

Rare Birds in Guernsey



2017

La Société Guernesiaise - Ornithological Section

Report on rare birds in Guernsey in 2017

The islands of Guernsey, Herm, Jethou, Lihou and associated islets

Mark Lawlor and the Bailiwick of Guernsey Rarities Committee

The following records have been submitted to, assessed by and accepted by the Bailiwick of Guernsey Rarities Committee (BGRC) which is organised through the Ornithological Section of La Société Guernesiaise. The members of the committee for 2017 (M.P.Lawlor, W.R.Turner, K.Childs, B.G.Wells, M.C.Simmons, J.Horton, P.K.Veron) would like to thank all the observers and photographers who sent in details of their rarity observations.



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The systematic list is based on the BOU British List. Although the BGRC's area covers the whole of the Bailiwick, this report focuses on the rare bird sightings from Guernsey. However, the accepted records from Alderney and Sark are also included for completeness and interest. For each record, the following information is given where available; number of birds, age and sex if known, dates, locations, whether it was trapped or photographed, the names of the finder(s), and whether it was seen by anyone else (*et al.*). For each species, it states how many previous Guernsey records there have been (if known) and there is a comment on the birds natural range and migrations. There are also the editor's comments and analysis of sightings for some species.

Cover picture : Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) by Dan Scott

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Two, juveniles, 6th January, Pembroke Bay & elsewhere along west coast until 8th January, photo (A. Bott, et. al.) - 6th Guernsey record since 2000.

Two, adults, male and female, 23rd April, Pulias & L'Eree, photo - 7th Guernsey record since 2000.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact number of Mute Swans that have occurred in Guernsey because there used to be a few feral birds that were resident on the island. However, these birds appeared to have died out by the 1990's and so all modern records are of birds that have arrived here across the sea. Mute Swans are not that common in adjacent north-western France and so it has been suspected that our records may have mostly been birds that have crossed the Channel from the UK, where the species is very common. This was proved this year as the two adult birds were both wearing yellow darvic rings (see photo below). The codes revealed that both birds were ringed at Abbotsbury Swannery, Dorset in July 2013. The chart shows the recent increase in records in recent years.

(A common resident species throughout the UK and Northern and Central Europe)

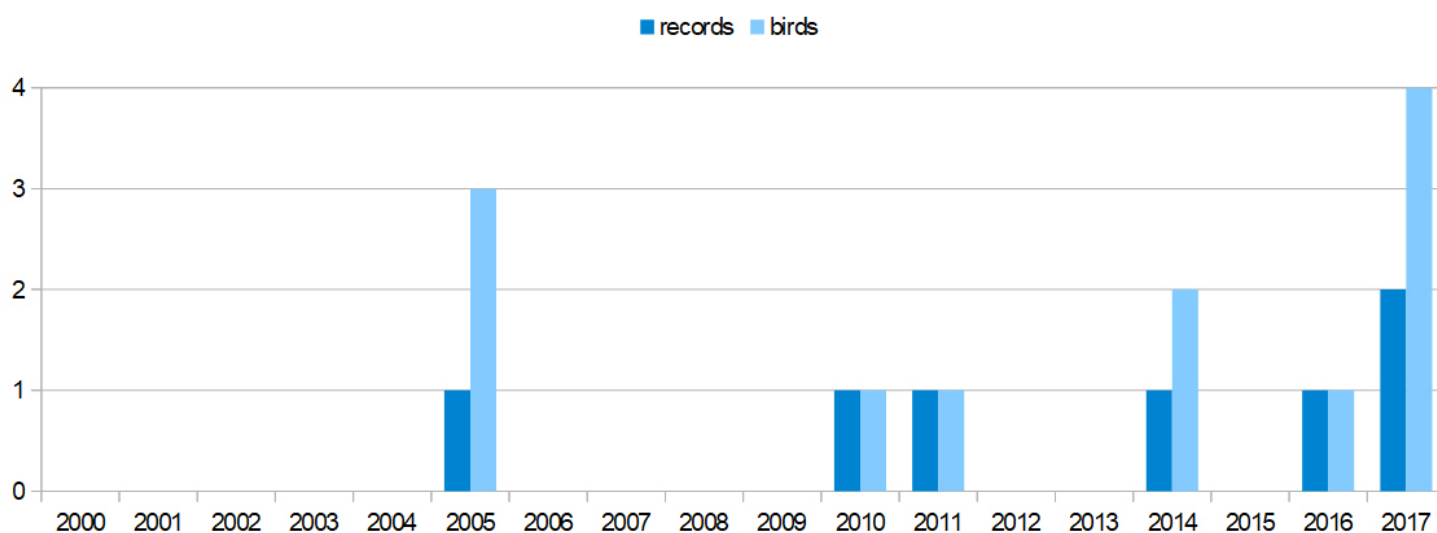


Figure 1 : Mute Swans in Guernsey by year since 2000.



Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

One, adult, 24th November to 2018, Rue des Hougues, Castel, plus various other locations in the vicinity, photo - 11th Guernsey record.

It is difficult to imagine becoming blasé about such a majestic bird, but Whooper Swan is becoming almost expected each winter. This is now the fourth record in just three years and the third November running that the species has appeared. It is tempting to think that this may be the same, returning bird from previous years, especially since it seems to favour the area around the Reservoir. Maybe last time it brought two of its family to visit and they were not impressed enough to return again this year!

(A common breeding species throughout the far north of Europe, wintering in large flocks in north-western Europe)



Whooper Swan - MPLawlor

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

One, female, 2016 to 14th January, Pembroke Bay, photo - 14th Guernsey record.

The female bird which was discovered in December 2016 continued to show very well into the New Year.

(Breeds in the Arctic, wintering in the seas of northern Europe. Usually very uncommon in the English Channel)



Long-tailed Duck - MAGuppy

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*

One, 20th July, at sea, 4 miles SE of Guernsey (M. P. Lawlor) - 10th Guernsey record.

According to reports from the UK, this summer there were higher-than-usual numbers of shearwaters in the English Channel and Atlantic coastal waters. Videos taken from boats off the Scilly Isles showed huge flocks wheeling around shoals of feeding Tuna. With this in mind, local birders were on the lookout for both Cory's and Great Shearwaters, and it was not a surprise when a few of these large shearwaters were seen. This bird was spotted from the ferry on its return from Jersey in the late evening, in the company of a few Manx Shearwaters, with the sun setting behind Jerbourg Point in the background.

(Breeds mainly on East Atlantic islands, often wandering north after breeding, but winters in South Atlantic)

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

One, 15th July, past Jaonneuse (J. Hooper, A. P. Loaring) - 6th Guernsey record.

One, 26th July, off Chouet, photo - 7th Guernsey record.

Occasionally in recent years, we have had congregations of smaller shearwaters - Balearic and Manx - collecting off the coast in the summer time. This year, during July, shearwater numbers slowly built up off the northern tip of the island, visible mainly from Chouet. With the aforementioned good numbers in the Channel, this flock was monitored closely in case it attracted something rarer. This was a smart move, as two Great Shearwaters were seen with this loafing flock in the space of a couple of weeks. The first one stopped only briefly as it passed by. The second bird was found on a misty morning when a huge group of over a thousand shearwaters were bobbing around off the headland. It was seen here, on and off, for a couple of hours and was even 'twitchable' by a few lucky birders. Unlike Cory's which has a few recent records, these are the first Great Shearwaters this century, the last accepted record being in 1998.

(Breeds in the southern hemisphere on South Atlantic islands, and in the non-breeding season circles the North Atlantic in a huge migration loop, passing Europe in the Autumn before returning south)

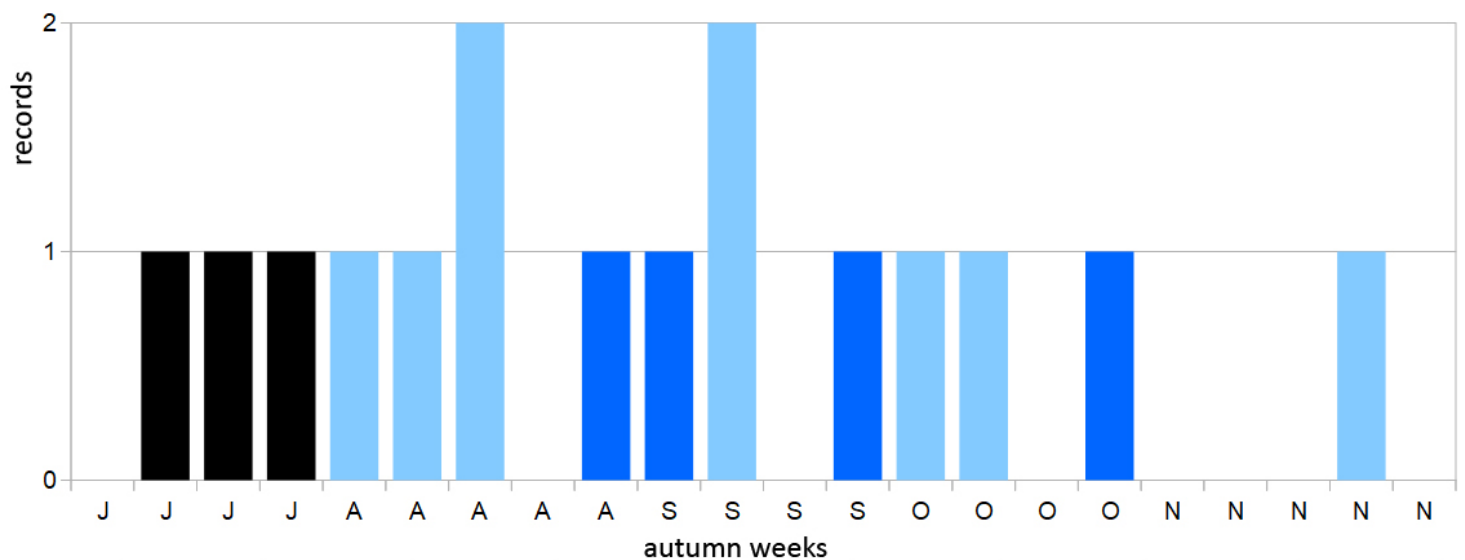


Figure 2 : Reliable records of large shearwaters in Guernsey (dates/records rather than total number of birds).
 Cory's = pale blue; Great = mid-blue; 2017 records of both species = black.
 This shows the early dates of this year's birds compared to older records.



Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

One, 14th August, Hurd Deep, at sea, c.18 miles NW of Guernsey, photo (J. M. Medland, M. A. Guppy, V. & J. Froome, J. Hooper, C. J. Mourant, M. P. Lawlor, W. R. Turner) - 2nd Guernsey record.

In 2003 a single Wilson's Petrel was seen briefly during a pelagic trip out towards the Hurd Deep, NW of Guernsey. Despite the confirmation that this rare species was possible in Channel Island waters, annual boat trips out to sea had failed to find another one amongst the many Storm Petrels seen. That was until this year, when a single bird was seen very well by eight birders out on a small fishing boat in beautiful weather, attracted by the sweet smell of fish guts and cod liver oil. Slightly larger than the local Storm Petrels, with a dark underwing and pale upperwing bar, it flew back and forth for a few minutes and, unlike the last bird, photographs were taken. This species was once considered a rare vagrant to British waters but recently it has been proved to be a regular summer visitor to the Celtic Sea off the Scilly Isles and Cornwall in small numbers. It does not seem to like shallower waters however, and the two Guernsey sightings are significant, being the furthest East up the Channel any have ever been seen (*see map on next page*).

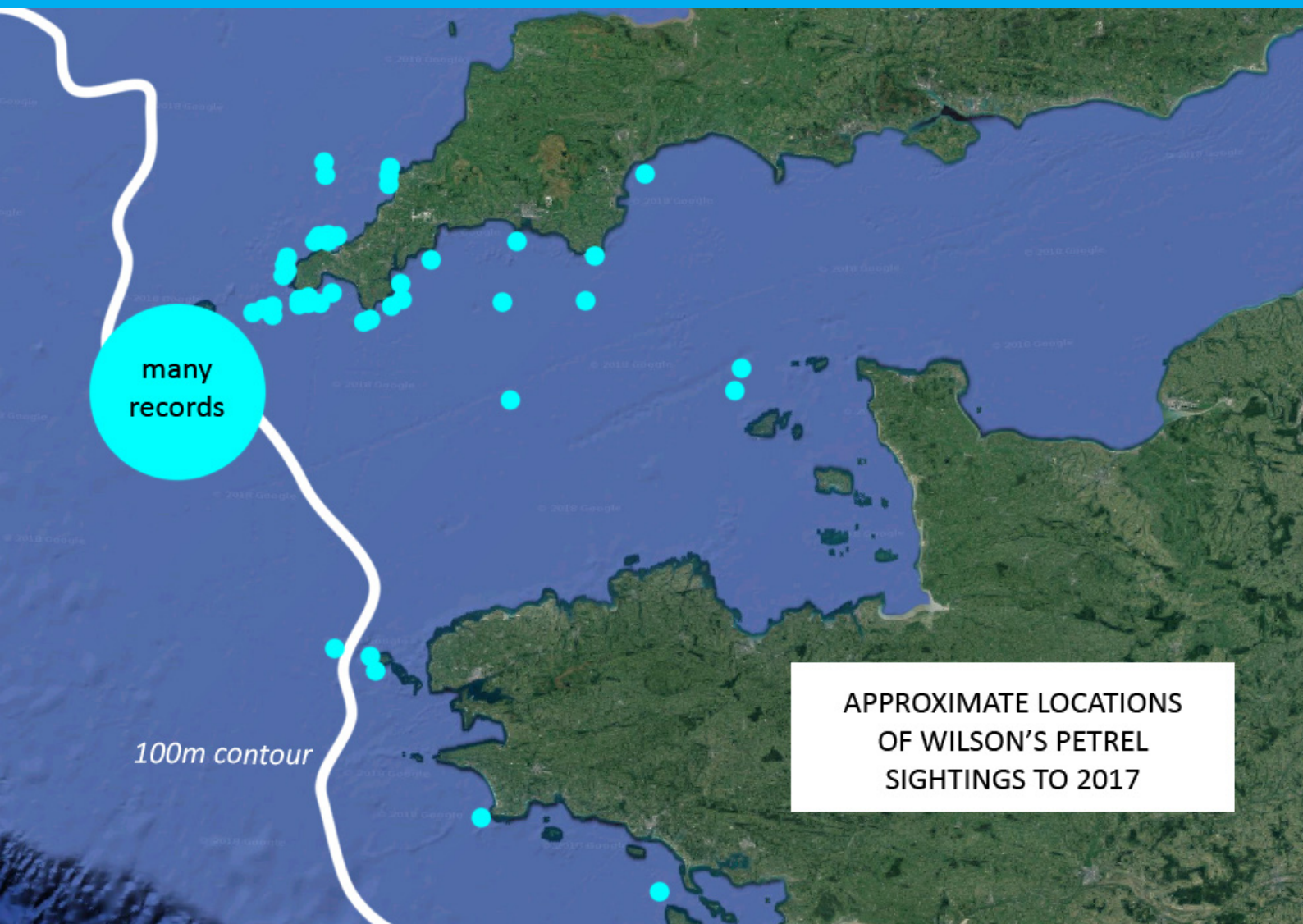
(Breeds on islands in the southern hemisphere, migrating north to summer in the North Atlantic. Rarely seen from land, this is a very pelagic species)



Wilson's Petrel - MPLawlor



Wilson's Petrel - MAGuppy



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Group of up to 15, December 2016 to 5th March, quickly dispersed and seen at widespread sites throughout island, photo - 12th Guernsey record.

Two, 24th March, St. Saviour's Reservoir (A. J. Bisson) - 13th Guernsey record.

One, 28th April, Vale Pond, photo - 14th Guernsey record.

One, 19th November, St. Saviour's Reservoir, photo (M. P. Lawlor) - 15th Guernsey record.

Despite there being only 15 records of Cattle Egret for Guernsey, the decision was made to take it off the official rare bird list and reclassify it as a 'scarcity'. As the species now breeds further north in the UK and large flocks can build up in this part of Europe, we expect that there will be multiple records per year from now on. The sudden rise from big rarity to expected visitor, mirrors what happened with Little Egret a decade or so ago, and may happen with other species in the future.

(Breeds in colonies throughout southern Europe. Wanders widely in the non-breeding season.)



Cattle Egret - Rue des Hougues, SA - RA Ferbrache

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

One, 15th February, over L'Eree, photo (J. Hooper) - 7th Guernsey record.

One, 4th May, over Les Effards, St. Sampsons (K. Childs) - 8th Guernsey record.

The records of this species are now clocking up but Great White Egret remains frustratingly elusive on Guernsey. Most birds recorded here have only been seen in flight and even those which have made landfall have only stayed very briefly. The first bird listed above may have also been seen on a few other occasions around that time.

(Breeds in colonies in wetlands throughout Europe, increasing in NW Europe. Partial migrant, with many birds moving further south)

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Ten, 4th July, over Grande Mare, then Fauxquets (J. Mauger, et. al.) - 11th Guernsey record.

This massive group of White Storks suddenly appeared, soaring over the east side of the golf course one day in the middle of summer. Unfortunately they did not linger and drifted off south but were seen again briefly from the Fauxquets Valley. Many of the previous ten records of the species in Guernsey have been of small groups - one pair, three groups of three, and a flock of four - but a large group of ten birds was very unexpected. These were probably non-breeding or failed breeding birds flocking together and drifting around northern France during the summer.

(A summer migrant to continental Europe, wintering in Europe)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Ten, 27th October, over Fort le Marchant, then at Colin Best NR, L'Eree, at least one bird staying into 2017, photo (K. Childs, D. Scott, P. Alexander, C. Brouard, et. al.) - 2nd Guernsey record.

When a large group of ten Glossy Ibises was observed in the early morning heading east and away by a couple of observers in the far north of the island, all the local birders presumed that they had missed their chance to see them. However, unlike the previous, very brief record in 2016, these birds decided to stay for a while. Later on in the morning they were observed to land at the Old Aerodrome at L'Eree where they showed well. There seemed to be a mixture of adult and juvenile birds in the group. The birds soon dispersed into the centre of the island and were quite elusive, occasionally being discovered in cow fields and on muck heaps, especially in the Rue des Hougues and Rue a Fresnes area of Castel. Numbers depleted as autumn departed with 8 birds noted until 6th November and 5 until 20th. Of these, one bird died by flying into a house near the Claire Mare, and three left soon after. This left a single juvenile bird in December which was present on and off into the new year.

(Breeds in colonies throughout southern Europe. Wanders widely in the non-breeding season.)



Glossy Ibises - CBNR - October - AStoaling



Glossy Ibises - CBNR - October - RAFerbrache



Glossy Ibises - Rue des Hougues, Castel - October - ALoaring



Glossy Ibis - Rue des Hougues, Castel - October - DScott

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One, 19th August, over Rue de Pleinmont, Torteval (*M. & S. Bridgman*) - 10th Guernsey record.

August is a new month for this species in Guernsey with 90% of previous records falling between mid-April and late-May. The only other autumn individual was one on 25th September 2004. Even though this is the third record in the last two years, sightings of Black Kites have not increased as quickly as most people were predicting.

(Breeds in central and southern Europe, including France, wintering in tropical Africa)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Four, 18th April, Les Vauxbelets, photo (*J. Naftel*) - 10th Guernsey record.

One, 9th May, Claire Mare, photo - 11th Guernsey record.

A flock of four birds is the largest group ever recorded in Guernsey, eclipsing the three which were present at the Clare Mare in June 2010. These birds stopped briefly on a small farm pond at Les Vauxbelets and were luckily snapped by a young photographer. The second bird was a very showy individual which spent Liberation Day strutting in front of the hide at the Claire Mare.

(Breeds in the wetlands of southern Europe, wintering in Africa)



Black-winged Stilts - Les Vauxbelets - JNaftel



Black-winged Stilt - Claire Mare - MPLawlor

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

One, juvenile, 9th to 11th September, Colin Best NR, L'Eree, photo (M. A. Guppy, et. al.) - 19th Guernsey record.

An almost exact replica of 2016, with a bird feeding in the saltmarsh at L'Eree in mid-September. This is the fourth sighting of Buff-breasted Sandpiper in this location, but it has got a way to go before it beats L'Ancrese Common which has a total of fourteen birds found there.

(American species, breeding in the northern Arctic tundra, and a long-distance migrant, wintering in South America)



Buff-breasted Sandpiper - APLoaring

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

One, juvenile, 13th October, Claire Mare, photo (J. Davis, et. al.)

Quite a brief visit for this recent addition to the rare species list. This is only the third record in the last decade.

(Breeds in the taiga and tundra of northern Europe, migrating to winter in Africa and south Asia)



Spotted Redshank - JDavis

Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus

One, juvenile, 5th October, past Jaonneuse, photo (W. R. Turner, C. I. Massey)
- 13th Guernsey record

The first week of October has been a good week to see Long-tailed Skua in Guernsey. This bird passed so close that a photo was able to be taken.

(Breeds in the Arctic tundra, winters in the southern oceans.)



Long-tailed Skua - WRTurner

Royal Tern

Thalasseus maximus

One, first winter, 5th February, Miellette, then various locations to 25th May, then 16th August to 2018, photo (J. Hooper, et. al.) - 1st Guernsey record.

The standout bird of 2017 was this large, red-billed tern species which was discovered feeding off Miellette on 5th February and caused a manic twitch for local birders. Despite suddenly disappearing as soon as it was found, it reappeared in the same place much to everyone's relief. It was incredibly elusive at times and wide-ranging, some observers needing many attempts to catch up with this huge rarity, which has only been seen a few times in Europe.

There are two sub-species of Royal Tern which could occur – an African race and an American race – which are very similar in appearance. It is quite likely that there may be a split, creating two species, so it was important that we determined which race it was. Luckily the bird had a metal ring and it was possible to partially read the code from photos. Research revealed that this partial code could have only belonged to a ringing scheme in North America, so proving it to be from across the Atlantic. As it was a first-winter it meant that the bird was born in spring 2016, and looking at the data this meant it was almost certainly ringed as a nestling from a colony in North Carolina. A second piece of evidence was obtained, which was a faecal sample scraped off a rock whilst the bird was resting in Belle Greve Bay. This was analysed by Aberdeen University and the DNA genetic sequence proved beyond doubt that the bird was of the American race.

The bird stayed on Guernsey until 10th May before making a quick trip to Alderney and returning again briefly on 25th May. It then spent the summer on various beaches in Brittany and Normandy before turning up again on Alderney on 24th July. It then returned to Guernsey on 16th August when it was found very close to its original location. It was seen on and off until the end of the year, but was even more elusive. It was noted a few times in Herm so it was probably spending a lot of its time there, out of sight of the larger island.

This totally unexpected sighting was very exciting, this bird being one of the rarest species ever recorded on Guernsey.

(Breeds along the East coast of North America, wintering slightly further south)



Royal Tern - Miellette, Feb - AMarquis



Royal Tern - Bordeaux, Feb - DScott



Royal Tern - Miellette, Feb - APLoaring



Royal Tern - Herm, Oct - MAGuppy

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Two, juveniles, 13th September, west past Jaonneuse Headland (W. R. Turner, H. Rouillard) - 17th Guernsey record.

The third sighting in two years is a return to form after a lean decade for the species. Mid-September is an excellent time to see the species off Guernsey. Interestingly, all records from land that have been aged have been juvenile birds, whereas the two birds seen out at sea during the pelagic trips have both been adults.

(Breeds in the high Arctic and winters at sea off southern Africa. Usually a pelagic species during migration.)

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

One, first-winter, 4th to 8th February, Chouet & St. Peter Port Harbour, photo (A. Marquis, R. J. Murphy, L. Thomson, et. al.) - 26th Guernsey record.

Recently, Iceland Gull has been seen in six of the last ten winters and is almost expected each year. It is difficult to remember but it used to be quite a rare bird - there were only six birds seen before 1999, and there were no records at all for five winters running between 2001 and 2006.

(Breeds in the high Arctic of Greenland and Canada, wintering in the northern Atlantic including NW Europe)



Iceland Gull - Town Hbr - MAGuppy

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

One, first-winter, 4th to 8th February, Chouet & various west coast sites, photo (A. Marquis, et. al.) - 21st Guernsey record.

Turning up and disappearing on the same date as the aforementioned Iceland Gull, these two species, unsurprisingly, often arrive in the time period and same weather conditions. Glaucous Gull has also been recorded in six out of the last ten winters, but in slightly smaller numbers.

(Breeds on Arctic coasts, wintering in northern Europe)



Glaucous Gull - Chouet - APLoaring

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

One, 27th March, Trinity, Pleinmont, photo (J. Hooper, et. al.) - 8th Guernsey record.

It had been a surprisingly long time since the previous record of Alpine Swift in Guernsey, back in 2002. When sightings of many mediterranean species are increasing on the island this has been stubbornly absent. Even though it is often an early rarity in northern Europe, this is the earliest bird ever in Guernsey by a couple of days. This individual was not very obliging and did not stay for very long, so only a few birders managed to see it.

(Breeds in southern Europe, migrating to winter in Africa)

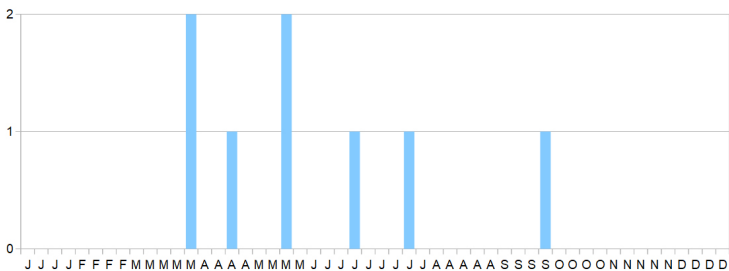


Figure 3 : Alpine Swift records in Guernsey by week.



Alpine Swift - APLoaring

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

One, male, 11th March, Grand Pre/Marais, photo (A. Bott, et. al.) - 18th Guernsey record.

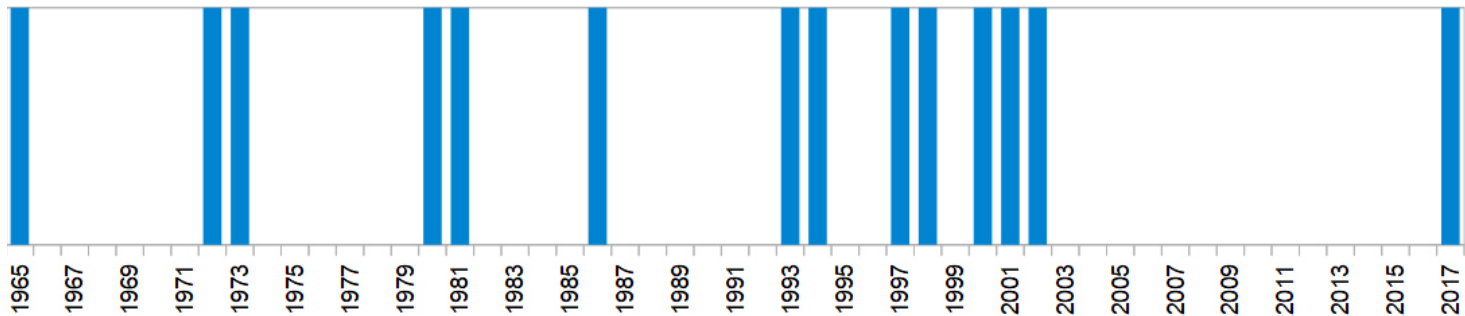
Another rarity that was very brief and enjoyed by just a handful of birders, the only snap of the bird taken being the half-hidden one shown right. This single male bird was the first seen on the island for 15 years which is somewhat surprising considering their very regular status in Jersey. When they have arrived in the past they have mostly been in small flocks or family parties (very few have been single birds) and they have often stayed to winter. The chart below shows all the years that Bearded Tit has been recorded. It can be seen that sightings were gathering pace and the species was becoming an expected visitor around the turn of the century. Perhaps an upturn of fortunes is on the cards.

(Breeds in reedbeds throughout Europe, dispersing in the winter months away from nesting areas)



Bearded Tit - ABott

Figure 4 : years that Bearded Tit has been recorded in Guernsey.



Short-toed Lark

Calandrella brachydactyla

One, 5th September, Mont Herault, photo -
11th Guernsey record.

Only a short-staying individual, spending time on the dry track between fields. This species will usually prefer the drier, stonier habitats, rather than the more vegetated areas. The third year in a row that this species has been seen. Records of Short-toed Lark are all from the migration months of April, May, September and October, this bird being the earliest autumn record so far.

(Breeds in southern Europe, wintering in Africa)



Short-toed Lark - APLoaring

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

One, adult, 11th August, Portinfer, photo (M. P. Lawlor, et. al.) - 45th Guernsey record.

One, juvenile, 27th October, Pleinmont, photo (M. P. Lawlor, et. al.) - 46th Guernsey record.

Both birds were very brief this year, as seems to be the theme for rare passerines sighted in 2017. This is the second year running that a pink and black adult bird has been seen, records of juveniles outnumber adults by at least eight to one on the island. The October bird was very late in the autumn, out of the 46 records on the database only two other birds have been discovered later.

(Breeds in south-eastern Europe and Asia, wintering in southern Asia. Small numbers move west in the Autumn.)



Rose-coloured Starling - Portinfer - WRTurner



Rose-coloured Starling - Pleinmont - MPLawlor

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Two, first-winters, 15th to 17th October, Pezeries & Vaux de Monel, Pleinmont, photo (W. R. Turner, et. al.) - 24th Guernsey record.

One, first-winter, 28th to 30th October, Valniquets, Pleinmont, photo (J. Hooper, A. P. Loaring, et. al.) - 25th Guernsey record.

Three birds in one autumn is exceptional, the last time this happened was in 1988. The first two birds were not discovered together but were found in two adjacent valleys at Pleinmont on the same day. Initially it was thought that the Pezeries bird had moved over but photos showed that one bird was clearly greyer than the other (both birds were seen on 16th but only the Pezeries bird was noted on 17th). Pleinmont headland is definitely the hotspot for Red-breasted Flycatcher with 11 out of the last 12 birds being found there.

(Breeds in eastern Europe, wintering mainly in India)



Red-breasted Flycatcher - Valniquets - AStoaling



Red-breasted Flycatcher - Valniquets - AStoaling



Red-breasted Flycatcher - Pezeries - WRTurner

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

One, 14th April, Les Rouvets, photo (M. A. Guppy) - 1st Guernsey record.

A surprise find in the trees around the fishing ponds at Les Rouvets. This bird was only momentarily glimpsed and it was only two quickly-snapped photographs which confirmed the identification of this northern cousin of the Redpoll. This is a new species for the island and not one you would expect in the middle of April. Arctic Redpolls are more usually found further south than their usual range during very severe weather, so not typically on a spring day. Perhaps this was a bird that had been pushed further south than usual during the previous winter and was on its way back north to breed. Arctic Redpolls are sometimes hard to identify but this bird was such a ghostly white colour, it is difficult to imagine it being anything else. There are a couple of subspecies of Arctic Redpoll and further investigation may be able to determine which it is.

(Breeds in far northern Europe and North America, in winter coming slightly further south)



Arctic Redpoll - MAGuppy

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Large influx of 107+ birds, from 19th October to end of year, photos - 22nd to 38th Guernsey records.

In mid-autumn, all across Britain, birders were experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime influx of Hawfinches from the continent. Hundreds of birds had been seen passing migration watchpoints along the east and south coasts of the UK. It was only a matter of time before a few would reach Guernsey, and birders were on the look out. In the morning of 19th October the first few were seen flying over Pleinmont, but no one could have predicted the numbers that would be seen. By the end of that incredible first day, at least 61 birds had passed the headland. To put that number into context, the sum total of Hawfinches that had ever been seen in Guernsey was 23 individuals. The species has always been a very rare migrant or winter visitor.

Between 24th October and 9th November there were another ten sightings totalling 38 more birds, which were still mostly flyovers, although a few were also seen perched. It wasn't until 14th November that a few Hawfinches were 'pinned down' in Foulon Cemetery and birders were able to enjoy them at their leisure. At least three birds spent the rest of the winter there gorging themselves on Yew berries.

Between 16th November and 2nd December there were another five sightings of single birds at various locations which may have been late migrants or wandering wintering birds.

Hawfinches have been very elusive for birders in recent years and many people had never seen the species on the island before. So this sudden, exciting arrival will live long in the memory.

(Resident breeder throughout Europe, with northern birds wandering further south in autumn and winter)

Here is a run-down of all the Hawfinch sightings:

- 61+, Pleinmont, 19th October (WRT, MAG, AS, APL, JH).
- 2, Mount Row, 24th October (MAG).
- 15, Pleinmont, 25th October (WRT, MAG, JH, KJ).
- 1, Baubigny, 27th October (MPL).
- 1, Mount Row, 28th October (MAG).
- 2, Rue des Hougues, Castel, 28th October (JH, APL).
- 1, Pleinmont, 31st October (LT).
- 4, Herm, 1st November (MAG).
- 10, Pleinmont, 1st November (JH, DS).
- 1, Silbe, 4th November (APL).
- 1, Rue Marquand, St. Andrews, 9th November (WRT).
- 3+, Foulon Cemetery, 14th November to 31st December (WRT, et. al.)
- 1, Saumarez Park, 16th November (LT).
- 1, Saumarez Park, 21st November (MAG).
- 1, Rue des Hougues, St. Andrews, 23rd November (AD).
- 1, Rue de la Boullerie, St. Andrews, 29th November (WRT).
- 1, Silbe, 2nd December (APL).



Hawfinch - Foulon Cemetery - KJehan



Hawfinch - Foulon Cemetery - MCunningham



Hawfinch - Foulon Cemetery - APLoaring

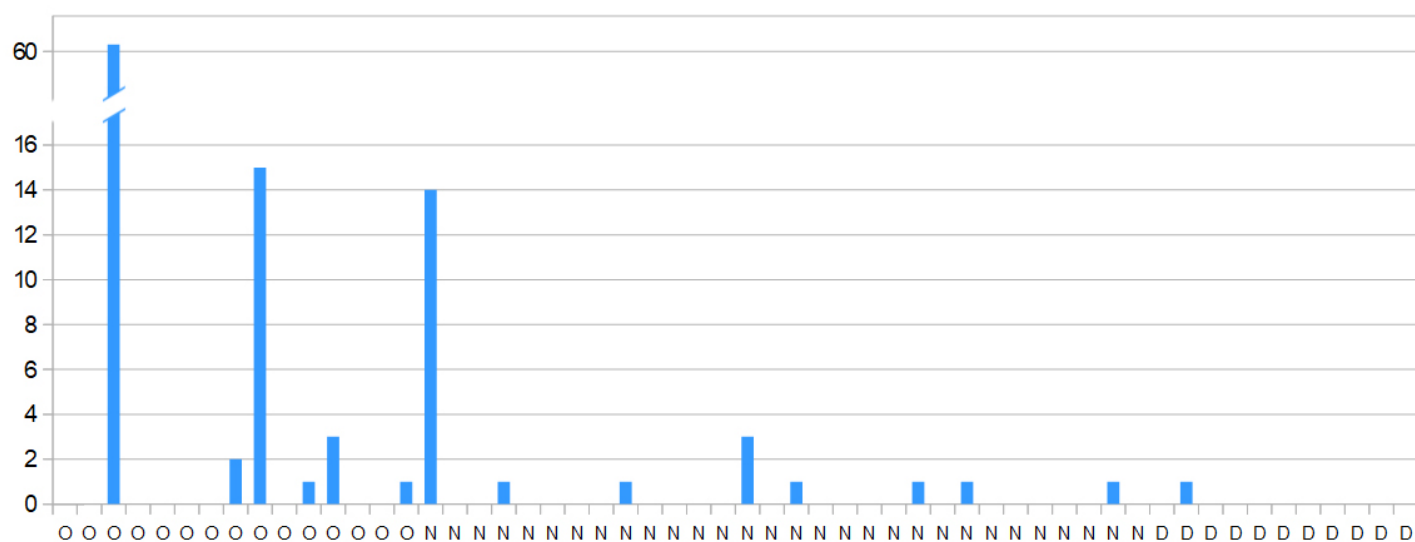


Figure 5 : Hawfinch records in Autumn 2018 in Guernsey by day.



Hawfinch migration - WRTurner

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)

One, 4th November, Rue des Hougues, St. Andrews, photo (W. R. Turner) - 7th Guernsey record.

Only the third modern record and, like the one in 2014, it didn't stay for long at all, just enough time for a few photographs to document the sighting. The last long-staying bird was in 2004 when one stayed for two days at Jaonneuse Bay and was seen by many birders.

(Resident breeder throughout central and southern Europe, rarely wandering)



Corn Bunting - W.R.Turner

Alderney

Below is a list of the rare birds submitted to, and accepted by, the Bailiwick Rarities Committee from the island of Alderney in 2017. For more details of these Alderney sightings, please contact the Observatory or visit their website.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Two, Airport and surrounding area, 27th January to 12th February. (P. K. Veron, C. Veron, et. al.)

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

One, Longis Common, 7th July. (J. Hart, T. Jones)

One, Rose Farm, 9th August.

One, Longis Bay, 14th to 15th October. (J. Horton, et. al.)

One, Mannez Quarry, 30th October. (P. K. Veron, C. Veron)

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One, Longis Common, 19th April. (J. Hart)

One, Mannez Quarry, 11th May. (P. K. Veron)

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One, Airport, 28th May. (P. K. Veron, C. Veron)

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

One, Longis Pond, 22nd to 26th April. (J. Horton, P. James, et. al.)

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

One, The Swinge, 14th June. (J. Hart)

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*

One, Longis Bay, 15th & 16th May, 24th to 26th July, 28th December. (J. Horton, J. Hart, et. al.)

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

One, Rose Farm, 14th May. (J. Horton)

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

One, Longis Common, 20th September. (J. Hart)

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

One, Alderney Golf Course and elsewhere, 5th to 12th May. (J. Horton, et. al.)

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

One, trapped, Mannez Quarry, 28th to 30th October. (C. Veron, P. K. Veron)

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*

One, trapped, Essex Farm, 4th April. (J. Hart, J. Horton)

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis*

Two, Telegraph Tower Fields, 4th to 6th July. (J. Hart, et. al.)

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

One, Rose Farm, 20th May. (M. Atkinson)

One, trapped, Mannez Quarry, 27th August. (J. Horton)

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

One, Mannez Quarry, 24th September. (J. Horton, J. Hart)

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*

One, Tourgis Hill, 22nd & 23rd March. (J. Horton, et. al.)

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*

One, Longis Common, 6th May. (J. Horton)

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

One, Essex Farm, 7th July.

One, Barrackmasters Lane, 28th August.

One, Barrackmasters Lane, 30th September.

One, Rose Farm, 15th October

One, Barrackmasters Lane, 19th October.

One, Rose Farm, 26th to 30th October.

Five, Mannez Quarry, 1st November.

One, Mannez Quarry, 2nd November.

One, Rose Farm, 2nd November.

One, Barrackmasters Lane, 15th November.

Sark

There were no reported rarities from Sark in 2017.

Scarce species in Guernsey

Below is a list of other rare sightings in Guernsey in 2017. The species below occur too regularly to be classified as official rarities, and are generally labelled "scarcities". Some years, a scarce species may occur in higher-than-usual numbers and will be missing from this section (for practical reasons). Since these species are not official rarities, no formal report form has had to be completed, and no assessment has taken place by the Rarities Committee. So, as these records are 'unchecked' they are listed with the assumption of correct identification by the observer, and the proviso that an error may have been made on occasion. A handful of reported scarcities have been omitted from this list as it was judged that there was a high likelihood of a mistake being made. Some may be the same bird moving between locations.

Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*)

2 (pr), Rue des Bergers/Grande Mare, 17th Mar to 7th Apr.

1 (m), Grand Pre, 22nd to 26th Mar.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

1 (m), Grande Mare, 2016 to 6th Jan.

1 (m), Rue des Bergers, 17th to 24th Apr.

1 (f), Claire Mare/Rue des Bergers, 22nd & 23rd Aug.

1, Claire Mare, 24th Dec.

Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

3, past Jaonneuse, 13th Nov.



Gadwall - RDB - RA Ferbrache

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

1 (f), Grande Mare, 27th Jan.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

Up to 3, L'Eree to Vazon, 2016 to 8th Mar.

1 (f/i), Pecqueries/Pulias, 7th & 16th Feb.

1, L'Eree, 2nd Apr.

Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

1, past Jaonneuse, 15th Jan.

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

1, Belle Greve Bay, 15th Feb to 4th Mar.

Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

1 (j), Vale Pond/Pulias/Claire Mare, 14th to 29th Nov.

Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)

1, Grand Pre, 30th Apr.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

1, Belle Greve Bay, 18th Apr.

1, Rocquaine, 20th Apr.

1, Jaonneuse, 11th May.

1, Chouet, 19th May.

1, Herm, 13th Oct.

Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)

1, La Villaize, 1st Jun.

1, Mount Row, SPP, 19th Jun.

2, Fauxquets Valley, 26th Aug.

1, Bordeaux, 4th Oct.

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

1 (f/i), lcart, 12th Oct.

1 (f/i), Chemin du Roi, F., 3rd Nov.



Garganey - RDB - RA Ferbrache



Spoonbill - CM - RA Ferbrache



Honey Buzzards - FV - AP Loaring

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

- 1, Colin Best NR, 20th to 27th Mar.
- 1, Colin Best NR, 24th to 27th Mar.
- 3, Rue des Hougues, SA, 25th & 26th Mar.
- 3, Colin Best NR, 9th to 12th Apr.
- 1, Claire Mare, 4th & 5th May.
- 1, Vale Pond, 19th May.

Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*)

- 1, Rue des Hougues, SA, 11th & 12th May.



LRP - CBNR - APLoading



Dotterel - AStoaling

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Up to 3, Colin Best NR, 17th to 30th Mar.
1, Les Dunes, Vazon, 3rd Apr.
1, over Pleinmont, 27th Oct.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

c. 10, past Jaonneuse, 6th Aug.
c. 115, past Jaonneuse, 23rd Aug.
2, Bordeaux, 29th Aug.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

1, lcart, 1st Sep.
1, Claire Mare/CBNR, 9th & 10th Sep.
2, Claire Mare, 25th Sep.
1, Colin Best NR, 18th to 27th Oct.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

1, Pecqueries/Pulias, 25th Sep to 5th Oct.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

1, Belle Greve Bay, 3rd Jan.
3, Albecq, 28th Aug.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

1, Claire Mare, 22nd & 23rd Apr.
1, Claire Mare, 18th to 20th Sep.
1, Vazon, 20th Sep.

Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

1, Jaonneuse Bay, 25th Oct.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

1, Claire Mare, 22nd Aug.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

1 (j), past Jaonneuse, 22nd Oct.
8, past Jaonneuse, 27th Oct.
2 (ad + 1w), past Jaonneuse, 13th Nov.
1, past Chouet, 20th Nov.
1, past Chouet, 25th Nov.

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*)

2, past Chouet, 1st May.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

18, pelagic NW of Guernsey, 14th Aug.
3, past Jaonneuse/Chouet, 20th Aug.
1, past Chouet, 21st Aug.
1, past Jaonneuse, 30th Aug.
2, past Jaonneuse, 31st Aug.
2, past Jaonneuse, 15th Sep.
1, past St, Sampsons Reclamation, 24th Sep.



Knots (+Bar-wits) - Jao - WRTurner



Little Stint - CM - APLoaring



Grey Phalarope - APLoaring

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

- 1, past Jaonneuse, 9th Aug.
- 1, past Jaonneuse, 10th Aug.
- 1, past Chouet, 21st Aug.
- 1, past Chouet, 9th Sep.
- 3, past Jaonneuse, 15th Sep.
- 1, past Jaonneuse, 16th Sep.
- 1, past Jaonneuse, 25th Sep.
- 1, past Jaonneuse, 8th Oct.
- 1, past Jaonneuse, 13th Nov.

Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)

- 1, Valniquets, 28th Apr.
- 1, Petit Bot, 29th Apr.
- 1, Rue du Torval, 8th May
- 2, Rue des Villains, 10th May.
- 1, Pleinmont Hill, 11th May.
- 1, Pezeries, 13th May.
- 1, Petit Bot, 16th to 20th May
- 1, Pleinmont, 19th May
- 1, Rue du Felconte, 22nd to 24th May.

Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

- 1, Gouffre, 4th Apr.

Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

- 1, Bordeaux, 29th Aug.
- 1, Rue des Hougues, SA, 1st Sep.
- 1, Fort Hommet, 4th Sep.
- 1, Pleinmont, 24th Sep.
- 1, Corbiere, 30th Sep.

Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)

- 1 singing, Talbot Valley, 10th May.

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

- 1, Rue des Hougues, SA, on and off 5th Mar to 30th Sep.
- 2, Rue des Hougues, SA, 6th to 10th Nov.

Coal Tit (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

- 1, Foulon, 16th Nov.
- Up to 4, Saumarez Park, 21st Nov to 8th Dec.

Wood Warbler (*Tringa glareola*)

- 1, Fauxquets Valley, 13th & 14th Apr.
- 1, Petit Bot, 29th Apr.

Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

- 1, Pezeries, 27th Sep.
- 1, Bordeaux, 4th & 15th Oct.
- 1, Valniquets, 4th to 6th Oct.
- 2/3, Pleinmont, 16th to 19th Oct.
- 1, Le Guet, 20th Oct.
- 1, Pezeries, 27th Oct.



Turtle Dove - Rue du Felconte - JHooper



Coal Tit - Saumarez Pk - ASóaling



Rooks - MAGuppy

1, Reservoir, 29th Oct.
1, Valniquets, 30th Oct.
1, Foulon, 4th & 23rd Dec.

Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*)

1, Claire Mare, 21st Aug.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

1, Pleinmont, 29th Apr.
1, Prevote, 4th May.
1, Pleinmont, 19th May.
1, Pleinmont, 4th Sep.
1, Pleinmont, 17th Sep.
1, Pezeries, 17th Oct.
1, Valniquets, 18th Oct.

Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*)

1, South coast cliffs, 21st Jan to 23rd Apr.

Blue-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava flava*)

1, Rue des Hougues, SA, 14th Apr.

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)

1, Fort le Crocq/L'Eree, 1st Jan to 4th Mar.
1, Vazon/Ft Hommet, 7th & 8th Nov.



Melodious Warbler - AP Loring



Dartford Warbler - A Stirling



Water Pipit - Shingle Bank - BG Wells

Lesser Redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*)

- 1, Pleinmont, 18th Oct.
- 2, Pleinmont, 30th Oct.
- 2, Grand Pre, 1st Nov.
- 1, Mont Marche, 1st Nov.
- 1, Pezeries, 2nd Nov.

Common Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)

- 1, Pleinmont, 17th Jul.
- 8, Pleinmont, 19th Oct.

Serin (*Serinus serinus*)

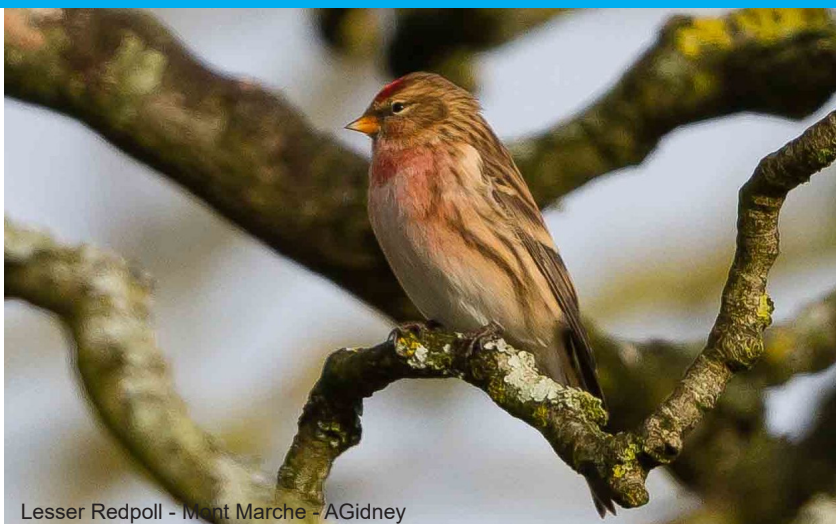
- 1, Herm, 1st Nov.

Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

- 1, Fort le Crocq, 2nd to 8th Nov.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

- 1, Fort Hommet, 5th to 27th Oct.
- 1, Bordeaux, 8th Oct.
- 1, Chouet, 21st Oct.
- 1, L'Eree Shingle Bank, 23rd Oct.
- 1, Rue des Hougues, SA, 3rd & 4th Nov.
- 1, Chouet, 8th Dec.



Lesser Redpoll - Mont Marche - AGidney



Snow Bunting - FtHommet- AMarquis



Lapland Bunting - AStoaling