

SAMPHIRE HOE BIRD REPORT

2014



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 which plots out bird territories. The recording area is the Hoe itself, the sea, the cliffs behind the Hoe and the east and west ends.

118 species were recorded during the year, 16 species bred in the area plus a further 6 species did so just beyond the recording area. The bird report includes a monthly summary and then a systematic list of species seen in 2014. The information given under the species name is in the bird's status at Samphire Hoe.

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



SUMMARY OF 2014

January

140 Brent Geese flew east past the Hoe on the 1st and 14 Rock Pipits were seen on the west beach, 64 Kittiwakes flew past on the 4th and 100 Common Gulls flew west on the 7th. A Sparrowhawk was seen on the 13th and 7 Red Throated Divers observed just off the sea wall on the 18th. Single Black Redstart throughout the month at the Eastern end of the Hoe plus 1-2 Peregrines. Two Ravens flew west on the 28th.

February

Two Ravens on the 4th, 18 Brent Geese flew east on the 25th, Single Kestrel as with Black Redstart and Peregrine throughout the month, 4 Guillemots offshore on the 24th.

March

Two Black Redstarts on the 10th; the first Chiffchaff of the year was recorded on the 14th, also a single Reed Bunting. A Red Kite was reported over the Hoe on the 17th. First Wheatears of the year were noted on the 18th. Six Pintail flew west on the 18th and a Water Rail was seen to fall prey to a Peregrine. A Common Buzzard on the 23rd, a single Shag was noted on eight dates this month.

April

A Marsh Harrier observed coming in off the sea on the 1st, also 71 Sandwich Terns flew east that day. First Willow Warbler of the year was noted on the 6th. 140 Common Scoter flew east on the 17th, 15 Swallows flew in off the sea on the 19th. Three Yellow Wagtails and a Red Kite were logged on the 23rd, Single Common Sandpiper on the 24th. 17 Whimbrel flew east on the 25th, 3 Eider on the 27th and the first Ring Ouzel was recorded on the 29th.

May

85 Common Scoter and 14 Brents flew east on the 1st, 50 Bar Tailed Godwits, 3 Whimbrel and one Pomarine Skua all going east on the 3rd. First Hobby of the year on the 4th. Two Swifts flew over on the 6th. Two Spotted Flycatchers and a Sedge Warbler were recorded on the 13th. Two plus three juvenile Black Redstarts noted on the 21st and 2 Juvenile Stonechats on the 28th.

June

A pair of Black Redstarts plus 2 fledged young on the 3rd and 4th. A Shag on the 3rd, 2 Ravens on the 4th also a Kingfisher and Whinchat. A Hobby recorded on the 7th, a single Swift on the 9th, a Yellow Wagtail on the 22nd and a Chiffchaff on the 24th. A Honey Buzzard was seen flying out over the sea on the 28th.

July

200 House Martins on the 1st plus 4 Whitethroats, 1 adult + 2 juvenile Black Redstarts on the 2nd. One Little Egret on the 7th and a Eider on the 8th, 4 Swifts on the 12th. An early Red Throated Diver on the 13th and on the 14th a Grasshopper Warbler was located. First of the returning Wheatears was recorded on the 21st also a Hobby was seen on that day. A Grey Heron flew over on the 22nd and 12 Gannets were seen offshore. A Sedge Warbler recorded on the 30th.

August

Four Peregrines recorded on the 2nd and a Hobby on the 4th and 6th. 5 Black Redstarts seen on the 5th, a Sedge Warbler on the 6th. 6 Swifts flew over on the 11th. 10 Wheatears were on the Hoe on the 12th and 13th. A Buzzard drifted west on the 18th. Seven Whitethroats were recorded on the 19th and 22nd, 5 Willow Warblers noted on the 19th. 4 Little Egrets flew west on the 22nd, 10 Stonechats present on the 26th plus 4 Whinchats, a Reed Warbler on the 27th.

September

Five Willow Warblers recorded on the 1st plus 2 Common Redstarts, a Pied Flycatcher was present on the 1st and 2nd and 3 Lesser Whitethroats also six Black Redstarts on site and 1000 House Martins recorded. A Sand Martin flew over on the 6th and a Buzzard flew west on the 7th, 3 Ravens flew west on the 9th. The first Siskins of the autumn were noted moving west on the 14th. One Merlin recorded on the 16th and 22nd. 220 Med Gulls resting on the west beach on the 18th. Six Whinchats on the 19th, 5 Grey Wagtails and 15 Stonechats on the 20th, a Ring Ouzel on the 21st. 12 Chiffchaffs and a Jay on the 30th.

October

A Hen Harrier flew west over the Hoe on the 1st as did two Jays, 6 Kestrels were also noted on that day. One Hobby on the 2nd and 10 Pied Wagtails moved through. Rare visitors to the Hoe were 3 Yellowhammers and a Great Spotted Woodpecker on the 3rd. 100+ Meadow Pipits were logged on the 7th. Two Arctic Skuas flew past on the 8th and a Great Skua on the 10th. 5 Black Redstarts on the 11th, 5 Chiffchaffs on the 14th and 5 Ring Ouzels on the 16th. 575 Brent Geese flew east on the 24th.

November

Fifty Goldfinches flew west on the 15th and a Buzzard noted on the same day. Three Black Redstarts recorded on the 17th, plus 2 Ravens along the cliff tops and a Eider was seen offshore. 15 Red Throated Divers flew east past the Hoe and 6 Stonechats were present on the site. Bird of the month was a Woodlark found on the 19th it was present for a short while the next day. Three Goosander flew past on the 17th, a Chiffchaff noted on the 19th, 4 Lapwings on the 20th, a Firecrest and a Snipe on the 21st. Twelve Rock Pipits on the west beach on the 30th.

December

One Shag and Two Black Redstarts recorded on the 1st, 16 Rock Pipits on the west beach on the 2nd. A Firecrest noted on the 3rd and 7th. 6 Fieldfares reported on the 5th. One Brambling on the 6th and a Snow Bunting on the 8th. 40 Meadow Pipits recorded on the Hoe on the 9th along with 6 Stonechats. Nine Dunnock logged on the 13th. A Chiffchaff recorded on the 16th plus 3 Little Egrets. One Water Rail noted on the 26th and 150 Gannets offshore on the 27th. A Marsh Harrier flew over the Hoe on the 30th.



SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2014

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Passage bird

The only record of the year was of 2 flying east on the 4th of May.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Passage migrant

Three flew past the Hoe on the 19th of March, and the only other record was of one flying west on the 5th of April

BRENT GEES *Branta bernicla*

Common passage migrant

140 flew east on the 1st of January and 224 also going east on the 4th, then 60 on the 15th followed by 205 on the 28th. Three flew east on the 24th of February and 18 also going east on the 25th. Easterly movements recorded during March were 66 on the 10th, 40 on the 19th, 49 on the 20th and 250 on the 28th. During April 195 were recorded flying east on the 17th and 5 on the 27th. The last of the easterly movement was recorded on the 1st of May. First birds of the autumn were 15 flying east on the 21st of September 60 on the 22nd and 2 west on the 23rd. 575 past the Hoe on the 24th of October then 6 on the 28th. 50 flying west on the 18th of November, then 20 on the 30th. Just the two records for December and they were 5 on the 26th and 11 on the 30th.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Passage migrant

Two flew west on the 22nd of April then 4 on the 23rd. The next set of records were in December when 2 were recorded on the 8th and 12 on the 27th all going west past the Hoe.

WIGEON *Anas Penelope*

Passage migrant

Six were on the main pond on the 18th and six flew past on 20th of September.

TEAL *Anas crecca*
Passage migrant/winter visitor



One on the 16th, 18th and 19th of September on the main pond. Three seen offshore on the 20th. Single noted on the main pond on the 16th and 18th of December.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*
Resident breeder

Peak monthly counts

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
20	21	7	6	10	7	6	3	7	3	11	10

PINTAIL *Anus acuta*
Scarce passage migrant
 Six flew west past the Hoe on the 18th of March.

COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima*
Scarce winter visitor

Three moving east past the Hoe on the 27th of April, 1 on the 12th of May, 8th of July and the 17th of November.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Passage migrant

Spring migration was noted during April with counts of 27 going east on the 7th of April, 140 on the 17th, 49 on the 23rd and 30 on the 27th. Easterly movement noted during the first week of May with 85 on the 1st and 110 on the 3rd. First birds of the autumn were 2 on the 6th and 27 on the 24th of October. One flew west on the 7th of December then 2 on the 26th.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Scarce passage migrant

Three flew past the Hoe on the 17th of November.

RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Scarce visitor

One seen on the 24th of April and again on the 3rd of May.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Scarce visitor

One noted on the Hoe on the 6th of April.

RED THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Common winter visitor



Two on the 9th of January and then 7 on the 18th. No other records until March when a single was logged on the 8th, 18th and 28th. An early record was of a single noted off the Hoe on the 13th of July. First birds of the winter were 5 flying east on the 18th of November, 4 on the 19th.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

Resident breeder

Six on the 18th of January, 5 on the 19th and 9 on the 28th. Two on five dates in February, 3 on the 10th and 4 on the 26th. Six on the 1st and 10th of March Four on the 5th and 8th. Four on the 8th, and 5 on the 22nd of April. Up to four throughout May, No more than two recorded on any one date in June. Three on the 12th of July. Four on the 16th of August, 3 on the 25th and 7 on the 26th. 3-4 during the first week of September, One on the 15th was the last sighting until one was noted on the 23rd of November. Three on the 15th and 29th of December and 2 on the 23rd and 30th.

GANNET *Morus bassanus*

Winter visitor/passage migrant

One flew west on the 9th of January, 4 offshore on the 14th. Singles on the 12th, 17th, 18th, 22nd and 25th of March. Nine flew east on the 23rd of April, 31 on the 25th and 12 on the 27th. Two east on the 7th of May, One on the 16th of June, 12 on the 22nd and 5 on the 29th. Seven noted on the 19th of August. Singles on three dates in September. One on the 6th of October. Two flew east on the 16th of November, Twelve offshore on the 19th. 150 recorded offshore on the 27th of December

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Resident non breeder

Peak monthly totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
7	3	7	6	2	2	3	5	10	8	10	9

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Winter visitor

Single on eight dates during March. One on the 22nd of April plus a juvenile on the 23rd. One on the 5th and 12th of May, 4 on the 13th. One on the 3rd of June and the 29th of July. Single on the 19th of August and 3 on the 25th. Single on the 2nd of September. One on the 5th and 14th of October 2 on the 12th. Singles on two dates in November and on four dates in December.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta**Passage bird*

Peak monthly counts

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2						4	5	9	1	7	10

Two records during January then nothing until July, Four flew west on the 22nd of August. Three noted on the 16th of September also on the 16th of December, 1-2 on several other dates

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea**Passage bird*

Singles on the 6th, 8th and 20th of January, 1 on the 3rd and 18th of March. Two flew past the Hoe on the 1st of April. One flew east on the 4th of May and again on the 22nd of July. Two on the 27th of September. Single sightings on five dates in October, 2 on the 14th. Three past the Hoe on the 14th of November, then singles on two other dates during the month.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis**Scarce visitor*

Just the one record this year and that was of a single bird seen on the 26th of May.

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

Few records this winter, Single on the 4th of January and on the 10th of February. Two offshore on the 28th of March, one on the 3rd of April. The next record was not until December when a single was noted offshore on the 13th.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus**Rare passage migrant*

One flew out to sea on the 28th of June.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus**Rare passage migrant*

One reported over the Hoe on the 17th of March. One flew east on the 23rd of April.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Unusual passage migrant

One seen to fly in off the sea on the 1st of April. One over the Hoe on the 30th of December.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Rare passage migrant

Ring tail observed flying west on the 15th of October.

SPARROW HAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Passage migrant/winter visitor

One recorded on the 13th of January, the 24th of February and again on the 12th of March. Single sightings on four dates during April. The next record was of a single bird on the 15th and 30th of August. One on eight dates throughout September. One seen to come in off the sea on the 5th of October. One recorded on the 9th of December.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Unusual visitor

One on the 23rd of March, 1 on the 18th of August. Three flew west on the 7th of September then a single on the 16th. The last record was of a single on the 9th December.

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident breeder

1-2 throughout the first eight months of the year, there has been no proof of breeding on site this year. One flew out to sea on the 6th of September, possible movement on the 15th, 20th and 27th of September when eight were recorded on each day, 7 on the 30th. Six recorded on the 1st of October, 4 on the 5th and 14th then 1-3 during the rest of the month. Single on seven dates in November. Just the one record in December and that was on the 1st. One flew east over the Hoe on the 16th of September. One on the 22nd of September.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Scarce winter visitor/passage migrant

One flew east on the 16th of September and 1 on the 22nd.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Summer visitor

One on the 4th of May and the 7th of June. One on the 21st of July then again on the 23rd, 27th, 28th and the 29th. Single on the 4th and 6th of August. The last sighting of the autumn was of a single on the 2nd of October.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

Resident breeder

Two on the 5th, 14th and 16th of January, Singles on four dates in February. 1-2 throughout March, April and May. Two noted at the east end of the Hoe and two at the west end on the 4th of June, the two seen at the west end were probably the pair reported to be holding territory in the area of Dead mans pool. Two plus two juveniles on the 25th of June, two adults and two juveniles on the 9th of July. Four on the 2nd of August and 3 on the 16th. 1-2 throughout September. Single on six dates during October and 1-2 throughout November and December.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

Passage bird and winter visitor

One seen to be taken by a Peregrine on the 18th of March. One on the Hoe on the 26th of December.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident breeder

Peak monthly counts

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

One seen on the nest on the 3rd of April, Eggs hatched on the 10th. Two adults and 4 chicks on the 15th and 21st of April, 2 plus 3 chicks on the 29th. One sitting on a nest on the 12th of May and one on eggs on the 5th of June. Two new chicks on the 5th of August.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Passage visitor

17 flew east past the Hoe on the 23rd of April, 3 on the 4th of May. Eight going west on the 2nd of June, 3 on the 22nd of July. Two flying east on the 26th of August, One on the 22nd of September and 1 on the 25th of November.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Passage migrant

One on the 20th of June and 4 on the 20th of November.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage migrant

Thirteen flew up channel on the 19th of April and 17 on the 25th. Three flew east on the 3rd of May.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Passage migrant

One on the 22nd of July and on the 17th of November. During December singles were noted on the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 15th and 28th, Two on the 8th.

BAR TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Passage migrant

Nine flew up channel on the 25th of April and then 50 on the 3rd of May.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Passage migrant

First birds of the year were singles on the 24th and 26th of April, singles on the 11th and 19th of May. Six on the west beach on the 8th of July. Four noted on the 22nd and 3 on the 23rd. One on the 5th and 11th of August. The last bird of the autumn was a single on the 19th of September.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa tetanus*

Passage migrant

One on the seawall on the 27th of August.

WOODCOCK

Scarce passage migrant

Just the one record this year and that was of a single on the 13th of March.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

Scarce passage migrant/winter visitor

One on the 21st of November and on the 7th of December.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce passage migrant

One flew east on the 3rd of May.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Passage migrant

Two flew past on the 8th of October, 1 on the 10th and 24th.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

Passage migrant

Four on the 17th of April. One on the 10th of October.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

Winter visitor

Singles on the 5th, 9th, 13th and 15th of January, 2 on the 14th. Two on the 10th of February and 4 on the 24th. Last birds of the winter were singles on the 3rd and 18th of March. First bird of the winter was a single on the 18th and 19th of November.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

Winter visitor

One on the 14th of January and one on the 2nd and 9th of February were the only records for the year.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Passage migrant

71 flew east on the 1st of April, 8 on the 17th and 10 on the 25th. Three offshore on the 11th of May, then one on the 23rd of July. No autumn records due to the fact that no sea watching was undertaken.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Passage migrant

Two flew east on the 19th of April.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Passage migrant

Four flew west on the 4th of January, 64 on the 5th. Three offshore on the 21st of April. The only autumn record was of 2 on the 8th of October.

BLACK HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Passage and winter visitor

Peak Monthly Counts

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
100	100	40	2	2	4	30	60	30	50	40	50

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Passage migrant

One on the 13th of January and 2 on the 19th. Two on the 17th of April. One had to wait until August before the next sightings and they were 6 on the 3rd, 6 juveniles flying west on the 14th. 200 were noted offshore on the 26th. 2 on the 27th. 6 were seen on the 14th of September then 220 offshore on the 18th. 35 flew west on the 8th of October, 50 noted on the west beach on the 16th and 15 flew west on the 21st. One offshore on the 18th of November.

GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Passage migrant

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
4	5	12	5	4	4	5	12	5	10	15	30

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Passage migrant

10 flew west on the 1st of January then 100 on the 7th. Two on the 8th and 10th of February 4 on the 17th. 15 recorded on the 18th of March. One on the 24th of June, 2 on the 22nd of July. One on the 6th and 8th of October 2 on the 7th and 14th. One on November the 21st. Two on three dates in December.

LESSER BLACKED BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Passage migrant

Peak monthly counts

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

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Resident breeder

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
50	70	100	150	82	30	200	120	100	50	50	180

180 Flew west along the cliff tops.

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia**Resident breeder*

Twenty recorded on the 24th of May. 12 on the 16th of August, 8 on the 27th of September and 30 on the 16th of November.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas**Resident breeder*

One on the 21st of January. Two on the 4th, 9th, 18th and 23rd of March. One on six dates in April and 2 on the 21st. Single on four dates during May, Pair breeding on cliff face. One noted throughout June and July, 1-2 throughout August. Four on the 1st of October. An under recorded species. *Breeding-At least one pair*

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus**Resident breeder*

Peak monthly totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
25	64	80	30	10	12	10	10	20	10	48	105

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto**Scarce visitor*

One on the 14th of May then again on the 3rd of September.

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus**Passage migrant*

First birds of the year were 2 on the 6th of May, 4 on the 13th. One on the 9th of June and on the 5th of July, 4 on the 12th. Last sighting was of six on the 11th of August.

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis**Scarce passage migrant*

One logged on the 4th of June.

GREENWOODPECKER *Picus viridis**Mainly a winter visitor*

Single on six dates during January, One on the 16th of February 26th of April and then on the 26th of July. Not as regular on the Hoe as in previous years

MAGPIE *Pica pica**Resident breeder*

Peak monthly counts

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
12	9	8	8	6	7	9	15	16	12	12	6

JAY *Garrulus glandarius**Unusual visitor*One on the 30th of September, 2 flying west on the 1st of October, one on the 20th.**JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula**Resident*

Peak monthly counts

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
20	20	30	16	4	20	20			15	9	16

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus**Passage migrant*Four flew west over the Hoe on the 1st of April.**CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone**Resident breeder*

Peak monthly counts

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
10	10	20	30	20	50	15	11	30	60	20	20

RAVEN *Corvus corax**Regular visitor*

Two flew over on the 28th of January, one on the 2nd of February and 2 on the 4th. Two flew west on the 23rd and 24th of March. One on the 1st and 6th of April and on the 3rd and 11th of May. Two on the 4th of June. Four were noted on the 19th, 27th and 30th of August 2 on four other dates. Two on seven dates in September with 4 recorded on the 9th and 23rd three on the 26th. Four on the 1st of October, two on the 16th, 17th and 24th of November. Two on the 28th of December

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Passage migrant

First birds of the autumn were 2 on the 19th and 20th of September the next sightings were of 1 on the 10th of November 2 on the 19th, 20th and 23rd.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

Passage migrant



One on the 21st of November, then a single on the 3rd of December and 2 on the 7th.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Resident breeder

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
5	3	2	2	2	2	10	3	9	6	5	4

At least one pair held territory

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Resident breeder

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

Pair nested in the Dog poo bin along the back track and seen carrying food on the 3rd of May.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Rare visitor



One on the 19th of November still present the following morning but disappeared before midday.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Resident breeder

One on the 13th of February, 1-2 throughout March. One on eight dates in April, three on the 12th and 29th. 1-2 throughout May and June. Two on the 1st and 8th of July. Two on the 15th and 16th of October, then again on the 16th, 18th and 30th of November. *Breeding- 1 territory held*

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Scarce passage migrant

The only record for the year was of 1 flying west on the 6th of September.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Summer visitor

First bird of the year was of 1 on the 14th of April, 15 in off the sea on the 19th and 12 on the 25th. 28 recorded on the 13th of May 10 on the 18th. Highest count in June was of two. Two on the 14th of July. Five on the 4th of August, 6 on the 24th. 20 on the 2nd of September and again on the 21st 16 on the 22nd. Twelve on the 4th of October, 30 on the 15th and the last bird of the year was a single on the 16th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

Summer visitor/breeder



First birds of the year at Samphire Hoe were 2 on the 20th of April then again on the 21st, 5 on the 29th. Highest counts in May were 20 on the 13th, 50 on the 18th and 30 on the 27th, Highest count in June was 20 which occurred on four dates. 200 on the 1st of July, and 50 on four other dates. 100 on the 16th of August and 40 flew east on the 27th. 1000+ past the Hoe on the 2nd of September, 300 on the 6th and 100 on the 9th, Six were observed still feeding young on the 21st. The last recorded birds were 2 flying west on the 27th. *Approx 11 nest sites, down by half on the previous year*

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Passage migrant

First bird of the spring was on the 14th of March followed by 2 on the 17th then singles on three other dates. Singles on four dates in April and 3 noted on the 9th and 2 on the 14th. Singles on two dates in May and one in June. Four on the 5th of August. Birds were moving through in September with 12 on the 9th, 21st and 30th and 42 on the 20th. Four on the 1st of October, 5 on the 14th. One on the 19th of November and the last bird of the year was on the 16th of December.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Passage migrant

First bird of the year was on the 6th of April. The next sighting was of 2 on the 13th of May one of which was of the Northern race. First birds of the autumn were singles on the 14th and 18th of August and 5 on the 19th and 2 on the 24th and 28th. Five on the 1st of September, 6 on the 2nd and the last sighting of the year was of a single on the 22nd.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Passage migrant possible breeder

First of the year was of a single on the 3rd of April followed by 2 on the 8th then singles on three other dates. Single sightings on seven dates in June and on four dates in July. Two were noted on the 26th of August. Numbers increased a little in September but no double figures counts were recorded highest counts made were 6 on the 7th, 21st and 30th, 12 on the 19th, 7 on the 20th and 8 on the 23rd. Two on the 1st and 7th of October, 4 on the 12th and the last bird of the year was on the 16th.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Summer visitor possible breeder

Two recorded on the 23rd of April were the first birds of the year followed by one on the 29th. Two on four dates in May and singles on five dates. One on the 18th of August. Two on the 1st of September, 3 on the 2nd and One on the 6th and 8th were the last sightings of the year.

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Summer visitor/breeder



First sightings of the year were 3 on the 22nd and 23rd of April followed by 2 on the 28th then 4 on the 29th. Four on the 3rd of May and 5 on the 4th then 1-3 throughout the rest of the

month. Two on six dates in June and 3 on four dates. Highest counts during July were 8 on the 8th and 5 on the 29th. Seven on the 19th and 22nd of August, and 8 on the 26th. Seven on the 8th of September, six on the 2nd and 9th. Two on the 29th proved to be the last of the autumn. *Breeding-5 territories held.*

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Scarce passage migrant

One singing on the 14th of July this individual remained in the area for the best part of the day.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Occasional passage migrant

First birds of the year were singles on the 13th and 25th of May. First of the returning birds was of a single on the 30th of July, singles on three dates in August with 2 on the 27th. One on the 2nd and 19th of September and the last bird of the autumn was noted on the 20th.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Scarce passage migrant

Singles on the 1st of June, 27th of August and the last bird of the year was seen on the 16th of September.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Resident breeder

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	3	2	4	3	4	2	1	8	4	10	9

Highest counts were made during the autumn months

Breeding – 5 territories held

STARLING *Sternus vulgaris*

Passage migrant/winter visitor

Starlings no longer breed at the Hoe. Not recorded during the first five months of the year the first record of the year was of 2 on the 9th and 23rd of June. Numbers increased in July with counts of 100 on the 18th, c200 on the 22nd, 27th and 28th and then c250 on the 29th. Highest counts during August were c200 on four dates, 250 on the 19th. Numbers dropped in September with counts of 100+ on the 27th and 50 on the 23rd and 30th. 50 were recorded on the 1st and 7th of October, 40 on the 4th and 30 on the 28th. One on the 18th of November and 2 on the 29th of December.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Passage migrant

Just the one record for the spring and that was of a single bird on the 29th of April. First birds of the autumn migration through the Hoe were 1 on the 1st of October followed by another on the 10th two on the 13th and 14th, 3 on the 15th. Last birds of the autumn were 5 on the 16th.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Resident breeder passage migrant

Peak monthly total

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
7	8	4	6	6	6	5	3	4	10	6	11

No influx of continental birds noted this year

Breeding-Nine territories held

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Winter visitor

Six reported on the Hoe on the 5th of December.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Passage migrant winter visitor

Single noted on the 11th, 13th and 21st of January. Two on the 10th, 13th and 25th of February. One on five dates throughout March. Not recorded during the summer months. First bird of the autumn was a single on the 6th of October followed by singles on four other dates, 6 on the 14th. Four was the highest count in November. Four on the 13th of December, 1-3 on seven other dates.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Passage migrant winter visitor

First bird of the autumn was a single on the 21st of November followed by one on the 28th and 30th. Two on the 3rd of December followed by one on the 26th and 28th.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Scarce passage migrant

Two on the 13th of May.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca**Scarce passage migrant*

First birds of the autumn passage were singles on the 1st, 2nd and 7th of September.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula**Passage migrant/winter visitor rare breeder*

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
4	4	3	3	2			7	24	14	12	7

Influx of probable continental birds noted on the 20th of September and again on the 28th, Double figures noted on several dates in October and November.

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

Single on six dates during January and February. Two throughout March with 3 on the 10th. Regular sightings of two during April. A Juvenile was recorded on the 17th of May, Two plus three juveniles were recorded on the 21st and 23rd and 1 adult plus two juveniles on the 28th. One adult and two fledged young on the 3rd of June, a pair and two juveniles on the 4th, 4 on the 14th and 18th. During July juveniles were recorded on the 2nd and 9th six birds were logged on the 29th. Four on the 4th and 14th of August, 5 on the 11th, 12th and 26th. During September numbers recorded are as follows 6 on the 2nd and 23rd, 5 on the 8th and 4 on 9th and 30th. Three on three dates in October, 5 noted on the 11th. 1-3 throughout November. Two on the 1st, 16th and 18th of December. *Breeding- One possible two breeding pairs*

COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus**Scarce passage migrant*

Two on the 1st of September and again on the 18th.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra**Autumn passage migrant*

One reported on the 4th of June. The autumn migration through the Hoe began in earnest in August with singles on the 12th, 18th, 19th and 28th, 2 on the 24th and 4 on the 26th and 27th. September proved to be a good month with 4 on the 2nd, 6th and 23rd, 5 on the 7th and 8th, 6 on the 16th and 19th, 1-3 on ten other dates, Two on the 28th was the last sighting of the year.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus*
Resident breeder and passage migrant

Peak monthly totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
7	4	6	8	8	6	11	14	15	10	6	8

8 plus two juveniles on the 29th of April, Two plus 1 juvenile at the west end on the 3rd of May. Seen with young on the 10th of June. *4 territories held.*

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Regular passage migrant



First birds of the year were 2 on the 18th of March this was five days earlier than last year. Two recorded on the 19th, 22nd and 24th. Two on the 7th of April then again on the 11th, 22nd and 25th. Singles on six dates in May, 4 on the 17th.

First of the autumn movement was a single on the 21st of July then one on the 28th and 29th. During August 10 were logged on the 12th, 13th and 26th, 20 on the 19th and 8 on the 25th. Twelve recorded on the 1st and 2nd of September, 9 on the 27th plus 1-5 on fifteen other dates. Five on the 3rd, 14th and 18th of October. Last bird of the year was a single on the 28th of October.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*
Resident breeder/ passage migrant

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
6	2	6	6	4	3	4	2	7	4	8	9

Breeding- Four territories held

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Passage migrant

Three on the 23rd of April. One in off the sea on 24th. Three seen in off the sea on the 4th of May. One on the 22nd of June and the 7th of August. Two flew east on the 21st of September.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Passage migrant

One on the 14th of May. One on the 15th of September 5 on the 19th and 2 on four other dates. Two on the 10th, 14th and 16th of October. Singles on four dates in November. One on the 3rd and 8th of December.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Passage migrant occasional breeder

One on the 20th and 22nd of March. Singles on the 22nd of April, 8th of August and on the 8th and 23rd of September. 10 flew over the Hoe on the 2nd of October 1 on the 19th, 21st and 28th. Single on the 16th and 29th of November.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Montacilla alba alba*

Passage migrant

One on the 9th, 14th and 22nd March. One on the 21st of April.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Passage migrant, resident breeder



Peak monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
12	2	7	10	9	6	9	8	360	100	30	40

One seen carrying food on the 16th of April. Westerly movements noted during September and October. *Breeding- Seven territories held*

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Resident breeder/winter visitor

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
15	10	9	6	8	5	10	9	25	23	12	16

One seen carrying food on the 21st of May. Feeding young at the western end of the Hoe on the 25th of June. *Breeding – 2 territories held*

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident breeder/passage migrant

During the first quarter of the year sightings of this species consisted of singles on nine different dates, Scarce during the middle part of the year with just one on the 17th of May

and the 3rd of August. Three were noted on the 9th of September and 4 flew east on the 23rd. Highest counts in October were of 6 on the 12th, 7 on the 19th and 4 on the 20th. Two on the 18th of November and 4 on the 23rd. Single on three dates in December.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* *Scarce passage migrant*
One on the 6th of December.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*
Passage migrant occasional breeder

Peak monthly totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
5			3	2	2	2	1	7	30	50	30

Highest counts were made during the autumn when small flocks moved westwards through the area

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*
Passage migrant

First birds of the autumn were 10 on the 14th of September, 8 on the 20th of November.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*
Summer breeder/ passage migrant



J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
5			3	2	2	10	10	18	20	3	4

September and October were the best months for this species with counts of 17 on the 9th of September and 18 on the 23rd. Twelve on the 15th of October and 20 on the 16th.
Breeding- 5 territories held

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Passage migrant

One on the 27th of September and 4 on the 28th.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare winter visitor

One on the 8th of December.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citronella*

Uncommon visitor

Three on the 3rd of October.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Passage migrant

One on the 14th of March. Single on the 9th, 15th and 19th of September and 1 on the 2nd of October.

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