	NORWAY	SENEGAL	SPAIN
Up to 2024	0	22	1	2	2
2025	1	2	0	0	0

	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2024	1

9346452

3 N 08/08/2024 Trunvel, Treogat, Finistère, France
 4 R 04/05/2025 Calf of Man, 269 days, 686 km (N)

10051032

3 N 17/08/2024 Reserve Naturelle de l'étang des Landes, Creuse, France
 4 R 04/05/2025 Calf of Man, 260 days, 1011 km (NNW)

18121373

3 N 04/08/2024 Teralfene, Brabant, Belgium
 4 R 09/05/2025 Calf of Man, 278 days, 698 km (WNW)
 The first control Sedge Warbler from Belgium.

Chiffchaff

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	1	20	3	1	2	6
2025	0	1	0	0	0	0

	BELGIUM	DENMARK	FRANCE	GAMBIA	NORWAY
Up to 2024	4	1	2	1	1
2025	0	0	1	0	0

	SENEGAL	SPAIN	SWEDEN
Up to 2024	6	7	1

5C6114

2 N 29/10/2023 Rn du Bagnas, Agde, Hérault, France
 4 R 09/05/2025 Calf of Man, 558 days, 1338 km (NNW)

PXL408

2 N 17/09/2023 Dunkirk, Little Downham, near Ely, Cambridgeshire, England
 6 R 12/04/2025 Calf of Man, 573 days, 380 km (WNW)

Blackcap

	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	7	1	2	3

	BELGIUM	CHANNEL ISLANDS	DENMARK	FRANCE	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2024	1	1	1	1	2
2025	0	0	0	0	1

BX44653

3 N 30/09/2025 Oude Schulpweg, Castricum, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands

3M R 18/10/2025 Calf of Man, 18 days, 648 km (WNW)

Goldcrest

	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	21	10	1	3	7
2025	1	0	0	0	0

	BELGIUM	FRANCE	RUSSIA	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2024	1	1	1	1

REK136

3F N 05/10/2024 Clopton Medieval Village, Cambridgeshire, England

5F R 31/03/2025 Calf of Man, 177 days, 381 km (NW)

Blackbird

	England	IOM	Scotland
Up to 2024	10	10	5

	BELGIUM	DENMARK	GERMANY	NORWAY	SWEDEN
Up to 2024	1	2	2	8	1
2025	0	0	0	1	0

	THE NETHERLANDS
Up to 2024	4

7627188

3 N 28/07/2021 Giljastolen, Gjesdal, Rogaland, Norway

4M R 03/11/2025 Calf of Man, 1559 days, 864 km (SW)

Spotted Flycatcher

	Eire	England	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	1	3	1	1

	NORWAY
Up to 2024	0
2025	1

HP68521

4 N 29/05/2024 Utsira, Rogaland, Norway

4 R 01/05/2025 Calf of Man, 337 days, 830 km (SW)

Only the second ever control Spotted Flycatcher from Norway to be caught in the British Isles.

Grey Wagtail

	Scotland
Up to 2024	2
2025	1

BFH2134

CVD

1 N 01/05/2025 Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

3 R 29/08/2025 Calf of Man, 120 days, 356 km (NNE)

Goldfinch

	Eire	England	IOM	Scotland	Wales
Up to 2024	1	28	13	2	3
2025	0	6	1	3	1

	BELGIUM	FRANCE
Up to 2024	5	2

AAX7442

3 N 16/12/2024 Cheshire, England

5F R 30/03/2025 Calf of Man, 104 days, 172 km (WNW)

ATV0635

3 N 08/10/2024 Heysham Harbour, Heysham, Lancashire, England

5F R 12/04/025 Calf of Man, 186 days, 125 km (W)

BAF1841

5M N 10/02/2025 Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

5 R 15/10/2025 Calf of Man, 247 days, 103 km (SSW)

BHF5100

3F N 14/12/2024 Ingrebourn Valley CP, Hornchurch, Greater London, England
 5F R 10/04/2025 Calf of Man, 117 days, 439 km (NW)

BTF9291

5M N 13/04/2025 South Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, England
 5M R 18/04/2025 Calf of Man, 5 days, 105 km (W)

BVA7803

6F N 18/01/2025 Tal Goed Nursery, Conwy, Wales
 6F R 16/03/2025 Calf of Man, 57 days, 112 km (NW)

BVE9347

3J N 01/09/2024 Shore Road, Castletown, Isle of Man
 5F R 10/03/2025 Calf of Man, 190 days, 12 km (WSW)

BVF0113

5F N 17/01/2025 Bourne Wood, Lincolnshire, England
 5 R 31/03/2025 Calf of Man, 73 days, 325 km (WNW)

BXE1080

5M N 06/02/2025 near Kildary, Highland, Scotland
 5M R 15/10/2025 Calf of Man, 251 days, 414 km (S)
 5M R 16/10/2025 Calf of Man, 252 days

BZC1951

3M N 19/10/2024 Broadway, Fairlight, East Sussex, England
 5M R 11/04/2025 Calf of Man, 174 days, 511 km (NW)

Siskin

	Eire	England	IOM	Northern Ireland	Scotland
Up to 2024	1	2	0	1	1
2025	0	0	1	0	1

BNC0083

6M N 24/03/2024 Cnoc, Argyll & Bute, Scotland
 6M R 29/09/2025 Calf of Man, 554 days, 239 km (S)

BZF8660

3J N 16/06/2025 Arbory Allotments, Isle of Man

3M R 06/10/2025 Calf of Man, 112 days, 10 km (WSW)



The 10th control Blackbird from Norway ©Kate Fox

Volunteer Reports

A Spring Month on the Calf



Ed teaching Elizabeth to ring a Shag ©Kate Fox

Throughout April 2025 I spent the month on the Calf of Man as a volunteer mapping the territories of breeding Rock Pipits. I spent my time with the wardens and with fellow volunteers monitoring Rock Pipits, observing their breeding behaviours, frequencies, and locations. In addition to my main role here, I also spent my time assisting the bird wardens and the estate wardens with their various tasks.

The team on the Calf were extremely welcoming, one of the friendliest teams I have worked with. Heading out to the island was a daunting experience, knowing I would be

spending a month on an isolated island with no mains water or electricity, limited signal and with a team who I had only briefly communicated with before arriving. Upon arriving, Eleanor, Kate, Dom, and Ed instantly welcomed me to the team, making me feel comfortable. I felt at home in the observatory and thoroughly enjoyed all my time spent working with the team on the island, making my final day tough as I didn't want to leave. I gained extensive knowledge in ornithology (which is invaluable to me) and learnt a variety of new skills that I will be able to use for future roles in my career.

My main responsibilities were to map the territories of the Rock Pipits across the Calf of Man. I went out each day walking various segments of the coastline, stopping along the way for 10–30 minutes monitoring the species of birds in each area. I would record the frequency of Rock Pipit sightings, the behaviours observed, and the location and time of each sighting. My first few days were dedicated to learning my way around the island, identifying each section of coastline, and navigating the terrain. When I arrived on the island, I had only theoretical knowledge of Rock Pipits and got to learn on the job about these species. I quickly found myself listening in for their telltale songs, watching frequently along the coastline for parachuting males, and recording each sighting of this species whenever I was out on the island. There were a few regular spots I knew had Rock Pipits frequently visiting, the main being South Harbour – where I believed there were two Rock Pipits nesting nearby.



Spotting Rock Pipits is not always an easy task! @Elizabeth Jones

The ornithology tasks I underwent varied each day. Eleanor and Ed were responsible each day for completing a daily census of the island. This was done by walking across specific areas of the island. I thoroughly enjoyed joining the wardens on these walks where we logged all avian species. These walks were very relaxing with a comfortable silence listening to the birds and nature and gaining insightful knowledge of the island from Eleanor and Ed.

When the weather was right the bird wardens would spend the mornings setting up mist nets around 5am to capture, ring and take biometrics of the bird species across the island. My first experience doing this was with Eleanor who guided me through the process of ringing in an exceptionally kind, patient and informative way guiding me through the various processes, supervising me how to complete the tasks myself. My first time doing this was daunting and Eleanor was extremely calm and was an exceptional teacher, ensuring I completed each task feeling confident in myself.

My favourite experience on the island was spent dazzling for species at night, especially with Manx Shearwaters. This experience was the most memorable for me. Heading out from the observatory around 10/11pm and working until the early hours of the morning was a unique experience that has become a core memory for myself.



Manx Shearwater ringing ©Kate Fox

Eleanor, Ed, and Kate demonstrated how to safely catch, handle, ring and take biometrics of various species, mainly focusing on the Manx Shearwaters across the island. My most memorable night was one of my final nights spent with Eleanor where we were dazzling until 4am capturing and ringing Manx Shearwaters – this has been my favourite memory of my time there.

In addition to working with the bird wardens, I assisted Kate and Dom the estate wardens with a few different tasks. Something I learned was daffodils on the Calf are invasive species that were introduced to the area. A key role for the estate wardens was removing these invasive species to protect the natural area of the island. I enjoyed working on this task with another volunteer, removing the daffodils to assist the wardens in maintaining biosecurity.

A unique memory with the estate wardens that I enjoyed was assisting in moving the parts for the crane, which is used for moving diesel and large deliveries onto the island. I enjoyed observing the team put this together and found it fascinating. The observatory where the wardens, volunteers and visitors stay was a gorgeous old farmhouse with a lot of character. This building required a range of maintenance, and I enjoyed spending a day assisting Kate in the visitors' lounge, maintaining the floor with protective paint.

My experience on the Calf of Man has been incredible, being one of the greatest opportunities I could have done. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and hope to return to the Calf in the future. I gained a wide range of knowledge, many new skills, and had such a lovely time spent with the incredible team on this island. I can't thank Eleanor, Ed, Kate, and Dom enough for their support, friendship and knowledge offered during my time on the island.



Map of Rock Pipit territories on the Calf in 2025. White circles represent the approximate locations of territories.

A Breeding Survey of Rock Pipits (*Anthus petrosus*) on the Calf of Man, April 2025

Abstract

The survey was conducted during April by two observers for the bird observatory. The weather was fair (warm, sunny, dry, but breezy with excellent visibility) throughout. Seventy active breeding territories were mapped, possibly a small undercount and close to the island's carrying capacity.

Introduction

The Calf of Man is a small (1.5 x 1.0 miles, 618 acres) island off the south coast of the Isle of Man and is owned by the Manx Museum and National Trust. It has been one of Britain's 20 bird observatories since 1959 and is of international importance to wildlife (especially bird migration, being part of the East Atlantic Flyway). The five miles of coastline is composed of faulted, folded and wave-eroded basalt and shales – full of the cracks and crannies *A. petrosus* favour as nest sites. The interior rises to 421ft and is mostly covered by bracken, heather and coarse grasses.

Method

Empirical data was collected by two observers during April working sometimes paired and sometimes individually. The entire coastline was walked multiple times, so every encounter location could be visited at least three times. If birds were only encountered once during the minimum three visits, the territory was deleted from the results map (to be visited additional times later in the study and reinstated to the results map if compelling activity was observed). Behaviour was logged using the BTO's NRS adult activity code. During the survey, there being little activity at and to/from nests the 'watching back' technique could not be used, hence no nests were found. Females were only observed at nine of the 70 (13%) mapped breeding territories, indicating most were sitting tight and incubating. Additionally, five locations were selected at random where line transects were constructed from HWM 400m inland. No *A. petrosus* were found >80m inland of HWM, confirming the island's *A. petrosus* nest exclusively in the littoral zone. At all times the BTO's NRS Code of Conduct was followed.

Results

Seventy confirmed breeding territories were mapped. Due to the character of the island's coastline (heavily indented with inaccessible geos, caves, promontories and wave-cut platforms below 150' cliffs) undercounting (+) could not be discounted. Similarly, due to the subjective nature of empirical data (i.e. human observation) nor over counting (-). Assuming a 10% margin of error, 70 active territories equal 77–63; though in this case undercounting is more likely.

Conclusions

The data collected could be used as a baseline for future monitoring of the island's *A. petrosus* demography and nesting behaviours. The figure 70+/- 10% compares closely with Fife Ness (including the Isle of May) and favourably to Flamborough Head in East Yorkshire, which is a tourist hotspot where human (and pet) disturbance is a factor.

Discussions

The initial survey could be extended in numerous ways:

1. Observatory staff and volunteers could extend the survey through the 2025 breeding season to locate active nests, calculate nest productivity levels and use metal and colour ringing to monitor dispersal patterns.
2. Nest productivity levels could be compared to the BTO's coastal habitat codes, compass aspect etc. and mate/site fidelity investigated via colour ringing.
3. Annual changes in the locations of nest sites could be statistically analysed using 'Nearest neighbour analysis'.
4. Comparative studies could be initiated with the Isle of May, Flamborough Head and other bird observatories.
5. Ratio of *A. p. petrosus* : *A. p. littoralis* of trapped birds.



Rock Pipit ©Maia Jones

References

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- 'Pipits' poem. Bernadette Hall. 1961
- BTO Nest Record Scheme. [Nest Record Scheme | BTO](#)
- 'Bird Census Techniques' Bibby, Burgess & Hill. 1992
- 'A Field Guide to Birds Nests' Campbell & Ferguson-Lees. 1972
- 'Pipits and Wagtails of Europe, Asia and North America' Alstrom & Mild. 2003
- Fife Ness Rock Pipit Survey mike@mikemartinassociates.co.uk

*"It's a pity that the pipits have
No diagnostic features,
Specifically they are the least
Distinctive of God's creatures.*

*For naming any one you need
Five measurements, together
With a drawing of the wing tip
And the length of every feather.*

*Count the spots on breast and back,
Be sure of which the sex is;
Make a picture of the pattern
Of the one-but-outer rectrix.*

*Pay extravagant attention to
The hind claw's conformation;
Note 'weak and long' or 'curved and strong'
(Or 'snapped in preservation').*

*And when you've marshalled all the facts.
No matter what their sense is,
If the bird was caught in Europe
It is ten to one, pratensis."*

'Pipits' Bernadette Hall 1961.

Eider Mapping Volunteer

Spending a spring month on the Calf of Man has been an unforgettable experience – a rare opportunity to live and work in a remote, wildlife-rich environment, surrounded by sea, sky, and the calls of breeding seabirds. From the first day, with a Bonxie above the boat on my journey across to the Calf, to many Choughs tumbling overhead and the ever-present sound of gulls, Fulmars, Shags and auks on the cliffs, it was clear this was a place I would enjoy spending time on.



Rebecca and Ed Eider ringing. ©Eleanor Grover

I was based on the island as the Eider Mapper Volunteer, a role focused on monitoring one of the Calf's most distinctive breeding species. My main responsibility was to locate, map, and monitor Eider nests across the island. This involved systematic surveys of coastal margins, rocky outcrops, and vegetated (bracken

and heather) areas, recording each nest's GPS location and surrounding habitat features.

In total, the ornithological wardens and I recorded 77 Eider nests. By mapping nest locations and collecting associated data, we hope to contribute to a better understanding of nesting site selection, spatial trends in breeding distribution, and broader ecological pressures. It also lays the groundwork for long-term monitoring of population change, an important goal as Eiders in parts of their range have unfortunately shown signs of decline.

As the season progressed, I observed first-hand the challenges facing breeding Eiders, from predation by gulls and Ravens, to weather impacts and nest disturbance. The sight of newly hatched ducklings making their way toward the shoreline often with their mothers shepherding them through difficult terrain was a highlight I won't forget. Very fluffy ducklings!

Beyond the Eider work, I was also involved in several other important observatory projects. I contributed to the Shag productivity census, monitoring nests from incubation through to fledging. I took part in morning passerine ringing activities and helped to process a variety of seabird species - including Herring Gulls, Shags and even had the unforgettable experience of ringing an adult Razorbill, a species I had never previously worked with.

My time on the Calf was not just about birds. I was able to assist with moth trapping, take part in biological monitoring, and learn more about island ecology through daily conversations with the island team. Every day offered something new.

I'm incredibly grateful to the observatory staff for sharing their time, skills, and passion for the island. Their knowledge and support played a huge role in making my month on the Calf so meaningful, and I've left with not only a deeper understanding of seabird ecology but also stronger fieldwork skills and a broader appreciation for the interconnectedness of island species and habitats.

The Calf is a unique place – one where the value of long-term monitoring is clear, and where every observation, nest record, and ringing session contributes to a broader picture of how seabirds and passerines are faring in a changing world. I feel very lucky to have been a small part of that ongoing work, and I hope to return one day.

Autumn Volunteers

Our autumn volunteers' reports can be found on Manx Wildlife Trust's website.

September Volunteer (Maia Jones): [Autumn Volunteer Experience](#)

October Volunteer (Ellen Bielinski): [October on the Calf](#)

Non-avian Report 2025

Notes of Interest

Grey Seal

This season saw a record number of Grey Seal pups recorded on the Calf, with 92 pups known to be born on the Calf and an additional 9 ‘wanderers’ (origin unconfirmed) giving a total of 111 pups in 2025. This breaks the previous record of 98 set in 2024. The peak count of Grey Seals (excluding pups) was 277 on 30th October, a decrease compared to last year’s new record of 456. For more information see the [Grey Seal Report](#).



Above and right: Grey Seal pups. ©Kate Fox



Pygmy Shrew

Much like last season, the intensive use of camera traps for Longtail monitoring has increased the number of records of Pygmy Shrew. This season produced 166 records of 281 individuals, the second highest count of individuals on record (after 421 in 2024).

Cetaceans

Five confirmed species of cetacean were recorded in Calf waters in 2025: Harbour Porpoise, Risso’s Dolphin, Common Dolphin, Bottlenose Dolphin and Minke Whale. An unconfirmed whale species was also seen distantly off South Harbour on 23rd May by Ed Betteridge, with a large pectoral fin seen splashing and hitting the ocean surface, a behaviour which is typical of Humpback Whales, however this could not be confirmed with the views.

Bats

This season we trialled the use of a ‘Song Meter Mini’ acoustic monitor to record bats on the Calf. It was set at several locations, including the Observatory, Withy and Jane’s House, to cover a range of habitats and flight paths. The data from this bat detector is still being analysed and will be reported on next season.

Day Visitors

The number of day visitors declined once again this season, with the lowest individual day visitor count of the past six years. This was due to a combination of factors, including poor weather, the closure of Cow Harbour limiting landing opportunities, and lack of boats, with the Shona only being in the water during the summer.

A comparison of day visitor count data from the past five years:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Days	66	112	109	89	91	66
Individuals	1474	2776	1828	1402	1310	856
Peak count	65	105	66	55	56	32

2025 Species Accounts

Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
Mammals							
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	241	11748	277	30-Oct	21-Jan	04-Nov
Common Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	70	196	15	14-Oct	20-Apr	04-Nov
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	3	1790	1467	27-Jun	03-Apr	27-Jun
Black Rabbit		225	1326	26	04-Jun	21-Jan	04-Nov
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	58	58	1	08-Mar	08-Mar	07-Sep
Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex minutus</i>	166	281	9	22-Mar	01-Jan	05-Nov
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	2	2	1	12-Oct	12-Oct	15-Oct
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	1	2	2	05-Jun	05-Jun	05-Jun
Pipistrelle Bat spp.	<i>Pipistrellus</i> sp.	12	18	3	10-Jun	30-Mar	16-Oct
Bat spp.		12	21	5	05-Jun	01-Jun	13-Oct
Cetaceans							
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	64	249	15	16-Oct	21-Jan	16-Oct
Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	11	43	12	20-May	18-May	11-Oct
Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	7	102	30	28-Jul	20-May	15-Oct
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	4	43	25	07-Sep	15-Mar	07-Sep
Dolphin spp.		4	156	150	18-Jun	07-Mar	01-Sep
Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	1	1	1	20-May	20-May	20-May
Whale spp.		1	1	1	23-May	23-May	23-May

Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
Marine							
Basking Shark	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	4	7	3	20-May	18-May	20-Jul
Common Blenny	<i>Lipophrys pholis</i>	4	13	7	06-Jul	09-Mar	07-Oct
Pollack (Callig)	<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	10	31	8	05-Oct	26-Jul	12-Oct
Corkwing Wrasse	<i>Symphodus melops</i>	1	1	1	23-Sep	23-Sep	23-Sep
Wrasse spp.		2	3	2	19-Aug	19-Aug	21-Aug
Sea Slater	<i>Ligia oceanica</i>	7	249	200	26-Apr	09-Mar	24-Oct
Green Shore Crab	<i>Carcinus maenas</i>	2	11	10	26-Apr	06-Apr	26-Apr
Common Hermit Crab	<i>Pagurus bernhardus</i>	1	5	5	26-Apr	26-Apr	26-Apr
Beadlet Anemone	<i>Actinia equina</i>	5	2146	2124	07-Apr	07-Apr	15-Aug
Snakelocks Anemone	<i>Anemonia viridis</i>	1	1	1	07-Apr	07-Apr	07-Apr
Lion's Mane Jellyfish	<i>Cyanea capillata</i>	36	188	45	19-Jun	10-Jun	16-Sep
Blue Jellyfish	<i>Cyanea lamarckii</i>	17	104	50	19-Jun	29-Apr	06-Sep
Moon Jellyfish	<i>Aurelia aurita</i>	10	338	150	10-Jun	10-May	06-Jul
Compass Jellyfish	<i>Chrysaora hysoscella</i>	3	6	4	11-May	11-May	11-Jun
Barrel Jellyfish	<i>Rhizostoma pulmo</i>	42	181	21	22-Apr	07-Mar	13-Jul
Sea Gooseberry	<i>Pleurobrachia pileus</i>	8	337	100	13-May	13-May	08-Jul
Whelk spp.		1	4	4	07-Apr	07-Apr	07-Apr
Blue Mussel	<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	1	4	4	07-Apr	07-Apr	07-Apr
Octopus spp.		3	3	1	30-Jun	30-Jun	06-Oct

Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
Freshwater							
European Eel	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	5	9	3	13-Oct	02-Apr	13-Oct
Reptiles							
Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	105	532	31	10-May	09-Mar	09-Oct
Butterflies							
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	13	22	4	03-Sep	16-Jul	11-Sep
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	108	752	35	13-May	04-Apr	24-Sep
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	39	63	9	13-May	12-May	24-Sep
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	19	39	5	21-Aug	06-Apr	13-Sep
White spp.	<i>Pieris</i> sp.	36	108	18	15-Jul	08-Apr	04-Sep
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	74	191	11	17-Aug	29-Apr	24-Oct
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	1	1	1	10-Jun	10-Jun	10-Jun
Dark-green Fritillary	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>	38	291	35	19-Jun	28-May	11-Jul
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	154	1774	100	20-Jun	09-Mar	22-Oct
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	85	310	46	13-May	09-Mar	29-Sep
Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	20	42	8	09-Aug	29-Apr	21-Aug
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	57	126	13	07-Aug	09-Mar	31-Oct
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	28	66	6	16-May	23-Apr	21-Aug
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	1	1	1	13-May	13-May	13-May
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	60	417	41	12-Jul	26-Jun	26-Sep
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	1	1	1	25-Apr	25-Apr	25-Apr

Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
Dragonflies							
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	25	488	100	24-Jun	14-May	16-Aug
Blue Damselfly spp.		1	1	1	23-Sep	23-Sep	23-Sep
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	42	82	6	12-Aug	26-Jun	30-Sep
Darter spp.	<i>Sympetrum</i> sp.	2	7	6	25-Aug	26-Jun	25-Aug
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	20	35	4	22-Sep	22-Aug	13-Oct
Hawker spp.	<i>Aeshna</i> sp.	1	1	1	10-Jul	10-Jul	10-Jul
Vagrant Emperor	<i>Anax ephippiger</i>	1	1	1	29-Jun	29-Jun	29-Jun
Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	3	4	2	19-Aug	20-Jun	19-Aug
Beetles							
Minotaur Beetle	<i>Typhaeus typhoeus</i>	108	259	15	30-Mar	07-Mar	04-Nov
Bronze Beetle	<i>Carabus granulatus</i>	23	26	2	27-Apr	16-Mar	01-Nov
Violet Ground Beetle	<i>Carabus problematicus/violaceus</i>	9	15	4	20-Apr	27-Mar	23-Oct
	<i>Carabus problematicus</i>	2	2	1	02-Apr	02-Apr	30-Apr
	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>	4	7	4	25-Sep	17-Apr	27-Sep
Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>	35	151	16	29-Apr	04-Apr	24-Jun
Devil's Coach Horse	<i>Ocytus olens</i>	35	102	23	25-Sep	19-Mar	23-Oct
Black Clock Beetle	<i>Pterostichus madidus</i>	4	4	1	10-Mar	10-Mar	26-Aug
	<i>Pterostichus nigrita</i>	4	9	6	30-Mar	30-Mar	15-May

Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
	<i>Pterostichus</i> sp.	2	2	1	08-Apr	08-Apr	12-Apr
Black Snail Beetle	<i>Phosphuga atrata</i>	8	9	2	29-Apr	29-Apr	20-Aug
Black Sexton Beetle	<i>Nicrophorus humator</i>	3	12	9	31-Mar	31-Mar	14-Oct
Banded Sexton Beetle	<i>Nicrophorus investigator</i>	27	160	39	26-Jul	16-Jun	17-Oct
Shore Sexton Beetle	<i>Necrodes littoralis</i>	30	127	34	30-Apr	22-Apr	17-Oct
Night-flying Dung Beetle	<i>Acrossus rufipes</i>	1	1	1	04-Jul	04-Jul	04-Jul
Click Beetle spp.	Elateridae sp.	3	3	1	14-May	14-May	09-Jul
Brown Chafer	<i>Serica brunnea</i>	6	11	4	22-Jun	20-Jun	10-Jul
Common Red Soldier Beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	9	25	7	09-Jul	02-May	26-Jul
	<i>Harpalus affinis</i>	1	1	1	07-Sep	07-Sep	07-Sep
Vine Weevil	<i>Otiorhynchus sulcatus</i>	8	9	2	24-Aug	06-Apr	24-Aug
7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	8	8	1	17-Jul	17-Jul	22-Sep
Ladybird spp.		12	16	3	18-Jul	17-Jun	15-Oct
Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	2	2	1	07-Apr	07-Apr	29-Apr
Willow Leaf Beetle	<i>Lochmaea caprea</i>	4	4	1	30-Mar	30-Mar	05-Apr
Heather Beetle	<i>Lochmaea suturalis</i>	5	17	8	08-Apr	08-Apr	12-May
Bugs							
Hawthorn Shield Bug	<i>Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale</i>	2	4	3	23-Sep	23-Sep	29-Sep

Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
Green Shield Bug	<i>Palomena prasina</i>	2	3	2	05-Sep	02-Sep	05-Sep
Common Nettle Bug	<i>Liocoris tripustulatus</i>	1	1	1	06-Apr	06-Apr	06-Apr
Bees, Sawflies and Wasps							
White-tailed Bumblebee agg.	<i>Bombus lucorum</i> agg.	28	70	20	16-Sep	15-Mar	17-Oct
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	42	125	35	06-May	08-Mar	20-Oct
White/Buff Bumblebee spp.	<i>Bombus lucorum</i> agg./terrestris	33	272	40	14-May	09-Mar	05-Oct
Garden Bumblebee	<i>Bombus hortorum</i>	9	14	3	22-Aug	03-Apr	29-Sep
Heath Bumblebee	<i>Bombus jonellus</i>	2	3	2	01-Sep	23-Aug	01-Sep
Moss Carder Bee	<i>Bombus muscorum</i>	1	1	1	20-May	20-May	20-May
Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	15	60	12	14-May	02-May	08-Oct
Carder Bee spp.	<i>Bombus muscorum/pascuorum</i>	29	53	5	22-May	09-Mar	04-Oct
Common Colletes	<i>Colletes succinctus</i>	1	10	10	21-Aug	21-Aug	21-Aug
Western Honeybee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	16	40	15	11-Sep	11-Apr	24-Sep
Patchwork Leafcutter Bee	<i>Megachile centuncularis</i>	8	16	4	10-Jun	01-Jun	13-Aug
Brown-footed Leafcutter Bee	<i>Megachile versicolor</i>	4	20	12	10-Jun	06-Jun	12-Jul
Leafcutter Bee spp.	<i>Megachile</i> sp.	4	5	2	22-Jun	29-Apr	22-Jun
Mining Bee spp.	<i>Andrena</i> sp.	4	8	4	10-May	09-Apr	10-May

Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
Gwynne's Mining Bee	<i>Andrena bicolor</i>	2	2	1	30-Apr	30-Apr	01-May
Ruby-tailed Wasp	<i>Chrysis ignita</i>	7	7	1	16-May	16-May	02-Aug
Common Wasp	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>	52	410	76	24-Sep	04-Apr	28-Oct
Ichneumon Wasp spp.	Ichneumonidae sp.	5	5	1	30-Apr	30-Apr	23-Aug
Oak Curved-leaf Gall Wasp	<i>Andricus curvator</i>	1	1	1	19-Aug	19-Aug	19-Aug
Black Slip Wasp	<i>Pimpla rufipes</i>	1	1	1	28-Oct	28-Oct	28-Oct
Flies							
Common Drone Fly	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	1	1	1	16-May	16-May	16-May
Common Spotted Field Syrph	<i>Eupeodes luniger</i>	2	2	1	30-Mar	30-Mar	30-Sep
Hoverfly spp.	Syrphidae sp.	9	47	20	27-Aug	09-Mar	27-Aug
Yellow Dung Fly	<i>Scathophaga stercoraria</i>	13	38	10	12-May	25-Mar	05-Jul
Smoky-winged Woodlouse Fly	<i>Melanophora roralis</i>	19	40	4	14-Jul	22-Jun	05-Sep
St Marc's Fly	<i>Bibio marcii</i>	2	2	1	21-Apr	21-Apr	20-May
Crane fly spp.	<i>Tipula</i> sp.	8	19	7	14-May	09-Apr	16-Oct
Giant Cranefly	<i>Tipula maxima</i>	8	18	5	15-May	10-May	20-Jun
Blue Bottle spp.	<i>Calliphora</i> sp.	2	2	1	12-Mar	12-Mar	13-Apr
Green Lacewing	<i>Chrysoperia carnea</i>	3	3	1	14-Mar	14-Mar	08-Apr
Caddis Fly spp.	Trichoptera sp.	6	12	4	14-May	11-Apr	14-May
Bracken Sawfly	<i>Strongylogaster multifasciata</i>	1	1	1	11-Jun	11-Jun	11-Jun

Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
Grasshoppers							
Common Field Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>	19	41	6	30-May	12-May	04-Sep
Common Green Grasshopper	<i>Omocestus viridus</i>	9	22	7	12-Jul	23-May	17-Sep
Mottled Grasshopper	<i>Myrmeleotettix maculatus</i>	4	5	2	19-Jun	06-Jun	02-Jan
Spiders							
European Garden Spider	<i>Araneus diadematus</i>	10	23	7	07-Sep	08-Mar	22-Sep
Cave Spider	<i>Meta menardii</i>	5	17	4	29-Apr	29-Apr	20-Aug
Zebra Jumping Spider	<i>Salticus scenicus</i>	6	6	1	11-Apr	11-Apr	24-Sep
Crab Spider spp.	Thomisidae sp.	2	2	1	09-Apr	09-Apr	07-May
Cellar spider	<i>Pholcus phalangioides</i>	17	17	1	21-Oct	21-Oct	06-Nov
Four-spotted Orb Weaver	<i>Araneus quadratus</i>	1	1	1	17-Sep	17-Sep	17-Sep
Woodlice							
Common Shiny Woodlouse	<i>Oniscus ascellus</i>	3	14	11	02-Apr	02-Apr	19-Aug
Gastropods							
Tree Slug	<i>Lehmania marginata</i>	1	1	1	22-Apr	22-Apr	22-Apr
Grey Garden Slug	<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>	1	1	1	02-Apr	02-Apr	02-Apr

Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
Large Red Slug/Black Slug	<i>Arion rufus/Arion ater</i>	8	99	56	06-Sep	17-Apr	27-Sep
Common Garden Snail	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	13	240	50	19-Apr	09-Mar	07-Jun
Brown-lipped Snail	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>	5	27	7	18-Mar	16-Mar	29-May
Flora							
Early Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	2	69	60	16-Jun	16-Jun	09-Jul
	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii/maculata</i>	1	402	402	09-Jul	09-Jul	09-Jul
Fungi							
Bracken Map Fungus	<i>Rhopoglyphus filicinus</i>	All recorded as present in 2025					
Field Mushroom	<i>Agaricus campestris</i>						
Crimson Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe punicea</i>						
Golden Waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe chlorophana</i>						
Parasol Mushroom	<i>Macrolepiota procera</i>						
Liberty Cap	<i>Psilocybe semilanceata</i>						
Club spp.	<i>Clavulinopsis</i> spp.						
Jelly Ear	<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>						

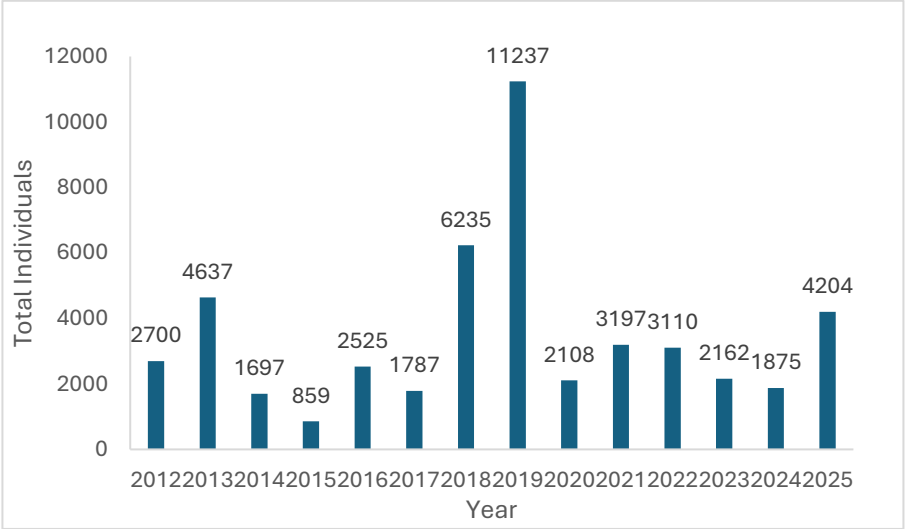
Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
Other							
Pill Millipede	<i>Glomeris marginata</i>	7	7	1	03-Apr	03-Apr	09-Sep
Common European Earwig	<i>Forficula auricularia</i>	7	8	2	23-Jul	19-Jul	04-Sep
Bristletail spp.	<i>Archaeognatha</i> sp.	3	3	1	22-Mar	22-Mar	22-Jul
Day Visitors							
	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	66	856	32	11-Jul	13-Mar	10-Oct

*Rows highlighted in blue represent potential new species for the Calif.

Butterfly Report 2025

This season a total of 16 species were recorded on the Calf, including the first Orange-tip recorded since 2008, with a single male seen in the Observatory work yard on 25th April. Despite one of the driest springs on record, this season saw one of the highest total counts of individual butterflies in recent years. This was good to see after the abysmal lack of butterflies last season.

Annual total of butterflies in 2025:



Once again, the Red Admiral was the most frequently recorded species, with 154 records of 1774 individuals and a peak count of 100 on 20th June. This is a new record count for this species on the Calf, beating the previous highest individual count of 1037 in 2022. This is likely to have been bolstered by some big migration days of Red Admirals, along with Painted Ladies and Small Tortoiseshells; a real spectacle with the walls of the Observatory peppered with resting butterflies, and the buddleias in the front courtyard teeming with them!



Clouded Yellow ©Kate Fox

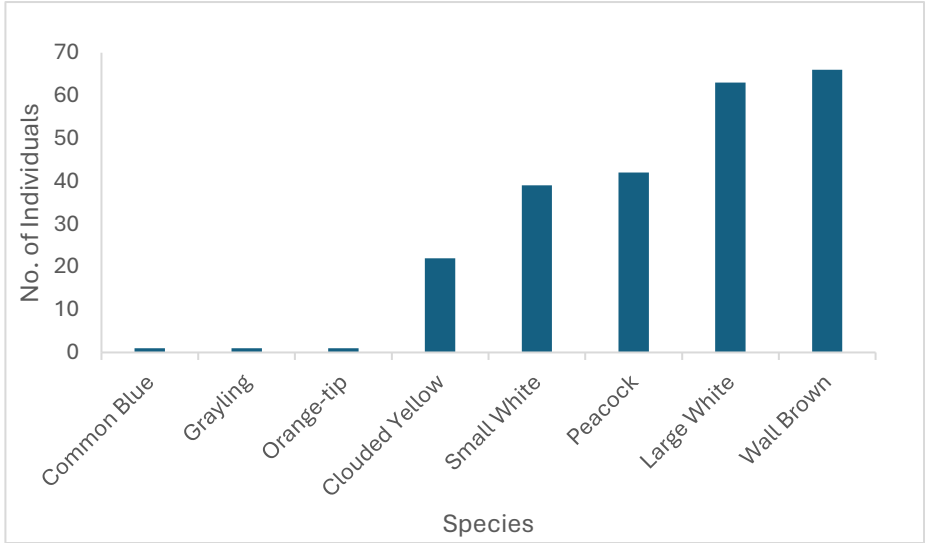
It was also an extremely good year for Clouded Yellows, with 13 records of 22 individuals, and a peak day count of four on 3rd September. This is the third highest record for this species, after a record total of 120 individuals recorded in 2000, and 20 individuals in 1992. This mirrors the rest of the Isle of Man and UK, with high numbers recorded across Britain this year. It was also a brilliant year for migrant moths (see [Moth Report](#) for more information), suggesting that weather conditions this year was favourable for migrant lepidoptera.

Resident butterflies, on the other hand, were suffering the consequences of a poor breeding suffered after such a wet summer last year. Records of Meadow Brown, Small White and Large White were down in number, and only one of each Grayling and Common Blue were seen the entire season. Speckled Wood was not recorded in 2025, and neither was Small Heath (for the first time since 2019).

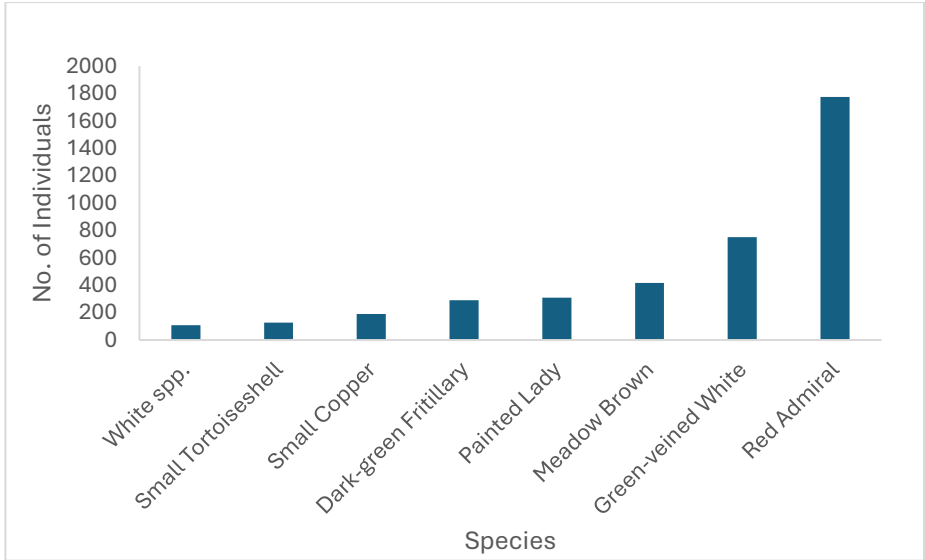
The first butterfly survey as part of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKMBS) took place on 7th April and took place weekly throughout the summer until 24th September. Each week the day with the most favourable conditions was chosen where work commitments allowed.

2025 Species Totals

Species with <100 individuals:



Species with >100 individuals:



2025 Species Accounts

Vernacular	Taxon	Records (days)	Sum	Peak Count	Peak date	Earliest date	Last date
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	13	22	4	03-Sep	16-Jul	11-Sep
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	108	752	35	13-May	04-Apr	24-Sep
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	39	63	9	13-May	12-May	24-Sep
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	19	39	5	21-Aug	06-Apr	13-Sep
White spp.	<i>Pieris</i> sp.	36	108	18	15-Jul	08-Apr	04-Sep
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	74	191	11	17-Aug	29-Apr	24-Oct
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	1	1	1	10-Jun	10-Jun	10-Jun
Dark-green Fritillary	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>	38	291	35	19-Jun	28-May	11-Jul
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	154	1774	100	20-Jun	09-Mar	22-Oct
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Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>	20	42	8	09-Aug	29-Apr	21-Aug
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	57	126	13	07-Aug	09-Mar	31-Oct
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	28	66	6	16-May	23-Apr	21-Aug
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	1	1	1	13-May	13-May	13-May
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	60	417	41	12-Jul	26-Jun	26-Sep
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	1	1	1	25-Apr	25-Apr	25-Apr

Moth Report 2025

A similar moth surveying method was used to previous years, with a combination of daytime observations and trapping to light at night. This year's Warden Team had a particular interest in moth trapping, and multiple traps were used for many trapping nights in the first half of the season, and surveying took place as often as the weather and our time allowed.

At the beginning of the season the Skinner-type trap was used with a mercury vapour bulb. However, the Assistant Ornithological Warden, Edward Betteridge, rewired the bulb holder from this trap to fit the Robinson trap funnel. This allowed us to use the MV bulb on the Robinson trap, the best style for holding moths, as well as putting the Skinner out with its original twin actinic bulb set-up in another location (usually the back garden). We also received a new portable actinic Skinner trap kindly donated by Manx Butterfly Conservation and we also found a small actinic Heath trap which we could run off a 12V battery. This enabled us to trap away from the Observatory, accessing a wider range of habitats (e.g. coast, wetland), although we did this less than we'd hoped due to the ATV being out action for much of the season, and lack of time. As well as allowing us to trap at multiple locations on one night, using a combination of MV and actinic bulbs may have also increased the diversity of species trapped as some species favour the different wavelengths.

Most of the trapping this season took place on the track outside the front of the Observatory, with the moth trap situated near just before the entrance to HG2. This proved to be the most productive location, with a good line of sight along the track and over the front field for the light to spread, and for the second half of the season we trapped almost exclusively there. Other trapping locations included the Observatory work courtyard, outside the old Tractor Barn, the back garden, the plantation, on the Withy 'T' boardwalk, at Upper Withy, on Mill Giau bridge and near the gateway at the Mill Giau corner (near Rarick).



Actinic moth trap at the Withies. ©Kate Fox

A total of 8588 individual moths were recorded from 19th March until 30th October, comprising of 213 species, 71 of which were micro and 142 of which were macro moth species. A total of 78 trap nights took place with a further 135 daytime observations. This is higher than average for recent years, in part owing to the enthusiasm of the Warden Team for moth trapping, combined with the favourable weather conditions, particularly in the early half of the season when it was warm and dry.

Summary of moth trapping on the Calf of Man between 2019 – 2025:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Trap nights	38	84	44	55	65	38	27	78
Individuals	4047	9151	3180	3742	6925	3652	3354	8588
Species	91	211	126	152	156	141	149	213

Species Accounts

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 2025 are documented in more detail below. Species highlighted in blue indicate that they are new additions to the Calf list. Other notable species (<10 previous records) are highlighted in yellow.

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
Orange Swift	Triodia sylvina	21	2022	1	1	1	10-Jun	10-Jun
Map-winged Swift	Korscheltellus fusconebulosa	113	2024	15	22	4	17-May	01-Jul
Common Bagworm	Psyche casta	5	2016	1	1	1	20-May	20-May
Case-bearing Clothes Moth	Tinea pellionella		2025	1	1	1	05-May	05-May
Skin Moth	Monopis laevigella	14	2024	4	5	2	08-May	26-May
a moth	Monopis imella	15	2022	1	1	1	16-Jun	16-Jun
a moth	Caloptilia stigmatella	4	2024	1	2	2	25-Jun	25-Jun
Diamond-back Moth	Plutella xylostella	138	2024	30	54	4	12-Apr	16-Oct
Apple Fruit Moth	Argyresthia conjugella	8	2023	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun
Apple Leaf Miner	Lyonetia clerkella	1	2016	1	1	1	25-May	25-May
White-shouldered House-moth	Endrosis sarcitrella	62	2023	16	18	3	24-Apr	29-Oct
Brown House-moth	Hofmannophila pseudospretella	58	2024	31	37	3	22-Apr	04-Sep
a moth	Borkhausenia fuscescens	4	2019	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun
Sulphur Tubic	Esperia sulphurella	17	2023	2	3	2	24-Apr	04-May
a moth	Agonopterix subpropinquella	18	2024	3	3	1	03-May	14-May
a moth	Agonopterix arenella	7	2023	3	3	1	01-May	14-May

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
Common Flat-body	Agonopterix heracliana	2	2019	6	6	1	31-Mar	13-May
Heather Sober	Neofaculta ericetella	31	2021	7	7	1	30-Apr	21-May
Cinerous Neb	Bryotropha terrella	35	2024	32	87	12	22-May	26-Jul
a moth	Teleopsis diffinis	104	2023	4	4	1	14-May	26-Jul
a moth	Elachista argentella	2	2023	1	1	1	01-Jul	01-Jul
a moth	Blastodacna hellerella		2025	1	1	1	16-Jun	16-Jun
Dingy Dowd	Blastobasis adustella	56	2022	3	3	1	04-Jul	02-Aug
Many-plumed Moth	Alucita hexadactyla	12	2024	3	3	1	09-Apr	29-Apr
Grey Tortrix	Cnephasia stephensiana		2025	3	3	1	29-Jun	02-Jul
Rose Tortrix	Archips rosana	1	1997	1	1	1	22-Jun	22-Jun
Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix	Pandemis corylana	2	2019	1	2	2	09-Jul	09-Jul
Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	Pandemis cerasana	147	2024	16	38	9	17-Jun	24-Jul
Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix	Pandemis heparana	54	2024	6	7	2	12-Jun	05-Sep
a moth	Syndemis musculana	20	2022	1	1	1	10-May	10-May
Timothy Tortrix	Zelotherses paleana	4	2019	1	1	1	18-May	18-May
a moth	Lozotaeniodes formosana	1	2000	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun
a moth	Acleris laterana		2025	1	1	1	30-Apr	30-Apr
a moth	Acleris sparsana	2	2016	1	1	1	29-Jun	29-Jun

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
a moth	<i>Acleris schalleriana</i>		2025	1	1	1	29-Jun	29-Jun
a moth	<i>Acleris hastiana</i>	10	2024	1	1	1	07-Apr	07-Apr
a moth	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	22	2023	3	3	1	19-Jun	04-Jul
a moth	<i>Aethes cricana</i>	22	2024	5	5	1	18-Jun	03-Jul
Black-headed Conch	<i>Cochylichroa atricapitana</i>	73	2024	35	64	6	02-May	23-Aug
a moth	<i>Hedya salicella</i>		2025	2	2	1	20-Jun	23-Jun
Barred Marble	<i>Celypha striana</i>	1	2023	1	1	1	20-Jun	20-Jun
Common Marble	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	106	2024	7	19	12	15-Jun	30-Jun
Shore Marble	<i>Lobesia littoralis</i>	34	2023	8	174	150	14-May	18-Jun
Blotched Marble	<i>Endothenia quadrimaculana</i>	1	2019	2	2	1	01-May	02-May
Rush Marble	<i>Bactra lancealana</i>	83	2021	40	352	36	29-Apr	25-Jun
a moth	<i>Eucosma cana</i>	76	2024	10	12	2	09-Jun	01-Jul
a moth	<i>Eucosma hohewartiana</i>		2025	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun
Thistle Bell	<i>Epiblema scutulana</i>	116	2024	29	47	8	30-Apr	23-Aug
a moth	<i>Cydia ulicetana</i>	9	2016	4	4	1	30-Apr	13-May
a moth	<i>Cydia splendana</i>	3	2019	1	1	1	06-May	06-May
Thrift Clearwing	<i>Pyropteron muscaeformis</i>	33	2023	4	8	4	10-May	21-May

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
Bee Moth	Aphomia sociella	14	2024	2	2	1	11-May	24-Jun
a moth	Pempelia palumbella		2025	1	1	1	01-Jul	01-Jul
Thistle Ermine	Myelois circumvoluta	10	2023	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun
a moth	Phycitodes binaevella	2	2021	1	1	1	01-Jul	01-Jul
Small Magpie	Anania hortulata	202	2024	4	4	1	15-Jun	09-Jul
Rusty-dot Pearl	Udea ferrugalis	59	2024	33	127	24	15-Jun	17-Oct
Mother of Pearl	Patania ruralis	32	2019	2	6	3	26-Jul	31-Jul
Rush Veneer	Nomophila noctuella	84	2024	39	120	28	30-Apr	17-Oct
a moth	Scoparia subfusca	5	2016	3	4	2	16-Jun	22-Jun
Common Grey	Scoparia ambigualis	114	2023	8	9	2	30-Jun	23-Aug
a moth	Eudonia lacustrata	35	2023	7	18	6	29-Jun	20-Aug
a moth	Eudonia angustea	33	2024	7	29	10	23-Aug	17-Oct
a moth	Eudonia mercurella	33	2023	4	4	1	01-Jul	18-Aug
a moth	Eudonia pallida	5	2020	1	2	2	23-Aug	23-Aug
Garden Grass-veneer	Chrysoteuchia culmella	173	2024	20	74	16	17-Apr	31-Jul
a moth	Crambus pascuella	16	2022	3	3	1	25-Jun	12-Jul
a moth	Crambus perlella	9	2024	1	1	1	20-Jun	20-Jun
Common Grass-veneer	Agriphila tristella	65	2022	4	6	2	25-Jul	23-Aug
Straw Grass-veneer	Agriphila straminella	90	2024	17	47	10	20-Jun	23-Aug
a moth	Agriphila geniculea	134	2024	9	146	112	18-Aug	14-Sep

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
a moth	<i>Donacula forficella</i>		2025	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun
Emperor Moth	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	64	2024	6	7	2	08-Apr	05-May
Poplar Hawk-moth	<i>Laothoe populi</i>	174	2024	15	15	1	30-Apr	20-Aug
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	156	2024	11	13	3	01-Jul	12-Oct
Oleander Hawk-moth	<i>Daphnis nerii</i>		2025	1	1	1	14-Oct	14-Oct
Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	13	2024	8	13	4	11-May	12-Jun
Single-dotted Wave	<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>	64	2024	7	15	5	04-Jul	20-Aug
Small Fan-footed Wave	<i>Idaea biselata</i>	47	2024	7	11	4	09-Jul	02-Aug
Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	104	2024	7	8	2	25-Jun	26-Jul
Mullein Wave	<i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>	106	2024	11	14	3	18-May	05-Sep
Red Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe decoloraria</i>	1	1995	2	2	1	25-Jun	01-Jul
Garden Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	46	2023	7	7	1	10-May	15-Aug
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	6	2016	2	2	1	01-May	26-Jul
Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>	340	2024	33	85	12	29-May	26-Jul
Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	77	2024	1	1	1	09-May	09-May
July Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	86	2024	12	17	3	11-Jun	23-Aug
Spruce Carpet	<i>Thera britannica</i>	14	2021	4	4	1	14-Oct	17-Oct
Purple Bar	<i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i>	183	2024	18	21	3	11-May	05-Sep

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
Chevron	<i>Eulithis testata</i>	106	2024	5	7	3	25-Jun	02-Aug
Red-Green Carpet	<i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>	18	2024	3	7	5	13-May	15-Oct
Common Marbled Carpet	<i>Dysstroma truncata</i>	35	2024	3	3	1	20-May	25-Jun
Sandy Carpet	<i>Perizoma flavofasciata</i>	10	2024	2	2	1	12-Jun	29-Jun
Double-striped Pug	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	55	2024	1	1	1	15-Jun	15-Jun
Foxglove Pug	<i>Eupithecia pulchellata</i>	10	2019	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun
Netted Pug	<i>Eupithecia venosata</i>	17	2024	4	6	3	07-May	25-Jul
Narrow-winged Pug	<i>Eupithecia nanata</i>	202	2024	5	7	2	10-May	01-Jul
Lime-speck Pug	<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>	18	2023	3	4	2	15-May	20-Aug
Wormwood Pug	<i>Eupithecia absinthiata</i>	74	2024	9	16	4	25-Jun	31-Jul
Common Pug	<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	95	2024	7	7	1	07-May	15-Jun
Grey Pug	<i>Eupithecia subfuscata</i>	37	2024	18	22	2	20-May	09-Jul
Magpie Moth	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	40	2023	1	1	1	02-Aug	02-Aug
Brown Silver-line	<i>Petrophora chlorosata</i>	443	2024	85	666	50	31-Mar	29-Jun
Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	66	2024	5	5	1	14-May	05-Sep
Bordered Beauty	<i>Epione repandaria</i>		2025	2	2	1	29-Jun	26-Jul
Early Thorn	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	20	2024	2	2	1	20-Aug	23-Aug
Swallow-tailed Moth	<i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i>	14	2021	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun
Feathered Thorn	<i>Colotois pennaria</i>	1	1985	1	1	1	14-Oct	14-Oct
Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>		2025	1	2	2	10-Jul	10-Jul

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
Peppered Moth	<i>Biston betularia</i>	3	2012	1	1	1	15-May	15-May
Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>	137	2024	33	367	50	07-Apr	18-Jun
Common Wave	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	7	2023	10	16	3	02-Jun	23-Aug
Barred Red	<i>Hylaea fasciaria</i>	5	2024	1	1	1	26-Jul	26-Jul
Puss Moth	<i>Cerura vinula</i>	57	2023	1	1	1	07-May	07-May
Pebble Prominent	<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>	59	2024	5	6	2	07-May	02-Aug
Herald	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	19	2024	1	1	1	30-Apr	30-Apr
Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	36	2024	3	3	1	26-Jul	17-Oct
Yellow-tail	<i>Euproctis similis</i>	6	2019	2	2	1	10-Jul	26-Jul
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	361	2024	53	403	32	21-May	31-Jul
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	213	2024	21	27	3	01-May	29-Jun
Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	86	2024	2	3	2	20-May	25-Jul
Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>	240	2024	17	98	36	25-Jun	02-Aug
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	627	2024	93	683	40	29-Apr	14-Jul
Dingy Footman	<i>Eilema griseola</i>	3	2020	3	4	2	24-Jul	31-Jul
Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	7	2020	2	2	1	04-Jul	10-Jul
Scarce Footman	<i>Eilema complana</i>	25	2024	1	2	2	26-Jul	26-Jul
Dew Moth	<i>Setina irrorella</i>		2025	1	1	1	17-May	17-May
Pinion-streaked Snout	<i>Schrankia costaestrigalis</i>	2	2016	1	1	1	19-Jun	19-Jun
Small Marbled	<i>Eublemma parva</i>	1	2019	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
Clifden Nonpareil	Catocala fraxini		2025	1	1	1	17-Aug	17-Aug
Spectacle	Abrostola tripartita	354	2024	37	89	7	30-Apr	23-Aug
Dark Spectacle	Abrostola triplasia	22	2024	6	8	2	20-Jun	09-Jul
Burnished Brass	Diachrysis chrysis	57	2024	3	7	5	25-Jun	10-Jul
Silver Y	Autographa gamma	467	2024	44	97	15	12-May	17-Oct
Gold Spot	Plusia festucae	36	2024	6	14	7	30-Apr	23-Aug
Miller	Acronicta leporina	1	2023	1	2	2	23-Jun	23-Jun
Knot Grass	Acronicta rumicis	222	2024	24	51	11	24-Apr	25-Jun
Mouse Moth	Amphipyra tragopoginis	25	2008	1	1	1	27-Aug	27-Aug
Early Grey	Xylocampa areola	47	2024	2	3	2	19-Mar	24-Mar
Bordered Straw	Heliothis peltigera	1	1998	2	2	1	15-Jun	14-Sep
Scarce Bordered Straw	Helicoverpa armigera	3	2011	1	1	1	06-Sep	06-Sep
Small Mottled Willow	Spodoptera exigua	9	2019	9	18	9	15-Jun	06-Sep
Mottled Rustic	Caradrina morpheus	18	2011	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun
Uncertain	Hoplodrina octogenaria	94	2024	6	8	2	29-Jun	31-Jul
Rustic	Hoplodrina blanda	173	2024	3	3	1	01-Jul	04-Jul
Rustic/Uncertain agg.				10	48	12	01-Jul	02-Aug
Old Lady	Mormo maura	1	2011	1	1	1	20-Jul	20-Jul
Angle Shades	Phlogophora meticulosa	314	2024	31	191	42	09-Apr	17-Oct
Small Angle Shades	Euplexia lucipara	157	2024	17	28	4	21-May	23-Aug

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
Frosted Orange	<i>Gortyna flavago</i>	41	2024	3	3	1	23-Aug	18-Sep
Ear moth agg.	<i>Amphipoea oculea</i> agg.	19	2021	5	7	3	24-Jul	23-Aug
Flounced Rustic	<i>Luperina testacea</i>	130	2024	5	20	10	20-Aug	06-Sep
Large Wainscot	<i>Rhizedra lutosa</i>	7	2022	2	3	2	14-Oct	15-Oct
Striped Wainscot	<i>Mythimna pudorina</i>		2025	1	1	1	25-Jun	25-Jun
Small Wainscot	<i>Denticucullus pygmina</i>	130	2024	10	25	7	10-Jul	14-Sep
Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	407	2024	34	181	24	09-Jun	23-Aug
Common Rustic	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i>	57	2022	11	42	12	03-Jul	23-Aug
Lesser Common Rustic	<i>Mesapamea didyma</i>	7	2024	2	3	2	09-Jul	31-Jul
Rosy Minor	<i>Litologia literosa</i>	58	2024	4	7	3	24-Jul	23-Aug
Marbled Minor agg.	<i>Oligia strigilis</i> agg.	6	2024	1	1	1	12-Jun	12-Jun
Middle-barred Minor	<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>	22	2023	4	4	1	12-Jun	23-Jun
Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	36	2023	1	2	2	14-Oct	14-Oct
Red-line Quaker	<i>Leptologia Iota</i>	49	2024	6	36	14	24-Sep	17-Oct
Yellow-line Quaker	<i>Leptologia macilenta</i>	14	2024	5	13	5	12-Oct	17-Oct
Brick	<i>Sunira circellaris</i>	30	2024	4	17	10	12-Oct	16-Oct
Lunar Underwing	<i>Anchoscelis lunosa</i>	184	2024	7	343	86	24-Sep	17-Oct
Pale Pinion	<i>Lithophane socia</i>	6	2016	1	1	1	12-Oct	12-Oct
Red Sword-grass	<i>Xylena vetusta</i>	25	2018	1	1	1	19-Mar	19-Mar
Satellite	<i>Eupsilia transversa</i>	6	2022	2	6	4	15-Oct	17-Oct

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
Brindled Green	<i>Dryobotodes eremita</i>		2025	1	1	1	05-Sep	05-Sep
Black Rustic	<i>Aporophyla nigra</i>	201	2024	13	184	52	23-Aug	30-Oct
Feathered Ranunculus	<i>Polymixis lichenea</i>	70	2024	5	15	5	12-Oct	17-Oct
Antler Moth	<i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>	260	2024	10	38	8	24-Jul	14-Sep
Grey Arches	<i>Polia nebulosa</i>	1	2024	1	1	1	01-Jul	01-Jul
Bright-line Brown-eye	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	445	2024	56	366	66	07-May	23-Aug
Broom Moth	<i>Ceramica pisi</i>	376	2024	43	200	23	30-Apr	18-Sep
Shears	<i>Hada plebeja</i>	102	2024	3	5	2	07-May	25-May
Campion	<i>Sideridis rivularis</i>	42	2023	3	4	2	12-Jun	20-Aug
Lychnis	<i>Hadena bicruris</i>	61	2023	3	3	1	21-May	23-Aug
Marbled Coronet	<i>Hadena confusa</i>	100	2024	3	4	2	18-May	02-Jun
Grey	<i>Hadena caesia</i>	99	2024	8	9	2	10-May	09-Jul
Pod Lover	<i>Hadena perplexa capsophila</i>	271	2024	32	58	8	09-Apr	23-Aug
Common Wainscot	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	67	2024	6	13	4	21-May	05-Sep
Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	119	2024	6	12	5	01-Jul	23-Aug
White-speck	<i>Mythimna unipuncta</i>	19	2008	2	2	1	14-Oct	15-Oct
Clay	<i>Mythimna ferrago</i>	40	2024	2	2	1	25-Jun	09-Jul
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania comma</i>	13	2022	2	2	1	02-Jun	21-Jun
Pearly Underwing	<i>Peridroma saucia</i>	50	2022	6	20	8	22-Jun	17-Oct

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
Square-spot Dart	Euxoa obelisca	95	2024	4	30	24	02-Aug	23-Aug
Heart and Dart	Agrotis exclamatoris	258	2024	16	27	6	25-May	09-Jul
Turnip Moth	Agrotis segetum	68	2022	12	26	5	15-Jun	17-Oct
Heart and Club	Agrotis clavis	16	2019	2	2	1	19-Jun	09-Jul
Crescent Dart	Agrotis trux	269	2024	24	223	35	18-Jun	23-Aug
Shuttle-shaped Dart	Agrotis puta	4	2021	2	2	1	14-May	15-May
Dark Sword-grass	Agrotis ipsilon	108	2024	18	67	10	12-Jun	17-Oct
Flame Shoulder	Ochropleura plecta	194	2024	23	43	8	01-May	06-Sep
Barred Chestnut	Diarsia dahlia		2025	1	1	1	25-Jul	25-Jul
Ingrailed Clay	Diarsia mendica	232	2024	24	57	8	15-Jun	20-Aug
Small Square-spot	Diarsia rubi	185	2024	19	65	18	10-May	14-Sep
Red Chestnut	Cerastis rubricosa	89	2024	14	59	16	19-Mar	11-May
True Lover's Knot	Lycophotia porphyrea	475	2024	52	890	223	17-May	02-Aug
Northern Rustic	Standfussiana lucerneae	57	2021	1	1	1	30-Jun	30-Jun
Large Yellow Underwing	Noctua pronuba	522	2024	52	306	54	18-May	17-Oct
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	Noctua fimbriata	15	2024	1	2	2	20-Aug	20-Aug
Lesser Yellow Underwing	Noctua comes	144	2024	5	29	21	25-Jul	23-Aug
Least Yellow Underwing	Noctua interjecta	2	2020	5	5	1	24-Jul	23-Aug
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	Noctua janthe	155	2024	7	36	14	25-Jul	05-Sep

Vernacular	Taxon	Prev. Recs.	Last Record	Days	Sum	Peak	Earliest date	Last date
Heath Rustic	Xestia agathina	106	2024	2	8	6	05-Sep	06-Sep
Square-spot Rustic	Xestia xanthographa	189	2024	12	44	12	26-Jul	17-Oct
Six-striped Rustic	Xestia sexstrigata	13	2024	3	3	1	31-Jul	23-Aug
Setaceous Hebrew Character	Xestia c-nigrum	131	2024	13	91	27	11-Jun	15-Oct
Autumnal Rustic	Eugnorisma glareosa	120	2024	3	9	5	23-Aug	14-Sep
Least Black Arches	Nola confusalis	92	2024	16	19	3	15-May	03-Jul
	Cnephasia sp.		2025	4	6	2	30-Apr	25-Jun
	Coleophora sp.	5	2019	6	9	3	18-May	02-Aug
	Eudonia/Scoparia sp.		2024	23	53	10	22-Jun	14-Oct

Notable Calf species 2025

This season saw seventeen species added to the Calf list (including three unconfirmed):

12.027 *Tinea pellionella* Case-bearing Clothes Moth

39.001 *Blastodacna hellerella*

49.05 *Cnephasia stephensiana* Grey Tortrix

49.066 *Acleris laterana*

49.073 *Acleris schalleriana*

49.155 *Hedya salicella*

49.266 *Eucosma hohewartiana*

62.023 *Pempelia palumbella*

63.121 *Donacaula forficella*

69.011 *Daphnis nerii* Oleander Hawk-moth

70.227 *Epione repandaria* Bordered Beauty



Bordered Beauty ©Kate Fox

70.248 *Lycia hirtaria* Brindled Beauty

72.05 *Setina irrorella* Dew Moth

72.076 *Catocala fraxini* Clifden Nonpareil

73.289 *Mythimna pudorina* Striped Wainscot

73.225 *Dryobotodes eremita* Brindled Green

73.331 *Diarsia dahlia* Barred Chestnut

Four of these were firsts for the Isle of Man; *Tinea pellionella*, *Donacaula forcicella*, Striped Wainscot (*Mythimna pudorina*) and Oleander Hawk-moth (*Daphnis nerii*), although the former two were unconfirmed due to no photographs being taken.

The *Tinea pellionella* was found in a bedroom in the Observatory on 5th May, so it is presumed that this may have arrived on the Calf in someone's luggage. The *Donacaula forcicella* was recorded on 5th May, attracted to the MV Robinson trap set on the Observatory front track. The Striped Wainscot was recorded on 25th June, also attracted to the MV Robinson trap on the front track.



Striped Wainscot ©Kate Fox

There has only been one previous unconfirmed sighting of Oleander Hawk-moth on the Isle of Man on the disused railway near Peel on 18th June 2001, however our record is the first confirmed Manx sighting, found on the outside of the MV trap on the front track on 14th October. It was an extremely exciting moth to see, with the whole Calf Team coming to see it! This species is popular with private collectors who rear the caterpillars to release them, however the record coincided with good arrival of other migrant moth species on the Calf as well as a wider movement across Britain, so we are confident of its validity.

Another showstopper species was the Clifden Nonpareil, found by the Ornithological Warden, Eleanor Grover, as it flew past her on the front track outside the Observatory on 17th August. As well as being a stunning specimen, a moth of dreams like the Oleander Hawk-moth, this was the third Manx record!

Barred Chestnut (*Diarsia dahlia*) was the third Manx record, trapped on 25th July in the MV on the front track, and *Eucosma hohenwartiana* was the fourth Manx recorded on 25th June, again to the MV on the front track (although officially unconfirmed due to a lack of photo, with the last being recorded in 1968). Of the other firsts for the Calf, they ranged from having between four and 61 previous Manx records.

Of particular interest is the Dew Moth (*Setina irrorella*), a coastal specialist restricted to just a handful of sites in Britain. The Isle of Man is a British stronghold for this species, so a Calf record was just a matter of time.

It was also a very good season for migrant moths, with exceptional numbers of Rusty-dot Pearl (*Udea ferrugalis*; 127 total individuals compared to previous 59 records of 80 individuals), Rush Veneers (*Nomophila noctuella*; 120 total individuals compared to previous 84 records of 120 individuals) and Small Mottled Willow (*Spodoptera exigua*; 18 individuals compared to previous 9 records of 12 individuals). There were also good numbers of Dark Sword-grass (*Agrotis ipsilon*), with 67 individuals recorded this year, which is just under half the total individual count for previous years (108 records of 136 individuals).

Longtail Report 2025

Management Summary

This season we continued the intensive use of camera traps for biosecurity monitoring. These revealed three Longtail (LT) incursions, in March, April and August, all of which were thankfully trapped using Fenn traps and we are confident that they were the only individuals on the Calf at any one time. The camera trap images were very valuable in revealing the animals' behaviour, routine and preferred routes, as well as other species using the same areas, helping to inform our trapping areas.

Images from the cameras on Kitterland also provide supporting evidence that the LTs do swim across the Sound via Kitterland, with sightings in the days prior to the Calf incursions. Following the increase in LT incursions, with one in 2024 after almost two years free, followed by three confirmed individuals this season, Manx National Heritage has spoken with the contractor at the Sound Cafe to increase baiting there in the hope to reduce the source population and the risk to Kitterland and the Calf.

Approach

Following the proof of concept in the 2024 season, the Estate Team continued the intensive monitoring of remote trail cameras to check for LT activity in 2025. The cameras were placed in likely areas around the island and checked approximately weekly. Where LT activity was recorded, the frequency of checking and number of cameras was increased, and some cameras were repositioned to track the LT. The Manx Wildlife Trust bought additional cameras for the LT monitoring to allow increased coverage when the second LT was evading capture, and additional memory cards were purchased to allow all cameras to be checked on the same day.

Trapping effort was intensified in areas of LT activity, using Box Traps and Fenn Traps. When Fenn Traps were in use, the Estate Team ensured that they were covered with chicken wire and deactivated during daylight hours to minimise the risk of bycatch. There were only two instances of bycatch, both baby Rabbits; one in a Box Trap in the Withy and the other in a Fenn Trap in South Store. When a LT was detected, we preferred to limit trapping to the

Observatory area to reduce the risk to overcurious visitors, however as the second individual did not venture up to the Observatory the decision was made to set well-hidden traps in Mill Giau.

Humane automatic gas-powered traps were also used, with two on Kitterland owing to the remote nature of the islet, and two around the Observatory compost heap for most of the season as a safety measure.

The Warden Team visited Kitterland five times during the season between April and October to change the memory cards in the camera traps and service the humane gas traps. This was enabled by the DOI Harbours Dive Team who kindly took us over in their RIB, and we are very grateful for their time. Three cameras and two gas traps are deployed on Kitterland, in the same positions as in 2024. During the first trip on 9th April, one of the older model cameras (Reconyx) was replaced as it was not holding charge. The memory cards and batteries were replaced in the cameras, and the traps were re-baited during the final visit on 10th October, so they are set for the winter.

No bait areas were used this season, as the data produced by the camera traps was deemed more valuable and thus deploying more cameras was a better use of the Wardens' time. The Estate Team did undertake training in rodenticide use before the start of the season, however as the trapping was successful, we did not need to deploy any rodenticide.

Longtail Sightings 2025

In total we had three confirmed incursions this year, all single individuals which were successfully trapped. The first was in March, first detected on a trail camera on 8th March. Images of an individual on Kitterland just days prior to this suggested it took advantage of the same weather window as we used for our arrival to swim across the Sound. An increased effort was put into checking the cameras and Fenn traps were deployed, and this individual was trapped at the Observatory compost heap on 28th March.

A second Longtail made landfall at Grant's Beach on 22nd April, presumably the same individual which was on Kitterland during the week before. This individual evaded capture for a month and a half, despite regularly passing

the camera traps in Mill Giau and the Withy. It showed no intention of visiting the Observatory compost heap, likely owing to the abundance of natural food as this was peak breeding season, but was finally trapped in Mill Giau on 6th June.

A third Longtail appeared in August, first seen 'in person' on the night of 23rd August at South Harbour during a Storm Petrel ringing session. Camera trap images revealed it was first detected in Mill Giau on 17th August, and thankfully it was swiftly trapped at the Observatory compost heap on 31st August.

All three were males, and thankfully evidence suggests that they were all the only Longtails on the Calf at the time.



Top left: trapped on 28th March. Top right: trapped on 6th June. Bottom: trapped on 31st August. ©Kate Fox

A fourth was reportedly seen at Kione ny Halby during a Manx Shearwater ringing session on the night of 6th September, so additional camera traps were set in that area and Fenn traps were deployed in South Store. However, there were no further sightings in person or on the trail cameras for over a month suggesting that the individual has left or perished.

The last visit to Kitterland was on 10th October, which revealed that at least one individual has been recorded on the islet intermittently throughout September.

*LT camera positions, frequency of checks and number of days LT sighted (NB: Locations marked with * have been left in position at the end of the season to monitor over the winter period):*

Camera Location	Checks	Date deployed	Last check	Fixed position all season?	LT dates recorded
Cow Gull colony	11	02-May	09-Aug		
Cow Hide	5	2024 season	02-Apr		
Eider Gully 1 (KNH)	4	15-Sep	19-Oct		
Eider Gully 2 (KNH)	2	29-Sep	12-Oct		
Eider Gully 3 (KNH)	2	29-Sep	12-Oct		
Grants Beach	26	19-May	05-Sep		7
Grants Gully	11	02-May	09-Aug		
Jane's Gully	7	02-May	01-Jun		
Jane's House*	23	2024 season	03-Nov	Yes	
Kitterland (3 cameras)*	14	2024 season	10-Oct	Yes	17
Middle Lighthouse	7	2024 season	05-Sep		
Mill Bridge	6	20-May	03-Nov		8
Mill Giau Beach	25	13-Mar	06-Jun		
Mill Giau Boulders	3	19-Mar	19-Jun		
Mill Giau Stream (north)*	46	2024 season	03-Nov	Yes	28

Mill Giau Stream (south)*	40	17-Mar	03-Nov		11
Mill Gully	24	03-May	03-Nov		13
Mill*	45	2024 season	03-Nov	Yes	5
NLB Store external*	37	2024 season	03-Nov	Yes	
Obs Allotment Privy	34	14-Mar	03-Nov	Yes	2
Obs Bin Store*	12	11-May	03-Nov		
Obs Bird Feeders	22	13-Mar	03-Nov		
Obs Compost 1*	37	2024 season	03-Nov	Yes	2
Obs Compost 2*	10	11-May	03-Nov		
Obs HG2 feeders	5	11-May	25-Jul		
Obs Old Toilet	32	14-Mar	03-Nov	Yes	1
Obs Rear Drain 2	3	30-Aug	31-Oct		
Obs Rear Drain*	32	2024 season	03-Nov	Yes	
Puddle east 1	27	2024 season	01-Sep		7
Puddle east 2	17	24-Mar	19-May		1
Puddle east 3	18	26-Mar	02-Jun		
Puddle Gully	6	03-May	15-May		
Puddle Headland	2	17-Mar	24-Mar		
Puddle Middle	3	19-May	02-Jun		
South Harbour Stormy Net	4	23-Aug	31-Aug		
South Harbour Wall	2	23-Aug	31-Aug		

South Store external	10	26-Aug	03-Nov		
South Store*	37	2024 season	03-Nov	Yes	1
Top Withy Stream	12	03-May	12-Jun		1
Withy Gate	10	13-Mar	14-Apr		
Withy Hide	35	2024 season	20-Aug		
Withy Mud Net Stream*	48	2024 season	03-Nov	Yes	19
Withy Sluice *	45	2024 season	03-Nov	Yes	10
Withy Sluice Rear*	47	2024 season	03-Nov	Yes	22
Withy South Wall*	46	2024 season	04-Nov	Yes	4
Withy*	46	2024 season	04-Nov	Yes	19

Observations and further recommendations

Interestingly all three LT followed similar patterns of behaviour, being very active along the waterways in the main glen. This is typical behaviour, with LT often associating with water bodies as unlike mice they do not obtain water from their food. They were all relatively wide-roaming and active, covering a lot of ground in a single night and regularly being seen going between Mill Giau and the Withy in less than an hour.



A Longtail at the Withy.

As well as providing an insight into the movement of the LT and their preferred areas helping to inform trapping plans, the cameras also gave evidence of other species sharing the area which proved immensely valuable in reducing the risk of bycatch. For example, with the second LT showing no inclination to visit the Observatory we were forced to trap in the glen. The images revealed it was spending most of its time between Mill Giau and the Withy. However, also in the Withy following the same routes was a family of Water Rails; a scarce breeder on the Calf with just two pairs, which only returned as a breeding species in 2024. As a result, trapping efforts were limited to Mill Giau, and as time went on plans to set live traps in the Withy were also considered and live traps were sourced. This highlights the additional benefits of using cameras over bait points, particularly at the scale of incursions we are now dealing with on the Calf – focusing on just single individuals.

Another benefit is seeing individual markings or scars to help to identify individual LTs, although this is not always easy. For instance, the second LT had a characteristic notch out of its left ear which was visible on some images. However, this works both ways as features may not be visible in some images, falsely suggesting there were multiple individuals if relied upon. For future Warden Teams, remember to always stay vigilant after you have trapped the LT in case it was not alone, even if you think it matches your photos.

Ultimately, no matter how vigilant the Calf Wardens are and how effective the detection method used, LT will always continue to be a threat to the Calf so long as there are LT to swim over from the Main Island, so work also needs to be done at the source to reduce this risk. Cameras on Kitterland provide supporting evidence that the Longtails do swim across the Sound via Kitterland, with sightings in the days prior to the Calf incursions. With the rate of incursions this season, it seems likely that the LT population at the Sound Cafe is booming and so individuals are spilling over to the Calf and Kitterland putting these areas at risk. These concerns were raised with Manx National Heritage who have discussed it with the tenants, and it has been agreed that the contractor there will increase baiting in an attempt to reduce this population and hopefully ease the pressure.

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