

**DAWLISH WARREN  
BIRD REPORT  
2023**



**DWRG**



**DAWLISH WARREN RECORDING GROUP**

Many thanks to Teignbridge District Council and all observers who submitted records to the Recording Group and Devon Birds, this report would not be possible without their co-operation. Unfortunately, the hide and surrounding viewing areas remain closed to public access due to continuing erosion. The Recording Group would like to thank the Warren Golf Club and Devon Wildlife Trust for enabling long-standing monitoring efforts to continue.

A total of 186 species were recorded on site this year with 38 species confirmed breeding, including the third ever breeding for Sparrowhawk, in the same location as the pair in 1995-96, five pairs of Stonechat, eight pairs of Cirl Bunting, two pairs of Little Grebe and Rock Pipit and one pair of Reed Bunting. However, both Bullfinch and Great Spotted Woodpecker were again missing.



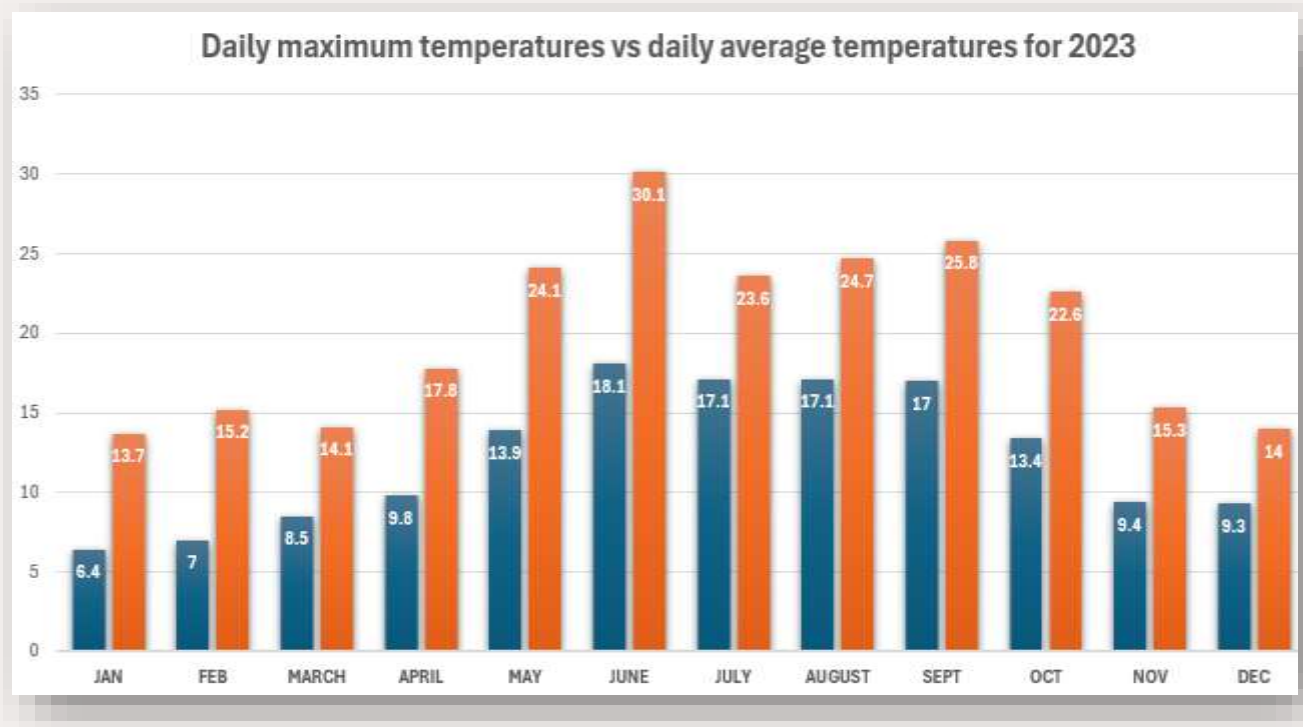
Four new species for the Warren were reported, Hooded Crow in Apr, Bluethroat in May, Green-winged Teal in Oct and Pallas's Warbler in November, all await assessment by the Devon Birds Records Committee (DBRC), as do all 2022 records at the time of writing.

Other highlights included new site record counts of the critically endangered Balearic Shearwater (498 in Sep), Great Shearwater (143 in Sep), Ruff (18 in Sep), Yellow-legged Gull (five in Jul), Collared Dove (16 in Aug), Whitethroat (31 in Apr), Long-tailed Tit (40 in Nov) and Cirl Bunting (24 in Dec).

Other rarities reported included the 4<sup>th</sup> record of Goshawk, 4<sup>th</sup> record of Great Shearwater, 4-5<sup>th</sup> records of Cory's Shearwater, 8<sup>th</sup> record of Mandarin and Nightingale, 14-15<sup>th</sup> records of Caspian Gull and 15<sup>th</sup> record of Whooper Swan and Hen Harrier.

## Weather Review for 2023

**Summary:** Overall, 2023 was a warm and wet year for Dawlish. The most notable events during the year were the exceptional warmth of June, but also the exceptional heatwave which occurred in early September. Temperatures reached a maximum of 30.1C on the 13th June and a maximum of 25.8C was recorded on the 9th September. The overall average temperature for Dawlish in 2023 was 12.3C, with an average daily maximum temperature of 15.7C.



There were some notable cold spells during 2023, these occurred in mid-January, early March and later in the year, during late November to early December. The lowest temperature observed was minus 3.5C on the 2nd December. Consequently, the number of frosts recorded were 16 days, where the minimum temperature was less than 0 Celsius. The average minimum temperature for 2023 was 9C. It was a wetter than average year, with 1055.5mm of rainfall recorded at Dawlish, which is the highest amount of rainfall recorded since my records began in 2019, with March being the wettest month, with a total of 143mm recorded. In contrast, February was the driest month, with only 3.8mm observed. I also recorded the lowest atmospheric pressure of 951.1mb (millibars) on the 2nd November during the passage of storm Ciaran.

## Monthly rainfall totals for 2023



### Monthly

January started mild and wet, with total of 122.9mm of rainfall recorded, with the wettest day on the 7th, where 23.7mm was observed. It was a mild start to the month as well, with a maximum temperature of 13.7C on the 4th. The second half of January was drier and colder, with some hard nighttime frosts and a minimum temperature of -2.8C on the 25th. February was a mild and drier than average month, with only 3.8mm of rainfall recorded and a maximum temperature of 15.2C observed on the 17th.

March started cold and dry as high pressure dominated the weather until the 8th, then it turned predominately unsettled, wet and mild. A total of 143mm recorded in March, with a maximum temperature of 14C on the 30th as milder air pushed up from the south. April was a predominately unsettled month, with a short, settled spell mid-month, before a return to colder and unsettled conditions at the end. Generally, April was mostly an unremarkable month with very little impactful weather. May started fine and settled, but turned unsettled from the southwest, with widespread rain between the 4th and 11th, with 17.7mm falling on the 8th and 9th due to thunderstorms. By mid-month conditions had settled down, due to high pressure building, with predominantly dry conditions from the 12th.

June began settled and fine, with around average temperatures. It became very warm and humid from the 9th, with a maximum temperature of 30.1C observed on the 13th. A few heavy showers and thunderstorms were observed, although given the hit and miss nature of showers and thunderstorms, very little rainfall was recorded. It remained very warm for much of June, before it

finally cooled down at the end of the month. July in contrast to the previous month was unsettled, wet, windy, and rather cool, with 80.1mm recorded overall (above average), with the wettest day being on the 14th into the 15th, with 29.5mm observed, as a deep low-pressure system brought a spell of very wet and windy weather. Temperatures were generally around the average, with a maximum temperature of 23.6C observed on the 19th. The most impactful weather occurred during the second half of the year, with two named storms in August, which were Antoni on the 5th and Betty on the 18th and 19th, which gave unseasonably wet and windy weather.

Early September was unseasonably warm due to high pressure dominating the weather bringing fine, dry, and sunny conditions, the second half saw an abrupt change to unsettled and autumnal weather, with Atlantic low-pressure systems bringing wet and windy conditions. Storm Agnes from the 27th to 28th, although impacts were limited as this storm weakened as it approached the UK. In October, high pressure influenced our weather during the first half of the month, with a warm and sunny period from the 6th to 10th, with 22.6C recorded on the 7th. The second half of October was unsettled and very wet at times. Storm Babet arrived on the 18th, with 17mm of rainfall recorded. November started unsettled and stormy, with further Atlantic low-pressure systems, which brought strong winds and heavy rain. Storm Ciaran gave us a near-miss on the 1st and 2nd. November was a wet month, with a total of 137mm recorded. In contrast, the second half of November was mostly fine and mild, before it turned colder from the 24th, with a northerly airflow, which gave drier conditions, with some overnight frosts, with a minimum temperature of -1.7C recorded on the 25th.

December started cold, with further nighttime frosts observed, with a minimum temperature of -3.5C recorded on the 2nd. In contrast, it was a very mild Christmas period, with 13C recorded on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Storm Gerrit arrived on the 27th to 29th, with 23.9mm recorded during this event. 2023 closed with further mild, wet and windy weather.

**Dean Hall – Meteorologist**

**DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** *Branta b. bernicla*

**Status.** *Abundant autumn and early winter, uncommon in spring, rare in summer*

**Last and first.** 23 Apr and 16 Sep.

**First winter.** Max 458 on 9 Mar. Last two on 23 Apr.

**Summer.** A single bird remained on the Exe, favouring the Warren, until at least 27 Aug.

**Second winter.** Max 460 on 24 Nov (*cf.* 373 in Nov 22 & 527 in Dec 2021). One in the estuary on 16 Sep with Pale-bellied was the first returner, with the first 3-fig count on 14 Oct.

**Juveniles.** Numbers suggested a below average breeding season, with max count of 13 juveniles in 367 birds on 19 Nov.

**DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE – Monthly maxima**

|            | J   | F   | M   | A  | M | J | J | A | S  | O   | N   | D   |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|---|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Max.       | 319 | 363 | 458 | 6  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 255 | 460 | 352 |
| WeBS total | 173 | 185 | 142 | 2  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | -  | 38  | 367 | 180 |
| 2022 max.  | 420 | 364 | 358 | 23 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 80 | 350 | 373 | 323 |



Dark-bellied Brent Goose © Elizabeth Mulgrew

**PALE-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** *B. b. hrota*

**Status.** *Annual spring & autumn migrant, fewer in winter*

**Last and first.** 10 May (two) and 13 Sep (94).

**First winter.** Unusually no records.

**Spring passage.** Max. 15 on 8 Apr (*cf.* 177 on 10 Apr 22). Other records: Mar; two on 18-19<sup>th</sup>; Apr; two on 1-2<sup>nd</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, six on 16<sup>th</sup>; May; two on 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Second winter.** An excellent year with large flocks through Sep-Nov, often causing confusion with Dark-bellied. Numbers dropped into Dec with a family party of five on 11<sup>th</sup> and one on 30<sup>th</sup> the last of the year.

**Juveniles.** The majority of the birds, in contrast to Dark-bellied, seemed to be in family groups with 40 juvs in the 94 birds present on 13 Sep.

**Ring recoveries.** Two Icelandic ringed birds were in the Bight on 13 Sep.

**PALE-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A   | M | J | J | A | S  | O  | N  | D  |
|-----------|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| Max.      | - | - | 2 | 15  | 2 | - | - | - | 94 | 90 | 50 | 22 |
| Days      | - | - | 2 | 5   | 1 | - | - | - | 9  | 16 | 18 | 8  |
| 2022 max. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 177 | 6 | - | - | - | 1  | 2  | 3  | -  |

**CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis***

**Status.** Common, often abundant, in autumn and early winter; regular breeder

**Breeding.** Only one pr with no fledged young.

**Max count.** The largest counts came from roosting birds, with a max of 477 on 24 Oct.

**CANADA GOOSE – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J  | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J   | A  | S   | O   | N   | D  |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Max.       | 80 | 47 | 23 | 14 | 21 | 28 | 103 | 50 | 186 | 477 | 97  | 20 |
| WeBS total | 3  | 24 | 2  | 2  | 2  | 11 | 22  | -  | 4   | 4   | 1   | -  |
| 2022 max.  | 22 | 79 | 10 | 6  | 7  | 8  | 70  | 29 | 279 | 288 | 108 | 53 |

**BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis***

**Status.** Rare wild migrant and winter visitor, infrequent feral/escapee

**2023 record.** A single on 5 Nov flew in off sea early morning before appearing to drop on the estuary (DLAF, IL).

**SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens***

**Status.** Escapee; rare

**2023 record.** The Exe resident was with Canada Geese in the estuary on 28-29 Sep. The 4<sup>th</sup> site record, a returning bird from 2020-21.

**GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser***

**Status.** Rare wild and scarce feral/escapee visitor

**2023 records.** One flew in from east on its own, circling briefly, before continuing west over Easton on 17 Jan. The only other record was more typically with Canada Geese on 20 Oct.

**BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus***

**Status.** Escapee; rare annual visitor

**2023 records.** Three in the estuary on 18 May and a pair flew over the Visitor Centre on 11 Nov, later re-found in the estuary.



Black Swan © Alan Keatley

**MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor*

**Status.** Resident in small numbers, common in autumn, scarce early year, occasional breeder

**Breeding.** A pr bred at the Main Pond, hatching three cygnets. These had to walk to the estuary as water levels dropped but all disappeared one night when half grown.

**Max count.** The autumn gathering peaked at 50 on 10 Sep (cf. 44 in Aug 22).

**Ring recoveries.** The breeding male ringed at Abbotsbury in Jul 2015 was the same bird as in 2020-22 remaining resident throughout.

MUTE SWAN – Monthly maxima:

|            | J | F | M | A | M | J | J  | A  | S  | O  | N  | D |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| Max.       | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 60 | 40 | 50 | 41 | 31 | 5 |
| WeBS total | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | 6  | 17 | 50 | 13 | 14 | 2 |
| 2002 max.  | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 44 | 42 | 33 | 7  | 7 |

**WHOOOPER SWAN** *Cygnus cygnus*

**Status.** Rare autumn & winter migrant, very rare in summer

**2023 record.** An adult and immature flew ESE over the seawall out to sea on 15 Jan. The 15<sup>th</sup> site record.

**EGYPTIAN GOOSE** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

**Status.** Rare feral visitor/escapee

**2023 records.** A record five reports for this increasing species; a pair on 1 Jan, two juveniles on 25 Jun, an adult on 1 Aug and one S early morning on 5 & 12 Oct.

**SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna*

**Status.** Common in winter, uncommon to June, scarce late summer, has bred.

**Breeding.** As usual prs were present through the summer, one pr briefly visiting the Main Pond on occasion. Two prs, presumed to breed on the cliffs towards Dawlish, were seen, offshore with three chicks on 25 May and coming ashore on the beach with five chicks on 4 Jun.

**First winter.** Max 91 on 1 Jan (cf. 99 in Jan 22).

**Second winter.** Max on 103 on 9 Dec (cf. 102 on 18 Dec 22).



**Ring recoveries.** Four birds ringed at Seaton, Devon were seen during the year, two in the first winter and three, including two new birds, in the second winter.

**SHELDUCK – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J  | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J | A | S  | O  | N  | D   |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Max.       | 91 | 27 | 15 | 13 | 8  | 7  | 6 | 3 | 15 | 35 | 75 | 103 |
| WeBS total | 59 | 17 | -  | 4  | 6  | 6  | - | - | -  | 20 | 75 | 80  |
| 2022 max.  | 99 | 53 | 27 | 24 | 32 | 15 | 2 | 9 | 14 | 37 | 78 | 102 |

**MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata*

**Status.** *Vagrant; seven previous records*

**2023 record.** A pair on the sea off Warren Point on 18 Apr, the eighth record and the first since a male on the Main Pond on 3 Apr 2016.

**SHOVELER** *Spatula clypeata*

**Status.** *Annual autumn migrant and winter resident, rare in summer*

**First winter.** All records came from the Main Pond aside from one in the Bight on 7 May.

**Second winter.** Two immatures in the estuary 18 Oct were the first, with one with the Wigeon on 22 Oct. The first back on the Main Pond were two males on 28-30 Oct with the next not there until 26 Nov, and a max of seven there on 2-3 Dec.

**SHOVELER – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Max.      | 5 | 9 | 6 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 2022 max. | 8 | 6 | 5 | 4 | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 3 | 7 |

**GADWALL** *Mareca strepera*

**Status.** *Annual spring & autumn migrant, scarce in winter*

**2023 records.** Just two records for this increasingly scarce duck. One in the estuary on 5 May and three (mmf) flew through on 6 Sep.

**WIGEON** *Mareca penelope*

**Status.** *Very abundant late autumn and early winter, scarce late winter & spring*

**Last and first.** Five on 19 Mar and one 20 Aug.

**First winter.** Max of 51 on 1 Jan (*cf.* 216 in Jan 22).

**Second winter.** Max of 1637 on 28 Oct (*cf.* 2,110 in Nov 22 & 1,543 in Oct 21). One on 20 Aug was the first returner, with the next 15 on 31 Aug. The first 3-fig count was on 17 Sep.

**WIGEON – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J   | F  | M  | A | M | J | J | A  | S   | O    | N    | D    |
|------------|-----|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|-----|------|------|------|
| Max.       | 51  | 38 | 26 | - | - | - | - | 15 | 510 | 1637 | 1292 | 1077 |
| WeBS total | 6   | 37 | 5  | - | - | - | - | 1  | 2   | 263  | 1251 | 775  |
| 2022 max.  | 216 | 29 | 8  | - | - | - | - | 25 | 970 | 1636 | 2110 | 439  |

**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

**Status.** *Common late autumn and winter visitor, resident breeder*

**Breeding.** At least three prs, but as always limited breeding success, although with no ducklings noted, failure was at the egg stage this year. Largest numbers roost on the Main Pond, spending the day on Dawlish Water with a max of 38 on 8 Jan.

MALLARD – Monthly maxima:

|           | J  | F  | M  | A  | M | J | J | A | S  | O  | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| Max.      | 38 | 10 | 7  | 8  | 8 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 15 | 21 | 18 |
| 2022 max. | 9  | 7  | 12 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7  | 6  | 43 | 12 |



Mallard © Elizabeth Mulgrew

**Domestic Mallard**

One from Dawlish Water occasionally came to roost on the Main Pond with other Mallard throughout the year.

EURASIAN WIGEON x MALLARD *Mareca penelope* x *Anas platyrhynchos*

**Status.** *Escapee, rare*

**2023 record.** One presumably from the Dawlish collection frequented the Main Pond intermittently through the year.

**PINTAIL *Anas acuta*****Status.** *Uncommon in autumn & winter, rare in spring***Last and first.** 22 Jan and 16 Sep.**First winter.** Just the two records (*cf.* six in 2022) Jan; pr offshore on 17<sup>th</sup> & five on 22<sup>nd</sup>.**Second winter.** Sep; one on 16-17<sup>th</sup>, three on 19<sup>th</sup>, one on 20<sup>th</sup>, eight on 29<sup>th</sup>; Oct; three on 19<sup>th</sup>, one on 20<sup>th</sup>, four on 23<sup>rd</sup>; Nov; 10 on 5<sup>th</sup>, one on 6<sup>th</sup>, three on 8<sup>th</sup>, 13 (max count) on 18<sup>th</sup>, flew in off the sea; Dec; one on 2<sup>nd</sup>, six on 3<sup>rd</sup>, three on 29<sup>th</sup>.**PINTAIL – Monthly maxima and days:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N  | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| Max.      | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | 4 | 13 | 6 |
| Days      | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 3 | 4  | 3 |
| 2022 max. | 5 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | 8 | 1  | 4 |

**TEAL *Anas crecca*****Status.** *Very abundant late autumn & winter, scarce spring, rare in summer***Last and first.** 1 May and 7 Jul.**First winter.** Max 218 on 28 Jan (*cf.* 358 in Jan 22). Last a female on the Main Pond on 1 May**Second winter.** Max 703 on 2 Dec (*cf.* 700 in Oct 22). First return one on 7 Jul, with three on 9 Jul and the next one on 19 Aug, first 3-fig count on 14 Sep.**TEAL – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J   | F   | M  | A  | M | J | J | A  | S   | O   | N   | D   |
|------------|-----|-----|----|----|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Max.       | 218 | 53  | 55 | 21 | 1 | - | 3 | 4  | 266 | 417 | 262 | 703 |
| WeBS total | 121 | 42  | 43 | 9  | - | - | 3 | -  | -   | 288 | 165 | 180 |
| 2022 max.  | 358 | 144 | 29 | 14 | - | 1 | 2 | 22 | 597 | 700 | 186 | 588 |

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*****Status.** *Vagrant from North America. Potential first site record.***2023 record.** A moulting drake was in Shutterton Creek with Teal from 13-28 Oct (IL *et al.*).

Potentially a first for the Recording Area, this bird showed a face pattern suggesting potential Eurasian Teal influence. Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.



Green-winged Teal 14 Oct © Alan Keatley

**TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*

**Status.** Annual in autumn & winter, rare at other times

**2023 records.** A welcome increase in records. Six on 19 Mar, and males offshore on 28 Apr, 10 Jun, 27 Jul, 16 Sep and 15 Oct. The last of the year flew distantly S on 18 Nov.

**TUFTED DUCK – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Max.      | - | - | 6 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 2022 max. | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - |

**SCAUP** *Aythya marila*

**Status.** Near-annual winter visitor and rare autumn migrant

**2023 records.** An immature that wintered on the eastern side of the estuary was seen once in the Recording Area on 7 Jan (DLAF, IL). An immature female flew into the estuary and joined the Wigeon in Shutterton Creek on 30 Oct (IL).

**EIDER** *Somateria mollissima*

**Status.** Varying annual numbers, can be absent to common throughout the year

**First winter.** The wintering flock was mobile around the west of Lyme Bay with intermittent records peaking at five on 28 Apr and four on 15 Jan & 16-18 Apr. A pair arrived, boosting numbers to six on 7 May, with all seven birds offshore on 13-21 May.

**Summer.** An immature male remained intermittently until 15 Jul.

**Second winter.** The immature male returned to Langstone Rock on 12 Sep intermittently present until 3 Oct. Two adult males were present from 8-15 Oct, returning with two females on 20<sup>th</sup>. Between 21 Oct – 28 Nov no more than two birds were present but the two males, an immature male and a female were present. Eight birds (6 females & two immature males) arrived on 3 Dec staying until the year's end.

**EIDER – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Max.      | 4 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 2022 max. | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 5 |

**VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca***

**Status.** *Uncommon winter visitor, scarce migrant, vagrant in summer*

**2023 records.** Three flew S with a single Common Scoter on 14 Nov, an immature was offshore on the evening of the 25 Nov, and a female flew S, shortly followed by two others, a pair, on 3 Dec.

**COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra***

**Status.** *Annual variation, common sometimes abundant throughout the year*

**2023 summary.** Aside from a lingering flock in Feb/Mar, another very poor year.

**Max counts.** 72 on 25 Feb, 70 on 4 Mar and 66 on 1 Oct.

**COMMON SCOTER – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J  | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S  | O  | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Max.      | 10 | 72 | 70 | 17 | 20 | 36 | 45 | 35 | 29 | 66 | 36 | 22 |
| 2022 max. | 8  | 25 | 34 | 32 | 83 | 6  | 17 | 56 | 31 | 60 | 31 | 15 |



Common Scoter © Martin Overy

**GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

**Status.** *Uncommon in winter, rare at other times, declining*

**Last and first.** Two on 22 Feb and none.

**First winter.** Records limited to a pr between 4-16 Jan and again on 22 Feb.

**Second winter.** No records for the first time since 1989.

**GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser*

**Status.** *Rare autumn migrant and winter visitor, vagrant in spring*

**2023 record.** A redhead flew S close offshore, before heading high inland near Langstone Rock on 21 Nov, the first record since Oct 2020 (AKe).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*

**Status.** *Previously common in winter, now scarce; occasional in summer, has bred*

**Last and first.** two 15 Apr and 18 Oct.

**First winter.** Max 16 on 21 Feb (*cf.* 18 in Jan 22) barely 10% of the numbers recorded only a few years ago with a site max of 204 in Dec 2000. Last a pair on 15 Apr.

**Summer.** One in the estuary on 6 Jul.

**Second winter.** First return one on 18 Oct. Max of eight on 10 & 31 Dec (*cf.* 10 in Dec 22 & 26 in Dec 21).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER – Monthly maxima:

|            | J  | F  | M  | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D  |
|------------|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Max.       | 15 | 16 | 12 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 3 | 8  |
| WeBS total | 8  | 4  | 2  | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8  |
| 2022 max.  | 18 | 14 | 12 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 4 | 10 |

**PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*

**Status.** *Formerly near-annual visitor. Most/all records derive from releases, occasional breeding*

**2023 summary.** Just two sightings in the early winter, with the next a male foraging on the exposed reefs below Langstone Rock on 11 Mar. A pair were on site next day and remained all month, with the male at least present until 13 May, but no confirmed breeding. The next record was a female on Warren Point on 11 Oct, a male on 2-8 Nov, a female on 12 Nov and 2-15 Dec.

**RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa*

**Status.** *Very rare visitor. Most/all records derive from releases.*

**2023 record.** One on the Golf Course and Railway Saltmarsh on 12-13 Oct, just the 16th record (IL).

**NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

**Status.** *Rare in spring and autumn*

**2023 record.** One roosted on a fence by the Entrance Bushes during the day on 31 Aug (TDC *et al.*). The 21<sup>st</sup> site record.

**SWIFT** *Apus apus*

**Status.** *Common in late spring & summer, rare at other times*

**First and last.** 20 Apr and 1 Sep.

**Spring.** Max 96 on 29 May (*cf.* 180 in Jun 22 & 182 in Jun 21). One on 20 Apr was a typical first date, but a poor year overall with only three other double-fig counts, all  $\leq 20$ .

**Autumn.** Max 38 on 1 Jul (*cf.* 138 in Jul 22); one of only four double-fig counts. There were a good series of Aug records, peaking at 13 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, with the last four on 1 Sep.

**SWIFT – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M  | J   | J   | A  | S | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|----|---|---|---|---|
| Max.      | - | - | - | 5 | 96 | 20  | 38  | 13 | 4 | - | - | - |
| 2022 max. | - | - | - | 1 | 6  | 180 | 138 | 4  | - | - | - | - |

**CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*

**Status.** *Uncommon in spring, rare in autumn, has bred*

**2023 records.** Just the four birds, but one more than 2022. The first, briefly on 5 May, may have been the only spring migrant; one feeding on Brown-tail moth caterpillars on Warren Point on 21 May was likely fuelling up for the journey south. Two later birds on 29 Jun and 30 Jul, certainly were.

**FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia*

**Status.** *Resident around Langstone Rock, birds overhead likely racing pigeons*

**2023 summary.** Up to eight birds all year around Langstone Rock where breeding was again attempted, with peaks of 17 on 1 Jan and 30 Sep. The recent increase is probably down to the loss of roosting sites at the renovated Dawlish Railway Station. Several Exmouth birds were again consumed by Peregrine in the Bight during the year.

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*

**Status.** *Regular in spring & summer in small numbers, rarely common in late autumn*

**2023 summary.** The majority of records usually come from the Railway Saltmarsh and adjacent mudflats, but a bird was semi-resident on site during the breeding season. The first of the year were two on 6 Jan, with next not until 19 Mar, then two on 25-26 Mar and one on 1 Apr. A series of single records from 27 Apr to 21 Jun was followed by three on 22-24 Jun. In autumn singles on two dates in Aug and birds on five dates in Sep were all on site.

**Visible migration.** In Oct, 10 over on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 15 on 30<sup>th</sup>. In Nov 275+ reported on 10 dates, with a peak of c100 on 11<sup>th</sup>, the last of the year on Warren Point on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**STOCK DOVE – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M  | A | M | J | J | A | S | O  | N   | D |
|-----------|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|---|
| Max.      | 2 | - | 2  | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 100 | - |
| 2022 max. | - | 1 | 49 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1  | 23  | - |

**WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus*

**Status.** *Common breeding resident, can be a very abundant in late autumn*

**Breeding.** A stable population with 11 territories on the TDC reserve, (*cf.* 12 in 2021), Birds are present throughout the year, but sometimes in very low numbers

**Visible migration.** A drawn-out passage with a large Nov peak. The first notable flocks were in Oct, 335 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 145 on 21 Oct, 2660 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 446 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 375 on 28<sup>th</sup> and 4595 on 30<sup>th</sup>. In Nov, just under 40,000 were counted between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, with another 22,260 over on 11<sup>th</sup> and 10,390 on 17<sup>th</sup>, the last movement.

**COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*

**Status.** *Previously a infrequent visitor through the year, now regular breeder*

**2023 summary.** Regular throughout the year, with three breeding pairs. A new site maxima of 16 was noted on 24 Aug when the roosting flock from the mainland made a brief foray into the Recording Area.

**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

**Status.** *Uncommon, rarely common in winter, rare in summer, has bred*

**Last and first.** 12 Mar and 28 Sep.

**2023 summary.** Present in small numbers around the ponds and saltmarsh during the autumn and winter, max just four on 11 Jan and five on 12 Nov & 1 Dec (*cf.* seven in Jan & 11 in Dec 21).

**MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

**Status.** *Common breeding resident*

**Breeding.** Five prs, three at the Main Pond and singles at the First and Golf Course Ponds. No notable counts.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

**Status.** *Regular breeder and virtually resident on Main Pond, scarce on estuary in winter*

**2023 summary.** Two prs on the Main Pond, both only had one brood, their first attempts failing due to high water levels. Absent 10 Jul – 22 Sep. One in the estuary in Jan & Oct-Dec.

**RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena*

**Status.** *Near-annual winter visitor and autumn migrant, vagrant Apr to Sept*

**2023 records.** One moulting into breeding plumage was offshore on 11 Feb (mo) It reappeared on 25 Feb, this time staying until 11 Mar.

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus*

**Status.** *Common in winter, scarce in spring and autumn*

**First winter.** Max 72 on 21 Feb (*cf.* 68 in Jan 22 & 86 in Jan 21).

**Summer.** Single on 4 Jun.

**Second winter.** Max 45 on 25 & 28 Nov (*cf.* 30 in Dec 22 & 66 in Dec 21).

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J  | F  | M  | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Max.      | 42 | 72 | 34 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 45 | 38 |
| 2022 max. | 68 | 18 | 6  | 8 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 30 |

**OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus*

**Status.** *Very abundant in autumn and winter, common in summer, has bred*

**First winter.** Low numbers with max of 1035.

**Summer.** A peak count of 290 immature birds over-summering.

**Second winter.** Max of 1622 on 10 Sep, was boosted by migrants, next highest was 1430 on 10 Dec (*cf.* 1773 in Nov 22). Highest non-WeBS count was 1208 on 16 Sep.



**Ring recoveries.** A total of 221 different Exe ringed birds were recorded during the year. Seven of these were ringed in 2000 or before, with the oldest, ringed in 1989, at least 36 years old. Please submit any sightings to [exeoystercatchers@gmail.com](mailto:exeoystercatchers@gmail.com). Four new birds ringed away from the Warren were recorded, coming from Iceland, Orkney, North Yorkshire and Skokholm, Pembrokeshire. Other returning birds came from Wales, the West Midlands and Scotland.

**OYSTERCATCHER – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J    | F    | M   | A   | M   | J   | J   | A    | S    | O    | N    | D    |
|------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Max.       | 1035 | 778  | 415 | 411 | 256 | 370 | 545 | 1172 | 1622 | 1330 | 1190 | 1430 |
| WeBS total | 1035 | 683  | 172 | 411 | 11  | 32  | 205 | 1172 | 1622 | 1330 | 1190 | 1430 |
| 2022 max.  | 1778 | 1110 | 267 | 250 | 228 | 200 | 528 | 867  | 987  | 1573 | 1773 | 1000 |



Oystercatcher © Alan Keatley

**AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

**Status.** Scarce in autumn & winter, rare in spring

**2023 records.** Overwintering birds peaked at four in Jan, with two present until 19 Feb. One was unusually offshore, swimming in the surf, before flying to the beach around the 2nd groyne on 17 Jan. Two late spring migrants were also offshore, seen roosting on an exposed sandbar early on 29 May, just the fourth Warren record for the month. No late winter records.

**LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*

**Status.** Increasingly scarce in winter, abundant in cold weather, rare at other times, has bred

**First winter.** One in the estuary on 14 Jan.

**Second winter.** Singles on 20 & 29 Nov, four on 2 Dec and a last single on 13 Dec.

**GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*

**Status.** Infrequent in autumn & winter, rare in spring & summer

**2023 records.** One in the estuary on 12 Feb was the only record until an unseasonal bird on 7 Aug with an early autumn bird on 16 Sep. In Oct, singles on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> with two on 13<sup>th</sup> with three singles on 4, 5 & 11 Nov.

**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola*

**Status.** Abundant in winter, scarce but regular at other times

**First winter.** Max 196 on 12 Feb (cf. 202 on 13 Feb 22).

**Second winter.** First 3-fig count on 25 Nov. Max 160 on 15 Dec (cf. 140 in Nov 22).

**Ring recoveries.** Seven Exe ringed birds were present in the first winter with four returning in the second winter.

**GREY PLOVER – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J   | F   | M   | A  | M  | J  | J | A | S  | O  | N   | D   |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Max.       | 182 | 196 | 97  | 24 | 18 | 18 | 5 | 7 | 7  | 15 | 113 | 160 |
| WeBS total | 130 | 196 | 2   | 1  | -  | 6  | 3 | 1 | -  | 8  | 82  | 102 |
| 2022 max.  | 190 | 202 | 110 | 15 | 2  | 5  | 1 | 2 | 20 | 50 | 140 | 135 |

**RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

**Status.** Abundant in autumn, common in winter, decreasing; has bred

**First winter.** Max 42 on 11 Feb (cf. 39 in Jan 22).

**Spring.** Two small passage peaks noticeable with 41 on 30 Apr & 61 on 4 Jun.

**Autumn.** Max 196 on 14 Sep (cf. 245 in Sep 22). First 3-fig count on 13 Aug. A count of 93+ juvs within 183 birds on 10 Sep indicated a good breeding season.

**Second winter.** Max 42 on 9 Dec.

**Ring recoveries.** A German ringed bird returned for a third winter in Sep. The only other recovery was a Norwegian bird on passage in Sep.

**RINGED PLOVER – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J  | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A   | S   | O  | N  | D  |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| Max.       | 39 | 42 | 16 | 41 | 33 | 61 | 50 | 162 | 196 | 78 | 35 | 42 |
| WeBS total | 9  | 42 | 1  | 6  | 4  | -  | -  | 125 | 183 | 27 | 35 | 36 |
| 2022 max.  | 39 | 35 | 16 | 18 | 59 | 28 | 55 | 169 | 245 | 74 | 61 | 39 |



Ringed Plover (juvenile) © Lee Collins

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*

**Status.** *Rare in spring and scarce in autumn*

**First and last.** 23 Mar and 30 Sep.

**Spring.** The first flew north over the seawall on 23 Mar and the next two records also didn't stop, two north upriver on 15 May and one south offshore on 10 Jun.

**Autumn.** An excellent showing after just one record last year, with two early birds on 21 Jun. In Jul an adult and juvenile were intermittently present on 9-18<sup>th</sup>, with three juveniles on 20<sup>th</sup>. Later single juveniles on 16 & 20 Aug, 6-16 & 27-30 Sep.

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Max.      | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| 2022 max. | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

**Status.** *Common in spring & autumn*

**First and last.** Two on 4 Apr and 3 Nov.

**Spring.** Max 175 on 28 Apr (*cf.* 146 on 24 Apr 22). The first was a single east offshore, with a second bird in the estuary on 4 Apr.

**Autumn.** Max 62 on 6 Aug (*cf.* 59 on 30 Jul 22), the third year in a row with high autumn numbers. One between 14 Oct – 3 Nov was the latest individual.

**Ring recoveries.** The only sighting was a regular individual on spring passage, a Welsh bird 'Yellow D63', being recorded for the eighth time in nine years on migration.

**WHIMBREL – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J | F | M | A   | M   | J  | J  | A  | S | O | N | D |
|------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| Max.       | - | - | - | 175 | 54  | 10 | 55 | 62 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - |
| WeBS total | - | - | - | 4   | 9   | -  | 6  | 16 | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| 2022 max.  | - | - | - | 63  | 110 | 13 | 59 | 55 | 4 | 2 | - | - |

**CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*

**Status.** *Abundant in late summer, autumn & winter, scarce in spring*

**2023 summary.** Max 343 on 6 Aug (*cf.* 454 in Sep 22). Present throughout the year, a count of 76 on 17 Jun (*cf.* 98 on 17 Jun 22 & 58 on 17 Jun 21) was the first sign of return passage, rapidly climbing to 142 by 25 Jun.

**Ring recoveries.** A total of 15 different individuals were recorded, 10 from the DCWRG project. Other birds were a 2020 bird from Suffolk returning for a third winter, a German bird ringed in May 2009, first seen here in 2013-18, and now missing a ring, and three new birds; one in Jul ringed on the Gann Estuary, Pembrokeshire in Nov 2019, and two head-started birds from Wessex stayed to winter.

**CURLEW – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J   | F   | M   | A   | M  | J   | J   | A   | S   | O   | N   | D   |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Max.       | 304 | 250 | 171 | 122 | 27 | 142 | 328 | 343 | 294 | 342 | 181 | 194 |
| WeBS total | 8   | 16  | 9   | 5   | 27 | 20  | 226 | 138 | 70  | 229 | 166 | 12  |
| 2022 max.  | 144 | 118 | 155 | 146 | 41 | 184 | 277 | 421 | 454 | 376 | 225 | 282 |

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*

**Status.** *Abundant in winter, common in spring & autumn*

**First winter.** Max of 188 on 28 Jan (*cf.* 195 in Jan 22).

**Spring.** Max 63 on 22 Apr (*cf.* 140 on 3 May 22).

**Autumn.** No clear passage peaks this year.

**Second winter.** First 3-fig count, 108 on 19 Nov. Max 167 on 17 Dec (*cf.* 180 in Dec 22).

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J   | F   | M   | A  | M   | J | J | A  | S  | O  | N   | D   |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Max.       | 188 | 169 | 130 | 63 | 54  | 7 | 3 | 6  | 32 | 39 | 108 | 167 |
| WeBS count | 180 | 66  | -   | 5  | 2   | 4 | 1 | 3  | 11 | 39 | 108 | 143 |
| 2022 max.  | 195 | 172 | 140 | 57 | 140 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 39 | 53 | 135 | 180 |

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa islandica*

**Status.** *Common, occasionally abundant, in autumn & winter*

**Last and first.** 16 on 9 Mar and three on 2 Jul.

**First winter.** A single bird was present until 12 Feb, with eight on 18 Feb, a single on 5 Mar and 16 on 9 Mar.

**Spring.** A flock of 19 summer plumaged birds in the Bight on 20 May.

**Autumn.** First returning birds were three on 2 Jul, with a passage max of 11 on 2 Aug.

**Second winter.** Apart from a brief staying flock of several hundred birds on 31 Dec, the max was five on 12 Nov (*cf.* 520 in Oct 22). A return to scarce status after recent late autumn influxes.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT – Monthly maxima:**

|            | J | F | M  | A | M  | J | J | A  | S  | O   | N   | D    |
|------------|---|---|----|---|----|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|------|
| Max.       | 1 | 8 | 16 | - | 19 | - | 3 | 11 | 3  | 4   | 5   | 200+ |
| WeBS total | - | 1 | -  | - | -  | - | 1 | 6  | -  | -   | -   | -    |
| 2022 max.  | 1 | 1 | -  | - | -  | 1 | 7 | 20 | 24 | 520 | 205 | 2    |

## TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

**Status.** Common on passage, sometimes abundant in winter

**First winter.** Max 76 on 6 Mar (cf. 136 in Feb 22 & 117 in Jan 21), with six other counts >50.

**Second winter.** Max 88 on 15 Oct (cf. 107 in Nov 22), with two other counts >75 and seven >50.

**Ring recovery.** A Swedish ringed bird first seen here in Oct 21 & Nov 22 was again present in Jan & Dec.

### TURNSTONE – Monthly maxima:

|            | J   | F   | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S  | O  | N   | D  |
|------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|
| Max.       | 57  | 61  | 76 | 35 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 30 | 88 | 65  | 78 |
| WeBS total | 22  | 21  | 55 | 14 | 14 | -  | 6  | 4  | -  | 33 | 30  | 36 |
| 2022 max.  | 117 | 136 | 38 | 60 | 36 | 17 | 5  | 7  | 20 | 82 | 107 | 52 |



Turnstone © Lee Collins

## KNOT *Calidris canutus*

**Status.** Common in autumn & winter, scarce in spring

**First winter.** Max 108 on 28 Jan (cf. 190 on Feb WeBS).

**Autumn.** A good passage. The first return was on 16 Jul, with a max 97 on 9 Sep (cf. 20 in Oct 22).

**Second winter.** Max 148 on 17 Dec (cf. 92 in Dec 22).

### KNOT – Monthly maxima and WeBS totals:

|            | J   | F   | M  | A | M | J | J | A  | S  | O  | N  | D   |
|------------|-----|-----|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Max.       | 108 | 89  | 10 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 51 | 97 | 27 | 60 | 148 |
| WeBS total | 76  | 70  | -  | 3 | - | - | - | 2  | -  | 27 | 47 | 44  |
| 2022 max.  | 145 | 190 | 61 | 8 | 1 | - | 2 | 2  | 17 | 20 | 56 | 92  |

## RUFF *Calidris pugnax*

**Status.** Annual in autumn, rare in spring & winter

**2022 records.** No spring records. The first autumn record were two in the Bight on 15 Sep with a single next day. A typical showing but a flock of 18 on the flooded Golf Course on 17 Sep was exceptional, an unexpected site record, with 12 on 28 Dec 1960 the only previous double-figure count. A lone bird was again in the estuary next day. The only other record was a male on 12 Oct.

**RUFF – Number of Birds and days:**

|            | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S  | O | N | D |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| Total      | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 18 | 1 | - | - |
| Days       | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4  | 1 | - | - |
| 2022 total | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2  | 1 | - | - |

### **CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*

**Status.** Uncommon, rarely common in autumn, scarce in spring, rare in winter

**2023 records.** The first were 11 juveniles on 13 Sep, with five the next day. One or two remained until 1 Oct with three on 30 Sep. Another juvenile arrived on 14 Oct, with perhaps the same on 22nd and 5-6 Nov.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER – Monthly maxima and WeBS totals:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S  | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| Max.      | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 2022 max. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 12 | 2 | 3 | - |

### **SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

**Status.** Common in winter, occasionally very common in spring & autumn

**First winter.** The much-reduced Exe wintering flock remains stable with a max of 29 on 28 Jan.

**Spring.** Max 108 on 22 May (cf. 101 in May 22 & 162 in May 21).

**Autumn.** Max 28 on 28 Jul (cf. 79 in Jul 22).

**Second winter.** Max 35 on 3 Dec (cf. 23 in Dec 22).

**'Sanderbling'.** Just the one record, a bird on the beach on 19-21 May was ringed on Orkney on 14 May 2022.

**SANDERLING – Monthly maxima and WeBS totals:**

|            | J  | F  | M  | A  | M   | J   | J  | A  | S  | O  | N  | 93D |
|------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Max.       | 29 | 28 | 25 | 14 | 108 | 106 | 48 | 40 | 32 | 14 | 19 | 35  |
| WeBS total | 11 | 28 | -  | 1  | 20  | -   | -  | 2  | 23 | 5  | 1  | 2   |
| 2022 max.  | 30 | 27 | 26 | 13 | 101 | 53  | 79 | 54 | 47 | 33 | 22 | 23  |

### **DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

**Status.** Very abundant in winter, common in spring & autumn

**First winter.** Max 2400 on 12 Feb (cf. 2000 in Feb 22).

**Spring.** Max 280 on 27 Apr (cf. 218 in May 22), with no other counts > 100.

**Autumn.** Max 205 on 26 Aug (cf. 171 in Sep 22).

**Second winter.** Max 2,295 on 15 Dec (cf. 2,810 in Nov). Dec.

**Ring recoveries.** A total of 13 non-Exe ringed birds, all new except two from Poland and one from Wales present in the early winter. One of the Polish birds returned for a fifth winter. New birds on spring passage came from Ynyslas, Wales (four, all ringed in Jul/Aug 2021) and Cadiz, Spain (two, both ringed on 24 Sep 2022). Autumn passage saw another two Spanish birds in Aug and Oct, a Norwegian bird just 17 days after ringed on 13 Sep and a new Ynyslas bird on 20 Nov that then overwintered.

An increase in the numbers marked by the Devon & Cornwall Wader Ringing Group on the estuary lead to a similar increase in local recoveries, with 65 different individuals recorded. Twenty-one of these were present in the first winter, with 11 of these recorded in the second winter, the oldest from 2019. A bird ringed on 10 Oct 2021 was recorded for the first time on 4 Jun, indicating a bird from a passage rather than wintering population. Another from the same October ringing session was recorded on 5 Aug heading back south.

**DUNLIN – Monthly maxima and WeBS totals:**

|            | J    | F    | M    | A   | M   | J  | J  | A   | S   | O   | N    | D    |
|------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Max.       | 1741 | 2400 | 760  | 280 | 79  | 21 | 98 | 205 | 174 | 568 | 2019 | 2295 |
| WeBS total | 1741 | 1150 | 14   | 1   | 13  | 5  | -  | 25  | 56  | 318 | 1805 | 1170 |
| 2022 max.  | 2000 | 1460 | 1000 | 67  | 218 | 73 | 36 | 136 | 171 | 748 | 2810 | 1200 |

**PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima*

**Status.** Rare in late autumn & winter, very rare at other times

**2023 records.** Singles at Langstone Rock on 16 Jan and 25 Nov (DLAF, IL).

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*

**Status.** Scarce in autumn, very rare at other times

**2023 records.** Two spring adults, one on 25 May and a different bird on 1-4 Jun. In autumn, two juveniles on 10 Sep with one on 13 Sep the only other record.

**JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

**Status.** Scarce in winter, rare in spring & autumn

**2023 records.** The only first winter record was late, on 9 Apr in Greenland Lake. In autumn singles by the Entrance Bushes on 21 Oct and again in Greenland Lake on 17 Dec.

**SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

**Status.** Common, rarely abundant in winter, uncommon in autumn

**Last and first.** 9 Apr and 25 Jul.

**First winter.** Max 210 on 8 Jan (cf. 185 in Feb 22). Another late departure.

**Second winter.** Max 77 on 19 Nov (cf. 200+ in Dec 22). First return flushed from Warren Point on 25 Jul with the next not until 13 Sep.

**SNIPE – Monthly maxima and WeBS totals:**

|            | J   | F   | M  | A  | M | J | J | A | S | O  | N   | D   |
|------------|-----|-----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|
| Max.       | 210 | 120 | 42 | 10 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 46 | 77  | 66  |
| WeBS total | 207 | 40  | -  | -  | - | - | - | - | - | 29 | 77  | 66  |
| 2022 max.  | 128 | 185 | 82 | 6  | - | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 173 | 200 |

**GREY PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

**Status.** Very scarce in autumn, rare in winter

**2023 records.** Singles past the seawall on 13 Nov (IL) and 8 Dec (IL).

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*

**Status.** Uncommon in autumn, scarce in spring, rare in winter

**First and last.** 8 Jul and 14 Sep.

**Spring.** No spring records were reported, after 12 in 2022.

**Autumn.** The first returning bird was in the estuary on 8 Jul, with the 2023 peak of nine on 20 Jul. In Aug only four records with a max of three on 6 Aug. Most records from the estuary but also seen along the beach and at Langstone Rock. The last two were singles on 1 & 14 Sep.

#### **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*

**Status.** Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

**2023 record.** One on 20 Aug, which circled calling, landed briefly in the estuary before flying off SE.

#### **REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

**Status.** Abundant in autumn & winter, uncommon in spring

**Last and first.** 23 Apr and 17 Jun.

**First winter.** Max 103 on 24 Jan (cf. 140 in Jan 22).

**Summer.** One on 17 May and 3 Jun.

**Autumn.** Max 344 on 12 Oct (cf. 355 in Sep 22). First returning birds five on 17 Jun with first 3-fig count on 20 Jul (cf. 19 Jul 22).

**Second winter.** Max 294 on 1 Dec (cf. 282 in Nov 22).

**REDSHANK – Monthly maxima and WeBS totals:**

|            | J   | F  | M  | A  | M | J  | J   | A   | S   | O   | N   | D   |
|------------|-----|----|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Max.       | 103 | 68 | 80 | 39 | 1 | 12 | 168 | 248 | 320 | 344 | 229 | 294 |
| WeBS total | 33  | 49 | 35 | 7  | - | -  | 47  | 244 | 188 | 338 | 227 | 107 |
| 2022 max.  | 140 | 93 | 60 | 17 | - | 21 | 117 | 312 | 355 | 330 | 282 | 194 |

#### **WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola*

**Status.** A rare autumn and very rare spring migrant.

**2023 record.** One was briefly in the estuary on 4 Aug before flying north. The 45<sup>th</sup> site record.

#### **SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus*

**Status.** Rare in autumn & winter

**2023 records.** After a six year gap recorded for the third year in succession. A bird off Cockwood Steps on 21 Mar, was presumably the bird wintering on the Exe, last seen on the Warren in Nov 22. In autumn a juvenile on 10 Sep was remarkably joined by a second on 14 Sep, the first multiple record since Feb 2000, with the first bird remaining until 16th. It returned on 12 & 29 Oct, 12 & 25 Nov and 11 Dec, being reported at Starcross at other times.

#### **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

**Status.** Uncommon in autumn & winter, scarce in spring

**Last and first.** 18 May and 21 Jun.

**First winter.** Lower numbers, with a max of nine on 24 Jan, with the last, five on 18 May.

**Summer.** Two on 4 Jun.

**Autumn.** The first returning bird was on 21 Jun with a passage max of 15 on 30 Sep.

**Second winter.** Max 17 on 18 Oct (cf. 21 in Oct 22).

**GREENSHANK – Monthly maxima and WeBS totals**

|            | J  | F | M | A | M | J | J  | A  | S  | O  | N  | D  |
|------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Max.       | 9  | 5 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 17 | 15 | 8  |
| WeBS total | 3  | - | 6 | 1 | - | - | 5  | 7  | 12 | 15 | 14 | 5  |
| 2022 max.  | 13 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 8  | 15 | 21 | 16 | 18 |





Greenshank © Lee Collins

**KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

**Status.** Regular in summer, autumn & winter, especially after storms

**2023 summary.** Good numbers present in ear-Jan with peaks of 202 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 201 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 153 on 1<sup>st</sup>. The next three-fig count was 100 on 1 Jul, with large numbers again feeding offshore in late-Jul/ear-Aug, peaking 523 on 5 Aug. Numbers feeding rose again in late Sep with 500 on 29<sup>th</sup> and 530 on 1 Oct. Rather than the large single day passage of recent years, here were six other counts >100 in Oct peaking at 641 SW on 28<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter five counts >100, 113 on 13 Nov, 116 on 18 Nov, 367 on 19 Nov, 135 on 11 Dec and 172 on 30 Dec.

**KITTIWAKE – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J   | F   | M  | A  | M  | J  | J   | A   | S   | O    | N   | D   |
|-----------|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Max.      | 202 | 50  | 62 | 50 | 65 | 25 | 300 | 523 | 500 | 641  | 367 | 172 |
| 2022 max. | 38  | 211 | 25 | 11 | 40 | nc | 35  | 49  | 153 | 2000 | 629 | 23  |

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

**Status.** Abundant in autumn & winter; uncommon in spring & summer

**First winter.** Max 319 on 4 Feb (cf. 380 in Jan 22).

**Spring.** A single flock of 87 birds north on 7 Mar was the max, with most offsite in the estuary in Apr/May.

**Autumn.** Max 885 on 1 Oct (cf. 950 in Sep 22). A poor breeding season with only 20 juveniles within c350 birds on 21 Jul.

**Second winter.** Max 231 on 15 Dec (cf. 178 in Nov 22).

**Ring recoveries.** Eight individuals were recorded, four of which were new; from West Midlands, Lanarkshire, Czechia and Poland. Others included a Polish bird for its sixth consecutive autumn, late June remaining until at least August and an Essex bird for the first time in three years.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL – monthly maxima:**

|           | J   | F   | M  | A  | M  | J   | J   | A   | S   | O   | N   | D   |
|-----------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Max.      | 230 | 319 | 87 | 9  | 6  | 126 | 700 | 350 | 300 | 885 | 100 | 231 |
| 2022 max. | 380 | nc  | nc | 20 | 15 | 121 | 316 | 910 | 950 | 775 | 178 | 120 |

**LITTLE GULL** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

**Status.** Scarce in spring, autumn & winter, rare in summer

**2023 records.** No records in the first winter period, the first a 2cy offshore on 24 & 28 Apr, with an adult offshore on 4 May. The first autumn record were three separate birds on 28 Aug (1cy, 2cy & ad), the 2cy staying until 1 Oct. Three later records; a 1cy on 3 Oct, ad & 1cy on 12 Nov and an ad on 8 Dec.

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

**Status.** Uncommon but increasing in autumn & winter, scarce in spring

**First winter.** All records of adults with a max count of four on 5 Jan.

**Spring.** First a 3cy on 12 Mar, one of just four during the month; with only three birds in May.

**Autumn.** The first were four on 4 Jun, with 15 watched arriving from the south on 10 Jun. Numbers rose with 68 on 1 Jul with 169 feeding offshore the next day, the year's peak. Numbers rose again with 120 on 21 Jul with a welcome 37 juveniles in a count of 80 birds. Numbers then declined into Sep, with a late peak on 12 on 23 Oct.

**Second winter.** Max four on 29 Dec.

**Ringing recoveries.** A total of 24 different birds were recorded between 26 Jun & 30 Sep, mostly in Jul, 21 of them new. The three returning birds came from Belgium, with new birds from Belgium (2), France (6), Germany (8), Langstone Harbour, Hampshire (2), Holland, Hungary and only the second UK recovery from Spain.

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J  | J   | A  | S  | O  | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|----|----|----|---|---|
| Max.      | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 23 | 169 | 17 | 11 | 12 | 3 | 4 |
| 2022 max. | 3 | - | 2 | 7 | 3 | 15 | 102 | 21 | 5  | 23 | 3 | 2 |



Mediterranean Gulls © Lee Collins

**COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

**Status.** *Common in autumn & winter, scarce in summer*

**First winter.** Max 85 on 15 Jan.

**Spring.** Max 200 on 18 Feb.

**Second winter.** Max 141 on 30 Dec (*cf.* 91 in Dec 22).

**Ring recoveries.** A metal ringed bird in Mar, was a regular Dutch bird that has lost its darvic ring. It had previously been seen here in 2011, 2013, 2015 & 2022. In Dec a new bird, ringed in Germany in Jul 2023.

**COMMON GULL – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J   | F   | M  | A | M | J | J | A | S | O  | N  | D   |
|-----------|-----|-----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Max.      | 85  | 200 | 14 | 9 | 7 | - | 4 | 2 | 6 | 33 | 66 | 141 |
| 2022 max. | 122 | 139 | 45 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 44 | 70 | 91  |

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus*

**Status.** *Common non-breeding resident, occasionally abundant in autumn*

**2023 summary.** Max of 87 on 23 Oct (*cf.* 150+ on 19 Oct 22). There were just three counts >50 in Sep-Dec (*cf.* 12 in 2022).

**Ring recoveries.** Fifteen different individuals, including ten new birds, one in Oct was rung in Norway in Jul 23; two from Normandy, France in Sep/Oct, one ringed in May 2014; two in Mar, both ringed on Looe Island, Cornwall in Jun 2022, and five from Portland Breakwater, Dorset, one in Jun from Jun 2022, the others Sep & Dec, all ringed in Jun 2023.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J  | F   | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S  | O   | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Max.      | 27 | 8   | 41 | 12 | 13 | 21 | 28 | 36 | 68 | 87  | 40 | 41 |
| 2022 max. | 45 | 122 | 27 | 19 | 25 | 12 | 19 | 42 | 69 | 150 | 62 | 65 |

**GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus*

**Status.** *Rare winter visitor and migrant.*

**2023 record.** A first winter was on Bull Hill on 6 Mar (MKn *et al.*) and reported next day. The same bird was at Topsham on 26 Feb. The first Warren record since 23 Dec 2020.

**ICELAND GULL** *Larus g. glaucoides*

**Status.** *Rare passage and winter visitor*

**2023 record.** A first winter on 26 Mar, flew in from upriver, circled around and briefly joined over 160 Herring Gull on Finger Point (LC *et al.*).



Iceland Gull © Lee Collins

**HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

**Status.** *Abundant, rarely very abundant, non-breeding resident, has bred*

**2023 summary.** Max 1765 on 12 Oct (*cf.* 1,220 in Apr 22 & 2,770 in Mar 21). Recorded on every visit regardless of weather, but counts or estimates rarely made.

**HERRING GULL - Monthly maxima:**

| J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|           |     |    |     |      |     |     |      |      |      |      |     |      |
|-----------|-----|----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|------|
| Max.      | 800 | nc | 160 | 1300 | 320 | 157 | 1125 | 1200 | 1280 | 1765 | 800 | 840  |
| 2022 max. | 900 | nc | nc  | 1220 | 680 | 126 | 750  | 300  | 650  | nc   | nc  | 1025 |

SCANDINAVIAN HERRING GULL *Larus a. argentatus*

**Status.** *Rare winter migrant*

**2023 record.** An adult on Finger Point on 17 Dec, the first record of this rare winter visitor since 31 December 2014 (IL *et al.*). Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.



Scandinavian Herring Gull © Lee Collins

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

**Status.** *Very rare migrant, mostly winter. 13 records*

**2023 record.** A first winter was on Finger Point on 24 Mar, the 14<sup>th</sup> site record. In autumn, a 3cy on 23 Oct had been ringed as a chick in the nest at IJsselmeer, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands on 11 Jun 2021. Records subject to acceptance by DBRC.

**Ring recovery.** See above.



Caspian Gull 24 Mar © Lee Collins

**YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis*

**Status.** *Uncommon but increasing in autumn, scarce in winter*

**2023 records.** An adult on Bull Hill on 19 Feb was the only early year record. In autumn the first 1cy arrived on 8 Jul (*cf.* 13 Jul 22), increasing to five by 22 Jul. Singles followed on 30 Jul, 4 & 8 Aug, with only two later birds, a 1cy on 11 Oct and an adult on 13 Nov.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus graellsii*

**Status.** *Uncommon throughout the year, can be common in spring & autumn*

**2023 summary.** Typically low numbers during both winter periods, with passage noted during spring with a max of 23 on 9 Apr (*cf.* 81 in Mar 22) and in autumn 44 S on 3 Nov.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – Monthly maxima:

|      | J | F | M  | A  | M | J | J | A  | S | O  | N  | D |
|------|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|----|---|----|----|---|
| Max. | 3 | 5 | 8  | 23 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 5 | 7  | 44 | 2 |
| Max. | 5 | 6 | 81 | 5  | 5 | 9 | 6 | 15 | 7 | 24 | 12 | 4 |

**'SCANDINAVIAN' LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus intermedius*

**Status.** *Rare spring & autumn migrant*

**2023 summary.** Adults considered to be this subspecies were present on 18 Feb, 9 & 18 Apr and 17 Dec.

**SANDWICH TERN** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

**Status.** *Common in spring & summer, abundant in autumn, rare in winter, declining*

**First and last.** 11 Mar and 18 Nov.

**Winter.** The bird from Dec 2022 remained until 26 Jan, when it was unfortunately found dead.

**Spring.** The first were two offshore on 11 Mar, with 12 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 25 on 31<sup>st</sup>. Numbers remain low, with peaks of 62 on 15 Apr and 56 on 28 Apr (*cf.* 53 in Apr 22 & 108 in Apr 21).

**Autumn.** Max 231 on 5 Aug (*cf.* 201 in Jul 22). The first juvenile arrived on 7 Jul. Numbers dropped to single figures in early Sep, until a late month influx with 41 on 24<sup>th</sup>, these largely remaining until an Oct record 93 on 1<sup>st</sup>, with 12 on 5<sup>th</sup> the last double-figure count. The last was one on 18 Nov.

**Ring recoveries.** A total of 43 different birds were identified (*cf.* 28 in 2022 & 38 in 2021), including 33 new and several returning (and long-staying) birds. Birds came from Holland (5), Germany (2), France, Denmark, Donegal, Strangford Loch, County Down (3), Aberdeenshire (4), Wales (5), Northumberland (2), Hodbarrow. Cumbria (5), Pagham Harbour, Sussex (6) and Hampshire (6). These fit the well-established pattern of birds from the English Channel, Irish and North Sea coasts all using Dawlish Warren as a key staging post on migration. The other two birds had been ringed in Africa, one on 4 Aug was rung in Senegal on 27 Mar and one on 5-6 Aug was rung in South Africa in Dec 2007, first seen here in 2019 and also in the breeding colony on Brownsea Island, Dorset in 2008 & 2011.

**SANDWICH TERN – Monthly maxima:**

|      | J | F | M  | A  | M  | J  | J   | A   | S   | O  | N | D |
|------|---|---|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|---|---|
| Max. | 1 | - | 25 | 62 | 27 | 12 | 53  | 231 | 41  | 93 | 1 | - |
| Max. | 1 | - | 9  | 53 | 27 | 25 | 201 | 98  | 160 | 44 | - | 1 |

**LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons***

**Status.** *Uncommon in spring & autumn*

**First and last.** 27 Apr and 27 Sep.

**Spring.** Once again just three records, two on 27 Apr, with one next day, and singles on 6 & 11 May.

**Autumn.** Again, no Jul records, with only three later records, two (ad & juv) on 4-6 Aug, three (two ad & juv) on 19 Aug and a late single on 27 Sep.

**LITTLE TERN – Number of Birds and days:**

|            | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birds      | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | 5 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Days       | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | 4 | 1 | - | - | - |
| 2022 birds | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 4 | - | - | - |

**ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii***

**Status.** *Rare in spring, uncommon in late summer*

**2023 records.** A blank spring, the third in five years. However, a better autumn, with five records; two on 2 Jul, one on 4 Jul, an ad on 20 Jul, three (ad & 2 3cy) on 2 Aug, and singles on 3 & 8 Aug.

**Ring recovery.** A 3cy on 2 Aug was ringed as a nestling on Rockabill, Dublin in Aug 2021.



Roseate Tern © Lee Collins

**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo***Status.** Usually common in summer, rarely abundant in autumn, has bred (1980)**First and last.** 15 Apr and 3 Nov.**Spring.** Another very poor spring for this species. The first were five on 15 Apr, with two the next day, 10 on 25 Apr and singles on 10 May and 11 Jun.**Autumn.** The first were 11 on 1 Jul, then present until 19 Aug, mostly in single figures with peaks of 38 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 81 on 19<sup>th</sup>. Later records included four on 31 Aug, a juvenile on 14 Sep and then present again between 20 Sep and 3 Oct, with a peak of 10 on 23 Sep. The last was a 1cy in the estuary on 3 Nov, the latest since long-stayers to 08 Nov 2004 and 03 Dec 2006.**Ring recovery.** An adult on 31 Aug had been ringed as a 1cy in Aug 2016 at Sandymount, Dublin.**COMMON TERN – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A  | M | J | J  | A  | S  | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| Max.      | - | - | - | 10 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 81 | 10 | 4 | 1 | - |
| 2022 max. | - | - | - | 2  | 2 | 4 | 30 | 55 | 21 | - | - | - |

**ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea***Status.** Scarce in spring and late summer, rare in autumn**First and last.** 21 May and 16 Oct.**Spring.** The only record was two offshore on 21 May.**Autumn.** The first bird was in the estuary on 4 Jul, with just four further records, singles on 15 Jul, two adults on 4 Aug, two (ad & juv) on 5-6 Aug, a single on 16 Aug, three on 19 Aug and one offshore on 16 Oct.**ARCTIC TERN – Number of Birds and days:**

|            | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birds      | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | 8 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Days       | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 5 | - | 1 | - | - |
| 2022 birds | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - |

**BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger***Status.** Rare in spring and scarce in autumn**2023 records.** Three singles offshore on 16, 20 & 27 Sep were the only records of the year.**Unidentified and mixed TERNS** *Sterna* sp.In spring, probable Arctic Terns were offshore on 15<sup>th</sup> and 28 Apr (three).**GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua***Status.** Uncommon in autumn, scarce in spring & winter**2023 records.** Another very poor year with just one reported sighting, reflecting the disaster of Avian Flu. Three offshore on 14 Jul after the first blank spring since 1999, were followed by the first ever blank autumn.**GREAT SKUA – Number of Birds and days:**

|            | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birds      | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Days       | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2022 birds | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |



**POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus***Status.** Scarce in spring & autumn, very scarce in winter**Spring.** Two adults S on 4 May, with one S next day. Further singles on 21 May and 3 Jun.**Autumn.** Four S on 8 Jul, presumably included the three immature birds lingering in the bay the next day. Three immatures in the bay on 14-15 Jul may well have been the same, as well as singles on 30 Jul & 2 Aug, with four on 5 Aug. Later birds passed in Sep, singles on 16<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, with two on 20<sup>th</sup> with the last on 19 Oct.**POMARINE SKUA – Number of Birds and days:**

|            | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birds      | - | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 1 | - | - |
| Days       | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| 2022 birds | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - |

**ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus***Status.** Uncommon in spring & autumn, very rare in winter**First and last.** 16 Apr & 16 Oct.**Spring.** The first flew S on 16 Apr, with the next on 27 Apr, a pale phase lingering until 4 May. Then singles on 5 (dark phase) & intermittently 27 May -17 Jun.**Autumn.** The first were three lingering offshore on 1 Jul, with two on 8 Jul, five on 14 Jul and peaking at 12 on 15 Jul and nine on 5 Aug. Mobile birds feeding around Lyme Bay made numbers on individuals difficult to calculate. At least 15 were offshore on 1 Sep with 20 heading SW during ex-hurricane Lee on 20<sup>th</sup> and the same number lingering after Storm Agnes on 27<sup>th</sup>. Varying numbers remained in the bay peaking again at 16 on 1 Oct, with birds then regular until the last two on 16 Oct.**ARCTIC SKUA – Number of Birds and days:**

|            | J | F | M | A | M | J | J   | A  | S   | O   | N | D |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|----|-----|-----|---|---|
| Birds *max | - | - | - | 2 | 3 | 1 | 12* | 9* | 20* | 16* | - | - |
| Days       | - | - | - | 4 | 3 | 3 | 11  | 8  | 8   | 8   | - | - |
| Birds      | - | - | - | 4 | 5 | - | 3   | 2  | 13  | 50  | 5 | - |

**Unidentified Skua sp.** *Stercorarius* species**Long-tailed/Arctic:** Single on 15 Jul.**Arctic/Pomarine:** One on the late date of 7 Nov.



Skua sp © Dean Hall

**GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*

**Status.** Regular through the year but rarely common

**2023 summary.** A very poor year with low numbers in the early winter never picking up with no counts >15, but see auk sp.. (cf. max 170 in Oct & 158 in Feb 22).

**Guillemot – Monthly maxima:**

|            | <b>J</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>J</b> | <b>J</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>S</b> | <b>O</b> | <b>N</b> | <b>D</b> |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Birds      | 8        | 2        | 12       | 12       | 7        | 7        | -        | 1        | 5        | 2        | 7        | 4        |
| 2022 birds | 25       | 158      | 3        | 38       | 41       | 10       | -        | -        | 2        | 170      | -        | 1        |

**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda***Status.** Regular through the year, occasionally very common in winter**2023 summary.** Max 585 S on 11 Feb (cf. 2,900 in Oct 22), with 284 on 19 Nov, otherwise low numbers, but see auk sp..**RAZORBILL – Monthly maxima:**

|       | J  | F   | M | A  | M  | J | J | A | S | O    | N   | D  |
|-------|----|-----|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|------|-----|----|
| Birds | 20 | 585 | 8 | 9  | 2  | - | - | 1 | 5 | 103  | 284 | 26 |
| Birds | 28 | 81  | 4 | 28 | 17 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 2900 | 4   | 11 |

**PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica***Status.** Rare in spring, very rare at other times**2023 record.** The only record was one S on 19 May (DLAF, IL).**Auk sp.**

Large numbers in Oct-Dec most likely Razorbill, with peaks of 3005+ on 28 Oct, 563 on 11 Oct and 269 on 17 Dec. Otherwise in low numbers with 145 on 30 Dec, 100 on 18 Apr and 80 on 29 Jan. The Dec counts saw an approximate 50/50 split in closer birds.

**RED-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia stellata***Status.** Common in winter & spring, rare in summer**Last and first.** 4 May and 27 Sep.**First winter.** Max 23 on 22 Feb (cf. 15 in Jan 22), with only three other double-fig counts.**Second winter.** Max nine on 17 Dec (cf. 12 in Dec 22). First a summer plumaged bird on 27 Sep, with three on 1 Oct, and birds present from 16 Oct until the end of the year.**RED-THROATED DIVER – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J  | F  | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D  |
|-----------|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Max.      | 17 | 23 | 8 | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9  |
| 2022 max. | 15 | 9  | 8 | 8 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 8 | 12 |

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer***Status.** Uncommon in winter and spring, scarce at other times**Last and first.** 21 May and 12 Sep.**First winter.** Max just seven on 14 Jan (cf. 11 in Jan 22).**Spring.** Max 13 on 13 May (cf. 14 on 14 May 22), with 12 on 1<sup>st</sup> & 11 on 19 May.**Summer.** A first summer offshore on several dates 27 May – 12 Sep.**Second winter.** Max 19 on 11 Nov (cf. 12 in Dec 22 & 47 in Dec 2021). The first return was possibly on 24 Sep, then regular until the year's end, with only two double-figure counts, 19 on 11 Nov and 12 on 5 Dec.**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J  | F | M | A | M  | J | J | A | S | O | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| Max.      | 7  | 5 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 12 |
| 2022 max. | 11 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 5  | 12 |



Great Northern Diver © Alan Keatley

**Diver sp.** *Gavia* species

A max of 10 on 11 Feb.

Red/Black-throated: one on 19 Mar

Great Northern/Black-throated: singles on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11 May

**STORM PETREL** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

**Status.** Scarce/uncommon passage migrant.

**2023 summary.** A welcome increase in sightings including further winter records.

**First winter.** Jan: one on 7<sup>th</sup> was just the third for the month after two records in 1998.

**Autumn.** Jul: three on 30<sup>th</sup>, singles on 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>; Aug: present 1<sup>st</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> with peaks of 15 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and six on 13<sup>th</sup>; and Sep: 20 on 20<sup>th</sup>, singles on 24<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Second winter.** After the just 3rd-4th Nov records last year, four were present on 4 Nov, with an exceptional influx of 15 after Storm Ciaran on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**LEACH'S PETREL** *Hydrobates leucorhous*

**Status.** Rare autumn/winter passage migrant.

**2023 records.** One offshore on 7 Jan (DLAF, IL), was the first record for the month. Two or three on 8 Nov (IL *et al.*) were a more typical date. Records subject to acceptance by DBRC.

**FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis*

**Status.** Regular in spring and autumn, rarely common, scarce at other times

**2023 summary.** Max 15 on 23 Mar. Low numbers linked to absence from local breeding sites, presumably unseen victims of avian flu. The situation did not improve with very few late year records.

**FULMAR – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F  | M  | A  | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Max.      | 7 | 1  | 15 | 7  | 5 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 2022 max. | 2 | 12 | 4  | 12 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | - | - | 2 |

**CORY'S SHEARWATER** *Calonectris borealis*

**Status.** *Vagrant*

**2023 records.** A single SW on 30 Jul was just the fourth site record (DLAF, IL). This was followed by a site record 12 on 20 Sep (AKe *et al.*) and another single on 27 Sep (LC). A further record was exceptionally late passing SW close inshore on 29 Oct (DLAF, IL). Records subject to acceptance by DBRC.

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Ardenna grisea*

**Status.** *Rare in autumn*

**2023 records.** Just two records in autumn, both singles SW on 27 Sep (LC) and 8 Nov (IL).

**GREAT SHEARWATER** *Ardenna gravis*

**Status.** *Vagrant*

**2023 records.** Storm Agnes on 27 Sep saw just the fourth site record, when an incredible 143 flew SW, totally eclipsing the previous high of eight in July 2017. An incredible 84 of these passed in just 15 minutes (LC *et al.*).

**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*

**Status.** *Common in spring & summer, rare in autumn & winter*

**First and last.** 14 Jan and 30 Dec.

**Winter.** Another unseasonal record, one S on 14 Jan.

**Spring.** Max 100 on 19 May, an isolated passage, with no other three-fig count (*cf.* 630 in Apr 22).

The first were two on 23 Mar, with only one Apr record, almost daily sightings from 4 May - 10 Jun.

**Autumn.** Max 40 on 22 Jul and 2 Aug (*cf.* 68 in Jul 22). Continuing low numbers, with just three other double figure counts, 37 on 5 Aug. 14 on 2 Jul Sep & 11 on 23 Jul. Three late records, two on 27 Sep and singles on 13 Nov and 30 Dec.

**MANX SHEARWATER – monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A   | M   | J  | J  | A  | S  | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| Max.      | 1 | - | 2 | 1   | 100 | 3  | 40 | 40 | 2  | - | 1 | 1 |
| 2022 max. | - | 1 | - | 630 | 56  | 68 | 68 | 9  | 12 | 1 | 4 | - |

**BALEARIC SHEARWATER** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

**Status.** *Critically Endangered. Uncommon in summer & autumn, rare in spring & winter*

**First and last.** 17 Jun and 5 Nov.

**Autumn.** The first of the year were four S on 17 Jun with two on 24 Jun. Present throughout Jul in low numbers with a peak of seven on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Aug saw four records in the first half of the month with a peak of just four on 20<sup>th</sup>. The first double-fig count was 39 on 1 Sep, followed by a new site record of 498 SW on 16 Sep (*cf.* 287 E on 29 Aug 22). These birds, around 2% of the global population, were part of the internationally important numbers that feed in Lyme Bay, highlighting its importance for the survival of this Critically Endangered species. Birds were still on a feeding circuit in Lyme Bay in late Sep with 423 on 20<sup>th</sup>, 108 on 24<sup>th</sup>, 242 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 127 on 27 Sep, the last count >100. Three double-figure counts in Oct, 16 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13 on 28<sup>th</sup>, the last of the year was a single on 5 Nov.

**BALEARIC SHEARWATER – Number of Birds and days:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A   | S   | O   | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|---|---|
| Max.      | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 7 | 4   | 498 | 16  | 1 | - |
| Days      | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 8 | 5   | 14  | 8   | 1 | - |
| 2022 max. | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | 287 | 230 | 272 | 1 | - |

**Shearwater sp.**

Aug: one on 6<sup>th</sup> likely to be Balearic.

Sep: one on 16<sup>th</sup> likely to be Manx. Hundreds too distant on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Large Shearwater sp.**

Singles SW on 22 Jul and 24 Sep were considered likely to be Cory's Shearwater.

Two on 24 Sep were considered likely to be Great Shearwater.

**GANNET *Morus bassanus***

**Status.** Present throughout the year, often common, occasionally abundant during storms

**First winter.** The early year max was 220 on 7 Jan (cf. 159 in Feb 22), with 186 the next day the only other count over >100.

**Spring/summer.** Counts over >100 were spread through the summer, with 148 on 24 Jun the first, July saw two counts, max 251 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and August saw five counts, max 390 on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Autumn.** Two counts >100 in late Sep with a max of 400 on 20<sup>th</sup>, with six further counts in oct, max 564 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 480 on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Late winter.** Typically, fewer large counts, with two in Nov, max 132 on 13<sup>th</sup> and three in Dec, max 190 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**GANNET – Monthly maxima:**

|      | J   | F   | M  | A  | M  | J   | J   | A   | S   | O    | N   | D   |
|------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Max. | 220 | 13  | 70 | 32 | 20 | 148 | 251 | 390 | 400 | 564  | 132 | 190 |
| Max. | 44  | 159 | 20 | 21 | 37 | 30  | 92  | 150 | 690 | 1150 | 182 | 37  |

**CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax c. carbo***

**Status.** Common non-breeding resident

**2023 summary.** Max 48 on 4 Feb (cf. 47 in Nov 22). Regular through the year. One seen carrying nesting material out to sea on 9 Apr shows, as expected, spring adults are from local breeding populations.

**CORMORANT – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J  | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S  | O  | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Max.      | 46 | 48 | 37 | 18 | 19 | 19 | 28 | 20 | 29 | 61 | 44 | 36 |
| 2022 max. | 25 | 28 | 22 | 17 | 12 | 6  | 19 | 23 | 34 | 36 | 47 | 40 |

**CONTINENTAL CORMORANT *P. c. sinensis***

**Status.** Scarce in spring, autumn & winter, under-recorded

**2023 records.** Two on 18 Jan, 9<sup>th</sup> & 25 Mar, 9 Apr, singles on 11 Feb, 26 Mar and 17-18 Dec.

**SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis***

**Status.** Common, sometimes very common non-breeding resident

**2023 summary.** Max 49 on 8 Jan (cf. 62 in May 22). Another very poor year.

SHAG – Monthly maxima:

|           | J  | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S  | O  | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Max.      | 49 | nc | 14 | 8  | 40 | 3  | 7  | 14 | 16 | 13 | 17 | 21 |
| 2022 max. | 11 | nc | nc | 15 | 62 | 20 | 53 | 12 | 26 | 14 | 28 | 16 |

**SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia*

**Status.** *Rare in spring & autumn, rare at other times*

**2023 records.** The wintering immature from Dec 22 was joined by a second bird on 5 Jan with both remaining intermittently until 14 Feb, and were again present 26-28 Feb and finally on 26 Mar. An adult bird was present briefly on 11 Feb. In autumn a good series of records started with a juvenile arriving on 3 Sep, being seen again on 19-20<sup>th</sup>, with two adults on 18<sup>th</sup>. Three immatures arrived on 19 Oct, increasing to five the next day with two staying to 15 Nov. Finally, an adult that appeared on 28 Oct, remained intermittently to 15 Dec.



Spoonbill 11 Feb © Lee Collins

**CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis*

**Status.** *Formerly vagrant, now scarce in autumn & winter*

**2023 records.** Some of the Exe wintering birds made a brief appearance with 25 in the estuary on 7 Jan and five on 9 Jan. The only other early year record was a single south on 16 Jan. Although large numbers again returned to the Exe in the second winter, there was just the one record, with 36 on the mudflats on the afternoon of 8 Oct.

**CATTLE EGRET – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J  | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S  | O  | N  | D |
|-----------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|
| Max.      | 25 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | -  | 36 | -  | - |
| 2022 max. | -  | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 75 | 70 | 28 | 2 |

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

**Status.** *Uncommon non-breeding resident, sometimes common in autumn*

**2023 summary.** Max 15 on 29 Sep (*cf.* eight in Oct 22). Regular through the year but scarce in the breeding season, although at least one adult was regularly stalking the Main Pond. Migrants high overhead or out to sea included 12 south in flock of 9, 2 and single on 29 Sep, with singles on 1 May, 9<sup>th</sup> & 20 Jul and 11 Nov, an ad & juv circling high on 27 May and two on 26 Aug.

**GREY HERON – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S  | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| Max.      | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| 2022 max. | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5  | 8 | 4 | 2 |

**GREAT WHITE EGRET** *Ardea alba*

**Status.** *Previously a vagrant, now rare with 17 previous records of 22 birds*

**2023 records.** The only spring record flew W offshore on 15 Apr (mo). Two autumn records were also on passage with one E offshore low to the water on 7 Sep (AKe) and on 11 Nov two singles flew SW (DLAF, IL).

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

**Status.** *Uncommon non-breeding resident, most common in autumn*

**2023 summary.** Max 13 on 23 Jul (*cf.* 16 on 14 Aug 22). Regular through the year in the estuary, with occasional birds at Langstone Rock in Jan, the Main Pond on 6 Apr, and one around the golf course ditches, the Entrance Bushes and Greenland Lake in Dec.

**LITTLE EGRET – Monthly maxima:**

|      | J | F | M | A | M | J | J  | A  | S  | O  | N  | D |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| Max. | 7 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 9  | 10 | 10 | 10 | 7 |
| Max. | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 8  | 16 | 15 | 8  | 7  | 7 |

**OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

**Status.** *Scarce in spring and autumn*

**First and last.** 4 Apr and 17 Oct.

**2023 summary.** A below average spring with just two records, on 4<sup>th</sup> & 13 Apr. Autumn had more records than last year, thanks to a couple of lingering birds on the river. The first, an adult, was present 24-31 Aug, with juveniles S on 6 & 10 Sep, an adult on 12-19 Sep and a juvenile on 22-30 Sep, with a second bird on the last date. In Oct, the last bird, a juvenile, was present from 10-17 Oct.



**OSPREY – Number of Birds and days:**

|            | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S  | O | N | D |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| Birds      | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 5  | 1 | - | - |
| Days       | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 3 | 13 | 5 | - | - |
| 2022 birds | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 4  | 3 | - | - |

**SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus***

**Status.** *Uncommon throughout the year, has bred*

**2023 summary.** One pair fledged two young from a nest established in flooded woodland, the first since the only previous occurrences in 1995 & 1996. Regular birds in autumn and winter were considered to be these birds and at least of the immatures. Migrants included one on 26 Mar. Targeted prey included Blackbird, Skylark, Goldfinch, Dunlin, Grey Wagtail and Woodpigeon.



Sparrowhawk © David Flack

**GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis***

**Status.** *Vagrant*

**2023 records.** A male arrived from the mainland and glided around the estuary corner flushing everything, before returning on 21 Oct, just the fourth Warren record and the first since Nov 2010

(IL). What was presumably the same male was again tempted over the Recording Area by Jackdaw passage on 6 Nov (KRy).

**MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*

**Status.** *Rare in spring & autumn*

**2023 records.** A 2cy bird high over the mudflats on 21 Jan, was the first record for the month, reflecting increasing number at the top end of the estuary. In autumn a 1cy came in low from the E before circling high and heading SW on 6 Aug.



Marsh Harrier 6 Aug © Lee Collins

**HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

**Status.** *Rare autumn and vagrant spring migrant.*

**2023 record.** A juvenile flew low SW across from Exmouth and down length of the spit above the shoreline early morning on 7 Nov, the first site record since 23 Dec 2010 (IL).

**RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

**Status.** *Uncommon in spring, rare at other times*

**2023 records.** The first was over Warren Point on 9 Feb, with lower numbers this year. The next were single on 1 & 8 Apr, with three on 5 May, and further singles on 19 May and 3 Jul.

Red Kite – Number of Birds and days:

|            | J | F | M | A | M  | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------------|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birds      | - | 1 | - | 2 | 4  | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Days       | - | 1 | - | 2 | 2  | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2022 birds | - | 1 | 6 | 5 | 18 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

**BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

**Status.** *Infrequent overhead throughout the year, very rare actually on site*

**2023 summary.** Recorded in all months except Dec, with eight high over on 27 Mar, the max count. Singles overhead at various migration times with four on 19<sup>th</sup> and three on 26 Mar, a sign of spring passage.

**SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

**Status.** *Scarce autumn migrant, rare in winter and spring*

**2023 records.** Two early year records after last year's blank, singles on 25 Feb and 15 Apr. In autumn the first was on Warren Point on 19 Oct, with it or another in the saltmarsh on 22 Oct. Reported on six more dates until 20 Nov, with two on 27 Oct.

**TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco*

**Status.** *Occasional non-breeding resident*

**2023 records.** No roosting birds reported this year, but calling birds in the Entrance Bushes on 11 Mar & 27 Jun.

**KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

**Status.** *Scarce in autumn & winter*

**Last and first.** 2 Mar & 25 Jul

**2023 summary.** At least two birds present during the early winter, either in the estuary or at the Main Pond. The last record was on the Main Pond on 2 Mar, a week later than 2022. The first autumn bird was also at the Main Pond, on 25 Jul, one day later than last year. Sightings were then regular there or in the estuary until the end of the year. Two were seen on multiple occasions.

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

**Status.** *Breeding resident and scarce migrant*

**2023 summary.** Despite upto three birds present in the early year, there was again no breeding although a single was present throughout. One on Warren Point on 23 Jul was presumably a migrant, as were singles overhead on 21 & 22 Oct.

**GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*

**Status.** *Uncommon non-breeding resident*

**2023 summary.** Regular through the year becoming scarce in Oct, but one present Nov till the end of the year. Successfully bred on the mainland, with at least one juvenile regularly foraging onsite.

**KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

**Status.** *Uncommon non-breeding resident and autumn migrant*

**2023 summary.** The resident 2cy male remained all year occasionally accompanied by a female, the pair breeding just offsite. One of the presumed fledged birds also took up residence early autumn. One on 25 Apr was the only obvious migrant.



Kestrel © Alan Keatley

**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

**Status.** Scarce in autumn & winter visitor, rare in spring

**2023 records.** In Oct, singles through on 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup>, with two on 13<sup>th</sup>. The last of the year was on 24 Nov.

**HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*

**Status.** Scarce in spring & autumn

**First and last.** 18 Apr and 27 Sep.

**2023 summary.** Another good year with seven records (*cf.* nine in 2022). The first flew through on 18 Apr, a day earlier than last year, with a site record three through on 29 May, and singles on 21 May, 4 & 5 Jun. In autumn, singles on 2 & 25 Aug and 2 Sep with two jousting over Finger Point on 1 Sep. The last was a single on 27 Sep.

**PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus*

**Status.** Regular non-breeding visitor, especially in autumn

**2023 summary.** Birds present throughout the year, although largely absent May - late Jul. Usually singles but at least three birds in the early year. A juvenile was regular 16 Oct – 9 Nov, but then only two Dec records.

**JAY** *Garrulus glandarius***Status.** Scarce, very rarely common in autumn, rare in spring**2023 summary.** A return to typical scarcity following the record events of autumn 2021 and spring 2022. Singles on 11 & 27 May.**MAGPIE** *Pica pica***Status.** Uncommon breeding resident, common in winter**2023 summary.** Breeding; at least five territories. Roost numbers peaked at 30 on 27 Jan, 26 on 6 Mar and 23 in Dec. In autumn three singles flew high SW on 22 Oct**JACKDAW** *Coloeus monedula***Status.** Rarely very common in autumn migrant, regular early summer, otherwise scarce**2023 summary.** Birds continued to forage on the mudflats preroost in the early and late winter, in combination with foraging adults now regular during the breeding season, the change of status of this species on site now permanent. Perhaps previously favoured sites are now under housing?**Migration.** Only a few small flocks on the move during late Feb–Mar, although none in double figures. In autumn the majority passed over between 21 Oct – 9 Nov. Sep: 12 on 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>; Oct: 14 dates, max 240 on 26<sup>th</sup> & 170 on 22<sup>nd</sup>; Nov: nine dates, max 65 on 5<sup>th</sup>.**Jackdaw – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J   | F  | M  | A | M | J  | J | A | S  | O   | N  | D   |
|-----------|-----|----|----|---|---|----|---|---|----|-----|----|-----|
| Max.      | 110 | 20 | 9  | 5 | 9 | 3  | 3 | 1 | 12 | 240 | 65 | 100 |
| 2022 max. | 2   | 42 | 82 | 6 | 9 | nc | 2 | - | 3  | 35  | 38 | 100 |

**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus***Status.** Scarce though year, occasionally common in autumn**2023 summary.** As with Jackdaw birds have started to use the mudflats preroost during the winter months. Otherwise scarce, with a small spring passage, peaking at 12 on 15 Apr and in autumn the majority passed over between 12 Oct – 11 Nov with a max of 33 on 22 Oct.**Rook – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J   | F  | M  | A  | M | J | J | A | S  | O  | N  | D   |
|-----------|-----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Max.      | 100 | 40 | 5  | 12 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 5  | 60 | 4  | 50  |
| 2022 max. | 3   | 3  | 13 | 12 | - | - | - | 1 | 20 | 61 | 94 | 260 |

**CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone***Status.** Common breeding resident, occasionally abundant in autumn**2023 summary.** Breeding; At least five territories. Under-recorded. Max 153 on 29 Sep (cf. 133 in Sep 2021), feeding on the mudflats. Other large counts also came from gatherings at low tide.**Carrion Crow – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J   | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S   | O   | N  | D  |
|-----------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Max.      | 30  | 41 | 8  | 25 | 15 | 6  | nc | nc | 153 | 114 | 42 | 64 |
| 2022 max. | 134 | 10 | 30 | 12 | 15 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 20  | 41  | 38 | 81 |

**HOODED CROW** *Corvus cornix***Status.** *Vagrant. Potential first record***2023 record.** The long awaited first Warren record flew NW through Greenland Lake on 3 Apr (SEd, CC). Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.**RAVEN** *Corvus corax***Status.** *Regular through year in small numbers***2023 summary.** Birds now regular around site, with a local breeding pair, again bringing fledged young onto site to feed.**Raven – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Max.      | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 2022 max. | 5 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 |

**COAL TIT** *Periparus ater britannicus***Status.** *Rare through year, scarce in autumn***2023 summary.** The first of the year was on 24 Jan, with presumably the same on 6 Feb and a new bird on 12 Mar. An early post breeding bird was present on 3-11 Jun. In autumn, singles on 8, 12 & 30 Oct, with two on 29<sup>th</sup>.**BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus***Status.** *Common breeding resident and occasional autumn migrant***2023 summary.** A slight decline in breeding pairs, leading to the decline in numbers. Max of 19 on 19 Mar (*cf.* 25 in Jul 22).**GREAT TIT** *Parus major***Status.** *Uncommon breeding resident***2023 summary.** A decline in breeding pairs, leading to a drop in numbers, with a max count of seven on 18 Nov.**SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis***Status.** *Uncommon breeding resident and common autumn migrant***2023 summary.** Breeding; 10 territories, all on Warren Point. Wintering birds remain stable. Autumn migration began with 15 over on 30 Sep. Max counts were all in Oct with 83 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 68 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 47 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 45 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 40 on 11 Nov. The only other double-fig count was 33 on 20 Oct.**Skylark – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J  | F  | M  | A | M | J  | J  | A | S  | O   | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|---|----|-----|----|----|
| Max.      | 20 | 16 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 6  | 6 | 23 | 83  | 40 | 16 |
| 2022 max. | 9  | 5  | 12 | 6 | 5 | 6  | nc | 8 | 14 | 106 | 70 | 20 |



Skylark © Elizabeth Mulgrew

**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

**Status.** *Uncommon in spring & autumn*

**First and last.** 21 Mar and 24 Sep.

**Spring.** The first, a single on 21 Mar, was the only record for the month, but an increase in spring records with 18 in Apr (*cf.* three in Apr 22), but a max of just four on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Only five May singles with the last on 4 Jun.

**Autumn.** First return one on 1 Jul, with just seven records in Jul, max six on 2 Jul, one in Aug (*cf.* five in both Jul & Aug 22) and four in Sep, the last two on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

**Status.** *Breeding summer resident, common, rarely abundant in spring & autumn*

**First and last.** 30 Mar and 11 Nov.

**Spring.** The first flew through on 30 Mar, a day later than last year. Another poor passage with a max 115 on 28 Apr (*cf.* 100 in May 22); and only three other counts >35; 53 on 13 May; 47 next day; & 41 on 30 Apr.

**Breeding.** One pr bred successfully on the Golf Course.

**Autumn.** Max 74 on 1 Oct (*cf.* 150 in Aug 22), just two other counts > 30; regular until 21 Oct, then singles on 28 Oct, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 11 Nov.

Swallow – Monthly maxima:

|           | J | F | M | A   | M   | J  | J  | A   | S  | O  | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|---|---|
| Max.      | - | - | 1 | 115 | 53  | 11 | 60 | 30  | 35 | 74 | 1 | - |
| 2022 max. | - | - | 1 | 52  | 100 | 12 | 78 | 150 | 70 | 11 | - | - |

**HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum*

**Status.** *Common in spring & summer, occasionally abundant in autumn*

**First and last.** 6 Apr and 14 Oct.

**Spring.** First two on 6 Apr, with a max of just 15 on 29 May (*cf.* 26 in May 22 & 200 in May 21), with no other double-fig counts.

**Autumn.** With no late influx this year, the max was 100 on 27 Aug, with **xx** other counts >20. Birds regular until 2 Oct with the last two on 14 Oct.

**House Martin – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M  | J | J | A   | S   | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|-----|-----|---|---|---|
| Max.      | - | - | - | 6 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 100 | 31  | 3 | - | - |
| 2022 max. | - | - | - | 4 | 26 | - | 1 | 55  | 700 | 1 | - | - |

**CETTI'S WARBLER** *Cettia cetti*

**Status.** *Previously vagrant, now rare in autumn/winter*

**2023 records.** At least one mobile and elusive bird was still present until 28 Jan, with it or another on 9 Mar. Recorded for the seventh successive autumn when one was at the Main Pond on 23 Oct remaining on site until 2024 but only recorded on six other dates.

**LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus*

**Status.** *Common breeding resident and occasional autumn migrant*

**2023 summary.** Breeding: Three prs bred successfully. The max count early year was 17 on 1 Jan with 20 on 29 Jul the post breeding peak. In autumn an influx saw 29 on 29 Oct and a site record 40 on 8 Nov.

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

**Status.** *Vagrant*

**2023 record.** Another long-awaited first for the Warren, found mid-morning on 26 Nov remaining until 28<sup>th</sup> (DLAF, IL *et al.*). It spent most of its time hidden in the Entrance Bushes, although did call and show occasionally to appreciative admirers.



Pallas's Warbler © Jim Summers



**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

**Status.** Common in spring & autumn, has bred

**First and last.** 28 Mar and 23 Sep.

**Spring.** The first was on 28 Mar, a day earlier than last year, then recorded almost daily until 6 May, with a max of nine on 22 Apr. Later records of singles on 21 & 30 May.

**Autumn.** First returning bird was one on 23 Jul, an improved passage with a max of 13 on 6 Aug (cf. three in Aug/Sep 22). The last of six in Sep was on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**NORTHERN WILLOW WARBLER** *P. t. acredula*

**Status.** Very rare migrant

**2023 record.** A bird considered to be this, larger and greyer, subspecies was present on 27 May (DLAF, IL).

**CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus c. collybita*

**Status.** Uncommon breeder and in winter, common in spring & autumn

**First winter.** Max three during Jan.

**Spring.** Max 14 on 15<sup>th</sup> & 22 Apr, 11 on 26 Mar (cf. 10 in Apr 22).

**Breeding.** At least 10 territories, a notable increase.

**Autumn.** Max nine on 22 Aug (cf. 13 in Aug 22) and 14 on 28 Sep (cf. 25 in Sep 22) with seven other double-fig counts (cf. 23 in 2022).

**Second winter.** Max 10 on 18 & 24 Nov, with five remaining into 2023.



Chiffchaff © Elizabeth Mulgrew

SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF *P. c. tristis*

**Status.** Scarce in autumn, rare in winter

**2023 records.** In autumn, one on 18 Nov, with another on 25-27 Nov.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

**Status.** Scarce in spring and autumn, has bred

**First and last.** 18 Apr and 10 Sep.

**Spring.** The first was on the same date as last year, on 18 Apr, with two on 27 Apr and singles on 29 Apr & 14 May.

**Autumn.** The first returning bird was on 23 Jul, with three on 30 Jul and singles on eight dates until 1 Sep before the last, on 16 Sep.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

**Status.** Uncommon migrant breeder and autumn migrant

**First and last.** 21 Apr and 9 Sep.

**Spring.** First two at the Main Pond on 21 Apr, two days earlier than 2022, max four on 20-21 May.

**Breeding.** At least five territories, with fledged yg throughout the bushes in Jul/Aug, making it difficult to identify migrants.

**Autumn.** In Sep, singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

**Status.** Scarce spring and rare autumn migrant

**2023 records.** In spring two brief reeling birds on 17 & 27 Apr, slightly before and after the typical date. In autumn a bird at the Main Pond on 9 Sep.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

**Status.** Uncommon migrant breeder, rarely common in spring & autumn, rare in winter

**First and last:** 30 Mar and 27 Nov

**Winter.** A male on 9 Jan was a rare winter record.

**Spring.** The first was in song on 30 Mar, max nine on 27 Apr (*cf.* six in Apr 22).

**Breeding.** Six territories, with family parties obvious in late Jul.

**Autumn.** Monthly maxima – Aug; eight on 6<sup>th</sup>; Sep; six on 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>; and Oct; seven on 1 Oct. November records were all single males, on 4<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 26 Nov.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

**Status.** Scarce spring & autumn migrant

**First and last.** 27 Apr and 2 Sep.

**2023 records.** After a blank 2022, two spring records, on 27 & 30 Apr. The first of the autumn was along the Back Path on 29 Jul, with twos on 30 Jul, 12-13, 19 & 31 Aug, one on 26 Aug and the last two on 2 Sep.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia c. curruca*

**Status.** Scarce spring & autumn migrant, has bred (last 2021)

**2023 records.** Two spring records on 6 May and 1 Jun, with a single autumn record on 26 Aug.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

**Status.** *Common breeding summer visitor and migrant*

**First and last.** 18 Apr and 2 Nov.

**Spring.** The first were three on 18 Apr, with numbers slow to build, max of eight on 28 Apr & 6 May.

**Breeding.** 17 territories (*cf.* 13 in 2021).

**Autumn.** The max count of 17 on 30 Jul probably included some local birds and Aug migrants are also difficult to separate from locals. There were eight Sep records, max six on 1<sup>st</sup> with one from 30 Sep – 12 Oct. A late bird in Buffer Zone on 2 Nov was the first record for the month.



Whitethroat © Dean Hall

**DARTFORD WARBLER** *Sylvia undata*

**Status.** *Previously scarce in autumn & winter, now rare*

**2023 records.** One of the wintering birds remained into 2023 and was recorded intermittently until 1 Mar. In autumn an immature male on 10 Aug was an early arrival, then recorded intermittently until 18 Dec.

**FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapilla*

**Status.** *Scarce in autumn & winter, scarce in spring*

**2023 records.** No first winter records with the first a spring migrant on 1 Mar, with a second on 11 Mar lingering until 31 Mar, when another individual was present. The first of the autumn was on 15 Oct with singles on 29 Oct and 12-13 Nov. Two present on 18 Nov moved between the Warren and the mainland until 5 Dec, with one again on 8<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.

**GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

**Status.** *Uncommon in winter & spring, occasionally common in autumn, has bred*

**2023 summary.** A max of three in Feb/Mar, including the last record on 26 Mar. Two early autumn birds on 12 & 26 Aug, the next autumn bird was on 25 Sep, rising to three on 28 Sep then regular during the rest of the year, with max counts of eight on 20 Oct and 12 Nov.



Goldcrest © Alan Keatley

**WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

**Status.** *Common breeding resident*

**2023 summary.** A TDC breeding census recorded seven territories down from 14 in 2021.

**TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

**Status.** *Rare in autumn & winter, occasionally non breeding resident.*

**2023 record.** One on 16 & 19 Oct with a tit flock by the Main Pond (IL) was the only record.

**STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

**Status.** *Abundant in late summer & autumn, occasionally in winter, scarce breeder*

**First winter.** Only low numbers with no roost present.

**Spring.** A notable vismig movement of 115 E on 19 Mar.

**Breeding.** Six territories around the Amusements and Clubhouse. Postbreeding flocks were earlier and more frequent showing an improved breeding season. Peaks included 80 on 22 May, 130 on 17 Jun and 120 on 16 Jul.

**Autumn.** Max 84 on 5 Nov (*cf.* 300 on 4 Nov 22) during vis mig.

**Second winter.** With no roost at the Main Pond only the birds around the amusements remained.

**Starling – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J   | F   | M   | A  | M  | J   | J   | A  | S  | O   | N    | D  |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|------|----|
| Max.      | 15  | 10  | 115 | 30 | 80 | 130 | 120 | 75 | 60 | 63  | 84   | 40 |
| 2022 max. | 800 | 700 | 767 | 35 | 29 | 20  | 80  | 42 | 50 | 120 | 1050 | 12 |

**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

**Status.** *Uncommon resident breeder and in autumn & winter*

**2023 summary.** Breeding: four prs. Autumn max just four on 25 Nov.

**MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*

**Status.** *Scarce in autumn, rare at other times, has bred*

**2023 records.** The first of the year was landed briefly atop Cuckoo's Nest, before heading N on 11 Oct. This was followed by singles on 20 Oct, 23 Nov, 1 & 8 Dec and two on 9 Dec.

**REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

**Status.** *Uncommon in autumn & winter, occ. abundant in hard weather, rare in spring*

**Last and first.** 12 Mar and 26 Oct.

**First winter.** Small numbers remained on site peaking at 12 on 28 Jan & 2 Feb. Regular until 2 Mar with one on 12 Mar the last.

**Autumn.** The first were four W at dawn on 26 Oct, with six on three dates in Nov apart from 40 on 23 Nov.

**Late winter.** Three in the bushes on 14-16 Dec.

**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

**Status.** *Common breeding resident and autumn migrant*

**2023 summary.** The TDC survey recorded 12 territories up from nine in 2021. No obvious migration peaks but long-winged continental birds apparent in late autumn.

**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*

**Status.** *Very scarce migrant, vagrant in spring*

**2023 records.** The fourth spring record was a smart male at Langstone Rock briefly early morning of 22 Apr before heading off inland (KRy). Two records in autumn, a male briefly along the Back Path on 14 Oct before heading W inland (IL) and one reported on 25 Oct.

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

**Status.** *Rare in autumn & winter, occ. abundant in hard weather, rare in spring*

**2023 record.** Just the one record (*cf.* nine in 2022), flew W high calling pre dawn on 11 Nov.

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

**Status.** Scarce spring & autumn migrant

**First and last.** 27 Apr May and 23 Sep.

**Spring.** Three records (*cf.* one in 2022), the first on 27 Apr with singles on 6 & 14 May.

**Autumn.** An early record on 7 Jul, followed by two on 31 Aug and singles on 10<sup>th</sup> and 20 Sep.

**ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

**Status.** Common breeding resident and autumn migrant

**2023 summary.** Breeding numbers stable. Birds often harassing visitors for their lunch around the Main Pond viewing platform.

**BLUETHROAT** *Luscinia s. svecica*

**Status.** Vagrant. Potential first record

**2023 record.** A male of the red-spotted subspecies was in scrub between the Main Pond and the Golf Course on 5 May. The long-awaited first record for the Warren, typically for this elusive species it was not seen again (SEd, CC). Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

**NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

**Status.** Very rare, now vagrant spring and autumn migrant.

**2023 record.** One briefly around the Skipper Meadow on 29 Sep was the first since 24 Aug 2008 (IL). Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

**PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

**Status.** Scarce to annual passage migrant

**2023 records.** Two autumn records, an immature in the Entrance Bushes on 6 Aug (LC, KRy *et al.*) and on 1 Oct (DLAF, IL).

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

**Status.** Rare spring & scarce autumn migrant, occasionally winters

**2023 records.** After six birds in 2022, the only record was one on 24 Nov, a typical date.

**REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

**Status.** Annual to infrequent passage migrant

**2023 records.** After a no show in 2022, two this year; a smart male in the Crocus Compound on 18 Apr and an early juvenile on the seawall on 13 Aug.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

**Status.** Scarce spring & autumn migrant

**First and last.** 21 Apr and 6 Aug.

**Spring.** Two records; a male on 21 Apr and two females on 30 Apr.

**Autumn.** The only record was an immature on Warren Point on 6 Aug.

**STONECHAT** *Saxicola rubicola*

**Status.** Scarce breeding resident and common autumn migrant

**2023 summary.** Breeding: five prs. A good series of autumn records peaking at 15 on 11 Oct.

**Ring recovery.** The breeding female in Greenland Lake had been ringed in the nest at Kingswear, nr Dartmouth in May 2022.

**Stonechat – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A  | M | J | J | A | S  | O  | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|
| Max.      | 2 | 5 | 5 | 6  | 5 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 15 | 7 | 7 |
| 2022 max. | 5 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 9  | 8  | 7 | 4 |

**WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

**Status.** *Common spring & autumn migrant*

**First and last.** 15 Mar and 10 Nov.

**Spring.** The first were six on site on 15 Mar (*cf.* 10 Mar 22), max seven on 27 Apr. Last bird on 30 May.

**Autumn.** First three on 30 Jul (*cf.* 7 Aug 22). Max just five on 23 Aug, 1 & 16 Sep (*cf.* 22 in Sep 22). In Oct, three on 3<sup>rd</sup>, two on 12<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, singles on 17<sup>th</sup>, 22-23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. The last were late birds on the beach on 5 & 10 Nov.

**Wheatear – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S  | O | N | D |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| Max.      | - | - | 6 | 7 | 3 | - | 3 | 5 | 5  | 3 | 1 | - |
| 2022 max. | - | - | 4 | 6 | 6 | - | - | 5 | 22 | 1 | 1 | - |



Wheatear © Dave Jewell

**GREENLAND WHEATEAR** *O.o.leucorhoa*

**Status.** *Scarce spring & autumn migrant, under-recorded*

**2023 records.** Two on 23 Apr with one on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

**Status.** *Common breeding resident*

**2023 summary.** Breeding: c20 territories. Max 70 on 8 Sep.

**House Sparrow – Monthly maxima:**

|           | J  | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S  | O   | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Max.      | 60 | nc | nc | 40 | nc | nc | 30 | 60 | 70 | 40  | 65 | 45 |
| 2022 max. | 70 | nc | 40 | nc | nc | nc | 40 | 65 | 60 | 145 | 45 | 40 |

**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*

**Status.** Common breeding resident

**2023 summary.** Breeding numbers slightly down with 13 territories on TDC reserve (cf. 16 in 2021).

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

**Status.** Rare spring and scarce autumn migrant

**First and last.** 2 Apr and 30 Sep.

**Spring.** The first flew over on 2 Apr (cf. 22 Apr 22) with five on 28 Apr, two on 15 Apr and further singles on 20 & 25 Apr.

**Autumn.** First was one over on 20 Aug (cf. 26 Aug 22), with singles on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30 Sep.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL – Number of Birds and days:**

|            | J | F | M | A  | M | J | J | A  | S | O | N | D |
|------------|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| Birds      | - | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | 1  | 3 | - | - | - |
| Days       | - | - | - | 5  | - | - | - | 1  | 3 | - | - | - |
| 2022 birds | - | - | - | 1  | 1 | 2 | - | 10 | 6 | - | - | - |

[GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL *M. f. thunbergi*]

**Status.** Vagrant – no previous records

**2023 record.** One overhead on 4 Jun was considered likely to be this subspecies, certainly not a *flavissima*.

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea*

**Status.** Common autumn migrant, scarce in winter, rare at other times

**2023 summary.** A resident bird during the early winter was last seen on 28 Feb, with no spring migrants noted. The first autumn bird was early overhead on 24 Jun, but then none until 1 Sep, with two the next day, singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> and two on 30<sup>th</sup>. From 10 Oct a single bird was seen regularly around the seawall and Entrance Bushes, with a second bird on 30 Dec.

**GREY WAGTAIL – Number of Birds & Days:**

|            | J  | F | M | A | M | J | J | A  | S  | O  | N  | D  |
|------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| Birds      | 1  | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | -  | 7  | 1  | 1  | 2  |
| Days       | 17 | 7 | - | - | - | 1 | - | -  | 5  | 15 | 13 | 12 |
| 2022 birds | -  | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 13 | 31 | 12 | 15 | -  |

**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

**Status.** Uncommon breeding resident, common, rarely abundant in autumn & winter

**2023 summary.** Breeding: One pair around the Boathouse. Max counts of autumn migrants, 32 on 14 Oct and 25 on 5 Oct.

**PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL – Monthly Maxima:**

|      | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A  | S  | O  | N  | D |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|
| Max. | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 19 | 32 | 11 | 4 |



|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |    |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| 2022 Max. | 4 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 35 | 6 | 16 |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|

**WHITE WAGTAIL** *M. a. alba*

**Status.** *Rare spring and scarce autumn migrant*

**Spring.** No records but a late migrant on 21 Jun.

**Autumn.** Three on 10 Sep and two on 30 Sep.

**MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*

**Status.** *Common in spring, occasionally abundant in autumn, has bred*

**Spring.** Max 25 on 16 Feb. Last bird on 16 Apr (*cf.* 18 Apr 22).

**Autumn.** First return early on 7 Aug, next on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Max 137 on 30 Sep (*cf.* 68 in Oct 22 & 117 in Oct 2021) with 70 on 28 Sep, 62 on 8 Oct & 51 on 5 Oct. No other counts >50 with just three counts >30; 50 on 14 Oct, 45 on 23 Sep, 36 on 3 Oct and 38 on 12 Oct.

**Winter.** A late passage max of 39 on 5 Nov.

**MEADOW PIPIT – Monthly Maxima:**

|           | J  | F  | M | A | M | J | J | A | S   | O  | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|----|----|----|
| Max.      | 10 | 25 | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | 1 | 137 | 62 | 39 | 13 |
| 2022 Max. | 15 | 2  | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 25  | 68 | 22 | 25 |



Meadow Pipit © Dave Jewell

**TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis***Status.** *Rare spring and scarce autumn migrant***2023 record.** Just one spring record, overhead on 13 Apr.**WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta***Status.** *Rare in winter and very rare in spring***2023 records.** Only one early year record on 26 Feb. The first autumn bird was in the saltmarsh 29 Oct – 5 Nov, with two around the Bight 19 Nov – 3 Dec, one until the 15<sup>th</sup>.**ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus***Status.** *Uncommon breeding resident***First winter.** Max four on several dates in Jan & Feb.**Breeding.** The usual pr at Langstone Rock, with birds also along the railway line at Cockwood during the summer.**Second winter.** Max 11 on 20 Nov (see below) and eight on 30 Oct.**SCANDINAVIAN ROCK PIPIT** *A. p. littoralis***Status.** *This subspecies can only be identified with certainty in breeding plumage or through ringing recoveries. Probably scarce in autumn and winter, rare in spring***2023 summary.** At least one bird was present early winter, seen moulting into breeding plumage on 22 Jan, with the last sighting on 9 Apr. Another autumn influx with at least seven probable birds present in November.**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs***Status.** *Common, rarely abundant in spring and autumn, scarce in winter, has bred***2023 summary.** A male holding territory was a welcome return. Despite the lack of autumn passage in 2022, 233 birds flew E on 19 Mar, with small numbers on other dates, the last five over on 14 May. With the exception of 264 on 5 Nov another poor autumn passage with only two other counts >20; 31 on 11 Nov & 23 on 7 Nov.**BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***Status.** *Scarce breeding resident and autumn migrant***2023 summary.** Three birds were present until 19 Feb, with one on 12 Mar and two on 16 Mar the only other first year records. The next record was one in the Entrance Bushes on 12 Oct then present into 2024 with a peak of four on 3 Dec. Three singles over on 13<sup>th</sup> & 22 Oct and 3 Nov.**GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris***Status.** *Uncommon breeding resident and common autumn migrant***2023 summary.** Breeding: Although a full Recording Area survey was not undertaken, numbers on the TDC reserve dropped to four territories from eight in 2021. In winter max 20 on 1 Jan, with autumn migrants peaking at 65 on 30 Oct (*cf.* 80 in Oct 22 & 90 in Nov 2021).**GREENFINCH – Monthly Maxima:**

|           | J  | F  | M | A | M | J | J  | A  | S  | O  | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Max.      | 20 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 4 | -  | -  | 14 | 65 | 31 | 20 |
| 2022 Max. | 12 | 8  | 4 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 12 | 80 | 50 | 30 |

**LINNET** *Linaria cannabina*

**Status.** Common breeding resident, often abundant late autumn & early winter

**2023 summary.** No full survey but despite a decline from 18 to 13 territories on the TDC reserve, the number of early juveniles indicated a good breeding season. The year's max were 189 on 5 Nov & 108 on vismig on 19 Mar, with no other counts >100. There were just three counts  $\geq 75$  (cf. six in 2022 & seven >100 in 2021).

LINNET – Monthly Maxima:

|           | J  | F  | M   | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S   | O  | N   | D  |
|-----------|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| Max.      | 40 | 40 | 108 | 85 | 26 | 10 | 85 | 29 | 77  | 90 | 189 | 27 |
| 2022 Max. | 62 | 30 | 25  | 57 | 30 | 16 | 35 | 90 | 110 | 90 | 75  | 40 |



**b**

Linnet © Alan Keatley

**LESSER REDPOLL** *Acanthis cabaret*

**Status.** Uncommon autumn migrant, scarce in winter and spring

**Spring.** No spring records

**Autumn.** The first birds were two over on 28 Sep, with one on 30<sup>th</sup>. In Oct records on eight dates mostly around the Entrance Bushes, max four on 12<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. In Nov overhead on three dates, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> max four on the last date, then one in the woods on 11<sup>th</sup> with two on 20<sup>th</sup>, the last of the year were two over 13 Dec.

**GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

**Status.** *Uncommon breeder; common, sometimes abundant in autumn & winter*

**2023 summary.** Breeding at least five territories. Max in the early winter 51 on 2 Feb with 11 over on the late date on 13 May. In autumn max 69 on 5 Nov (*cf.* 120 on Oct 22), with low numbers in second winter.

**GOLDFINCH – Monthly Maxima:**

|           | J  | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S   | O   | N  | D  |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Max.      | 34 | 51 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 8  | 6  | 60 | 45  | 50  | 69 | 49 |
| 2022 Max. | 41 | 30 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 20 | 85 | 100 | 120 | 74 | 80 |

**SISKIN** *Spinus spinus*

**Status.** *Common in autumn & winter, rare in spring*

**First winter.** Singles on 19<sup>th</sup> & 21 Jan and 6 Feb.

**Spring.** One over on 19 Mar with two on the unseasonal date of 20 May.

**Autumn.** The first was one overhead on 2 Sep, followed by six on 16<sup>th</sup> and a peak of nine on 28<sup>th</sup>. In Oct, 71 recorded on 20 dates, max 11 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. In Nov, 41 on 10 dates, max 11 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Second winter.** Two Dec records, 10 on 3<sup>rd</sup> and four on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Siskin – Monthly Maxima:**

|           | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O  | N  | D  |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Max.      | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 9 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| 2022 Max. | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 33 | 9  | -  |

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

**Status.** *Previously common, now a very scarce autumn migrant and winter visitor.*

**2023 record.** One flew low SW calling on 11 Nov (IL).

**CIRL BUNTING** *Emberiza cirrus*

**Status.** *Previously rare, now an uncommon breeding resident*

**2023 summary.** Breeding; at least eight territories, a continuing increase, aided by winter feeding on the Golf Course. The first fledged birds were noted on 28 May. The max count in the first winter period was 21 on 15 Jan & 23 Feb, was a new site record, followed by a new record in the second winter, 24 on 16 Dec.



Cirl Bunting © Alan Keatley

**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

**Status.** *Scarce breeding resident and common autumn migrant*

**2023 summary.** One pair bred. Max autumn passage five on 11 Nov.