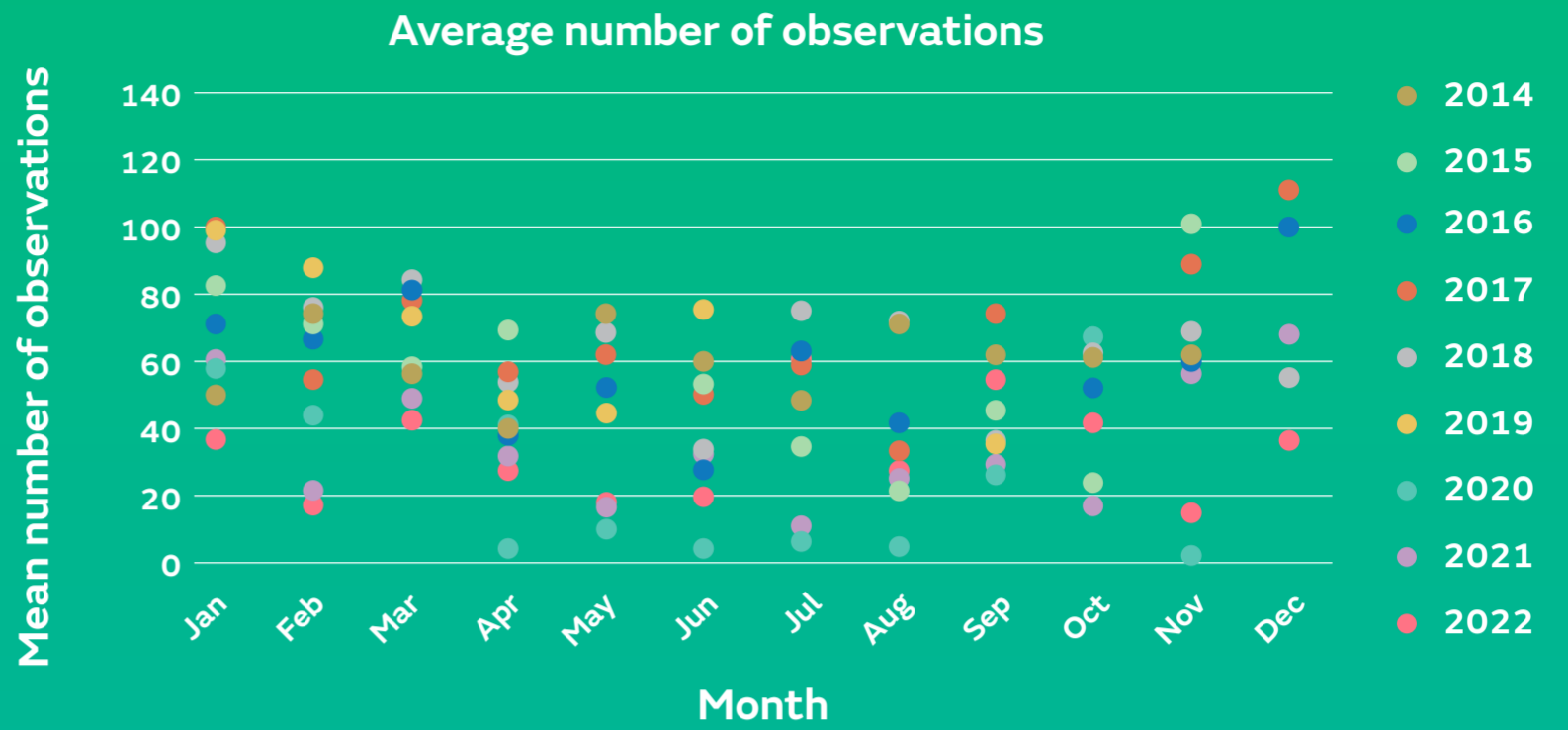


Birds at the Met Office

General trends

Volunteers from the Met Office began monitoring bird species on site in mid-2013. 256 transects around the building have been conducted over the past eleven years, and we can now see how the number of birds our habitats support varies month-by-month.

To the right is the average number of birds counted on a survey each month, and despite the totals being quite variable, the mean trend line shows a decrease from winter through to summer, followed by an increase in sightings in autumn.



Indicator species

The Met Office also supports several 'Birds of Conservation Concern' based on conservation criteria - historical decline, trends in population and range, rarity, localised distribution and international importance.

Red list

Swift

Variable number of sightings averaging 10 per annum over the period 2014 – 2020, peaking at 34 in 2017.



House Martin

Repeat visitors, averaging 49.5 per annum over the period 2014- 2023, peaking at 94 in 2017.



Herring Gull

High numbers consistently sighted (This is also a National BAP species).



Greenfinch

Repeat visitors, averaging 32.4 per annum over the period 2014- 2023, peaking at 52 in 2014.



Other red list species are Fieldfare, Linnet, Starling and House Sparrow, the latter three are also National BAP species.

Amber list

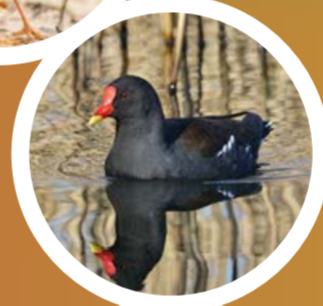
Redwing

Variable number of sightings with a record of 120 in 2023.



Moorhen

Moorhen has seen a decline over the survey years but did well in 2023 with 77 recorded.



Woodpigeon

Variable number of sightings averaging 164.7 per annum over the period 2014 – 2023 peaking at 241 in 2016.



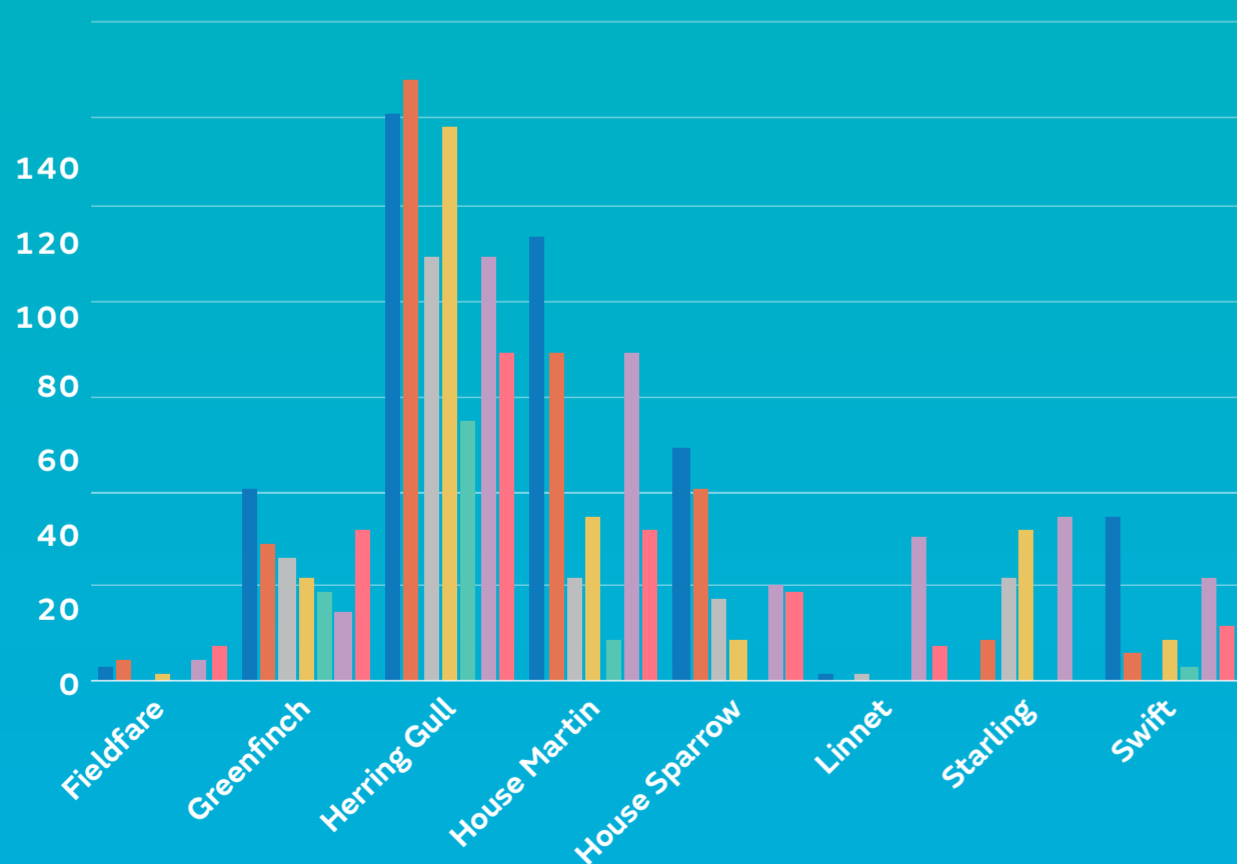
Wren

Variable number of sightings with a record of 37 sighted in 2015.

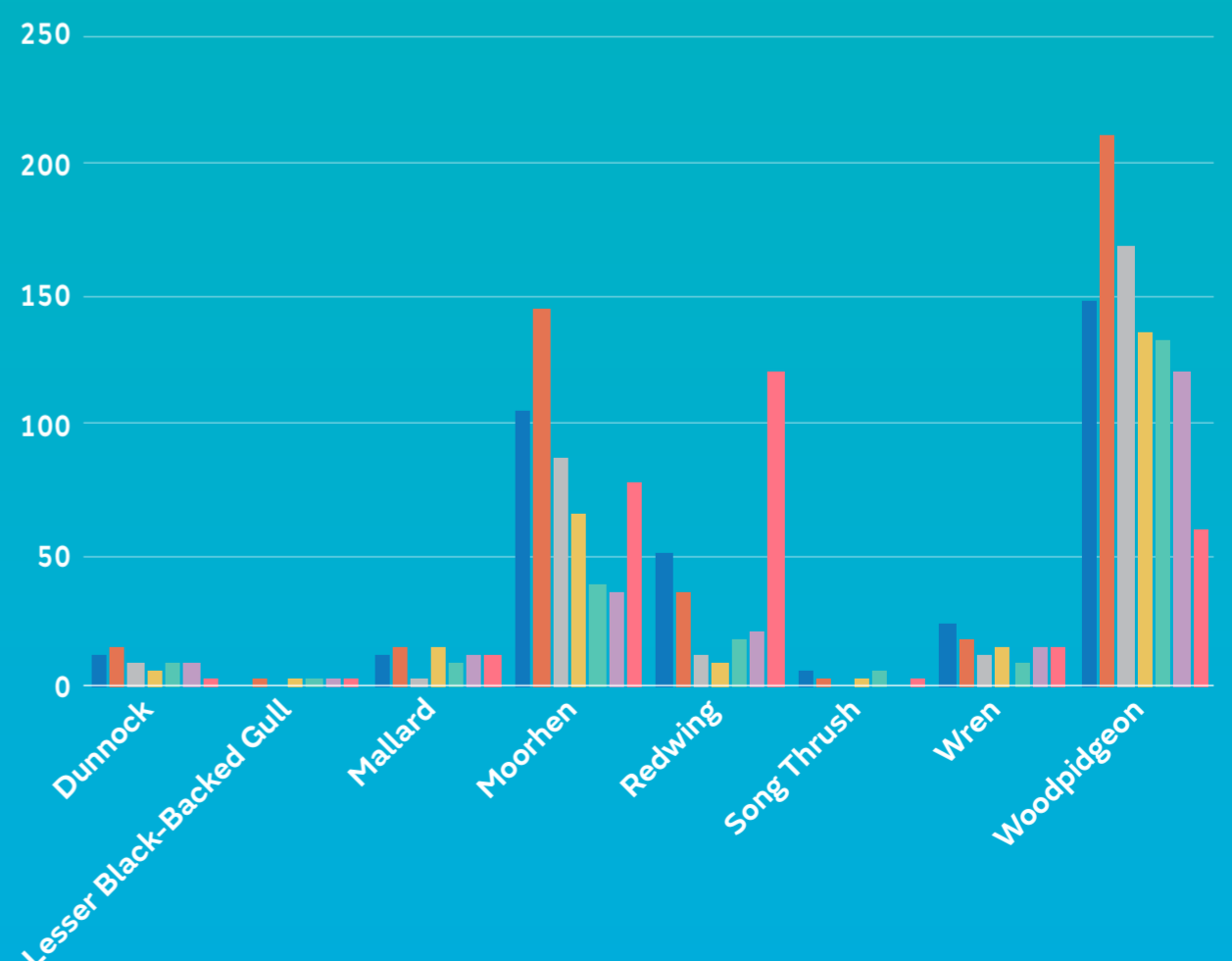


Other amber list species include Reed Bunting, Dunnock, Mallard, Song Thrush, Lesser Black Backed Gull and Meadow Pipit

Total number of red list bird sightings across 7 years



Total number of amber list bird sightings across 7 years



References

Stanbury, A.J., Eaton, M.A., Aebischer, N.J., Balmer, D., Brown, A.F., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D.G. & Win, I (2021) Birds of Conservation Concern 5: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. British Birds 114, 723–747. Available online at: britishbirds.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/BoCC5.pdf