



## 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>. Fifty Gannets and 100 Auk spp were offshore on the 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

### February

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

### March

The first Wheatear of the year was recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup>, A Chiffchaff on the 17<sup>th</sup>, a Black Throated Diver was seen offshore on the same date. Twelve Avocets flew east past the Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 635 Brents moved east on the 26<sup>th</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup>, Sixty-five Siskins moving east on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and a Shag offshore on the same date.

### April

Two Firecrests were seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Sparrowhawk on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The first Swallow of the year for the Hoe was also on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the 7<sup>th</sup> 2 Common Redstarts, 6 Willow Warblers and 15 Wheatears were noted. A female Ring Ouzel was present on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The first Hobby of the year turned up on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 Common Whitethroats on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 Lesser Whitethroats on the 26<sup>th</sup>. A Greenshank flew past on the 27<sup>th</sup>. On the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

### May

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

## June

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

## July

A Collared Dove was recorded over the Hoe on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>. Seven Swifts flew west on the 7<sup>th</sup> and a Pied Flycatcher was reported to be on the Hoe on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Two Little Egrets flew east on the 13<sup>th</sup>. A Sedge Warbler was recorded on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and 43 Mediterranean Gulls were seen on the west beach also on the 25<sup>th</sup>. First of the returning Wheatears was recorded on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Thirty Common Scoters flew east on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Three Common Sandpipers were seen on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

## August

Garden Warbler recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Four Sand Martins flew over on the 8<sup>th</sup> and a Yellow Wagtail was seen along the back track on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Two Ravens flew west on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and a Hobby was noted on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. A juvenile Montagues Harrier flew west on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Two Whinchats on the 17<sup>th</sup> were the first birds of the autumn. A Corn Bunting was reported on the 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> and 2 Common Buzzards flew west on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

## September

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

## October

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

## November

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

## December

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



## SYSTEMATIC LIST 2011

### **GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser*

*Passage bird*

5 flew east on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla*

*Passage bird*

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

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

### **SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna*

*Passage bird*

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

### **WIGEON** *Anas Penelope*

*Passage bird*

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

### **GADWALL** *Anas strepera*

*Passage bird*

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

### **COMMON TEAL** *Anas crecca*

*Passage bird*

Two on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, 10 flying east past the Hoe on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. 41 moving west on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, 2 going east on the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February are the only two records for the year.

**SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*

Passage bird

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

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. 9 flying east on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November.

**COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*

Passage bird

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

**RED BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*

Passage bird

1 seen off the Hoe on January the 1<sup>st</sup>. Three flew down channel on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. On the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, the other sighting was of 1 flying west over the Hoe on September the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**MONTAGUS HARRIER** *Circus pygargus*

*Rare Passage bird*

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

**SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

*Resident*

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

One on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 2 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup> of August. One on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of September.

**KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

*Resident*

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

1-2 throughout March, April, May and June. Four birds recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

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 7<sup>th</sup> and 1 observed flying in an easterly direction past the Hoe on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Two sightings in June and they were of singles on the Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. One on August the 6<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup>, One was seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the last record was of a juvenile on the 8<sup>th</sup>.



**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 26<sup>th</sup> of June, and probably the same bird on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa*

*Occasional visitor, has bred*

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

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 25<sup>th</sup> of February and then 2 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April.

**PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*

*Resident*

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

**RED THROATED DIVER** *Garvia stellata*

*Winter visitor*

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

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

48 flying west on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of December.

**BLACK THROATED DIVER** *Garvia artica*

*Occasionally seen offshore during the winter months.*

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

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

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Garvia immer*

*Rare winter visitor*

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

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

*Occasional visitor to the Hoe*

One remained on the main pond from the 29<sup>th</sup> of October to the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus*

*Common offshore during the winter months.*

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

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

**SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*

*Rare winter*

2 seen off the western end of the Hoe on March the 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus*

*Rare*

One flew east on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October.

**GANNET** *Morus bassanus*

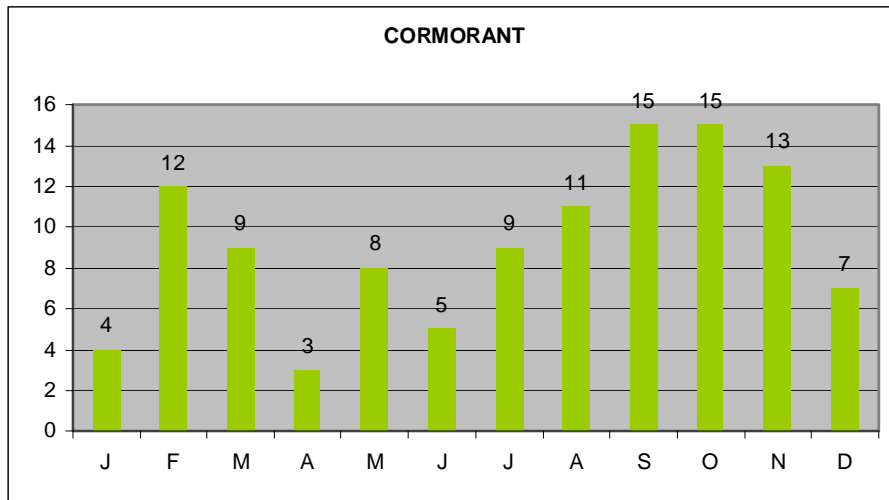
*Regular offshore during the winter months.*

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

Four flew westward on September the 26<sup>th</sup>. Three double figure counts in October and they were 30 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 70 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 20 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Twenty offshore on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 34 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Ten were recorded on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> of March. Single sighting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of August and a juvenile on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 1 off the seawall on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September and on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of October. Two seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November and a single on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Four seen off the Hoe on December the 21<sup>st</sup> plus singles on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

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

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

**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 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

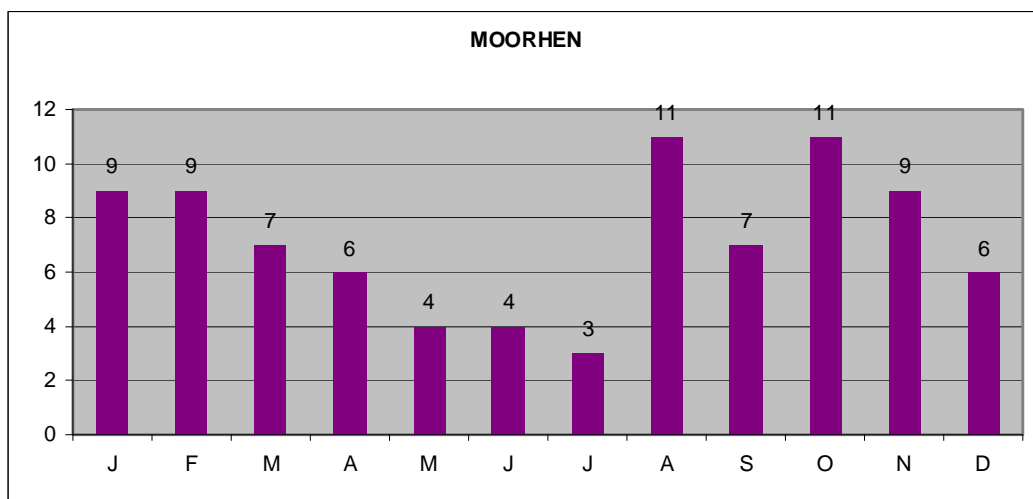
*Scarce winter visitor*

One recorded from the main pond area on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, 1 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. Single sighting on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of March. No records during the summer months. First record of the winter was of 1 by the main pond on the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of May, One going west on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Two on 11 and 12 July. Two on 17 August, 4 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 3 on the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>, Two also going east on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. The only other record was of 2 flying east on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

**GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*

*Passage migrant*

Nine flew east on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and 17 on May the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola*

*Passage migrant*

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

**LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*

*Passage migrant, winter visitor*

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

**KNOT** *Calidris canutus*

*Passage migrant*

2 flew east on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April and 8 on May the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

*Passage migrant*

4 going east on April the 30<sup>th</sup>, 4 east on May the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

*Passage migrant*

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

**COMMON SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

*Scarce winter visitor*

One seen on the Hoe on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of January.

**BAR TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*

*Passage migrant*

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

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

*Passage migrant*

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

**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 24<sup>th</sup> of February. One recorded on the Hoe on eight dates between the 8<sup>th</sup> of March until the 28<sup>th</sup>. One flew east on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November.

**REDSHANK** *Tringa tetanus*

*Occasional visitor, Passage migrant*



**Redshank**

Photo by Phil Smith

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

**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

*Scarce passage migrant*

One flew east past the Hoe on April the 27<sup>th</sup>, 3 flew east on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>. Single on five dates in August and 2 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Last bird of the autumn was of 1 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September.

**POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

*Scarce passage migrant*

Two flew east on April the 28<sup>th</sup> and 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

**ARTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

*Passage migrant*

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

**GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua*

*Passage migrant*

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

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*

*Regular visitor*

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

**LITTLE GULL** *Hydrocoloeus minutes*

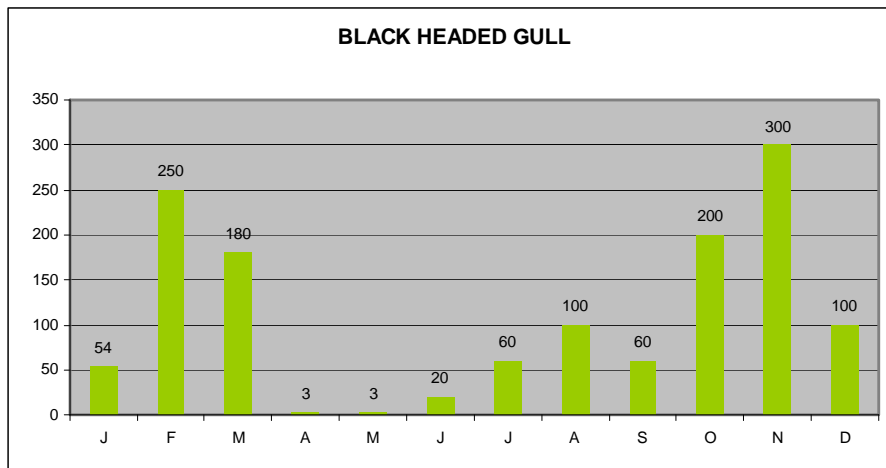
*Scarce passage migrant*

1 seen off the Hoe on 26 October.

**BLACK HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

*Resident more so in the winter than summer.*

250 offshore on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 180 seen flying east on 25 March.



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

**COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

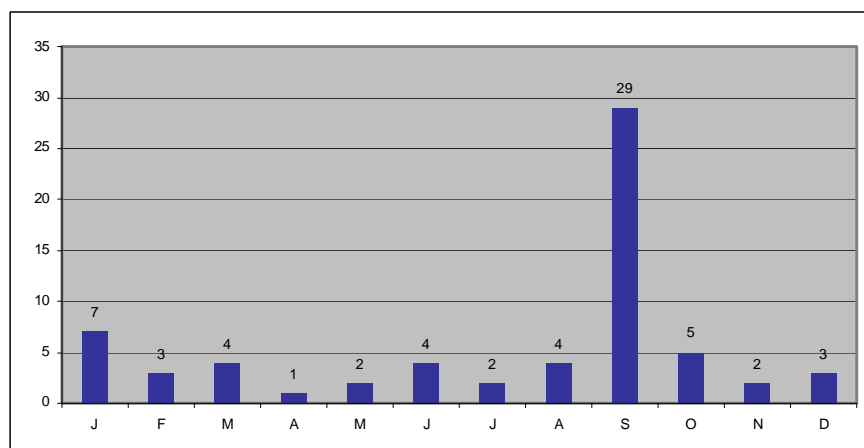
*Passage migrant and winter visitor*

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

**LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus*

*Passage migrant*

Regularly seen offshore from the Hoe in the winter months.

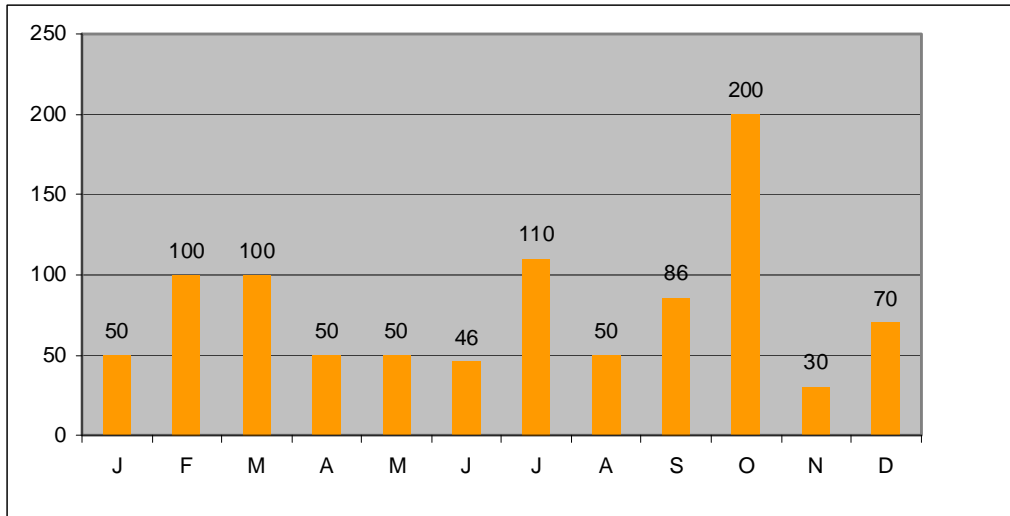




**HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*

*Common resident breeder*

200 on the west beach on Oct the 31<sup>st</sup>.



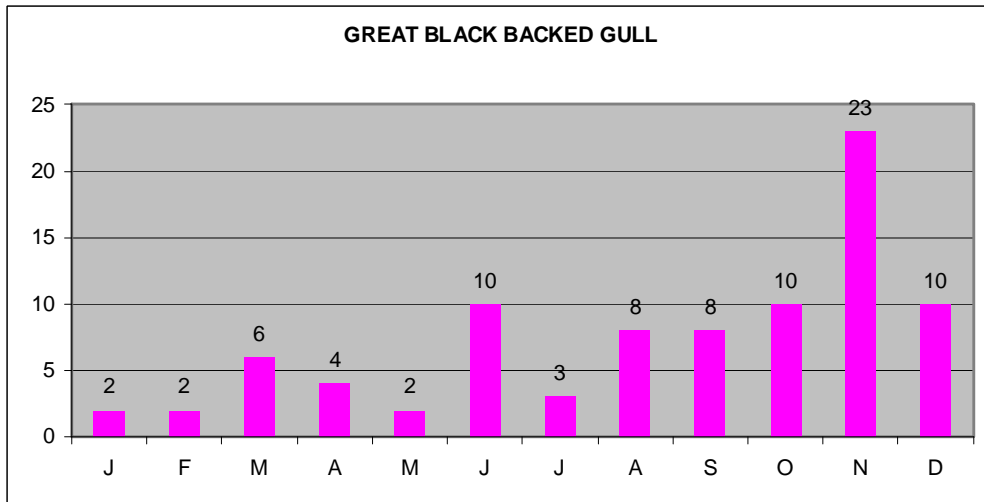
**YELLOW LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis*

*Uncommon passage migrant*

One on the rocks at the western end of the Hoe on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December.

**GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus*

*Mainly a winter visitor*



20 flew west on December the 6<sup>th</sup>, 50 on the 13<sup>th</sup>

**KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

*Passage migrant*

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

**SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis*

*Common passage migrant in spring and summer*

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

**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

*Passage migrant*

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

**ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*

*Passage migrant*

Two flew west on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September and on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.

**GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*

*Mainly a winter visitor*

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

**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*

*Mainly a winter visitor.*

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



**Razorbill**

Photo by Phil Smith

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*

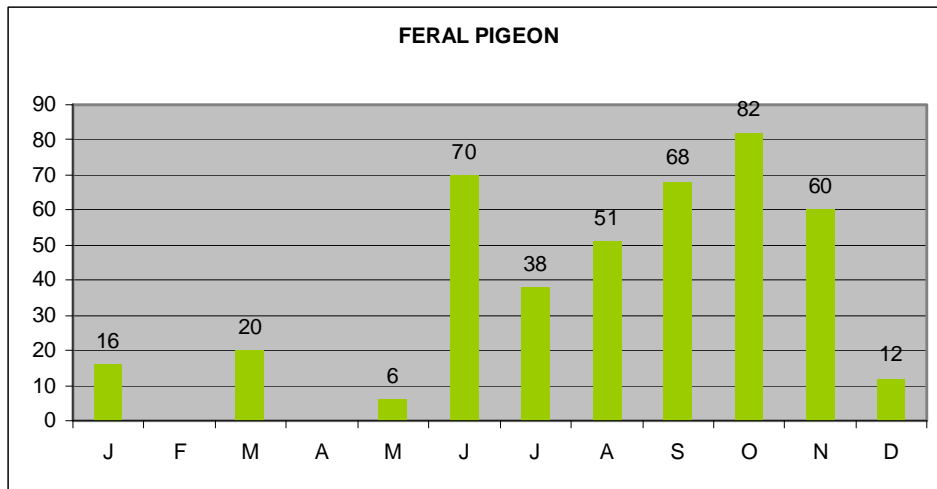
*Resident*

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

*Two pairs held territory*

## FERAL PIGEON

*Resident*

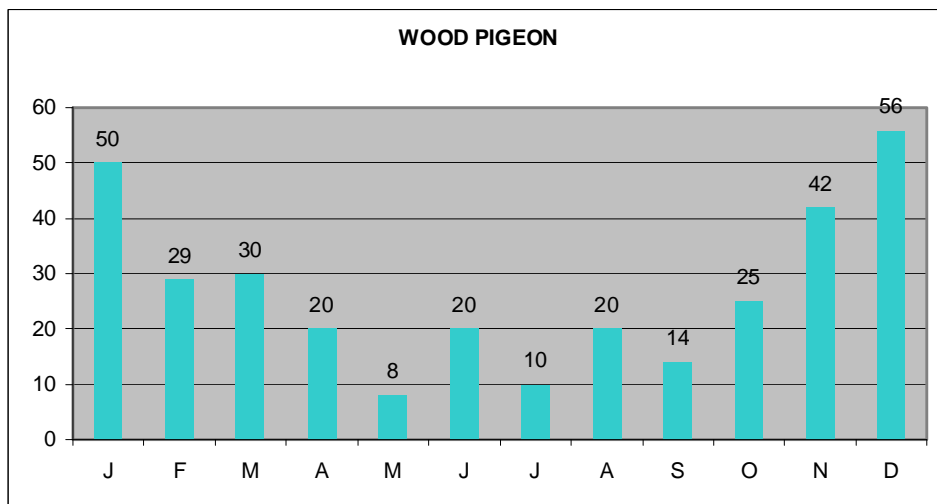


Up to 30 birds present on the cliffs to the west of the Hoe.

## 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 24<sup>th</sup>. 1 noted on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and 2 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August.

**TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur*

*Rare visitor to the Hoe*

Singles seen in the cliff face scrub on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May and the 29<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October, One recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of November.

**COMMON SWIFT** *Apus apus*

*Summer passage migrant*

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

**GREENWOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*

*Resident but absent during the breeding season.*

Single on six dates in January and three dates in February. One on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> of September.

**SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

*Resident breeder, passage migrant*

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

*One breeding pair on the Hoe this year.*

**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

*Scarce Passage migrant*

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

**SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

*Passage migrant*

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

**RED RUMPED SWALLOW** *Hirundo daurica*

*Rare migrant*

One seen over the Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> of April followed by 4 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Twenty over the Hoe on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 40 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 50 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. 60 recorded on June the 6<sup>th</sup>, 30 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 35 on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 85 on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 100 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Numbers increased in August with 120 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 108 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 100 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 180 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. 40 flew west on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 65 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 33 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 18 going west on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 40 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 8 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Last birds of the year were 6 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. 25 active nests at the East end, 16 at the west end.

### MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

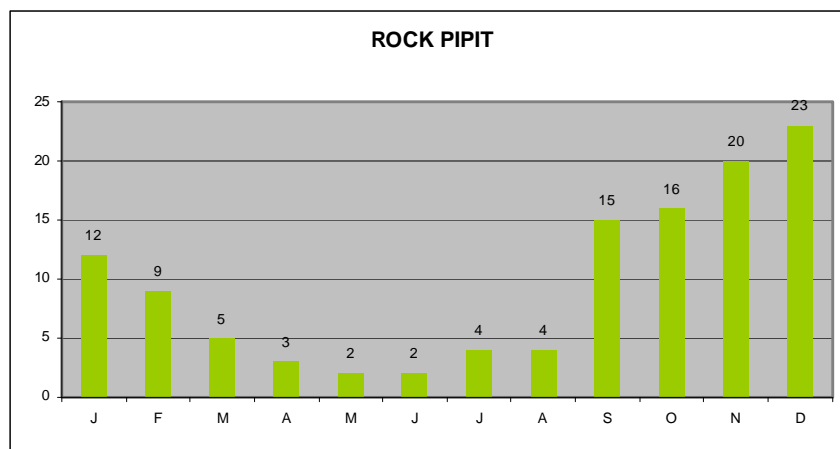
Resident, passage migrant

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

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea*

*Passage bird.*

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

**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla yarrellii*

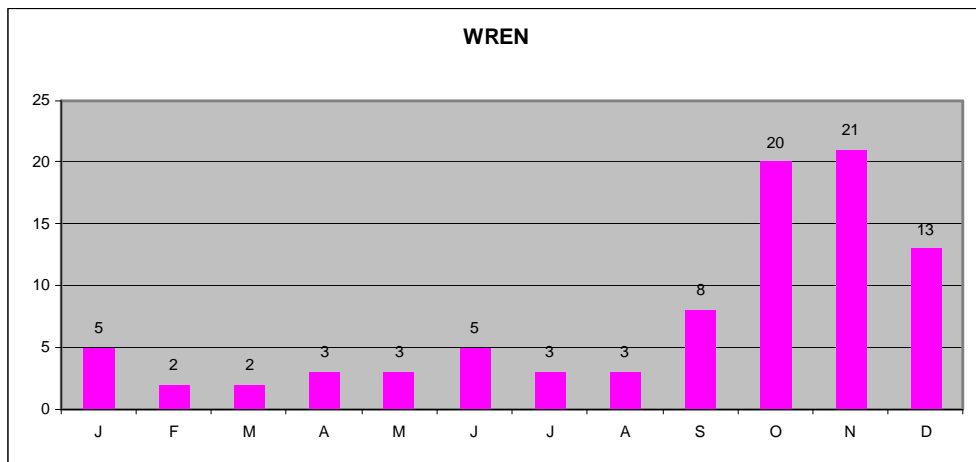
*Regular visitor to the Hoe, has bred.*

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 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of October. Singles on five dates in November.

**WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

*Resident.*

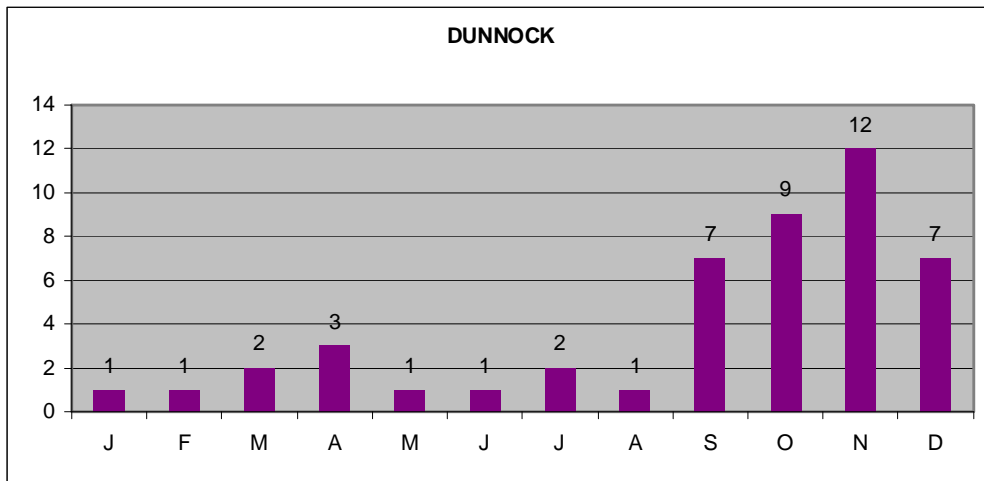
Unusually high numbers in October and November with 20 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October and 19 on November the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 21 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.



*Three pairs held territories.*

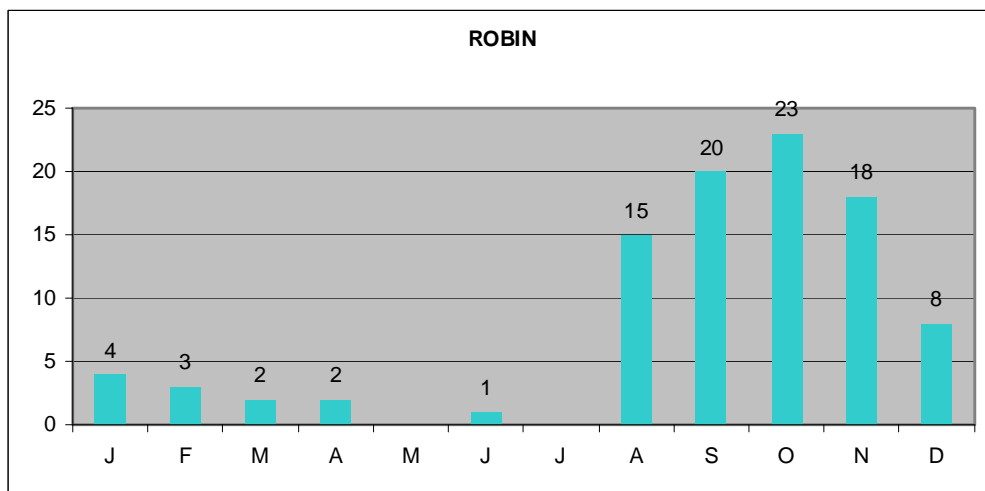


**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*  
Resident



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 22<sup>nd</sup>, two noted on the 29<sup>th</sup>. 1-3 on eleven dates in April, 4 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Two recorded on 10, 17, 27 and 28 May, A pair plus 2 young on the 30<sup>th</sup>, one plus one fledgling on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Two juveniles on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, female and 2 young on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Four on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and 2 fledged young on the 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup>. During August 6 were noted on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 9 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 11 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Six were seen on 7 September, 7 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 9 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 10 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Going into October six were noted on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and 8 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Usual numbers in November with 3 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> plus one on five other dates. Last records for the year were of a single on 12 and 20 December.

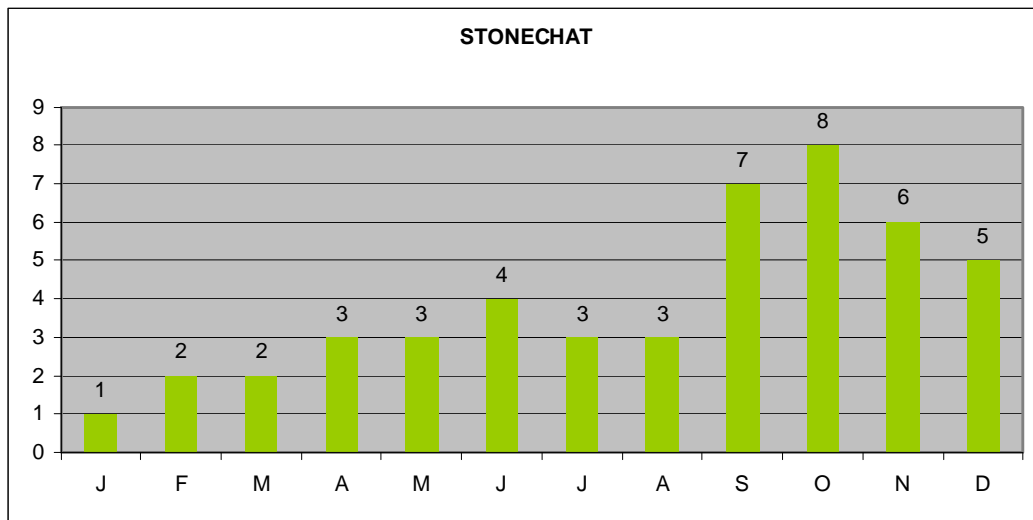
**COMMON REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

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 11<sup>th</sup> of April. First of the autumn migration were 2 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August. Singles on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of September and the last birds of the year were 2 on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

## 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*

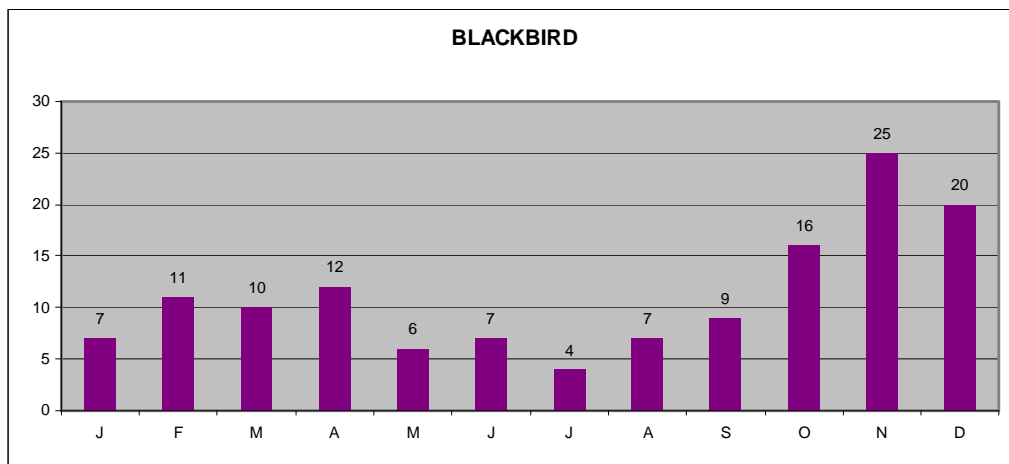
The first migrants arrived on the Hoe in March, the first being on the 12<sup>th</sup> further singles arrived on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by 3 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Numbers increased in April with 15 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 6 on the 12<sup>th</sup>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

First of the returning birds were 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> June and then 1 on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of July, 2 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Numbers increased in August with 8 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6 on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 5 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. There were four double figure counts in September and they were 11 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 20 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 18 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 10 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. In October 8 were noted on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and 3 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup>. There were also two records in the autumn, 1 on 7 October and 1 on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> of October was the first bird of the autumn, Single on the 29<sup>th</sup>. A small flock of 20 were recorded on the Hoe on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

*Winter visitor, passage migrant*

Four on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 6 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. Three were recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October and 6 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Five on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November and 7 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mainly 1-2 throughout December but 6 noted on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

*No breeding records this year.*

**REDWING** *Turdus illacus*

*Winter visitor*

Two on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of January, One on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. 3 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. The last of the outgoing birds was 1 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. First birds of the autumn were 6 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, singles on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and two on the 20<sup>th</sup>. An influx of 200 was recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, 11 on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Singles on four other dates. One on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> of September

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

*Scarce passage migrant*

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

**REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

*Scarce passage migrant*

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

**LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*

*Summer visitor, passage migrant*

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

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

*5 territories held.*

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*

*Scarce passage migrant*

1 seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> of March followed by another single bird on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Two were recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of April. First of the returning birds were noted in July with 1 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Numbers in August consisted of 3 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> increasing to 8 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Four on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September. After the third week of September numbers increased with 24 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 11 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 6 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Highest totals recorded in October were 13 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 18 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 6 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a single on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and the last of the year was of 1 in Gate scrub on the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>. Six were seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 26 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 33 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 15 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. During the first two weeks of October there were 8 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 14 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and then 7 on the 26<sup>th</sup>. 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 26<sup>th</sup> of March followed by 6 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April and 2 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. One on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. First of the returning birds were noted in August when 4 were seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 5 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15 on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 4 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Singles on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September, 2 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the last bird of the year was recorded on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.

**GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

*Passage migrant*

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

**FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapillus*

*Scarce passage migrant*

First sighting of the year was of 2 on <sup>nd</sup> April. No other records until October when 1 was recorded on the 25<sup>th</sup> then 3 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. One picked up dead on the seawall on the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

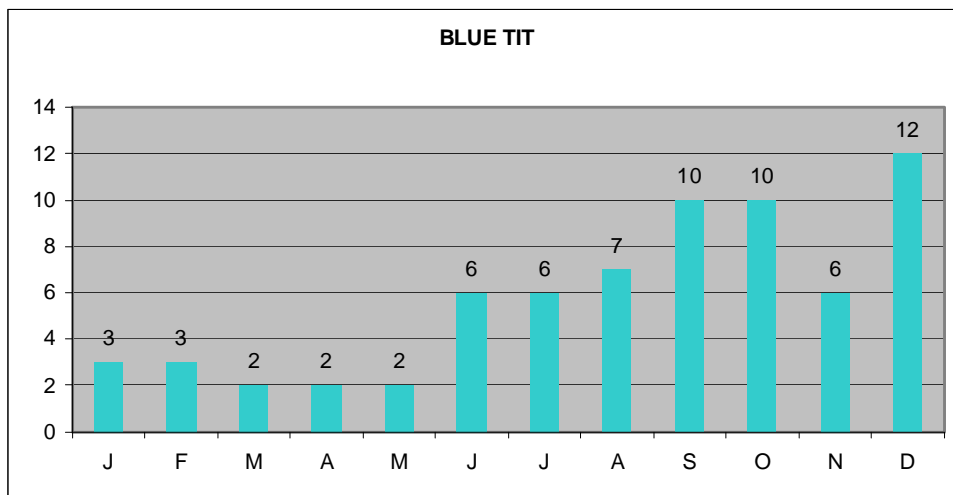
**PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

*Scarce passage migrant*

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

**BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

*Resident*

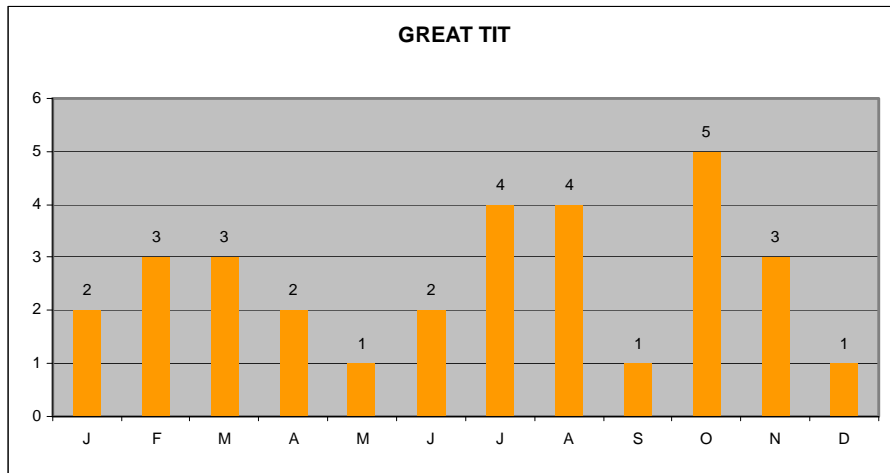


One seen with fledged young on 27 May, Family party of 6 on 13 June. Numbers increased during the last five months of the year.

**GREAT TIT** *Parus major*

*Resident*

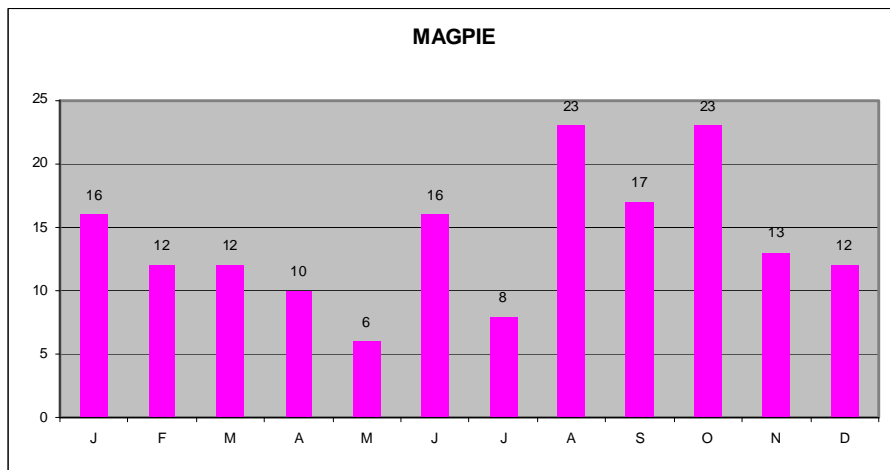
Seen feeding young on 21 May, 2 Juveniles on 13 June.



**MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

*Resident*

Highest numbers recorded were 23 on 31 August and again on the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> of February, 32 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 30 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Highest total in April was 20 on the 4<sup>th</sup>., 19 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June. 25 on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. Numbers during the last quarter of the year ranged between 20 and 30.

**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

*Passage bird*

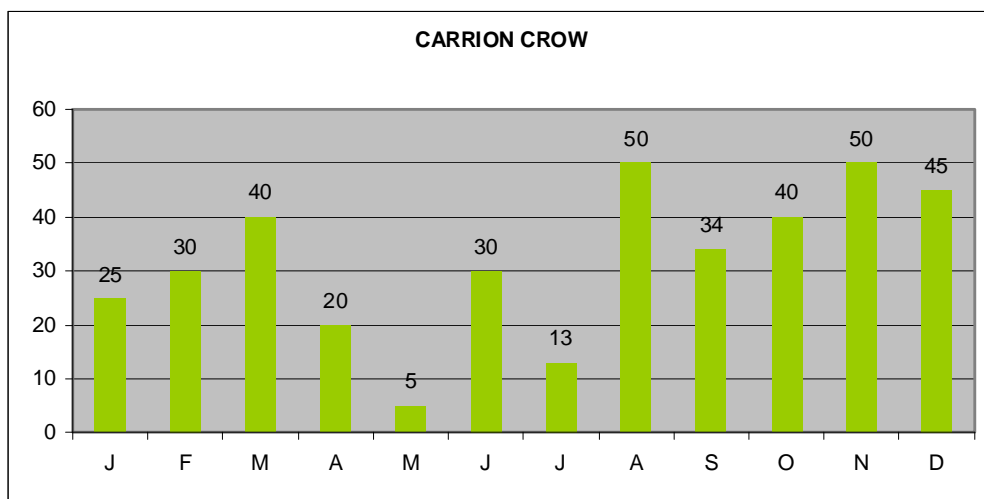
2 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, 2 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October and 4 flying west on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone*

*Resident breeder*

Present all year at the Hoe.

*Max territories held 3*



**RAVEN** *Corvus corax*

*Resident*

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

**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 30<sup>th</sup> of May and 18 on the following day. A flock of 80+ which consisted of many juveniles on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. 30+ on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of July. Numbers increased in August with 400 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 100 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and 300 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Just the one record in September and that was of 8 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 80 flew east on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. Incoming migrants were noted in November with 170 in off the sea on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 23 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 180 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The only record for December was of 1 on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February. Five flew east on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1 on the Hoe on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Two on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 8 on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 12 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers for the Hoe in October with 16 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 13 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 11 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 9 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Seven on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and 5 on four other dates. 1-2 throughout December but 8 were recorded on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

*Scarce visitor*

One flew east on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, 2 recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

**GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

*Mainly a passage bird*

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

**SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

*Regular passage migrant*

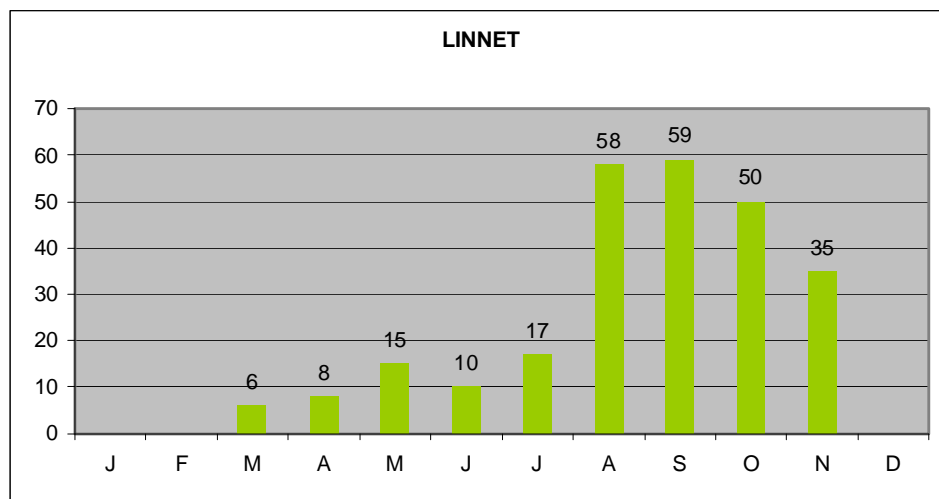
Easterly movement noted during March with 6 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 15 on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 25 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 85 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Autumn movements began on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September with 13 flying west, then 65 moving east on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 100 flew west on the 11<sup>th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

**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 13<sup>th</sup> and 3 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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** *Miliaria calandra*

*Rare*

One reported on 21 August.

