



## **SAMPHIRE HOE BIRD REPORT - 1999 to 2010**



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

Samphire Hoe, created from 4.9 million cubic metres of chalk marl excavated to create the Channel Tunnel is now an addition to the Kent coastline. The Hoe is owned by Eurotunnel and managed together with The White Cliffs Countryside Partnership. It is open 365 days a year from 07:00 until dusk. For more information, view Samphire Hoe's website available at [www.samphirehoe.com](http://www.samphirehoe.com) or phone 01304 225649.

Recording the birds of Samphire Hoe provides information about the sites ecological development and its coastal location just across the Channel from mainland Europe means it can be an important area for migrant birds. Birds are recorded on a casual basis by general observations and monitoring the bird population indicates how the site is developing and can help inform management decisions. The breeding birds are monitored by a yearly Common Bird Census. The recording area is the Hoe itself, the sea, the beaches and rocks at the East and West ends and the cliffs behind the entire recording area.

In the twelve year period from 1999 to 2010, 207 species have been recorded in the area, with 31 breeding species.

Thanks goes to all the contributors over the past years, with special thanks to the Senior Project Officer Paul Holt, past and present Volunteer Rangers and visiting birders, D. Smith, G. Burton, I. Roberts, F. Fisher, P. Smith, T. Prentice, R. Card, T. Christian, R. Godden, L. Collins, M. Collins, J Lees.

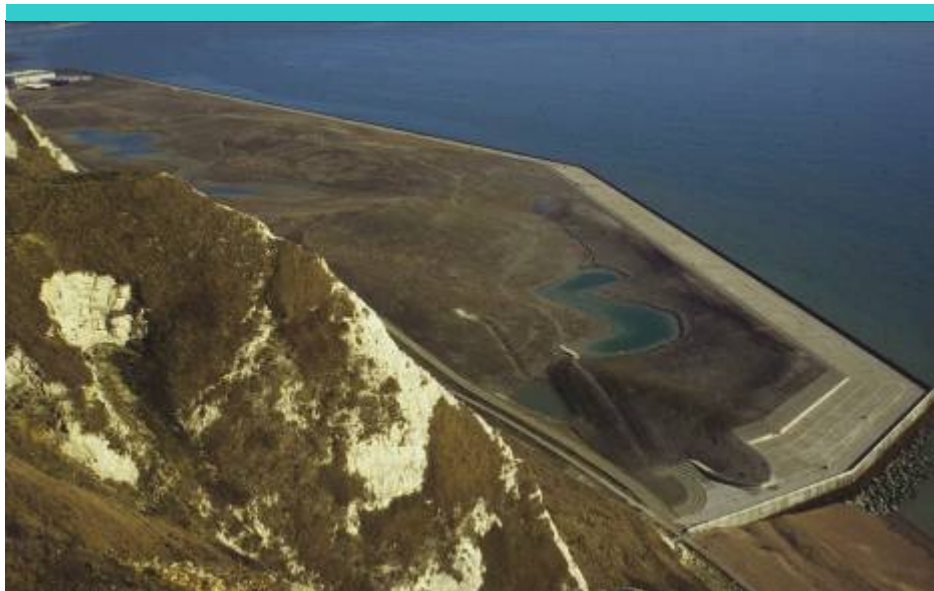


Photo by Paul Holt of the West end of Samphire Hoe

# SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES

## Wildfowl

### 1. Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Scarce Passage Migrant

This species is mainly recorded passing Samphire Hoe offshore; most records are in the spring and occasionally in the autumn and winter period, with peak counts of 14 East on 14 May 2009, 12 West on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2004 and 11 West on 18 April 2010.

1999 to 2010 Annual bird-days are shown in the table below.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
0	2	0	6	0	14	5	2	1	5	19	13

### 2. Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Rare

The only record is one reported on the main pond on 5 November 1999.

### 3. Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Scarce Passage Migrant

The largest numbers recorded are passing offshore in the autumn/winter period, using the English Channel as a flyway in search of suitable feeding areas. The peak counts were 100 East on 31 January 2009, 14 West on 27 October 2008, 14 East on 4 February 2010 and 13 West on 10 June 2001.

1999 to 2010 Annual bird-days are shown in the table below.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
0	0	13	0	1	0	5	0	7	25	103	14

#### 4. Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Rare

Only 4 records of this species passing offshore, 2 on 6 April 2003, 2 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2004, one on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008 and 2 on 9 April 2008.

#### 5. Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Rare

One present on the Hoe from 28 February to 6 April 2003, 12 West on 16 May 2006, 7 West on 24 April 2008 and 2 on 31 May 2008. Bearing in mind the late dates and the direction in which they were heading, I suspect these records to be of feral birds.

#### 6. Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Regular Passage Migrant

The highest daily peak counts were 1,880 East on 14 March 2006, 820 East 9 March 2008, 720 East 24 February 2008 and 610 East 10 February 2008. All records of this species are of birds passing the Hoe offshore, apart from 3 birds on the main pond on 14 November 2009. This species is only recorded in the autumn to spring period, the earliest autumn record is 12 birds West on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008, the latest spring record is 2 birds on 8 May 2008.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	720	1880	80	2	0	0	0	240	161	165	7

#### 7. Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Scarce Passage Migrant

This species is recorded annually passing the Hoe offshore, but in small numbers. The highest daily peak counts on record are 35 going East on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010, 29 East on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006, and 16 East on 11 November 2007 and 13 East on 11 December 2007. Also one bird was recorded on Samphire Hoe's main pond on 24 November 2003. This is another species that is mainly recorded in the autumn to spring period; the earliest autumn record is 3 birds heading West on 18 August 2008, the latest spring record is of 8 birds on 27 May 2008.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	8	12	8	0	0	3	1	11	29	35

### 8. Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Rare

This species originates from East Asia, but is now classified as a British species due to the fact a feral population has survived and bred in the wild for a number of years. At Samphire Hoe there is only one record and that was a drake seen floating offshore at the eastern end, on 16 November 2002.

### 9. Wigeon *Anas Penelope*

Scarce Passage Migrant

This species migrates in large numbers from the North, to salt and freshwater marshes on the coasts of Western Europe. At Samphire Hoe it is recorded in small numbers in the autumn to spring period, mainly passing offshore, but occasionally one to three birds have been recorded on the main pond. The highest daily peak counts to date are 35 on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008, 35 on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008, 30 on 21 December 2010, 25 going East on 14 September 2008 and 22 going East on 4 October 2007.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	14	0	0	0	0	5	0	25	35	35	30

### 10. Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Rare

There have only been four records of this species at Samphire Hoe during the twelve year study, these were in the autumn to spring period when numbers arrive from Eastern Europe. These records were 4 going East on 4 March 2007, 3 offshore on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2004, one West on 12 September 2007 and one on 19 January 2008.

### 11. Teal *Anas crecca*

Scarce Visitor/Passage Migrant

This species is mainly recorded at Samphire Hoe in the autumn to spring period, when large numbers arrive from Northern Europe to spend the winter in Western Europe. During this period they are occasionally recorded on the ponds of Samphire Hoe and also passing offshore, but never in large numbers. Peak daily counts were 11 heading West on 11 September 2008, 10 heading East on 17 April 2008, 6 on 9 December 2003 and 6 heading East on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008.

### 12. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident Breeding Species

During the twelve year recording period, this resident species was present in small numbers and occasionally breeding takes place on the ponds, with up to two or three pairs recorded.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
34	23	23	15	10	9	9	11	16	31	15	29

### 13. Pintail *Anas acuta*

Rare

This species was recorded in only four of the twelve years of study. The highest peak count was 63 East on 15 March 2006 and 5 West on 11 September 2008 was the last record.

### 14. Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare

This summer visitor to Europe from Africa has only been recorded four times at Samphire Hoe, the peak count is 10 passing offshore on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2005 and the last record was one bird going East on 19 April 2007.

### **15. Shovelar** *Anas clypeata*

Rare

This species is mainly recorded in the autumn to spring period at Samphire Hoe, when an influx of birds from Eastern Europe takes place, but the numbers are small and the species is not recorded every year. Peak count is 27 which were heading East on 17 April 2008. Interestingly there was an immature bird recorded offshore on 25 June 2006, which would suggest local breeding had taken place.

### **16. Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Rare

This species is mainly a winter visitor from North and East Europe and during severe winters on the continent it can arrive in large numbers. But at Samphire Hoe it has only been recorded seven times and most of these records are of one or two birds on the main pond, the last record was of 2 birds flying West on 23 February 2008.

### **17. Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Rare

The same as Pochard, this species has only been recorded seven times and again mainly on the ponds at Samphire Hoe. The last record was one in October 2010.

### **18. Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Rare

Very rare species at Samphire Hoe, there were no records in the 12 year study period 1999 to 2010, but there was one reported on 5 October 1997.

### **19. Common Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Scarce Passage Migrant

This winter visitor from Northern Europe is occasionally seen offshore at Samphire Hoe in small numbers, but not in every year. The highest peak counts are 24 heading East on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 and 12 heading East on 7 December 2002. Last record was of one bird offshore on 5 July 2009, which is either a late bird going north or an early bird coming south.

## 20. Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Regular Passage Migrant

This species has been recorded offshore at Samphire Hoe in every month, but it is mainly a bird that migrates through the English Channel in the spring when it is heading north to breed. It will then return in the autumn where it will overwinter at sea off the coasts of Europe. Peak daily counts are 360 heading East on 12 April 2008, 320 heading East on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006 and 240 heading West on 17 August 2008.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
80	2	100	360	320	15	30	240	50	12	30	2

## 21. Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce Passage Migrant

Only recorded in small numbers passing Samphire Hoe and not in every year. Last record was of 2 birds on 24 April 2008. The highest peak counts were 13 on 16 April 2005 and 10 on 16 April 2008. There is also a record of a single bird, on the west pond, on 17 December 1997.

## 22. Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Rare

The only record of this species at Samphire Hoe is of a single drake on the main pond, which was present from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2003.

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

Scarce Passage Migrant

There are occasional records of this duck that breeds in the north, passing offshore at Samphire Hoe in the autumn to spring period. The highest peak counts are 6 going East on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, 5 going West on 25 October 2006 and 4 going East on 13 April 2008. Also of interest is a single bird on the main pond on 15 October 2008.

## 24. Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Rare



Only four records of this species at Samphire Hoe, all passing offshore. The peak count is 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010, which is also the last record.

## Partridges to Herons

### 25. Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Scarce Resident

Breeds on farmland along the cliff tops, but is seldom seen at Samphire Hoe. The highest peak count is 2 on several dates.

### 26. Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Scarce Resident

This species also breeds on farmland along the cliff tops and although it is seldom seen at Samphire Hoe, it is more numerous than Red-legged Partridge. It is sometimes recorded in the summer months, where there will be a pair of adults followed by a large group of chicks. The highest peak counts are 16 on 28 July 2006, 15 on 12 August 2006 and 14 on 14 December 2003.

### 27. Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Scarce Resident

The number of records are similar to Grey Partridge, but in smaller numbers. The highest peak counts are 7 on 27 October 2009 and 7 on 16 March 2010.

### 28. Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Regular Passage Migrant

This species that breeds in the North overwinters around the coasts of Europe. It is recorded in the autumn to spring period passing Samphire Hoe and occasionally will stop to feed just off the sea wall. There is one record of a single bird on the main pond, on 28 November 2002. The highest daily peak counts are 114 moving West on 29 January 2008, 48 on 16 January 2008 and 24 moving West on 5 January 2008. The earliest record in the autumn is 24 September 2008 and the latest record in the spring is the 27 May 2008.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
114	20	17	5	4	0	0	0	1	3	3	11

### 29. Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Scarce Passage Migrant

This species also breeds in the North and overwinters around the coasts of Europe. It is recorded in the autumn to spring period and most records are of single birds passing Samphire Hoe, but occasionally there have been sightings of birds stopping to feed offshore. The peak count is 4 East on 24 April 2008. Extreme dates were 26 September and 18 May.

1999 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	1	1	10	10	0	0	0	1	1	2	1

### 30. Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Rare

Only two records of this Diver have been recorded during the twelve year period at Samphire Hoe. One offshore on 30 January 2005 and one West on 9 May 2008.

### 31. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Scarce Visitor

One or two birds are seen in most years on the ponds' at Samphire Hoe, mostly during the autumn to spring period. There has been one breeding attempt in April 2009, but sadly it was unsuccessful.

### 32. Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Regular Winter Visitor

Recorded annually feeding or passing offshore in small numbers. The highest daily peak counts were 37 on 16 January 2008, 34 on 5 March 2006 and 22 on 6 March 2006.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
37	18	34	3	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	2

### 33. Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Rare

Only the one record, one offshore on 19 November 2005.

### 34. Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Rare

Still only the one record, a single bird offshore on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1998.

### 35. Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Resident Breeding Species

In 1999, this species had an estimated 16 pairs breeding on the cliffs' between Samphire Hoe and Shakespeare Cliff, but unfortunately this has dropped to 2-3 pairs annually since 2006. As well as the few birds that breed locally, good numbers can be recorded passing offshore, where they are returning to their breeding areas after spending the winter out at sea. The highest peak counts were 54 East on 25 March 2007, 30 East on 28 March 2008 and 30 East on 28 April 2008.

### 36. Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Rare

Only the three records, one West on 7 September 2006, one West on 24 September 2006 and one West on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

### 37. Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Rare

There are eight records of this shearwater passing offshore at Samphire Hoe. The peak Counts were 7 East on 15 May 2008, which was also the last record of this species in the twelve year period of this report and 3 East on 14 May 2008.

### 38. Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Rare

There are five records of this shearwater passing offshore at Samphire Hoe. All are singles from late July to early September and the last record was of one heading West on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2008.

### 39. Leach's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare

There have been three records, but two of these were of birds found on cross channel ferries that were taken into care and later released at Samphire Hoe. The other record was of one passing offshore on 9 November 2005.

### 40. Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Regular Passage Migrant

This species has been recorded every month at Samphire Hoe as it moves to and from their breeding areas further to the north. Some birds winter around the coasts and seas of Western Europe and the rest move to the North Atlantic. The daily peak counts were 346 East on 11 April 2008, 165 East on 28 March 2008, 150 West on 7 September 2006 and 130 on 26 January 2008.

2001 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
130	100	165	346	80	60	40	70	150	30	45	30

### 41. Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Resident

Non-breeding birds are always present at Samphire Hoe, where they can be seen feeding offshore or resting on the rocks nearby.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	16	11	17	8	6	8	17	20	26	14	8

#### 42. Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Regular Visitor

Normally only one or two birds are recorded, but there is a daily peak count of 4 on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Unfortunately a first winter bird was found dead on the West Beach on 17 November 2002. It had a darvic ring attached and had been ringed on the Isle of May East coast of Scotland, on 4 July 2002.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	1	3	8	3	2	1	3	8	7	2	3

#### 43. Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Rare

Only the one record of a single bird by the main pond, on 24 April 2006.

#### 44. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Regular Visitor

As can be seen from the table below, at the start of the recording period this species was once a rare bird in Kent, now one or two birds are recorded regularly at Samphire Hoe. There have also been peak daily counts of 4 on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007, 4 East on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 and 3 West on 17 November 2006.

1999 to 2010 Annual bird-days are shown in the table below.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2010
1	7	4	2	43	22	18	42	64	24

#### 45. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Regular Passage Migrant

This species has been recorded in every month during the twelve year period of this report. One or two birds can be seen passing offshore, or feeding around the rocks at Samphire Hoe. The peak count is 10 flying West on 18 September 2008.

1999 to 2010 bird-days are shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
<b>1999</b>					1	5		1	10	1			<b>18</b>
<b>2000</b>			1				4		5	3	1		<b>14</b>
<b>2001</b>							1	2				1	<b>4</b>
<b>2002</b>	1		1		3		4	1	2	3			<b>15</b>
<b>2003</b>	1	1				2		2	4	8	1	1	<b>20</b>
<b>2004</b>		1	1	2		2	2			1	3	1	<b>13</b>
<b>2005</b>	2		2						2	7	2	2	<b>17</b>
<b>2006</b>			4						6	3			<b>13</b>
<b>2007</b>	7	4	4			1		5	5	9	9	3	<b>47</b>
<b>2008</b>	5	8	2		1	3	4	10	10	5	4	1	<b>53</b>
<b>2009</b>	2	3	1	1	1	1			3	4	3	5	<b>24</b>
<b>2010</b>	4	2	1	4		2	3	3	4	10	4	2	<b>39</b>
	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	

#### **46. White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare

The only record still is of one bird reported in 1998.

#### **47. Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

Rare

The only record is of two birds flying East over Samphire Hoe on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2003.

## **Birds of Prey**

#### **48. Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

Rare

There are only four records of this species, all single birds flying over Samphire Hoe. The last record was on 16 July 2009.

#### 49. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Rare

There are only three records of this species, all single birds flying over Samphire Hoe. The last record was on 26 October 2010.

#### 50. Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce Passage Migrant

Most of the records are of single birds flying over, apart from 2 West on 28 July 2008 and 2 West on 28 August 2008. The last record was on 28 September 2010.

1999 to 2010 Annual bird-days are shown in the table below.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	4	9	1	3

#### 51. Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Rare

There are only four records of this species, all single birds. The last record was a ringtail quartering over Samphire Hoe, on 16 November 2005.

#### 52. Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Rare

Only the one record, a single bird flying East on 9 May 2008.

#### 53. Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Regular Visitor

Spring and autumn accounts for most of the records of this species at Samphire Hoe. Mainly single birds, but there is a record of 3 birds on 7 October 2008.

2006 to 2010 Annual bird-days are shown in the table below.

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
13	23	46	24	30

**54. Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Scarce Visitor/Passage Migrant

Occasional visitor which is not recorded every year, most records are of single birds in the spring and autumn. The daily peak count is 3 birds heading West, on 23 March 2005.

**55. Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare

Only the one record, a single bird flying East on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007.

**56. Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident Breeding Species

There is a single breeding pair on the cliffs in the recording area at Samphire Hoe, which are present for most of the year. The numbers increase in the autumn with their own offspring still present and with other birds migrating through the area. The daily peak counts were 15 on 9 October 2008, 10 on 10 October 2008 and 9 on 21 September 2006.

**57. Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Rare

There are only eight records of this little falcon at Samphire Hoe, all of them singles. This species has only been recorded in the months of September and October; the last record was on 29 September 2010.

**58. Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Regular Summer Visitor

The extreme dates at Samphire Hoe of this summer migrant are 20 April and 28 September. The majority of the records are of single birds, but there are records of 3 birds on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2008 and 2 birds on 25 July 2008.



2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	4	5	5	6	15	4	0	0	0

### 59. Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Resident Breeding Species

There are two breeding pairs in the Samphire Hoe recording area and since 2006 at least one pair, have successfully fledged young. This species is present throughout the year.

## Water Rail to Waders

### 60. Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Regular Winter Visitor

One or two birds have been recorded every winter since 2006 at Samphire Hoe. They are normally present on the main pond, or in the scrub at the base of the cliffs. The peak daily count is 3 birds on 24 November 2005. Extreme dates were 7 September and 5 April.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	16	10	1	0	0	0	0	4	7	15	14

### 61. Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident Breeding Species

This species has bred at Samphire Hoe since 2003, where there have been two pairs around the main pond, raising three to four broods each year.

### 62. Coot *Fulica atra*

Rare

Only the one record at Samphire Hoe, a single bird on the main pond on 13 July 2001.

### 63. Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Regular Passage Migrant

Only in small numbers, this species has been recorded in every month of the year passing Samphire Hoe during the report period of 1999 to 2010. The peak daily counts were 22 going West on 17 July 2000, 19 going East on 24 March 2006 and 14 going East on 27 July 2010.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	1	33	42	46	17	19	27	17	12	1	1

### 64. Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare

Only four records of this species, all passing offshore. The peak daily count is 7 on 17 April 2005 and the last record is of one bird heading East, on 28 March 2008.

### 65. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Rare

Only three records of this species. First record is of one bird heard calling on 27 July 2003. There is another record of a single bird present on the Hoe for two days on 25 and 26 March 2006, which at times could be seen walking around the front car park. The last record is of one bird heading West on 26 April 2009.

### 66. Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Rare

Only nine records of this species, all single bird sightings. First record is of one bird heading West on 10 August 1999 and the last is of one bird heading West on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2008. Also there is a record of a bird on the seawall at Samphire Hoe, on 12 May 2007.

**67. Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Rare

Only seven records of this species, all single bird sightings and three of these were of birds on the grassland or seawall at Samphire Hoe. The last record is of one bird going East on 21 November 2010.

**68. Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare

Twelve records of this species, all passing Samphire Hoe offshore. The peak count is 6 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005 and the last record is of a single bird on 6 May 2008.

**69. Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Scarce Passage Migrant

Mostly recorded in single figures and occasionally they can be found on the grassland at Samphire Hoe, but there have been larger numbers passing offshore with peak daily counts of 85 West on 28 November 2010, 23 South on 30 October 2008 and 23 West on 23 October 2001.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	0	0	0	3	11	1	2	1	39	90	21

**70. Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Rare

Only five records of this species and two of these were of single birds near the West pond. The peak count is 8 heading East on 19 April 2008 and the last record is on 20 June 2010.

**71. Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Rare

Only four records of this species, all passing offshore. The peak count is 25 East on 24 March 2006 and the last record is of five birds on 24 August 2008.

## 72. Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Rare

A small number of birds have overwintered at Dover Harbour and more recently at Hythe. So it is surprising that this species is very rare at Samphire Hoe, as the rocks and sea defences at the East and West ends look perfect for this species. There is only the one record and that is of two birds on 23 December 2000.

## 73. Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Scarce Visitor/Passage Migrant

Most records of this species are of birds passing offshore, but there are a few sightings of birds on the seawall and around the West pond. The peak daily count is 22 East on 1<sup>h</sup> May 2008 and the last record is 7 December 2010.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	0	4	4	39	0	3	6	20	7	1	8

## 74. Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Scarce Winter Visitor

As can be seen from the table below, the severe weather conditions of snow and ice at the beginning of December 2010, resulted in numbers of this species increasing at Samphire Hoe, as they tried to keep ahead of the freezing conditions. The daily peak count was during that period, with 10 birds recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010.

2006 to 2010 bird-days are shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2006	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
2008	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
2009	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	13
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	27	30
	7	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	33	

### 75. Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Rare

One or two birds have been recorded seven times at Samphire Hoe. The last record is of two birds being flushed by a fox, from underneath one of the sea buckthorn, on 8 December 2010.

### 76. Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Rare

Very rare only the two records at Samphire Hoe, one East on 24 April 2006 and 21 East on 10 August 2010.

### 77. Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Scarce Passage Migrant

All of the records at Samphire Hoe are in the spring, when birds are migrating back to their breeding areas in the North, after spending the winter around the coasts of Western Europe and West Africa. During the 2006 to 2010 period, bird-days were as follows, one in March, 327 in April and 396 in May. The peak daily count was 260 East on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 and the last record was on 16 May 2008.

### 78. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Scarce Passage Migrant

Migrates north to breed during April and May, from West Africa and return again in July and August. During this period, small numbers are occasionally seen passing Samphire Hoe and have been recorded on the seawall and around the West pond. The peak daily count was 37 East on 24 April 2005.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	123	22	0	3	3	0	0	0	0

### 79. Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Scarce Passage Migrant

Usually recorded passing offshore in very small numbers. But there was one bird that visited the grassland at Samphire Hoe and stayed from 14<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The peak daily count is nine East on 18 April 2007.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below. December shows a bird-day count of 19, this is because of the bird that stayed on the grassland for 15 days as explained above.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	4	15	23	1	2	0	1	2	6	1	19

### 80. Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Rare

Only the one record, of a single bird reported on the West beach on 30 August 2010.

### 81. Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Scarce Visitor

Occasionally passing offshore, but there are records of this species around the ponds at Samphire Hoe and from the West beach. Also the peak daily count is of nine birds on the seawall, on 30 March 2005.

### 82. Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Rare

Nine records of this species at Samphire Hoe, all single bird sightings, apart from three birds heading East on 16 May 2008. Also there is a record of a bird around the West pond, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2004. The last record is on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010.

### 83. Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare

Eight records of this species at Samphire Hoe, all single bird sightings. The last record is a bird around the main pond, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009.

#### 84. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Regular Passage Migrant

This species spends the winter months in Africa and during the summer breeds in Europe. Small numbers can be seen feeding at Samphire Hoe in the spring and autumn, as they prepare themselves for the long journey ahead. The peak daily count is 7 on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2000. Extreme dates in spring were 16<sup>th</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> May and the extreme dates in autumn were 8<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> November.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	14	0	9	7	21	7	1	0

#### 85. Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Rare

Only six records of this species at Samphire Hoe, most records are of birds passing offshore but also there have been sightings on the seawall. The peak count is five on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and the last record was on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

## Skuas to Auks

#### 86. Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce Passage Migrant

The peak time to record this species at Samphire Hoe is late April to early May, when they are passing offshore on route to their breeding areas in the arctic tundra. The peak daily counts were 46 East on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2005, 15 East on 27 April 2008 and 13 East on 12 May 2005. The last record is on 8 May 2008.

1999 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	17	90	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

### 87. Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

#### Scarce Passage Migrant

Most records of this species are of birds migrating past Samphire Hoe, but they can also be seen lingering offshore chasing terns. The peak daily counts were 22 East on 30 April 2008 and 10 West on 24 August 2008. Extreme dates in spring were 30 March and 4 May and the extreme dates in autumn were 24 July and 26 December.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	2	45	14	0	1	25	11	13	2	1

### 88. Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

#### Scarce Passage Migrant

This species can also be seen lingering offshore and on one occasion an exhausted bird was found on the West pond. The peak daily counts were 3 on 7 September 2006 and 3 East on 17 April 2008. Extreme dates in spring were 12 April and 4 May and the extreme dates in autumn were 26 July and 10 November.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	18	3	0	1	0	6	3	1	0

### 89. Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

#### Regular Visitor

Numbers of this species increase in August and September as they return from their breeding colonies; some are destined to winter at Copt Point Folkestone, only a few miles West of Samphire Hoe. Recent ringing recoveries by the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory, would suggest a large number of these birds originate from breeding colonies in France and Holland. The peak daily counts were 70 on 4 September 2004, 50 West on 13 October 2009, 40 on 5 September 2007 and 38 on 31 August 2010.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	14	10	35	5	2	36	121	157	98	4	2



**90. Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Rare

Only eight records of this species at Samphire Hoe. The peak counts were 16 East on 19 April 2007, 11 East on 24 April 2008 and 10 East on 22 April 2008. The last record was on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2008.

**91. Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Resident

Non-breeding birds are present all year at Samphire Hoe and numbers increase during the autumn, as adults and first winter birds return from their breeding colonies. Large numbers can be recorded migrating offshore or feeding on the rocks around the area and during strong and gale force winds they will roost on the West beach. The peak counts were 160 East on 21 April 2006, 150 West on the 23 April 2006 and 100 on 28 October 2008.

**92. Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Winter Visitor

Although this species has been recorded in every month of the report period, the largest numbers are in the winter. The peak daily counts were 100 East on 19 February 2008, 100 East on 6 January 2009, 40 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2008 and 30 on 4 November 2007.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
265	166	33	14	11	4	6	2	3	32	72	55

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

Regular Visitor

This species has been recorded in every month of the report period, but the largest numbers are in the spring and autumn when they are migrating to and from their breeding colonies. The peak counts were 50 East on 24 March 2006 and 20 East on 20 April 2008.

#### 94. Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Resident Breeding Species

There are no records of this species breeding in every year of this report, but there is a record of two or three pairs breeding on the cliffs in 2006 and they have also bred in the Eurotunnel compound. The peak daily count is 500 on 14 December 2010.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
100+	100+	150	103	100+	70	50+	100+	100+	100+	100+	500

#### 95. Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Rare

Only two records of this species at Samphire Hoe. One on 24 July 2008 and one on 8 September 2009.

#### 96. Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Rare

Only one record of this species at Samphire Hoe and this was a first winter bird on 17 February 2008.

#### 97. Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare

Six records of this species at Samphire Hoe, all in 2008 of a first winter bird, which you would presume to be the same bird overwintering in the local area. First recorded on 1<sup>st</sup> January and the last was on 9 April.

#### 98. Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Regular Visitor

Recorded in every month of the reporting period, where it can be seen offshore and on the rocks and ponds around Samphire Hoe. The peak daily count is 50 East on 25 October 2007.

### 99. Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Regular Passage Migrant

This species can be seen passing offshore at Samphire Hoe. The peak daily counts were 160 West on 20 January 2008, 122 East on 24 April 2006 and 90 West on 16 January 2008.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
160	15	11	122	65	2	2	50	1	6	1	1

### 100. Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Regular Passage Migrant

The first to arrive in spring during the report period were, six birds East on 25 March 2006. The peak daily counts in spring were 750 East on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005, 355 East on 16 April 2005 and 240 East 21<sup>st</sup> April 2006. During autumn the daily peak counts were 200 West on 3 August 2008 and 130 West on 5 September 2006. The last autumn record is of two birds offshore on 30 November 2007.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	71	1412	445	21	154	322	208	11	2	0

### 101. Common Tern *Sterna Hirundo*

Regular Passage Migrant

Extreme dates in spring were the 15<sup>th</sup> April and 27<sup>th</sup> May. The peak daily count in spring was a very impressive 1,980 East on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005. Extreme dates in autumn were the 7<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> October. The peak daily count in autumn was a 100 West on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	273	6	0	0	57	137	6	0	0

### 102. Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare

Only ten records in the twelve year period of this report. The extreme dates for the whole period were the 19<sup>th</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> October. The peak daily count is 12 East on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and the last record to date at Samphire Hoe is of one individual on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

### 103. Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Rare

Only five records at Samphire Hoe and they were all in the spring, there were five bird-days in April and 46 bird-days in May. The peak daily count was 33 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005 and the last record was 11 birds heading East on 11 May 2008.

### 104. Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Rare

Only four records, one in May, two in August and one in September. The peak daily count was 12 West on 11 September 2005 and the last record was five West on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2008.

### 105. Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Winter Visitor

Normally only a small number of birds can be seen feeding on the sea around Samphire Hoe, but on occasion this species can be recorded in large numbers moving offshore. The peak daily counts were 920 West on 16 January 2008, 825 West 20<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and 700 West on 29 January 2008.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
920	6	2	6	0	1	1	1	2	3	2	3

### 106. Razorbill *Alca torda*

Winter Visitor

This species has been recorded every winter at Samphire Hoe since 2006, but only in small numbers, apart from 700 birds that flew West on 29 January 2008, which coincided with a large movement of Guillemots.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
700	8	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	65	10	0

### 107. Little Auk *Alle alle*

Rare

Only the two records both in 2007, five birds offshore on 11 November and a single on 12 November.

## Doves to Hirundines

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

Resident Breeding Species

An under-recorded species due to its feral status, but it has been recorded in good numbers each year. They are known to breed in the holes and tunnels in the face of the cliffs, number of pairs unknown. The peak daily counts were 65 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006, 60 on 9 May 2008 and 60 on 29 March 2009.

### 109. Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Resident Breeding Species

There is only a maximum of two pairs that breed on the cliffs each year at Samphire Hoe. This species can on occasion be recorded in large numbers moving overhead, an example of this was 160 birds heading West on 12 November 2008.

**110. Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Resident Breeding Species

Each year since 2002, two to five pairs have attempted to breed in the trees and scrub at the base of the cliffs. They can also be seen in large numbers passing overhead, such as 1,300 West on 12 November 2008, 370 West on 29 March 2006 and 170 West on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008.

**111. Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Scarce Visitor

There is a large population of this species in East Kent, so it is a surprise how this bird keeps up its scarce status at Samphire Hoe. Occasionally one or two birds are recorded, but not in every year during the report period.

**112. Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

Rare

This species that spends the winter in Africa south of the Sahara has only been recorded once in the twelve years of this report, which were two birds on 10 May 2008.

**113. Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Scarce Summer Visitor

Occasionally recorded in the spring and summer during their migration period. There is a record of one juvenile bird that stayed at Samphire Hoe on its journey south for twelve days, from 31<sup>st</sup> July till 11 August 2009, which incidentally was the last record during the report period.

**114. Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Rare

Still only the one record of a single bird in 1998, date unknown.

**115. Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Winter Visitor

This species was a rare bird at Samphire Hoe, until a single bird arrived on 4 November 2008 and was in residence on and off throughout 2009. Interestingly a second bird arrived on 8 and 10 November 2009 and it was hoped they would form a breeding pair, but unfortunately by December there was only the one bird present. The bird stayed until 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 and there were no other sightings until one individual was recorded on 29 October 2010, which is presumed to be the same bird.

**116. Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Rare

One reported on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2004, is the only record.

**117. Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

Rare

Only the two records, two individuals, one was present in the gate scrub for four days in November 2003 and the other was in woody gully on 7 November 2005.

**118. Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Scarce Winter Visitor

Not recorded in every winter at Samphire Hoe and there have only been 18 bird-days in the twelve year period under review. The peak daily count was three birds on 20 October 2003 and the last record was on 24 April 2010.

**119. Swift** *Apus apus*

Regular Passage Migrant/Visitor

During the summer months this species can be seen feeding along the cliffs at Samphire Hoe, there is a small breeding colony nearby on the Western Heights so some of these birds could be from there. But the largest numbers are of birds migrating overhead, with peak daily counts of 270 on 17 June 2001 and 250 on 17 August 2008. The extreme dates are 29 April and 22 September.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	136	508	109	391	6	0	0	0

**120. Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce Visitor

Every year since 2006 one or two birds has occasionally been recorded around the sea wall and ponds at Samphire Hoe.

**121. European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

Rare

Three records, 5 East on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2004, which were also recorded passing Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory later that day. Also a single bird on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 and two on 8 June 2010, which were observed circling Samphire Hoe during poor visibility due to sea mist, they then preceded to head North West.

**122. Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

Rare

Only the one record, a single bird found along the back track on 25 August 2009.

**123. Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

Rare

There are four records of single birds of this species at Samphire Hoe, in the gate scrub on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2004, along the back track on 26 August 2007, another along the back track on 22 September 2008 and finally one was reported near the railway line on 5 September 2010, but sadly it was thought to have been hit by a train.

**124. Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Regular Visitor

One to three birds were recorded regularly at Samphire Hoe except during the breeding season, when this species becomes scarce due to the lack of nesting sites in the area.



**125. Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Rare

There were nine records during the twelve year period under review; all were singles between 4<sup>th</sup> September and the 30<sup>th</sup> October. The last record was on 21 September 2009.

**126. Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

Rare

The only record is of a single bird flying over on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

**127. Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Resident Breeding Species

From 1999 to 2003, possibly two or three breeding pairs were holding territories at Samphire Hoe. But from 2004 to 2010, these breeding attempts became irregular, with a maximum of only one pair holding a territory. In the autumn migrating birds can be observed passing overhead. The daily peak counts were 17 in off the sea, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 and 12 in off the sea, on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

**128. Shorelark** *Eremophila alpestris*

Rare

Still only the two records, one bird on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1998 and 2 birds on 12 December 1998.

**129. Sand martin** *Riparia riparia*

Scarce Passage Migrant

This species is under recorded at Samphire Hoe, possibly due to the fact when seen on migration they are usually at cliff top level, so large numbers must go unnoticed. The peak daily counts were 20 West on 28 August 2008 and 15 West on 29 June 2008. Extreme dates were 17 April and 21 September.

### 130. Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Regular Passage Migrant/Visitor

Recorded in small numbers around the main pond and cliffs during the summer, but the largest numbers are recorded in the autumn, as they pass Samphire Hoe on migration. The peak count was 200 on 29 September 2007. Extreme dates were 24 March and 12 November.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	2	22	13	4	6	100	200	100	12	0

### 131. Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Rare

Two birds flying East on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2004 and a single bird on 28 April 2010 which was feeding with a flock of House Martins over Samphire Hoe, are the only records to date.

### 132. House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Regular Passage Migrant/Breeding Species

This species arrives from Africa every spring to breed on the cliff face at the East and West ends of Samphire Hoe. Nationally breeding pairs have declined over the last few years and this is also the case at the Samphire Hoe colonies. Figures show that in 2006 at the East cliff colony, there were an estimated 30 occupied nests, but by 2010 this had reduced to 16 occupied nests. Extreme dates were 15 April and 14 November. The peak daily counts were 1,700 on 29 September 2008, 1,000 on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 and 800 on the 26 September 2010.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	24	100	60	30	500	1700	180	4	0

## Pipits to Thrushes

### 133. Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Rare

There were only ten records during the twelve years of this review, eight of these were in September, and the other two were in May and August. Peak daily count was three on 25 September 2008 and the last record was on 28 September 2010.

### 134. Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Regular Passage Migrant/Breeding Species

As can be seen from the table below, the number of breeding territories held by this species in the last two years of this review has fallen dramatically. The reasons for this are unclear, but one possible cause could have been the introduction of free range grazing at Samphire Hoe.

The table below shows the number of breeding territories held.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
15	21	22	19	29	25	28	25	21	21	12	8

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27	43	20	23	15	20	19	10	50	50	29	60

### 135. Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare

There are only the four records, all single birds and were seen during the months of January to April. The last record was on 21 February 2010.

### 136. Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Resident Breeding Species/Winter Visitor

Since the year 2000, one or two pairs have attempted to breed on the cliffs at Samphire Hoe, in the winter months their number increases when birds arrive from Northern Europe. The peak daily count was 23 on 22 January 2006. There have also been five records of Nordic and Russian birds (ssp. *littoralis*) virtually identical to Western European birds (*petrosus*) in winter, but in early spring they acquire their summer plumage which can resemble a summer plumage Water pipit.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
23	20	13	8	3	6	5	15	11	20	20	20

### 137. Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Scarce Passage Migrant

The extreme dates in spring were 12 April and 8 May and the peak daily count was seven on 24 April 2008. In the autumn extreme dates were 20 July and 26 September and the peak daily count was six on 13 September 2006. Most of the records are of birds flying over Samphire Hoe during their migration, but on occasion they stop to feed and there is a record of three birds around the main pond on 22 August 2002.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	43	10	0	2	14	27	0	0	0

### 138. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Scarce Passage Migrant

This species is mainly recorded in small numbers passing overhead; also there have been sightings around the ponds at Samphire Hoe. The peak daily counts were four East on 19 September 2008 and four East on 9 October 2008.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	1	9	0	2	1	1	1	21	32	4	1

### 139. White/Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Regular Passage Migrant/Occasional Breeding Species

In 2009 and 2010 breeding was suspected at Samphire Hoe, when adults were seen carrying food and a few weeks' later juveniles were recorded. This species is recorded in small numbers throughout the year. The Pied Wagtail (ssp *yarrellii*) which breeds in Britain and Ireland is the most abundant, but in the spring and autumn their numbers are bolstered by the White Wagtail (ssp *alba*) which breeds in Europe. The peak daily counts were 35 East on 8 October 2010 and 17 East on 9 October 2010.

### 140. Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident Breeding Species

This species continues to be a regular and consistent breeding bird at Samphire Hoe. During the twelve years of this review, they were recorded on a regular basis but in small numbers.

The table below shows the number of breeding territories held.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1	3	4	4	5	4	5	3	5	5	4	4

### 141. Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Resident Breeding Species

As can be seen from the table below this species is a more intermittent breeding bird at Samphire Hoe. It is recorded in small numbers throughout the year.

The table below shows the number of breeding territories held.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
2	5	5	1	5	5	1	0	4	2	1	1

### 142. Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Regular Passage Migrant/Breeding Species

In the autumn numbers increase due to an influx of birds from other areas. Ringing records from Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory, would suggest a substantial number of these originate from Scandinavia and mainland Europe. The peak daily counts were 30 on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2006, 30 on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and 26 on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The table below shows the number of breeding territories held.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	0

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	5	6	4	2	6	2	6	30	26	15	10

#### 143. Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Rare

Still only the one record, a single bird reported on 19 April 1998.

#### 144. Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Regular Passage Migrant/Breeding Species

Recorded throughout the year in small numbers, until they are joined by their fledglings and migrating birds that pass through the area. The peak daily count was eight on 17 September 2006.

The table below shows the number of breeding territories held.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
0	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	2

#### 145. Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Scarce Passage Migrant

Recorded in small numbers in the spring and autumn, when they stop to feed during their migration. The peak daily counts were four on 20 September 2001 and four on 5 September 2007. Extreme dates in spring were 4 April and 17 May and during autumn the extreme dates were 26 August and 3 October.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	7	1	0	0	7	29	2	0	0

#### 146. Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

##### Scarce Passage Migrant

There were only five bird-days during the spring months between 2006 and 2010. The peak daily count was two and the extreme dates during this period were 13 April and 24 May. Most of the records are from the autumn period and between 2006 and 2010 there were 120+ bird-days. The peak daily count was five and the extreme dates were 7 August and 8 October.

#### 147. Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

##### Resident Breeding Species

As can be seen from the table below the breeding pairs at Samphire Hoe are quite stable. Their numbers do increase in the autumn, when birds seeking suitable areas to spend the winter move through the area. The peak daily count was 22 on 10 October 2009.

The table below shows the number of breeding territories held. Unfortunately the records do not show any breeding attempts for 2008.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
2	2	4	5	6	6	5	3	5	0	5	5

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	7	14	10	10	6	10	14	14	22	9	10

#### 148. Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

##### Regular Passage Migrant

The spring extreme dates, between 2006 and 2010 were 13 March and 19 May and the peak daily count was seven on 26 April 2008. In the autumn the extreme dates were 11 July and 30 October and the peak daily count was 18 on 25 September 2008.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	4	7	6	0	3	12	18	4	0	0

### 149. Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce Passage Migrant

Extreme dates in spring were 28 March and 29 May and during the autumn, the extreme dates were 24 September and 27 November. The peak daily count was 17 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2007.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	2	8	6	0	0	0	24	70	5	0

### 150. Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Regular Passage Migrant/Breeding Species

A small number of resident birds have been constant throughout the review period. Every autumn the numbers at Samphire Hoe increase due to an influx of birds from the continent. The peak daily counts were 200+ on 17 November 2005 and 120 on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006.

The table below shows the number of breeding territories held. Unfortunately the records do not show any breeding attempts for 2006.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
2	7	6	6	6	8	11	0	11	12	10	9

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	17	10	14	12	8	8	7	19	48	120	14

### 151. Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Scarce Winter Visitor

Every winter large numbers of this species arrive from North East Europe and especially on marsh type habitat, they can be seen in their hundreds probing for invertebrates' just under the soil. Because of the soil conditions at Samphire Hoe, only small numbers are recorded. The peak daily count was 20 on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009. Extreme dates during the review period were 11 October and 21 March.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	55	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	25	3



### 152. Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Winter Visitor/Occasional Breeding Species

Recorded only in small numbers at Samphire Hoe, with the occasional pair stopping to breed. Their number increase during the winter as birds arrive from the continent, especially during a cold spell. The peak daily counts were 16 on 31 October 2008 and 15 on 21 December 2010.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	11	3	2	0	1	0	1	12	16	4	15

### 153. Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Scarce Winter Visitor

After escaping the harsh winters of North East Europe, this species can be seen at Samphire Hoe feeding on berries at the base of the cliffs before they disperse inland. The peak daily count was 43 on 31 October 2008. Extreme dates during the review period were 22 September and 26 April.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	2	10	2	0	0	0	0	6	43	20	8

### 154. Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Rare

Six records only and three of these were probably the same bird. All were single bird sightings; the last record was on 21 January 2010.

## Warblers

### 155. Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Rare

There have been eleven records at Samphire hoe, all single bird sightings. Two of the records were in the spring, with the earliest arrival date of 15 April. The other nine records were in the autumn, with the latest departure date being on 25 September. The last sighting was on 22 September 2010.

### 156. Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Scarce Passage Migrant

After spending the winter in Africa, this species returns to Europe to breed. During this migration they are regularly recorded at Samphire Hoe in small numbers. They can often be seen around the ponds or in the scrub at the base of the cliffs. Between 2006 and 2010 there was only one record in the spring, this was a single bird on 30 April 2006. All the other records during this period were in the autumn, with the earliest arrival date on 13 July and latest on 24 September. The peak daily count was three on 15 August 2008.

### 157. Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Scarce Passage Migrant

This species was recorded at Samphire Hoe, as they stop to feed during their migration. From the years 2006 to 2010 the first arrivals in spring were noted from 6 May to 16 June, with eight bird-days recorded. In the autumn during the same period, they were noted from 15<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> October, with 18 bird-days recorded. The peak daily counts were two on three occasions.

### 158. Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Rare

Two records, both were single birds on 15 April 2004 and 14 May 2009.

**159. Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata*

Scarce Winter Visitor

Occasionally recorded in scrub at the base of the cliffs, or in the sea buckthorn at Samphire Hoe. Extreme dates were 1<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> March, with a peak daily count of two on 13 October 2005. The last record was on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

**160. Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*

Rare

Only the one record and that was a male located in scrub along the railway track, on 19 April 2006.

**161. Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Regular Passage Migrant

Recorded in single figures only, the best was six on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Earliest arrival date was on the 17<sup>th</sup> April and the latest departure date was on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**162. Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Regular Passage Migrant/Breeding Species

Breeding birds can be observed throughout the summer months. In the spring and autumn numbers are higher as migrants move through the area. The peak daily count is 15 on the 28 August 2007. Extreme dates were 13 April and 3 October.

The table below shows the number of breeding territories held.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
4	6	5	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	2	6

**163. Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Scarce Passage Migrant

A small number of single birds were recorded occasionally in the years during the review period. Extreme dates were 30 April and 2 November. The last bird recorded was on 24 September 2009.

**164. Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Regular Passage Migrant

This species was recorded regularly at Samphire Hoe, but only in small numbers. The peak daily counts were 20 on 6 October 2008 and 15 on 23 September 2007. Extreme dates were 5 April and 21 November.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	5	3	1	1	3	15	20	3	0

**165. Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Rare

This species as you would expect, created a lot of excitement for birders, who wanted to catch a glimpse of a bird that should have been on its way to India for the winter. It was found on 27 September 2007, feeding in sycamores at the base of the cliff and stayed until 30 September.

**166. Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare

There have been five records of this species, all singles apart from two birds that were reported on 30 September 2007, which incidentally were in the same sycamores and at the same time as the Greenish Warbler. All the sightings were between 27 September and 14 October. The last record at Samphire Hoe was on 14 October 2010.

### 167. Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Rare

Only the one record of this species that breeds in Siberia and winters in South East Asia. A skulking individual found in a small area of bramble and willow herb, on 25 November 2004 and stayed until 28 November.

### 168. Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Regular Passage Migrant

Recorded in low numbers during the spring arrival and throughout the summer. In the autumn numbers increase during their return migration, with peak daily counts of 35 on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2006, 29 on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010 and 27 on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2000.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below. Arrivals in spring during this period were between the 4<sup>th</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> June. In the autumn they were noted from the 29<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	6	9	3	1	1	2	29	35	2	1

### 169. Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Regular Passage Migrant

Usually recorded in single figures at Samphire Hoe, but there were counts of 15 on 8 September 2002 and 11 on 5 September 2006.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below. During this period the first arrivals in spring were recorded between 3 April and 16 May. The autumn passage was recorded from 23 July and 9 October.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	8	3	0	3	8	11	1	0	0

### 170. Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Regular Passage Migrant

Being the smallest bird in Europe, the numbers of this species can be reduced in severe winters, which is probably the reason for the fluctuating totals in the table below. Mainly an autumn species at Samphire Hoe, with peak daily counts of 50 on 15 October 2003, 50 on 15 October 2005 and 33 on 27 September 2008.

2006 to 2010 bird-days are shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
<b>2006</b>	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	0	<b>14</b>
<b>2007</b>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	46	1	0	<b>49</b>
<b>2008</b>	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	0	70	50	33	6	<b>170</b>
<b>2009</b>	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	<b>11</b>
<b>2010</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	55	5	0	<b>63</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>6</b>	

### **171. Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

Scarce Passage Migrant

The peak daily count was 12 on 12 October 2004.

2006 to 2010 bird-days are shown in the table below. During this period, spring birds were noted between the 1<sup>st</sup> March and 5 April. In the autumn they were noted from 5 September and 4 November.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
<b>2006</b>	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>6</b>
<b>2007</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	<b>8</b>
<b>2008</b>	0	0	14	4	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	<b>24</b>
<b>2009</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	<b>6</b>
<b>2010</b>	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	

## **Flycatchers to Corvids**

### **172. Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Scarce Passage Migrant

During the review period there were only two records in the spring, with a bird-day total of four. The earliest spring arrival was on 8 May and the peak count was three on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2008. In the autumn, they were recorded between 14 August and 16 September, with bird-day totals of eight during August and 14 in September. All were singles apart from two birds on 15 August and 16 September in 2006.

**173. Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Scarce Passage Migrant

Only one record in the spring during the review period, which was a single bird on 10 April 2007. Better in the autumn with a bird-day total of seventeen, September being the best month. All were singles apart from two on 24 July. Extreme dates in the autumn were 23 July and 10 October.

**174. Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

Rare

Only the one record of a single bird on 13 October 2010.

**175. Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Rare

During the review period 1999 to 2010, this species has only been recorded eleven times at Samphire Hoe. The peak daily count was five on 11 December 2004. The last record was a single bird on 11 April 2009.

**176. Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Scarce Passage Migrant

Most records of this species at Samphire Hoe are of the continental variant which has a blue-grey mantle; the British bird (ssp *britannicus*) has an olive tinged mantle. There were 15 bird-days in the spring, with a peak daily count of five on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 and the spring passage was between 17 March and 3<sup>rd</sup> May. During the autumn which was noted from 2<sup>nd</sup> August to 4 November, there were 21 bird-days with a peak daily count of three on 2 and 6 August 2008.

**177. Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident Breeding Species

Recorded in low numbers throughout the review period, the peak daily count was 11 on 27 September 2010. One pair has regularly attempted breeding in most of the years under review.

**178. Great Tit** *Parus major*

Passage Migrant /Occasional Breeding Species

Numbers of this species are normally low at Samphire Hoe and occasionally a pair will stay to breed. At times migrant birds move through the area, there is evidence of this in 2006, when monthly peak counts of 40 and 30 were recorded on a couple of occasions during the year. Also there was a peak daily count of 18 on 16 March 2004, which incidentally coincided with a large movement of birds through East Kent.

**179. Common Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Rare

One record only, a single bird on the cliff face on 17 October 2008.

**180. Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

Rare

Only the one record, a single bird reported in September 2000.

**181. Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

Rare

The only record is of a single bird present from 8 to 10 October 2005.

**182. Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Rare

Three records, three East on 19 May 1999, one on 27 April 2008 and the last record were of two birds on 21 September 2008.



### 183. Magpie *Pica pica*

Resident Breeding Species

Numbers of this species have increased in recent years at Samphire Hoe, which has coincided with the introduction of sheep and cattle which now graze the grasslands during the autumn to spring period. During 1999 the daily peak count was only two, by 2009 and 2010 this had risen to fifteen. From 2003 to 2010 one or two pairs have attempted to breed, the exceptions being 2006 and 2008 where there no attempts made.

### 184. Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Resident

As yet no proof of breeding in the recording area, but this species was present along the cliffs throughout the years of this review.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	30	40	27	14	12	2	20	20	40	30	0

### 185. Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Scarce Visitor

Low numbers are occasionally recorded passing overhead. The peak count was 10 West on 29 March 2008.

### 186. Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Resident Breeding Species

Regularly recorded at Samphire Hoe, especially on the West beach where they can be seen on the cliffs and rock pools. The peak daily counts were 130 on 14 October 2009 and 250 on 20 October 2009.

1999 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
50	28	30	25	20	40	47	35	30	250	80	33

### 187. Raven *Corvus corax*

Regular Visitor

In recent years this species has become more numerous in East Kent and in 2006 the first birds were recorded at Samphire Hoe. One or two are now regularly recorded, with a daily peak of four birds occasionally seen.

2006 to 2010 bird-days are shown in the table below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2006	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
2007	0	0	8	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	15
2008	0	6	8	2	0	0	0	0	6	2	6	4	34
2009	6	4	14	15	0	4	0	4	5	2	5	5	64
2010	4	9	1	1	2	0	0	0	19	15	9	2	62
	10	19	31	28	2	4	0	5	30	19	20	11	

## Starlings to Buntings

### 188. Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Regular Passage Migrant/Breeding Species

One or two pairs have bred in the Eurotunnel compound in most years. Numbers start to build at Samphire Hoe in early June; these are post-breeding flocks of adults and juveniles. By September these flocks have dispersed, but in late October birds from Europe arrive and can be seen in large numbers coming in off the sea. The peak daily counts were 540 on 26 October 2006, 370 on 20 October 2007 and 300 on 18 October 2008.

2006 to 2010 monthly peak counts are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	8	220	4	10	100	200	400	60	540	200	20

### 189. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Scarce Visitor

Only ever recorded in single figures at Samphire Hoe and not every year. The peak count was six on 18 September 2005.

**190. Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Rare

Only three records, one on 12 September 1999, 16 over on 18 October 2005 and one on 12 September 2007.

**191. Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Regular Visitor/Occasional Breeding Species

Recorded in low numbers throughout the year, but in the spring, birds can be observed going over on migration. The peak counts were 125 on 27 March 2008 and 40 on 23 March 2006. During 2009 and 2010 a single pair attempted to breed at Samphire Hoe.

**192. Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Scarce Visitor

One or Two birds are recorded in the autumn at Samphire Hoe. Records show that since 2006, September had two bird-days, October had ten bird-days and November had four bird-days.

**193. Serin** *Serinus serinus*

Rare

Two records only, both single birds in the same month and year. The first was on 16 May and the second was on 27 May 2000.

**194. Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Scarce Visitor/Occasional Breeding Species

Occasionally recorded in single figures, with a peak count of five heading West on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008. There was just the one breeding attempt in 2002.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	7	18	5	4	3	0	0	13	2	1

### 195. Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Regular Passage Migrant/Visitor

Low numbers are recorded during the year, but in the autumn a steady stream of birds can be seen flying overhead. The peak daily counts were 650 heading East on 14 October 2010, 400 on 21 October 2006 and 300 on 4 October 2007.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	4	6	28	42	20	10	21	209	2602	531	8

### 196. Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Regular Passage Migrant

Records show that during the years 2006 to 2010, the earliest arrival in spring was on 13 March until 29 May. The peak daily count in spring was 210 East on the 5 April 2008. The autumn passage lasted from 16 September to 19 December. The peak autumn daily count was 600 East on 25 September 2008.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	56	400	17	0	0	0	2185	556	729	34

### 197. Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Regular Passage Migrant/Breeding Species

This species regularly breeds in the scrub at the base of the cliffs at Samphire Hoe. The largest numbers are recorded in the autumn with post-breeding flocks in late August followed by migrants in September and October. The peak daily counts during this period were 60 on 3 October 2007 and 55 on 8 September 2010.

The table below shows the number of breeding territories held.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
2	0	3	4	5	8	4	1	4	5	4	4

### 198. Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Rare

Only two records, both were of single birds with flocks of linnet. The first was on 19 October 2000 and the last was on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2004.

**199. Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*

Scarce Passage Migrant

During the years 2006 to 2010, the majority of records were in the autumn. Bird-days during this period were three in April, five in September, 41 in October and 16 in November. The peak daily count was 25 on 18 October 2008.

**200. Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

Rare

There are only two records of this recently split species. One on 8 May 2006 and one on 14 November 2007.

**201. Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Rare

There are three records of this species going over Samphire Hoe. The first was two birds on 15 October 2005, another two on 23 August 2008 and the last was a single bird on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008.

**202. Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Rare

Only two records, the first was a male on 18 November 2002 and the other was a female bird on 6 November 2004.

**203. Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

Rare

Four records, all single birds passing overhead. The first was on 15 October 2005. In 2008 there were two singles on the same day, but unfortunately the date was not shown in the records. The last record was on 16 November 2010.

**204. Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce Winter Visitor

Before 2006, this species could be seen in the winter months on the sea wall feeding on seeds of rock sea lavender. But in recent years the records show that this bird has become rare at Samphire Hoe and the only records are of birds passing over. The peak count was five birds from 25 December until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001. The last record was a single bird heading East on 22 November 2010.

**205. Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Rare

In line with the national trend this species has become a rare bird at Samphire Hoe. Since 2006 there have been only five records. The peak daily count was five West on 15 January 2000 and the last record was of two birds on 28 April 2010.

**206. Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Scarce Visitor/Occasional Breeding Species

This species was only recorded in single figures, with a peak count of four on 23 October 2005. Every year from 2005 to 2008, a pair made a breeding attempt at Samphire Hoe.

2006 to 2010 monthly bird-days are shown in the table below.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	2	20	17	29	10	13	5	13	18	1	1

**207. Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*

Rare

There is one record only and that was a single bird on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008.