



Cape Clear Bird Observatory

Annual Report 2020/21



Woodchat Shrike

Prepared by Steve Wing

REPORT NUMBER 29

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**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
Department of Housing,
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All photographs in this Report were taken by Steve Wing unless stated otherwise.

Introduction

This is the 29th Annual Report for BirdWatch Ireland's Cape Clear Bird Observatory for the years 2020 and 2021. Founded in 1959, the Bird Observatory is located on Cape Clear Island, situated eight miles off the coast of West Cork.

Cape Clear is one of the best places to watch seabird migration in Europe, especially during the late summer months. Spring and autumn bring large numbers of birds moving to and from their breeding grounds, amongst which there are usually one or two strays from North America and Siberia.

The BirdWatch Ireland Bird Observatory on Cape Clear is visited annually by dozens of birdwatchers, ringers and general wildlife enthusiasts. This long tradition of bird and biodiversity recording on the island makes the Bird Observatory a beacon for environmental research, education and monitoring in Ireland.

The last two years have been somewhat of a trial for all of us and the Bird Observatory was no exception. The government restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19 have had a significant impact on the day-to-day activities of the Bird Observatory. As the following sections explain, recording and ringing was severely impacted for much of 2020 and only possible for the latter part of 2021. What follows here is a brief summary of what was possible.

Surveying and Monitoring

Daily Log

2020

The Covid-19 restrictions meant that much of the island wasn't systematically surveyed for much of the year, resulting in a very much reduced species list. The lack of visiting birders also had a huge impact on sightings in the main migration periods, especially in the main October weeks. As a result, only obvious movements or drops in numbers were noted and the 'Daily Log' was very sparsely populated.

2021

The Covid-19 restrictions remained in place during 2021, continuing to impact on recording effort, particularly for the first half of the year. Thankfully, as the season progressed, restrictions eased and more of the island was systematically covered, reflected in the higher number of bird species recorded. The lifting of travel limits also allowed the birders to return to the island and the September and October sighting reflect this. It was also hugely welcome to see the returning familiar faces and their joy at being back on Cape was very evident.

Seawatching

2020

With the Covid-19 restrictions, no access was allowed to the seawatching points, so any records are from pelagic trips.

2021

The 'lock-down' during the summer months restricted seawatching activity, but the removal of travel limits meant that visits to headlands could recommence in the autumn, augmented by a few pelagic trips as well. Some incredible daily totals for Sooty Shearwaters were the highlight of the year, with a flock of 160 seen passing the island on 6th October!

Bird Ringing

2020

Only 7 of the 12 CES visits were possible because of the Covid-19 restrictions, the details of which follow later. This resulted in very low ringing totals.

2021

Thankfully, this season all 12 CES visits were completed, and the results are detailed below. The main ringing areas of Cotter's Garden and the Nordy Wood were also operated more frequently. The annual totals are detailed below.

Moth Trapping

Very limited trapping at the Obs was carried out in either year and we are awaiting the data from visiting Moth Trappers. The two-year totals will be included in next year's report.

Wildlife Report 2020/21

BIRDS

As the bird surveys for the two years covered in this report (2020 and 2022) were affected by the Covid-19 restrictions, limiting coverage, this report is presented in a slightly different format than previous years. The species lists for each year shows presence and provides additional information where there were any obvious increases – or decreases – in number. Also, for the rarer species, more details of location, age, length of stay, etc are provided.

Bird List 2020

Canada Goose sp.	1 was present on the lake on June 12 th .
Pink-footed Goose	Cape's first record of this species was on October 9 th , staying for two days at the lake.
Common Shelduck	2 were present at the Lake, on and off between April 6 th and May 8 th .
Mallard	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Eurasian Teal	6 were on the lake on January 11 th , 5 on March 19 th and 21 st and then up to 7 until April 2 nd .
Common Pheasant	Present all year.
Wilson's Storm Petrel	A single on July 20 th , 2 on August 15 th and a single on September 18 th .



Wilson's Storm Petrel

European Storm Petrel	300 were seen on a pelagic August 15 th along with 2 Great Shearwaters and 2 Sooty Shearwaters.
Northern Fulmar	Present all year.
Cory's Shearwater	3 were seen from the same pelagic and 6 were recorded on August 24 th .
Sooty Shearwater	20 were reported on August 21 st and 160 on September 23 rd .
Great Shearwater	20 of the 23 recorded were from a pelagic on September 18 th .
Manx Shearwater	Seen daily during the summer months but no counts taken.
Little Grebe	Present, with a high count of 18 in August.
Grey Heron	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Little Egret	1 in South Harbour on June 20 th , 1 was at the lake on September 10 th .
Northern Gannet	Seen daily but no counts taken.
European Shag	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Great Cormorant	Seen regularly but not counted.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Hen Harrier	A single record on March 27 th .
Common Buzzard	1 on March 19 th and then frequently throughout the year. High count of 13 on September 18 th .
Water Rail	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Oystercatcher	Seen daily but no counts taken.
European Golden Plover	Singles on March 23 rd and August 3 rd .
Common Ringed Plover	A single bird was heard calling over North Harbour on September 16 th .
Eurasian Dotterel	A single bird at Firbreaga on September 20 th .
Whimbrel	One on April 22 nd and 26 th , 2 on May 2 nd and 2 on August 3 rd .
Eurasian Curlew	Singles on March 20 th and 23 rd .
Ruddy Turnstone	2 on January 16 th , presumed present all year.
Dunlin	A single record in South Harbour on August 29 th .
Common Snipe	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Common Sandpiper	Singles on June 13 th , July 17 th , July 27 th and August 11 th .

Black-legged Kittiwake	Present but not counted.
Black-headed Gull	A single bird was present in South Harbour on August 29 th .
Little Gull	2 on September 18 th .
Great Black-backed Gull	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Iceland Gull	A single bird on October 11 th .
European Herring Gull	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Great Skua	Only recorded on three days with 10 birds involved.
Pomarine Skua	A single bird on September 24 th .
Arctic Skua	A single bird on August 24 th .
Common Guillemot	Present in similar numbers to previous years. Breeding in small numbers.
Razorbill	Present in similar numbers to previous years. Breeding in small numbers.
Black Guillemot	Present in similar numbers to previous years. Breeding in small numbers.
Atlantic Puffin	Seen offshore from pelagic trips.



Atlantic Puffins

Rock Dove	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Common Woodpigeon	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.

European Turtle Dove	Singles on May 7 th , September 25 th and October 2 nd .
Eurasian Collared Dove	A single bird on several dates between April 9 th and June 19 th was joined by 2 others on May 25 th .
Common Cuckoo	Singles on April 21 st and 28 th , May 14 th and May 31 st .
Common Swift	2 on May 8 th .
Eurasian Wryneck	A single bird was present from September 15 th to 17 th and another on September 26 th .
Common Kestrel	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Peregrine Falcon	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Red-backed Shrike	Singles on September 20 th and 27 th and October 3 rd .
Woodchat Shrike	1 was present near Olly Gully on 7 th May.
Eurasian Magpie	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Red-billed Chough	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Western Jackdaw	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Hooded Crow	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Northern Raven	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Coal Tit	A single record of 6 on September 24 th , 2 on October 8 th and 1 up to November 8 th .
Eurasian Blue Tit	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Great Tit	Seen daily but no counts taken.



Eurasian Skylark

Eurasian Skylark	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily. Breeding.
Sand Martin	First record was on April 17 th with a high count then of 40 on May 7 th .
Barn Swallow	1 on April 7 th , 50+ on April 19 th with a high count then of 100+ on May 8 th .
Common House Martin	First recorded on April 19 th with 50+ a high count then of 151 on May 8 th .
Red-rumped Swallow	1 was seen flying behind the Observatory on April 9 th .
Yellow-browed Warbler	1 on September 26 th , 1 on October 9 th and 5 on October 11 th .
Willow Warbler	First recorded on March 20 th with a high count of 8 on April 6 th .
Common Chiffchaff	First recorded on March 20 th and then a high count of 31 on March 23 rd .
Sedge Warbler	First record of 4 on April 21 st . Similar breeding population to previous years.
Eurasian Reed Warbler	1 on May 7 th and September 17 th , 2 on September 18 th , 3 on September 21 st and 1 on September 28 th .
Eurasian Blackcap	2 on March 21 st were the first records. Bred again in small numbers.



Garden Warbler

Garden Warbler	A single bird was present on May 7 th and 8 th .
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Lesser Whitethroat	Singles on April 30 th , May 7 th , September 15 th and September 21 st .
Common Whitethroat	First recorded on April 25 th and had, what appeared to be a very successful breeding season.
Goldcrest	First recorded on March 20 th and present thereafter.
Eurasian Wren	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Common Starling	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Common Blackbird	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Redwing	5 on March 19 th and 4 on the 23 rd .
Coburni' Redwing	3 were present at the end of the Low Road on March 19 th with 5 there on April 8 th and 3 again the following day.
Song Thrush	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Spotted Flycatcher	First seen on May 6 th with a high spring count of 5 on May 7 th . The high autumn count was 8 on September 20 th .
European Robin	Seen daily but no counts taken.
European Pied Flycatcher	A singles on August 20 th , 1 on September 17 th and 18 th and another single on September 26 th .
Black Redstart	1 on October 23 rd .



Black Redstart

Common Redstart	A single bird on September 17 th and 18 th .
Whinchat	A single record on September 20 th .
European Stonechat	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Northern Wheatear	First recorded on March 19 th , then on March 25 th with 5 birds. Then present daily and breeding in good numbers.
House Sparrow	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Dunnock	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Western Yellow Wagtail	Single record on October 2 nd .
Grey Wagtail	A little flurry between September 10 th and 15 th with a high count of 10 birds.



Pied Wagtail

Pied Wagtail	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Meadow Pipit	Seen daily but no counts taken.

Eurasian Rock Pipit	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Common Chaffinch	2 on March 9 th and then present in small numbers throughout the year.
Brambling	1 in North Harbour on November 8 th .
European Greenfinch	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Common Linnet	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Crossbill	10 were present on September 21 st and a single on the 27 th .
European Goldfinch	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Eurasian Siskin	Present in small numbers in the autumn.
Lapland Bunting	A single bird was present on Bullaun on September 20 th .
Common Reed Bunting	Present and breeding but not recorded daily.



Common Reed Bunting

Bird List 2021

Barnacle Goose	A flock of 8 were seen flying over Ballyieragh on October 2 nd .
Mute Swan	A single bird on May 8 th .
Common Shelduck	Singles were seen on 4 dates in late March with 2 seen on March 24 th .



Gadwall

Gadwall	The first records since 2005 were a long staying pair at the lake from August 28 ^h until September 27 th .
Mallard	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Eurasian Teal	Seen on the lake regularly throughout the year with a high count of 10.
Common Scoter	Singles passing on August 5 th and 15 th , with 2 passing on August 16 th and October 16 th .
Common Pheasant	Seen throughout the year but not counted.
Red-throated Diver	1 was present on April 28 th and another on October 13 th .
Great Northern Diver	Singles were present on April 28 th , October 11 th , 16 th and 22 nd and 2 on October 20 th .
Wilson's Storm Petrel	All six records were from pelagics, 2 on August 10 th and 4 on August 22 nd .
Albatross sp	Presumed Black-browed Albatross passed the island on July 3 rd .
European Storm Petrel	Seen throughout the summer in small numbers and usually from pelagic trips.
Northern Fulmer	Seen daily but not counted.
Cory's Shearwater	A low annual count of 37 were recorded, mainly from land but a few from pelagics.
Sooty Shearwater	Seen regularly throughout the summer months in small numbers. An amazing day on October 6 th saw 1749 pass in an hour!

Great Shearwater	Only 68 were recorded, mainly in small numbers late August with 6 the high count but a spectacular seawatch on October 6 th saw 52 pass the island.
Manx Shearwater	Seen throughout the summer, sometimes in their 1000's.
Balearic Shearwater	Two records, the first on August 22 nd and another September 16 th .
Little Grebe	Present, with a high count of 18 on August 24 th .
Grey Heron	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Northern Gannet	Seen daily but no counts taken.
European Shag	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Great Cormorant	Seen regularly but not counted.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Hen Harrier	Singles were recorded on October 9 th , 12 th and 21 st . A 'ring-tail' Harrier was seen over the lake on September 21 st .
Black Kite	Cape's first record was seen flying along the ridge above the lake on August 24 th .
White-tailed Eagle	An individual from Lough Derg, Co Tipperary, was seen on September 28 th and then on October 9 th and 10 th – only the 2 nd Cape record!
Common Buzzard	Seen regularly throughout the year with a peak passage count of 13 on October 15 th .
Water Rail	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Common Moorhen	Two records of single birds, both in August, on the 14 th and 28 th .
Eurasian Oystercatcher	Seen daily but no counts taken.
European Golden Plover	26 were recorded, all in October, with singles on 10 th and 17 th , 4 on 16 th and a flock of 20 on the 15 th .
Common Ringed Plover	2 were recorded on August 15 th and a flock of 9 passed the island on August 30 th .
Whimbrel	7 birds were seen, with 2 on June 30 th the first record and the last on September 1 st .
Eurasian Curlew	The only spring record was a single on March 8 th . Seven singles were recorded on seven dates in late August and early September, with 2 singles in October.
Ruddy Turnstone	A total of 35 bird days were recorded.
Dunlin	A singleton on August 13 th at the lake.



Dunlin

Common Snipe	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Common Sandpiper	Singles were seen on seven days between late July and early August and 2 were recorded on August 8 th .
Common Redshank	One flying over the lake on September 17 th .
Black-legged Kittiwake	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
Sabines Gull	A single record on August 22 nd from a pelagic trip.
Black-headed Gull	182 bird days – all in early October.
Mediterranean Gull	The first record was a single on September 14 th , followed by up to 4 between October 11 th and the 26 th .
Common Gull	93 were recorded, all in October with a high count of 80 on the 20 th .
Great Black-backed Gull	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Herring Gull	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Sandwich Tern	12 were seen on August 17 th , 4 on September 1 st , 2 on the 4 th and another 2 on October 20 th .
Great Skua	50 birds were recorded, a mixture of pelagic and land based reports.



Great Skua

Pomarine Skua	2 were seen passing Blannan on October 6 th , the only records of the year.
Arctic Skua	Singles on September 11 th and 12 th and October 3 rd , with 3 on September 16 th and October 16 th .
Long-tailed Skua	Four records: 1 on September 16 th , 1 on October 7 th and 2 the following day.
Common Guillemot	Present in similar numbers to previous years. Breeding in small numbers.
Razorbill	Present in similar numbers to previous years. Breeding in small numbers.
Black Guillemot	Present in similar numbers to previous years. Breeding in small numbers.
Atlantic Puffin	Seen mainly from pelagic trips but a good seawatch on October 26 th produced 55 passing Blannan.
Rock Dove	Seen daily but no counts taken
Stock Dove	Singletons on September 10 th , October 11 th and 15 th .
Common Wood Pigeon	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.
European Turtle Dove	Singles on September 26 th , October 18 th and 19 th .
Eurasian Collared Dove	1 was present on April 26 th then 2 were on the island from June 23 rd to the 30 th . The latest record was a single bird on September 1 st .
Western Barn Owl	A single record on September 13 th .
Long-eared Owl	A single record from the Mass Track on October 10 th .
Short-eared Owl	A single bird was flushed from near the lake on October 16 th .
Common Swift	Seen irregularly through the summer months.

Eurasian Hoopoe

A single bird was present from April 15th to 23rd, moving from the Lighthouse Road to the Waist.



Eurasian Hoopoe

Eurasian Wryneck

One was seen in Olly Gully on September 4th and 5th, with possibly a different bird near there on the 10th. A single was also present on October 17th moving between the Secret Valley and Paddy Timsey's.

Common Kestrel

Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.

Merlin

Singles were reported on 8 days in October with 3 on October 13th.

Peregrine Falcon

Present throughout the year but not recorded daily.

Eurasian Golden Oriole

A female was seen briefly along the Low Road on May 8th.

Eurasian Magpie

Seen daily but no counts taken.

Red-billed Chough

Seen daily but no counts taken.

Western Jackdaw

Seen daily but no counts taken.

Rook

38 bird days between October 10th and 16th, with 25 being seen on the 11th.

Hooded Crow

Seen daily but no counts taken.

Northern Raven

Seen daily but no counts taken.

Coal Tit	A single bird was visiting feeders between May 1 st and 8 th , the only spring record. Up to 3 were present between October 6 th and 22 nd .
Eurasian Blue Tit	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Great Tit	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Eurasian Skylark	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily. Breeding.
Sand Martin	First recorded on April 22 nd , then not until August 26 th when 50+ were seen over the lake. Latest record was of 2 on October 16 th .
Barn Swallow	1 on April 7 th , 50+ on April 19 th with a high count then of 100+ on May 8 th
Common House Martin	First recorded on April 19 th with 50+ a high count then of 151 on May 8 th .
Yellow-browed Warbler	A very poor year for this species. A single bird in the Mass Track woods on October stayed for two days and the only other record was at the duck pond on the Lighthouse Road on October 9 th .



Radde's Warbler © Tom Shevlin

Radde's Warbler	One was found at Paddy Timsey's on October 9 th and seen briefly the following day at the former 'Alder Wood'.
Willow Warbler	Seen throughout the recording period with a high count of 76 on April 2 nd .

Common Chiffchaff	Frequent throughout the year. A high count of 60+ on October 11 th .
Siberian Chiffchaff	A single record on October 14 th .
Greenish Warbler	Seen in Cotters Garden on September 5 th .
Sedge Warbler	First reported on April 26 th and then seen regularly throughout the summer.
Eurasian Reed Warbler	The first record of the year was on August 27 th in East Bog and another single on the 30 th . There were 5 on September 16 th , 4 on 17 th and a French ringed bird in East Bog on September 21 st .



Icterine Warbler

Icterine Warbler	The sole record for the year was found just above the school, moving down to the Priests garden on September 17 th .
Common Grasshopper Warbler	2 were recorded on August 4 th in East Bog.

Eurasian Blackcap	First record was on April 14 th and was seen or heard regularly all summer. Bred in small numbers. Autumn numbers peaked at 50+ on October 11 th .
Garden Warbler	A singleton on June 23 rd was followed by one's and two's in September and October, a total of 17 bird days.
Barred Warbler	A single record was seen along the Low Road briefly on October 17 th .
Lesser Whitethroat	All 9 records fell between October 9 th and 23 rd – 7 singles and 2 on 15 th .
Common Whitethroat	Also first recorded on April 26 th and was seen throughout the rest of the summer.



Dartford Warbler

Dartford Warbler	A first winter male was found in Olly Gully on October 21 st .
Common Firecrest	A single record on October 13 th
Goldcrest	Seen throughout the year and bred in small numbers. A high passage count of 119 on October 11 th .
Eurasian Wren	Seen daily but not counted.



Rosy Starling

Rosy Starling	A single adult was seen in a garden near the Fish Farm on June 10 th and 11 th .
Common Starling	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Common Blackbird	Seen daily but no counts taken
Redwing	A total of 41 bird days between October 12 th and 26 th .
Song Thrush	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily
Mistle Thrush	3 were present on October 12 th and a single on the 21 st .
Spotted Flycatcher	105 bird days, mainly in September with a daily high of 12 birds.
European Robin	Seen daily but no counts taken.
European Pied Flycatcher	The first record was on August 15 th and then the remainder of the 28 records fell between August 28 th and September 19 th . The daily high count was 4 birds.
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1 was present on October 9 th in Cotters and a second bird that day was at the Mass Track, remaining until the 12 th . Another was found on the Lighthouse Road on 18 th , staying for 2 days. The last record was in the Mass Track woods on 22 nd .
Black Redstart	A single was seen on May 28 th , the only spring record. Then up to 3 were recorded between October 9 th and 25 th .
Common Redstart	2 were present on October 9 th and then 1 on the 12 th and 13 th .



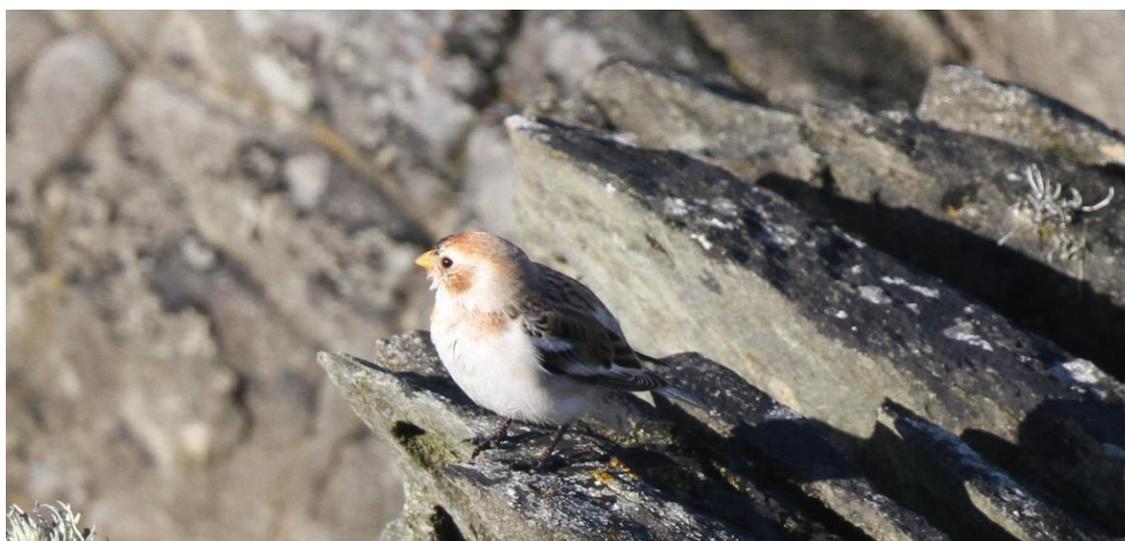
Common Redstart

Whinchat	Singles on September 5 th , 10 th , October 12 th and 14 th . 4 were present on September 15 th with 2 the following day.
European Stonechat	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Northern Wheatear	First recorded on March 19 th , then on March 25 th with 5 birds. Then present daily and breeding in good numbers.
House Sparrow	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	A single bird was at feeders in North Harbour on April 29 th and 30 th .



Dunnock

Dunnock	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Western Yellow Wagtail	4 on September 7 th , singles on September 21 st and October 9 th , then 8 on October 20 th .
Grey Wagtail	Seen regularly during the autumn period.
Pied Wagtail	Seen daily but no counts taken.
White Wagtail	14 bird days, all in mid October.
Meadow Pipit	Seen daily but no counts taken
Tree Pipit	Singles on September 15 th , October 9 th , 11 th and 13 th .
Rock Pipit	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Common Chaffinch	The autumn migration peaked with 47 birds on October 14 th .
Brambling	A single at the lake on October 24 th was joined by a second bird the following day.
Common Rosefinch	One juvenile seen briefly at Michael Vincent's on October 10 th .
European Greenfinch	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily. Fewer than previous years.
Common Linnet	Seen daily but no counts taken.
Common Redpoll	2 were trapped during the CES sessions and 20 further records, all in October, with a high count of 5 on the 18 th .
European Goldfinch	Present throughout the year but not recorded daily, increasing in numbers.
Eurasian Siskin	Present in small numbers in the autumn with an estimated count of 150+ on October 18 th .



Snow Bunting

Snow Bunting	A single bird was present at the very tip of the bill from October 12 th to 16 th and was joined by a second bird on the 16 th .
Common Reed Bunting	Present and breeding but not recorded daily.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	A First winter female was found in fields along the Low Road on October 7 th , staying until the 9 th .



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Bird Ringing

2020

As mentioned in the Introduction, the general ringing activity and the CES were badly affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. No new species were added to the list but reasonable totals were reached. The CES figures are included in these totals and are discussed in further detail later in the report.

Table 1: Annual Ringing Totals for 2020

Species	New Birds	Retraps/Controls	Total
Blackbird	18	3	21
Blackcap	34	1	35
Blue Tit	52	35	87
Chaffinch	7	2	9
Chiffchaff	30	4	34
Coal Tit	16	1	17
Dunnock	25	9	34
Goldcrest	24	4	28
Goldfinch	36	6	42
Grasshopper Warbler	2	0	2
Great Tit	82	15	97
Greenfinch	24	5	29
Grey Wagtail	1	0	1
Herring Gull	5	0	5
House Sparrow	2	1	3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	69	59	128
Lesser Redpoll	3	1	4
Linnet	2	0	2
Long-tailed Tit	21	6	27
Meadow Pipit	3	0	3
Pied/White Wagtail	1	0	1
Redwing	1	0	1
Redwing (iliacus)	4	0	4
Reed Bunting	4	0	4
Reed Warbler	5	1	6
Robin	42	18	60
Rock Dove	0	1	1
Sedge Warbler	37	27	64
Song Thrush	6	3	9
Stonechat	24	0	24
Swallow	4	0	4
Whitethroat	9	0	9
Willow Warbler	18	0	18
Wren	36	15	51
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	0	1
Total	648	217	865

2021

The ability to complete the CES is shown in the much higher numbers of Sedge Warblers ringed and retrapped. There was also a French ringed Reed Warbler caught in the CES nets but after the season had ended.

Table 2: Annual Ringing Totals for 2021

Species	New Birds	Retraps/Controls	TOTAL
Blackbird	30	18	48
Blackcap	44	1	45
Blue Tit	31	39	70
Chaffinch	2	0	2
Chiffchaff	26	0	26
Dunnock	44	11	55
Garden Warbler	4	0	4
Goldcrest	20	6	26
Goldfinch	15	5	20
Grasshopper Warbler	2	0	2
Great Tit	17	13	30
Greenfinch	22	1	23
House Martin	2	0	2
House Sparrow	14	1	15
Lesser Black-backed Gull	245	46	291
Lesser Redpoll	1	1	2
Linnet	6	0	6
Meadow Pipit	7	1	8
Pied Flycatcher	3	1	4
Pied/White Wagtail	4	0	4
Reed Bunting	4	4	8
Reed Warbler	6	2	8
Robin	51	32	83
Rock Dove	13	1	14
Sedge Warbler	82	53	135
Siskin	2	0	2
Snipe	1	0	1
Song Thrush	14	3	17
Sparrowhawk	1	0	1
Spotted Flycatcher	1	0	1
Stonechat	21	1	22
Swallow	9	0	9
Whitethroat	23	2	25
Willow Warbler	46	6	52
Wren	47	22	69
Total	860	270	1130

MAMMALS AND REPTILES

2020

Few records were taken but there were very few highlights. Minke Whales were seen regularly, as were Atlantic Grey Seals and Common Dolphins. Otters made an occasional appearance but were by no means common. Rabbits appeared to be making a comeback!

2021

As with last year, there were few highlights. Minke Whale, Grey Seal, Otter, Common Lizard and Bats were all recorded in normal numbers throughout the year but, as noted last year, Rabbits had an incredible surge in numbers. The biggest highlight for me was finding an adult Otter sitting under one of the mist nets in the Nordy Wood – not sure who was more surprised!

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

2020

A full set of species were seen, although no counts were taken. We are awaiting the full list of moths trapped and will publish them in a future Report.

2021

As with last year, little actual counting was done but good numbers of Clouded Yellow in October cheered up some of the quiet birding days. Like last year, we are awaiting the full list of moths trapped and will publish them in a future Report. The mothing highlight of the year was the trapping of Irelands first Radford's Flame Shoulder on October 16th.

CES REPORT

The results for the two years differed significantly, due to the limited access arising from Covid-19 restrictions and weather conditions. The 2020 season was hit hard by Covid-19 restrictions with the first 3 and the last 2 sessions cancelled. However, there were some good numbers of birds trapped and breeding seems to have been successful in both years. The numbers for adults and juveniles for each species caught are displayed below.

Table 3: CES Totals for 2020 and 2021

Species	2020			2021		
	Adult	Juvenile	Total	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Blackbird	1	2	3	3	6	9
Blackcap		2	2		1	1
Blue Tit	3	8	11	2	7	9
Chiffchaff				2		2
Dunnock	1	6	7	2	6	8
Goldfinch	2		2	2	2	4
Grasshopper Warbler		2	2		2	2
Great Tit	1		1	3	6	9
Greenfinch	1		1			
House Sparrow					1	1
Lesser Redpoll	3	1	4	1		1
Linnet				2	1	3
Meadow Pipit	1		1	2		2
Reed Bunting	2	2	4	4	3	7
Reed Warbler					1	1
Robin		16	16	1	18	19
Sedge Warbler	39	23	62	57	60	117
Common Snipe				1		1
Song Thrush		3	3		8	8
Sparrowhawk					1	1
Stonechat	1	23	24	2	19	21
Swallow	3	1	4		1	1
Whitethroat	3	5	8	7	5	12
Willow Warbler	1	3	4		5	5
Wren	6	16	22	10	23	33
TOTAL	68	113	181	101	176	277

*Note only 7 of a possible 12 CES visits were completed in 2020 (due to Covid-19 restrictions), compared to 12 visits completed in 2021.

The table below shows the captures by visit in both years, highlighting the difference missing 5 of the 12 visits made for some species and no difference at all for others!

Table 4: CES Visit Totals for 2020 and 2021

	2020							Total	2021												Total
	Wk								Wk												
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Blackbird			2	1			3	1	1		1	1			3	1	1		9		
Blackcap			1	1			2									1			1		
Blue Tit	1	9		1			11	1			4			2	1		1		9		
Chiffchaff								2											2		
Dunnock			2	2		1	2	7			1	1	2	2		1	1		8		
Goldfinch	2						2			1	1			2					4		
Grasshopper Warbler				2			2									2			2		
Great Tit	1						1	1				1			3	3		1	9		
Greenfinch		1					1														
House Sparrow													1						1		
Lesser Redpoll						2	2	4					1						1		
Linnet											1	1			1				3		
Meadow Pipit	1						1										1	1	2		
Reed Bunting				1	1	1	1	4		1		1	1	1	2	1			7		
Reed Warbler																		1	1		
Robin	2	3	2	1	3	2	3	16	1	1	4	3	1		1	4	3	1	19		
Sedge Warbler	10	11	6	16	9	3	7	62	4	5	6	6	4	11	15	28	14	10	10	4	117
Snipe																1			1		
Song Thrush					1	1	1	3							1	3	3	1	8		
Sparrowhawk																		1	1		
Stonechat	10	3	3	1	1	3	3	24			4		7	6	1	1	1	1	21		
Swallow	1			1	1	1		4					1						1		
Whitethroat	2	1		3	1		1	8	4	1	1				4			1	1	12	
Willow Warbler			1	1	2			4					1	1	1	1	1		5		
Wren	2	1	3	5	5	6		22	2		1	1	1	2	9	6	4	2	3	2	33
Total	32	29	20	33	27	20	20	181	9	12	11	18	17	26	38	45	31	33	23	14	277

*Note only 7 of a possible 12 CES visits were completed in 2020 (due to Covid-19 restrictions), compared to 12 visits completed in 2021.

The final table shows us how numbers of adult birds caught have changed over the last 5 years. The reed bed breeders, Reed Bunting and Sedge Warbler, show a fairly constant level – allowing for the missed visits in 2020. Sadly, most of the others seem to be on the decline.

Table 5: CES Totals 2017,2019, 2020 & 2021.

Species	2017	2019	2020	2021
Blackbird	6	10	1	3
Blue Tit		3	3	2
Chiffchaff		2		2
Dunnock	6	6	1	2
Goldfinch			2	2
Grasshopper Warbler	2			
Great Tit		2	1	2
Greenfinch			1	
Lesser Redpoll	4		2	1
Linnet	4			2
Meadow Pipit	1		1	1
Reed Bunting	3	1	2	3
Robin	5	2		1
Sedge Warbler	42	34	23	34
Snipe	1			1
Song Thrush	3	5		
Stonechat	1	2	1	2
Swallow	4	3	3	
Whitethroat	3	11	3	7
Willow Warbler	3	2	1	
Wren	5	5	5	7

*Note only 7 of a possible 12 CES visits were completed in 2020 (due to Covid-19 restrictions), compared to 12 visits completed in 2021.

SEABIRD BREEDING SURVEY

METHOD

The surveys are carried out from a small boat, skippered by a local Cape man, enabling access in close to the cliffs. This provides the opportunity to count the Apparently Occupied Nest sites (AON) for each species. It is a wonderful way to spend a morning in late spring! There are generally two observers, although this year it was carried out by the CCBO Wildlife Officer, Steve Wing and a recorder, so counts are fairly accurate. In one or two places around the coast, boat access just isn't possible so a land-based visit is carried out later and those counts are added to the totals.

Table 6: Breeding Seabird Survey Total 1963 - 2021

Species	1963	1967	1983	1986	2019	2021
Fulmar	120	126	448	350	601	475
Shag	139	89	67	66	118	108
Herring Gull	662	606	568	172	71	43
Lesser Black-backed Gull	36	49	45	103	144	240
Great Black-backed Gull	83	97	119	76	66	57
Razorbill (individuals)	522	364	149	n/c	27	28
Guillemot (individuals)	282	50	63	n/c	71	46
Black Guillemot	44	16	n/c	n/c	33	31
Oystercatcher	11	11	12	n/c	10	9

The table above shows the continued marked decline of Herring Gulls, Common Guillemot and Razorbill at the expense of Northern Fulmar and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Great Black-backed Gull are dropping slowly but steadily while number of breeding Oystercatcher, Shag and Black Guillemot seem to relatively stable.