

# SAMPHIRE HOE BIRD REPORT

## 2015



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

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.

**123 species** were recorded in 2015, 25 species held territory in the recording area. The bird report includes a monthly summary and then a systematic list of species seen during the year. The information given under the species name is the bird's status at Samphire Hoe.

**Thanks** go to Derek Smith who has compiled the report and all the contributors, in particular all the volunteer Rangers, Phil Smith, Tony Prentice, Roger Card and Les Collins, and also to all the other observers including Ian Roberts and Geoff Burton.

**Photo credit:** Paul Holt and Phil Smith



## **SAMPHIRE BIRD REPORT**

# SUMMARY FOR 2015

## January

Five **Red Throated Divers** flew East on the 4<sup>th</sup>, a **Shag** on the 5<sup>th</sup>. A **Firecrest** was noted on the 7<sup>th</sup>. A flock of 40 **Meadow Pipits** on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 143 flew East past the Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 **Stonechats** recorded also on the 20<sup>th</sup>. A single **Long Tailed Tit** noted on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A **Great Skua** was seen offshore on the 25<sup>th</sup> and a **Raven** flew by also on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 30 **Rock Pipits** on the West beach on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

## FEBRUARY

Three **Fieldfare** recorded on the 4<sup>th</sup>. One **Hen Harrier** reported from on the seawall on the 8<sup>th</sup>. 16 **Great Crested Grebes** offshore on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 16 **Fulmar** noted at rest on the sea on the 11<sup>th</sup> plus one **Brambling** on the Hoe. 26 **Red Throated Divers** flew East on the 13<sup>th</sup> plus **192 Brents**. **Raven** noted on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Three **Peregrines** on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## MARCH

The first **Wheatear** of the spring was recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup>, a single noted on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A **Chiffchaff**, the first of the spring was also recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Three **Peregrines** at the Eastern end of the Hoe on the 10<sup>th</sup>, also a **Sparrowhawk** was recorded on the same day. 2 **Buzzards** on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Single **Red Legged Partridge** on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Two **Shag** offshore on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 **Rock Pipit** of the species *Littoralis* were recorded from on the West beach on the 16<sup>th</sup> also seen on the 17<sup>th</sup>. 110 **Brents** flew East also on the 17<sup>th</sup>. 6 **Common Gulls** flew past on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

## APRIL

A **Firecrest** recorded on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 **Swallows** on the 6<sup>th</sup> were the first of the year, six **Shelduck** flew North. The first **Blackcap** of the spring was noted on the 7<sup>th</sup>. A female **Ring Ouzel** was found on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 3 **Little Egrets** flew East. First **Sandwich Terns** recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 80 **Common Scoter** flew East on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the three **House Martins** seen on the same day were the first of the year. Two **Common Whitethroats** noted on the 21<sup>st</sup> were the first of the spring arrivals, 5 **Whimbrels** seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A **Black Throated Diver** seen offshore on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first **Willow Warbler** was recorded on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 2 **Buzzards** on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## MAY

A **Merlin** was seen to come in off the sea on the 1<sup>st</sup>, a **Yellow Wagtail** flew over on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. 15 **Gannets** offshore on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. A **Manx Shearwater** flew west on the on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Three pairs of **Stonechats** recorded feeding young on the 6<sup>th</sup>. 5 **Swallows** in off the sea on the 7<sup>th</sup>, the first **Swifts** of the year were also recorded on that day also the first **Lesser Whitethroat**. On the 11<sup>th</sup> 1 **Turnstone**, 3 **Whimbrel** and 52 **Common Scoter** were all seen to be moving East. The first **Reed Warbler** appeared on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Pair of **Meadow Pipits** feeding young on the 15<sup>th</sup> as were a pair of **Rock Pipits**. Two **Shags** offshore on the 15<sup>th</sup>. A **Red Breasted Merganser** flew East on the 15<sup>th</sup>. A **Common Sandpiper** recorded on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Two **Greenfinches** noted on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## JUNE

A single **Pheasant** seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 2 **Manx Shearwaters** flew past on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Two **Black Redstarts** and 3 juveniles recorded from the east end of the Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A **Hobby** noted over the Hoe on the 14<sup>th</sup> plus a **Red Backed Shrike** was reported to be on site. Two **Teal** recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup>. 50+ **House Martins** on the 18<sup>th</sup>. More than 40 **Swifts** flew west on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** recorded on the Hoe on the 25<sup>th</sup> and a single **Chiffchaff** on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## JULY

First of the returning **Wheatears** seen on the 1<sup>st</sup>. A **Hobby** was recorded on three dates this month. 115 **Swifts** flew west on the 14<sup>th</sup>. A **Reed Warbler** turned up on the 28<sup>th</sup> and a **Whimbrel** flew West on the same day. A **Spotted Flycatcher** recorded on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## AUGUST

Two **House Sparrows** on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 **Ravens** and 1 **Hobby** on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A **Grasshopper Warbler** noted on the 15<sup>th</sup> followed by a **Garden Warbler on the 17<sup>th</sup>**. C.150 **Starlings** on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Six **Wheatears** recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** the second of the year was logged on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 30 **Med Gull** seen on the same day. Three **Yellowhammers**, a rare visitor to the Hoe were recorded on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Six **Whinchat** noted on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## SEPTEMBER

Twelve **Wheatears** were present on the Hoe on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1 **Swift** flew west and a **Grasshopper Warbler** was recorded plus 6 **Lesser Whitethroats**. A **Kingfisher** was noted on the west beach on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. One **Jay** recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup>. On the 7<sup>th</sup> 2 **Spotted Flycatchers** were logged along with 6 **Black Redstarts** and a **Wood Warbler**. Three **Common Sandpipers** observed on the 9<sup>th</sup>. 128 **Siskins** flew east on the 11<sup>th</sup>. 5 **Willow Warblers** noted on the 13<sup>th</sup> along with a **Firecrest** and 2 **Sand Martins**. Estimated 10,000 **Swallows** moved west during the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 6 **Ravens** present also on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Three **Whinchats** on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 14 **Chiffchaffs** noted on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

## OCTOBER

160 **Siskins** flew east on the 6<sup>th</sup>. A male **Bullfinch** noted on the 8<sup>th</sup>. 35 **Ring Ouzels** present on the Hoe on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A late **Lesser Whitethroat** and a **Hobby** recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A **Dartford Warbler** was found on the Hoe on the 18<sup>th</sup> and was last seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> and a **Red Breasted Flycatcher** turned up on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Seven **Black Redstarts** recorded on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

## NOVEMBER

A **Short Eared Owl** was present on the Hoe on seven different days up until the 17<sup>th</sup>. A **Shag** was present offshore on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers of **Robins** still present around the Hoe, **Ravens** seen on six dates. An unusual bird in the way of a **Ring Necked Parakeet** was seen flying east past the Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## DECEMBER

A **Shag** offshore on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. 3 **Chiffchaffs** and one **Fieldfare** on the 15<sup>th</sup>. **Raven** displaying along the cliff face on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 35 **Rock Pipits** on the west beach on the 16<sup>th</sup>. **Black Redstart** noted on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. A **Barn Owl** recorded on the 24<sup>th</sup> close to the tunnel entrance to Samphire Hoe. 30 **Common Gulls** flew West on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A **Water Rail** was discovered by the log pile on the 28<sup>th</sup>.



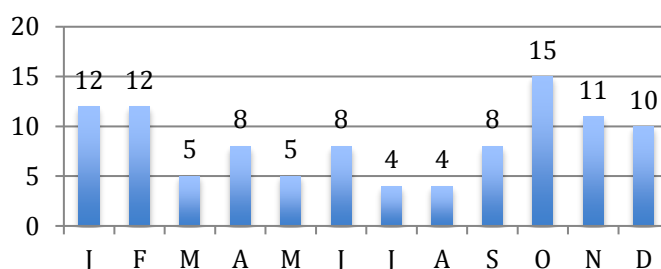
## SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2015

**BAR TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica* *Passage migrant*  
25 flew East on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April.

**BARN OWL** *Tyto alba* *Rare visitor*  
One seen sitting on the fence at the entrance to the Samphire Hoe road tunnel on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December.

**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula* *Resident/Passage migrant*

### BLACKBIRD



5 pairs held territory. No significant influx of birds this autumn.

**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla* *Passage migrant/ breeder*  
First bird of the year was a single on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April followed by one on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Two were seen on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. One on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. Single sighting on the 4<sup>th</sup> and again on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Not recorded again until late July when two were noted. One on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of August and 5 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Numbers moving through the Hoe increased in September with 12 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 11 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 20 on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 16 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> dropping back to 4 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Three double figure days in October and they were 20 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 12 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The last of the autumn migration appeared to be the 7 recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.  
*One territory held.*

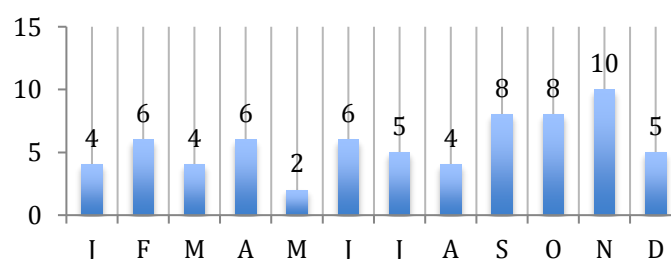
**BLACK HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus**Passage/winter visitor*

Peak monthly totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
80	100+	30	6	6	1	30	20+	30+	20	150	100+

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros**Passage migrant/breeder*

One on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of January then on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of February. One seen at the West end of the Hoe on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 1-2 throughout April at the eastern end of the Hoe, heard in song in the security compound. Heard in song at the western end on five dates, 2 seen on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. 2 plus 3 juveniles noted on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 3 young on the 10<sup>th</sup>. One recorded at the west end on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Female plus 3 juveniles on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Female feeding 2 young on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 2 noted on six dates in July, 3 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. One feeding fledged young on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 6 recorded on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 4 recorded on five dates in August, 5 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 7 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 1-4 during later part of the month. 6/8 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 6 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 7 on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 2-3 on eight other dates. One recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. One on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of December.

*Max breeding pairs: 2***BLACK THROATED DIVER** *Gavia immer**Winter visitor*One bird in summer plumage seen off the Hoe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April.**BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus**Resident***BLUE TIT**

A family group of 6 noted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. 8 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September and 4<sup>th</sup> of October. 10 recorded on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November.

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla**Scarce winter visitor*

One on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. One on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup> followed by 4 on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**BRENT GOOSE** *Branta Bernicla* *Common passage migrant*  
 16 flew East on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January then 143 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Easterly movement continued into February with 192 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20 recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Further Easterly movements noted in March with 40 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 1,168 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 110 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 30 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. 220 flew East on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 70 flew East on the 10<sup>th</sup> then smaller movements of between 16 and 28 on three other days. 100 flew East on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. The last of the spring migration was one on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. First of the autumn returning birds were 2 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of September. 60 passed the Hoe on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, 7 flew east on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 29 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 4 recorded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. 3 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December then 3 East on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* *Uncommon on the Hoe*  
 One in Gate Scrub on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October.

**CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone* *Resident breeder*

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
8	20	15	20+	30	20	20+	20	20	20	30	12

50 flew West on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, 100 seen on the West beach on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October.

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs* *Passage migrant*  
*Has bred*

One on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of January Two on the 25<sup>th</sup>. One on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. Two on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March and again on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of April. Single on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May. One on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September Two on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Five on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October and 7 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 1-3 during November 7 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 6 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December.



**CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita* *Passage migrant*

First bird of the year was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March followed later by one on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6 recorded on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Singles on several dates during April, 3 on the 6<sup>th</sup>. One noted on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Two on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of August. 1-3 recorded on nine dates in September and 14 noted on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A movement of birds through the Hoe was recorded in October with 16 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 14 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 25+ on the 9<sup>th</sup>. 1-3 recorded during the rest of the month. Three on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. The last record of the year was of 3 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

**COMMON BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

*An unusual visitor/Passage bird*

Two flew over on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March followed by 1 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. 2 flew past on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, One on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May. Singles were again recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August, 7<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September 3<sup>rd</sup> of October and the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

**COMMON GULL** *Larus canus* *Passage migrant*

Two offshore on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 12 flying West on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 4 flew West on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 3 on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 6 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. One on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April. 2 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July followed by one on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Single sightings on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November. 35 recorded on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December and 30 flew West on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMON REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* *Passage migrant*

First birds of the autumn migration were singles on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. No other records.

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos* *Passage migrant*

First passage bird of the year was noted on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May. First of the returning birds were 2 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August followed by one on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Last birds of the year were 3 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September.

**COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra* *Passage migrant*  
390 flew East on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. Two flocks flew East on the 10<sup>th</sup> but no numbers were logged. Easterly movement noted later in the month with 80 recorded on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 25 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and then 4 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. 30 moving up channel on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May and 52 moving East on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The first bird of the autumn was of a single flying West on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 25 flew East on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**COMMON SWIFT** *Apus apus* *Passage migrant*  
First birds of the spring were 4 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May followed by 10 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. One seen to come in off the sea on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 8 recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, 40 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 15 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 115 were observed moving west along the cliff tops on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, 4 noted on the 27<sup>th</sup>. More than 20 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August plus 3 going West on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Last sighting of the year was of a single on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

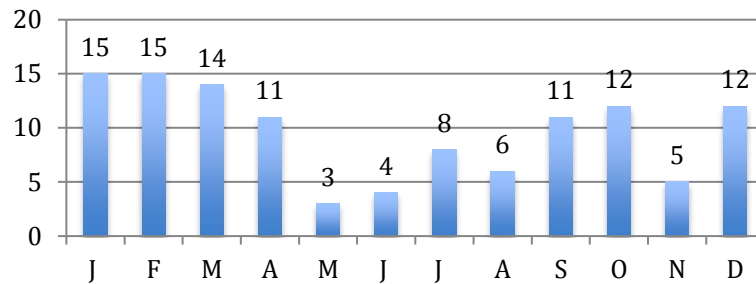
**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo* *Passage migrant*  
3 East on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, 2 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July.

**COMMON WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis* *Passage/breeder*  
First birds of the spring were 2 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April followed by 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 recorded on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Three on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May and 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup>, singles recorded on seven other dates during the month. Two on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of June, 4 juveniles and one adult on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Two on five dates in July, 4 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 2-4 on eleven dates in August, 5 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 22 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Small movement continued in September with 40+ on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 12 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Two on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and the last of the autumn was a single on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.  
*3 pairs.*

**CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

*Resident non breeder*

### CORMORANT



132 flew East on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February, 100 West on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 37 East on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**CURLEW** *Numenius aequata*

*Passage migrant*

One on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January and again on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. One flew west on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of May. Three flew West on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. One on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July and on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September.

**DARTFORD WARBLER** *Sylvia undata*

*Scarce passage migrant*

One found on the Hoe on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October this individual remained for a further two days before disappearing.

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

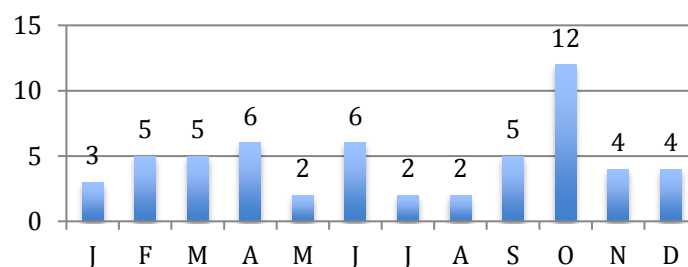
*Passage migrant*

Two flew East on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February.

**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*

*Resident/Passage migrant*

### DUNNOCK



12 were noted in Woody Gulley on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, 7 of which were close together, probably new arrivals.  
*3 pairs held territory.*

**FERAL PIGEON**      *Columba livia*      *Resident breeder*  
Seriously under recorded, 27 noted on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December.

**FIELDFARE**      *Turdus pilaris*      *Winter visitor*  
One on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. One on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.



**FIRECREST**      *Regulus ignicapilla*      *Passage migrant*  
One recorded in Woody Gulley on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. One heard on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April followed by a single sighting on the 5<sup>th</sup>. First birds of the autumn were singles on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September. One recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October then again on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**FULMAR**      *Fulmaris glacialis*      *Resident/Summer breeder*  
6 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of January, 8 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 2-3 birds throughout February plus 5 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and 16 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. 10 on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March and 6 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 11 present along the cliffs on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 6 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 2 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of May. 4 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June then a count of 2 throughout the rest of the month. 3 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 2 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2 on the 10<sup>th</sup> plus a single sighting on four other dates. Two on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, then 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Last bird of the summer noted on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. First of the returning birds were 6 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, 8 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 1 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and 3 on the 21<sup>st</sup>  
*No evidence of breeding this year.*

**GANNET** *Morus bassanus* *Winter visitor/Passage migrant*

Three on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of January, 6 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 58 offshore on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. 20 offshore on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, 730 flew East on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 10 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 20 offshore on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March. 22 offshore on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 28 flew East on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 15 seen offshore on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. Five flew East on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, 17 seen offshore on the 13<sup>th</sup> 8 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 9 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 5 recorded on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August. One on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. 2 going West on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. 8 offshore on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Single sightings on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November. 6 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, 3 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 4 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and one on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin* *Passage migrant*

One on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August and the 7<sup>th</sup> of September.

**GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus* *Passage migrant*

The only spring record was of one on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April. Just before the autumn, 2 were noted on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September and 4 on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 1-2 were recorded on seven other dates during the month. Autumn passage was noticeable during October with 18 recorded on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 16 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 15 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Just a single on two dates in November. Through December, singles were recorded on six dates and 2 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria* *Passage migrant*

One flew East on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.

**GOLDFINCH**      *Carduelis carduelis*      *Mainly a passage bird*

One on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of January. One on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. 15 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April. During May, June and July numbers seen never exceeded two. Not much change in August and September with just 20 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August otherwise just 1-3 being recorded. Easterly movements noted in October with 55 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 155 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and a large movement of 2,500 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. 65 East on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 8 flew West on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, 12 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. One on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

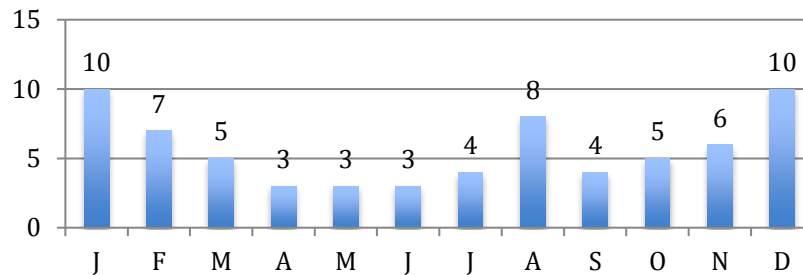


**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**      *Locustella naevia*

*Scarce passage migrant*

One on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August and then again on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.



**GREAT BLACKED BACK GULL** *Larus marinus**Passage bird***GREAT BLACKED BACKED GULL**

54 recorded past the Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December.

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus**Mainly a winter visitor*

One on three dates in January. 16 offshore on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February and 10 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. One seen offshore on six dates during March plus 2 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and 6 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Two on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 3 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. One on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. First birds of the winter were 2 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. One on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December and 2 on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua**Passage migrant*

One offshore on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 1 flew East on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. The only other sighting was of 1 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April.

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos minor**Passage bird*

One on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June followed by one on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. The next records were singles on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October.

**GREAT TIT** *Parus major**Resident*

4 on the 30<sup>th</sup> January, but the average for the month was between 1 and 2. Throughout the spring and summer months, sightings ranged between one and two. Three recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 1-2 on several other dates. Four recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October and for the remaining weeks of the year numbers ranged between one and two.

**GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris*

Two on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May.

**GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis* *Mainly a winter visitor*

First records of the year were of a single bird on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of September. Three single sightings in October and 4 in November. One on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea* *Passage bird*

One flew over on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February and again on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. Not recorded again until one flew past the Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August. 2 recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, 1 flew East on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Just the single sighting in October. One over the Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November. Single sightings on four dates during December.

**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola* *Passage migrant*

One flew East on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April.

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea* *Passage bird*

One on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of January. One on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August. Single flew over on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of September followed by 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. One recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October and again on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

**GUILLEMOT/RAZORBILL** *Uria aalge/alca torda* *Winter visitor*

Not reported off the Hoe during the first four months of the year, it was not a very cold winter but still unusual not to have late winter sightings. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of May one Razorbill and 3 Guillemots were recorded. 9 Guillemots reported offshore on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December plus one Razorbill, 38 Auk spp flew West, these were mainly Guillemots. One Guillemot off Samphire Hoe on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**HERRING GULL***Larus argentatus**Resident breeder*

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
30	30	100	50	50	50	50	60	30	50	50	100

**HOBBY***Falco subbuteo**Summer visitor*

One on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Single recorded on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July. One over the main pond on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August and a late sighting of a single on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October.

**HOUSE MARTIN***Delichon urbicum**Summer visitor*

First birds of the year were 3 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April followed by 2 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 5 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Numbers increased in May with 20 being recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 30 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Highest count noted in June was 50 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. 30 recorded on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of July. August saw numbers increase to more than 50 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, more than 100 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. c.600 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, more than 100 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. 8,000 reported flying West on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 40 flew East on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of October and 20 on the 20<sup>th</sup> appeared to be the last of the year at Samphire Hoe.

**HOUSE SPARROW***Passer domesticus*

2 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August then 1 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October.

**JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

*Resident breeder*

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
22	11	10	8	15	15	9	7	14	30	10	12

**JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

*Passage migrant*

One on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September.

**KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

*Resident has bred*

One recorded on many dates during the first five months of the year. Two noted on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June followed by 1-2 throughout July and August. Four recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of September, 5 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. During October numbers recorded were 6 on the 6<sup>th</sup> followed by 7 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, the average count for the month was between 2 and 4. Up to 2 throughout November and December but 3 were recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

**KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

*Scarce passage migrant*

One recorded from the west beach on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.

**KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

*Passage migrant*

An uncommon bird off the Hoe this year with just 3 reported sightings and they were, 1 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 10 flying East on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February and a single offshore on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May.

**LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*

*Passage migrant*

Five on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February then 1 on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus* *Passage migrant*

Peak Monthly Totals

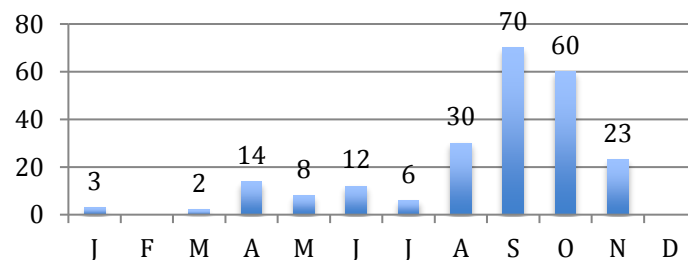
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
6	3	2	1	2	3	2	4	3	2	3	5

**LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca* *Passage migrant*

First bird of the year was on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May then not recorded again until one was noted on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Single sightings on three dates during July. Birds appeared to be moving through the Hoe in August with 3 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, one on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 5 recorded on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Six noted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 3 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. One recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of October and the last of the year was of a single on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October.

**LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina* *Passage bird/breeder*

**LINNET**



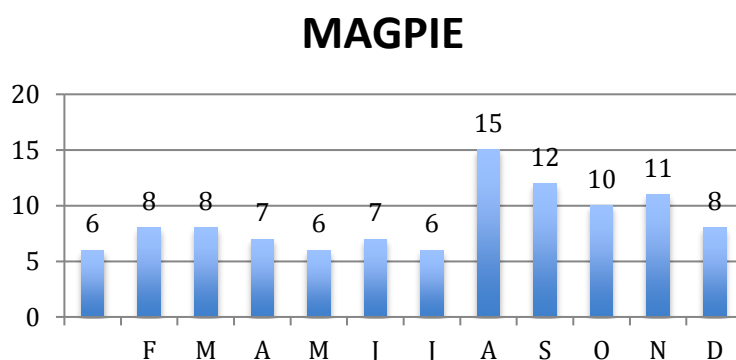
Highest flocks were 70 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, 40 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 60 on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. Max 4 pair, min 3.



**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta* *Passage bird*  
 Two flew past the Hoe on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January, 1 East on the 30<sup>th</sup>. One on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of February and then again on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. 3 flew East on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. Single on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. 4 recorded on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July. One recorded on five dates during September. 2 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of Oct. One on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November. During December singles were recorded on five different dates, 2 noted on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

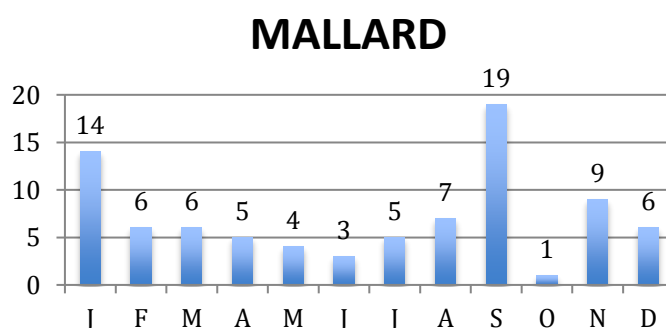
**LONG TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus* *Occasional visitor*  
 One recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January. One remained on the Hoe for three days on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of February.

**MAGPIE** *Pica pica* *Resident breeder*



Three pairs held territory

**MALLARD** *Anus Platyrhynchos* *Resident/breeder*

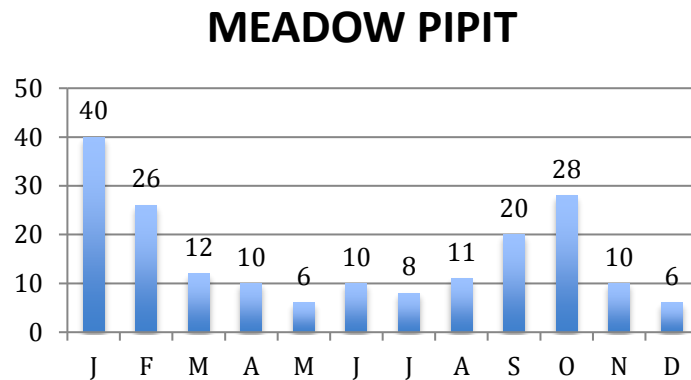


8 Ducklings on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 4 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. 1 Juvenile on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 6 new brood on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. 3 Adults and 5 ducklings on the 16<sup>th</sup>. 3 adults and 2 ducklings on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July.



**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus* *Passage migrant*  
 One flew West past the Hoe on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, then another was recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.

**MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis* *Passage migrant/Resident*



High numbers in January, 40 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 20 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and 30 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. In February counts of over 20 were recorded on six days. Pair feeding young on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. One seen carrying food on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June and 21<sup>st</sup> of July. Twelve double figure counts of between 12 and 28 during October.  
*7 pairs held territory.*

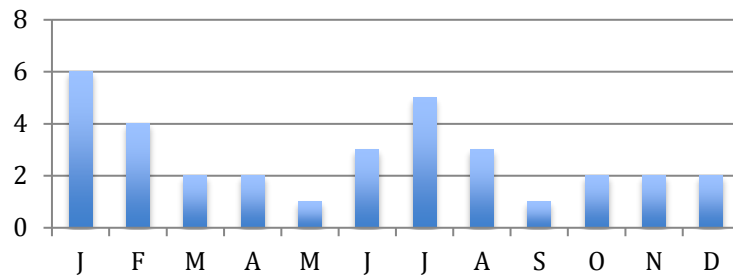
**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus* *Passage migrant*  
 One on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of January. Two flew West on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March and then 2 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Five West on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, 22 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. 30+ past the Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August and 3 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Four off the Hoe on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and then 15 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. 6 flew West on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November followed by 5 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, then 3 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius* *Passage bird*  
 One seen to come in off the sea on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

**MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

*Resident breeder*

## MOORHEN



2 juveniles recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of June. 3 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July.

**NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe* *Passage migrant*

One on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March was the first reported bird in Kent this year followed by 1 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The next records were in April with 3 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. One of the Greenland race was noted on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Three recorded on the 29<sup>th</sup>. One on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May. First of the returning birds was a single on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Not recorded again until one was seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of August then 6 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> followed by 5 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 4 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Small movement on the 1<sup>st</sup> September with 12 being recorded. 6 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. 1-2 on fourteen other dates during the month. Single sightings on eight dates in October. The last birds of the year were 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup>.



**OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus* *Passage bird*

One flew past on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. One on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. Two East on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March and the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. One West on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. 6 flew West past the Hoe on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August followed by 2 going East on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus* *Resident breeder*

Two on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of January at the East end of the Hoe, 2 recorded from the West end on the 26<sup>th</sup>. 1-2 at the East end of the Hoe throughout February, March and April, 3 noted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February and on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. Mating recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. 1-2 throughout May, June and July at the Eastern end with 2 recorded from the West end on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. No evidence of successful breeding. For the remaining five months of the year numbers remained between one and two, 3 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

**PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus* *Occasional visitor*

Single on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of June. A break of about three months before the next record which was of 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. Pair recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. Single on five dates during November. One on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December and 2 on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba yarrelli* *Passage migrant*  
*Has bred*

One on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. Next records were not until August when one was recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> then one in September on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. 3 were seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, 2 flew East on the 5<sup>th</sup>. 3 East on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 3 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Single seen on six dates in November and eight dates in December.

**PINTAIL** *Anas acuta* *Passage bird*

5 flew East on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. One on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April.

**RAVEN***Corvus corax**Regular visitor*

One on the 25<sup>th</sup> of Jan and again on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. Three on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of March. Single sightings on seven dates during April and 2 on four other dates. Two on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of May. Two on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. One on seven dates during August, 2 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Four on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of September, 6 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, there were twelve other sightings of between 1 and 3 during the month. 2 to 3 on many dates during October and November. Similar numbers recorded in December.

**RED BACKED SHRIKE***Lanius collurio**Rare visitor*

One reported on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, observer unknown.

**RED BRESTED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula parva* *Rare visitor*  
One discovered on the Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, a new record for the site.



**RED BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrater* *Passage migrant*  
One recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. 3 flew West on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

**RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa* *Occasional visitor*  
One on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of March. One on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April and then one on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August.

**REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea sp*  
1 flew East on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 6 going East on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 4 on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**RED THROATED DIVER** *Gavia stellata* *Winter visitor*  
5 flew East on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January. Easterly movement noted on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February with 26 flying past the Hoe followed by 12 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. A single on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March and 6 flying East on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 16 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. 4 flew East on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April and 1 on the 11<sup>th</sup> were the last spring sightings.

**REDWING**     *Turdus iliacus*

*Winter visitor*

First of the autumn were 3 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 5 recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and 8 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Just the one record for November and that was of 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.



**REED BUNTING**     *Emberiza schoeniclus*

*Passage bird*

One on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. One flew East on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October followed by 1 on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**REED WARBLER**     *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

*Passage migrant*

First of the returning birds was a single on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, Two were seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August and then 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Last birds of the autumn were 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of September.

**RING NECKED PARAKEET**

One flew past the Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November.

**RING OUZEL**     *Turdus torquatus*

*Passage migrant*

First bird of the year was a female seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, One on the 12<sup>th</sup>. First of the returning birds was a single on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. Good numbers were recorded in October with 35 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, 21 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15 on the 18<sup>th</sup>, up to 5 on eight other dates this month. Last bird of the autumn was one on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October.

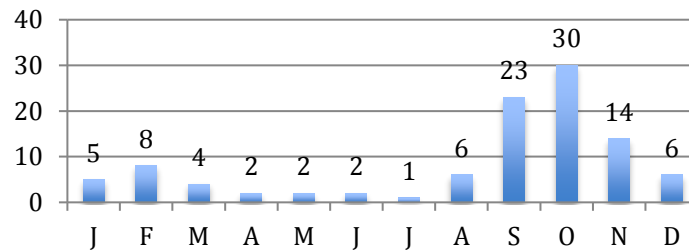


**ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Mainly winter visitor and passage migrant.

Has bred in the past.

**ROBIN**

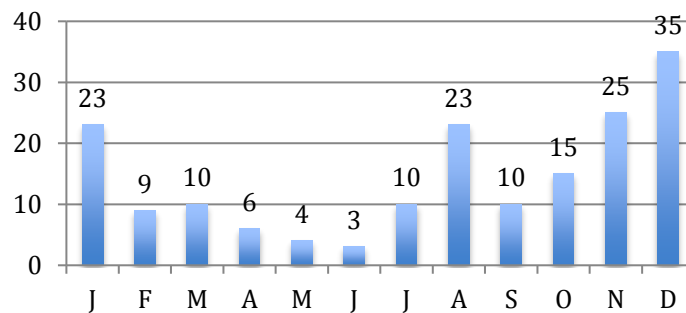


During the autumn months numbers are boosted by small influxes of continental birds.

**ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus*

Winter visitor / Resident

**ROCK PIPIT**



Two of the race *Littoralis* recorded on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. Pair feeding young on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. Two feeding two fledged young on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. Large count of 35 on the West beach on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December  
*2 territories held, one east end one west end.*



**ROOK**      *Corvus frugilegus*      *Passage migrant*  
4 flew over on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October followed by 5 on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**SAND MARTIN**      *Riparia riparia*      *Scarce passage migrant*  
Two flew past the Hoe on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, 1 on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**SANDWICH TERN**      *Sterna sandvicensis*      *Passage migrant*  
First birds of the year were 2 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April followed by 3 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 East on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, 5 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 1 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. 7 flew East on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, 5 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Quiet autumn passage with just a single on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 7 West on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September followed by 3 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September followed by 4 on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**SEDGE WARBLER**      *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*      *Passage migrant*  
Two recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, One on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September.

**SHAG**      *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*      *Winter visitor*  
One on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January. Single on six dates in February. One on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of March and 2 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Single sightings on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April. 2 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. One on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October and two on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Single sightings on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of November then again on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December.

**SHELDUCK**      *Tadorna Tadorna*      *Passage migrant*  
One flew west past the Hoe on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. 5 flew past on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February and 3 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. 6 flew East on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April. 2 flew West on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 2 flew West on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May then 4 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The next record was of one flying West on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September then 1 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November.

**SHORT EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

*Winter visitor*

First bird of the winter was recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October followed by 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. One recorded on seven dates up until the 17<sup>th</sup> of November.



**SHOVELER** *Anas clypeator*

*Passage bird*

Pair flew East on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April.

**SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

*Passage migrant*

Six on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 12 flew East on the 11<sup>th</sup> then 30 East on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. A further 55 flew East on September the 29<sup>th</sup>. 160 East on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 70 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 125 on the 18<sup>th</sup> then 40 on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

*Resident breeder*

One seen to come in off the sea on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, one on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February and the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. 1-3 throughout June, 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. 1-3 throughout July with one seen carrying food on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A single recorded on five dates in August, 2 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. 5 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 4 in off the sea on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

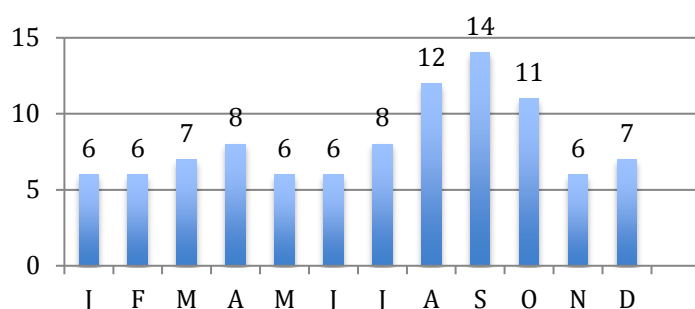
**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos* *Passage migrant/winter visitor*  
One on five dates in January, 4 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 1-3 throughout February. Single on four dates in March. One on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of April. Not recorded again until a single bird was seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. Two recorded on three dates in October, 4 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 6 on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Two noted on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November then one on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. During December, numbers recorded were 3 on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*  
One recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March followed by singles on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of April. One noted on three dates in May and two dates in August. One recorded on five days in September and then three days in October and November. One on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December.

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata* *Scarce passage migrant*  
First of the autumn migration was of 1 on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, 1 on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. One flew on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, followed by 2 on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris* *Passage migrant/winter visitor*  
Mainly absent this winter with just the one record of 8 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. One on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. 4 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May. Three records in June consisting of 6 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and 8 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Numbers began to increase at the end of July with counts of 30 on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 60 on the 27<sup>th</sup> then c.100 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> then c.80 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Numbers remained high in August with counts of c.100 on five dates, c.120 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, c.150 on the 18<sup>th</sup>; Numbers dropped at the end of the month to 40 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 20 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. During September numbers remained steady with 30 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 50 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 40 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 30 were recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of October, 20 seen to come in off the sea on the 27<sup>th</sup>? 10 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. More than 70 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas* *Resident breeder*  
Two on the 10<sup>th</sup> and One on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February. Singles recorded on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of March and again on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April. Two on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June and the 28<sup>th</sup> of July. One on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August and also on the 10<sup>th</sup>. No other reported sightings during the last four months of the year.  
*One pair at least held territory.*

**STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquatus**Resident/Passage migrant***STONECHAT**

3 pairs all with young on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, Female with 2 juveniles on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June. One bird seen carrying food on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. A programme of colour ringing Stonechats was conducted during the summer with the standard B T O ring on the left leg and two coloured rings on the right several sightings have been made during the autumn of at least two of these birds.

*Max of 4 pairs bred this year.*

**SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica**Summer visitor*

First birds of the year were 2 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April followed by 4 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. 2 were seen to come in off the sea on the 17<sup>th</sup>. 4 on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May then 5 in off the sea on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Small numbers noted on several other dates. Just two records of singles in June. More than 20 on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July. More than 70 recorded on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. A large westerly movement of 10,000 Hirundines consisting mainly of Swallows was observed on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> of September. In October 255 flew East on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 190 on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 200 on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 100 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 10 flew West on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

**TEAL**     *Anus crecca*     *Passage migrant*  
One flew West on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January. Single noted on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February. 2 seen on Cliff pond on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March and the last record of the year was of 2 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

**TURNSTONE**     *Arenaria interpres*     *Passage bird*  
One flew East past the Hoe on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

**VELVET SCOTER**     *Melanitta fusca*     *Scarce passage migrant*  
Two flew East on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

**WATER RAIL**     *Rallus aquaticus*     *Passage/Winter visitor*  
One seen by the log pile on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December. A new arrival?

**WHIMBREL**     *Numenius phaeopus*     *Passage migrant*  
Four flew East on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April followed by 5 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. 3 going east on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. One East on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of May, 3 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. One flying West on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July.

**WHINCHAT**     *Saxicola rubetra*     *Mainly an autumn passage migrant*  
First of the autumn migration were 2 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, Singles on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 3 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> followed by 6 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. 1-5 recorded on fifteen dates during September mainly sightings of two but 5 recorded on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 3 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Last bird of the year was noted on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**WHITE WAGTAIL**     *Motacilla a alba*     *Passage migrant*  
Four Pied/ White flying east on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October One in off the sea on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October.

**WIGEON**     *Anus Penelope*     *Passage migrant*  
4 flew East on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April.

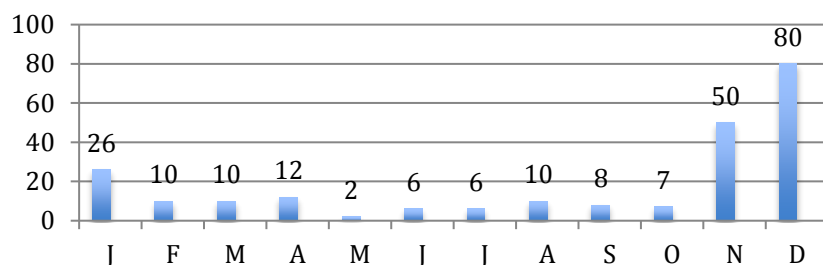


**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus* *Passage migrant*

First bird of the year was a single on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April followed by 3 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Not recorded again until the 1<sup>st</sup> of August when one was noted this was followed by 4 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 5 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. A small movement was recorded on the 31<sup>st</sup> when 22 were logged. 5 seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of September and a small movement of 15+ was noted on the 7<sup>th</sup>. One on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A late bird was seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October by a visiting birder.

**WOOD PIGEON** *Columba palumbus* *Resident breeder*

**WOOD PIGEON**



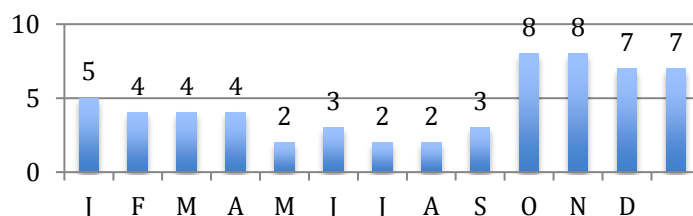
One or two pairs bred in the scrubby areas of the cliff face.

**WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* *Rare migrant*

1 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September in Woody Gully, reported by visiting birder.

**WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes* *Resident breeder*

**WREN**



*4 pairs held territory*

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citronella* *Uncommon on the Hoe*  
3 on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL**    *Motacilla flava*

*Passage migrant*

First sighting of the year was of 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. One flew West on the 4<sup>th</sup>. 3 going West on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August and 2 flying East on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.