

Skomer Island Systematic List 2012

Sarah Harris Assistant Warden 2011-12.

The season started on the 1st March and ended on the 24th November. 155 species were recorded in the 2012 season.

Bird-days (b-days); the total number of sightings recorded within a given time period. Not taking into account the same birds seen on consecutive days.

Data on the seabirds breeding season has been compiled from the Skomer Seabird Report 2012.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Four Pink-footed Geese visited the island daily from the 28th October - 5th November before settling down on Marloes Mere and spending the winter in the area.

Previous records consist of one on the 25th April 1991, one between the 1st – 5th October 2007 and four on the 1st March 2010.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Present all season, 18 pairs bred. First eggs seen on the 7th April, a clutch of five and the first goslings recorded on the 1st May. Large numbers of young seen on the island suggest they had a very good breeding season. Numbers increased in the autumn, September being the busiest month. Monthly peak counts shown below.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Peak count	55	41	40	76	67	30	340	21	89

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*

One flew north on the 27th September and five flew south offshore on the 7th October. All were pale-bellied birds, the first recorded since 2006.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

First seen on the 23rd March, counts typically ranged from one - four with peak counts of nine on the 15th April, 10 on the 6th and 11 on the 7th May. Numbers reached six in June and in July there were just two records. Two pairs were around for much of the breeding season, just one pair seen with ducklings on the 24th May, at North Pond. By the 3rd June the number of ducklings had fallen from six to five, and then reduced again, to four by the 6th. Three were seen on the 27th June and two on the 1st July. This was the last sighting of the ducklings and it is believed the breeding attempt failed. There were no sightings in August, followed by single birds on the 3rd September and 22nd October.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas Penelope*

First seen from the 4th March, up to six visited on nine days through the month. Absent from the 28th March - 30th September. First autumn record on the 1st October, followed by up to three on five days through the month, none were seen in November.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

One seen with a flock of Common Scoter on the 5th October in St Brides Bay during a boat trip. Between 1999 and 2004 Gadwall bred on Skomer, but not since. This is the first record since 2006!

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Present most days throughout the season and possibly attempted to nest. Monthly b-day totals show the increased numbers in spring and autumn, with a peak count of 53 on 21st November

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	182	48	10	1	11	33	197	518	578

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Present all season, increasing in frequency through March - April, decreasing through the summer. Looking at the dates nests were found and ducklings seen, seven pairs of Mallard nested. First ducklings were seen on the 14th April. An additional pair at South Pond were in constant attendance throughout the breeding season but no sign of breeding was found. From August onwards frequency increased once more until the seasons end. Peak count for the year was 63 on 16th November.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A pair was on Moory Mere on 10th May.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Present most of the season; b-days shown in the table below. A family of nine ducklings were seen on North Pond on the 24th May, none seen after this date, suggesting they were unsuccessful. A second pair was seen on Moory Mere throughout May, sometimes together but the male was also seen alone, quietly calling, possibly to a female on a nest. This seems to indicate a second pair attempted to breed on Skomer but failed. The peak count for the season was 12 on the 13th October.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	40	118	84	5	2	3	12	86	9

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

A first-winter male was present from 8th-16th November, usually on North Pond but it also visited Green Pond before moving to Marloes Mere where it spent the winter. This is the second record for Skomer, the first being on 1st and 2nd May 2000, also on North Pond.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Two males seen on North Pond on the 29th May were the only records of the season.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

First seen on the 22nd June when ten flew past North Haven, followed by an uncounted flock past on the 23rd June. Common Scoter were recorded on six days in July with a peak count of 80 on the 5th. August saw five on the 25th and six on 31st. All became busy again in September with up to 20 passing on six days through the month. Up to 30 recorded on three days in October followed by three on the 16th November.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

A pair flew south over North Haven as we waited to leave the island on the 24th November, the last day of the season. This was the fourth Skomer record, the last being on 17th October 2004.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Present and bred. Numbers unknown but the maximum count of the season was 17. However, 14 were counted on the 20th March in South Valley alone so counts are thought to be a vast underestimate. Chicks were seen from the 6th May.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

A lone bird flew over The Neck on the 5th November followed by a second record in South Haven on 6th November.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Present on cliffs on our arrival to the island. Mating first seen on the 18th April, the first egg on the 20th May and the first chick on the 13th July, there was a mean total of 453 Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS). A decline in the population has been observed in recent years but there has been an increase in productivity. The number of birds at cliffs dropped through August and regular sightings came to an end on the 20th September. The first returning birds were seen on cliffs on the 31st October and sporadic visits continued through November.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

First record of the year was on the 11th March heard in North Haven. Five were heard on the 14th March and by the 16th April 1000's were recorded rafting in St Brides Bay in the late afternoon. First chick found in a study burrow on the 17th June and 3000 recorded in the bay on the 15th August. There is a long-term increase in the breeding population on Skomer, however, productivity was low, probably due to the wet weather and lack of food at hatching time resulting in underweight chicks. Mid-September saw the departure of the breeding birds. From the 12th September most birds were reported passing at sea, however, a chick was heard calling from its burrow on the 1st October. On the 16th October two were seen passing at sea and birds were heard calling at North Haven until the 12th November.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Single Balearic Shearwaters were seen offshore on 18th June, 8th July, 25th and 27th August and 16th October. This is the highest annual total for several years.

European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Storm Petrels were first looked for in North Haven on 8th May and not seen, but on 13th May 2-6 were visiting the colony. Small numbers of birds were seen throughout the summer whenever colonies were visited but no breeding census was carried out in 2012. The last record of the year was a near-fledged chick in a burrow on 6th September but none were seen when the North Haven colony was last checked on 14th September.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Recorded offshore most days. Highest count was 110 on the 18th June. Sightings declined during October and the last record was one on the 29th October.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Birds present at nest sites from start of season. A flock of 19 on the 14th March was the only notable flock for spring; all other records from March through the summer derive from local birds. There were four Apparently Occupied Nests (AON) on the Mew Stone. Six juveniles fledged from these nests. Numbers plummeted through September and October with just 11 b-days. Only record for November was one bird on the 15th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Small numbers of Shags were seen throughout the season, with five AONs along the north coast.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Recorded in seven months. B-days for each month shown in table below.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	1	0	1	3	3	0	8	3	1

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Singles noted on the 9th July and 6th and 27th September, all on North Pond. These are the first Little Grebe records since 2009.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

This has been the best season in history for Red Kites on Skomer; singles on the 1st March and 25th May, two on the 18th May and 7th October and finally singles on the 19th and 21st October. They have been visiting the island more frequently in recent years. See table below.

Year	1995	2004	2008	2010	2011	2012
Records	1	1	3	2	5	8

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

The first of the season was a female on the 13th May at South Stream. Then from the 28th August - 7th September a juvenile female bird visited the island on six dates.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Singles recorded on 13 days through March followed by an absence from the 27th March - 3rd September. Lone birds were sighted on the 4th and 5th September, 16th and 29th October and on the 3rd, 16th and 17th November.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

One on the 2nd May was the first of the season and only spring record. August saw the first of the autumn visitors with one on the 11th. Up to two birds were then seen on 12 days through the rest of the month, on 18 days in September and 12 days in October, followed by one on the 11th November.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Present all year with numbers increasing in the autumn when large flocks were observed circling above the island. Peak counts were in October and November; 16 on the 1st, 20 on the 8th and 15 on the 12th October then 15 on the 11th November. Three nests found, two found close together (Bull Hole and The Table) and had eggs 22 days apart from one another but both were successful, fledging four chicks in total. The third nest, on South Plateau, is thought to have failed during storms. A further three territories were plotted but it is uncertain if breeding attempts were even made at these sites.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

No breeding attempt noted. Numbers low during the spring and summer, increasing in the autumn. Singles seen on three days in March, three days in April on the 20th May, 11th June and 27th July. Two were observed on the 28th July followed by up to seven most days during August - November.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Spring records started on the 2nd March, increased in April and one was seen on the 5th May. An absence followed until the 22nd September. Thereafter one – two birds were seen until the seasons end. B-days illustrated below.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	3	14	1	0	0	0	1	14	1

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Up to six recorded daily through the season, with the exception of eight on the 8th September. Three pairs bred, with two nests fledging at least one chick each along the North Coast and in South Haven. The first fledgling seen on the 28th June. The outcome of the pair on the Neck is unknown. Lastly,

there was a possible fourth pair which spent most of the season along the west coast and may have attempted to breed there.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

First record of the season was on the 9th March. Sightings frequent through until the 27th April. The peak count was three on the 11th April. Autumn records started on the 21st August and observations continued, almost daily, until the seasons end. October was the busiest month and maximum counts were made in October and November; 13 on the 5th, 15 on the 19th and 12 on the 29th October and 12 on the 7th November.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Present throughout the season. Pairs counted early on in the breeding season, and then the individual families used to confirm the counts. Being double brooded it was important not to count the same pair twice, 12 pairs bred. Nest building seen from the 18th April and the first chicks from the 4th May.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Between 1996 and 2000 Coots occasionally bred on Skomer, since then they have just visited sporadically. This season singles were recorded on the 16th April, 9th July and 31st August, all were seen on North Pond.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Present all year. Maximum spring roost counts included 150 at High Cliff (3rd March), 127 at High Cliff and The Amos (23rd March) and 80 at High Cliff (27th March). Roost counts declined by the end of April and breeding pairs formed. Seventy-four pairs were plotted fairly evenly over Skomer. Judging from the high numbers of chicks reaching independence it is thought this was a good breeding season for them. There is the possibility some pairs nesting at the base of cliffs were not found, making 74 pairs a minimum count. Autumn roost counts were not as large; 40 at High Cliff (14th September) and 32 at High Cliff (3rd November).

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

There were no spring records and only two autumn records; singles on the 28th and 29th September.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

This species last attempted to breed in 2000 and is now a rare visitor to Skomer. This season, singles were recorded on the 11th April, 21st July, 12th September, 10th, 25th, 28th and 19th October as well as four on the 24th October. November records included six on the 6th and nine on the 15th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

There was just one spring record on the 12th May. Autumn records consisted of singles on the 8th September, 7th October, 4th and 14th November and six on the 13th September.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

The first of the season was on the 18th April. Visits were sporadic through April and May. Numbers dropped in June, July and August. Numbers increased again through September followed by just one record on the 21st October and singles on the 6th and 7th November. B-days for each month are shown below. The peak count for the season was a flock of 11 on the 16th September.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	0	36	33	3	9	3	20	1	2

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Records almost daily through March and April, decreasing to the breeding pairs through May and June, low numbers, up to four, through July with the exception of 15 on the 10th. Figures reached up to five on 16 days through August. The frequency of sightings decreased in September, with records of up to five on six days and 17 on the 2nd. Present on eight days in October with peak counts of 20 on the 29th and 17 on the 30th. In November up to 24 recorded on 13 days. Four pairs nested, one failed early on due to the wet weather. Two other pairs successfully raised at least one chick each and the outcome from the fourth pair is unknown. Curlews displayed from early March and the first chicks were reported on the 21st May.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Singles on the 10th and 25th July at West Pond and North Pond respectively. A third record of Black-tailed Godwit was seen at Moory Mere in early autumn. The exact date was not logged.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Four flew north past Skomer Head on the 11th May, followed by a first year bird on the 6th June which provided fantastic views in Calves Park.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Up to eight seen through March - 25th May, decreasing in frequency through these months. An absence followed until the 21st August, from this date until the seasons end birds were seen every few days, with a peak count of 13 on the 4th October.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

One was recorded flying over the west side of the island on the 21st October. This is the first recorded on Skomer since 1999 and only the 7th island record.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

First record was a single on the 14th March, followed by 19 b-days in May, five b-days in August and two on the 13th September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Eight at Castle Bay on the 14th October was the only record for the season.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Up to eight seen on 16 days through March, absent through April to June, one to three seen on 11 days in July, followed by two on the 10th and singles on the 23rd and 30th August and finally, one on the 3rd September.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Two on the 19th August at Moory Mere.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

After an absence last year, this year produced singles on the 15th July and 10th August, both on North Pond.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Three flushed from South Pond on the 8th October, followed by four flushed between South Pond and Moory Mere on the 15th November. Only on two other years have four or more Jack Snipe been seen on the same day, both of these were in March.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

There were no spring records of Woodcock. Autumn records include singles on the 23rd, 24th and 17th October followed by singles on the 6th and 8th and two on the 5th, 11th and 15th November.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Spring passage started on the 5th March and ended on the 22nd April, with a peak count of four on 15th April. Autumn passage recorded from the 31st August until the 21st November; the autumn peak count was 30 on the 15th November.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	6	9	0	0	0	1	10	50	62

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

One flew north offshore on 11th May. This is the 15th record for the island.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

One flew past North Haven on the 11th September.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

One on the 12th April was observed eating a Lesser Black-backed Gull and another single was recorded on the 23rd June at Bull Hole.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Thirty-four on the 10th March were the first record of the season and reached 1877 on the 15th and 2300 on the 19th March. The whole island counts were successfully completed in 2012. Numbers were lower than in 2010, but, overall, remain fairly high with a breeding population of 11497 INDs. Study plots reveal it was a successful breeding season for the species. By the end of July and during August most records came from the sea rather than on the land and the last sighting was on the 11th August.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

An adult was seen in Jack Sound on 5th July. Interestingly a bird was seen in exactly the same place in autumn 2011. This is the 11th record for Skomer.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

As with the Guillemots, Razorbills were first seen on the cliffs on the 8th March. A mean total of 4971 INDs recorded breeding. This species is difficult to record due to the nature and wide dispersal of their nest sites. The first chick was seen leaving the island on the 26th June. Numbers dropped from the end of July with just 10 b-days in August. Records remained low and rare until the seasons end.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Recorded through spring, birds on the cliffs by the 8th March and the first egg seen on the 23rd April. A total of 22508 Individuals (INDs) recorded breeding on the island. The study plots show Skomers population to be increasing. Birds started to leave the cliffs from mid-July, in August and September only recorded on 12 days. On the 29th October 1300 birds were seen on the cliffs at Bull Hole. From this date onwards birds visited the cliffs sporadically but in low numbers.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Noted in three days; two on the 20th June, six on the 30th August and two on the 14th September.

'Commic' Tern (Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* / Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*)

Either two Common or Arctic Terns past Skomer Head during a seawatch on the 12th September.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Present on the cliffs from the start of the season with nest building from the 7th May, first egg on the 20th May and first chick on the 13th June. A mean of 1549 AONs were counted this season, a 13% decline compared with 2011. Many birds never made nests in 2012 but were still present during the breeding season so the number of actual pairs has not actually declined that much. Birds left the cliffs in August but occasional flocks were seen offshore for the rest of the season, during rough weather, with peak counts of 300 on the 29th October and 120 on the 18th November.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Records include singles on the 26th March, 6th May and 7th July, two on the 8th September, 60 on the 8th October, 20 on the 16th October, five on the 19th October, two on the 20th October and three on the 21st October. In November there were nine on the 1st, one on 9th, five on the 15th, 1000 on 17th and 1500 on the 18th.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

This was a good year for this species on Skomer, on an average year there is just one or two records, but this year saw 20 feeding in Broad Sound with a flock of 60 Black-headed Gulls on 8th October followed by 15 on the 17th and 20 on the 18th November, also with flocks of Black-headed Gulls.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

One seen with the Mediterranean and Black-headed Gulls feeding in Broad Sound on the 8th October. In November Common Gulls were seen on two occasions, again in a mixed flock of gulls; 30 on the 17th and 15 on the 18th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Present from our arrival on the 1st March and the first bird was seen incubating on 26th April. A mean of 8643 Apparently Occupied Territories (AOT) were counted, this is a decrease of 15.89% since 2011. There has been a steady decline in the Skomer population for some years. A count of 500 at South Park was made on the 18th August then from September onwards numbers dropped and sightings became rare through October and November.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Present all season. A total of 491 AONs found, the majority were coastal. Numbers decreased in the autumn.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Present all season, a total of 96 AONs recorded, a slight increase from 2011 count but still within the average range of the last ten years. Contrary to the national trend which shows a decline in the population, the Skomer figures appear stable. First egg was seen on the 16th April and, as with all the gulls, numbers dropped in the autumn with occasional flocks forming roosts in rough weather.

Feral Pigeon

The first record was a recently killed bird on the 2nd May, followed by up to two birds on five days during late May, then a maximum of four on 17 days in June and July, six on the 5th August, up to four on three days in September and one on the 22nd October.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

The only records were in November; two on the 5th and singles on the 6th and 15th.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

The maximum spring count was 11 on the 22nd March. Few nests were found but there were six territories held on Skomer this season. Some pairs were evidently double brooded. Autumn passage was witnessed on five days in November, figures displayed in the table below.

Date	5 th	6 th	10 th	11 th	15 th
Count	1740	3100	80	1650	600

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Records consist of one on the 22nd March, one - two on 11 days in May as well as a flock of 13 on the 26th May, singles on the 21st and 30th June, two on the 1st and one on the 15th July and lastly, one on the 17th September.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Singles from the 18th - 21st, 25th and 26th May, one on the 25th June and the only autumn record, one on 23rd August. Compared to recent years, this now has to be, sad to say, considered a good year.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Sightings consist of singles on the 23rd, 25th, 26th and 30th April followed by the 7th and 18th May.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Only spring record was two birds seen at dusk east of the farm on the 3rd March. Singles then seen on the 4th September and 7th October. However, fresh pellets and feathers found in the second half of September suggests birds were present on the island but just not seen.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Seen from the 2nd April. One pair definitely bred west of the farm, delivering food to the nest on the 15th May and raised three out of four chicks to fledging. The chicks could be observed around the nest site from the 8th June. Pellets from the nest show that Storm Petrels contributed to their diet. A second pair was often seen near Abyssinia and west pond and an adult bird was found in what appeared to be an unused nest site. Whether they actually attempted to breed is unknown. Records decreased through the autumn, being seen on just six days in October and not at all in November.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Seen throughout the season. One pair attempted to breed in North Valley, with wing clapping from the 11th April and mating was seen on the 8th May. Sadly this pair failed, probably due to the weather. A second pair tried to breed in South Valley but they didn't spend enough time in the area to suggest they were successful. The North Valley pair then gave the impression of trying again, but without success. In the autumn roost counts included five on 22nd October and nine on 21st November.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

One seen around the farm complex on the 5th and 7th of May. There have been 12 previous records on Skomer and this is the first record since 2005.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

First record was two on the 28th April followed by three on the 30th April. Swifts were recorded on 15 days throughout May with a peak count of 14 on the 12th. Up to four seen on four days in June, with the addition of 25 on the 21st June. July had up to 12 on seven dates through the month and the last records of the season were singles on the 11th, 19th and 23rd August.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Single seen on 11 days from the 8th September - 6th October. It is impossible to know for sure, but it is believed this was just one individual which went missing now and then.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Single records on the 1st, 5th, 7th and 13th October.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Peak counts include 18 on the 3rd and 21 on the 5th March, 20 on the 17th, 24 on the 24th and 19 on the 25th May, 27 on the 1st and 16 on the 18th June, all went quite through July and August, followed by a peak of 16 on the 19th September, thereafter numbers dropped again until the seasons end. Based on the locations birds were seen throughout the season and their territorial behaviour, between four - five pairs attempted to breed on Skomer. However, no evidence of any success was seen. Family parties were seen on Skomer but could have come over from the mainland.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Magpie territories and nests were found in 13 locations on Skomer. Predictably, they favoured the Bramble and bushes in which to nest. Due to the breeding population on Skomer the only counts of particular interests through the season include 18 roosting in North Valley on the 24th May, 25 on the 26th September and 30 on the 29th September.

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Just seven Jackdaw nest sites were located. No attempt was made to survey breeding numbers in 2012 due to the difficulties of surveying the species. There is a specific method for surveying Jackdaws on Skomer and it was carried out every five years. This is now a task that is overdue. Peak counts of 50 or over are summarised in the table below. Nesting in burrows and cliff crevices means a tailor-made study method would need to be adopted in order to find out how many Jackdaws really nest on Skomer. Observations suggest North Haven, The Basin, Waybench and Bull Hole are the favoured areas. Peak counts of 50 or over are summarised in the table below.

Date	6 th May	7 th May	11 th Aug	14 th Oct	15 th Oct	19 th Oct	20 th Oct	21 st Oct	22 nd Oct	4 th Nov
Count	50	50	80	300	120	300	450	2000	1500	300

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Autumn records only, first being seen on the 9th September. There were six b-days in September, 60 b-days in October and 7 b-days in November. The peak count being 20 on the 6th October.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Present throughout the season, no notable counts were made, the peak count for the season being 20 on the 4th November. Eight Crow nests were located on Skomer. It is possible some nests around the cliffs could have been missed due to their inaccessibility.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

One reported on the 2nd June by a day visitor. This is the first record since 2005.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

The 17th April saw the first Raven chicks fledging at the Amos. Nests at the Amos and Mew Stone both raised four chicks to fledging. The North Coast pair was seen with one youngster, Amy's reach pair were not seen with eggs or chicks and the possibility of a fifth pair at Pigstone Bay lacked solid

evidence - there is a chance it was the Amos pair flying round to the west coast. The first big count of the autumn was 40 on the 25th August, thereafter numbers reached 30+ on seven days through August - September. Peak counts include 60 on the 12th, 87 on the 14th and 95 on the 24th September. Numbers settled back to pre-September figures through October - November.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Seen throughout March in low numbers, a maximum count of 12 on the 15th. Singles then seen on the 18th and 16th April and a single from the 17th - 19th May. Two on the 31st August were the first for the autumn. Numbers built through September with 25 by the 27th. October peaked at 30 on the 13th. Numbers decreased thereafter with six being the maximum record in November.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Sightings include singles on the 21st and 29th September, 5th, 8th, 10th and 11th October, along with two on the 9th October.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

B-days shown below. Peak counts, both in October, include eight on the 7th and five on the 12th.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	37	1	1	0	1	7	20	50	21

Great Tit *Parus major*

First sighting was one on the 8th August followed by up to three on seven days between the 7th - 22nd October.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Three on the 7th October were the only records for the season.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Birds were present and singing on our arrival to the island. Eight pairs held territories this year. Multiple broods were attempted in similar locations to their first. How well they did this year is unknown, but the inclement weather and lack of fledglings seen might suggest it was not their best year. The highest counts of autumn passage include 70 on the 7th and 14th, 150 on the 15th, 130 on the 20th, 165 on the 22nd, 80 on the 25th, 150 on the 29th October and in November, 100 on the 10th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Present from 15th March, seen sporadically through March - May, sightings dropped through June, were absent in July, one was seen on the 31st August and autumn migration was poor with 14 b-days over four days. Last recorded on the 22nd September. B-days illustrated below and maximum counts included 15 on the 11th April, 40 on the 12th and 20 on the 16th May.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	7	55	108	8	0	1	14	0	0

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

First seen on the 25th March but it wasn't until the 5th May that they started to explore the buildings around the farm and start singing. Maximum passage counts were 30 on two days in May. In Mid-July the first young were seen. Seven pairs bred this season, six of these were at the farm, the other at the lower Lime Kiln at North Haven. Autumn passage was observed from the 3rd September - 21st October and peak counts are shown below. A late, lone bird was then seen on the 11th November.

Date	3 rd Sep	21 st Sep	22 nd Sep	27 th Sep	6 th Oct	7 th Oct	13 th Oct	14 th Oct
Count	100	300	1500	1200	800	400	250	400

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Records began on the 7th April, were daily through May and on just four days in June. Autumn passage started on the 20th August. In September there were sightings on seven days and in October on five days. The last record was on the 19th October.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	0	17	122	9	0	4	123	93	0
Peak counts	0	3	17	6	0	4	50	50	0

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

No spring records. Autumn records include five on the 20th and seven on the 21st October, followed by three on the 4th and 18th, one on the 5th and nine on the 15th November.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

For the first time since 1996 a Greenish Warbler was found on island at North Valley Crossing on the 8th September, then, presumably the same bird, was seen in the same place four days later, on 12th. This is the 3rd record of this species on Skomer.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

A good year, with singles on the 7th, 14th and 24th October and two on the 23rd October.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

First record on the 3rd March, spring peak counts included 11 on the 15th, 15 on the 26th, 27th and 28th March, 16 on the 2nd April. Numbers declined through the second half of April. One pair is thought to have nested in North Valley and possibly had a second brood a little further up at North Valley Crossing later in the season. A second pair bred by the farm buildings. Birds were singing in these areas throughout the breeding season. Autumn passage was noted from mid-September although counts never exceeded 10 through September or October and did not exceed three through November.

'Siberian' Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

On the 23rd and 24th October a Siberian Chiffchaff was observed, first at Moory Mere and then near North Pond.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

First for the spring was four on the 24th March, by the 27th numbers had increased to 22. This was followed by 28 on the 2nd, 20 on the 13th and 114 on the 20th, 80 on the 24th and 35 on the 26th April. Numbers reached 20 in the first few days of May but then declined in both counts and frequency through the month. June only had two on the 6th. July had 14 b-days which were between the 24th - 28th. Autumn passage started in August with notable counts of 34 on the 10th and 39 on the 14th. Birds were seen sporadically through September but never exceeded seven. Singles were then seen on seven days through October, the last being on the 15th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

First bird seen on the 23rd March. Numbers reached double figures in April; 10 on the 20th and 22nd, 15 on the 24th, 13 on the 25th and 50 on the 26th. In May numbers continued to increase with 28 on the 1st, 32 on the 4th and 20 on the 5th. Thereafter numbers decreased with just two records of lone birds in June on the 21st and 22nd. July and August combined had a total of nine b-days. September

and October saw low numbers most days. Counts exceeding eight include 13 on the 19th September, 10 on the 14th and 12th on the 24th October. November had singles on the 5th, 6th and 13th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Records consist of two on the 1st, four on the 2nd, singles daily from the 4th to the 7th May and one on the 31st August.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

One on the 6th October at the Well Pond. This is the eighth record for Skomer.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Three sightings with singles on the 2nd and 8th May and 15th June.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

A single on the 26th April was the first record on the season. May saw numbers increase, with 17 by the 4th. Nest building was seen from the 10th May and 20 pairs bred on Skomer this season, clustered in areas with lots of Scrub. Despite having 20 pairs breeding on the island, counts rarely exceeded 10 in a day, even during autumn migration. Days which did exceed 10 were 15 on the 20th and 17 on the 31st August. September counts never exceeded nine and the frequency of sightings decreased with singles seen on four days after the 20th, the last of which on the 27th.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Up to four seen on seven days in April, the first of which being on the 16th. May saw up to two on the 2nd, 4th and 21st, then there was a break before the one and only autumn sighting; a single bird flushed on The Neck on the 22nd September.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Two on the 20th April were the first for the season. Counts didn't exceed four until 22 on the 4th May. By the 21st May birds were seen nest building. Forty-four Sedge Warbler territories were identified, most of which ran along the streams of North and South Valley and around the farm buildings. Autumn passage noted in mid-August when daily counts increased to over 15 birds on five days. Counts did not rise above eight in September and after the 15th only singles were seen on four days, the last of the season being on the 18th September.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A better than average year for this species. Singles on the 18th, 21st and 24th May, 15th June, 31st August, 7th, 13th, 15th and 17th September as well as two on the 8th September.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

One seen in North Valley on the 10th and 11th October. First record since 2007 and the 26th record.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Present all season. Eighty-five territories mapped. Nest building was seen from the 8th April. This is thought to be a vast increase in breeding birds after a poor season in 2011.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Present in all but two months, with long absences from the 4th April to 12th June and again from the 29th August - 7th October. The highest count of the year was 15,000 on the 14th November. Quite a sight! Counts of 10,000 and over were made on six days during the season. B-days and monthly peak counts are shown below.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	998	3	0	21	863	785	0	12,584	73,000
Peak count	324	1	0	8	100	150	0	10,000	15,000

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Spring records include singles on the 27th March and 1st May. Autumn passage consisted of eight birds, seen on six days from the 15th - 26th October.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Spring migration was non-existent. Counts did not exceed 13 until October. Blackbirds are pretty secretive on Skomer, but six territories were found. Their secretiveness may be due to the lack of competition, all keeping themselves to themselves for most of the season. In October numbers increased through the month with peak counts for October and November illustrated in the table below.

Date	21 th Oct	23 rd Oct	24 st Oct	25 rd Oct	5 th Nov	6 th Nov	15 th Nov	16 th Nov
Count	45	45	240	80	65	110	180	70

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Seen on six days through March with a maximum count of five, first recorded on the 12th. Thereafter an absence until records on 18 days between the 21st October - 21st November. Counts exceeding 15 consisted of 24 on the 24th and 70 on the 26th October and 45 on the 5th and 16th, 40 on the 6th and 38 on the 17th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Spring passage was poor with maximum of three birds on 12 days from 2nd - 29th March. There were three records mid-summer with a freshly dead bird found on the 23rd June and live birds noted on the 27th June and 6th July. Autumn migration started with singles on the 21st, 22nd and 28th September, birds were then seen almost daily through October and November. Peak counts include 120 on the 21st and 50 on the 24th October and 45 on the 5th, 50 on the 6th and 14th and 65 the on 15th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

From the 15th March - 13th April up to two birds seen on 6 days. Autumn passage was observed from the 9th October and birds were seen most days in low numbers. However, passage was notable during the second half of October with 75 on the 12th, 160 on the 23rd, 1300 on the 24th, 120 on the 25th. In November numbers exceeded 50 on four days, with a maximum count of 90 on the 5th. Last recorded on the 17th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

No spring records. First recorded on the 5th November, followed by singles on three days; 10 on the 6th and two on the 21st.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Spring passage began with four birds on the 2nd May and the peak count for the year was 10 on the 18th May. The last spring record was on the 20th June. Autumn migration ran from the 18th August to the 20th October. The autumn peak count was just three on the 6th September. B-days illustrated below.

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
B-days	0	0	73	8	0	4	14	2	0

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Up to six seen most days through March. Singles seen on five days to the 11th April followed by a single on the 26th May. Autumn passage started on the 14th August, up to five seen most days thereafter, with 20 on the 31st. Recorded daily through September and October with maximum counts of 40 in both months. Up to seven seen on five days in November, the last of which recorded on the 18th.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

One seen in North Valley on the 12th April was the seventh record for Skomer. Previous records involve singles recorded in six years between 1976 – 2004, four of these records were in spring.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Spring records include singles on the 1st, 2nd and 7th May. Autumn sightings consist of singles on eight days in August, three on the 21st August and singles on five days in September, the last of which was on the 28th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

All records were of lone birds seen on the 15th, 17th, 24th, 25th and 26th March, 10th June, 24th October, 5th and 11th November.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Singles seen on six dates between the 22nd April - 2nd May, followed by four on the 5th May, two on the 6th May and singles on the 8th and 26th May. Autumn records consist of singles on the 4th September and 24th October.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Sightings started with one on the 20th April, singles on five days and two on one day in May. None in June and July then one on the 31st August, singles on the 7th and 16th September and singles on the 16th and 29th October.

European Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Up to two seen on nine days through March followed by singles on the 1st April and 4th and 6th May. On the 6th June a juvenile was seen having flown over from the mainland. Birds were seen on five days through June, most were juveniles and never exceeded two individuals in a day. Singles seen on seven days through July, up to six on 33 days through August, September and October. Numbers were lower through November with up to two on seven days, the last being seen on the 18th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* / *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

The first bird was recorded on the 15th March and by the 13th April counts reached 19. On the 27th April 30 birds were recorded, most of which were of the Greenland race (*Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*). On the 1st May 50 wheatears were seen between Garland Stone and Bull Hole and it was a similar story on the 4th and 5th May. A whole island count on the 7th produced 55 birds, mostly of the Greenland race. In June, July and August numbers settled. Nest building was witnessed from the 13th April, whilst Greenland Wheatears were still passing through and only half way to their breeding grounds. Fledglings were seen from the 13th June, eighteen pairs nested. September saw two Greenlands on 3rd, other than that, the only sign of passage was a count of 30 Wheatears on the 8th.

Thereafter numbers were low, becoming more sporadic in the second half of the month, the last record was on the 23rd October.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Present all season and pairs were plotted in 21 places, breeding almost everywhere with Bramble or shrubs.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Records consist of two on the 7th March, one on the 7th July, three on the 7th October, at least two (sounded like a flock) on the 14th October and lastly, five on the 19th October.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Sightings started on the 6th May, with singles on seven days during the month as well as a Blue-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava flava*) seen on Moory Mere by day visitors on the 22nd May, who later supplied photographs of the bird. Autumn passage included singles on the 31st August and on four days in September, the last of these being on the 9th.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

First seen in August, one on the 26th and four on the 31st. Counts of up to five on 19 days in September along with eight on the 3rd which was the peak count for the season. Birds recorded on 15 days throughout October, with a maximum count of three. In November numbers dropped with singles noted on seven days, the last of which on the 15th.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Seen throughout the season. Five territories mapped this year with pairs on South Plateau, near Wick Stream, Moory Mere, the Landing Stage and at the farm. Some counts in September included very small flocks with White Wagtails thus suggesting passage, however, counts never exceeded 15 *Motacilla alba* spp. in a day. Recorded most days in October, maximum count of 10. November records include just one on the 5th and two on the 14th.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

First seen in May, on the 4th, 5th and 6th. Next records not until autumn; 10 on the 1st September, seven on the 2nd followed by small numbers until the 7th, the latter half of the month produced five on the 15th, 15 on the 16th, one on the 20th and 27th and two on the 26th.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Records include two on the 1st May and singles on the 2nd May, 31st August, 13th and 15th September and 23rd October.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Present all season. Spring movements recorded in mid to late March with peak counts of 194 on the 14th March and 130 on the 27th March. Things settled for the breeding season then in late August, start of September flocks were noted with 80 at the farm on the 25th August and 30 at Skomer Head alone on the 3rd September. Numbers settled again until the seasons end. Sixty-seven Meadow Pipits territories were counted this season, taking into account multiple broods and avoiding double-counting any pairs. Nesting material was being carried from the 11th April, eggs seen by the 14th May and chick feeding from the 21st May.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Present all season. Twenty-seven Rock Pipit territories were plotted. This is thought to be an underestimate, by looking at the close proximity in which this species nest in areas easily accessible

and therefore accurately surveyed, it is predicted that larger gaps between some territories is more likely to be an issue of surveyor accessibility, rather than an absence in a breeding pair in that location. It is probably not a great exaggeration to suggest that only half the breeding population was plotted.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Up to two seen on eight days through March, singles on the 11th, 12th April, 6th, 7th and 27th May, 3rd and 4th June and 11th July. Absent in August. Autumn passage started with two on four days in September. October saw numbers increase with peak counts of 60 on the 6th and 22nd, 250 on the 21st, 750 on the 24th, 180 on the 25th. Passage continued into November with 200 on the 5th, 275 on the 6th, 90 on the 14th and 145 on the 15th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

First recorded on the 14th October. There were between one and five birds seen on ten days through October, resulting in 20 b-days. November had singles on three days, eight on the 5th, seven on the 6th, five on the 15th and three on the 16th; this totals 26 b-days for the month.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Ones and twos seen on the 4th May, 21st and 27th July and 19th September. Greenfinch movements took place through October and November with records on 18 days between the 6th October - 15th November. Peak counts were made in October with 25 on the 13th and 19th, 30 on the 14th and 30th, 35 on the 21st and 64 on the 22nd. The November maximum count was four on 6th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Records started slowly with two on the 8th and singles on the 23rd and 27th March. From April until the seasons end there were sightings most days. April had a peak count of 18 on the 20th and numbers continued to increase in May with 20 on the 5th. Juvenile birds from the mainland were seen on the island from the 20th June and maximum counts for the month 22 on the 23rd and 23 on the 26th. July's maximum count was 30 on the 28th and August peaked at 20 on the 15th. Most days had low numbers of birds visiting, it would just be these odd days with higher counts, September was no exception with most days having counts no higher than seven, but then had 20 on the 29th. Autumn movements became very apparent with 65 on the 6th, 80 on the 7th and 145 on the 25th. Numbers settled again in November, with a maximum count of 22 on the 7th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

First record was of a lone bird on the 24th April, singles also seen on the 5th, 18th and 19th May. Singles then noted on the 21st, 22nd and 29th September and two on the 17th of that month. Frequency of sightings increased in October with up to six birds seen on 12 days as well as eight on the 25th and seven on the 31st. In November, up to four birds were seen on nine days along with seven on the 4th.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Up to five seen on six days from the 23rd March to the months end. Numbers increased in April with 20 on the 1st, 7th and 13th, 22 on the 8th and 21st and 28 on the 11th interspersed with lower counts most days. There were up to 12 seen in May and on the 26th May a family of Linnets were seen at the farm, but they could have come over from the mainland. Linnets were seen all season and the island does host a variety of suitable breeding habitats, however, breeding was not proved despite occasional singing birds. Twenty was the maximum count for June and July. Sightings were slightly less frequent in August and reached ten on the 8th. Again, September records were sporadic but

there were 55 recorded on the 21st and 30 on the 22nd. It was a similar story in October with 32 on the 14th and 60 on the 25th. November also had dotted recordings with a peak of nine on the 6th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

One flew over The Neck calling on the 7th November. A species recorded in just 5 previous years; 1964, 1985, 1990, 1991 and 2001.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

One heard on the 13th April followed by up to three birds on eight days in May as well as five on the 30th May. Autumn visitors comprised of one on the 19th September, up to two on four days in October and one on the 11th November. As most of these records are heard, rather than seen, we can only assume most are Lesser Redpolls rather than Mealy.

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Two on the 13th April were photographed in North Valley.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

One on the 21st October was the only record this season.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

A female seen on the 21st October in North Valley was the only record for the season.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

A female was seen in North Valley on the 24th April. This is only the fourth record for the island. Previous records consist of a female from the 13th - 15th May 1961, two on Skomer Head on 14th June 1998 and a one on the 26th October 2005.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

A fly-over bird over North Haven on the 14th November was the only record of the season.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Singles on the 13th September, 6th, 20th, 22nd and 29th October, two on the 7th and three on the 25th October, followed by singles on the 5th and 15th and two on the 7th November.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Up to five birds seen sporadically through March. Numbers reached 13 on the 6th April. The maximum count for May was nine on the 6th, the second half of the month into June numbers settled to include the resident birds, with the exception of seven on 27th June. Three territories were recorded on Skomer this season. Pairs were seen near North Castle, in North Valley and between Gorse Hill and Moory Mere. Numbers remained low in July, August and September and did not exceed counts of six in a day, the frequency of records also dropped. Movements were apparent in October and November with sightings daily and peak counts of 12 on the 6th and 15th October and 13 on the 15th November.