



SAMPHIRE HOE BIRD REPORT FOR 2011



Samphire Hoe is owned by Eurotunnel and managed together with the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership

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The recording of the birds of Samphire Hoe provides information about the site's ecological development, its use as a migratory stopping point and a wintering ground. The birds of Samphire Hoe are recorded on a casual basis by general observations. The breeding birds are monitored by an annual Common Bird Census, this plots out bird territories. The recording area is the Hoe itself, the sea, the cliffs behind the Hoe and the east and west ends.

139 species were recorded during the year, 17 species bred in the area plus a further 3 species did so just beyond the recording area.

Thanks go to Derek Smith who has compiled the report and all the contributors especially all the Volunteer Rangers in particular Phil Smith and Tony Prentice, also to all the other observers including Ian Roberts, and Geoff Burton.



SUMMARY FOR 2011

January

Two Ravens flew west on the 1st, also on the same day 62 Red Throated Divers were recorded plus a Red Breasted Merganser. Twelve Rock Pipits seen on the west beach on the 4th. Fifty Gannets and 100 Auk spp were offshore on the 15th. A Pochard frequented the main pond during the first three weeks of the month, and a Curlew remained on the Hoe for ten days. Fifty Brents flew east on the 31st.

February

Nine Rock Pipits on the western beach on the 5th. 2 Razorbills were seen offshore on the 8th. Seventy Brents flew east on the 9th. A Water Rail was present around the main pond area on the 17th, 5 Pintail flew east on the 23rd. A Chiffchaff was reported on the 27th, 7 Grey Partridge on the 28th. Two Ravens recorded on the 1st, 3rd and 22nd.

March

The first Wheatear of the year was recorded on the 12th, A Chiffchaff on the 17th, a Black Throated Diver was seen offshore on the same date. Twelve Avocets flew east past the Hoe on the 21st. 635 Brents moved east on the 26th. On the 27th 2 Slavonian Grebes were seen offshore and 2 Gadwell, 50 Common Scoter and 76 Sandwich Terns were seen to be moving up channel. Two Black Redstarts were noted on the 27th, Sixty-five Siskins moving east on the 28th, and a Shag offshore on the same date.

April

Two Firecrests were seen on the 2nd, a Sparrowhawk on the 2nd and 4th. The first Swallow of the year for the Hoe was also on the 2nd. On the 7th 2 Common Redstarts, 6 Willow Warblers and 15 Wheatears were noted. A female Ring Ouzel was present on the 4th and 7th. The first Hobby of the year turned up on the 11th, 2 Common Whitethroats on the 12th and 2 Lesser Whitethroats on the 26th. A Greenshank flew past on the 27th. On the 28th there was an easterly movement of 265 Bar Tailed Godwits, 2 Pomarine Skuas, 13 Whimbrel, 35 Grey Plovers and a Black Throated Diver. A Great Skua flew east on the 30th.

May

Five Pomarine Skuas flew east past the Hoe on the 1st, 15 Common Scoter flew west on the 2nd and a Marsh Harrier was seen to come in off the sea on the same day. Three Arctic Skuas were seen flying up channel on the 3rd plus 30 Bar Tailed Godwits. A single Yellow Wagtail in off the sea on the 4th. A Red Rumped Swallow was recorded over the Hoe on the 8th and five Little Egrets flew west. A Hobby was seen on the 7th and 1 flew east on the 31st. Twelve Whimbrel up Channel on the 15th. First Swift of the year was recorded on the 24th, 50 House Martins on the 27th. A Grey Wagtail flew west on the 30th. A pair of Black Redstarts and two young were also seen on the 30th.

June

Two Wheatears present on the Hoe on the 1st, 60 House Martins and 200+ Swifts over the Hoe on the 6th. Ten Common Whitethroats recorded on the 14th plus 7 Meadow Pipits. A female Reed Bunting was seen on the 15th and 4 Stonechats on the 17th, Four Black Redstarts on the 17th and 20th. A Hobby was seen on the Hoe on the 20th and 27th, 80 Starlings on the 21st.

July

A Collared Dove was recorded over the Hoe on the 4th and a juvenile Guillemot was seen offshore on the same day. Highlight of the month were 2 Great White Egrets flying east past the Hoe on the 5th. Seven Swifts flew west on the 7th and a Pied Flycatcher was reported to be on the Hoe on the 10th. Two Little Egrets flew east on the 13th. A Sedge Warbler was recorded on the 25th, and 43 Mediterranean Gulls were seen on the west beach also on the 25th. First of the returning Wheatears was recorded on the 26th. Thirty Common Scoters flew east on the 26th. Three Common Sandpipers were seen on the 28th.

August

Garden Warbler recorded on the 2nd, Four Sand Martins flew over on the 8th and a Yellow Wagtail was seen along the back track on the 10th. Two Ravens flew west on the 12th and 16th and a Hobby was noted on the 6th and 14th. A juvenile Montagues Harrier flew west on the 16th. Two Whinchats on the 17th were the first birds of the autumn. A Corn Bunting was reported on the 21st. On the 24th 15 Willow Warblers, 1 Spotted Flycatcher, 1 Reed Warbler and a Common Redstart were all seen on the Hoe. A Turtle Dove was recorded on the 29th and 2 Common Buzzards flew west on the 31st.

September

A Common Buzzard was noted on the 5th and 6th, 18 Wheatears were present on the 10th. Two Yellow Wagtails flew west on the 14th. A Grasshopper Warbler was seen on the 15th. Seven Stonechats recorded on the 21st and 24th. A fall of 33 Chiffchaffs occurred on the 23rd also on the same day 24 Blackcaps were recorded. One Shag, 4 Great Skuas and a Common Redstart on the 25th. A Marsh Harrier and a Great Spotted Woodpecker on the 28th.

October

A Lapland Bunting flew over on the 6th, three Hobbys recorded this month, 1 on the 5th and 7th and a juvenile on the 8th. Single Short Eared Owls on the 8th and 11th. 70 Gannets flew east on the 9th plus an Arctic Skua, 1 Sooty Shearwater and 916 Brents went west. A Ring Ouzel was present on the 7th and 16th, eight Black Redstarts and a Firecrest on the 25th. A Little Gull flew west on the 26th. On the 28th 562 Siskins flew east and 822 Goldfinches flew west. One Water Rail on the 31st.

November

On the 5th 116 Siskins flew east and 170 Starlings were seen to come in off the sea. Six House Martins flew west on the 6th. 15 Red Breasted Mergansers flew west on the 6th. One Snow Bunting on the seawall on the 8th. Two Wheatears on the 8th and 1 Yellowhammer on the 15th. Little Auk found dead on beach on the 27th.

December

Two Ravens flew west on the 2nd. A Great Northern Diver offshore on the 7th and 19th. Four Shags offshore on the 21st. 43 Red Throated Divers flew west on the 21st, 22 Razorbills seen offshore on the 27th. A Yellow Legged Gull was seen on the rocks at the western end of the Hoe on the 28th.



SYSTEMATIC LIST 2011

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Passage bird

5 flew east on the 15th of November.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

Passage bird

50 flying east on the 31st of January then 70 on the 9th of February and 30 on the 19th. Spring passage got under way in March with 200 moving east on the 13th, 50 on the 19th, 765 on the 26th and 21 on the 27th. The last spring record was of 2 flying east on the 12th of April.

First bird of the autumn was 1 on the 16th of September followed by 3 on the 26th. 15 flew east past the Hoe on the 8th of October and 916 flew west on the 9th and 12 on the 12th. No other records until 3 were seen flying west on the 5th of November 39 flew east on the 7th and 22 on the 8th and 10 on the 13th. Two up channel on the 27th of December

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Passage bird

Five flew west past the Hoe on the 4th of January, 12 on the 19th of February. Three flew east on the 1st of May and 1 on the 2nd. Two flying east on the 16th of June. Three autumn records and they were of 5 going east on the 7th of November and 1 on the 12th. 4 going east on the 8th of December.

WIGEON *Anas Penelope*

Passage bird

1 on the main pond on the 15th, 24th, 25th and 29th of January. 3 flew past the Hoe on the 19th of February. 98 flew west past the Hoe on October the 9th. One female took up residence on the main pond from the 16th of October until the 5th of November. Four flew east on the 7th and 15th of November.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Passage bird

2 flying east on the 27th of March and 6 moving east on the 6th of November these were the only two records for the year.

COMMON TEAL *Anas crecca*

Passage bird

Two on the 8th of January, 10 flying east past the Hoe on the 27th of March. 41 moving west on the 9th of October, 2 going east on the 6th of November.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*
Resident/winter visitor

Peak monthly totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
21	18	12	4	4	4	2	6	10	5	7	9

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Passage bird

5 flying east on the 23rd and 27th of February are the only two records for the year.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Passage bird

Eight flying east past the Hoe on March the 15th, 8 going east and 6 moving west on the 27th. Two seen going east on the 3rd of May and 7 on the 5th.

POCHARD *Aythya farina*

Passage bird

One immature bird took up residence on the main pond during the first three weeks of January

COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

Passage bird

5 flying east on the 22nd of March. 9 flying east on the 7th of November.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Passage bird

No large movements recorded from the Hoe this spring, 14 going up channel on the 5th of March, 3 going west on the 26th, 50 recorded going east on the 27th. On the 1st of May 38 were seen to be moving up channel and on the 2nd 15 flew down channel. 30 flew up channel on the 26th of July and 2 on the 28th. Westerly movements occurred from August onwards with 6 on the 13th of August, 40 on the 8th of October, 64 on the 9th and 42 on the 14th

RED BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Passage bird

1 seen off the Hoe on January the 1st. Three flew down channel on the 27th of March. On the 6th of November 15 flew east past the Hoe.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Passage bird

Two records this year, one was one seen to come in off the sea on May the 2nd, the other sighting was of 1 flying west over the Hoe on September the 27th.

MONTAGUS HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Rare Passage bird

A juvenile bird was seen to fly over the Hoe on August the 16th. (Phil Smith)

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Resident

Not recorded during the first two months of the year. Singles on the 12th, 13th and 28th of March. 1 on the 2nd and 4th of April and a single bird on July the 27th. Single sightings on eight days in August. Two on the 27th of September and 3 on the 28th.

One on the 9th and 31st of October, 2 on the 7th. Singles on five dates in November and on three dates in December.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Passage bird

Two flew west over the Hoe on the 31st of August. One on the 15th and 16th of September.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident

One on the 2nd, 4th, 8th and 11th of January and 1 on the 1st of February.

1-2 throughout March, April, May and June. Four birds recorded on the 22nd of July.

Two to Four present throughout August and up to 3 throughout September and October. Highest numbers recorded in November were 5 on the 2nd and 4 on the 28th.

There were single sightings on six dates in December.

A pair successfully reared two young in a hole in the cliff face near to the overflow car park.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Summer visitor

First bird of the year was seen over the Hoe on the 11 of April, followed by 1 on May the 7th and 1 observed flying in an easterly direction past the Hoe on the 31st. Two sightings in June and they were of singles on the Hoe on the 20th and 27th. One on August the 6th and 24th, both sightings was in the area around the area of the main pond. The next records were in October with 1 being reported on October the 5th, One was seen on the 7th and the last record was of a juvenile on the 8th.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

Resident

Up to two seen throughout the year, possibly two pairs in the surrounding area. One of the possible two pair at least reared one young which was seen in the area on the 26th of June, and probably the same bird on the 3rd and 4th of July.

RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Occasional visitor, has bred

One on the Hoe on February the 28th then again on March the 5th, 12th, 27th and 28th.

Two noted on five dates in April. Any attempt at breeding could not be proved but the probable outcome was they probably packed their bags and went elsewhere because of increasing numbers of visitors to the site.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Occasional visitor, has bred

Two records this year, a covey of 7 on the 25th of February and then 2 on the 19th of April.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Resident

1-2 recorded during the first half of the year, 3 females and 1 male on the 19th of March. No sightings during June and September. 1 Female on the 26th of October, 2 on the 1st of November and 3 on the 23rd. Seen on site during September with 3 on the 12th and 2 on the 26th.

RED THROATED DIVER *Garvia stellata*

Winter visitor

Good numbers recorded during January with 62 flying west on the 1st, 20 on the 2nd and 3rd, 8 offshore on the 11th. 50 flying west on the 29th and 30 seen offshore on the 31st. Low numbers recorded in February with just single sightings on the 1st, 14th, 18th and 27th. Easterly movements noted in March with 6 on the 12th, 5 on the 13th, 21 offshore on the 15th, other easterly passage birds were 6 on the 25th, 13 on the 26th, and 23 on the 27th and 15 on the 28th. Three flying east on May the 1st.

First birds of the autumn were 3 flying west on the 9th of October. 5 flew east on November the 7th, Three going west on the 16th and two on the 23rd.

48 flying west on the 23rd and 27th of December.

BLACK THROATED DIVER *Garvia artica*

Occasionally seen offshore during the winter months.

One seen offshore on March the 17th, One flying east on April the 28th. Two recorded flying east on the 1st of May.

First bird of the autumn was seen flying east past the Hoe on October the 9th.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Garvia immer*

Rare winter visitor

One reported flying east past the Hoe on the 1st of May. One offshore 7th and 19th of December.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Occasional visitor to the Hoe

One remained on the main pond from the 29th of October to the 5th of November.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Common offshore during the winter months.

3 recorded offshore on the 2nd, 3rd and 31st of January. 5 on the 14th of February, 10 on the 26th. Thirty were seen offshore on the 1st of March 10 on the 13th, and 21 on the 15th. One seen offshore on June the 6th.

One offshore on the 8th of September and then 1 flying west past the Hoe on November the 16th. One on the 18th and 21st of December, 2 on the 27th.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Rare winter

2 seen off the western end of the Hoe on March the 27th.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

Small numbers present throughout most of the year, a few pairs nest to the east of the Hoe.

Four to five recorded on seven dates in January. 16 recorded on the 20th of February, 9 on the 24th and 11 on the 26th. 12 on the 12th of March. Average sightings throughout April and May were between three and four although 8 were noted on May the 24th. Four on June the 1st and 6 on the 7th, 1-2 throughout the rest of the month and also through July. Single on three dates in August and 3 flying west on the 31st. Single sighting on the 10th and 20th of September. One on the 18th, 20th and 21st of December 3 on the 26th and 27th.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

Rare

One flew east on the 9th of October.

GANNET *Morus bassanus*

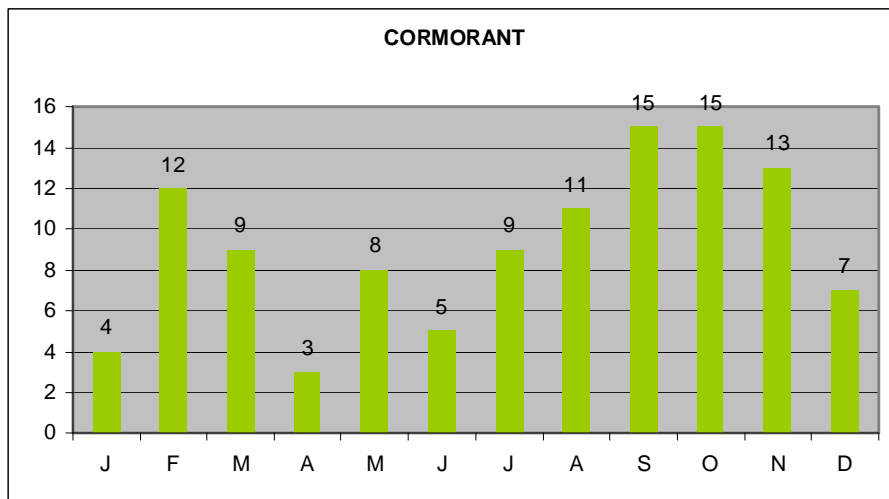
Regular offshore during the winter months.

50 seen offshore on the 15th of January. Small numbers recorded in February with 3 on the 7th and 2 on the 14th, 20th and 26th. Six flying east the 26th of March and 30 on the 27th. Single sighting on five dates in April 6 flying east on the 28th. 84 flew up channel on the 1st of May, 35 going west on the 30th. 19 flew west past the Hoe on July the 18th. Forty were recorded off the Hoe on the 8th of August, 20 on the 9th, 24 on the 16th. Seventy were observed flying up channel on the 26th and 15 on the 30th.

Four flew westward on September the 26th. Three double figure counts in October and they were 30 on the 8th, 70 on the 9th and 20 on the 13th. Twenty offshore on the 6th of November 34 on the 7th. Ten were recorded on the 26th and 27th of December.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Resident



Birds present offshore from the Hoe all year.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Mainly a winter visitor

1 offshore on the 28th of March. Single sighting on the 14th and 19th of August and a juvenile on the 24th. 1 off the seawall on the 23rd of September and on the 25th and 30th of October. Two seen on the 22nd of November and a single on the 27th. Four seen off the Hoe on December the 21st plus singles on the 2nd, 20th and 27th.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Scarce visitor to the Hoe, more often seen flying past.

Five flying past the Hoe on the 8th of May. 2 going east on July the 13th. Two on the rocks to the west of the Hoe on the 28th and 29th of August. One on the 8th and 2 on the 13th of October. Single on ten dates in November, 3 on the 5th and 2 on the 16th and 21st. One on four dates in December, Four flying past on the 4th.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba*

Rare

Two seen flying east past the Hoe on 5 July. This was a new species for the Hoe.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Occasionally seen on the rocks to the west of the Hoe, Most records are of birds flying over.

Recorded in most months of the year sightings being mostly of single birds flying either east or west past Samphire Hoe. Highest days count of the year was of six flying past on the 1st of August.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

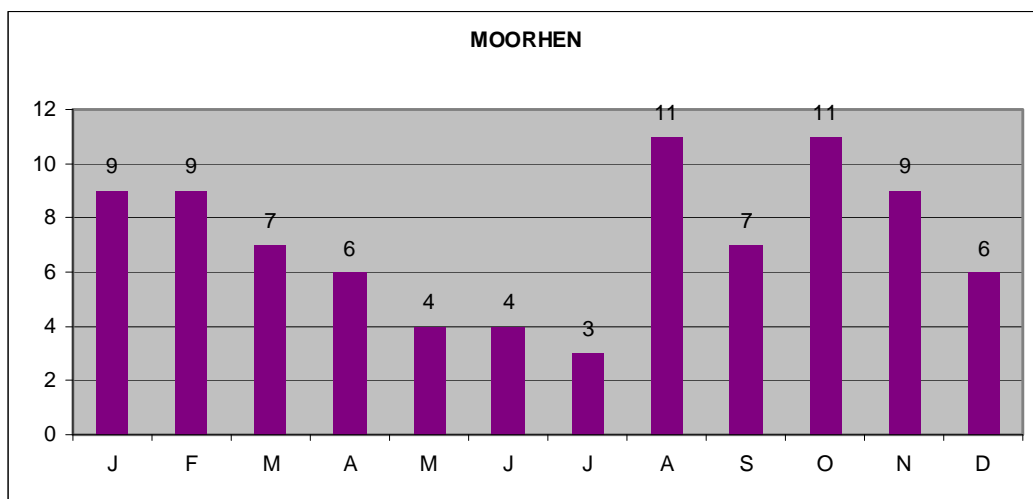
Scarce winter visitor

One recorded from the main pond area on the 1st and 2nd of January, 1 on the 17th of February. Single sighting on the 17th and 28th of March. No records during the summer months. First record of the winter was of 1 by the main pond on the 31st of October. One on four dates in November.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident

At least two pairs bred on the Hoe this year and probably raising two broods each. Chicks were seen early May, late May and in July.



OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Regular passage bird.

2 flying east on the 1st and 27th of May, One going west on the 30th. Two on 11 and 12 July. Two on 17 August, 4 on the 23rd and 3 on the 31st all flying east. Two flying west on 5 November. One past the Hoe on 21 and 27 December.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare Passage bird

12 were recorded flying east on March the 21st, Two also going east on the 30th of April. The only other record was of 2 flying east on the 1st of May.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Passage migrant

Nine flew east on the 30th of April and 17 on May the 1st.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Passage migrant

35 recorded flying east on the 28th of April and 9 on the 30th. 17 also going east on May the 1st.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Passage migrant, winter visitor

1 flew east on March the 26th. 1 seen on the Hoe on July the 12th. 26 flew east past the Hoe on November the 6th, 6 on the 7th. Four were noted on the 15th of November.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

Passage migrant

2 flew east on the 28th of April and 8 on May the 1st.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Passage migrant

4 going east on April the 30th, 4 east on May the 1st.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Passage migrant

One by the west pond on January the 9th. 12 flew east on the 27th of March. Twelve were recorded flying east on the 6th of November and 3 on the 7th and the only other record was again in November with one moving east on the 15th.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

Scarce winter visitor

One seen on the Hoe on the 15th and 16th of January.

BAR TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Passage migrant

Easterly spring passage was noted on the 28th of April when 265 flew past the Hoe, 21 on the 30th. A further 157 flew east on the 1st of May and 30 on the 3rd.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage migrant

Easterly spring passage birds were noted between March and May with 1 on the 25th of March, 13 on the 28th of April, 12 on the 30th. 12 up channel on the 1st of May, 7 on the 2nd and 1 on the 5th and 8th.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Passage migrant and occasional visitor.

A single bird remained on the Hoe during the first two weeks of January. One flew west on the 24th of February. One recorded on the Hoe on eight dates between the 8th of March until the 28th. One flew east on the 6th and 19th of November.

REDSHANK *Tringa tetanus*

Occasional visitor, Passage migrant



Redshank

Photo by Phil Smith

One seen by the west pond on March the 19th. And again on the 9th and 10th of May.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce passage migrant

One flew east past the Hoe on April the 27th, 3 flew east on the 1st of May.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Scarce passage migrant

The only record of the year was of one calling as it flew over the Hoe.

COMMON SANDPIPER

Occasional summer visitor and passage migrant

One recorded on five dates during July, 3 on the 28th. Single on five dates in August and 2 on the 22nd, 28th, 30th and 31st. Last bird of the autumn was of 1 on the 20th of September.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce passage migrant

Two flew east on April the 28th and 5 on the 1st of May.

ARTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Passage migrant

Spring passage was noted on the 1st of May when 4 flew east then 5 on the 3rd. Returning autumn birds were recorded on the 23rd of September when 4 flew west, eleven were seen to fly east and 5 west on the 9th of October. One on the 11th.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

Passage migrant

One flew east on the 30th of April and on the 1st of May. Eleven flew east and 3 west on the 9th of October, 2 west on the 10th and 1 on the 11th. Last record of the year was of 1 flying east on the 7th of November.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Regular visitor

1 on the 11th of January and 3 on the 15th. 1-2 on two or three dates during March and April. 3 adults and one juvenile on the 7th of July, 43 noted at the eastern end of the Hoe, 16 on the 26th and 5 on the 28th. 15 seen offshore on August the 8th, 17 flying west on the 9th. 23 offshore on the 12th and 20 on the 21st. 27 resting on the western beach on the 26th and 14 on the 29th. On the 27th of September 24 were noted on the western beach, Ten offshore on the 9th, 11 on the 11th and 24 on the 18th. 15 flew west on the 20th and 6 on the 26th. Highest count in November was 4 on the 27th. Just the one record in December and that was of a single seen on the 13th of December.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutes*

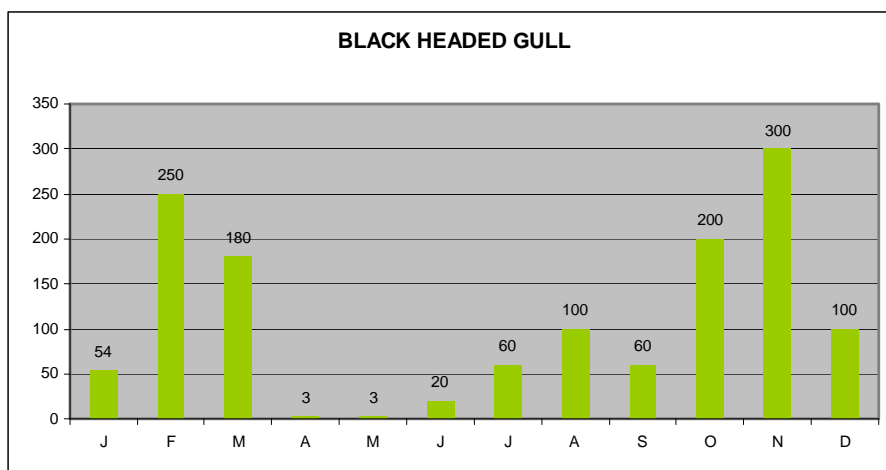
Scarce passage migrant

1 seen off the Hoe on 26 October.

BLACK HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Resident more so in the winter than summer.

250 offshore on 1st February, 180 seen flying east on 25 March.



Twenty flew west on 28 June. 100+ offshore on 27 October.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

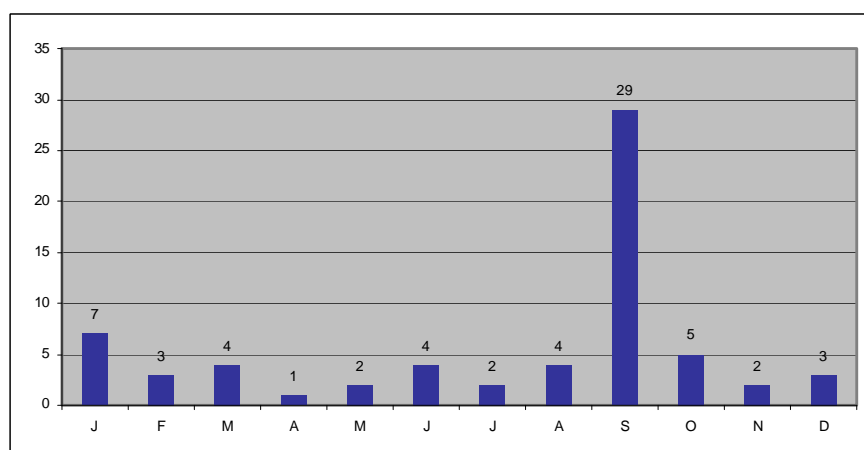
Passage migrant and winter visitor

Three records for January, 3 on the 2nd, 2 on the 11th and 8 on the 18th. A single was recorded on February the 1st and 8th, 2 on the 7th. Passage birds were recorded on 1 March with 26 flying east, Four flew east on the 22nd and 5 on the 23rd. In April 16 flew north on the 5th. 10 east on 3rd May. One juvenile was reported on 9 August. 2 flew west on 20 September. Five on the 23rd and 7 on 25 October. Noted on three dates in November, 7 on December the 13th.

LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Passage migrant

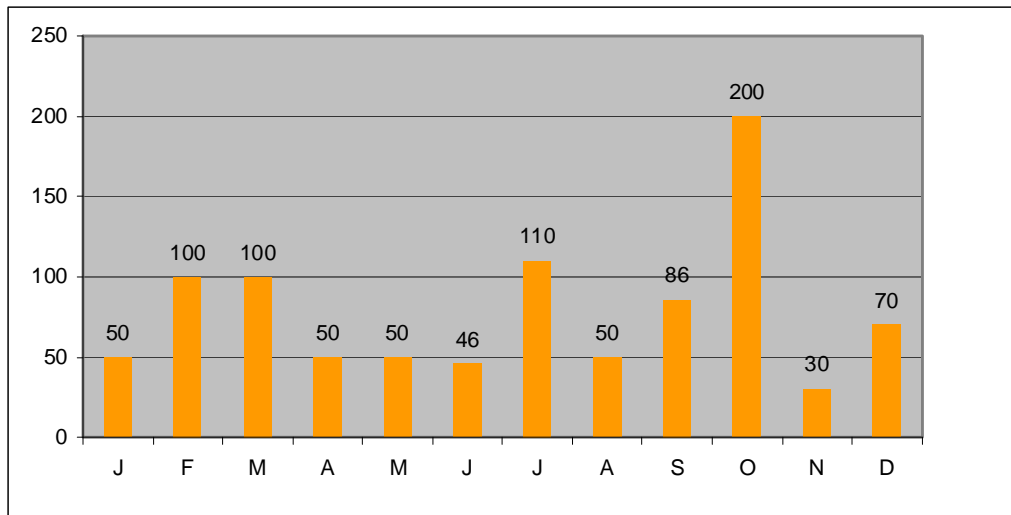
Regularly seen offshore from the Hoe in the winter months.



HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common resident breeder

200 on the west beach on Oct the 31st.



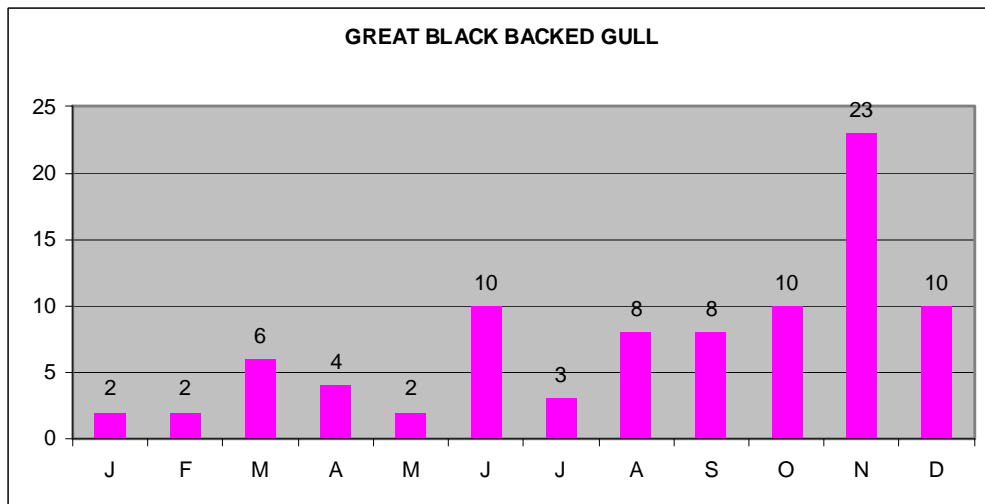
YELLOW LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Uncommon passage migrant

One on the rocks at the western end of the Hoe on the 28th of December.

GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Mainly a winter visitor



20 flew west on December the 6th, 50 on the 13th

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Passage migrant

Twenty offshore on the 15th of January. 15 on the 27th of March. 12 flew east on the 28th of April and 4 on the 13th of May. 10 offshore on August the 14th. Twelve flew west on October the 8th. Four on the 7th of November, Singles on the 12th and 15th. Singles on the 20th, 21st and 27th of December.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Common passage migrant in spring and summer

First birds of the year were 2 flying east on the 25th of March then 15 on the 27th and 76 on the 28th. 32 recorded flying east on the 26th of April and 15 on the 28th. 11 moving up channel on the 15th of May and 6 on the 30th. Three flew west on the 25th and 28th of July and 2 on the 29th. Numbers recorded in August were 12 on the 9th, 9 on the 10th, and 33 on the 14th. 14 flew east on the 17th and 11 on the 30th and 31st. Up to two off the Hoe on seven dates in September, 4 on the 3rd and 8th. Three off the Hoe on October the 8th, Last of the year were five flying east on the 9th of October

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Passage migrant

50 flew east on the 2nd of May. Two on the 10th and 16th of August, 4 on the 11th and 14th, 5 on the 26th and 8 on the 30th. Six flew east on the 9th and 10th of October and the last sighting for the year was of 1 on the 11th of October.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Passage migrant

Two flew west on the 26th of September and on the 12th of October.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

Mainly a winter visitor

Eight offshore on the 29th of January, 1 on the 31st. Single sightings on the 1st, 7th and 24th of February. Twelve recorded on the 27th of March. One flying east on the 1st of May. A juvenile bird offshore on July the 4th. First bird of the winter was noted flying east on the 9th of October. One on the 3rd and 6th of November, 2 going east on the 7th, 4 offshore on the 15th. Single sighting on eight dates during December plus 2 on the 7th and 5 on the 13th.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

Mainly a winter visitor.

Two offshore on the 8th of February. One on the 1st of March and 11 past the Hoe on the 27th. Two flying east on the 28th of April and on the 1st of May. 10 going east on the 9th of October and the 7th of November. Four just offshore on the 21st of December, 10 on the 26th and 22 on the 27th.



Razorbill

Photo by Phil Smith

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

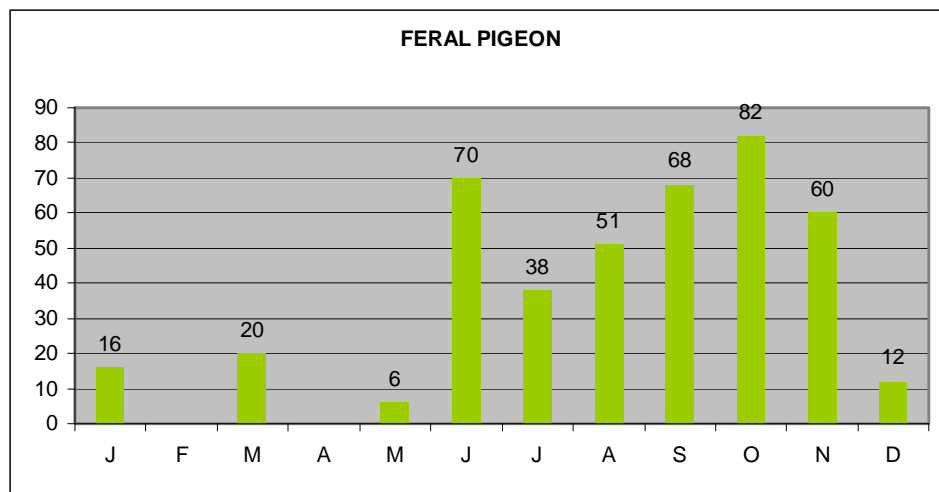
Resident

Two on the 19th of January and the 8th of February. Two on four dates in March, 3 on the 28th. Two on several dates throughout April and May. Three on the 7th and 28th of June. Sightings throughout July, August and September consisted mainly of two birds on several dates. Two on the 23rd of November.

Two pairs held territory

FERAL PIGEON

Resident

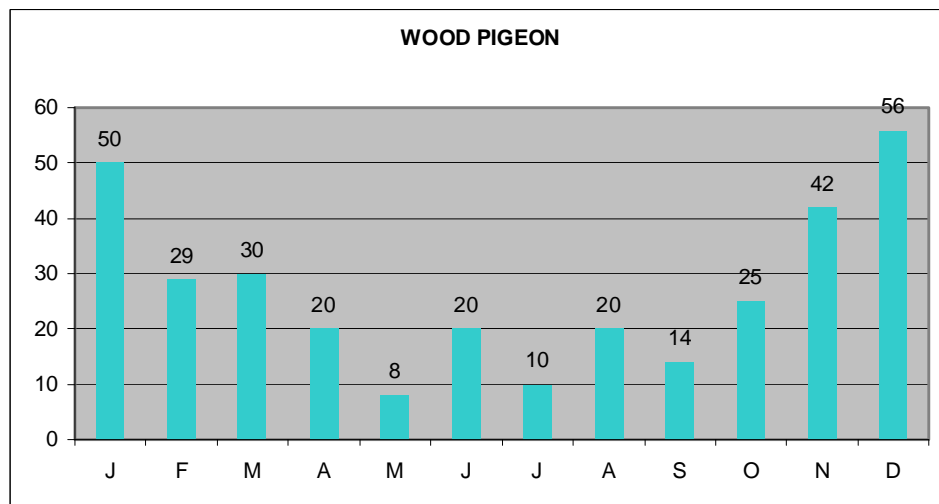


Up to 30 birds present on the cliffs to the west of the Hoe.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Resident breeder, numbers increase during the winter months.

One or two pairs breed in the scrub on the cliffs.



COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Uncommon visitor to the Hoe.

One seen in Woody Gully on May the 24th. 1 noted on the 4th of July and 2 on the 15th of August.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Rare visitor to the Hoe

Singles seen in the cliff face scrub on the 11th of May and the 29th of August.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Irregular visitor to the Hoe

Absent from the Hoe during the first eight months of the year but it returned to its regular roosting place on the cliff face on the 26th of September where it was regularly seen throughout the remainder of the year.



Little Owl

Photo by Phil Smith

SHORT EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Winter visitor, passage migrant

One on the Hoe on the 8th and 11th of October, One recorded on the 22nd and 23rd of November.

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus*

Summer passage migrant

One on the 24th of May was the first bird of the spring followed by 3 on the 30th and on the 31st. 200 seen feeding along the cliff top on the 6th of June, 11 on the 27th. 250 flew west on the 18th of July 6 on the 27th. Last birds of the year were 30+ on August the 8th and one on the 18th.

GREENWOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Resident but absent during the breeding season.

Single on six dates in January and three dates in February. One on the 1st of March. Birds returned to the Hoe in August when 1-2 were recorded throughout the month. Single sightings on five dates in September and nine dates in October. 1-2 throughout November and December.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Rare visitor to the Hoe.

One flew west along the Hoe on the 28th of September.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Resident breeder, passage migrant

22 flew over the Hoe on January the 15th. Three seen on the Hoe on the 8th of February, 2 on the 24th. Three on the 8th, 22nd and 28th of March plus two on the 15th and 29th. Single on seven dates and two on three dates in April. One on the 7th and 8th of May, 3 on the 20th of June. Two throughout July. 27 seen to come in off the sea on the 9th of October and 29 on the 12th. Three flew west on November the 2nd and 6 on the 16th, 1 on the 19th and 23rd.

One breeding pair on the Hoe this year.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Scarce Passage migrant

Four going west on the 8th of August, 8 on the 14th and 2 on the 19th of September.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Passage migrant

First bird of the year was recorded on the 2nd of April, 4 on the 24th, seven in off the sea on the 30th. Twenty seen to come in off the sea on the 2nd of May, Seven over the Hoe on the 7th, 6 on the 10th and 14th. Four on the 14th of June and 3 on the 23rd. Thirty over the Hoe on the 24th of July, 20 on the 29th. 1-4 on several dates during August, 20 on the 22nd. 79 flew west on the 14th of September, 30 on the 19th, 64 west on the 23rd and 100 on the 27th. Twenty nine moving west on the 12th of October, 10 on the 28th. One over the Hoe on the 5th of November and the last birds of the year were 2 on the 7th of November.

RED RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*

Rare migrant

One seen over the Hoe on the 8th of May.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Summer visitor, breeds on the cliffs to the east and west of the Hoe.

First birds of the year were five on the 12th of April followed by 4 on the 25th. Twenty over the Hoe on the 8th of May, 40 on the 21st and 50 on the 27th and 31st. 60 recorded on June the 6th, 30 on the 14th and 35 on the 28th, many of these sightings are birds from the cliff nesting colony at the east end of the Hoe. High numbers noted in July with 65 on the 25th, 85 on the 26th and 100 on the 27th. Numbers increased in August with 120 on the 6th, 108 on the 7th, 100 on the 23rd, 29th and 30th, 180 on the 31st. 40 flew west on the 9th of September, 65 on the 14th and 33 on the 23rd. 18 going west on the 8th of October, 40 on the 9th and 8 on the 28th. Last birds of the year were 6 on the 6th of November. 25 active nests at the East end, 16 at the west end.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

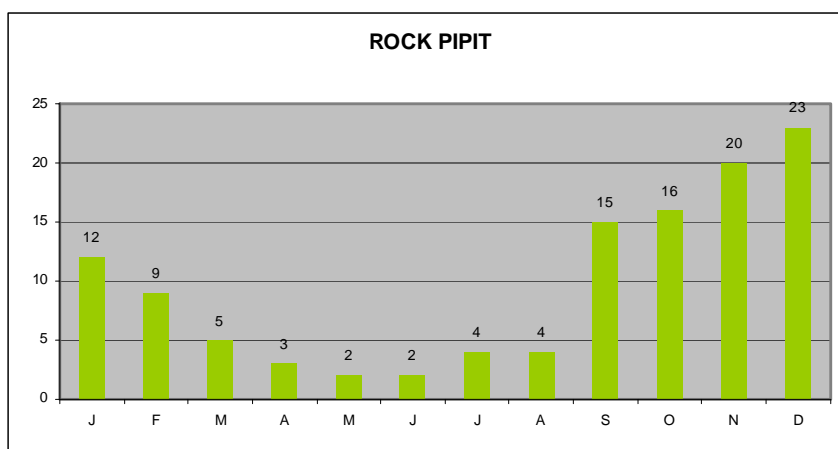
Resident, passage migrant

Two on 2nd, 4 and 17 January. 3 on 1st and 8 February. Four on 12 and 29 March, 11 on the 28th. Mainly 2-5 throughout April and May but eight were recorded on six dates. Three on 6, 13 and 21 June, 7 on the 14th. Adult seen feeding fledged young on 3rd July. 1-3 on many other dates, 5 on the 5th. 1-2 throughout August. 23 noted on 13 September, 53 flew west on the 14th, 13 on the 23rd and 14 on the 27th. Twenty four moving west on 4 October, 10 on the 6th, 50 on the 7th, 30 on the 11th, 44 on the 12th, 11 on the 25th and 19 on the 28th. Eight on 2nd November, 4 on the 10th plus 3 on three other dates. Three on the 9th, 26th and 28th of December.
6 territories held this year

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Resident, but more common in the winter.

2 Fledged young seen on 24 June.



Numbers increase during the winter months to a peak of 23 birds.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Passage migrant

One seen to come in off the sea on the 4th of May, 1 on the 13th. One on the 10th of August. One over the Hoe on the 10th of September and the last autumn sighting was of 2 flying west on the 14th.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Passage bird.

One flew west over the Hoe on May the 30th. Single sightings on the 21st of June, 12th of July, the 2nd of August and the 9th of September. 4 recorded on the 13th of September and then 3 on the 13th. One flew west on the 28th. One flying west on the 7th, 8th and 12th of October. OOne on the 14th and 28th of December.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla yarrellii*

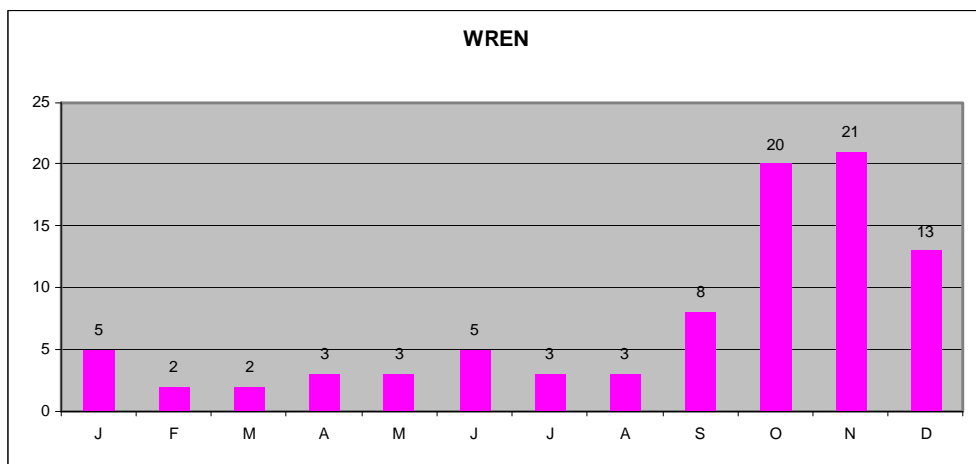
Regular visitor to the Hoe, has bred.

From March to October single birds were seen on twelve dates, A total of 23 were noted flying. Two seen on the Hoe on the 27th and 29th of October. Singles on five dates in November.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

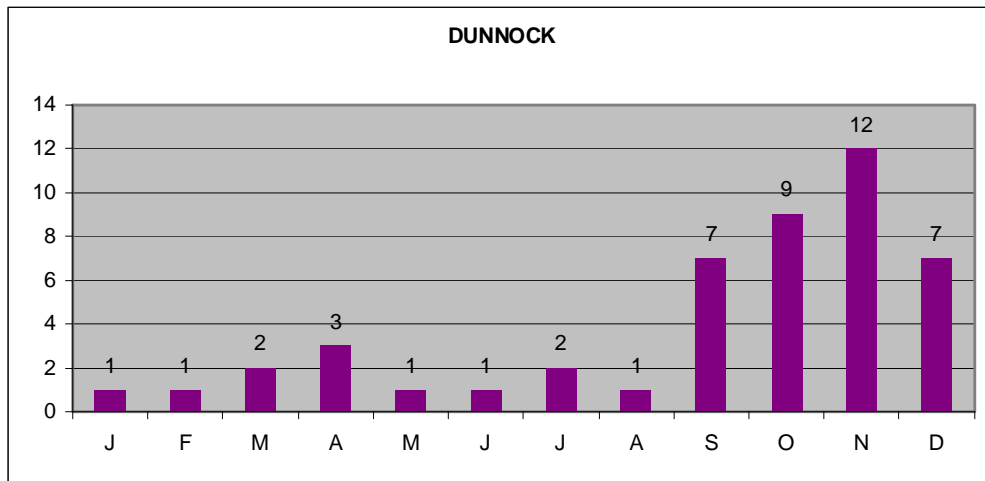
Resident.

Unusually high numbers in October and November with 20 on the 28th of October and 19 on November the 2nd, 21 on the 16th and 17 on the 23rd.



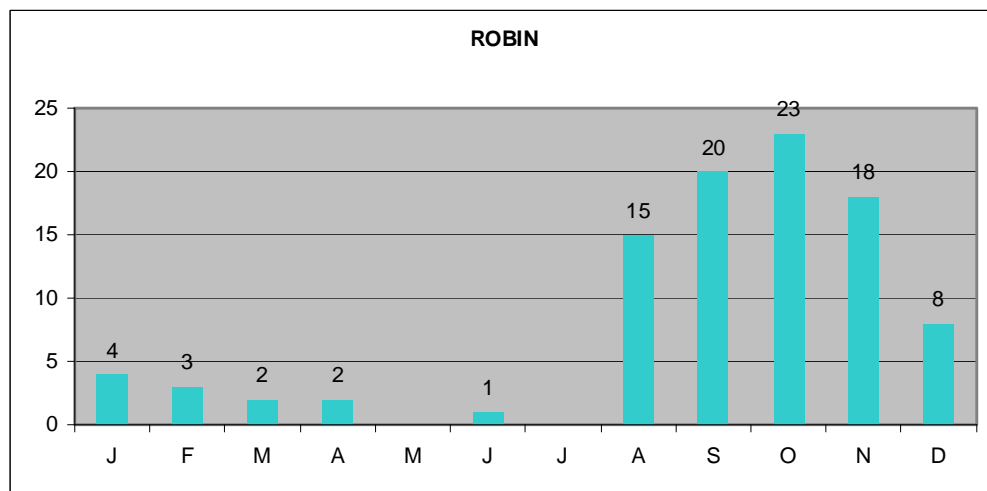
Three pairs held territories.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*
Resident



Possibly one pair bred this year, numbers were low for the first eight months of the year increasing slightly during the latter part of the year.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*
Winter visitor and passage migrant at the Hoe.



No proof of breeding this year, numbers were pretty low during the first seven months of the year. Numbers started to increase in August with the arrival of continental birds and peaking in October.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Resident and passage migrant

First sighting of the year was of a male on 20 March followed by a female on the 22nd, two noted on the 29th. 1-3 on eleven dates in April, 4 on the 4th and 19th. Two recorded on 10, 17, 27 and 28 May, A pair plus 2 young on the 30th, one plus one fledgling on the 31st. Two juveniles on the 1st of June, female and 2 young on the 2nd. Four on the 12th and 20th and 2 fledged young on the 18th. Nine on 19 July (2 adults and 3 juveniles at the east end of the Hoe and 2 adults and 2 young at the west end.) Six birds on the 31st. During August 6 were noted on the 10th, 7 on the 17th, 9 on the 20th and 11 on the 30th. Six were seen on 7 September, 7 on the 13th, 9 on the 20th and 10 on the 27th. Going into October six were noted on the 1st, 4 on the 5th and 9th and 8 on the 12th and 25th. Usual numbers in November with 3 on the 1st, 2 on the 13th and 16th plus one on five other dates. Last records for the year were of a single on 12 and 20 December.

COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Scarce passage migrant

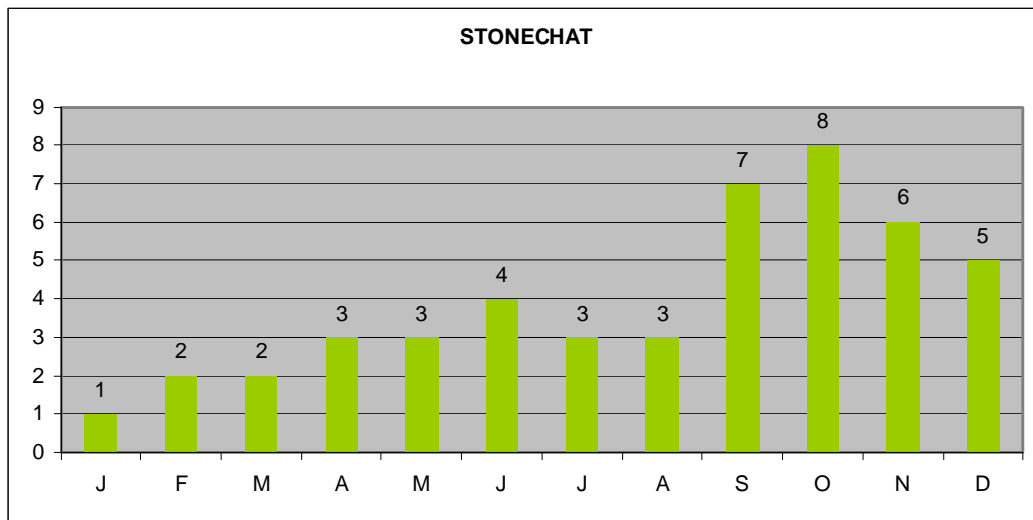
One spring record and that was of two males on 7 April. First bird of the autumn was on 24 August when one was noted the last bird of the year was of 1 on 25 September.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Scarce passage migrant

First bird of the year was a male on the 11th of April. First of the autumn migration were 2 on the 17th of August. Singles on the 22nd, 24th and 26th of September and the last birds of the year were 2 on the 31st.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*



Resident and passage migrant

Male seen feeding 1 young on 5 July.

3 pairs held territory.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common passage migrant

The first migrants arrived on the Hoe in March, the first being on the 12th further singles arrived on the 22nd and 23rd followed by 3 on the 29th. Numbers increased in April with 15 on the 7th, 9 on the 11th and 6 on the 12th and 14th, the last bird of the month was a single on the 26th. 1 on the 3rd, 7th and 8th of May, 2 on the 10th. One singing male on the 31st

First of the returning birds were 2 on 1st June and then 1 on the 26th and 27th of July, 2 on the 28th. Numbers increased in August with 8 on the 9th, 9 on the 22nd, 6 on the 30th and 5 on the 31st. There were four double figure counts in September and they were 11 on the 5th, 20 on the 7th, 18 on the 10th and 10 on the 16th. In October 8 were noted on the 4th, 4 on the 12th and 26th and 3 on the 31st. Four single sightings during the first week of November one of which was reported to be of the Greenland race. Last sighting of the year were 2 on the 13 November.

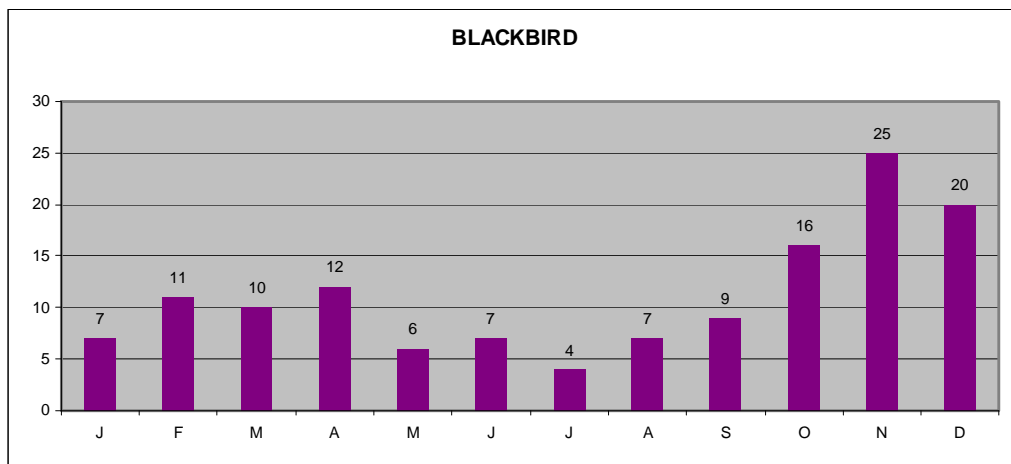
RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant

Two spring records this year with a female seen on 4 April, 1 on the 7th. There were also two records in the autumn, 1 on 7 October and 1 on the 16th.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Resident, passage migrant, winter visitor.



Numbers remained fairly consistent during the first eight months of the year but increased during the last three months with continental birds adding to the numbers.

Breeding 7 pairs.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Uncommon winter visitor

One on the 14th of October was the first bird of the autumn, Single on the 29th. A small flock of 20 were recorded on the Hoe on the 6th of November.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Winter visitor, passage migrant

Four on the 1st of January, 6 on the 2nd and 3 on the 24th. 1-2 recorded throughout February. One on four dates in March. Just the one sighting in April. 1-2 throughout May, June July and August. One on the 23rd of September. Three were recorded on the 8th, 12th and 13th of October and 6 on the 28th. Five on the 6th of November and 7 on the 22nd. Mainly 1-2 throughout December but 6 noted on the 14th.

No breeding records this year.

REDWING *Turdus illacus*

Winter visitor

Two on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 24th of January, One on the 11th and 29th. 3 on the 28th of February. The last of the outgoing birds was 1 on the 5th of March. First birds of the autumn were 6 on the 8th of October, singles on the 13th, 14th and 28th and two on the 20th. An influx of 200 was recorded on the 6th of November, 11 on the 7th and 10 on the 8th. Singles on four other dates. One on the 12th and 14th of December.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Scarce passage migrant

The only sighting of this species on the Hoe this year was of 1 on the 15th of September

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Scarce passage migrant

Only two records during the autumn migration period and they were of 1 on the 25th of July and the other on the 26th of August.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Scarce passage migrant

First of the returning birds was recorded on the 2nd of August, then 1 on the 23rd and 24th, A Single on the 10th of September was the last sighting of the year on the Hoe.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Summer visitor, passage migrant

Three on the 16th of April were the first birds of the year followed by 2 on the 25th. 2 were noted on the 7th of May plus singles on seven other dates. During June singles were recorded on four dates. In July there were 2 on the 24th, 27th, 28th and 29th.

2 on the 13th, 14th and 19th of Aug and 3 on the 24th. Two on the 3rd and 10th of September and the last sighting of the autumn was of 1 on the 14th of September.



Lesser Whitethroat

Photo Phil Smith.

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Summer visitor and passage migrant

First of the spring arrivals were 2 on the 12th of April followed by 5 on the 19th, 4 on the 25th and 5 on the 26th. Six records in May, the highest days totals being 7 on the 5th, and 6 on the 10th. Two double figure counts in June, 10 on the 14th and 12 on the 20th. Double figure counts continued in July with 12 on the 19th and again in August with 16 on the 17th, 17 on the 24th, 13 on the 26th and 10 on the 31st. Numbers fell away in September with 3 on five dates, 4 on three dates and then 7 on the 14th. Last birds of the autumn were 2 on October the 3rd and 1 on the 5th.

5 territories held.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Scarce passage migrant

1 seen on the 2nd of August proved to be the only record of the year.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Passage migrant

First record of the year was of one in Woody Gully on the 27th of March followed by another single bird on the 29th. Two were recorded on the 12th and 19th of April. First of the returning birds were noted in July with 1 on the 3rd, 18th and 28th, 2 on the 26th. Numbers in August consisted of 3 on the 10th, 4 on the 23rd and 27th increasing to 8 on the 31st. Four on the 14th of September. After the third week of September numbers increased with 24 on the 23rd, 8 on the 24th, 11 on the 27th and 6 on the 28th. Highest totals recorded in October were 13 on the 7th, 18 on the 9th and 6 on the 28th. There was a single on the 1st of November and the last of the year was of 1 in Gate scrub on the 28th of November.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Summer visitor, passage migrant

One over-wintering bird was seen on the Hoe on 27 February. First of the spring migration was a single on 27 March followed by one on the 28th. Six were seen on the 3rd and 6th of April plus singles on three dates. There were singles on six dates in July and five dates in August. Numbers increase in September with 7 on the 10th, 26 on the 15th, 33 on the 25th and 15 on the 28th. During the first two weeks of October there were 8 on the 1st, 7 on the 5th and 14 on the 8th and then 7 on the 26th. Last of the year were 3 on 5 November.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Passage migrant

First sighting of the year was of a single on the 26th of March followed by 6 on the 7th of April and 2 on the 16th. One on the 8th of May. First of the returning birds were noted in August when 4 were seen on the 10th, 5 on the 14th, 15 on the 24th and 4 on the 27th. Singles on the 7th and 19th of September, 2 on the 14th and the last bird of the year was recorded on the 25th of September.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Passage migrant

First record of the year was of 1 on the 12th of March, Singles on the 26th, 27th and 28th and 3 on the 17th and 30th. The only other spring record was of 1 on the 3rd of April. First birds of the autumn were 3 on the 23rd of September and 2 on the 28th. Singles on the 8th, 13th and 14th of October, 2 on the 4th and 28th. One on the 1st and 2nd of November were the last birds of the year.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

Scarce passage migrant

First sighting of the year was of 2 on nd April. No other records until October when 1 was recorded on the 25th then 3 on the 28th and 2 on the 29th. One picked up dead on the seawall on the 12th of November. Last of the year was a single on 19 November.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Scarce passage migrant

Just the one record this year and that was of 1 on 24 August.

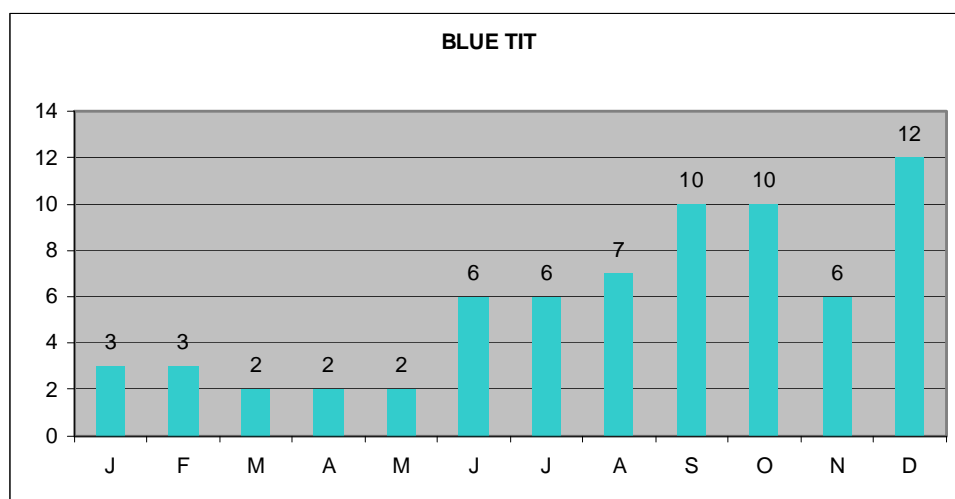
PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Scarce passage migrant

The only record of the year was of 1 seen in Gate scrub on the 10th of July.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident

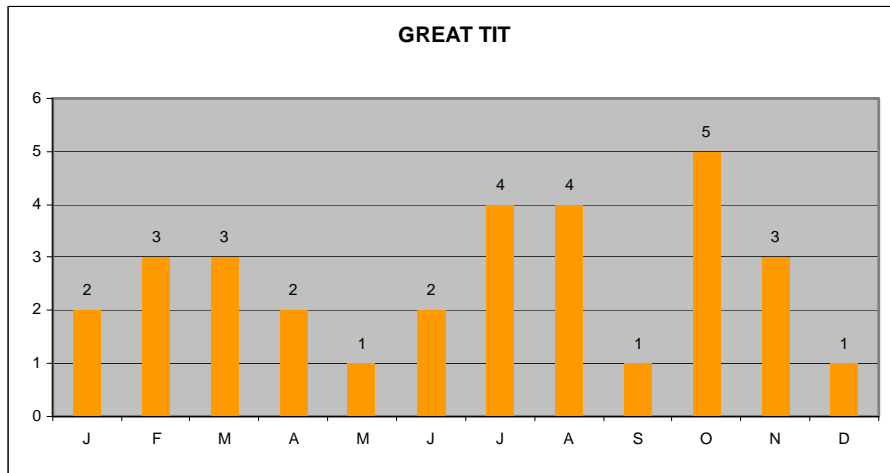


One seen with fledged young on 27 May, Family party of 6 on 13 June. Numbers increased during the last five months of the year.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident

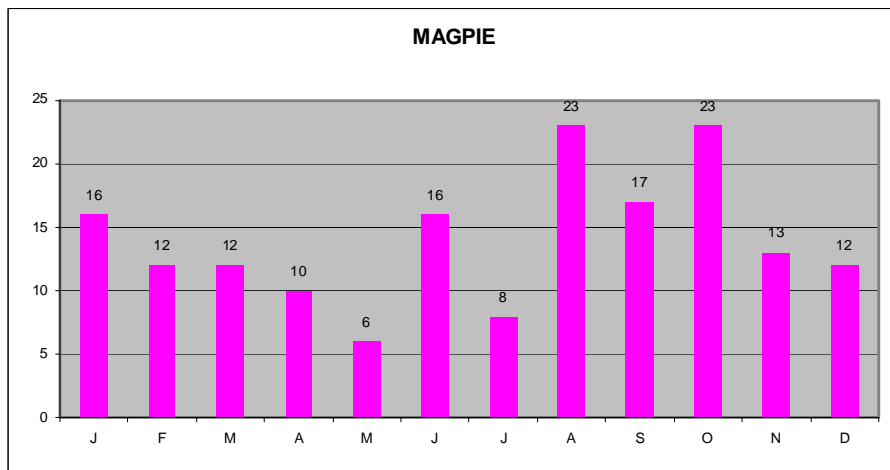
Seen feeding young on 21 May, 2 Juveniles on 13 June.



MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Resident

Highest numbers recorded were 23 on 31 August and again on the 5th of October. 3-4 territories held.



JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Resident

Most of the records come from the western end of the Hoe where the cliff face is more rugged than the cliff face along the Hoe.

40 were noted on the 8th of February, 32 on the 8th of March 30 on the 12th. Highest total in April was 20 on the 4th., 19 on the 4th of June. 25 on the 24th of August. Numbers during the last quarter of the year ranged between 20 and 30.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Passage bird

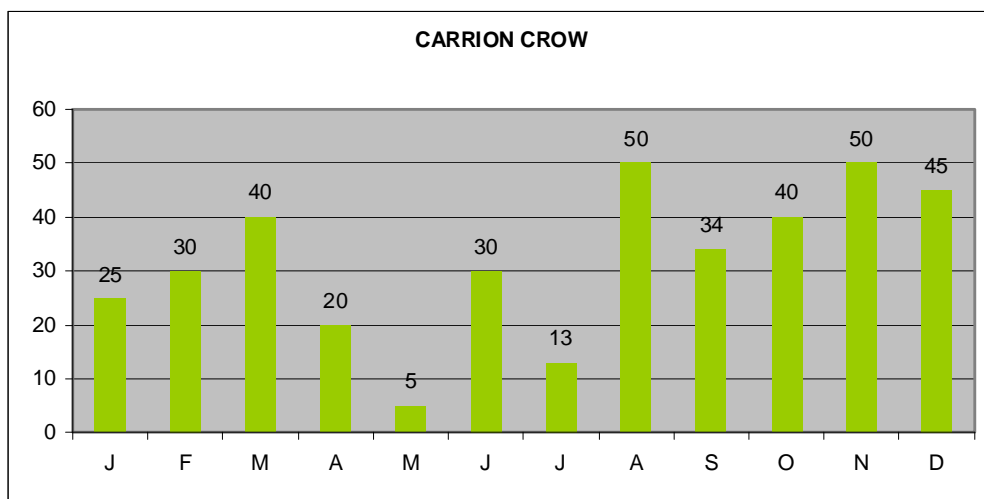
2 on the 10th of September, 2 on the 26th of October and 4 flying west on the 31st.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Resident breeder

Present all year at the Hoe.

Max territories held 3



RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Resident

Two on the 1st, 5th and 13th of January. Two flying west on the 1st, 3rd and 22nd of February. Single recorded on eight dates during March. Two on the 2nd of April 1 flying west on the 4th, one flying east on the 9th 2 on the 10th and 1 on the 13th and 16th. Two flew east on the 8th of May and 5 flew west on the 23rd of June. Two going west along the cliff face on the 12th and 16th of August. Two flying west on the 14th, 20th, 21st and 23rd of September. Two were noted flying west on the 5th of October and then again on the 11th and 24th, Two going east on the 31st. Two recorded on five dates in November. Two over the Hoe on the 2nd of December and one on the 17th and 19th.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Winter visitor, passage migrant

Starlings no longer breed on the Hoe. No records for the first four months of the year. Six on the 30th of May and 18 on the following day. A flock of 80+ which consisted of many juveniles on the 21st of June. 30+ on the 2nd, 23rd and 29th of July. Numbers increased in August with 400 on the 1st, 100 on the 2nd and 6th, and 300 on the 9th and 10th. Just the one record in September and that was of 8 on the 23rd. 80 flew east on the 28th of October. Incoming migrants were noted in November with 170 in off the sea on the 5th, 23 on the 6th and 180 on the 7th. The only record for December was of 1 on the 12th.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Uncommon visitor

One on 23 and 24 September, then again on 25 October and 27 November.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Rare

One on 14 October.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident, passage migrant

One on the 8th and 27th of February. Five flew east on the 12th of March 1 on the Hoe on the 28th and 29th. Two on the 11th and 25th of April. Between May and August there were only two records of a single bird. Incoming migrants lifted the numbers in September with 6 on the 20th, 7 on the 23rd 8 on the 26th and 12 on the 27th. Good numbers for the Hoe in October with 16 on the 9th, 13 on the 12th, 11 on the 25th and 9 on the 28th. Seven on the 1st of November and 5 on four other dates. 1-2 throughout December but 8 were recorded on the 21st.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Scarce visitor

One flew east on the 28th of March, 2 recorded on the 5th of November.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Mainly a passage bird

Five flew east on the 26th of March and 2 on the 28th. Four seen to come in off the sea on the 3rd of April. Two seen on the Hoe on four other dates during the month. Two adults plus one young on the 30th of May. Six were recorded on the 27th of June and 5 on the 28th. Six on the 12th of July and 4 on the 15th and 19th. Just a single sighting in August. 8 on the 29th of September. 49 flew west over the Hoe on the 12th of October and 45 going east on the 14th. A large movement was noted on the 28th with 822 flying west over the site. On the 5th of November 170 flew east over the Hoe and a further 120 also going east on the 7th, 40 on the 13th and 15th. Last birds of the year were two on the 2nd of December.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Regular passage migrant

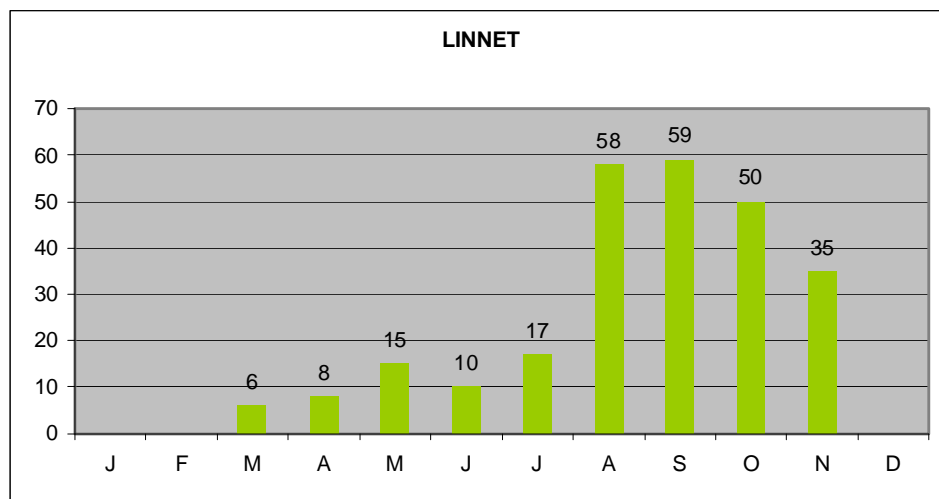
Easterly movement noted during March with 6 on the 15th, 15 on the 25th, 25 on the 27th and 85 on the 28th. Autumn movements began on the 14th of September with 13 flying west, then 65 moving east on the 28th. 100 flew west on the 11th of October, 50 going east on the 14th and 24th then 562 again going east on the 28th. During November 35 flew west on the 2nd, 116 went east on the 5th, 80 on the 6th, 10 on the 7th and 125 on the 8th. Other sightings in November were 14 on the 13th, 10 on the 15th, 13 on the 16th and 5 on the 20th.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Summer visitor and passage migrant

First birds of the spring were 2 on 22 March. Highest days totals during the year were 58 on 31 August, 59 flying west on 27 September and 50 going west on 12 October. Last birds of the year were 35 going west on 5 November.

4 Breeding territories.



REDPOLL *spp*

All the records are of unidentified birds flying over the Hoe and they are 2 on 12 October, 30 on 5 November, 5 on the 13th and 3 on the 28th.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Passage bird

13 flew east on 29 October and 1 on 7 November.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

Rare

One reported over the Hoe on 6 October.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare winter visitor

One on the seawall on 8 November.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Recorded from time to time

One on the 15th of November.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Occasional visitor

One on five dates in March. One male on 4 April, and a female on 15 June. The only other records are of 1 on 5 August and 15 November.

CORN BUNTING *Millaaria calandra*

Rare

One reported on 21 August.

