

## SAMPHIRE HOE BIRD REPORT FOR 2012



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

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The recording of the birds of Samphire Hoe provides information about the site's ecological development, its use as a migratory stopping point and a wintering ground. The birds of Samphire Hoe are recorded on a casual basis by general observations. The breeding birds are monitored by an annual Common Bird Census, this plots out bird territories. The recording area is the Hoe itself, the sea, the cliffs behind the Hoe and the east and west ends.

140 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 2012. The information give 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 especially all the Volunteer Rangers in particular Phil Smith and Tony Prentice, also to all the other observers including Ian Roberts, and Geoff Burton.



## SUMMARY OF 2012

**January:** 60 Red Throated Divers flew west on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. 8 Pintail flew down channel on the 8<sup>th</sup>. A Shag was recorded on three dates and a Great Skua on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 40 Gannets seen offshore on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 235 Razorbills also offshore on the 25<sup>th</sup>, Single Little Egret recorded going west on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. A Water Rail seen on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Little Owl present through out the month as were two Peregrines.

**February:** 5 Gadwall flew west on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 12 Wigeon on the 4<sup>th</sup>. An Iceland Gull was recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup>. 20 Ravens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, A great Skua on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Woodcock were noted on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. One Black Redstart recorded on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**March:** First Chiffchaffs of the year were 5 on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March followed by one on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 4 Wheatears also on the 16<sup>th</sup> plus a single Willow Warbler were also first sightings for the year. A Firecrest was recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Undoubtedly the bird of the month was the Short Toed Treecreeper discovered by P. Holt on the 10<sup>th</sup> and seen by several birders. 41 Brent's moved east on the 27<sup>th</sup>, also on that day 100 Chaffinches flew east over the Hoe.

**April:** 34 Sandwich Terns flew up channel on the 1<sup>st</sup>. One Little Egret flew west on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2 Red Breasted Mergansers flew east on the same day. 6 Wheatears seen on the Hoe on the 6<sup>th</sup>. 50 Brent's moved east on the 8<sup>th</sup>. A Hobby was seen to come in off the sea on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 4 Shags were seen offshore. A Great Skua flew east on the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup> 2 Common Sandpipers, a Common male Redstart and 3 Yellow Wagtails were recorded.

**May:** 29 Whimbrel flew east on the 1<sup>st</sup> plus 64 Bar Tailed Godwits. A Wood Warbler found by Ian Roberts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> was a first for the Hoe. A Spotted Flycatcher was present on the Hoe on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> also on the 3<sup>rd</sup> a Cuckoo made an appearance. One Ring Ouzel on the 5<sup>th</sup>. A good number of Wheatears were recorded on the Hoe on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> with 20 on one day and 21 on the next. A single Pomarine Skua flew east on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 80 Common Scoters on the 8<sup>th</sup>. One Hobby recorded on the 7<sup>th</sup>. 30 Swifts flew over on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Short Eared Owl flew in off the sea on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A Red Kite was observed flying west on the 29<sup>th</sup>. A Pair of Black Redstarts plus 3 Juveniles on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**June:** A Reed Warbler and Grasshopper Warbler were noted on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. 16 Gannets were seen offshore on the same date. 100 Swifts recorded on the 4<sup>th</sup>. An Osprey, Willow Warbler and a Collared Dove were seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Peregrines and Black Redstarts present throughout the month.

**July:** A Hobby was recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> and again on the 15<sup>th</sup>, A Kingfisher on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Juvenile Black Redstart logged on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 3 Little Egrets flew west on the 27<sup>th</sup>, One Willow Warbler on the same date. First of the returning Wheatears recorded on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**August:** Hobby seen over the Hoe on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The first Whinchat of the autumn was noted on the 7<sup>th</sup>, then 2 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 2 Buzzards flew west on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 Ravens on the 14<sup>th</sup>. 2 Peregrines were recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. 100 House Martins moving west on the 18<sup>th</sup>. c100 Starlings on the Hoe on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 8 Black Redstarts recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6 Wheatears on the 24<sup>th</sup>. One Ringed Plover on the 27<sup>th</sup> plus a Lesser Whitethroat.

**September:** A Spotted Flycatcher, Short Eared Owl, 8 Wheatears and 100 "Med" Gulls were recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup>. A Jay made an appearance on the 4<sup>th</sup> and a Whinchat on the 5<sup>th</sup>. A Common Redstart and a Hobby on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a Buzzard on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The second record of the year for a Grasshopper Warbler was on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Bird of the month was a juvenile Rose Coloured Starling noted on the 20<sup>th</sup>. A single Firecrest was logged on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. A Sooty Shearwater flew east past the Hoe on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**October:** 2 Jays on the 7<sup>th</sup> plus a Great Spotted Woodpecker. A Samphire Hoe rarity a House Sparrow was noted on the 9<sup>th</sup>, plus a single Whinchat. A Common Buzzard was recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. 1,000 Starlings flew east on the 19<sup>th</sup> also flying east were 250 Siskins. A Merlin and a Hobby were recorded on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 8 Ring Ouzels seen on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A new species for the Hoe was a Pallas's Warbler seen on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> also on the 21<sup>st</sup> a Yellow Browed Warbler was reported. A Coal Tit was observed coming in off the sea on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**November:** Bird of the year was a Desert Warbler seen by one lucky observer on the 18<sup>th</sup>, also that day a Red Kite and a Woodcock were seen. 5 Red Throated Divers on the 19<sup>th</sup>, plus a Water Rail.

**December:** 2 Swallows were seen flying around the western entrance to Shakespeare Tunnel on the 5<sup>th</sup>, This is the second latest sighting of this species in this area. A Shag was seen offshore on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. 13 Siskins seen to come in off the sea on the 1<sup>st</sup>. A Water Rail was recorded on the 16<sup>th</sup> Black Redstarts were recorded throughout the month.



**Male kestrel leaving the nest**

© Phil Smith.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2012

**MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor*  
*Scarce passage bird*

One flew west past the Hoe on 16 March, 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2 flying west on the 4 October.

**CANADA GOOSE** *Anser anser*  
*Scarce passage bird*

2 flew west on 27 March, one flew east on 2 May.

**BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla*  
*Passage migrant, winter visitor*

25 flew east past the Hoe on 17 January and 40 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Highest count in February was of 23 moving east. Easterly spring passage was noted during March with 80 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 670 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 65 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 41 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 38 moving east on 3 April, plus 50 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Last of the spring passage were 9 on 19 May.

First of the autumn returning birds were 20 flying west on 23 September, Single seen on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 26 flew east on 7 October, 36 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 24 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. 55 going east on 28 November. During December, 30 were noted on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 160 on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**SHELDDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna*  
*Passage bird*

Five flew east on 14 March, 3 on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 4 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2 were recorded flying past the Hoe on April the 1<sup>st</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. 5 flew east on 2 May. No other records until November when 5 were recorded flying east on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and 7 on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**WIGEON** *Anas Penelope*  
*Rare winter visitor passage migrant*

Twelve flew west on the 4 February. No other records apart from the 2 seen offshore on 23 October and a single on 21 December.



**GADWALL** *Anas strepera*  
*Passage migrant*

Just seven records this year and all occurred during February, 5 flew west on the 1<sup>st</sup>, one on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a female noted on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMON TEAL** *Anas crecca*  
*Rare winter visitor passage migrant*

One flew west past the Hoe on 1 and 3 February, 4 on the 6<sup>th</sup>. A single sighting on 6 December.

**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
*Resident*

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
8	17	8	4	3	5	4	5	9	7	11	10

8 ducklings noted on the 13 June, 6 on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> but not recorded after this date probably taken by Herring Gulls. One pair managed to rear one duckling to almost maturity but the final outcome is not known.

**PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*  
*Rare passage migrant*

Just the one record this year and that was of 8 flying west past the Hoe on 8 January.

**COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*  
*Mainly a winter passage migrant*

Single offshore on 23 January. 4 flew east on 14 March. Spring passage birds were noted on 11 March with 80 moving east, 40 on 8 April. Easterly passage continued in May with 50 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 80 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 125 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 42 on 2 June was the last spring record. First birds of the winter were singles on 19 October and 21 December.

**RED BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*  
*Passage migrant*

One flew west on 16 March and 2 moved east on April the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

*Rare visitor*

One flew west over the Hoe on 29 May and 1 on 18 November.

**SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

*Regular visitor*

Single on 9 January and on 13 and 20 February, 1 male on 11 March. One on 1, 7 and 29 May. Single sightings on five dates in September, October and November. One on 16 December.

**COMMON BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

*Occasional visitor*

Two flew along the cliff top above Samphire Hoe on 9 August. One over the Hoe on 15 September and then again on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of October. Single noted flying west on 6 November.

**OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

*Rare passage migrant*

Singles recorded flying west past the Hoe on 19 May and also on 19 June and 28 August.

**KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

*Resident/Breeding bird*

Singles recorded on six dates during January and on five dates in February, 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Up to two throughout March, April, May and June 4 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. Pair nested in a hole in the cliff face again this year and two young were noted at the nest site on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of July. Up to three birds were recorded during August with 4 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 2 - 4 throughout September and 1-2 throughout Oct/Nov and December.

**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*  
*Rare visitor*

One seen along the cliff face on 27 September, single on 20 October.

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

First bird of the year was observed coming in off the sea on 13 April. Singles on 7 May and 1 July, one seen to take a House Martin on 15 July. Further single sightings were noted on 1 and 14 August, 14 and 27 of September and the last bird of the year was on 20 October.

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

A pair throughout the year at the east end of the Hoe and probably the same at the west end although this pair are not regularly recorded. Highest counts during 2011 were 4 on 17 January, 3 on 7 and 22 March, 3 on 14 April, 3 on 23 September and 29 October, then 3 on 17 November.

**GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix*  
*Has bred, scarce visitor*

Just the one record this year and that was of one on 7 September.

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

One on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. Hen bird on 7 September and then singles on the 8, 28 and 29 October.

**BLACK THROATED DIVER** *Garvia arctica*  
*Scarce winter visitor*

One seen off the Hoe on 2 May.



**RED THROATED DIVER** *Garvia stellata*  
*Regular offshore visitor*

60 flew west on 8 January 10 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 5 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 2 single sightings in February. 18 flew east on 14 March and 22 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. 11 moved east on 26 March. Three going east on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and 2 on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Last bird of the spring movement was a single on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. First birds of the winter were 5 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, 1 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. 30 flew west on December the 12<sup>th</sup> and 10 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Singles on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**Red throated diver**  
© Phil Smith

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

Three seen offshore on 8 January. During February counts of 2 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 on the 28<sup>th</sup> were recorded. 8 on 4 March. Singles on four dates in April, 4 noted on the 29<sup>th</sup>. One on 8 May. First birds of the winter were singles on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of October and singles again on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of December.

**FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacius*  
*Summer breeder and passage migrant*

Sightings off the Hoe in January consisted of 8 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and 6 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Highest count in February was of 12 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 23 flew east past the Hoe on 2 March, 12 offshore on the 20<sup>th</sup>. 8 on 3 April and 7 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. 3-4 on several other dates during the month. 8 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. 4 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of June. 1-2 throughout July. Three on 7 August, 4 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 2 on 10 September. First of the returning birds were 8 on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December then 4 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus*

*Rare passage migrant*

One flew east past the Hoe on 25 September.

**GANNET** *Morus bassanus*

*Winter visitor, passage migrant*

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
40	18	260		260	48	3	30		20	1	6

170 Flew east on 2 March, 71 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 260 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. 48 flew east past the Hoe on 2 June.

**CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

*Resident*

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
7	15	10	6	6	3	4	8	12	8	12	12

**SHAG** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

*Mainly a winter visitor*

Singles recorded off the Hoe on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of January. One on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March. Four recorded offshore on 13 April, Singles on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of April. One on May the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Not recorded again until December when singles were noted on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

*Passage migrant/visitor*

Single sightings were recorded on ten dates during the first three months of the year. Just a two records for April and that was of 1 east on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Singles seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May. One flying west on 19 June. There were nineteen records noted of single birds passing by the Hoe during the last five months of the year.

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

*Passage migrant*

Recorded in every month of the year except in July. The highest days total of the year was of 2 flying west on 13 February. There were thirty four single sightings throughout the year with six of these occurring in October and December.

**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

*Scarce winter visitor*

One recorded by the main pond on 30 January. The next records were of one on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November, last bird of the year was a single on 16 December.

**MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

*Resident breeder*

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
9	10	5	1	5	5	5	10	5	3	5	3

Six chicks seen on 7 May. 3 small chicks on 19 June plus three on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 3 young on 24 August. One juvenile on 5 September.

*There was a maximum of 3 pairs.*

**OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus*

*Regular passage bird*

One noted flying west on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March. Six flew east on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May and 7 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Single going east on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, the 27<sup>th</sup> of August and the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. One flying east past the Hoe on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of October.

**RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

*Scarce passage migrant*

3 flew past the Hoe on 12 February 2 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Three going east on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 1 on the sea wall on 8<sup>t</sup> May. Single on 27 August.

**GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Only one record for the year and that was of 1 on 6 February.

**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

One flew past on 6 February and another on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*  
*Passage migrant winter visitor*

Six single sightings in February plus 7 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 3 on the 12<sup>th</sup>.  
One observed coming in off the sea on 20 October. 3 noted on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**KNOT** *Calidris canutus*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

One flew past on 17 May.

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

One record this year of a single bird east past the Hoe on 7 May.

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*  
*Passage migrant*

One on 6 February, and then one on the seawall on the 7<sup>th</sup>. 2 noted on the 13<sup>th</sup>.  
6 flew past the Hoe on May the 1<sup>st</sup> and then 22 flew east on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
and 2 east on the 9<sup>th</sup>. One seen by the west pond on 20 September.

**COMMON SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*  
*Mainly a scarce winter visitor*

Two noted on 4 February and a single on the 8<sup>th</sup>. One on 23 March. First bird of  
the winter was one on 14 November.

**WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*  
*Scarce winter passage bird*

Singles on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of February. One on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March. First  
bird of the autumn was one on 18 November.

**AR TAILED GODWIT** *Limosalapponica*

*Passage migrant*

64 flew east on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

*Passage migrant*

29 flew east past the Hoe on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 3 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. One flew past on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May and 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The only other record was of 1 flying east on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July.

**CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*

*Passage migrant*

Single noted feeding on the Hoe on seven dates throughout February, 2 flew east on the 26<sup>th</sup>. 19 observed going east past the Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. One on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. 25 flew past the Hoe on December the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**REDSHANK** *Tringa tetanus*

*Passage migrant*

Singles on the 30 May, 25 June, 5 September and 22 October.

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*

*Summer passage migrant*

First birds of the spring were 2 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Singles on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 5 noted on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 were seen on the west beach on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

First birds of the autumn were as follows, 1 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, 2 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September then singles on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

*Passage migrant*

Just the two records this year and they were of 1 on 4 February and 1 flying west on 25 September.

**POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

One flew east past the Hoe on 7 May.

**ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus*  
*Passage migrant*

Singles were seen flying east on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of May. Autumn record of a single on 25 August.

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

One close inshore on 19 January and then again on 22 February. One flying up channel on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of March. 3 going east on April the 24<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Singles on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*  
*Regular visitor*

Single sighting on four dates in January 4 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. 3 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Two flew east on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. 30 feeding over the Hoe on flying ants on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 8 juveniles flew west on August the 21<sup>st</sup>. 14 off the Hoe on 28 August. 100 flew past on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 10 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 14 west on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 30 were noted offshore on 27 September. 2 on 14 October and 3 on the 16<sup>th</sup>. 2 on 23 November and one on 15 December.

**BLACK HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*  
*Resident common in winter*

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
90	60	25		50	2	30	60	50	200	30	96

**COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*  
*Passage migrant and winter visitor*

20 off the Hoe on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January. 40+ on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February and 12 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. 20 recorded on March the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Singles were recorded on five dates in April. 15 offshore on May the 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. One on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July. 3 noted on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. 1-2 throughout December, 6 on the 31<sup>st</sup>.



**LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus*  
*Passage migrant, winter visitor*

Peak Monthly Totals

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
6	2	8	3	2		3	5	3	4	6	5

**HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*  
*Common breeding resident*

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
50	500	200	55	60	20	50	100	100	50	100	200

**ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucooides*  
*Rare winter visitor.*

One second winter bird of the nearctic form Kumleini was seen on 6 February and 7 March.

**GREAT BLACKED BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus*  
*Resident/winter visitor*

Peak monthly counts

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
10	29	30	10	5	4	2	6	20	12	7	10

25 off the Hoe on 27 February, 32 on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 20 on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*  
*Passage bird and winter visitor*

20 offshore on 8 January and again on the 19<sup>th</sup> plus 8 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 3 recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. 11 flew east on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, 8 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, five on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. 10 flew east on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May and 5 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June.

One on 23 October and 2 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 20 offshore on 29 December.

**SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis*

*Passage migrant*

First birds of the year were 2 flying east past the Hoe on 17 March, 11 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 34 moving east on 1<sup>st</sup> April 3 on the 10<sup>th</sup> 15 on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 80 east on the 29<sup>th</sup>. 75 up channel on 1<sup>st</sup> May and 18 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two offshore on June the 2<sup>nd</sup>. First bird of the autumn was a single offshore on 7 August and again on 18 September. Very few records of this species in the autumn.

**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

*Passage migrant*

Only the one record this year and that was of 1 on 7 May.

**LITTLE TERN** *Sterna albifrons*

*Rare passage migrant*

One flew east on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**COMMON/ARCTIC TERNS**

285 flew east past the Hoe on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 16 on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Lack of tern records this year is I think down to the fact that little dedicated seawatching is undertaken.*

**GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*

*Passage migrant and winter visitor*

30 offshore on 8<sup>th</sup> January five on the 19<sup>th</sup> and singles on several other dates. 1 on three dates during February. Three on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. First bird of the autumn was a single on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. Singles on 24 October and 27 and 28 November. Three on the 5 December, and 6 on the 24 December.

**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*

*Passage migrant and winter visitor*

Highest counts of birds offshore during January were, 20 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 15 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 30 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 235 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Singles on five dates during February, 15 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5 on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Nine flew east on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. First birds of the autumn were 2 offshore on 23 September. 1 off the Hoe on 27 November. One on 4 December.

**FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia*  
*Resident breeder*

An under recorded resident on the cliffs at the west end of the Hoe. A maximum of 55 birds were seen in September.

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*  
*Summer breeder passage migrant*

It was not recorded on the Hoe between December and March, Records for the rest of the year consisted mainly of 1 to 3 birds during the remaining months. *Possibly one pair nested.*

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

Peak Monthly Counts

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
146	15	12	10	12	10	12	8	13	6	50	60

**COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*  
*Occasional visitor*

Single on 30 April. One on 2 and 8 May and again on 19 June.

**CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*  
*Has become a rare passage migrant*

Just the one record this year and that was of 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua*  
*Uncommon visitor to the Hoe*

One throughout January and February when the bird took up residence in a hole in the cliff face opposite the office, last seen on 19 March.



**SHORT EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*  
*Passage migrant*

One seen to come in off the sea on 22 May. One on the Hoe on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

**COMMON SWIFT** *Apus apus*  
*Passage migrant*

First birds of the year were 2 over the Hoe on 30 April followed by 3 on 1 May, 12 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 20 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 30 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. 100 along the cliff top on 4 June and 10 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Six recorded on 24 July and 15 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. No August records.

**KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*  
*Rare visitor*

One on the seawall on 16 July.

**GREENWOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*  
*Mainly a winter visitor*

1-2 present throughout January through to the middle of March. Birds turn up on the Hoe during August with normally just the one at first followed by another thereon records consist of 1-2 birds for the rest of the year. Three were noted on 8 December.

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*  
*Rare visitor*

One recorded on 7 October.

**SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*  
*Summer breeder passage migrant*

One on 25 February. Up to 2 throughout March. 2 on 3 April and 4 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Three on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Four on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June then singles on seven dates. 1-2 for the most of July. Nine flew over the Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. One on November the 15<sup>th</sup>. *Max of 2 territories held.*

**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*  
*Passage migrant*

First birds of the year were 3 flying east over the Hoe on 3 May, One on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. First of the autumn migration was one flying west on 27 September. Last of the year was one on 24 October.

**SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*  
*Cliff top breeder passage migrant*

First birds of the year were 5 on 13 April followed by 2 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 4 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. 10 were recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May then 20 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 25 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. During June and July sightings rarely got above two at anyone time, 2-4 on several dates in August. 10 on 3 September, 60 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 40 moving west on the 27<sup>th</sup>. 30 flew west on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 60 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 30 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 17 were seen to fly east over the Hoe on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 5 on 5 November, 8 on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Two on 5 December proved to be the second latest area record.

**HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbica*  
*Summer visitor, breeds on cliff face*

Two on April the 28<sup>th</sup> were the first birds of the spring followed by 6 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Numbers increased in May with 30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> then 50 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. 30 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. 20-30 seen around the Hoe throughout June and July. 100 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August. Movement through the Hoe was recorded on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September with 200 noted on both dates, 150 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 100 on three dates. A large movement was recorded on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October with 3300 going west in one hour. 250/500 were logged on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 20 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Last birds of the year were 4 on 6 November.

*c15 nests on the east side of the Hoe on 4 August. Two young were seen still in the nest in the small colony to the west of the Hoe on 30 September.*

**MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*  
*Summer breeder passage migrant*

Peak monthly Counts

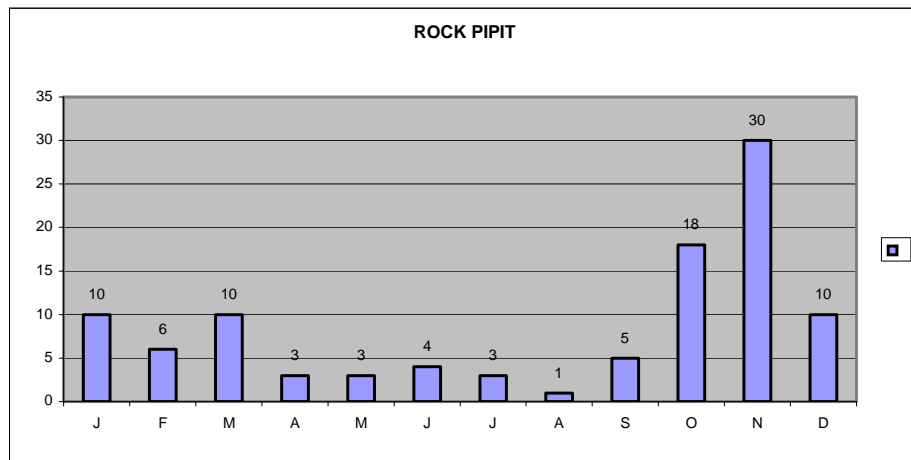
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	10	8	5	6	8	9	4	6	50	4	7

Westerly movement noted through the Hoe during October on the following days, 35 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 20 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 30 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, c50 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 40 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 17 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

*A maximum of 6 breeding pairs.*

**ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus*  
*Winter visitor/Resident breeder*

A pair nest on the cliffs each side of the Hoe. The wintering flock on the beach at the west end often peaks at 20 plus birds.



**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*  
*Passage migrant*

First birds of the spring were three flying east past the Hoe on 30 April 30. One flew east on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May then 3 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Singles were also recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. One flying west on 9 September was the only autumn sighting from the Hoe.



**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea*  
*Passage migrant*

Single on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September and on 18 and 23 October.

**ALBA WAGTAIL** *Motacilla sp*

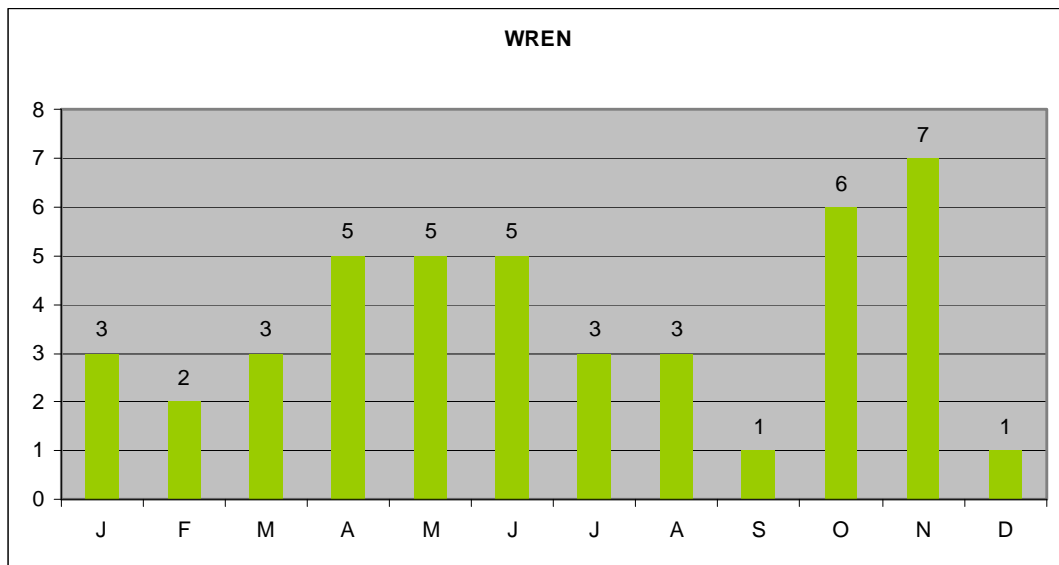
One recorded on 22 April, the other records were of 9 flying over on 22 October and 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla yarrellii*  
*Regular visitor*

One on 27 February. Singles on three dates in March and 3 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. One on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 11<sup>th</sup> of June and the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. 2 were noted on 19 September. Two flew west on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of October then 4 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 3 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Singles on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November were the only other records.

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

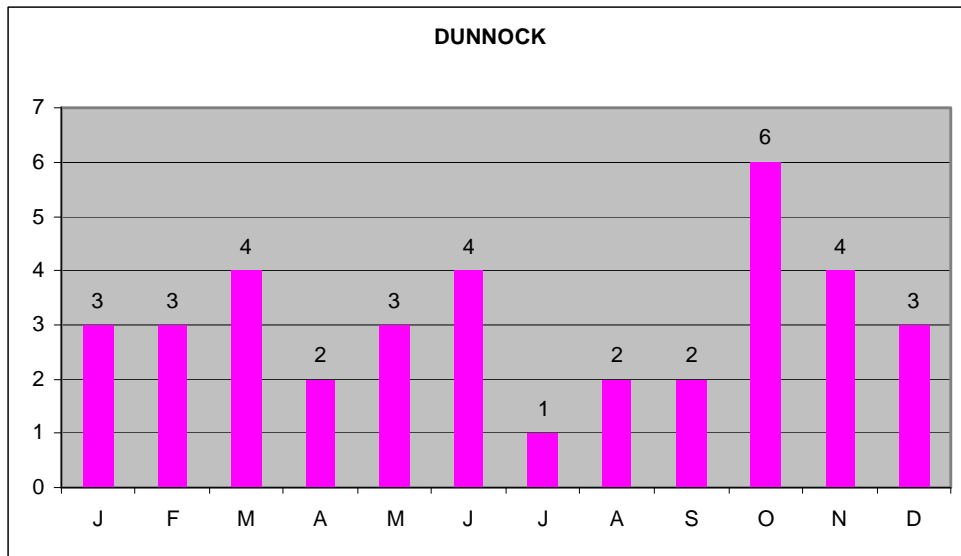
Seen and heard all year at the Hoe.  
*Breeding territories maximum of 5 held.*



**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*  
*Resident breeder*

Present at the Hoe all year with numbers increasing in the autumn, indicating some migrants passing through.

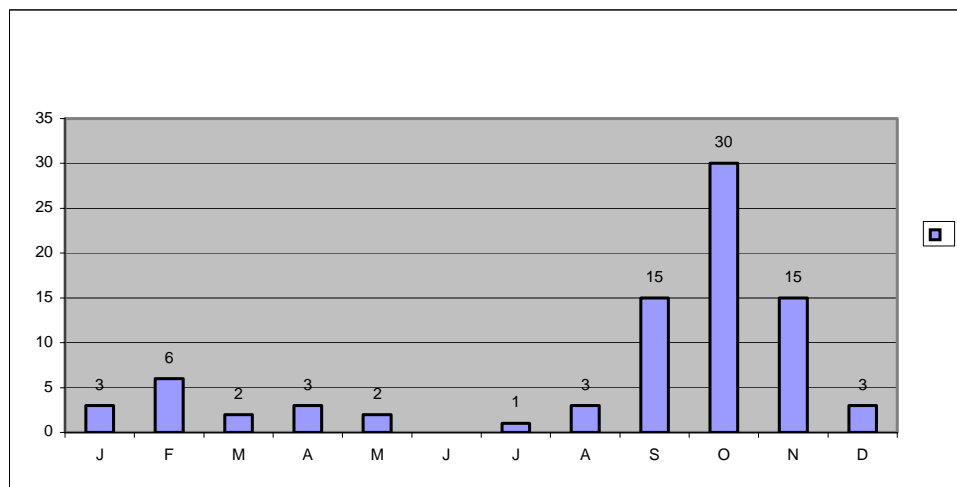
*Breeding territories a maximum of 3 held.*



**ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

*Occasional breeder passage migrant and winter visitor*

Present through out the winter in low numbers. But none were seen in the breeding season so no proof of breeding found this year. In the Autumn, peak passage occurs in September and October when over 30 birds can be seen in a day.



**NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos*  
*Rare passage migrant.*

One on 1<sup>st</sup> May, was only the second record for the Hoe.

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros*  
*Resident breeder, passage migrant.*

One at the eastern end of the Hoe on 7, 9 and 16 January. Just the one record in February and that was on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Up to three recorded throughout March. 1-2 throughout April but five were recorded on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Two to three on several dates in May, a Pair plus 3 juveniles on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Nine noted on the 30<sup>th</sup> but no indication in the log to say if any juveniles were amongst the count. Four on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of June and 3 on the 5<sup>th</sup>. 1-2 on eight other dates throughout the month. Three were recorded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of July and a juvenile was seen at the west end of the Hoe on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Present throughout August with four on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 8 were noted at the west end of the Hoe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> along with 2 at the east end. Five recorded on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Highest counts in September were 5 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 4 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Present during October with 4 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. 2-4 observed throughout November and December.  
*Up to two pairs bred this year.*



**Black redstart**  
© Phil Smith

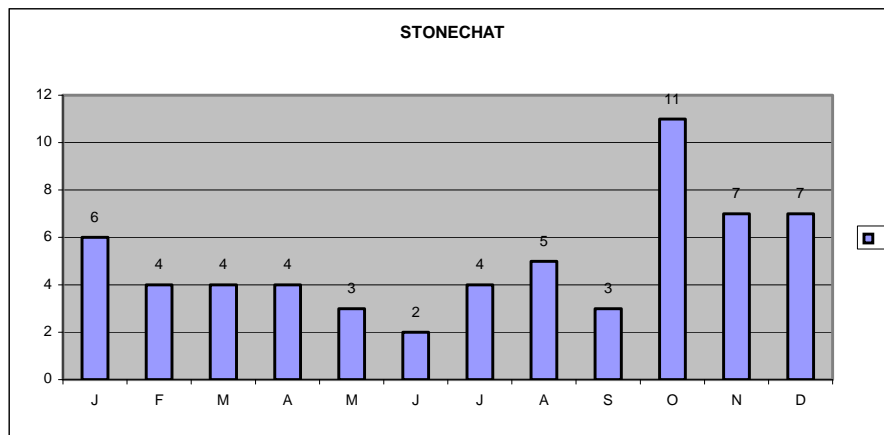
**COMMON REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

First sighting of the year at Samphire Hoe was of a single on 30 April followed by a female on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. First of the autumn passage birds was a single reported on 14 September and then again a single on 18 to 23 October.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*  
*Scarce passage migrant mostly autumn*

No spring records. First of the returning birds were singles on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August two on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A single was recorded on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September and 2 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Last bird of the year was 1 on 9 October.

**STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquata*  
*Resident breeder and passage migrant*



*Three breeding territories held this year*  
Highest counts were 11 on 7 October and 7 on 22 October.

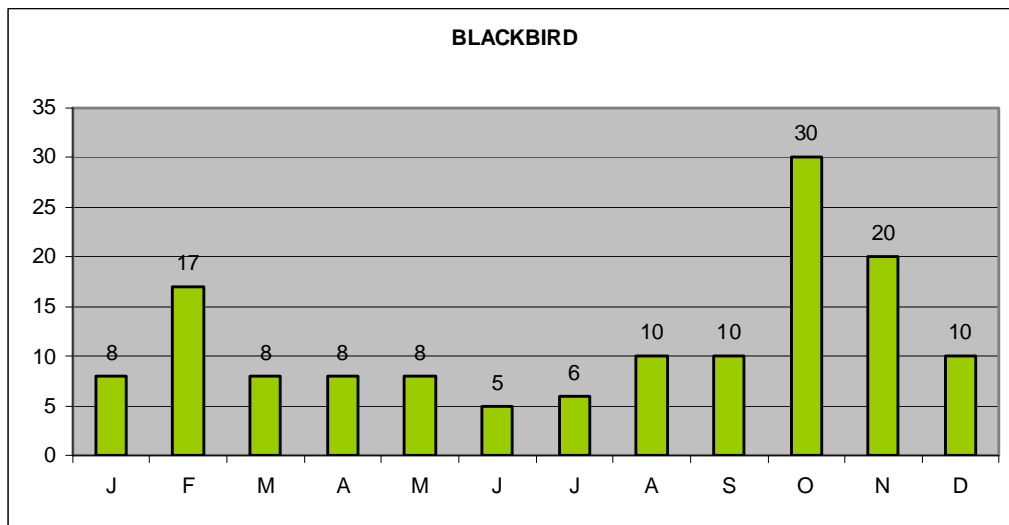
**NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
*Regular passage migrant*

First birds of the year were 4 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March followed by one on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> then 2 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Three on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of April, 6 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 5 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Movement noted through the Hoe on May the 5<sup>th</sup> when 20 birds were recorded followed by 21 on the 6<sup>th</sup>. First of the returning birds was 1 on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of July. Eight single sightings in August plus 6 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 5 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 4 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Highest counts in September were 8 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Three on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October, 4 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Last bird of the autumn was a single on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*  
*Passage migrant*

The only spring passage bird was 1 on 5 May. First birds of the autumn passage were 3 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 4 on the 19<sup>th</sup> 2 on the 20<sup>th</sup> 8 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 4 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*  
*Resident breeder passage migrant winter visitor*



Highest autumn counts were 30 on 22 October, 15 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Plus 20 on 5 November.  
*8 breeding territories held.*

**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*  
*Passage migrant and winter visitor*

Single sightings on eight dates in January, 4 on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Highest counts in February were 11 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 17 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Singles on five dates in March and on three dates in April. Not recorded at all during the summer months. First autumn record was of one on 22 September. Singles on five dates during the first three weeks of October then numbers increased with 7 on the 21<sup>st</sup> 20 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> 13 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 6 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Two on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November and 5 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Six recorded on the 12 December, plus 1-3 on several other dates.

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*  
*Winter visitor*

One on 23 October followed by 3 on 6 November.



**Fieldfare**  
©Phil Smith

**REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*  
*Winter visitor*

Two on 14 February and 1 on the 25<sup>th</sup> were the only late winter records. First of the incoming autumn passage were 10 on 22 October, 12 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 1 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Two on 6 and 14 November and 5 flew in off the sea on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

Two records 1 on 3 June and then again on September the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

First bird of the year was one on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. Autumn passage birds were recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August when a single was noted, 1 on 18 August, 5 September and the last of the year was a single on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

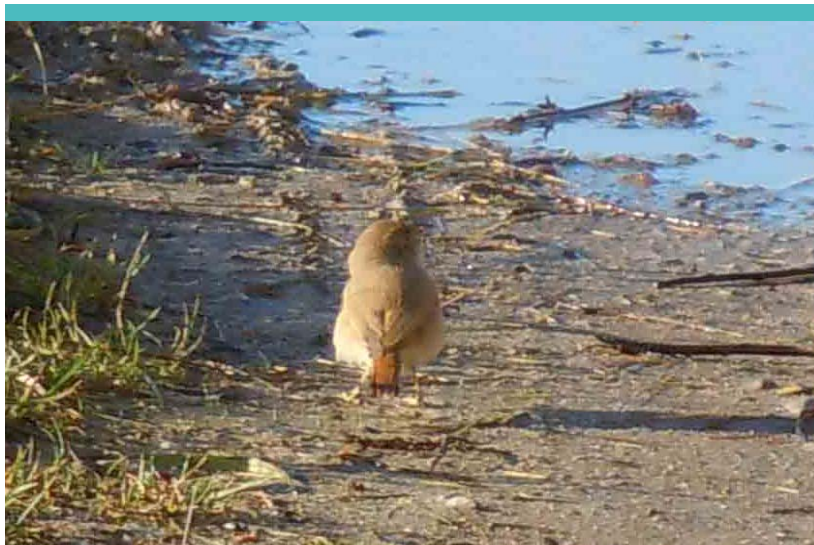


**REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

First spring record was of a single bird on 2 May followed by 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. First bird of the autumn passage was seen on 27 August followed by 1 on 8 September.

**ASIAN DESERT WARBLER** *Sylvia nana nana*  
*Rare vagrant*

Undoubtedly the bird of the year this Desert Warbler was found and photographed on 18 November by Roger Card a Volunteer Ranger for Samphire Hoe. This represents the second record for Kent and 11<sup>th</sup> for Britain.



©Roger Card

**LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*  
*Passage migrant occasional breeder*

First record of the year was of a single in Gate scrub on 2 May followed by 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and then singles on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Autumn counts were made up of three single sightings and they were on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of August and the last on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

*No breeding records this year.*

**COMMON WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

*Breeding summer visitor*

First sighting of the spring was of 1 on 28 April followed by 4 on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Four on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of May, six on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 5 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. During June three were seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and singles on five other dates. Six on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of July. Four on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August and 5 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Highest count in September was 8 on the 4<sup>th</sup> plus singles on seven other dates. Last birds of the year were 2 on 7 October.

*3 breeding territories held.*

**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*

*Regular passage migrant*

First sighting of the spring was of a male on 11 April. Two on 1<sup>st</sup> May and 6 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Two on three dates in June and then 5 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Singles on five dates in July and August. Six on 4 September, 7 on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 8 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. In October, 3 were noted on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5 on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 7 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Last bird of the autumn was a single on 18 November.

**PALLAS'S WARBLER** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

*Rare autumn vagrant*

One seen in Gate Scrub on 21 October was still present on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, (Paul Holt) this record is a first for the Hoe.

**YELLOW BROWED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

*Rare autumn vagrant*

One recorded on 7 October and then 1 reported on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

*Rare Migrant*

One seen on 2 May was the first record for the Hoe. (Ian Roberts)

**CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita*  
*Regular passage migrant*

First birds of the year were 5 on 11 March followed by 3 on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 5 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 3 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Up to four recorded throughout April. 8 on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Singles on two dates in June and July. Autumn passage through the Hoe began on 21 August when 8 were noted then 8 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, 11 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 25 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 12 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 11 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 14 recorded on 7 October and 8 on the 10<sup>th</sup> followed by 4 on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Last birds of the year were 3 on 14 November.

**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*  
*Regular passage migrant*

First of the spring migrants was of a single bird on 16 March, not noted again until 2 were seen on 13 April, 3 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 1 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Small movement through the Hoe on 2<sup>nd</sup> My when eight were recorded. Single sighting on 19 June and 27 July. Autumn passage was just about non-existent with just singles on 7 and 8 August, 4 logged on 3 September. The last birds of the year were singles on 19 and 21 September.

**GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*  
*Mainly an autumn passage migrant*

Just the one spring record and that was of a single on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. Autumn records consisted of 1 on the 18 September and 2 on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2 were noted on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October then a small movement through the Hoe on the 19<sup>th</sup> when 5 were seen then 6 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and 8 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Three were noted on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 1 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. A small influx logged on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November with 14 seen on site, 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Singles seen on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15 December.

**FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapillus*  
*Passage migrant*

Singles on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of March, the only other spring record was of 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. Autumn passage birds were recorded in September with singles on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of September, Singles on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October and 2 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

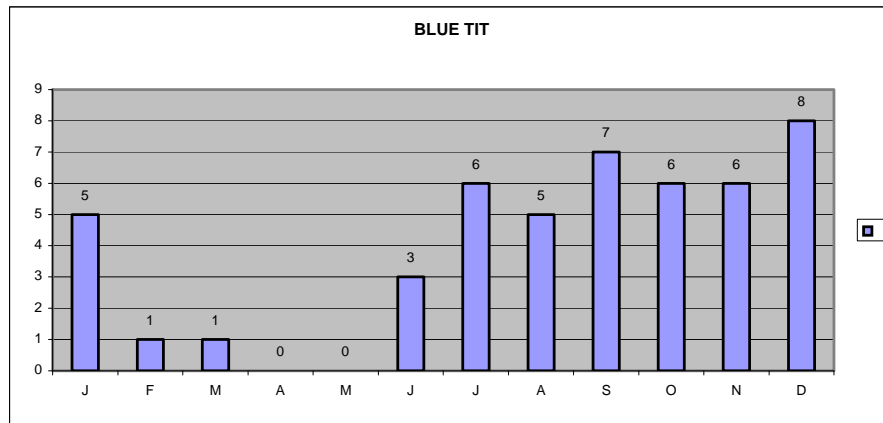
**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

One recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May. First bird of the autumn passage was a single on 3 September, last of the year was 1 on 18 September.

**COAL TIT** *Periparus ater*  
*Scarce passage migrant*

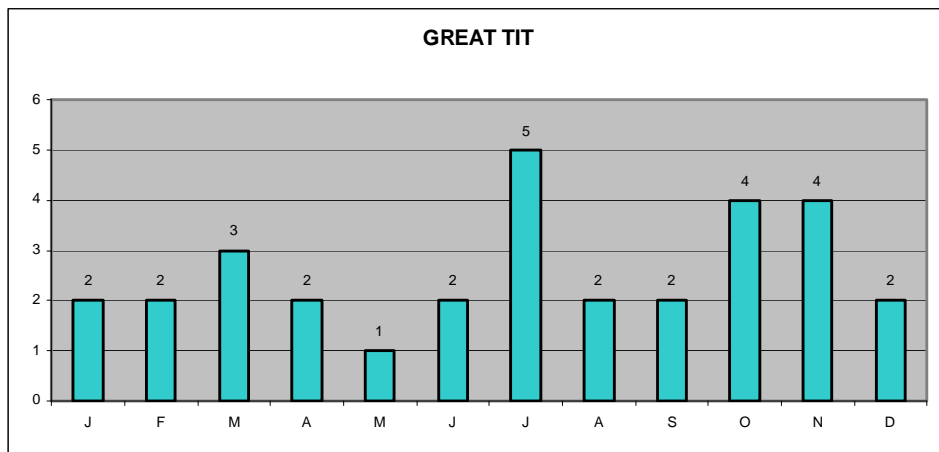
One seen coming in of the sea on 23 October.

**BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus*  
*Resident breeder*



Three juveniles seen on 19 June and 5 on 7 July. Counts of 6 on 23 October and 12 November. 8 recorded on 22 December.  
*No proof of actual breeding on the Hoe.*

**GREAT TIT** *Parus major*  
*Resident occasional migrant*



Present in low numbers in the autumn and winter. 2 Juveniles noted on 7 July.  
*Possible one pair held territory.*

**LONG TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus*

*Infrequent visitor*

8 seen in the cliff face scrub on 11 November.

**SHORT TOED TREECREEPER** *Certhia brachydactyla*

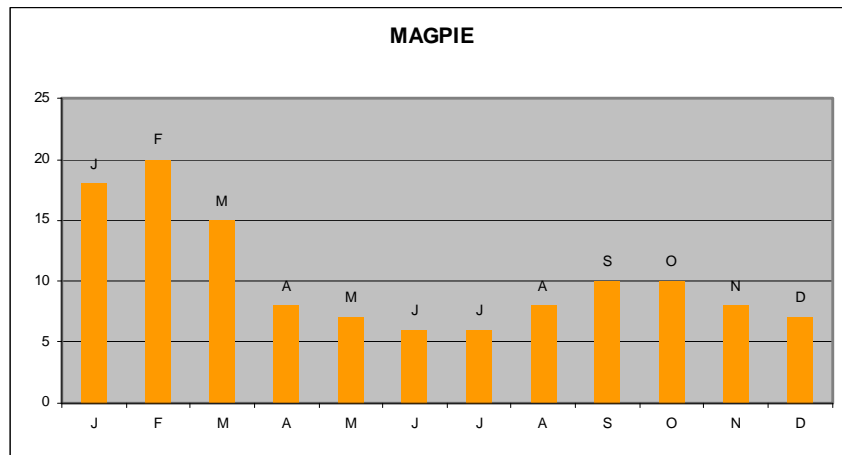
*Rare vagrant*

One found on the Hoe on 10 March (P. Holt, D.E Smith, T. Prentice) this is the first record for the Hoe and the twentieth for Kent. The record is waiting for acceptance by the rarities panel.

**MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

*Resident breeder*

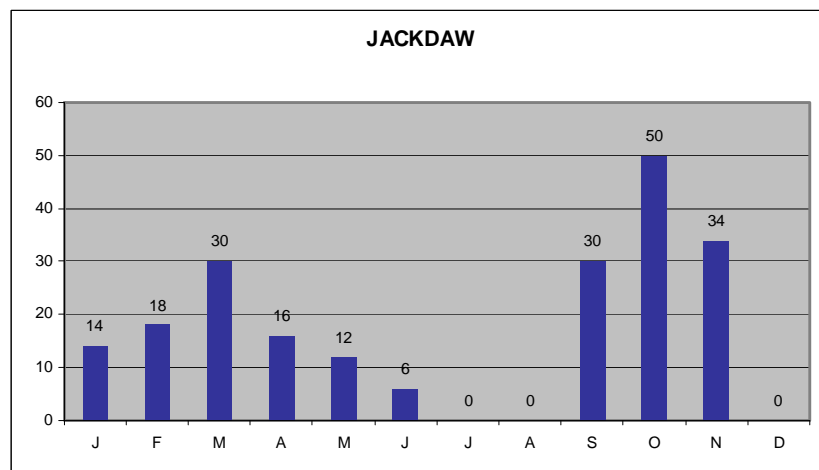
Numbers increased when the livestock were fed.



*A maximum of 4 territories held.*

**JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

*Resident*



Highest day totals were 30 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6 March, 50 on 24 October and 34 on 6 November. The three months with nil returns is I think a lack of records being submitted rather than no birds at all.

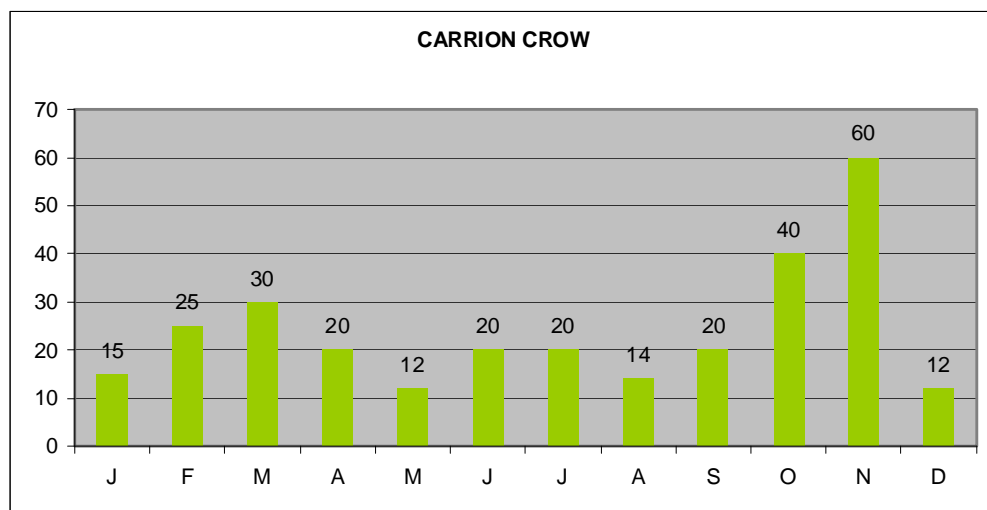
**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*  
*Infrequent visitor.*

3 flew over the Hoe on 23 September.

**JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*  
*Rare visitor*

One noted on 4 September, 2 on 7 October and then 1 on 5 November.

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



Double figure peak counts throughout the year the highest being 60 in November.

*Two territories held.*

**RAVEN** *Corvus corax*  
*Local resident.*

Two flew east along the cliff tops on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 1 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Two flew east on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February and 2 going west on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. One on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of March. Single flew over on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of April then two on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two records in May and they were 2 going west on the 9<sup>th</sup> and a single on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

No more sightings until August when 2 were seen going east on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2 flying west on the 14<sup>th</sup>. During September two were noted on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and singles on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Single on two dates in October and 2 on 5 other dates. One on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2 on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Last records for the year were 2 on 6 and 19 December.

**STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

*Used to breed now summer/autumn visitor*

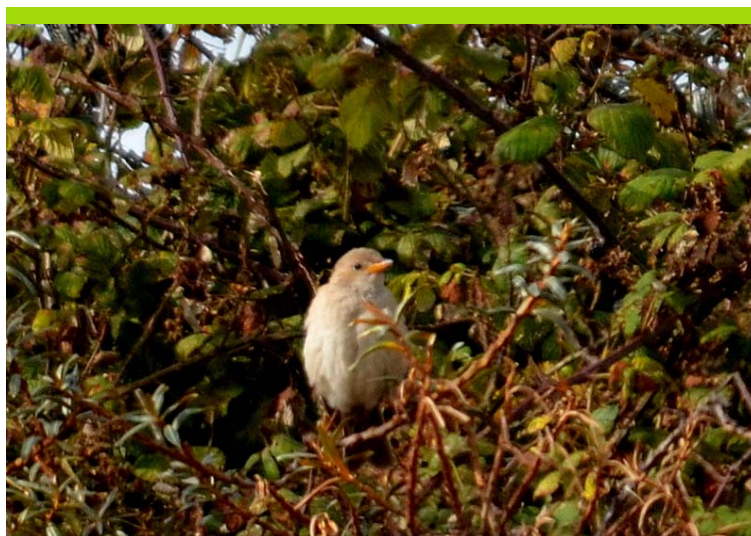
No records for the Hoe for the first five months of the year! A flock of 40 were recorded on the Hoe on 19 June this consisted of mainly juvenile birds. The next big gathering was of 30 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July plus 60 on the 31<sup>st</sup>. A flock of 200 was logged on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 55 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, c100 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 46 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Highest counts in September were 30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 40 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and 30 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Numbers were boosted by continental birds in October with 50 in off the sea on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 60 on the 19<sup>th</sup> also on this date 1200 (1000 in one flock) were logged, probably incoming migrants. A further 80 were seen on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Just the one record for November and that was of 30 on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Five on 8 December.

**ROSE COLOURED STARLING** *Sturnus roseus*.

*Rare vagrant*

A Juvenile bird was found amongst a flock of Starlings on 20 September by Geoff Burton this is the first record for the Hoe and only the 26th for Kent.



**Rose coloured starling**

©Phil Smith



**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

*Infrequent visitor*

Singles on 22 September and then on 9 October.

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

*Resident, passage migrant, winter visitor*

1-2 on seven dates in January, 4 on the 13<sup>th</sup>. 4 on 6 February and 11 March, 100 flew east on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Two on 20 April and singles on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. No records during the summer months. Autumn sightings consisted of 2 on the 17, 21 and 24 September. Four on the 8 and 10 October, 25 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 12 on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 5 on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 6 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Seven on 21 November. Five on 4 and 18 December, 8 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

*Scarce passage migrant*

A single flew in off the sea on 21 March. Four records of incoming birds in the autumn; they were a single on 6 October and then 2 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of October.

**GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

*Uncommon visitor*

One on 21 March. Two flew west over the Hoe on 21 April. 2 seen in the scrub area on 25 October.

**GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

*Mainly a passage migrant.*

Just the one spring record and that was of 2 on 27 May. Autumn passage began in October with 40 flying west on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 200+ on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 30 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. 200 moved east on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 60 over the Hoe on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 30 on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 35 flew east on 24 November. Single sightings on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 and 16 December.

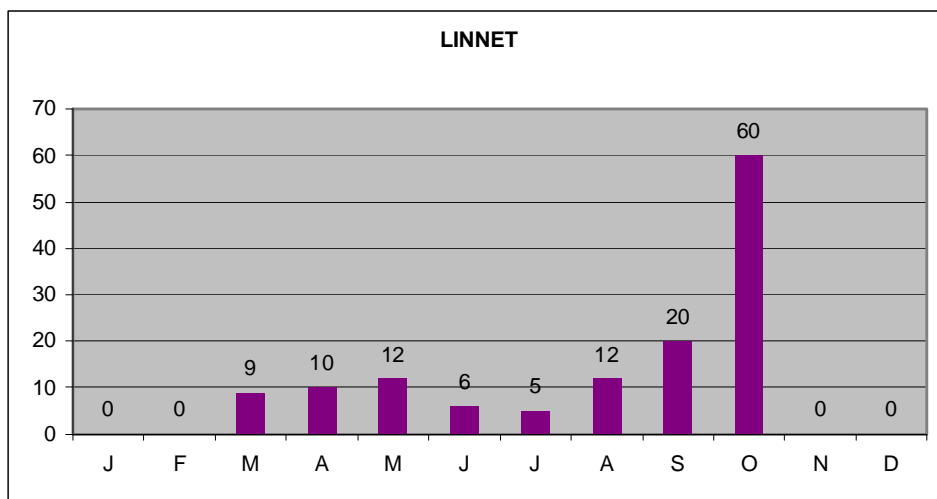
**SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

*Passage migrant*

Two spring records and they were 8 flying east on 11 March and 1 on 8 May. Autumn passage was quite compared with last years figures, 20 flew east on 22 September, then 47 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 30 east on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 250 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 15 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 15 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 20 moved east on November the 15<sup>th</sup>. 13 seen to come in off the sea on December the 1<sup>st</sup>. Ten seen in the Buddleia bushes by the rail track on 12 December.



**LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*



*Summer breeder, passage migrant*

Low numbers recorded this year. Highest counts were 20 on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 60 moving through on 19 October.

*A maximum of 6 breeding territories held this year.*

**REDPOLL** *Carduelis sp*

*Passage migrant*

Two were noted flying over the Hoe on 23 March and 1 on 8 May. One over the Hoe on 20 September. Eight records in October totalling 18 birds. The only other record was of 2 on 12 November.

**COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

*Scarce migrant*

One flew west on 19 June. One heard as it flew over the Hoe on 4 October.

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

*Scarce visitor*

Single recorded on 23 March and again on 13 April

**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
*Passage migrant has held territory*

One on 19 and 21 October and 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Single on 12 November.  
Has held territory on the Hoe in the past.

### EXTRAS

### RINGED NECKED PARAKEET

One heard calling on 18 May.

