

Skomer Island

Bird Report 2024



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
De a Gorllewin Cymru
Wildlife Trust of
South & West Wales

Published by:

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Skomer Island National Nature Reserve is owned by Natural Resources Wales and managed by The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales. More details on visiting Skomer are available at www.welshwildlife.org.

Data Usage Policy

Skomer seabird demographic data is submitted to the SMP database each year. WTSWW remain committed to making seabird data from Skomer available free of charge for individual interest and academic requests and datasets can be downloaded from the SMP Online Portal. Our annual reports can also be found on the WTSWW website.

Requests for data for commercial (development) purposes are chargeable and commercial users must contact WTSWW before proceeding to download or interrogate any Skomer data. The modest fees charged for data release contribute towards the fieldwork costs (including the experienced staff and specialist equipment) involved in collection, verification and management of data, and help to ensure the security of future monitoring.



Recommended citation for this report:

Newman, L., Aston, C., Knott, R., Whittington, W. 2024. *Skomer Island Bird Report 2024. Internal report to The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales.*

SKOMER ISLAND



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Skomer Island Bird Report 2024

The island was staffed between 28th February and 16th November. During this time, a total of 146 bird species were recorded. A total of three additional subspecies were confirmed during the year.

Island rarities summary 2024

Species	Island status	Last recorded
Great Shearwater	2 nd island record	1994
Roseate Tern	2 nd island record	1995
Glossy Ibis	3 rd island record	2023
Great Egret	4 th island record	2021
Eurasian Dotterel	8 th island record	2016
Mute Swan	10 th island record	2015
Sabine's Gull	10 th island record	2021
Eurasian Spoonbill	14 th island record	2021
Woodchat Shrike	20 th island record	2022

Skomer Island seabird population summary 2024

Eleven species of seabird regularly breed on Skomer. Puffin numbers surpassed 40,000 individuals for a second consecutive year – despite dropping by 908 birds on 2023, the total was nearly 19% higher than the five-year mean. Other auks did well, with both Guillemot and Razorbill populations showing an increase in numbers on 2023. Fulmars dropped significantly. Whilst Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers declined, Kittiwake, Manx Shearwater and Shag numbers all increased. Further information can be found in the Skomer Seabird Report (Newman, L. *et al.* 2024).

SPECIES AND COUNT UNITS	TOTALS FOR 2024	TOTALS FOR 2023	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS COUNT	COMPARISON WITH MEAN OF PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS (%)
Northern Fulmar (AOS)	381	472	-19.28	-29.64*
Manx Shearwater (Responses to playback in study plots)	1,366	1,080	+26.48	+3.64
Great Cormorant (AON)	0	0	0	-100
European Shag (AON)	11	5	+120	+223.53
Atlantic Puffin (IND)	41,605	42,513	-2.14	+18.79
Razorbill (IND)	10,639	10,080	+5.55	+12.23**
Common Guillemot (IND)	29,358	29,141	+0.74	+0.37***
Black-legged Kittiwake (AON)	1,572	1,291	+21.77	+6.13
Lesser Black-backed Gull (AON/AOT)	5,198	5,912	-12.08	-17.71****
Herring Gull (AON)	246	278	-11.51	-12.77
Great Black-backed Gull (AON)	122	121	+0.83	+9.32

Table 1 Summary of population counts on Skomer Island in 2024

Notes:

* No census carried out in 2019

** No census carried out in 2019 or 2020

*** No census carried out in 2018 or 2020

**** New methodology from 2020 onwards

Count units used in this report:

AOS – Apparently Occupied Site

AON – Apparently Occupied Nest

AOT – Apparently Occupied Territory

IND – Individual

Skomer Island breeding land-birds population summary 2024

The below data was collected by island staff and volunteers during the breeding season, mostly through the annual Breeding Bird Surveys, mapping territories along set transects across all parts of the island at least four times between early April and mid-June. In addition, many breeding territories are noted during daily patrols.

Species	2024	2023	5-yr % change
Canada Goose	10	11	-25.4
Shelduck	2	2	-9.1
Gadwall	1	1	+400.0
Mallard	2	1	-50.0
Shoveler	3	3	+15.4
Common Pheasant	14	8	+52.2
Common Buzzard	5	5	+13.6
Moorhen	6	6	+15.4
Oystercatcher	75	59	+31.6
Eurasian Curlew	4	3	+42.9
Wood Pigeon	15	5	+294.7
Short-eared Owl	3	3	0.0
Peregrine	3	4	0.0
Red-billed Chough	7	7	+25.0
Magpie	5	3	+13.6
Jackdaw	79	64	+118.2
Carrion Crow	20	23	+35.1
Raven	5	4	+8.7
Skylark	1	0	+400.0
Barn Swallow	6	9	-14.3
House Martin	0	1	-100.0
Common Whitethroat	7	7	-39.7
Sedge Warbler	24	25	-31.4
Wren	101	81	+24.4
Blackbird	15	9	+78.6
European Stonechat	3	4	-21.1
Northern Wheatear	25	27	-3.8
Duncock	9	10	-28.6
Pied Wagtail	3	4	+7.1
Meadow Pipit	117	95	+8.3
Rock Pipit	19	20	-8.7
Linnet	3	5	-28.6
European Goldfinch	1	0	+150.0
Reed Bunting	0	0	-100.0

Systematic list of birds

Status categories

Vagrant – one to 10 records

Rare – 11 to 40 records

Scarce – one to five records per year

Uncommon – six to 50 records per year

Fairly common – 51 to 250 records per year

Common – 251 to 1000 records per year

Abundant – 1001 to 2500 records per year

Very abundant – more than 2500 records per year

Note: Statuses are given in an island context, not a national context.

Breeding categories

Very rare breeder – one to 10 breeding records

Rare breeder – 11 to 40 breeding records

Scarce breeder – one to five breeding records per year

Uncommon breeder – six to 50 breeding records per year

Fairly common breeder – 51 to 250 breeding records per year

Common breeder – 251 to 1000 breeding records per year

Abundant breeder – 1001 to 2500 breeding records per year

Very abundant breeder – more than 2500 breeding records per year

BBRC – British Birds Rarities Committee

WRP – Welsh Records Panel

NRW – Natural Resources Wales

List of contributors mentioned within the report

Name	Initials	Name	Initials	Name	Initials
David Astins	DA	Sarah Bond	SB	Leighton Newman	LN
Pat & Tanya Rotherfield	PR & TR	Mike Wallen	MW	Ted Wallen	TW

Notes

The species order for this systematic list is taken from 'The British List' published by the BOU in Jan 2013.

Cover photo – Northern Wheatear – L. Newman

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
Vagrant, nine previous records. Last noted 2015

The first Mute Swan in nine years was spotted by Mike and Ted Wallen on a sea watch on 8th September.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*
Uncommon breeder. First bred 1993

The first record of the year was of two birds on 28th February. Sightings were almost daily for the rest of the season albeit with some gaps in records in August, October and early November.

A total of 10 pairs nested on the island in 2024, one pair fewer than 2023. The five-year trend for this species is one of decline (-25.4%), having decreased from a five-year average of 13.4 pairs. The first eggs were noted on 8th April and the first goslings on 1st May. Up to 10 chicks are thought to have fledged.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Max count	34	27	29	23	33	39	74	33	64

Table 2 Monthly maxima of Canada Goose 2024.



Canada Geese, Moorey Mere – L. Newman

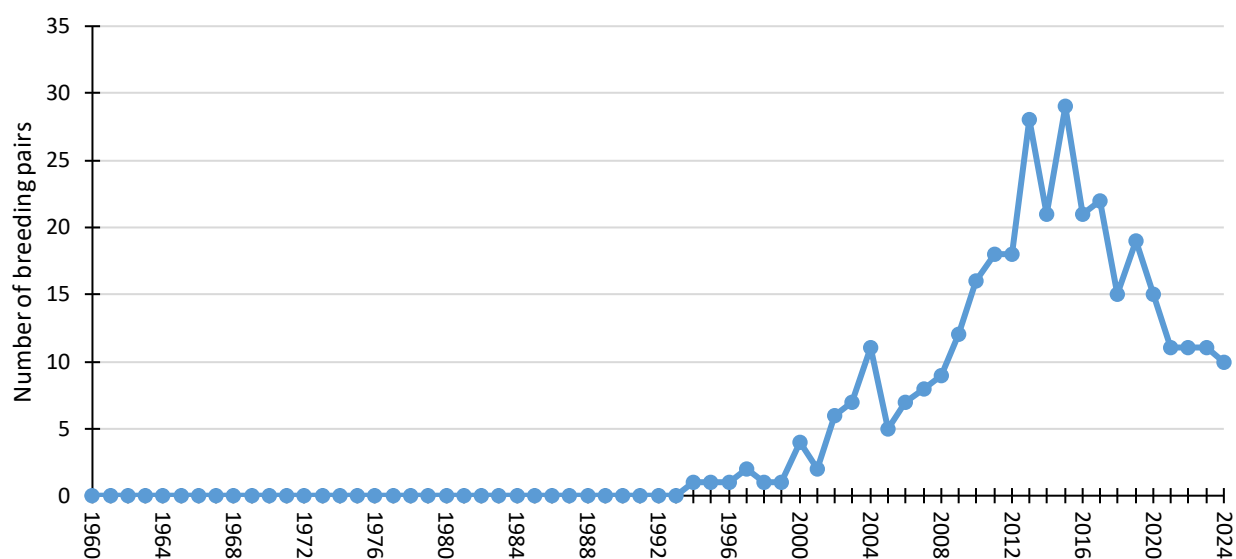


Figure 1 Numbers of breeding Canada Geese.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Scarce breeder (maximum three pairs). First bred 1969. Scarce migrant

The first record of 2023 was of two birds together on North Pond on 5th March. There were two further records until 24th March when records became almost daily until mid-June. During this period, the maximum number of birds seen was nine on 12th May.

Two pairs nested on the island this year. The first and only chicks of the year (six) were seen on North Pond on 21st May.



Shelduck, North Valley – L. Newman

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*
Uncommon migrant

Wigeon were first recorded on 28th February with three seen at North Pond. This trio were seen frequently through until the 16th of March. A single bird on 22nd March was the last spring sighting. A single female turned up for three days in early June (9th-11th) and 11th September saw a group of eight off Skomer Head. Thereafter, it was a good autumn for Wigeon, with three birds arriving on 6th October, and groups of between three and 12 birds being seen on almost every visit to North Pond from 30th October to 15th November. The 13th December visit to the island saw six birds present.

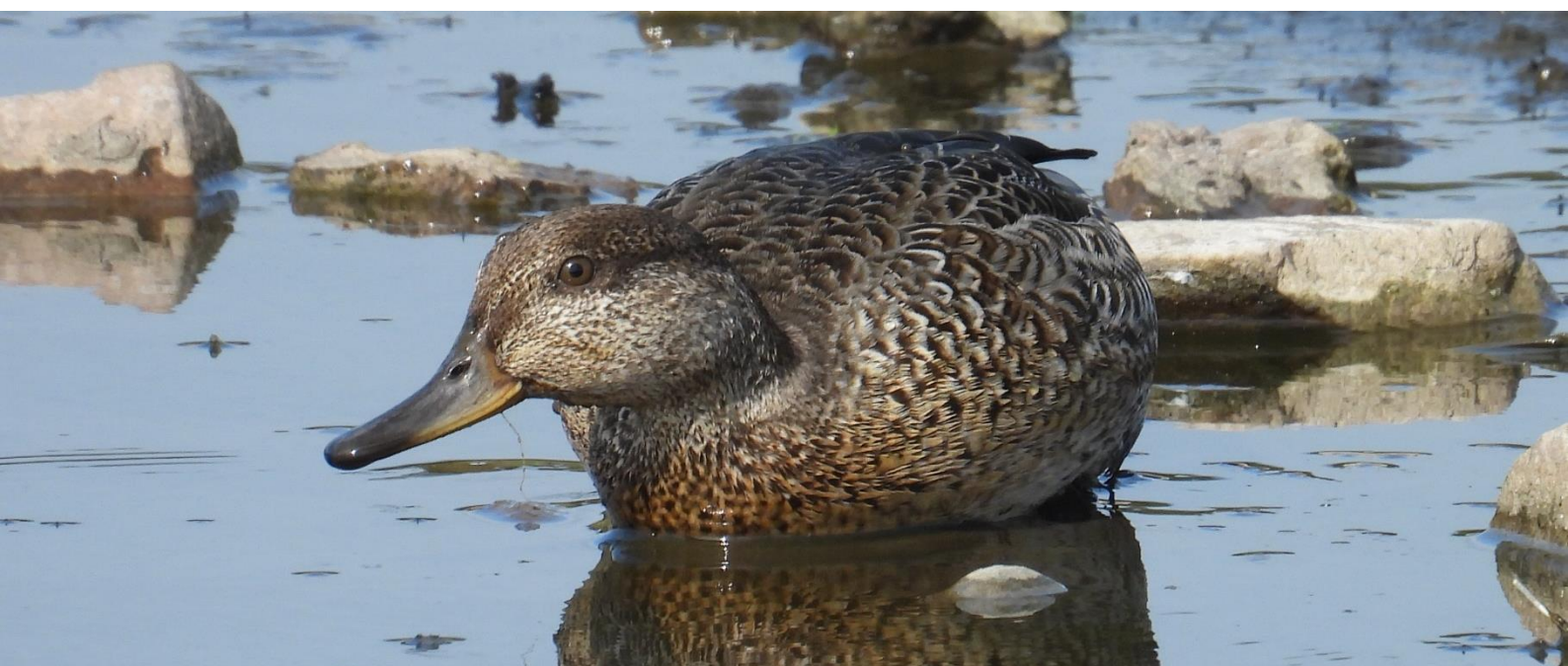
Gadwall *Anas strepera*
Rare and sporadic breeder (maximum two pairs). Last confirmed breeding 2023

A male on North Pond on 2nd March was the first record of the year and the only record until a pair were seen on 26th March. Birds were then seen sporadically through April and May with two records in June the final spring records. During this time, numbers peaked at four individuals on 31st March. Autumn records consisted of single birds on 30th and 31st July then single birds on 25th, 28th, 29th and 30th August with two seen on 27th August.

For the second year in a row, a pair attempted to breed on North Pond. A pair was first noted on 26th March and stayed for most of the spring. By mid-April, sightings of the female were more sporadic than the male, implying incubation. The first ducklings were seen on 13th May with 11 on North Pond. The following day this increased to 13 but had reduced to five on the 15th, the last time any chicks were seen.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*
Rare and sporadic breeder (maximum two pairs). First bred 1968. Fairly common, sometimes common migrant

The first record of the year was 47 on 28th February, which was also the peak spring count. Birds were present most days in March, but dwindled throughout the month, with the last week seeing a maximum of five birds sighted. Sightings in early April were sporadic and usually only one or two birds were spotted – the exception being 14 birds on 9th April. Two birds on the 17th April were the last spring records. There were no records in May or June, and only one in July – two birds spotted on Green Pond on the 23rd. Teal were present throughout the autumn, though not in particularly high numbers. August saw peak counts of five birds, September of nine. Numbers built to peaks of 26 birds on 28th October and 29 on 7th November. The year's highest count, however, was on 13th December, with 60 birds counted on North Pond.



Eurasian Teal – M. Wallen

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Uncommon breeder (maximum 18 pairs 1978 and 2000). Fairly common migrant

There were two confirmed breeding records in 2024. The first chicks were seen on 21st May with a brood of five on North Pond. The second brood, also on North Pond was seen on 30th September with five chicks noted.

The first record of the year was of a male on the 28th February. Sightings were regular throughout the spring with numbers peaking at 10 on 12th April. Sightings became less regular in autumn, starting in July. During this period the maximum count was of 45 on 13th December.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Rare breeder (first bred 1988 – first Welsh record). Last bred 2002. Scarce to uncommon migrant. Less than annual in recent years

One record of Pintail this year concerned two females seen off Skomer Head on 11th September.

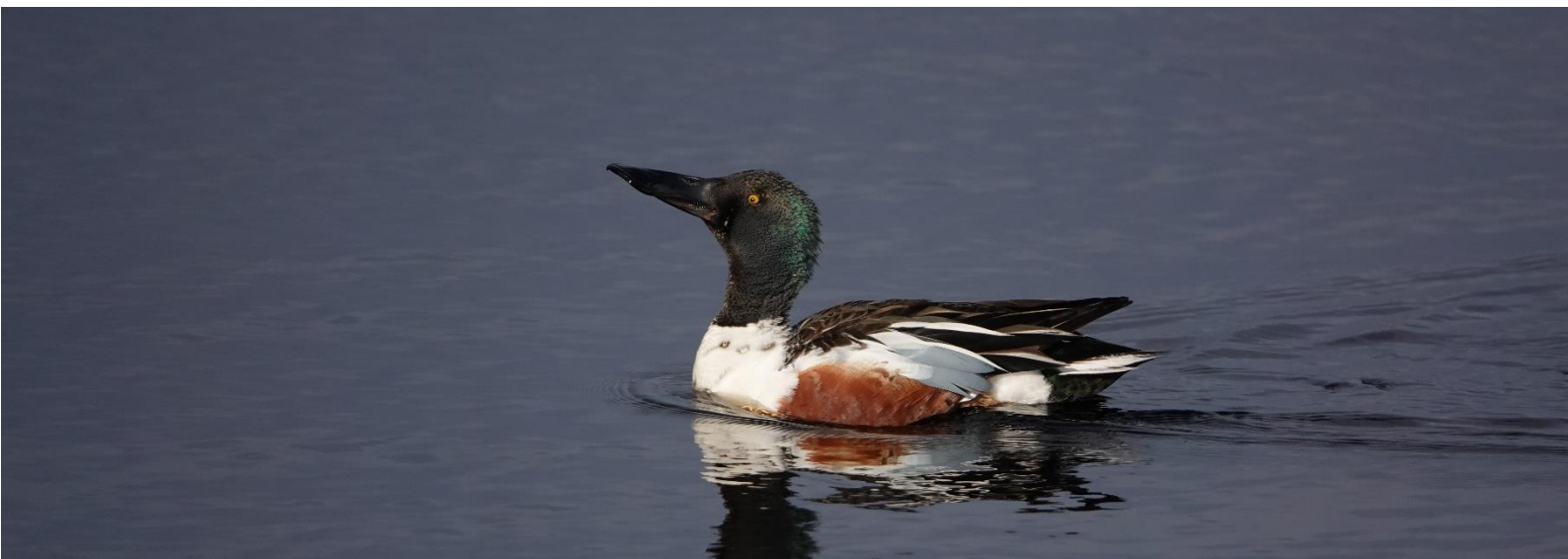
Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Scarce breeder (maximum six pairs). Uncommon migrant

Three pairs are thought to have bred this year. The first duckling was seen on 1st June on North Pond (one). After having been seen the following day, there were no further sightings of chicks during the year.

The first Shoveler records of the year came on 18th March with a male at North Pond. The next record was of two on 22nd March with records nearly every day for the rest of the month, peaking at five on 27th March. Records through April, May and June were regular and almost daily with numbers on the island peaking at nine on 7th and 10th May. The June records finished on the 16th with two females and no further birds were seen until three females on North Pond on 9th July. There were just four further days with records in July before

a slight upturn in records in August leading to records on 13 days. September records were spread over six days and peaked at five individuals on 17th. The final record of the year was on 28th September.



Northern Shoveler, North Pond – L. Newman

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*
Common migrant

The first birds of the year were a group of 10 birds seen off the Garland Stone on the 10th of May. There were two further May records, with 13 on the 12th and two on the 24th, before the sole June record of 14 birds off Skomer Head on the 14th. There were three August records, peaking at 25 on the 7th. September saw the bulk of the records, with records on 11 days peaking at 46 birds. October had two records: 30 on the 8th and 16 on the 20th. The final record of the year was of six birds on the 15th of November.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*
Uncommon breeding resident. Released for shooting during 19th century with population surviving today

Present throughout the season with fourteen pairs breeding. This is the equal highest total of the past 10 years. The first chicks of the year were seen on 30th June. Further chicks were seen on 2nd, 5th, 6th, 12th and 31st July and 6th and 19th August. Reports from the rest of the summer and autumn all refer to fledged chicks.

Pheasants were seen daily throughout the season. Peak counts from the spring consisted of 18 birds on 19th April. Peak counts from the autumn months consisted of 27 on 13th September and 19 on 6th October.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*
Scarce visitor, though uncommon in some years. Most sightings during early and late season. Probably more frequent during the winter

The first record of the year, and only spring record, was of three birds off Bull Hole on 10th May. Birds were next seen in September, with two spotted on the 12th and one on the 13th, all from Skomer Head. A single bird seen in Jack Sound on 13th December was the next and final record of the year.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Scarce visitor, though uncommon in some years. Most sightings during early and late season.

Spring records consisted of two single birds spotted on the 10th and 14th May. The autumn mirrored the spring, with two single birds spotted on 9th and 12th September, both off Skomer Head.

Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Common breeder. First confirmed breeding 1960

The whole island population was 381 AOS which is 91 fewer AOS than 2023. Overall, this is nearly 30% lower than the five-year mean. Productivity was 0.39 chicks fledged per AOS which is a slight rise on the mean of the previous five years (0.37). The first egg was noted on 12th May and the first chick on 4th July.

Present from the start of the season with 59 birds on the cliffs on 29th February. Regular counts of birds on the cliffs at North Haven through the spring resulted in a maximum count of 54 birds on 20th May. Fulmar numbers started dropping in September and the final birds were seen on the 22nd. The only other records were of three birds on 20th October, five on 15th November and they were noted as being present during a day trip back to the island on 13th December.



Northern Fulmar, Bull Hole – L. Newman

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

Vagrant, one previous confirmed record. Skomer Head, October 1994

One spotted on the water off Bull Hole by Mike and Ted Wallen on 10th September was the first record in 30 years.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Very abundant breeder, largest colony in the world

Manx Shearwaters were present for nearly the entire season, first being recorded on 9th March. Birds were then recorded more or less daily from 24th March onwards until numbers started dropping off in October and records became more sporadic. Birds were recorded on six days in November, peaking at five on 2nd and 5th. The final record came on 10th November.

Within the standard annual census plots, the number of responses (1,366) was 286 greater than 2023. This is 3.64% higher than the five-year mean number of responses. The first egg was found by Oxford Navigation Group (OxNav) on 1st May.



Manx Shearwater, at sea – L. Newman

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretaincus*

Rare visitor, most recently 2023

There were three records of Balearic Shearwater this year, with single birds seen on the 17th and 20th August, and another single on 10th September. Last year's August record was the first sighting since 2020, so it was a good year for this rare visitor to Skomer.

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Fairly common breeder. Full census conducted 2016

Birds were caught in August as part of an ongoing research project at Tom's House. Elsewhere, records mainly concern sightings at breeding colonies; these consist of two at North Haven on 24th June and five at North Haven on 3rd August.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus**Very abundant visitor. Abundant breeder on nearby Grassholm*

Recorded most days through the season. Nearby Grassholm supports the third largest colony in the world, and last year's numbers showed a reduction after the impacts of Avian Influenza (HPAI) in 2022. The monthly maxima for 2024 in general showed an increase on last year's numbers. A clear reduction in numbers was apparent through late October and November, presumably reflecting the departure of the Grassholm population.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Max.2023	20	36	33	35	59	60	32	20	3
Max.2024	125	41	57	111	35	71	205	200	2

Table 3 Monthly maxima of Northern Gannet 2023/2024

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo**Uncommon breeder. Fairly common migrant*

No Cormorants nested on Skomer in 2024, making it the fourth year in a row with zero breeding pairs. The first birds of the year were seen on 3rd March with one off the Garland Stone. From then until the end of July, records consisted of between one and nine birds seen with records increasing as the summer went on. August and September saw a large uptick in records, presumably including fledged birds from local colonies. Maximum counts were of 14 birds on 28th August and 15 birds on 7th September. The 15 birds in September consisted of a flock of 12 presumed migrants at Skomer Head.

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis**Uncommon breeder, with majority breeding on nearby Middleholm*

11 AON were recorded on Skomer in 2024, an increase of six nests on 2023 and the highest total since 1978. The first nest material was seen being carried on 3rd March. The first chicks were noted during seabird counts with a chick seen in a nest at Double Cliff. Four fledged chicks were noted at the Mew Stone on 17th June and one at the Garland Stone on 22nd June, with four seen five days later.

Present throughout the season with up to nine birds seen in spring. Numbers increased slightly in August and September with counts peaking at 10 on 12th August and 14 on 7th September. The final birds noted before the team left the island was one in North Haven on 15th November. One on Rye Rocks on 13th December during a day visit to the island was the final record of the year.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta**Scarce visitor although becoming uncommon. First recorded 1996. Last recorded 2022*

There was only one record of Little Egret in 2024 – two birds seen at North Haven on 13th April.

Great Egret *Ardea alba**Vagrant. Three records, May 2015, September 2016, June 2021*

In only the island's fourth record, a single bird was spotted flying over the Farm on the 30th of October.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Fairly common migrant

There was only one spring record in 2024 – a single bird spotted in North Haven on 20th April. June and July each saw two records of single birds (17th & 20th June; 27th & 30th July). Birds were recorded on seven days in August, with a peak count of six birds on the 30th. September saw Grey Heron recorded on 17 days. Whilst most September records were of ones and twos, the year's peak count of 12 birds were recorded on the 7th. Single birds were seen on nine days in October. The final record of the year was a bird seen at North Pond on the 24th of this month – coincidentally, the same date as the last record from 2023.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Vagrant. Two previous records involving one bird in 2021 and a flock of 17 in 2023

On 4th May, a single Glossy Ibis was seen feeding at West Pond (LN, SB) and then flew to Bull Hole, where it remained in the company of the gulls until the following day. This is just the third record for Skomer.



Glossy Ibis, Skomer Head – L. Newman

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Rare. Thirteen previous records, involving 15 birds. Last recorded 2021.

A single bird was spotted on the 18th June at North Pond, and again the following day at West Pond. September saw records of individuals on the 6th and the 16th, before this was eclipsed by a flock of seven birds which looped the island several times on the 17th September.



Eurasian Spoonbill, West Pond – L. Newman

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Scarce visitor

An individual on North Pond on 16th March was the sole record of the year.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Previously a scarce migrant now fairly common. First record 1995, annual since 2010

There were records of Red Kite every month from February to December in 2024. The first record of the year came on 3rd March with one seen over Gorse Hill. This was followed by five further March records of one or two birds. Birds were recorded on 10 days in April and eight in May, mostly in ones and twos, but with peak count of 19 birds on 10th May and 17 on 11th May. June, July and August each had only one record apiece. Birds were recorded on eight days in September, 11 in October and 11 in the first half of November before the team left the island. Peak counts in these months were five on 30th October and eight on 13th November. The final record of the year was of a single bird in North Haven on 13th December.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce migrant

There were no spring records with the first bird of the year being recorded on the 18th of July, followed by another individual on the 25th. From the beginning of August there were a string of records almost unabated between up to the end of October, usually concerning between one and four individuals, with peaks of five on 13th September and six on 2nd September. Numbers diminished and sightings became more sporadic in November. Two birds on the 15th November were the last records of the year.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
Uncommon migrant

First seen on 29th February with two ringtails at Gorse Hill. Sightings of one or two birds continued most days through until the end of April. The last spring sighting was of a single ringtail on 27th April.

Autumn sightings started in September with a single bird seen on 27th and 28th. The next records came a month later, with either one or two ringtails then being seen most days until the team's departure in mid-November. Two ringtails on the day visit on 13th December were the final birds of the season.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Uncommon migrant, though can be fairly common in some years

First seen on 8th April in North Valley, there were four further sightings of individuals spread through April. There were no further records until a single bird seen at the Farm on 11th August. August saw twelve further records of either one or two birds. The next record was of an individual in North Valley on 6th September – at least one bird was then seen daily up until 17th September, with an additional bird joining it on 13th and 14th. October into November records appear to show only a single bird present for blocks of between one and four days, with breaks of several days between sightings. The final record of the year was of an individual at North Valley Crossing on 4th November.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
Scarce breeder, though uncommon in some years (maximum eight pairs 1954). Fairly common migrant, particularly in the autumn

Five pairs nested on Skomer in 2024. Pairs nested at Amy's Reach, Robert's Wick, South Plateau, the Table and Wick Basin. The first nests were noted on 2nd April at Amy's Reach and Robert's Wick. The first eggs noted were on 18th April at Robert's Wick and the first chick was seen on 2nd June at Amy's Reach.

Noted from the 28th February with two birds present. Peak counts from the spring were as follows: 11 on 24th March, 10 on 14th April, 11 on 1st May and seven on 12th June. June and July saw a reduction in records, before an increase from August through to October. During this period, numbers reached 11 on 16th, 23rd, 26th and 29th August, 13 on 2nd and 7th September and 14 on 10th October. November saw a peak of nine birds on the 1st and the final record of the year was of three birds on 16th November.



Pair of Common Buzzards on the nest, The Neck – L. Newman

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Very rare breeding species, one record 2013. Fairly common migrant

First noted on 28th February, when one was heard at Moorey Mere, followed by a single bird at North Valley Crossing the next day. There were 10 March records of between one and three birds and thirteen April records of between one and two birds. 11 May records were well spread out throughout the month. A bird on the 1st June was the last of the spring records. There was one mid-season record of a possible juvenile at North Valley Crossing on 4th July.

Autumn records started on 8th August, with birds recorded on fourteen subsequent days in this month. Birds were then recorded on most days through until the end of the season peaking at seven birds on 6th and 31st October, and nine on 13th September. The final record of the year was of seven birds on 13th December.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Uncommon breeder, though scarce in some years

Present throughout the season, the first record of the year was on 28th February and the last on 15th November. Autumn counts were the greatest, in particular August where numbers reached 25 individuals on 5th, 12th and 17th.

Six pairs of Moorhen nested in 2024. The first nest building was noted on 2nd April at Moorey Mere with chicks seen at the same location on 27th April (three). This had increased to five the following day. On 9th May, two broods of chicks were seen on North Pond and on the 10th a chick was seen on West Pond. The only other location where chicks were seen was at Green Pond on 19th May.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Very rare breeder. Three previous breeding records, between 1996 and 2000. Scarce migrant

The first sightings of Coot in 2024 were in July, with one bird seen at North Pond on 5th and two on 22nd. An individual was then present and seen most days from 9th September through until 10th October. This was the final record of the year.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostraelagus*
Fairly common breeder

Present throughout the season, with 75 breeding pairs mapped. This is up on the 59 pairs of 2023. The first mating was noted on 26th March and the first chicks was noted on 11th May.

Spring roost counts hit peaks of 139 on 29th February, 169 On 15th April and 122 on 3rd May before birds dispersed to breeding locations. The largest count of the autumn was 56 on 6th September.

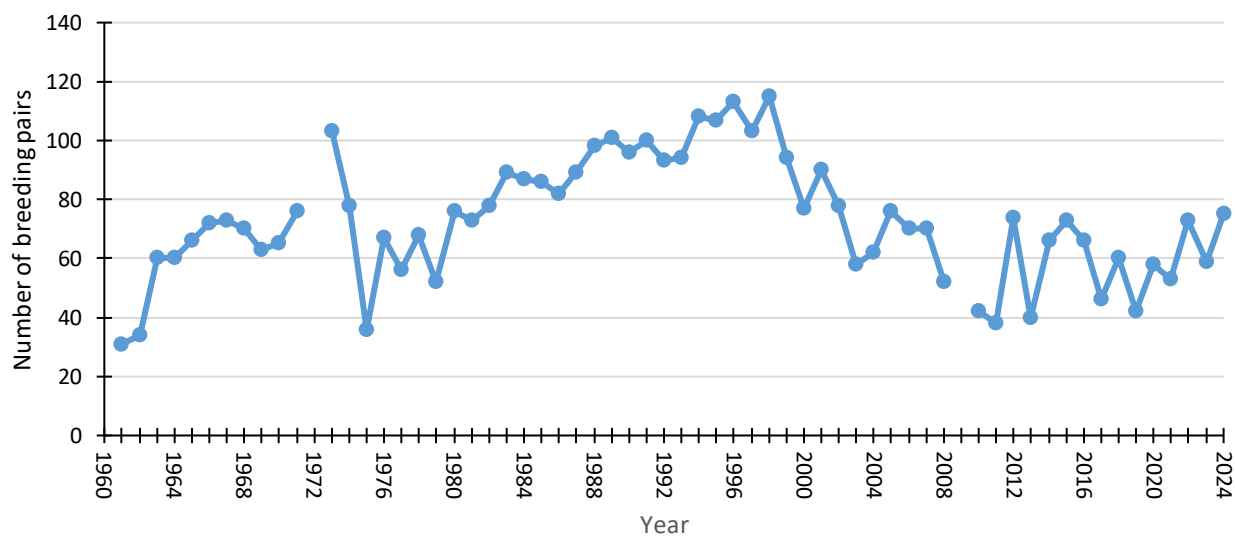


Figure 2 Breeding pairs of Oystercatchers



Oystercatcher, Gorse Hill – L. Newman

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
Uncommon migrant

Records were scattered throughout the year with the first sighting coming on 12th April with two birds in the fields east of the Farm. The next records were of single birds on the 22nd and 24th April, followed by another on 13th May. Autumn records began with a sighting of one bird in North Valley on 31st August. Birds were then recorded on three days in September and five days in October. The peak count of the year was of six birds at North Pond on 8th September. The final record was of a single bird at the Farm on 2nd November.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
Rare migrant. Thirty-one previous records, most recent records April 2022

There were three records this year for Grey Plover. These consisted of one at the Farm on 4th April, one in the fields west of the Farm on 8th May, and a final bird on 9th May at the Farm.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
Uncommon migrant. Bred annually on the island until 2000

Two records in 2024 consisted of a single bird at North Pond on 20th September and a single bird over the Farm on 3rd November.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Uncommon migrant, though scarce in some years

Two spring records consisted of an individual at the Harold Stone on 10th May, and another at North Pond on 13th. Autumn saw single birds on 9th and 13th August, two birds on 6th September, and singles on 9th and 11th September.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*
Vagrant, seven previous records. Last recorded May 2016

An individual flying east over the island (MW, TW) on 11th May was the first record in eight years.



Eurasian Dotterel – M. Wallen

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Common spring and autumn migrant. Rare in winter

The first record of the year, and sole March record, was a bird at the Farm on 15th March. The next bird was not until 14th April, after which sightings were frequent until the 20th May, with numbers peaking at 16 birds on 24th April, 2nd May and 6th May. There were no June records.

July had three records of single birds on the 13th, 16th and 29th of the month.

A single bird in North Haven on 2nd August was the next record before a string in late August, all constituting individuals but for 31 birds spotted on 28th; the highest count of the year. There were six September records of between one and two birds. A bird seen in the fields east of the Farm on the 11th September was the final record of the year.



Whimbrel, Saunders Fist – L. Newman

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*
Scarce breeder. Common migrant

Birds were present through most of the season with four pairs nesting on Skomer. The first singing bird was heard on 5th March with the first territorial behaviour seen on 12th April. The first chicks, four in Shearing Hays and two on Gorse Hill, were seen on 15th May during a whole island Curlew watch. Of the four pairs, three are thought to have fledged one chick with the fourth likely to have failed.

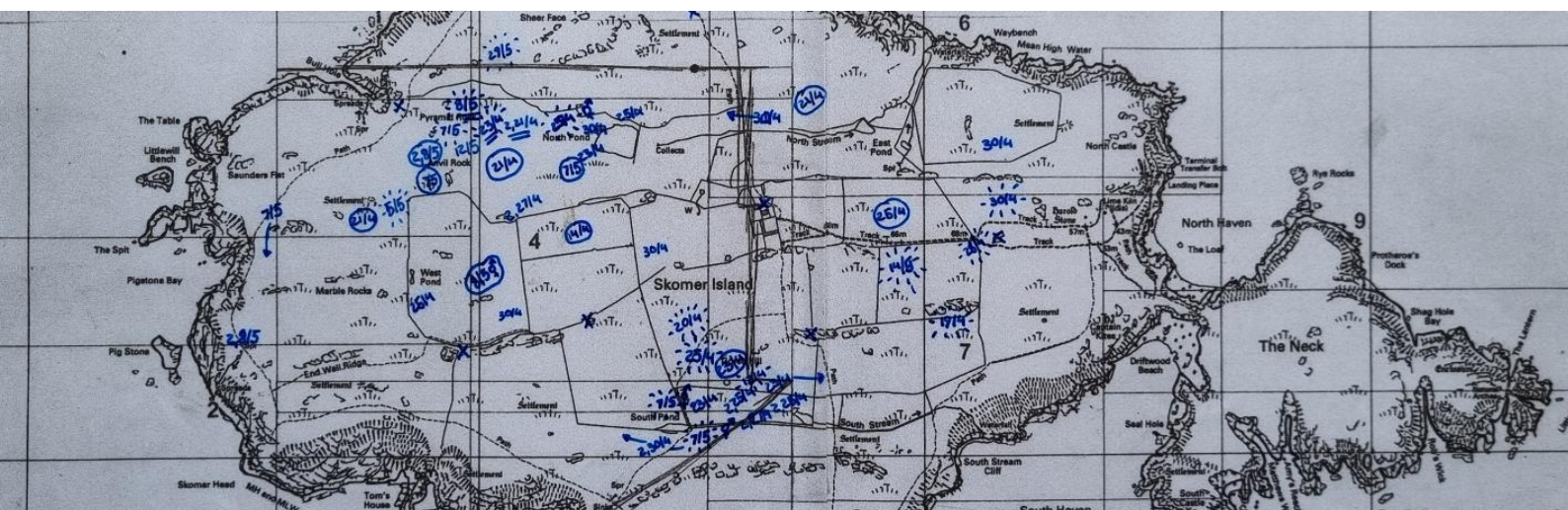
Birds in the spring and autumn are bolstered by migrating birds. The following counts are the peak from each month:

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Max count	22	23	8	9	5	2	17	11	4

Table 4 Maximum daily counts of Eurasian Curlew through each month.



Eurasian Curlew, Bread Rock – L. Newman



Curlew territory map created from Bird Log sightings – H. W. Macgregor

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Scarce migrant

The first record of the year were of single birds seen on 20th and 21st April, followed later that month by a 21-strong flock feeding at a flooded West Pond. The remaining records for the year were all single birds – on the 12th and 20th May, the 6th and 30th June, and the 20th, 22nd and 23rd July (these latter three likely the same bird, spotted each time at North Pond).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Scarce migrant

There was only one record this year – a single bird seen off Skomer Head on 12th September.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Common migrant

Birds were present on the team's arrival on 28th February at North Haven and were recorded sporadically throughout the spring on 10 dates in March, six in April and two in May. Numbers peaked at five on 16th April. Three birds at Rye Rocks on 13th May were the last recorded in the spring. The first autumn record was of three birds at North Haven on 25th August, repeated on the 31st of the month. September saw frequent records, with birds recorded on 17 days. With no members of the team based at North Haven in October or November, there were fewer opportunities to observe, but birds were present on most visits. Peak autumn counts were of 10 birds on 3rd and 19th September, 11 on 21st October, and 10 on 15th November. The final record of the year was of six birds across North Haven and South Haven on 13th December.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*
Uncommon migrant

First noted on 1st May with one bird seen at the Amos. Single birds were recorded on six further days in May, then again on the 9th and 18th June. The next record, and only August record, was of an individual seen from the Farm on 8th August. The next records of the year were of two birds present at North Pond from the 6th to 10th September. A single bird remaining on 11th was the final record of the year.



Dunlin – T. Wallen

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Uncommon migrant

The first record of the year was a single bird at Moorey Mere on the 12th of April. Further spring records consisted of single birds in North Haven on 13th, 19th, 22nd and 23rd April. Autumn records started on 17th July with a single in North Haven. Single birds were also seen on the 23rd, 26th and 30th of the month. August saw two records of individuals on the 11th and 13th of the month. Three birds were then seen at the Mew Stone on the 7th September, and two at Pigstone Bay on 16th September. These marked the final records of the year.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Scarce migrant

The only spring record was of a single bird at Moorey Mere on 13th April. The sole autumn record was of an individual at North Pond on 31st August.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Scarce migrant

The first record of the year came on 12th May with a single bird over North Valley Rise. The only other record was of a single bird over North Haven on 22nd October.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Scarce migrant, though uncommon in some years

The only record of the year was of four birds seen from North Haven on 10th September.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*
Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, scarce in some years

There were no spring records in 2024. Autumn contained just three records with two birds seen on 27th October and singles on 28th October and 8th November.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Common migrant

The first records of the year were individuals spotted on 28th and 29th February. Between one and two birds were then recorded on seven days in March. April saw birds recorded on five days, peaking at three birds at the Farm on the 27th. A bird on 7th May was the final spring record. There were no records in June, whilst the following two months had one record apiece, with individuals seen on 5th July and 14th August. Birds were seen frequently from early September until the team's departure in mid-November. Numbers peaked at five on 7th September. The last sighting of the year was on 13th December.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*
Rare, 15 previous records. Last recorded August 2020

A Pomarine Skua was spotted to the south off Pigstone Bay on 10th September (MW, TW).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*
Scarce migrant, though uncommon in some years. Sighting frequency heavily affected by observer coverage and effort

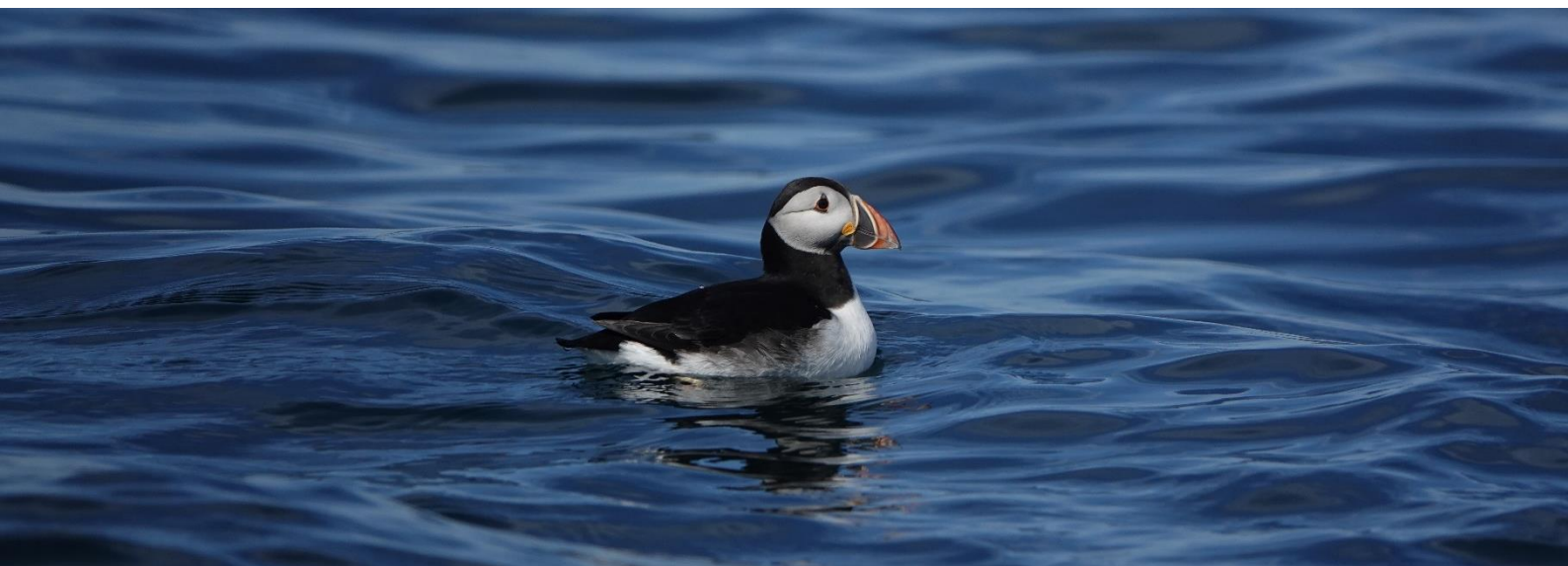
An individual spotted from the Garland Stone on 20th August was the first sighting of the year, followed three days later by a dark morph individual from the same spot. The 9th, 11th and 12th September then each had records of between four and five birds in a day. These were the last records of the year.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*
Scarce migrant

After only one bird was spotted last year, it was good to see an increase in numbers in 2024. Single birds were spotted on 17th March, 24th April and 30th May. Autumn records consisted of a single bird on 9th September and two birds on the 10th: the final records of the year.

Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*
Very abundant breeder

The first bird of the year was seen on 4th March in North Haven, with no further birds seen until 135 on 11th March. The first count over 1000 birds was on 16th March with 3,130 noted. A total of 41,605 individuals were recorded on the full island count on 26th March, a drop of 908 individuals on 2023 but nearly 19% higher than the five-year mean. The last Puffin of the season was seen on 7th August.



Atlantic Puffin, at sea – L. Newman

Razorbill *Alca torda*
Very abundant breeder

Seen on the first day back on the island on 28th February with what looked to be full attendance the following day. The final record of the year was on a day trip to Skomer on 13th December when hundreds were noted, particularly at Bull Hole.

10,639 individuals were counted in 2024 which represents an increase of 559 individuals on 2023. This is over 12% higher than the five-year mean. Productivity for 2024 was 0.49 chicks fledged per AOS for Active and Regular sites and 0.59 for Active only sites. These figures are 0.01 and 0.05 higher than their respective five-year means.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
FIRST EGG	26 April	22 April	19 April	29 April	24 April	25 April	29 April	26 April
FIRST CHICK	28 May	3 June	20 May	7 June	30 May	26 May	2 June	29 May
FIRST 'JUMPLING'	14 June	23 June	16 June	23 June	17 June	12 June	22 June	17 June
MEDIAN FLEDGE DATE	29 June	4 July	24 June	27 June	27 June	26 June	3 July	27 June

Table 5 Razorbill phenology records 2017-2024



Razorbill, Bull Hole – L. Newman

Guillemot *Uria aalge*
Very abundant breeder

Birds were seen on the first day of the season on 28th February in their thousands. The following day, full attendance was noted. Attendance at the cliffs was sporadic through March and early-April with birds settling towards the end of April. Birds were then present until late July, albeit in dwindling numbers. The last records of the year came from a day trip to Skomer on 13th December where thousands were noted, particularly at High Cliff.

29,358 individuals were counted in 2024 which represents an increase of 217 individuals on 2023. Productivity was 0.75 chicks fledged per AOS which is 0.05 higher than 2023, the highest productivity since the methodology changed in 2022.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
FIRST EGG	2 May	5 May	22 April	23 April	27 April	21 April	2 May	27 April
FIRST CHICK	2 June	4 June	19 May	25 May	30 May	27 May	5 June	1 June
FIRST 'JUMPLING'	22 June	28 June	17 June	22 June	21 June	20 June	27 June	22 June
MEDIAN FLEDGE DATE	2 July *	6 July*	22 June*	22 June*	28 June*	29 June *	8 July*	3 July

Table 6 Common Guillemot phenology records 2017 – 2024



Common Guillemot, Bull Hole – L. Newman

Auk sp.

Records of auk not assigned to species began in September. Between 9th and 12th there were daily sightings of between 10 and 200 birds. Outside this period, one bird was seen on the 6th, and two on 17th. October saw counts of three Auk sp. from the Garland Stone on the 24th and 26th, and a high count of 21 on the 20th. The final bird of the year was an individual seen off the Garland Stone on 7th November.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Scarce migrant, though uncommon in some years

The only spring records of the year were a single bird at North Haven on 6th April, followed by four seen from Skomer Head the following day. The first autumn record was of one bird seen from the Garland Stone on 26th August. This was followed by four birds on the 9th, six on the 11th and eight on the 12th of September. These were the final records of the year.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Scarce migrant. Possibly under-recorded, with many records of 'Commic' tern in the logs likely to have mostly involved this species

The only records of the year came in September. 19 birds were spotted on the 9th, five on the 10th, three on the 11th and eight on the 12th. This marked the end of the year's records.

'Commic' tern

The first record of the year was of 'Commic' terns present off the Garland Stone on 20th August. The next records came in a string in mid-September, with eight birds apiece on the 9th and 10th, five on the 11th, and 23 on 12th. The latter was the highest and last count of the year.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii**Vagrant, one previous record off Garland Stone May 1995*

In the first record in 29 years, one bird was spotted from the Garland Stone on 9th September (MW, TW).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea**Scarce migrant. Possibly under-recorded due to confusion with Common Tern. Records of 'Commic' tern may have referred to this species*

After single figure counts on the 9th, 20th and 11th September, 42 birds were seen on the 12th in the highest and last count of the year.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini**Vagrant, nine previous records. Last recorded 2021*

There were two records of this striking gull in 2024, with one juvenile spotted off the Garland Stone on 23rd August (LN) and another seen from Skomer Head on 11th September (MW, TW).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla**Abundant breeder*

There were 1,572 AON counted in 2024 which is an increase of 281 AON on 2023. It's also over 6% higher than the five-year mean. Productivity in 2024 was 0.64 chicks fledged per AON which is 0.03 higher than the five-year mean.

Sea-watches in September resulted in some large movements with 3,060 on the 12th being of particular note.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NEST BUILDING START	6 May	11 May	8 May	12 May	4 May	1 May	1 May	1 May
FIRST EGG	23 May	25 May	19 May	21 May	17 May	16 May	19 May	18 May
FIRST CHICK	14 June	20 June	15 June	16 June	8 June	10 June	20 June	15 June
FIRST FLEDGLING	25 July	28 July	17 July	20 July	22 July	20 July	16 July	24 July

Table 7 Kittiwake phenology records 2017 – 2024



Kittiwake, Bull Hole – L. Newman

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Bred at North Pond between 1965 and 1970, maximum 25 pairs. Abundant migrant, particularly in the autumn

The first spring record was of three birds seen from Skomer Head on 3rd March. The next record was of a single bird over the farm on 18th April, followed by a single bird at North Haven on 8th May and another single at North Haven on 26th June. There were three records in July, with nine flying over the Farm on 10th July followed by more characteristic sightings off the coast on 30th and 31st. August saw sightings of between two and three birds on 3rd and 14th of the month. By far the most records were in September, with birds sighted on 13 days including the year's peak count of 97 birds on the 9th. October and November. Birds were recorded on two dates each in October and November, with a peak of four birds on 26th October. The final record of the year was of 11 birds on 13th December.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Uncommon visitor. This species has undergone a remarkable change in status, being considered a vagrant on the island (less than 10 records) as recently as 2007

Just the three records in 2024 with a single bird seen off Pigstone Bay on 11th June, seven off Garland Stone on 26th October, and two off Garland Stone on 13th December.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Uncommon visitor

The first record of the year was an individual spotted from the Garland Stone on 9th September, followed by individuals on 10th and 12th and two birds on the 11th of the month. The only remaining record was of five birds from the Garland Stone on 13th December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
Very abundant (but declining) breeder

The whole island population estimate was 5,198 AON/AOT in 2024 which is a decrease of 714 nests or territories on 2023. Compared to the five-year mean this is nearly 18% lower.

Nesting material was noted as being gathered on 17th March and mating was first noted on 28th March. The first eggs were noted on 25th April.



Lesser Black-backed Gull, North Valley Outfall – L. Newman

European Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
Common (but declining) breeder

This year's count of 246 AON was a decrease of 32 AON compared with 2023. This is nearly 13% lower than the mean of the previous five years. Productivity was 1.16 chicks fledged per AON which is significantly higher than the five-year mean of 0.50.

The first mating was observed on 2nd April, the first egg was seen on 19th April and the first chicks were seen on 20th May.



European Herring Gull, at sea – L. Newman

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*
Fairly common breeder

122 AON were counted in 2024, an increase of one AON compared to 2023. This is over 9% higher than the five-year mean. Productivity was 1.44 chicks fledged per AON, which is below the five-year mean of 1.61.



Great Black-backed Gull, South Stream – L. Newman

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*
Fairly common visitor

Two at Moorey Mere on 20th April were the first recorded in 2024. Birds were recorded in May, June, July, August, September and October. The maximum count was a group of 42 racing pigeons seen on 18th June. Lost racing pigeons were present at the Farm throughout July and August. September had only two sightings and October only one, on the 29th of the month. This was the last record of the year.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*
Previously an uncommon breeder (up to 50 territories in 1970s). Last breeding record 1988. Scarce migrant

Last seen in 2022, there were two records in 2024. A single bird was seen at the Lantern on 18th April, followed by another single bird at Bull Hole on 5th May.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*
Scarce breeder, though uncommon in some years. Common migrant, particularly in late autumn

Present throughout the season with birds first recorded on 2nd March. 15 pairs were thought to have bred, 10 pairs more than 2023 and a 200% rise on the previous five-year average.

The highest count of the spring was of 36 birds on 14th April. The largest count of the autumn was 392 on 26th October.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Uncommon migrant

First recorded on 18th April with one at Garland Stone. Birds were then recorded in May, June and July, during which time the peak count was three birds on several dates in early May. There were no birds between 28th July and 15th September. The latter record, of an individual at Moorey Mere, was the final one of the year.



Collared Dove, The Farm – L. Newman

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Scarce migrant, becoming rare. Last recorded 2023

One found at North Pond on 15th September (PR, TR) is only the second record of this once annual migrant since 2019.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Rare and sporadic breeder. Last confirmed breeding record 1991 (possibly 2002). Scarce migrant

A good year after only two records in 2023. The first record was an individual on 12th April, followed by sightings of a single bird on 19th and two birds on 30th. There were three records of single birds in May, with a female on 23rd being the last spring record. July saw records of single birds on 19th, 24th and 25th, whilst August had no records. The next sighting, and final bird of the year, was an individual seen at North Valley Crossing on 7th September.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Scarce and sporadic breeder. Last breeding record 2007

There were no spring records. The first autumn record was on 13th September, followed by sporadic sightings until the end of the month, all of single birds. The first and only October record was an individual at the Farm on 29th. There were then two records, each of two birds, on the 14th and 15th November, the last of the year.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Previously scarce breeder now a rare visitor. Previously, between one and two breeding pairs, maximum six pairs 1985

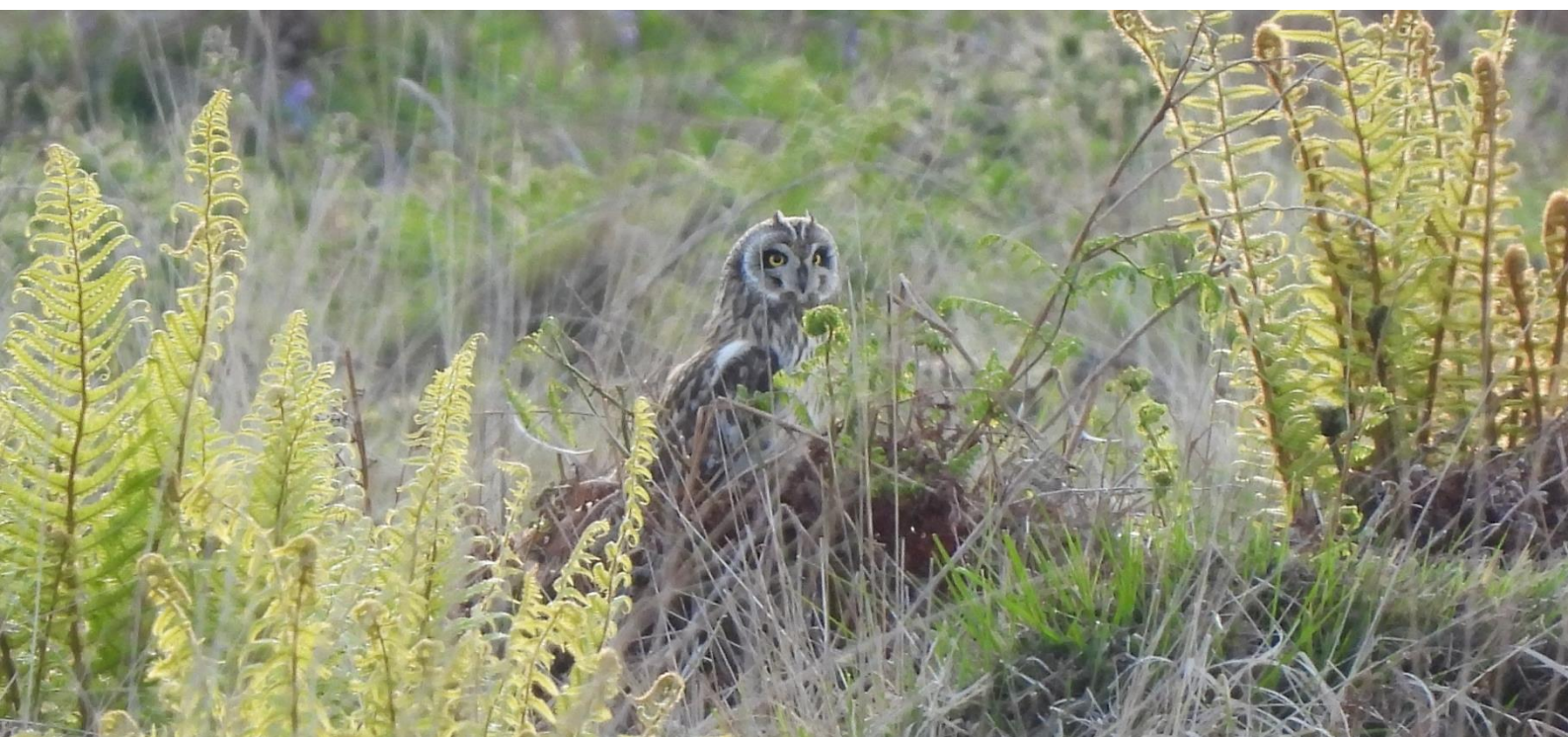
Little Owl were first spotted on the island on 10th and 11th March, with a single bird seen on each date at End Wall Ridge. The next records came in late April, with an individual spotted in the fields west of the Farm on 25th, and a sighting of a single bird at End Wall Ridge again on 28th. Four sightings of an individual in the fields west of the Farm throughout May prompted speculation but there was no further evidence of breeding. The last recorded sighting of the year was on 27th May.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Scarce breeder, though uncommon in some years. Maximum 14 territories 1993. Uncommon migrant

Three pairs bred on Skomer in 2024. Birds were first noted on 3rd March with two at the Farm. The first displaying was seen on 17th April with further displaying seen on 5th May. The first chicks were seen on 22nd June with two east of the Farm. It is unclear how many chicks fledged.

Birds were seen through autumn, albeit with less regularity, until the final sighting on the 15th of November. The peak count of the autumn was of eight birds on 7th November.



Short-eared Owl – T. Wallen

Common Swift *Apus apus*
Common migrant

The first record of the year came on 19th April, with two birds spotted. Birds were recorded on a total of four days in April, fifteen in May and nine in June, with peak day counts of nine on 24th June and 14 on the 26th. Birds were recorded on four days in July, with two birds seen on the 1st and 14th, one on the 15th and 19 – the year's peak count – on the 29th. Single birds were recorded on four dates in August, with the final record of the year being seen on the 31st.



Common Swift, The Farm – L. Newman

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*
Scarce migrant, though uncommon in some years

Birds were recorded solely on seven September days this season, with individuals logged on the 1st, 2nd and 7th at the Farm, and on the 9th-12th at North Haven.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Scarce migrant, previously a rare migrant with only five records up to 2007

First spotted on 1st March, a female bird was present at the Farm most days until 19th April. The next and final bird of the year was a juvenile seen at the Farm and then East Bog on the 13th, 14th and 15th September, marking an quiet autumn for the species.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Scarce and sporadic breeder. Last breeding attempt 2013. Uncommon migrant, though fairly common in some years

The first records were of single birds at the Farm on the 28th and 29th February. An individual was then seen on most days at or near the Farm until 20th March. April had records of single birds on 9th, 12th and 14th of the month, and May on the 1st, 2nd and 10th – these the last records of the spring. Autumn records began on 21st July, with records of single birds continuing until the end of the month.

Sightings of between one and four birds were common throughout August and in late August, the island saw an influx of birds, including several juveniles. Birds were seen almost every day from 23rd August to the team's departure in mid-November. Counts of around 10 birds were not uncommon throughout September, peaking at 11 on the 4th and 11th of the month. Numbers dropped a little in October, with numbers usually peaking at three or four birds, though with peak counts of six birds on 1st and the 6th. Between one and three birds were recorded every day in November. One bird spotted in North Haven on 13th December was the last record of the year.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*
Uncommon migrant

The first records of the year were on the team's arrival in February, with single birds seen at the Wick on 28th and then Moorey Mere on 29th. Single were recorded on five days in March and five in April, then again on the 1st, 3rd and 5th May, before a gap between sightings of almost a month. The next four months had one sighting of a single bird per month: on 2nd June, 28th July, 31st August and 16th September. There were then no sightings until the 13th December visit, when an individual was spotted at the Farm.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*
Rare migrant. Last seen 2019

A Hobby was spotted near the Wick on the 20th May (IW); the first record in five years.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*
Scarce breeder. Maximum four pairs. Uncommon migrant

Present throughout the season with three territories held. Territories were held at the Garland Stone, Protheroe's Dock and The Wick. The first territorial behaviour was seen on 5th April. On the 18th April it was noted that a pair of Peregrines had ousted a nesting Raven and taken over the nest. This pair were then seen mating on 1st May and feeding young on 19th May. One chick fledged from the Wick on 29th June. The pair which nested at Protheroe's Dock were territorial throughout the breeding season but fledging was never confirmed and observations at the Garland Stone seemed to point to them fledging one chick.

As mentioned in the 2023 report, one of the Peregrines at the Wick was colour ringed and this was able to be read in the field which revealed the following details:

Ringed on 14th June 2022 as a nestling in Tregaron, Mid-Wales, roughly 110km from Skomer.



Peregrine, North Valley – L. Newman

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Rare migrant. Nineteen previous records, most recently July 2022

There was one record this year, with a male seen at the Farm on 25th June.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Scarce breeder. Fairly common visitor from the mainland

Seven territories were held with pairs attempting to breed at: Amy's Reach (one chick), the Wick (two chicks), Welsh Way (one chick), South Castle (failed), the Amos (failed), the Lantern (one chick) and Payne's Ledge (unknown).

The first nest building was seen on 3rd March at the Wick and the Amos. The first mating was seen on 1st April and the first chick was seen on 28th June at the Lantern.

The highest count of the spring was 44 birds seen on 5th March. This consisted of a flock of 36 on South Plateau. The highest count of the autumn was of 59 birds counted as part of the south Pembrokeshire Chough roost count. This included a single flock of 42 birds roosting at Shag Hole Bay.



Chough, Captain Kites – L. Newman

Magpie *Pica pica*
Uncommon breeder

Present throughout the season with five pairs nesting. An early fledgling, along with its parents, was seen west of the Farm on 24th April. The next fledglings were seen on 22nd June at the Farm.

The high count of the year was 16 birds on 29th September.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*
Fairly common breeder, though not censused every year. Fairly common to common migrant

Present through most of the season with 79 pairs nesting. Numbers dramatically increase in the autumn as can be seen below.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Max count	146	167	85	148	200	600	300

Table 8 Monthly maxima of Jackdaw.

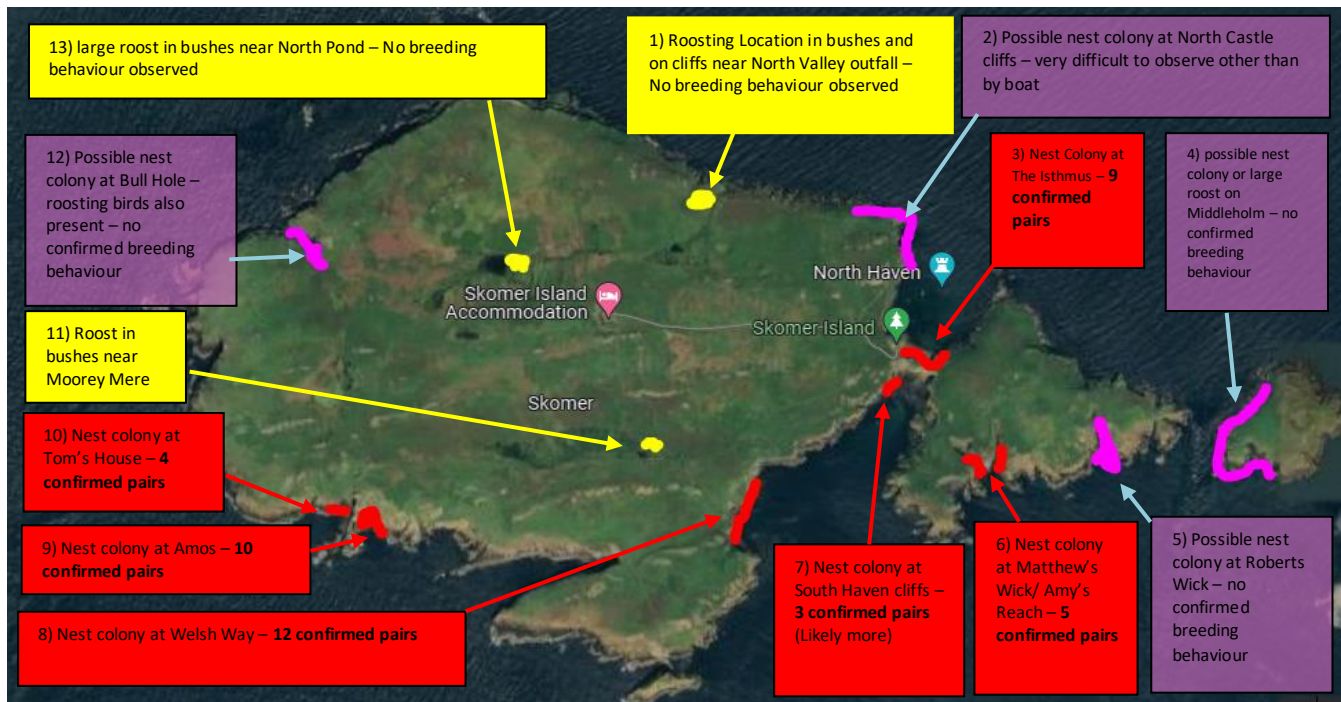


Figure 4 Jackdaw breeding behaviour mapped by Long Term Volunteer, Mike Slack



Figure 3 Jackdaw nest sites, North Haven – M. Slack



Jackdaw, South Stream – L. Newman

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*
Uncommon migrant

There were two records of three birds in April, with sightings on the 16th and 19th of the month.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*
Uncommon breeder

Present throughout the season, with 20 pairs nesting. First noted nest building on 11th April at North Haven and the first fledgling was seen on 10th May.

High counts included 41 birds on 11th March and 45 on 7th September.



Carrion Crow, Skomer Head - L. Newman

Hooded Crow *Corvus corone*

Rare migrant

One record of a bird seen at North Haven on 29th June.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Scarce breeder. Fairly common autumn visitor

Five pairs nested on Skomer in 2024. Pairs nested at Matthew's Wick (three chicks), the Lantern (two chicks), The Wick (failed), the Amos (three chicks) and the Garland Stone (unknown). Ravens were noted as incubating at The Wick on 29th February as well as nest building at the Garland Stone. The first sign of chicks was food being carried on 26th March with chicks seen three days later on the 29th. The first report of fledglings came on the 21st May.

Peak counts for the year were again, much reduced on previous years. The peak for spring was 15 birds on 18th April. There was, as usual, an arrival of birds onto the island in the autumn but numbers were much reduced. The peak count from the autumn was 38 birds on 9th September. Numbers had returned to the breeding population by mid-October, with the high count from then until the end of the year being five birds.



Raven, North Valley – L. Newman

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Fairly common migrant

The first record of the year was on 6th March with one bird seen at North Valley Willows. Birds were seen on a total of 12 dates in March and eight in April. Most records consisted of between one and three birds, but peaked at 18 on 11th March, seven on 21st and 26th March, and six on 1st April. May saw records of one bird on the 10th and two on 11th – these the last of the spring.

The first autumn records were of individuals at North Valley Crossing on 26th and 27th August. September had birds recorded on 14 days, 10 of which records constituted one or two birds. October had nine records of between one and three birds and November three records of one or two birds. The peak count of the autumn was 10 birds on 12th September. The final record was of a single bird on 13th November.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Scarce autumn migrant, though uncommon in some years (at least 65 previous records). Rare spring migrant

There was one spring record of a single bird at North Pond on 26th March. The next records were in October, with two at North Valley Willows on the 4th and 5th of the month. One remaining bird on the 6th October was the final record of the year.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Fairly common autumn migrant

The first spring record was of a single bird at North Valley Crossing on 29th February. Sporadic sightings continued throughout March, with one or two birds recorded on seven days in this month. The final spring sighting was of a bird at the Farm on 1st April. Autumn sightings began with single birds seen on 3rd and 4th September. There were only a handful of sightings in the remainder of the year, all of single birds – on 27th October, 1st November, 13th November, and the day visit on 13th December.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Uncommon autumn migrant though rather sporadic, rare in spring and summer.

A single bird was spotted at the Amos on the 9th of May.

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Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Bred annually until 2018. Previously an uncommon breeder. Common autumn migrant

One pair was holding territory in 2024, although no further evidence was seen other than singing through April and May. Only one big movement of Skylarks was noted in autumn which involved 240 birds on 19th October.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common migrant

One bird on 17th March was the first record of the year followed by eight on 21st and six on 26th. Birds were recorded on 15 days in April and 14 in May, with peak counts of 30 on 19th April and 22 on 1st May. Individuals were recorded on 9th and 30th June. Mid-season, six birds were recorded on 13th July, with between one and two birds being recorded on three dates at the end of the month. August saw six birds on 11th and nine on 26th. September held the last records of the season, with birds recorded on six dates, peaking at 10 on 13th. The final bird of the year passed the Farm on 17th September.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Uncommon breeder. Very abundant migrant

Six pairs nested in 2024, four at the Farm, one at North Pond and one at Moorey Mere. The first prospecting birds were noted on 25th April. The first chicks were seen on 14th June and the first fledged chicks on 3rd July.

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The first record of the year came on 26th March with two seen. Sightings from 2nd April onwards were near daily peaking at 151 in spring (19th April).

The first movement of autumn was noted on 15th August with 20 birds at the Farm. The high counts of autumn are detailed below.

Date	1 st September	6 th September	7 th September	13 th September	17 th September
Max count	100	123	100	1000	130

Table 9 Peak counts of Barn Swallow. High count of the year in bold.



Barn Swallow, The Farm – L. Newman

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Bred during the late 1960s/early 1970s, and again from 2021. Common migrant

The first bird of spring was seen on 31st March, with then next seen on 8th April. Sightings were then regular throughout the summer peaking at 32 in spring (10th May) and 50 in autumn (13th September).

No House Martins bred on Skomer in 2024.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Scarce autumn migrant. Most recently 2023

There were two records in 2024, with a single bird at North Valley Willows on 27th October and another at North Pond on 2nd November.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Very rare and sporadic breeder, noted 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2021. Abundant migrant

First recorded on 10th March, with one bird present. Birds were frequently recorded throughout the rest of the month, with high counts of 58 on 26th – the year's peak count – and 36 on 31st March. Birds were recorded on most days in April with a high count of 27 on 12th. Birds were recorded regularly through May and were heard singing around North Valley Willows. The last bird of the spring was recorded on 8th June at North Valley Crossing.

There were records of single birds on two dates in July and five in August. Birds were then recorded frequently throughout September, October and into November. The last record was of two birds at North Valley Willows on 13th December. The high count of the autumn was 12 on 13th September.

Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis*

Rare migrant. Further records of 'eastern' birds possibly relating to this subspecies. However, owing to confusion regarding the identification of this sub-species in the past, this may represent a false status

The only record of the year was of an individual at North Pond on 31st October.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Abundant migrant

The first record of the year was of 17 birds seen on 26th March, and birds were seen on most days for the rest of the month, through April and into May. The peak count for the spring was 43 birds on 19th April. Numbers dropped off in late May, with the final May record being an individual on 19th. June had five records of single birds, with the last of these – and the last spring record – coming on the 15th.

Just over a month later, the first record of the autumn was an individual at the Farm on 18th July. Birds were then recorded most days up until 28th September, when a single bird at North Pond became the final record of the year. Peak autumn counts were of 23 birds on the 3rd, 35 birds on the 7th, and 14 birds on the 8th of September.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Fairly common migrant

The first record of the year was of a male in North Haven on 10th March, followed later in the month by 13 birds on 26th, and singles on 27th, 28th and 31st. Birds were then recorded throughout April and into May, mostly in single digit counts. Numbers dropped off mid-month, leaving a gap of several days before the final May records on 18th-20th of the month. The peak spring counts were 25 birds on 12th April and 23 birds on 13th. There were no June records.

July had records of single birds on 14th and 26th of the month. August followed with individuals on 6th and 12th, before a male and female were spotted at Moorey Mere on 30th of the month. Between one and six birds were seen most days between 1st and 18th September, with outliers being 10 birds on the 9th and 13 on the 7th. The next sighting wasn't until October, when between the 2nd and the 10th there were one or two birds recorded on four dates. Eleven days later, a record of an individual at North Haven began a seven-day string of records of either one or two birds, concluding on 29th October. After another gap, the final records of the year were individuals spotted on the 15th and the 16th of November.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Uncommon migrant

The first record was of one bird at Moorey Mere on 27th April. This was followed by a string of May records, with two birds on the 5th, two on the 11th, four on the 12th and one on the 16th.

The next record, and first autumn record, was a bird at the Farm on 31st August, followed by three September records of an individual at the Farm on the 4th, 7th and 16th of the month.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*
Scarce migrant

The first spring record was of one bird at North Valley Willows on 10th May, followed by three birds spotted on the 11th and individuals seen on the 15th, 16th and 19th of the month. There was one mid-season record of a bird in the fields west of the Farm on 30th June. Birds were then recorded on three dates in the autumn, all individuals, on 14th September, 6th October and 8th October.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*
Uncommon breeder, though scarce in some years

The first record of the year came on 21st April with one at Moorey Mere. Birds were then seen nearly daily through until the end of the breeding season. The peak spring counts were of 12 birds on 5th and 7th May whilst the peak autumn count was eight birds on 28th August. The final record of the year came on 17th September.

A total of seven breeding pairs were mapped during Breeding Bird Surveys and other observations. This is equal to 2023's total, which was itself four pairs fewer than that of 2022. The first bird carrying nesting material was seen at the Farm on 6th May.

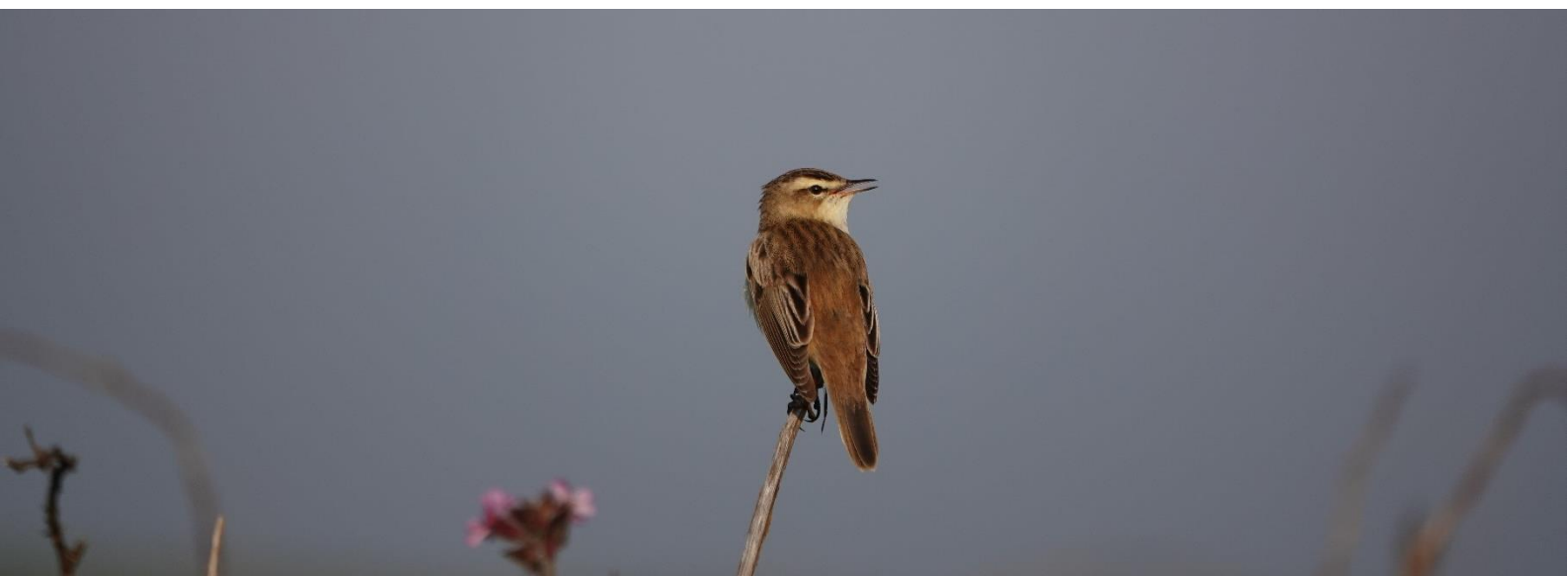
Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*
Very rare, cryptic breeder, last record 1981. Uncommon migrant

The first record of the year was of two on 12th April; one reeling at the Farm and another at Moorey Mere. There were two the following day and one remaining on the 14th. Single birds were heard on the 17th, 18th and 23rd April. The next records, also of single birds, came on the 25th and 26th June. The sole autumn record, and last sighting of the year, was of an individual spotted at North Pond on 13th September.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Uncommon breeder. Uncommon migrant

A total of 24 breeding pairs were recorded in 2024, which is one fewer than 2023.

The first bird of the year arrived on 14th April, followed by another on 20th. From this point onwards, sightings were almost daily until the final record of the year on 13th September. The high counts of the year were of 23 birds on 5th May, 21 on 7th May, and 16 on 26th June.



Sedge Warbler – L. Newman

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* *Uncommon migrant*

The year started with a single bird at Moorey Mere on 1st June. The next records, both of single birds, came on 17th July and 20th August. September had three records of individuals on the 11th, 12th and 17th of the month. These were the final records of the year.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* *Fairly common breeder*

Present throughout the season from the first day of arrival. There were 101 territories mapped, 20 more than 2023. The first nest material of the year was noted on 3rd of April, and the first fledglings on 2nd June at Matthew's Wick.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* *Very abundant migrant*

First noted on 29th February with 24 logged. Records were near daily until the 22nd March, peaking at 80 on the 10th and 90 on the 14th of March. The next March record was of only one bird, on the 29th, which was followed by a handful of April records peaking at just three birds. There were no records between 21st April and 6th June, but became quite frequent from this point. Birds were recorded on a total of 14 days in June, with a peak count of 26 on the 30th. Sightings from 1st July until 17th August were near-daily, with flocks consisting of both juveniles and adults, presumably from birds that had bred locally. There was then a break in sightings, with birds recorded on only one further date in August and four dates in September. Numbers peaked at 138 individuals in July, 180 in August and only 12 in September. In the first half of October records were sparse, but from 22nd October to 15th November birds were recorded daily. 100 birds on 1st November, 300 birds on the 3rd and 120 on the 15th were the high counts for these months.



Starling, west of the Farm – L. Newman

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Uncommon migrant

Birds were recorded on two days in the spring, with two birds spotted at the Wick on 18th April and one at the Harold Stone on 27th April.

Autumn saw two birds at East Bog on 1st September, the last of the year.

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Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Scarce breeder, previously uncommon. Common migrant

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First recorded on 28th February, 15 pairs bred on Skomer this year. This is six pairs more than 2023. The first birds carrying nesting material were seen on 2nd April and the first food being carried was recorded on 19th April. The first fledged young were noted on 10th May.

Separating breeding birds from spring migrants is difficult but counts of 14 on 11th March and 15 on 13th April were likely to involve migrants. Autumn migration started on 13th September with 19 logged. October had high counts of 27 on the 6th and 21 on the 13th. November's high counts were of 20 birds on the 6th, 21 on the 7th and 26 on the 13th. The final count of the year was of 11 birds on the 13th of December.



Blackbird, The Farm – L. Newman

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Fairly common, occasionally common migrant

There were no spring records in 2024. Autumn records were restricted to November, with small passage of birds being recorded from the 2nd of this month. The peak count was of 17 birds on the 3rd, and the last record of the year coming on the 16th. Birds were recorded on eight days.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Scarce and very sporadic breeder. Common migrant

The first record of the year was of two birds on 29th February. Birds were present on eight days in March with a high count of four on the 8th. There were no records in April, May or June. The next record, and sole July record, was of one bird at the Farm on the 28th. Single birds followed on 1st August and 7th September, before autumn migration began in earnest in mid-October. Birds were recorded on thirteen dates in October and twelve in November, peaking at eight in October and 12 in November. The highest count of the year was also the final count, with 14 birds recorded on 13th December.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Common migrant

Two birds at Moorey Mere on 6th March were the first of the year. They were followed by four further March records of between one and three birds, scattered throughout the month. Between one and three birds were again recorded on twelve dates in April, with the last spring record coming on the 19th of the month. The first autumn record was of three birds at the Farm on 4th October. The next followed at some distance, on the 23rd, after which birds were seen daily until the team's departure in mid-November. Numbers peaked at 27 on 26th October and 37 on 13th November. The last record was of 11 birds on 13th December.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*
Uncommon migrant

There were two records in 2024. Both were of single birds at the Farm, on the 1st and the 16th of November.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
One breeding record 1985. Common migrant

The first record of spring was of two birds at North Valley Willows on 30th April. The next record was on 5th May, after which sightings were frequent. There was a total of sixteen records in May, all in single figures but for a count of 29 on the 11th. There were sightings of between one and three birds on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of June. Another single bird on the 11th June was the final spring record. There were no records in July.

The first record of the autumn was of a single bird at North Valley Crossing on 16th August, still present the following day. Single birds were also recorded on the 28th and the 31st of the month at the Farm. Birds were then recorded every day from the 1st to the 20th September, with numbers peaking at 25 on the 7th, 15th on the 8th and 12 on the 13th. The final record of the year was of four birds on 20th September.



Spotted Flycatcher – M. Wallen

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Last confirmed breeding record 1994. Very abundant migrant

Present on the day of arrival with one bird noted. Birds were seen on most days in March and are likely to have been overwintering birds. Numbers usually fluctuated between one and seven individuals, with a peak count of 12 on 3rd. There were only three sightings in April, with two birds on 1st, and single birds on 19th and 21st.

The first record of autumn was of three birds seen on 12th August. There was then a gap of four days until two birds were recorded on the 17th, with this month's records peaking at six on the 26th. From 17th August onwards records were almost daily until the team left the island, with peak counts of 23 on 13th September, 31 on 6th October and 24 on 1st November. The final record of the year was of sixteen birds on 13th December.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Uncommon migrant

The first record of the year was of a male and a female at the Farm on 12th April. This was followed by a single bird at the Farm on 27th April, another on 4th May, and two at the Farm on 5th May. Autumn records began on 13th August with a single bird, again at the Farm, but proceeded to shake things up a bit with single birds at Bull Hole on 21st and 27th of the month, and another in the fields west of the Farm on 28th. Birds were recorded on seven dates between the 1st and 13th September, with four counts of single birds, two counts of two, and the year's peak count of six birds on 7th September.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Uncommon migrant

The first record of the year was of a single bird on 15th March, followed the next day by two birds at East Bog. The next sightings came in May, with single birds recorded at the Farm on 10th, 11th and 12th, and an additional bird also spotted at North Haven on 12th. The next records came in October, which saw birds logged on 6th, 21st, 22nd, and 24th-31st, peaking at four birds on the 25th. November had four records, all of single birds, on the 5th, 6th, 10th and 12th of the month.



Black Redstart – T. Wallen

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Uncommon migrant

In an exceptionally quiet year, there was only one record in 2024: a male seen at the Farm on 12th May.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*
Uncommon migrant

There were two records in May, with individuals spotted at Gorse Hill on the 4th and the 11th of the month. The next bird came mid-season, being seen at South Stream on 7th June. The first autumn record, and only August record, was of a bird at the Amos on the 7th of the month. Birds were next seen on 7th September, and counts of usually between five and seven birds were seen daily until the 17th, peaking at 10 on the 9th. The final records of the year were of single birds seen on the 20th and the 24th of September.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*
Scarce breeder. Uncommon migrant

Three pairs bred which is one pair fewer than 2023. Nesting material was first noted on 13th April and the first fledglings – two at Gorse Hill – were seen on 21st May.

First seen on the 29th February, birds were present throughout the season with migrants mixing with breeding birds. The peak spring count was 15 on 13th April and the peak count of birds in the autumn was 16 on the 6th, 7th and 12th of September. Birds were seen up to the team’s departure in mid-November, with the final record of the year being three birds seen on the island visit on 13th December.



European Stonechat – L. Newman

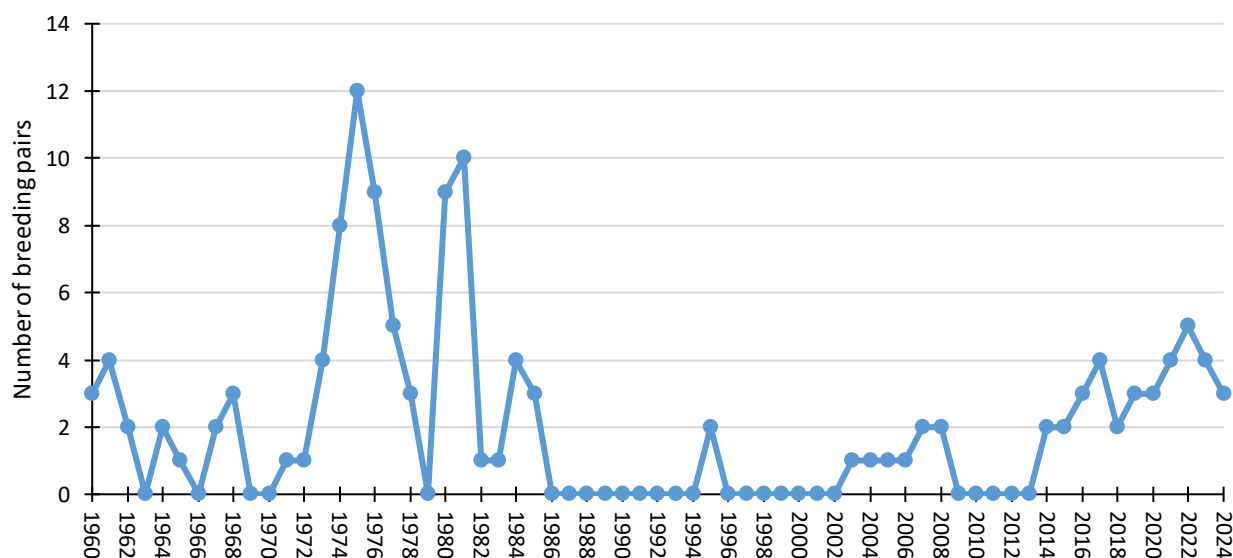


Figure 5 Number of breeding Stonechat

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Common migrant. Uncommon breeder

A total of 25 pairs were recorded breeding in 2024. This is a decrease of two pairs on 2023 and is below the five-year average of 26 pairs. Birds were noted as being paired up from early April and the first nesting material was seen being carried on 12th April. The first food being carried was noted on the 21st of April and the first fledged young were seen on 9th June at Skomer Head.

The first bird of the year was a male seen at Pigstone Bay on 11th March, followed six days later by another single bird at Skomer Head. Birds were then recorded almost daily throughout the season, up until 20th September. Only single birds were recorded after this point, on five subsequent dates: the 25th and 27th of September, and the 3rd, 5th and 6th of October. Peak spring counts can be found below.

The highest count of the autumn came on 26th July with 19 recorded and the final record of the year was a single bird at Skomer Head on 6th October.

Date	26 th Mar	14 th Apr	15 th Apr	22 nd Apr	1 st May	24 th May
Max count	30	22	25	19	19	30

Table 10 Peak spring counts of Northern Wheatear. High count of the year in bold.



Northern Wheatear – L. Newman

'Greenland' Wheatear *O. o. leucorhoa*
Uncommon migrant

First noted on 28th April with one bird at the Wick. A single bird on 5th June was the last of the spring records. Birds were recorded on four dates in May, with individuals on the 8th, 12th and 19th, and three birds on the 11th.

Autumn records all fell in September, with two birds on 8th and 9th, three on 13th, and one on the 20th of the month.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Uncommon breeder. Fairly common autumn migrant

Present throughout with nine pairs mapped. This is a decrease of one pair on 2023 and below the five-year average of 12.6 pairs. Birds were first noted nest building on 10th April.

Counts of between one and 10 were typical through most of the spring with a high count of 13 on 11th March. The highest count of the autumn was 13 on 15th September. The final record of the year was of an individual at Bull Hole on 13th December.



Dunnock, The Farm – L. Newman

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Bred sporadically between 1965 and 1969. Uncommon migrant

There were only three days with birds recorded in 2024. The first record of the year was of one bird at the Farm on 20th April, repeated exactly one month later. The next and final record was of two birds at North Haven on 27th October.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Uncommon migrant

The first record of the year was a bird over the Neck on 16th May. The next two records were also of individuals, both at North Pond, on 6th and 11th September. These were the final records of the year.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Uncommon migrant

A single bird at North Pond on 11th April was the first record of the year and the only spring record. The next three records also constituted single birds, on 21st July, 14th August, and 30th August. September had the majority of records, with between one and five birds recorded on six days in this month, peaking at five on the 9th. A single bird at the Farm on 4th October was the last record of the year.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*
Scarce breeder. Fairly common migrant

Present from 28th February onwards with three pairs nesting, one down on 2023, and above the five-year average of 2.8 pairs. The first birds carrying nesting material were seen on 24th April, food was seen being taken to the nest at North Haven on 22nd May, and four chicks were seen at the Farm on 11th July.

Spring counts varied between one and 17 individuals. Notable autumn influxes occurred on 26th August with 18 birds and on 6th September with 19 birds. There were five November records of a single bird at the Farm, on the 1st, 10th, 11th, 12th and 14th of the month.

White Wagtail *M. a. alba*
Uncommon migrant

The first record was of an individual at the Amos on 6th May, followed by another single bird at the Farm on the 7th, and another at the Amos on the 9th. These were the only spring records. The first autumn record, and only August record, was an individual at Green Pond on the 25th. Birds were recorded on seventeen days in September. All but two counts numbered between one and four birds, with the exception of seven birds on the 15th and six on the 17th. A bird at Moorey Mere on 27th September was the last of the year.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
Uncommon migrant

All of the records this year fell in September. There was one bird on the 2nd, two on the 8th and another single bird on the 11th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*
Fairly common breeder. Abundant migrant

Present throughout the season, with 117 breeding pairs. Birds were first noted nest building on 25th April. Spring passage is often camouflaged in the breeding population, which appears to have largely been the case in 2024, but for a count of 100 birds in a flock at Skomer Head on 16th March. Autumn high counts of 59 on 7th, 60 on 8th, and 52 birds on 13th September, and of 40 birds on 22nd October, are likely to consist of migrants.



Meadow Pipit – L. Newman

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Uncommon breeder. Fairly common migrant

Present throughout the season with 19 pairs breeding. This is a decrease of one pair on 2023 and below the five-year average of 20.8 pairs.

Counts of 28 on 15th September and 20 on 18th and 19th September and 31st October are likely to involve some migrants.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon migrant

In an unusually quiet year, there was only one record in 2024: an individual at Moorey Mere on 26th June.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common migrant

The first bird of the year was a female spotted at the Farm on the 21st March; this the only March record. April had records of single birds on the 8th, 13th and 25th, whilst May wrapped up the spring records with a single bird at the Farm on the 11th of the month.

The first autumn records started on 26th September with two birds at the Farm. From 3rd October through until 16th November, birds were recorded on most days. High counts consisted of 50 on 24th October and 60 on 7th November.

Common Rosefinch *Erythrura erythrina*

Rare migrant. Twenty-one previous records. Most recently September 2023

An immature bird was found at Moorey Mere on 17th September (DA).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Rare migrant. Most recently 2017

There were three Bullfinch records this year – a female at the Farm on 6th March, another individual at the Farm on 11th March, and a male at North Valley Crossing on 13th December.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Uncommon migrant, though fairly common in some years

There were only two records this year – a single bird in the fields east of the Farm on the 29th of June, and another at the Farm on 7th October.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Scarce and sporadic breeder. Very abundant migrant

Three pairs nested in 2024, this is two fewer than 2023 and below the five-year average of 4.2 pairs. The first date when birds were seen carrying nesting material was 22nd April.

The first record of the year was of one bird on 6th March, followed by another single bird on 11th. The next record began a string of almost daily sightings which lasted for most of the season, lessening in frequency only in late September. October had sightings on only two days, with 24 birds on the 3rd and 23 on the 6th. November's sole record was of four birds on the 13th, whilst the final record of the year was of nine birds recorded exactly a month later.

Date	19 th Apr	14 th April	19 th May
Max count	27	26	26

Table 11 Peak spring counts of Linnet

Date	28 th Aug	8 th Sep	9 th Sep	13 th Sep	16 th Sep	26 th Sep
Max count	37	52	58	57	48	53

Table 12 Peak autumn counts of Linnet. Highest count of the year in bold.

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Uncommon migrant

From 2024 onwards, the International Ornithological Committee has made the decision to lump together redpolls into a single species, *Acanthis flammea*. We will follow suit.

In 2024 the first record of Redpoll was two birds on 5th May. This was followed by a string of sightings of between one and five birds every day from the 10th to the 14th of the month, then by two birds on each of the 14th, 17th, 24th and 26th of the month. June had records of single birds on the 12th and the 17th and two birds on the 14th. The final record of the year was of one bird on 9th July.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*
Abundant migrant

One pair are thought to have bred on Skomer this year after no birds bred in 2023. Birds were seen gathering nest material at the Farm on 2nd June.

The first record of the year was of a single bird at the Farm on 8th March. Sightings were sporadic throughout the remainder of March and into April, but from 8th April birds were seen most days up until the beginning of May, peaking at 17 birds on 14th April. Sightings remained frequent throughout May though in lessened numbers, with a high count of six on 26th. By June, juvenile birds were appearing in flocks, with peaks in this month of 30 birds on 23rd and 35 on 30th. Birds were seen almost daily up until mid-October, with counts of 150 on 21st September, 80 on 27th September, and 74 on 3rd October the peak counts of the year. From 16th October, the frequency of sightings and numbers of bird recorded both dropped off, with only six sightings of between one and four birds in the remainder of this month. Birds were recorded on five November dates, with six on the sixteenth both the high record of the month and the final record of the year.



Goldfinch (and sneaky Meadow Pipit), The Farm – L. Newman

Siskin *Spinus spinus*
Uncommon migrant

The first record of the year was of four birds seen from Skomer Head on 5th June. Autumn records started with one at the Farm on 13th October, followed by sporadic sightings up until mid-November. Birds were recorded on four days in each month. The peak count was of seven birds on 26th October, and the final record of the year was on 15th November.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Scarce breeder. Uncommon migrant

No birds attempted to breed on Skomer this year – this is the second consecutive year that they haven't bred since 1994.

The first birds of the spring were recorded on 29th February with one at North Valley Crossing. The next record followed almost a month later with a male seen at North Pond on 28th March. April saw seven records of single birds between the 10th and the 30th, but there were no birds seen in May or June. A single bird on 22nd June was the only one until September, when a bird at the Well on 15th became the month's only record. October was by far the busiest month for Reed Bunting, with between two and five birds recorded on nine days between the 13th and the 29th. November records constituted single birds on the 1st and the 4th and two birds on the 13th. These were the final records of the year.

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Grants and Funding Contributions

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales wishes to acknowledge the following contributions received in 2024:

Grant funding for seabird monitoring costs received through the Nature Networks Fund, (a Welsh Government grant administered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in Wales). This is the second round of funding for Skomer seabird monitoring received through this scheme and Year Two of the current three-year grant award. In 2024 it covered the costs of maintaining and servicing the island boat, boat clothing and skills training for staff and volunteers and accommodation costs.



The Skomer Team would also like to thank the Friends of Skomer and Skokholm (a local supporters group of The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales) for providing bursaries to our long-term volunteers and seabird volunteer. This helps to cover their food and other personal costs during their stay on the island.



The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales wish to acknowledge the partial financial contribution of the JNCC Support Company. The Seabird Monitoring Programme is funded jointly by BTO and JNCC, in association with RSPB, with fieldwork conducted by both non-professional and professional surveyors.

