

SAMPHIRE HOE BIRD REPORT FOR 2017



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 and its use as a migratory stopping point and a wintering ground.

The birds of Samphire Hoe are recorded on a casual basis by general observations. The breeding birds are monitored by an annual Common Bird Census, this plots out bird territories. The recording area is Samphire Hoe itself, the sea, the cliffs behind the Hoe and the east and west ends.

123 species were recorded in 2017 in the recording area, an equivalent number to that of 2016. 23 different species held territory in the recording area. The bird report includes a monthly summary and then a systematic list of species seen in 2017. The information given under the species name is the bird's status at Samphire Hoe.

Thanks go to Derek Smith who has compiled the report and all the contributors, in particular all the volunteer Rangers and other observers.

Photo credits: Paul Holt, Marilyn Avery, Philippe Turpin.



ASPECTS OF THE YEAR 2017

JANUARY

The month began with unusual numbers of Cormorants moving East up the Channel with counts of 310 on the 6th and 28th, 910 noted on the 30th. 10 Gannets offshore on the 2nd and 3 Red Throated Divers on the 7th, 200 Brents flew East on the 8th and 910 on the 30th. Six Fulmars were recorded on the 7th and 10th. A three way punch up was observed between a Peregrine/ Raven and a Buzzard on the 30th. 4 Shags and 2 Razorbills logged on the 30th. Little Egrets seen on five dates throughout the month.

FEBRUARY

The first Black Redstart for 2017 was recorded on the 3rd, 64 Red Throated Divers flew East on the 6th. A single Shelduck noted flying West on the 7th. 40 Guillemots noted someway offshore on the 8th plus 38 Kittiwakes feeding just off the seawall. Numbers of Cormorants remained high this month with 1,290 passing the Hoe on the 6th, c.1,000 on the 7th and 1,172 on the 14th. The first Little Grebe of the winter was recorded on the 14th, then 2 on the 19th. A Buzzard was noted on the 15th and 19th and a c.120 Gannets offshore on the 21st, 150 Brents flew East on the 27th and 27 Common Gull flew West on the 28th. A Shag recorded on four dates throughout the month.

MARCH

A Red Kite reported on the 2nd, 1 flew West on the 6th. 11 Rock Pipits including 1 of the race *Littoralis* were seen on the 4th. A Woodlark flew in off the sea on the same day. On the 10th a Stonechat of the race *Rubicola* was reported. 38 Red Throated Divers were seen flying East, 10 Common Gulls flying West. The first Blackcap of the spring was noted on the 12th. 2 Reed Buntings were recorded on the 15th followed two days later by the first Wheatear of the year, 800 Brents flew East on the 18th. The first Chiffchaff of the spring was logged on the 20th. 6 Fulmar noted on the 28th plus 1 EIDER just offshore. A Common Snipe was recorded on the Hoe on the 30th plus a Yellowhammer.

APRIL

Four Mute Swans flew E on the 4th, 98 Sandwich Terns moved East on the 8th. The first Common Whitethroat was recorded on the 9th followed by 2 Willow Warblers on the 10th and 3 Swallows. A Ring Ouzel was noted on the 9th. A Raven was recorded feeding 2 young on the 13th. The first 2 House Martins of the year on the Hoe arrived on the 17th and a Velvet Scoter was seen going East. One Lesser Whitethroat recorded on the 18th was the first of the spring migrants, 9 Bar Tailed Godwits flew E. The following day the 19th 5 Grey Plover and 44 Whimbrel flew up channel. A Great Skua seen offshore on the 23rd. A Common Redstart a rare bird for the Hoe was noted on the 29th. A Pomarine Skua seen flying East on the 30th.

MAY

The month began with 5 Pomarine Skuas flying East on the 1st, the following day a single Surf Scoter was seen offshore the same day 3 Yellow Wagtails were observed coming in off the sea. 16 Whimbrel flew East on the 4th and 11 Stonechats were recorded on the Hoe. A single Arctic Skua flew East on the 7th plus 683 Commic Terns also on that day 16 Bar Tailed Godwits flew East and 3 Shags were seen offshore and 6 Swifts were seen. 3 Little Egrets flew East on the 10th and the Little Grebe and 3 chicks were observed on the main pond. On the 12th a Spotted Flycatcher and a Sedge Warbler were recorded. Two Ravens and 3 fledged young were seen at the nest site on the 14th. An uncommon visitor to the Hoe on the 18th was a single Collared Dove, 5 Common Whitethroats on the 29th.

JUNE

A Med Gull was recorded off shore on the 5th, 8 Swifts flew over on the 12th and a Common Gull was seen offshore. Single Raven logged on the 13th c.150 Common Scoter flew up the Channel on the 14th. The first Wheatear of the autumn was noted on the 18th, A juvenile Black Redstart was noted at the East end of the Hoe on the 20th plus a Rock Pipit was seen to be feeding young. Single Lesser Whitethroats seen on the 26th and 27th, two Stock Doves on the cliff face on the 26th and 2 Kestrel chicks seen at the cliff face nest site.

JULY

A House Sparrow recorded on the 4th is deemed as a bit of a rarity for the Hoe. One Whimbrel flew West on the 6th. A Black Redstart and 3 juveniles recorded from the East end of the Hoe on the 9th, 65 Common Scoter flew East on the 10th and 3 Yellow Wagtails flew over the Hoe on the 11th. A Honey Buzzard was seen to fly over on the 19th. 4 Ravens noted on the 21st and 12 Swifts on the 25th. A juvenile Cuckoo remained on the Hoe between the 24th and 26th. The first Hobby of the year was noted on the 25th, two Willow Warblers recorded on the 26th. C.50 Starlings on the Hoe on the 31st plus 12 Stonechats.

AUGUST

8 Med Gulls flew West on the 5th and 70 Swifts were observed moving West on the 7th. A c.20 Stonechats was noted on the 8th along with 28 Linnets, 10 Common Whitethroats and 150 Starlings. A Single Whinchat on the 14th was the first of the autumn, 6 Wheatear on the 20th plus 3 Black Redstarts. A Reed Warbler remained on the Hoe for four days and a juvenile Shelduck for one week.

SEPTEMBER

A juvenile Sparrowhawk was recorded on the 2nd and a Grasshopper Warbler on the 4th. A Spotted Flycatcher was noted on the 15th, A Yellow Wagtail flew over the Hoe on the 16th as did a single Swift. A movement of Blackcaps through the Hoe was recorded on the 19th when 50 were noted. 3 Goldcrests logged on the 20th and a single Ring Ouzel on the 25th also a Buzzard was recorded on that day. A Kingfisher was recorded on the 27th plus a Common Redstart.

OCTOBER

40 Chiffchaffs noted on the 3rd, 20 Sand Martins flew West on the 5th, a single Whimbrel recorded on the same day. 11 Stonechats logged on the 12th and 3 House Sparrows on the 14th. A Short Toed Treecreeper was mist netted and then ringed on the 15th. 250 Med Gulls recorded offshore on the 18th plus 2 Arctic Skuas. Four Ravens noted on the 18th, a single Ring Ouzel on the 19th. A Short Eared Owl was flushed from the bank close to the security compound on the 24th. 5 Long Tailed Tits seen on the 28th and to round off a good month a Yellow Browed Warbler was recorded on the 31st.

NOVEMBER

The month began with the discovery of another Yellow Browed Warbler of the autumn. 170 Med Gulls offshore on the 2nd. A single Blackcap on the 3rd along with a Coal Tit and on the same day 4 Lapwings flew over the Hoe. A Woodcock was recorded on the 11th. Three Little Egrets were on the West pond on the 13th and a Red Necked Grebe was recorded offshore on the 15th and a Arctic Skua on the 19th. 25 Siskin were seen to fly in off the sea on the 25th.

DECEMBER

2 Ravens noted on the Hoe in the 1st and 28th, 10 Stonechats recorded on the 3rd and a Shag seen offshore on the 5th, 50+ Great Backed Gulls flew past on the 12th. A Black throated Diver noted offshore on the 13th and 4 Red Throated Divers on the 14th. On the Hoe 20 Meadow Pipits were observed on the 18th and 32 Jackdaws on the 19th, 75 Cormorants flew West on the 26th. 12 Rock Pipits noted at the Western end of the Hoe and 2 Black Redstarts at the Eastern end, 2 possible Slavonian Grebes reported, all on the 28th.

Systematic List for 2017

MUTE SWAN

Cygnus olor

Passage bird

Two flew East on the 4th of April.

GREYLAG GOOSE

Anser anser

Passage bird

One noted on the 23rd of January.

BRENT GEESSE

Branta bernicla bernicla

Passage bird

200 flew East past the Hoe on the 8th of January, 30 East on the 12th of February and a further 150 on the 27th. 340 also moving East on the 11th of March and 800 on the 18th and 42 on the 27th and 17 on the 28th. 10 flew East on the 8th of May. First birds of the autumn were 2 on the 25th of September, the next sighting was of 4 flying West on the 15th of October a further 4 on the 18th. 36 were noted flying West on the 24th and 7 on the 29th. 30 flew past the Hoe on the 5th of November, 48 on the 13th and then 30 going E n the 19th. Three flew East on the 3rd of December.

SHELDUCK

Tadorna tadorna

Passage bird

One seen going East on the 7th of February, 2 flew past on the 30th of March. One juvenile bird present around the main pond from the 10th of August until the 22nd. Seven flew West on the 30th of November.

WIGEON

Anas Penelope

Passage bird

Two were recorded on the 24th of December.

TEAL

Anas crecca

Passage bird

One recorded on the 19th of September.

MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
9	4	6	5	4	9	7	6	2	4	4	-

10 Chicks on the main pond on the 13 of May, 4 adults and 11 chicks on the 16th. Female and 12 chicks on the 4th of June, female and 7 young on the 27th. Probably three broods reared but the chicks were heavily predated.

PINTAIL

Anas acuta

Passage bird

One flew East on the 8th of April.

SHOVELER

Anas clypeata

Passage bird

5 flew East on the 8th of April, 1 on the 4th of May.

EIDER

Somateri mollissima

Passage bird

One seen off the Hoe on the 28th of March.

COMMON SCOTER

Melanitta nigra

Passage migrant

c.150 flying East on the 14th of June, 40 observed flying West on the 28th. 65 flew West on the 10th of July, 2 West on the 26th. First bird of the autumn was one on the 28th of November.

VELVET SCOTER

Melanitta fusca

Passage bird

One going East on the 17th of April.

RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE

Alectoris rufa

Occasional visitor

One seen on the Hoe on the 31st of April.

PHEASANT

Phasianus colchicus

Occasional visitor

One on the 16th of February. 2 on the 27th and 30th of March. 2 on the 4th of April then a single on six other dates. A break of four months before the next sighting which was of a hen bird on the 11th of September then again on the 17th and 24th. 1-2 throughout October. A cock bird noted on the 8th of December.

RED THROATED DIVER

Gavia stellate

Winter visitor

3 recorded off the Hoe on January the 7th then 1 on the 25th. 54 flew East on the 6th of February then 5 on the 8th and 17 on the 14th. Just 3 records for March: 2 birds going East on the 7th, 38 on the 11th and 3 on the 28th. First birds of the winter were singles on the 15th and 17th of December.

BLACK THROATED DIVER

Garvia arctica

Winter visitor

One recorded offshore on the 3rd of December

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

Garvia immer

One reported on the 14th of December.

FULMAR

Fulmarus glacialis

Resident/ Summer breeder

6 recorded on the 7th and 10th of January then 7 on the 30th. During February, 9 were noted on the 8th, 5 on the 15th and 8 on the 24th and 28th. 3-6 recorded on eleven dates in March and 2-4 throughout April 7 on the 11th. 2 on three dates in May, 3 on the 9th and 5 on the 16th. 2 on three dates in June and two dates in July. Single sightings on six dates in August, 3 on the 8th. Last birds of the summer were 1 on the 4th of September and 2 on the 8th. First of the returning birds were 1 on the 20th of November and 2 on the 28th. 5 were noted on the 3rd of December, 1 on four dates and 2 on the 21st.

GANNET

Morus bassanus

Winter visitor/ Passage migrant

10 offshore on the 2nd of January, 8 on the 7th and 9th. C.120 noted offshore on the 21st of February, ten on the 5th of March. 56 flew East past the Hoe on the 19th of April. 8 recorded on the 13th of May. 3-7 offshore on seven dates in July plus 38 on the 26th. 30 offshore on the 5th of August. 40 noted on the 8th of September. During the month of October, numbers recorded were 60 on the 1st, 100 on the 16th and 75 on the 18th. On the 11th and 12th of November counts of 200 were made. 40 offshore on the 23rd of December and 50+ on the 28th.

CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax carbo

Resident/Non breeder

Peak monthly totals usually seen around the Hoe

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
10	8	9	6	5	5	10	10	12	5	6	6

In the early months of the year large numbers of Cormorants were recorded moving up and down the channel, numbers recorded were 1,590 going East on the 6th of January, c.330 on the 10th, 70 in a feeding frenzy off the Hoe on the 25th, 300 flying E on the 29th, 910 on the 30th. c.600 flew West on the 1st of February, 400 East on the 6th, c.1,000 on the 7th and 1,172 on the 14th. 30 flew East on the 19th of March. 45 going East on the 29th of November. 75 flew West on the 26th of December.

SHAG

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Winter visitor

4 noted on the 30th of January. Single sightings on the 6th, 7th, 8th and 15th of February. One on the 7th, 27th and 28th of March. 4 on the 20th of April, 3 on the 7th of May. Single sighting on the 13th of August. One on the 4th of September then 2 on the 4th and 5th. One on the 10th and 26th of October, 2 on the 31st. Single sighting on the 19th of November. 2 on the 5th of December, singles on the 21st and 28th.

LITTLE EGRET

Egretta garzetta

Passage bird

Single sightings on five dates in January and on four dates in February. One on the 10th of March. 3 flew West on the 16th of April and 2 flew East on the 23rd. One on the 8th of May and 3 flew East on the 10th. 3 recorded on the 9th and 27th of July. 2 flew west past the Hoe on the 8th of August single birds recorded on the 13th, 15th, 20th and 21st. One on the 24th and 26th of September. Single sightings on seven dates in October. 2 flew East on the 14th and 2 West on the 17th. One recorded on 6 dates in November 3 on the 12th and 13th. Singles on the 3rd, 15th and 24th of December.

GREY HERON

Ardea cinerea

Passage bird

One on the 3rd and 6th of January, 2 flew East on the 5th of February and 1 West on the 14th. Two flew West on the 2nd of April. One noted on the 7th, 8th and 13th of May and again on the 14th, 18th, 28th and 31st of July single sighting on six dates in August, 3 on the 22nd and 4 on the 29th. Single on five dates in September, 14 West on the 24th 2 on the 26th. 2 on the 5th and 10th of October, 1 on the 19th and 23rd. 2 on the 1st and 16th of November. 2 on the 5th and 21st of December.

LITTLE GREBE

Tachybaptus ruficollis

One reported on the main pond on the 4th of February from then on 5 single sightings were recorded then 2 on the 19th, 21st and 28th. 1-2 throughout March and April. Pair throughout May, 2 on the 10th plus 3 chicks. 1 juvenile on the 31st. One plus 2 juveniles on the 5th of June, recorded throughout the month. Not recorded during the rest of the year probably because of falling water levels in the main pond.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Podiceps cristatus

Mainly a winter visitor

98 offshore on the 25th of January then 6 on the 21st of February. 1 on the 7th of March. One offshore on the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th of May. First birds of the winter were single sightings on the 12th, 13th and 28th and 29th of November. 6 off the Hoe on the 3rd of December and 2 on the 14th.

RED NECKED GREBE

Podiceps grisegena

Passage bird

One recorded off the Hoe on the 13th of November.

SLAVONIAN GREBE

Podiceps auritus

Passage bird

2 reported off the Hoe on the 28th of December.

HONEY BUZZARD

Pernis apivorus

Passage migrant

One flew West on the 9th of July.

RED KITE

Milvus milvus

Passage bird

One reported on the 2nd of March, 1 flew West on the 6th then another on the 4th of April.

SPARROWHAWK

Accipiter nisus

Single sightings on the 22nd and 27th of January then again on the 28th of April. Not recorded again until August when 1 was recorded on three dates. One juvenile was noted on the 2nd of September and a male on the 16th and 19th. One on the 17th and 19th of October and also on the 6th of November and the 12th of December.

BUZZARD

Buteo buteo

Mainly a passage bird

2 recorded on the 10th of January, 1 observed having a tussle with a Raven on the 21st, 1 noted on the 15th and 19th of February. Single on the 30th and 31st of March and the 29th and 31st of April. 1 on the 25th of September and the 29th of October.

KESTREL

Falco tinnunculus

Resident

One on eight dates in January, 2 on the 22nd and 29th. Single on five dates in February and eleven dates in March. 1-2 throughout April/May. Pair present throughout June. 2 chicks at cliff face nest site on the 27th and 29th. Pair present throughout July, 3 juveniles noted on the 10th. 2 on the 6th of August and single sightings on eight dates. 1-3 during September, 4 on the 10th and 7 on the 30th. 5 recorded on the 2nd and 12th of October. 1-2 throughout November and single sightings in December.



Kestrel at nest site

HOBBY

Falco columbarius

Summer visitor

One over the Hoe on the 25th of July, scarce this summer.

PEREGRINE

Falco peregrinus

Resident

Single sightings on four dates in January, pair on the 2nd. Singles on many dates throughout the next five months, 2 on the 6th of February, pair on the 18th of March then 3 on the 28th. One seen at the West end of the Hoe on the 25th of June. Pair throughout July, Juvenile recorded on the 3rd, 5th and 31st of July. During the last five months of the year, 1-2 were recorded on many dates and a juvenile bird noted on six dates.

MOORHEN

Gallinula chloropus

Resident

Peak Monthly Totals

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

2 adults and 5 chicks on the 18th and 24th of May, 4 juveniles on the 26th of June and 2 on the 17th of July. 2/3 broods reared.

OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus ostralegus

Passage bird

One flew East on the 21st of April, 1 noted flying East on the 15th of May and 3 on the 22nd. One on the 10th of July and on the 16th of October.

GREY PLOVER

Pluvalis squatarola

Passage bird

Five flew East on the 19th of April.

LAPWING

Vanellus vanellus

Passage bird

4 flew over the Hoe on the 3rd of November.

WHIMBREL

Numenius phaeopus

Passage migrant

One flew East on the 18th of April then 44 on the 19th and 1 on the 27th. 2 flew East on the 2nd of May, 16 on the 4th, 68 recorded going East on the 7th and 1 on the 15th. One flew West on the 6th and 10th of July.

BAR TAILED GODWIT

Limosa lapponica

Passage migrant

15 flew East on the 8th of April, 1 on the 18th and 9 on the 19th. 16 flew East on the 7th of May.

PURPLE SANDPIPER

Calidris maritime

Passage bird

One resting on the seawall on the 21st of November. Not a common bird around the Hoe.



WOODCOCK

Scolopax rusticola

Scarce winter visitor

One recorded on the Hoe on the 11th of November.

COMMON SNIPE

Gallinago gallinago

Passage bird

One on the 30th of March.

POMARINE SKUA

Stercorarius pomarinus

Passage migrant

Two flew East on the 31st of April, 5 East on the 1st of May and 3 on the 7th.

ARCTIC SKUA

Stercorarius parasiticus

Passage migrant

Just the one spring record and that was of 1 on the 7th of March. The next records were of 1 on the 17th and 24th of October and 2 on the 18th. One noted on the 19th of November.

GREAT SKUA

Stercorarius skua

Passage migrant

One on the 23rd of April, 1 on the 24th of December and 2 on the 28th.

RAZORBILL

Uria torda

Winter visitor

Two offshore on the 30th of January, 1 on the 8th, 13th and 14th of February, 2 on the 20th. First birds of the winter were 2 on the 13th of November.

GUILLEMOT

Uria aalge

Mainly a winter visitor

One on the 2nd of January six on the 7th, 6 recorded on the 6th of February, 13 plus 40 species on the 8th, 3 on the 15th and 28th. One offshore on the 13th and 30th of March. Last of the winter birds was a single on the 3rd of April. First birds of the autumn were 12 on the 5th of October. 12 on the 10th of November, 16 on the 12th and 10 on the 13th, 3 on the 15th. 23 noted on the 3rd of December and 9 on the 28th.

SANDWICH TERN

Sterna sandvicensis

Passage Migrant

First birds of the year were 94 flying East on the 8th of April and 21 on the 19th. 2 noted on the 7th of May. 2 offshore on the 10th of July and the 8th of August, 31 recorded on the 13th. 2 on the 8th of September and 1st of October.

COMMON TERN

Sterna hirundo

Passage Migrant

3 flew East on the 8th of April. First of the autumn passage birds were 7 on the 8th of August and 1 on the 13th.

COMMIC TERN

683 flew East on the 7th of May.

KITTIWAKE

Rissa tridactyla

Passage bird

20+ recorded on the 7th of January 4 on the 19th. 38 noted offshore on February the 8th. One on the 7th of August. Six on the 5th of October and 20 on the 18th. 70 recorded on the 11th of November and 100 of which 60 were in one flock were noted on the 12th, 30 on the 13th. One on the 3rd of December.

BLACK HEADED GULL

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Passage/ winter visitor

Peak monthly totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
60	120	35	9		30		51	44	40	50	30

MEDITERRANEAN GULL

Larus melanocephalus

Passage bird

Single sightings on the 9th of January, 14th and 19th of February, 7th of March and the 5th of June. 18 recorded offshore on the 10th of July and 4 on the 16th. 8 flew West on the 5th of August and 5 on the 6th. Three juveniles flew West on the 16th and 18th of September. October was a good month for this species with 60 offshore on the 14th, 40 on the 15th and 250 on the 18th. 25 on the 26th. 270 (170 & 100) recorded on the 2nd of November, 100+ on the 12th and 30 on the 13th.

GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL

Larus marinus

Passage Bird

Peak numbers normally recorded just offshore

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
12	10	4	3	3	2	5	6	6	16	30	10

44 recorded offshore on the 3rd of December, c.50 on the 5th and 50 noted on the 12th.

COMMON GULL

Larus canus

Passage bird

8 offshore on the 10th of January, 5 on the 13th and 27th of February and 27 flew West on the 28th. Single sightings on the 7th, 20th and 21st of March 10 flew West on the 14th. One on the 21st of April the 12th of June and the 17th of July. 1-3 on nine dates in October 10 on the 31st. Single on the 19th and 30th of November.

LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL

Larus fuscus

Mainly a passage bird

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
8	7	2	2	2	8	2	1	3	4	6	4

HERRING GULL

Lrus argentatus

Resident

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
6	150	50	30	100	20	15	20	50	100	20	74

STOCK DOVE

Columba oenas

Resident

One on the 4th and 18th of April, 2 on the 29th. 1 on the 13th of May and 2 on the 16th. Two on the 26th of June and 1 on the 27th. Single sighting on five dates in July 2 on the 14th. One on the 1st, 13th and 18th of August. No other records for the year.

WOOD PIGEON

Columba palumbus

Resident

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
60	70	30	25	10	8	12	11	15	10	44	50

COLLARED DOVE

Streptopelia decaocto

Scarce visitor

One on the 18th of May.

CUCKOO

Cuculus canorus

Migrant

One juvenile bird remained on the Hoe between the 24th, 25th and 26th of July, One on the 17th of September.

SHORT EARED OWL

Asio otus

Winter visitor

One reported on the 21st of August. 1 noted on the 24th of October.

SWIFT

Apus apus

Summer visitor / passage bird

First birds of the year were 6 flying over on the 7th of May, 8 on the 12th of June. 13 flying West on the 23rd of July and 12 on the 25th. 70 flew West on the 7th of August then 3 on the 20th. Last bird of the year was 1 noted on the 17th of September.

KINGFISHER

Alcedo atthis

Passage bird

One on the 21st of August and on the 27th of September.

GREENWOODPECKER

Pica viridis

Occasional winter visitor

One on five dates in October 2 on the 15th. One on the 9th, 13th, 25th and 30th of November. One on the 5th of December.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Passage bird

One recorded on the 25th of September.

MAGPIE

Pica pica

Resident

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
10	12	14	10	8	10	7	12	10	13	24	11

5 Territories held

JACKDAW

Corvus monedula

Resident

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
10	20	16	20	12	4		16	14	20+	15	20

Breeds mainly in holes in the cliff face just to the West of the Hoe.

ROOK

Corvus frugilegus

Occasional passage bird

One flew over on the 27th of March.

CARRION CROW

Corvus corone

Resident

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
10	20	20+	20+	30	20	18	17	40	40	11	13

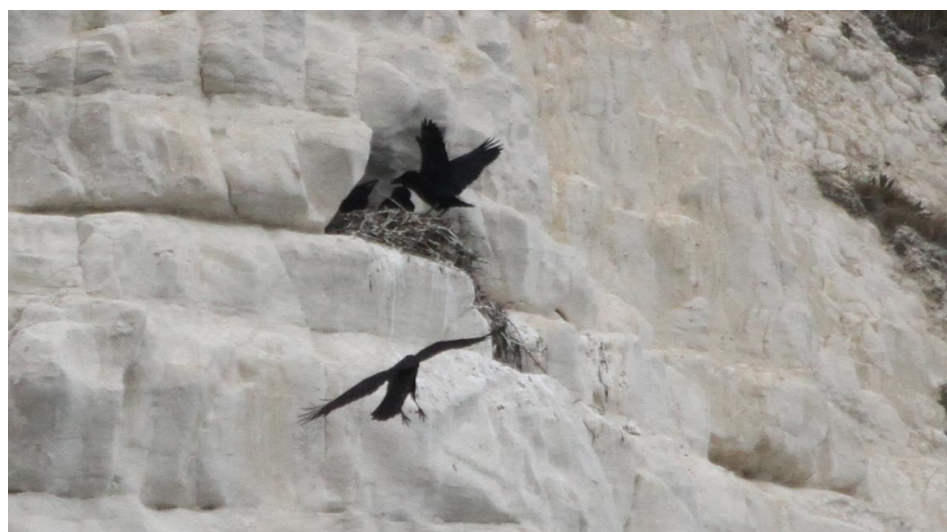
51 seen on the West beach on the Hoe on the 30th of March. One possible pair bred.

RAVEN

Corvus corax

Resident/Passage bird

2 on the 3rd, 19th, 21st and 27th of January, 1 observed in an altercation with a Buzzard and Peregrine on the 20th of January. 2 seen at the nest site on the 4th and 14th of February, 3 noted on the 13th, 2 throughout March. One young seen in the nest on the 11th of April, 2 adults recorded feeding 3 young on the 13th. 5 birds recorded on the 18th and 25th. 3 fledged young seen on the 14th of May. Just the one record for June and that was of a single bird on the 13th. 2 on three dates in July, 5 on the 10th and 4 on the 21st. 2 on five dates in August. 1-2 recorded throughout September and October and 4 on the 18th of October 3 on the 15th and 28th of December.



Ravens at nest site

GOLDCREST

Regulus regulus

Passage migrant/winter visitor

First birds of the autumn were 3 on the 20th of September, 2 on the 24th 3 on the 25th and 30th, 1 on the 26th and 27th. 1 on the 3rd, 14th and 31st of October, 7 on the 8th and 6 on the 23rd. 2 on the 3rd, 8th and 9th of November and 1 on the 11th.

FIRECRES

Regulus ignicapilla

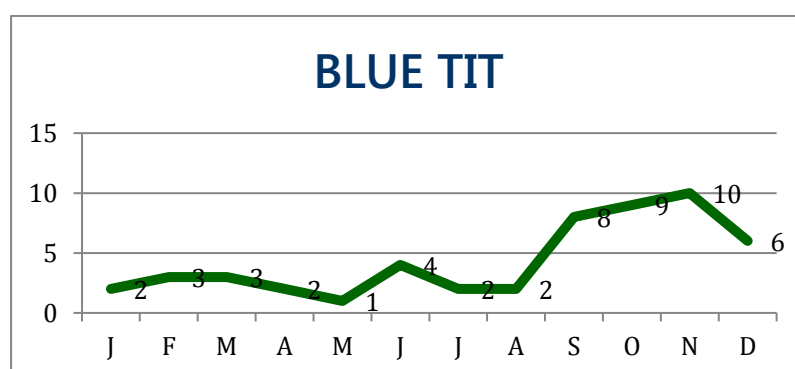
Passage migrant

One on the 20th of March then two on the 22nd. One on the 15th of October was the only autumn record.

BLUE TIT

Cyanistes caeruleus

Resident



One pair bred.

GREAT TIT

Parus major

Resident

2 on the 18th of January, then 2 on four dates in March. One on the 9th, 15th and 23rd of April. 2 on the 8th and 23rd of May and the 8th of July. 4 on the 13th of August and 2 on two other dates in that month. 2 on the 1st and 4th of September, 6 noted on the 28th. 1-2 throughout October. 6 on the 3rd of November and 1 on four other dates. One on the 9th, 18th and 21st of December. No proof of breeding this year.

COAL TIT

Periparus ater

One of the continental race (*ater ater*) recorded on the Hoe on the 3rd of November.

WOODLARK

Lulla arborea

One flew in off the sea on the 4th of March but did not make landfall on Samphire Hoe.

SKYLARK

Alauda arvensis

Resident Breeder

One on the 19th and 28th of February, 2 on the 21st. 1-2 throughout the month of March. One on six dates in April, 3 on the 4th, 1-2 throughout May. 1 on the 27th of June. 2 on the 3rd and 16th of July. 5 flew West on the 30th of September. One on the 12th and 20th of November, 40 on the 17th. One on the 21st of December. One pair held territory.

SAND MARTIN

Riparia riparia

Passage migrant

Two flew West on the 20th of August and 20 on the 5th of October.

SWALLOW

Hiundo rustica

Summer visitor

First bird of the year was 1 on the 8th of April, 3 flew North on the 10th and 9 flew West on the 15th. 2 seen to come in off the sea on the 25th. 18 in off the sea on the 7th of May. Peak counts for June and July were 4 on June the 19th and 2 in July. 25 on the 13th of August and 9 on the 14th. In September, 10 were recorded on the 16th, 50+ on the 18th and 100 on the 19th. 100+ on the 12th of October. Last sighting of the autumn was of 1 on the 6th of November.

HOUSE MARTIN

Delichon urbicum

Summer visitor

First birds of the year were 2 on the 17th of April then 12 on the 25th and 26th. 100 recorded on the 7th, 16th, 17th and 23rd of May. 50+ on the 17th of June 20 on the 27th and 28th. 30 on the 11th and 17th of July and 50 on the 14th. 350 on the cliff face on the 13th of August, c.50 on the 29th and 210 on the 30th. 100+ on the 12th and 19th of September and 200 on the 18th. 200 on the 5th of October and the last record of the autumn was of 20 on the 12th of October. c.21 nests recorded at the East end of the Hoe and 17 at the West end.

LONG TAILED TIT

Aegitahlos caudatus

Occasional visitor

One on the 7th of March. No more sightings until the 3rd of October when 3 were recorded then 5 on the 28th and 3 on the 31st. During November 6 were noted on the 3rd, 7th and 9th and 4 on the 11th.

YELLOW BROWED WARBLER

Phylloscopus inornatus

Vagrant

One recorded on the 31st of October and 1 the next day the 1st of November.

CHIFFCHAFF

Phylloscopus collybita

Passage migrant

One on the 20th of March was the first of the spring followed by 1 on the 21st, 22nd, 26th, 30th and 31st. Single sightings on five dates in April, 4 on the 4th and 2 on the 5th and 18th, 6 on the 16th. Singles on the 13th of May and the 8th and 15th of August. Birds were moving through the Hoe in September with counts of 40 on the 10th, 30 on the 17th, 12 on the 19th, 20+ on the 26th and 30 on the 27th. 40 were noted on the 3rd of October then numbers dropped to 6 on the 10th and 12th, 1-3 on ten other dates. Last bird of the autumn was 1 on the 2nd and 9th of November.

WILLOW WARBLER

Phylloscopus trochilus

Passage migrant

2 on the 10th of April were the first birds of the year followed by 1 on the 12th, 14th, 15th and 16th, 9 noted on the 18th and 3 on the 19th, 1-2 on six other dates. Two on the 26th of July were the first of the returning birds, 1 on the 31st. Two on the 1st, 6th, 11th and 30th of August, 3 on the 13th and 1 on four other dates. One on the 4th and 5th of September, 2 on the 12th were the last birds of the year.

BLACKCAP

Sylvia atricapilla

Summer visitor

First bird of the year was a female on the 12th of March. Not recorded again until 1 was noted on the 12th of April followed by 1 on the 12th, 15th, 16th and 28th. One on the 20th of August then numbers increased to 12 on the 30th. A movement through the Hoe was logged on the 1st of September with 20 birds noted, then 11 on the 4th, 50 on the 19th then numbers dropped to 7 on the 30th. One on the 1st, 28th and 29th of October, 6 on the 3rd and 2 on the 23rd. Last bird of the autumn was recorded on the 3rd of November.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

Sylvia curruca

Summer visitor

One on the 18th of April was the first sighting of the year, 2 heard on the 25th and 2 noted on the 27th and 28th. 4 recorded on the 8th of May single sightings on the 9th, 12th, 13th and 21st. 1 on the 26th and 27th of June and 2 on the 4th and 8th of July. 1 on the 6th and 25th of August, 4 on the 11th and 2 on the 13th. Last bird of the year was 1 on the 15th and 16th of September.

COMMON WHITETHROAT

Sylvia communis

Summer visitor

First bird of the spring occurred on the 9th of April followed by singles on the 17th and 18th. 2 on the 24th followed by 4 on the 25th and 3 on the 29th. 4 on the 9th and 23rd of May, 6 on the 16th then 2-4 on several other dates. 4-5 throughout June. 4 on the 8th of July and 5 on the 24th. Seven noted on the 1st of August then 5 on the 8th, 14th and 30th, 10 on the 22nd. 1-4 on many dates in September, 6 were recorded on the 5th and 12th and the 4 on the 19th proved to be the last of the on the Hoe. 5 territories held.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Locustella naevia

Passage migrant

Only the one record this year and that was of 1 on September the 4th.

SEDGE WARBLER

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Passage migrant

Just the one sighting and that was of 1 on the 12th of May.

REED WARBLER

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Passage migrant

One on the 11th, 13th, 29th and 30th of August

SHORT TOEDTREECREEPER

Certhia brachydactyla

Vagrant

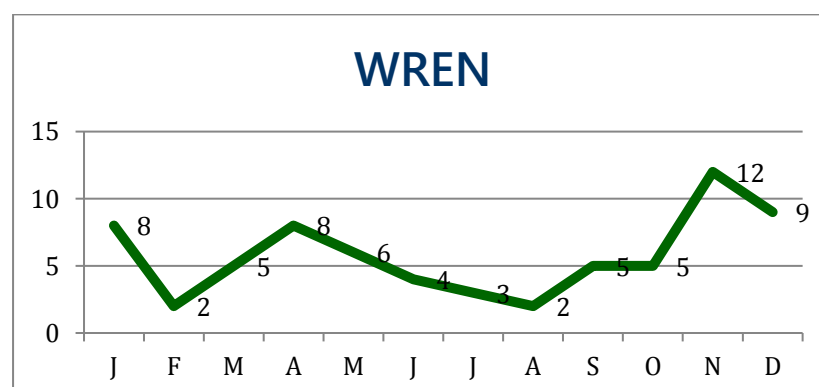
One trapped and ringed on the 15th of October. First record in Britain this year, second record for the site.

WREN

Troglodytes troglodytes

Resident

8 on the 11th of April 6 on the 4th and 25th. 12 on the 28th of October, 9 on the 28th of November. 8 territories held.



STARLING

Sturnus vulgaris

Passage bird/Winter visitor

One on the 20th and 28th of February. 1 on the 7th of March. Not recorded again until 25 were logged on the 24th of July and 50+ on the 31st. c.150 on the 1st of August, 120 on the 2nd and 150 on the 8th. Reduced numbers in September with 30 logged on the 1st, 15 on three dates and 40 on the 27th. 37 on the 10th of October, 50 on the 30th and 120 on the 31st. 25 on the 2nd of November, 30 recorded coming in off the sea on the 13th.

RING OUZEL

Turdus torquatus

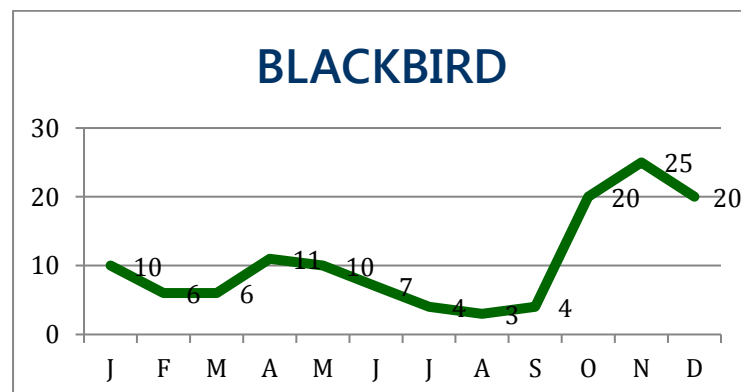
Passage migrant

First bird of the year was 1 on the 11th of April followed by 2 on the 12th and 14th, singles on the 19th and 23rd. One on the 25th of September and the last bird of the autumn was seen on the 19th of October.

BLACKBIRD

Turdus merula

Resident and winter visitor



Feeding young on the 30th of March, 8 double figure counts in November. 10 pairs recorded.

FIELDFARE

Turdus pilaris

Winter visitor

One on the 16th and 29th of October, 3 on the 13th of November.

SONG THRUSH

Turdus philomelos

Resident/winter visitor

1-2 throughout January and February. 1 on three dates in March, 1 on the 17th of April and the 4th of May. Not recorded again until the 20th of August when 1 was noted. 2 on the 1st of September. 1-2 throughout October and 2-4 in November. 6 on the 12th of December, 1-3 during the rest of the month.

REDWING

Turdus iliacus

Winter visitor

Outgoing bird noted on the 28th of March. One reported on the 15th of October was the first of the coming winter, 2 on the 28th and 3 on the 30th. Inward movement heard on the 7th of November, 14 recorded on the 13th. One on the 3rd of December.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

Muscicapa striata

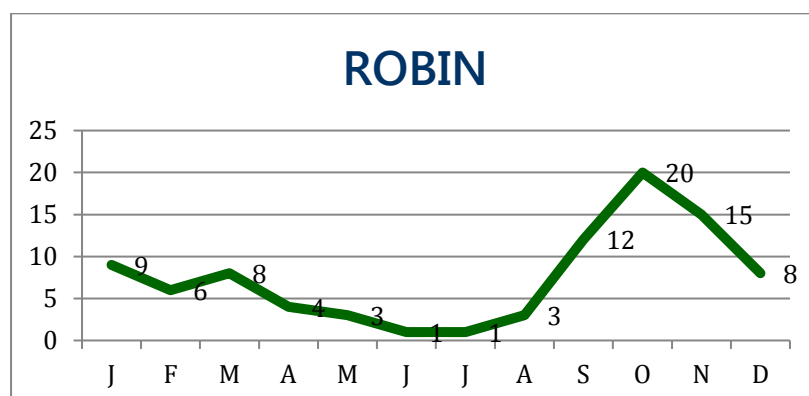
Passage migrant

One on the 12th of May, an unusual spring record for the Hoe. One reported on the 31st of August followed by 1 on the 15th of September.

ROBIN

Erithacus rubecula

Resident/Winter visitor



4 pairs recorded on the 30th of March. Five double figure counts made in October. 4 territories held.

BLACK REDSTART

Phoenicurus ochruros

Passage migrant/Summer breeder

Single on the 16th and 26th of February. One on five dates after the 18th of March. 2 on the 5th and 12th of April, 2 in song on the 18th, single sightings on seven other dates. 2 on the 1st of May singles on six other dates. Two plus 4 juveniles on the 4th of June, 2 adults and 3 juveniles on the 8th, One male and 3 juveniles on the 11th. One seen carrying food on the 19th, one plus 1 juvenile on the 22nd. 1-3 on eleven dates in July, 5 on the 23rd and 6 on the 28th. 2-4 throughout August, 7 of which six were altogether by the wood pile on the 30th of August. 2-4 sightings throughout September, 5 on the 19th and 23rd. 4 on the 1st and 5th of October, 1-3 on twelve other dates, 1 recorded from the W end of the Hoe on the 15th and 24th. Single on the 8th of November. One on the 3rd, 4th, 6th and 19th of December 2 on the 28th.
2 territories held.

COMMON REDSTART

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Passage migrant

Pair seen on the 18th of April, 1 on the 29th. One on the 19th and 27th of September.



WHINCHAT

Saxicola rubetra

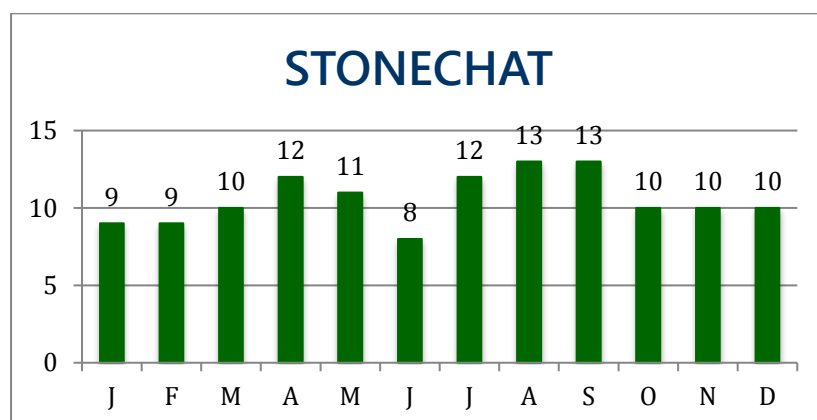
Passage migrant

First bird of the autumn migration was recorded on the 14th of August. Not recorded again until a single was noted on the 5th of September followed by one on the 6th and 19th. Last bird of the year was logged on the 5th of October.

STONECHAT

Saxicola torquata

Resident/Passage bird



One of the race *Rubicola* reported on the 10th of March. 4 juveniles noted on the 9th of May. Several sightings of colour ringed birds were logged during June all of these birds were mist netted and ringed on the Hoe. Max territories held 7.

WHEATEAR

Oenanthe oenanthe

Passage migrant

One recorded on the 17th of March was the first sighting of the year this was followed by 1 on the 18th and 2 on the 30th. Singles on six dates in April, 2 on four dates. 6 on the 25th, 5 on the 28th and 11 on the 29th. Recorded throughout May with a peak total of 6 on the 7th. One on five dates in June. One ringed bird was noted on the 26th of July and was found to have been ringed on Skokholm (island off the South West coast of Wales). 4 on the 10th and 14th of August, 5 on the 7th and 6 on the 20th and 29th. Numbers increased in September with 10 on the 4th, 12 on the 5th, 9 on the 6th and 8 on the 12th. 1-2 recorded on the Hoe up until the 23rd of October.

DUNNOCK

Prunella modularis

Resident

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	2	4	6	3	2	1	2	5	10	5	5

10 On the 8th and 28th of October. Max territories held 8.

HOUSE SPARROW

Passer domesticus

Infrequent visitor

One on the 6th of March, One on the 4th of July followed by 1 on the 22nd and 29th of August. 3 recorded on the 14th of October.

YELLOW WAGTAIL

Motacilla flava

Passage migrant

Three seen to come in off the sea on the 2nd of May, 2 on the 4th. 3 flew West on the 13th of July. Last bird of the year was one on the 16th of September.

GREY WAGTAIL

Motacilla cinerea

Passage bird

One on the 5th, 16th and 30th of September. One flying West on the 9th and 15th of October.

WHITE WAGTAIL

Motacilla alba

Passage bird

3 flew W over the Hoe on the 15th and 28th of March, 1 on the 21st. 1 flew West on the 25th of September followed by 4 on the 30th. 1 noted on the 14th of October and 3 flew West on the 15th.

PIED WAGTAIL

Motacilla yarrellii

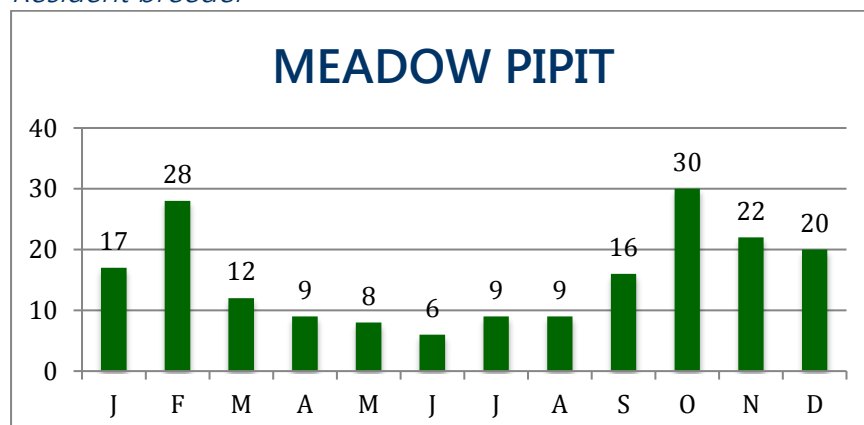
Summer and winter visitor

Single on seven dates in January and 4 dates in February, 6 flew West on the 4th February. One on five dates in March. One juvenile noted on the 11th of July. From September on through to the end of the year sightings ranged between 1 and 3 birds, 5 on the 5th of November.

MEADOW PIPIT

Anthus pratensis

Resident breeder

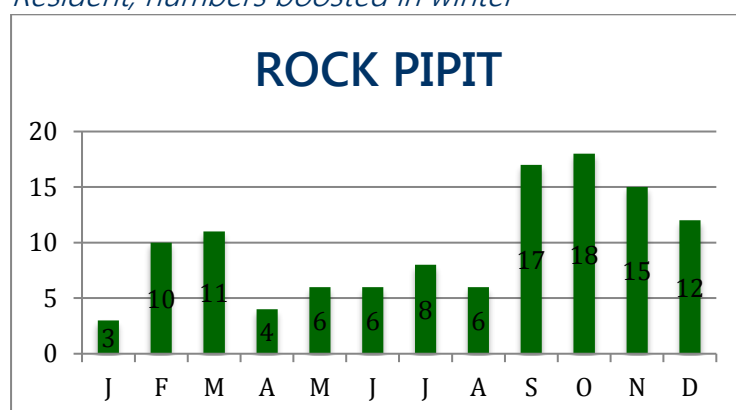


3 Juveniles noted on the 25th of June. 5 territories held.

ROCK PIPIT

Anthus petrogus

Resident, numbers boosted in winter



One of the race *littoralis* recorded on the 4th of March. One noted with young on the 28th of April. Observed feeding young on the 25th of June. 2 territories held.

CHAFFINCH

Fringilla coelebs

Passage bird has bred

Two on the 2nd of January, 3 on the 3rd and 5 on the 18th. Just the one record in February and that was of 1 on the 19th. Single sightings on several dates throughout March and April, 2 on the 10th, 16th and 24th of April. Not recorded again until September when 2 were seen on four dates, 6 on the 25th. 1-4 were noted throughout October, 388 were recorded coming in off the sea on the 18th of October. 8 logged on the 3rd of November and 1-2 on ten other dates. 3 noted on the 3rd, 19th and 28th of December. 1 possible breeding pair.

GREENFINCH

Chloris chloris

Uncommon on the Hoe

One on the 25th and 26th of September.

GOLDFINCH

Carduelis carduelis

Mainly a passage bird

1 on January the 2nd, 7th and 8th. Single sightings on three dates in March, 4 on the 7th, 12th and 30th. 2 on the 3rd and 11th of April and 3 on the 4th. 4 on the 2nd of May. One on the 4th and 25th of June and 2 on the 16th of July. Numbers started to increase in August with birds moving through, 12 on the 8th, 15 on the 11th. A further increase in September with 40 recorded on the 10th, 20 on the 24th and 18 on the 30th. A few birds still moving through in October with 30 on the 5th, 6th and 10th, 35 on the 8th and 34 on the 12th. 10 on the 29th. 11 on the 13th of November and 1-2 on seven other dates. 4 on December the 9th. One possible breeding pair.

SISKIN

Carduelis spines

Passage migrant

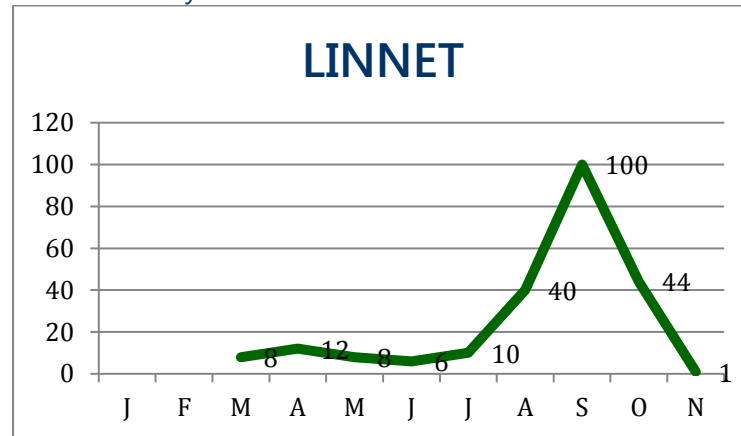
2 on the 9th of April. Just three autumn/winter records, 1 on the 2nd of October, 12 on the 16th and 25 seen to come in off the sea on the 25th.

LINNET

Carduelis cannabina

Resident/Passage bird

Peak monthly totals



Autumn passage noted through the Hoe with numbers recorded as follows, 40 on the 28th of August, 30 on the 3rd of September 100+ on the 5th, 40 on the 12th, 50 on the 25th and 34 on the 26th. October recorded good numbers with 25 on the 2nd, 44 on the 10th, 30 on the 12th, 22 on the 19th and 24 on the 24th. Last bird of the year was on the 12th of November. 5 territories held.

REDPOLLS

Spp

Lesser Redpoll reported on the 24th of May. 5 Redpolls on the 28th of October.

YELLOWHAMMER

Emberiza citronella

Uncommon at the Hoe

One on the 30th of March.

REED BUNTING

Emberiza schoeniclus

Passage bird

Two flew over the Hoe on the 15th of March, 1 on the 26th and 28th.