



Manx BirdLife

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About Manx Birdlife

Manx BirdLife is the independent wildlife conservation charity based in the Isle of Man working to protect, restore and enhance the Island's wild bird populations and the habitats on which they depend. We care passionately about the natural world. We are deeply concerned about the biodiversity crisis affecting species and habitats and believe wild birds play a vital, functional role in the ecosystem. Manx BirdLife is working to sustain the abundance and diversity of wild birds on the Isle of Man through:

- Surveys and Censuses e.g. the 2022 Hen Harrier census or the 2025 Chough Census
- Conservation projects such as the Manx Barn Owl Project and the 2025 Hen Harrier Satellite Tagging Project.
- Citizen Science projects e.g. the Manx BirdLife Garden Birdwatch which has been running for over 20 years
- Environmental Education, we are working with all of the Island's primary schools to educate children about the amazing wildlife found on the Isle of Man
- Habitat Management and Creation at the ManxBirdLife Point of Ayre National Reserve and the Manx BirdLife Langness Reserve.

Birds of Conservation

Concern in the Isle of Man (BoCCIoM)

Published in 2021, BoCCIoM was the first comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of all regularly occurring wild bird species in the Isle of Man. Using the well-established Birds of Conservation Concern framework, the study examined 166 regularly occurring species from the official Manx List of Birds, which includes 332 species in total.

The findings reveal clear patterns in the fortunes of Manx birds. Of the species assessed, 48 (29%) have been placed on the Red List, indicating the highest level of concern, while 68 (41%) are on the Amber List and 50 (30%) on the Green List.

By highlighting the species most at risk, BoCCIoM 2021 enables the prioritisation of national conservation policy, strategy, and funding. As the definitive and most up-to-date account of the populations and ranges of birds in the Isle of Man, it provides an essential resource for conservationists and decision-makers working to safeguard the island's birdlife and habitats.



Birds of Conservation Concern Isle of Man (BoCCIoM) publication

Manx Birdlife National Censuses

ManxBird Life undertakes national wildlife censuses, including the 2022 Hen Harrier Census and the 2025 Chough Census. These surveys provide essential information on the status of key species across the Isle of Man, helping us to safeguard the remarkable wildlife that calls the Island home.

The 2022 Hen Harrier Census

The 2022 census showed that while the Hen Harrier breeding population remains well below its historic peak, numbers appear to have stabilised in recent years. Survey teams made up to three visits to each of 86 known recent and historic nesting sites across the Island's uplands, with 83 sites fully assessed. Standardised surveys from carefully chosen vantage points identified: 31 Definite, 7 Probable, and 4 Possible Hen Harrier territorial pairs, representing a population range of 38-42 breeding females. Hen Harriers were also recorded at 13 additional sites, but these were judged to be hunting only and not breeding. No Hen Harriers were observed at 31 other sites. In total, 38 Definite and Probable territorial pairs were confirmed-the highest figure since 2004, when the Manx breeding population peaked at 57 pairs.



Photo credits: James Leonard

The 2025 Chough Census

The 2025 census recorded 121 breeding pairs of Choughs, representing a 24% decline from the 160 pairs reported in the 2014/15 census. Key findings include: Numbers have declined most significantly in the West and East of the Island. Populations in the South remain stable. Inland nesting continues to show a gradual increase. Small populations persist on the Calf of Man and in the North.



Photo credits: Neil Morris

Chough nesting patterns appear to be shifting, with increasing use of inland sites and man-made structures. This may indicate changing habitat preferences or adaptive behaviour.

Education programme

Our Education Programme invites children, families, and the wider community to explore the natural world through the captivating story of wild birds. It seeks to inspire a deep appreciation for the birds that call the Isle of Man home and to foster a lasting sense of responsibility for protecting them and the habitats on which they-and we-depend.

Each year, more than 3,000 people take part, including over 2,000 schoolchildren. Through an engaging mix of workshops, guided walks, and community events, participants experience the wonder and diversity of birdlife first-hand. These meaningful learning opportunities-indoors and outdoors-highlight the vital connections between birds, people, and the environment, while empowering individuals to take positive action for nature.

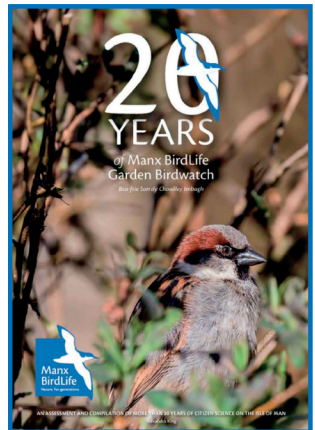


Photo credits: St John's School

A particular focus of the programme is working with the Island's primary schools. By bringing the curriculum to life through the local and global stories of wild birds and their habitats, children gain a richer understanding of the natural world and their role in caring for it. The Education Programme is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Scheinberg Family.

Manx Birdlife Citizen Science Projects

Effective conservation of Manx wildlife depends on active engagement with the Island's residents. Manx BirdLife facilitates this through a range of citizen science initiatives, including the long-running Garden Birdwatch scheme (established in 1999), the recent Buzzard Citizen Science Project (designed to assess the size and distribution of the Island's buzzard population), and the annual Christmas Bird Race, which brings birdwatchers together from across the Island to record as many species as possible between Christmas and New Year. The Garden Birdwatch scheme alone generates over 50,000 records each year, providing vital data on the populations of familiar garden species such as Robins, Blue Tits, and Blackbirds-species that are often overlooked in broader conservation programmes. Since the inception of the Garden Birdwatch, the composition of species frequenting Manx gardens has shifted. Some species have declined or disappeared, while others have established themselves. Encouragingly, the average number of birds recorded per garden has increased overall, with the House Sparrow consistently remaining the most common species. Long-term monitoring of garden birds is essential for detecting trends in species abundance and distribution. Such data are critical for understanding the impacts of disease, shifting migration patterns, climate change, and local environmental changes on bird populations, thereby ensuring that appropriate conservation action can be taken.



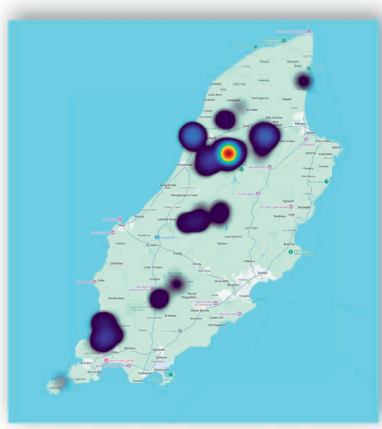
20 years of the Manx Birdlife Garden Birdwatch



Other Conservation Projects

Manx BirdLife works in close collaboration with other environmental NGOs to monitor, protect, and conserve Manx wildlife. Key initiatives include the Manx Barn Owl Project, Action for Swifts, and the Hen Harrier Satellite Tagging Project launched in 2025.

In 2025, Manx BirdLife, together with the Manx Wildlife Trust and the Manx Ringing Group, initiated a new programme to track Hen Harriers on the Isle of Man using satellite tags. Over the next five years, several birds will be fitted annually with lightweight tags, beginning with four individuals in the first season. This initiative builds on earlier work undertaken in partnership with the RSPB and will provide essential insights into how Hen Harriers use the Manx landscape throughout the year-particularly during winter, when little is currently known about their behaviour. Analyses of data from previous satellite tagging projects have already demonstrated how Hen Harriers utilise habitats across the Island. The new project will generate detailed information on the movements, roosting behaviour, survival rates, and potential threats facing the Manx Hen Harrier population. These findings will directly inform conservation strategies and policy development, strengthening efforts to secure the future of this iconic species on the Isle of Man.



Hen Harrier roost data