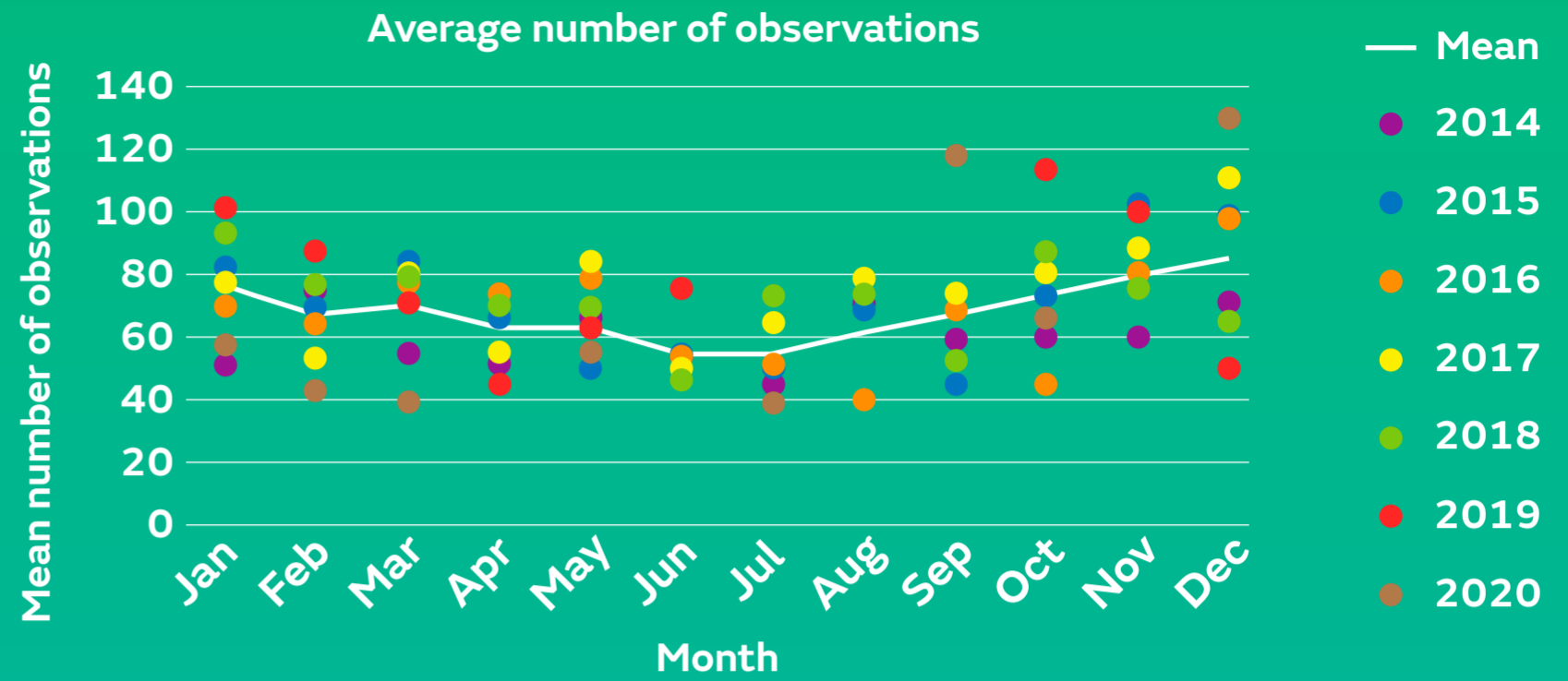


Birds at the Met Office

General trends

Volunteers from the Met Office began monitoring bird species on site in mid-2013. 185 transects around the building have been conducted over the past seven 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

Redwing

Variable number of sightings with a record of 100 in 2015.



House Sparrow

Variable number of sightings averaging 23 per annum over the period 2014 – 2020, peaking at 49 in 2017. (This is a National BAP species)



Herring Gull

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



Starling

Variable number of sightings with a record of 32 sighted in 2020.



Other red list species are Grey Wagtail, Fieldfare, Linnets, and Song Thrush – the latter two are also National BAP species.

Amber 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 43 per annum over the period 2014 – 2020, peaking at 94 in 2017.



Mallard

Variable number of sightings averaging 7 per annum over the period 2014 – 2020, peaking at 13 in 2018.



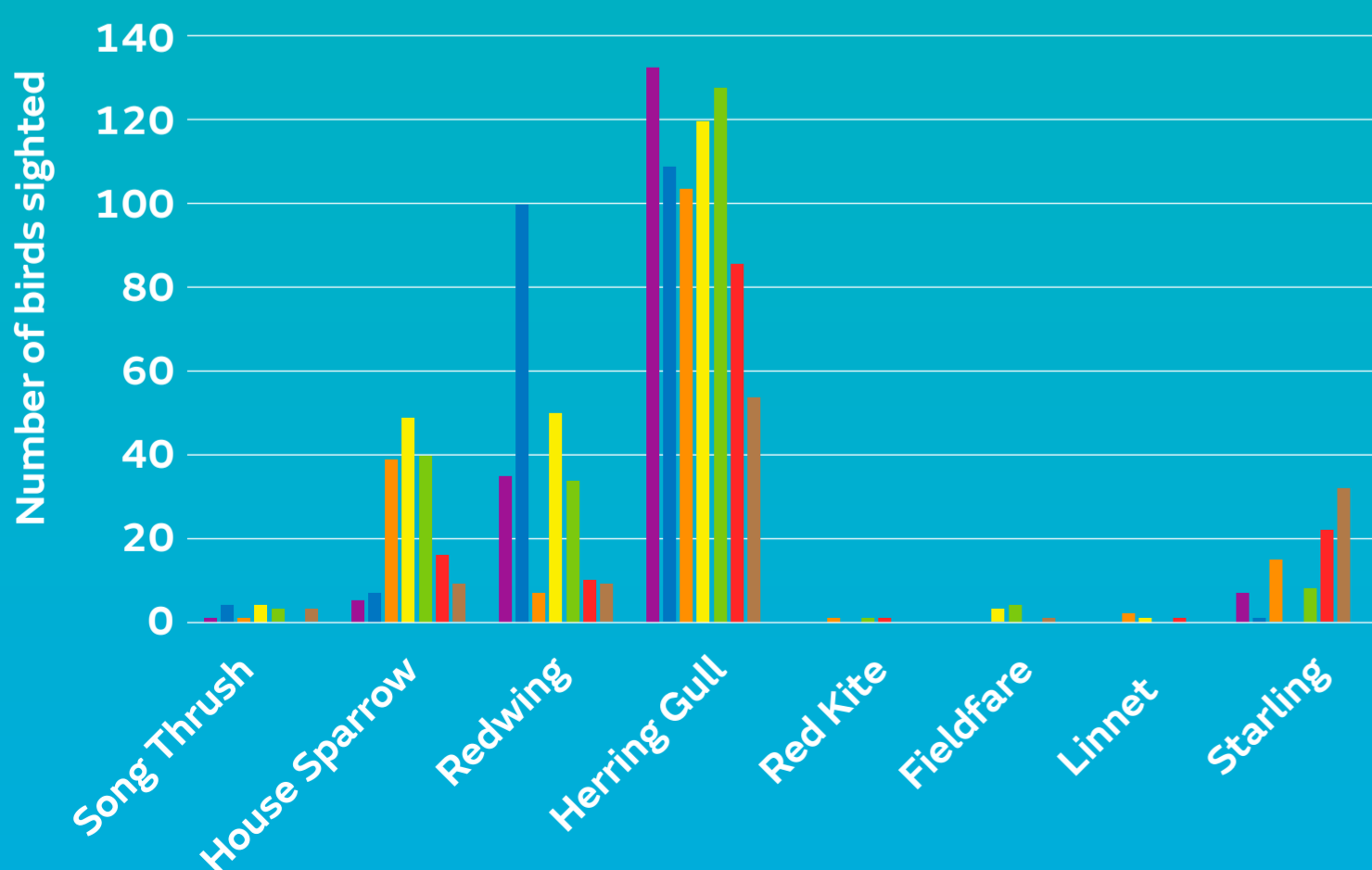
Dunnock

Variable number of sightings averaging 9 per annum over the period 2014 – 2020, peaking at 15 in 2016.

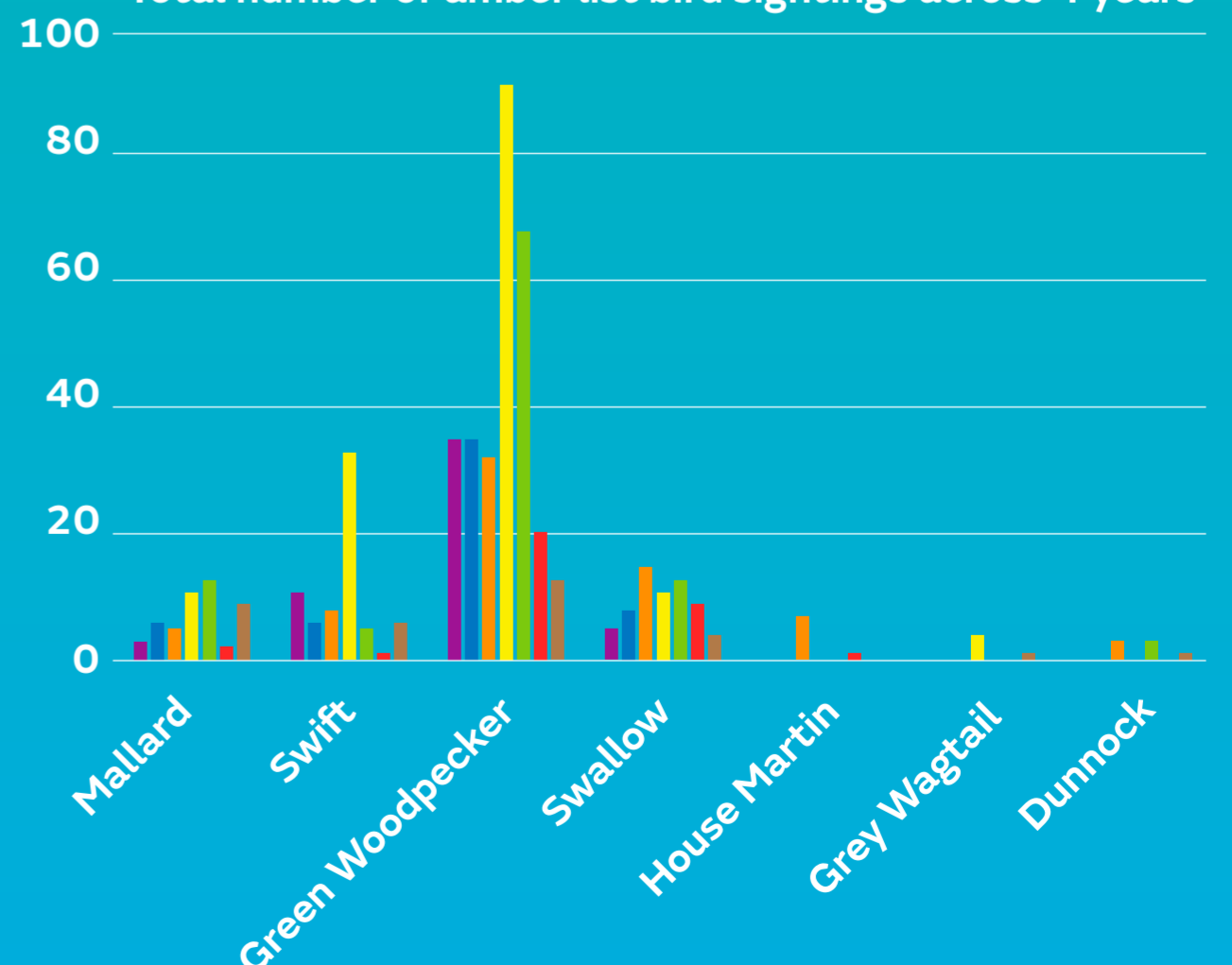


Other amber list species include Reed Bunting, Kingfisher, and Meadow Pipit.

Total number of red list bird sightings across 7 years



Total number of amber list bird sightings across 4 years



References

Eaton MA, Aebischer NJ, Brown AF, Hearn RD, Lock L, Musgrove AJ, Noble DG, Stroud DA and Gregory RD (2015) Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. British Birds 108, 708–746. Available online at: britishbirds.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/BoCC4.pdf