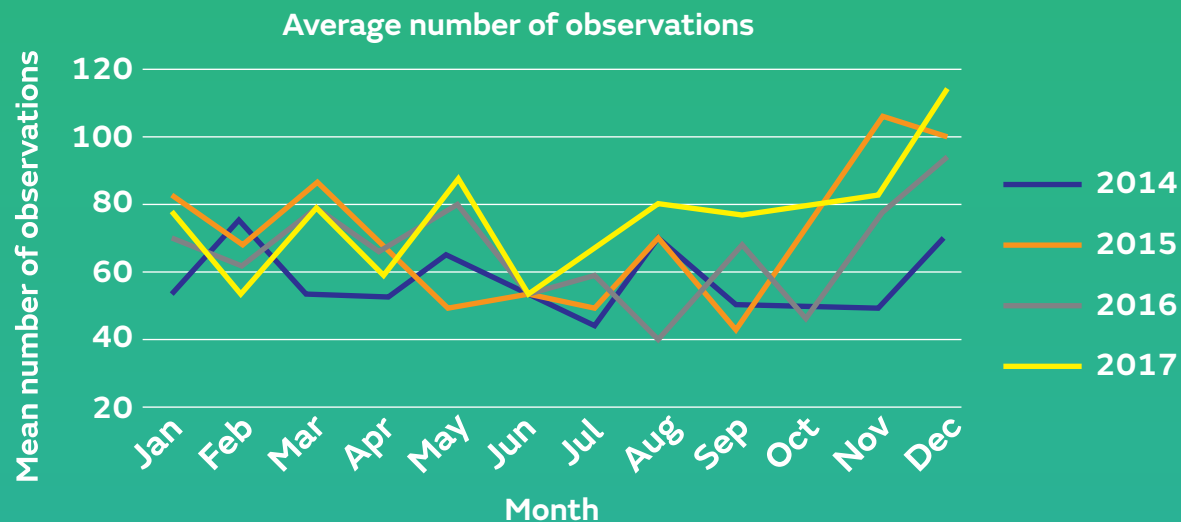


Birds at the Met Office

General trends

Volunteers from the Met Office began monitoring bird species on site in mid-2013. 104 transects around the building have been conducted over the past four years, and we can now see how the number of birds our habitats support has changed over time.

To the right is the average number of birds counted on a survey each month, and despite the totals being quite variable, there is a modest increase from 2014 to 2017. Species diversity has also increased over the past four years, where 2016 saw a record number of 45 different species.



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

Large increases with 44 more sightings in 2017 than 2014 (This is also 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 15 sighted in 2016.



Other red list species are Red Kite, Fieldfare, Linnet and Song Thrush - which are also Devon and National BAP species.

Amber list

Swift

Increase in sightings, with 23 more seen in 2017 than 2014.



House Martin

Increase with 36 more sightings in 2017 than 2014.



Mallard

Consistent increase in numbers from 3 to 11 over four years.



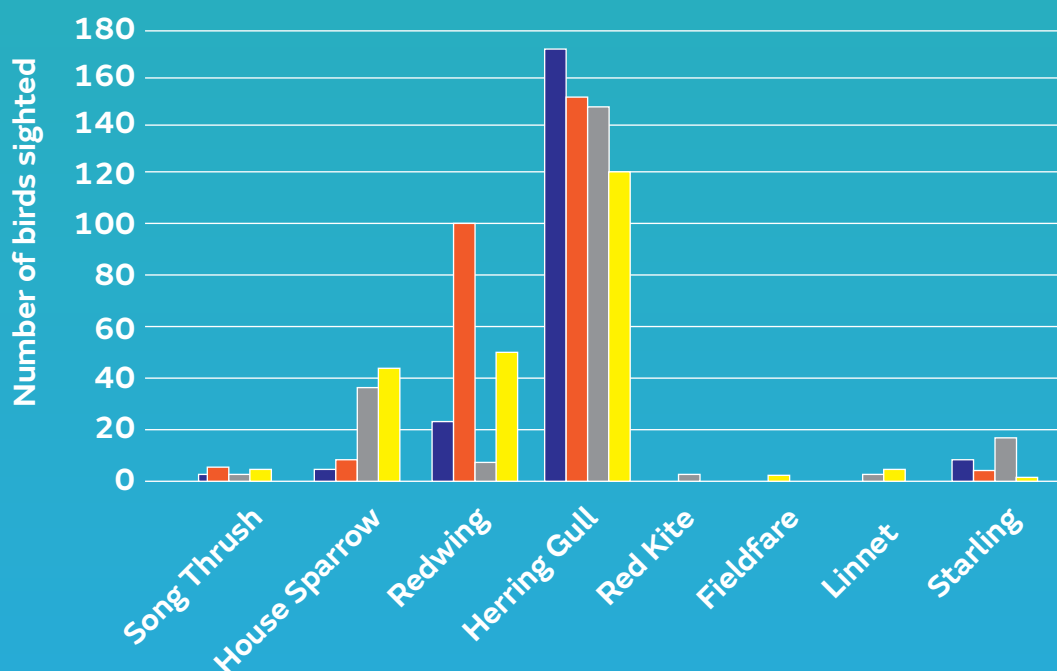
Dunnock

Variable number of sightings, with a high of 15 in 2016.

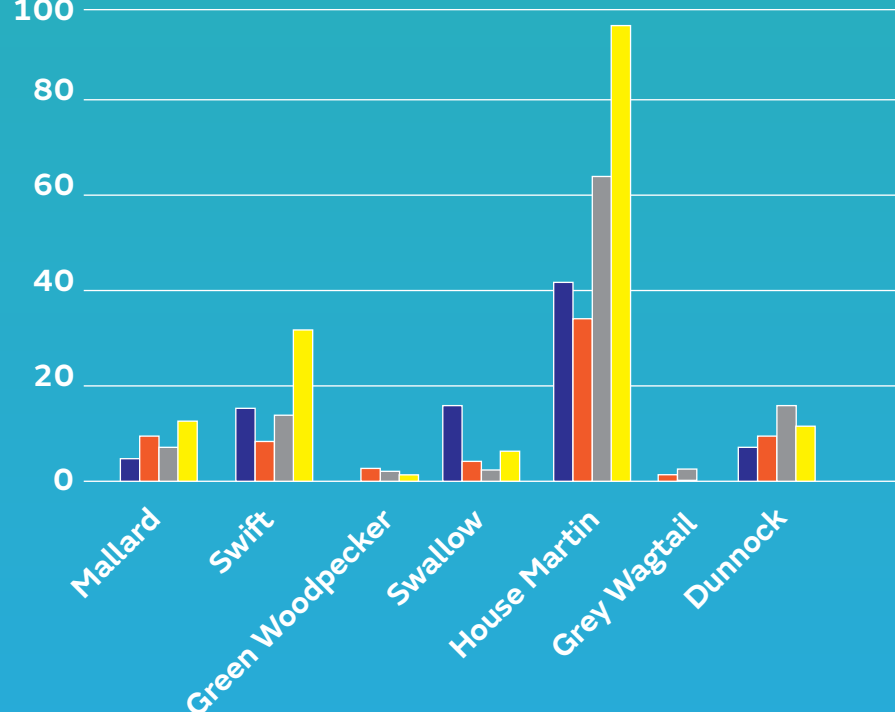


Other amber list species are Green Woodpecker, Swallow, and Grey Wagtail.

Total number of red list bird sightings across 4 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