WEST CORNWALL RINGING GROUP

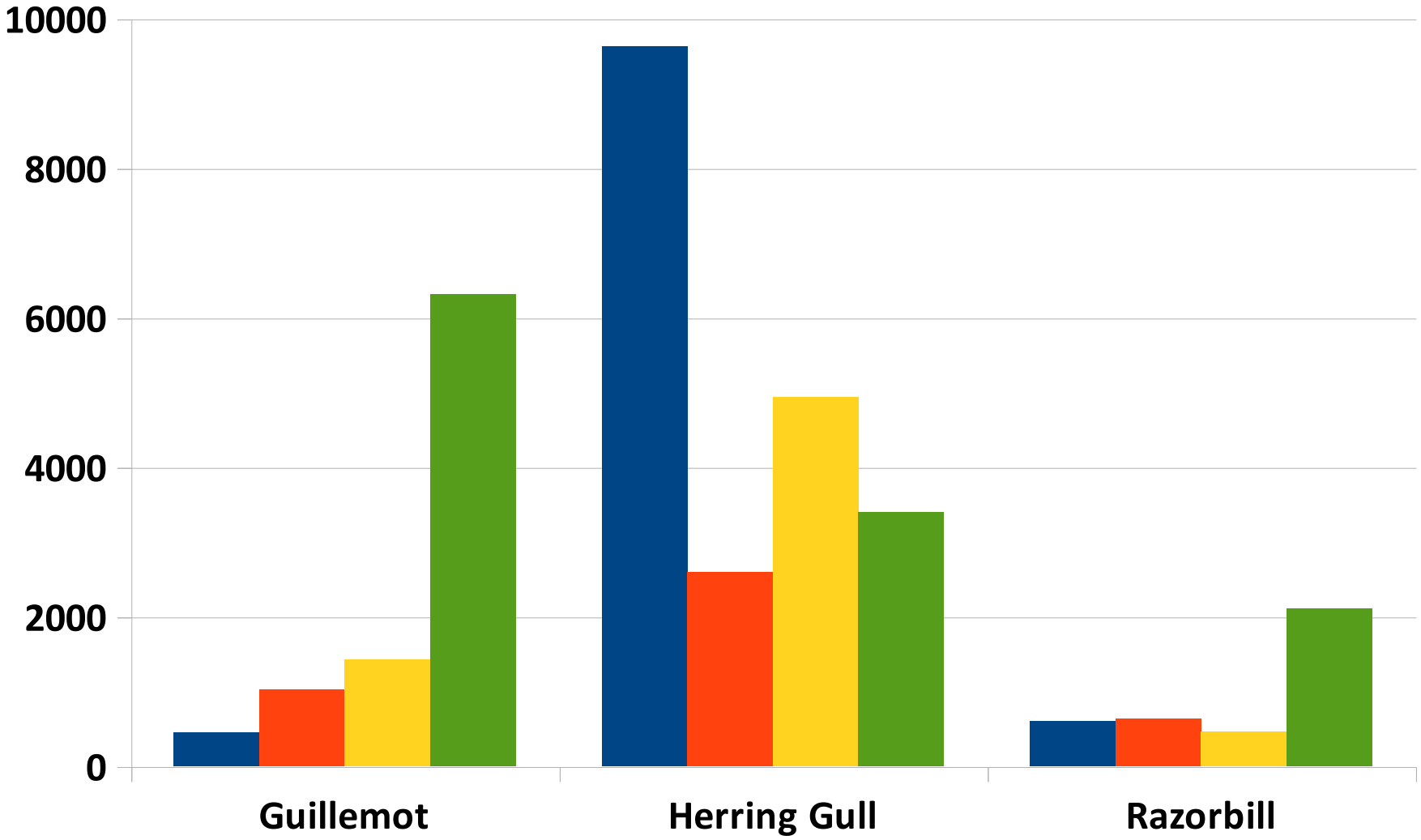
Seabird tracking and trends: a southwest perspective

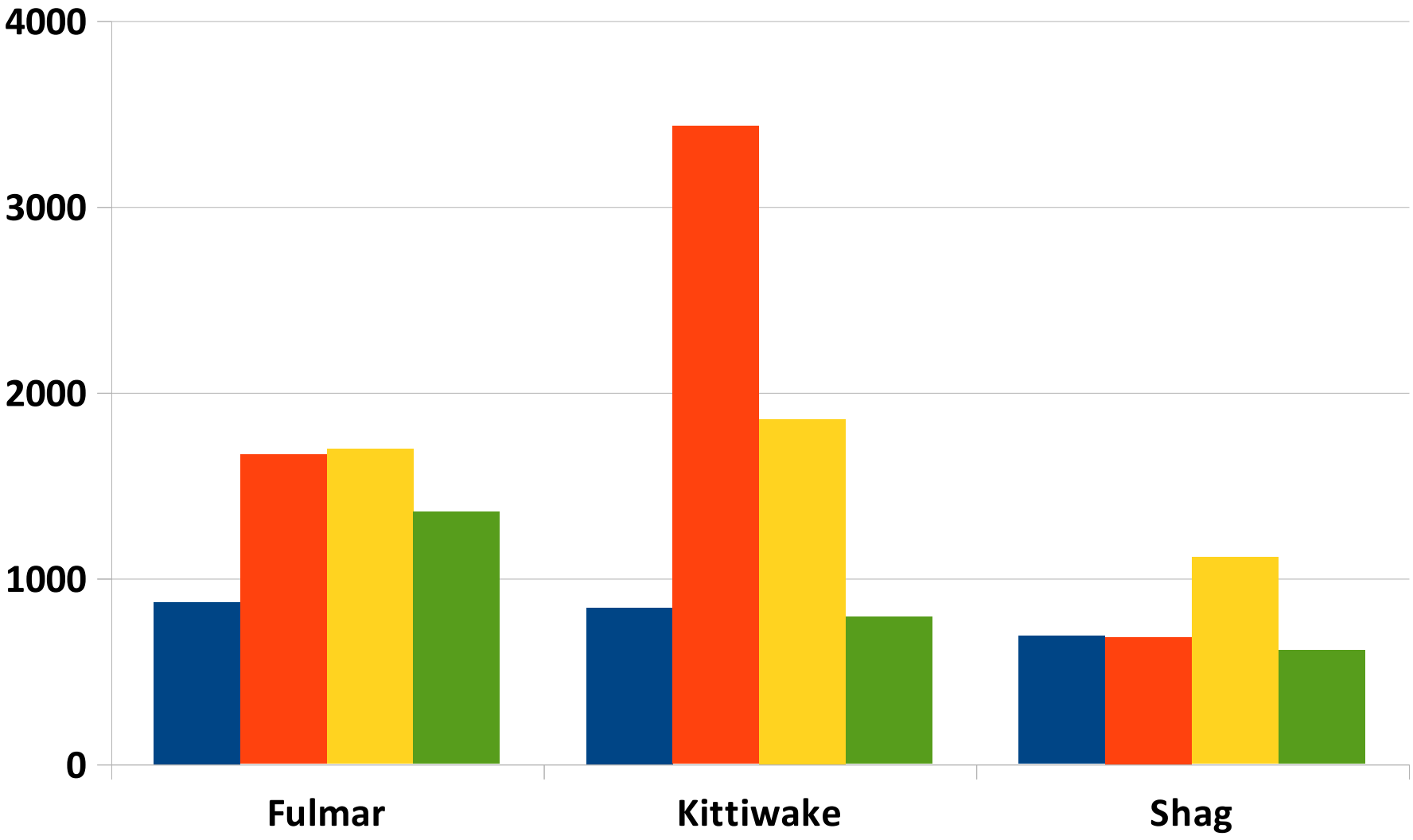
Operation Seafarer: 1969-70
Seabird Colony Register: 1985-88
Seabird2000: 1998-2002
Seabirds Count: 2015-19

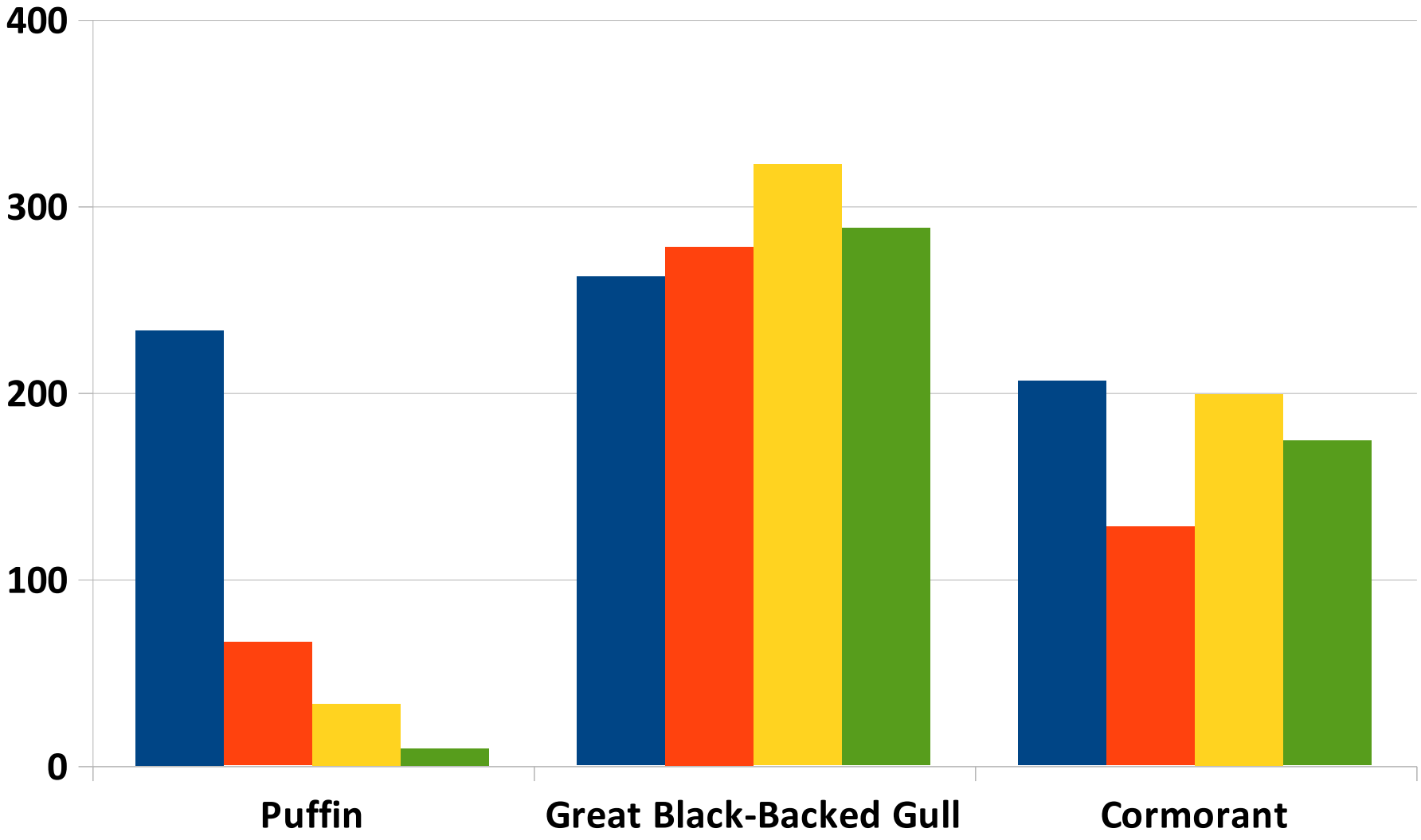
Seabird Monitoring Programme

Cornwall – 1,086km
Essex – 905km
Devon – 819km

	Seabird2000	SeabirdsCount	
Puffin	33	9	
Black-Headed Gull	176	7	
Guillemot	1419	6315	**+445%**
Storm-petrel		2	
Fulmar	1692	1353	**-20%**
Great Black-Backed Gull	316	288	**-9%**
Cormorant	214	174	**-19%**
Herring Gull	3456	3395	**-2%**
Kittiwake	1853	791	**-57%**
Lesser Black-Backed Gull	39	29	
Razorbill	451	2110	**+468%**
Shag	1068	609	**-43%**


10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
Guillemot
Herring Gull
Razorbill


4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Fulmar
Kittiwake
Shag

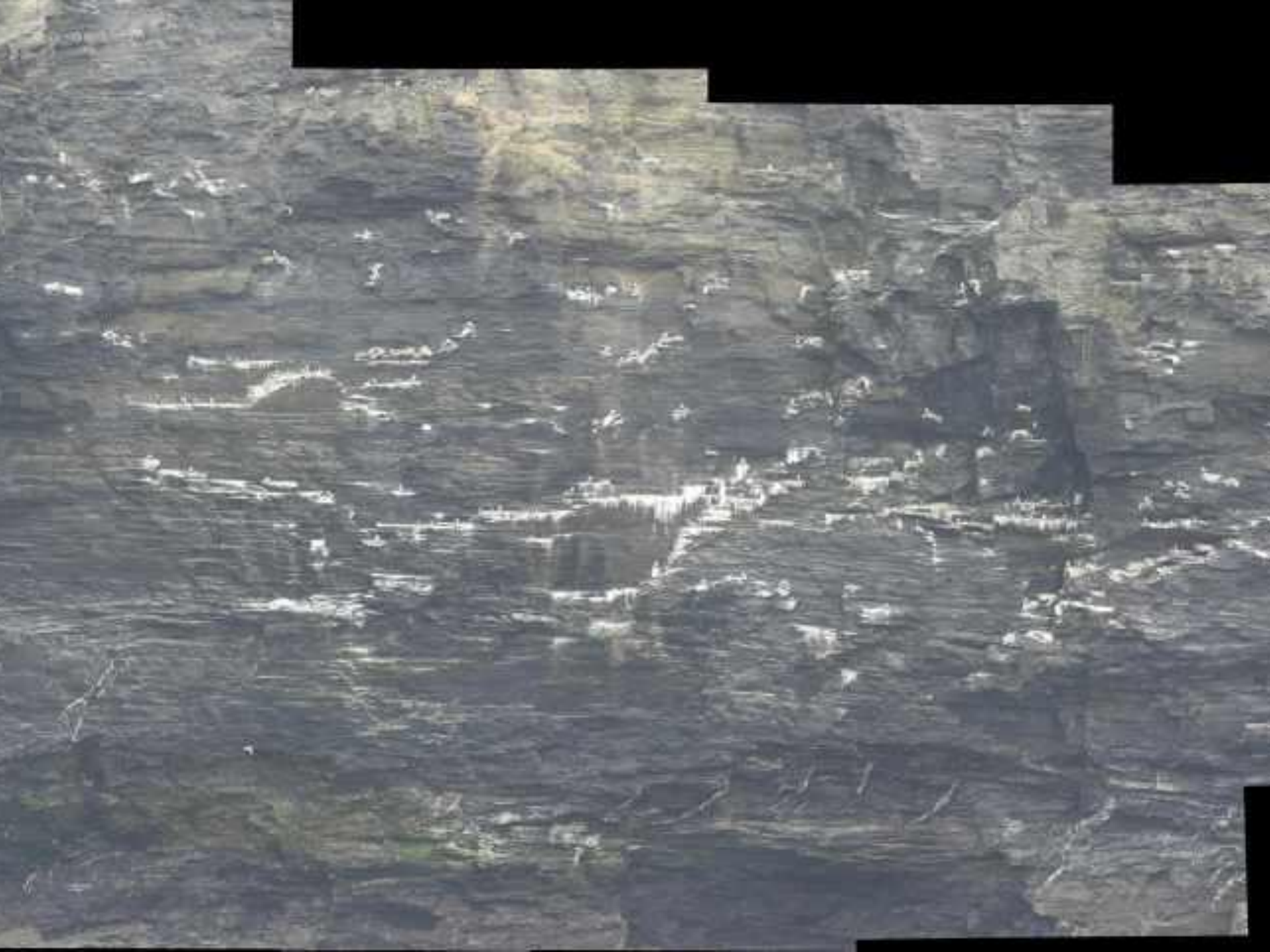

400
300
200
100
0
Puffin
Great Black-Backed Gull
Cormorant

Kittiwakes

63% decrease nationally since 1986
58% colonies from Kent-Scilly abandoned

Seabird2000 - 11 Cornish colonies (1900 pairs)
2016 - 5 Cornish colonies (800 pairs)

Breeding success poor
- <0.8 chicks per pair at survey sites
- 1.2 chicks per pair is sustainable



1a
1
2
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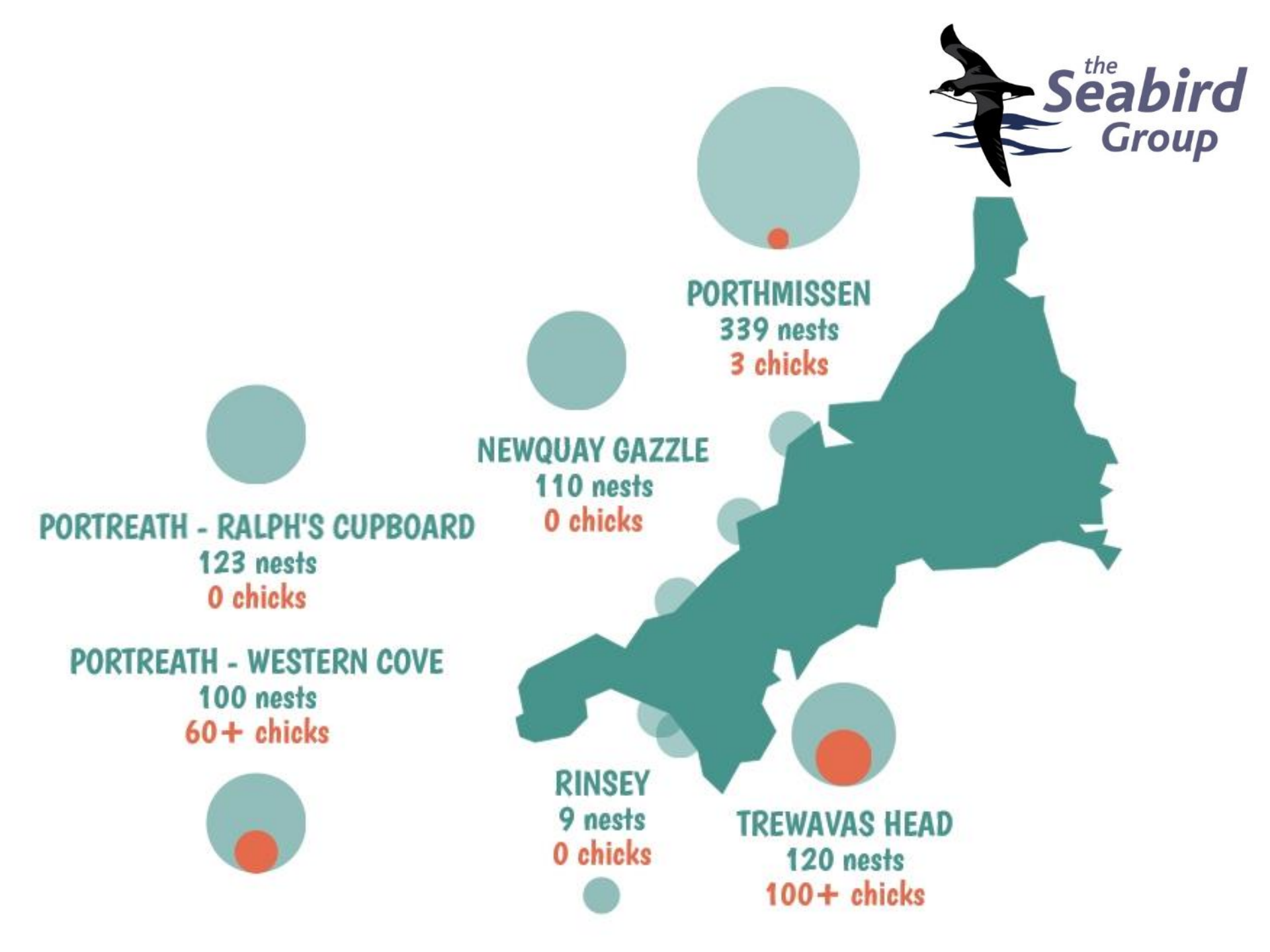
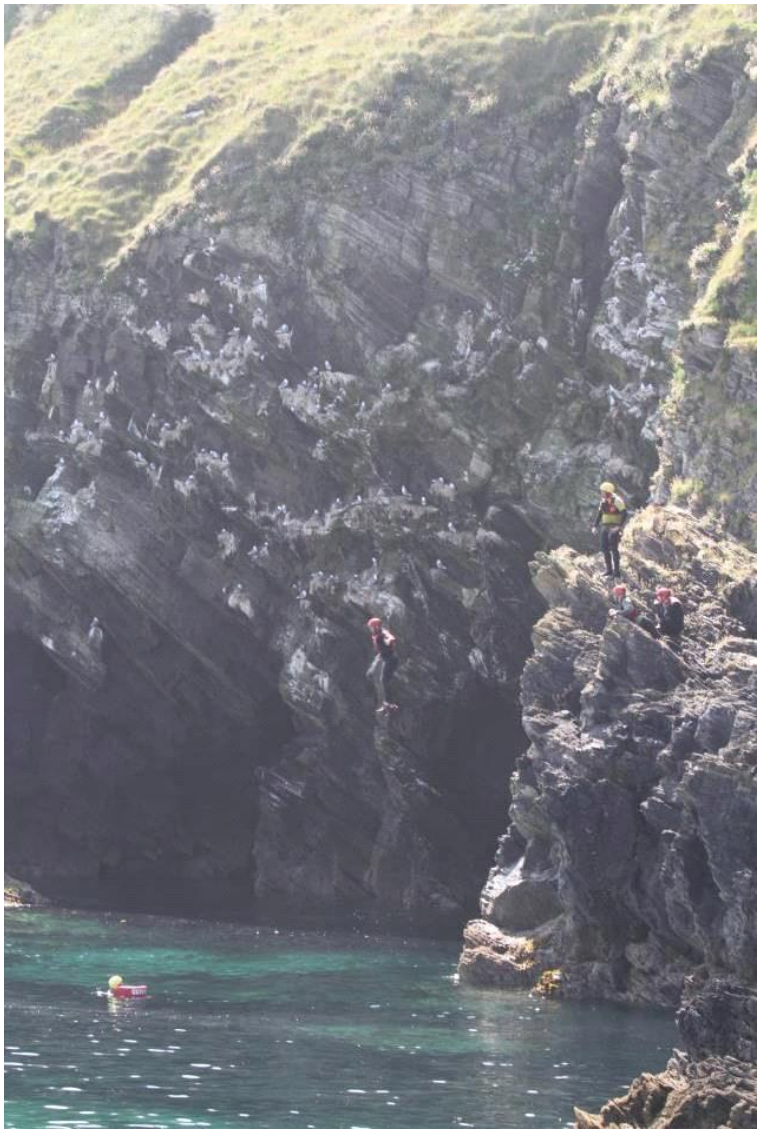
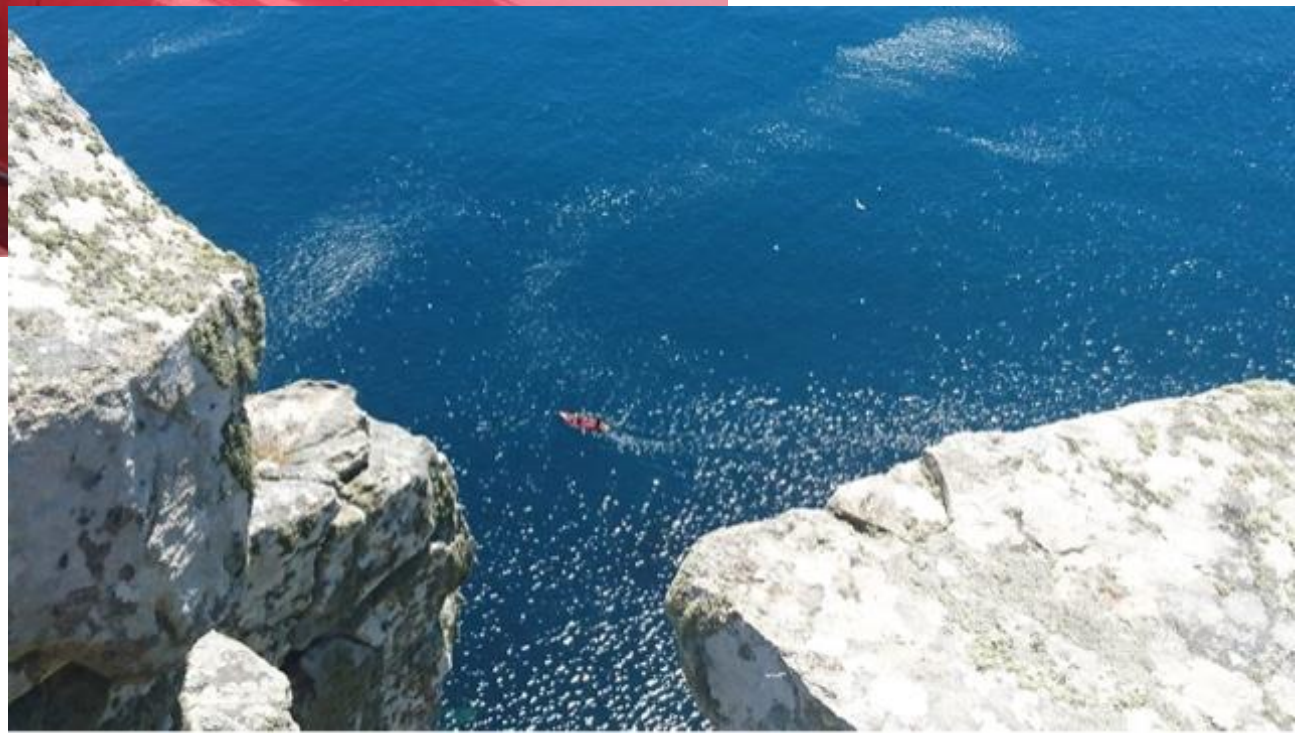

the Seabird Group
PORTHMISSEN
339 nests
3 chicks
NEWQUAY GAZZLE
110 nests
0 chicks
PORTREATH - RALPH'S CUPBOARD
123 nests
0 chicks
PORTREATH - WESTERN COVE
100 nests
60+ chicks
RINSEY
9 nests
0 chicks
TREWAVAS HEAD
120 nests
100+ chicks



the Seabird Group

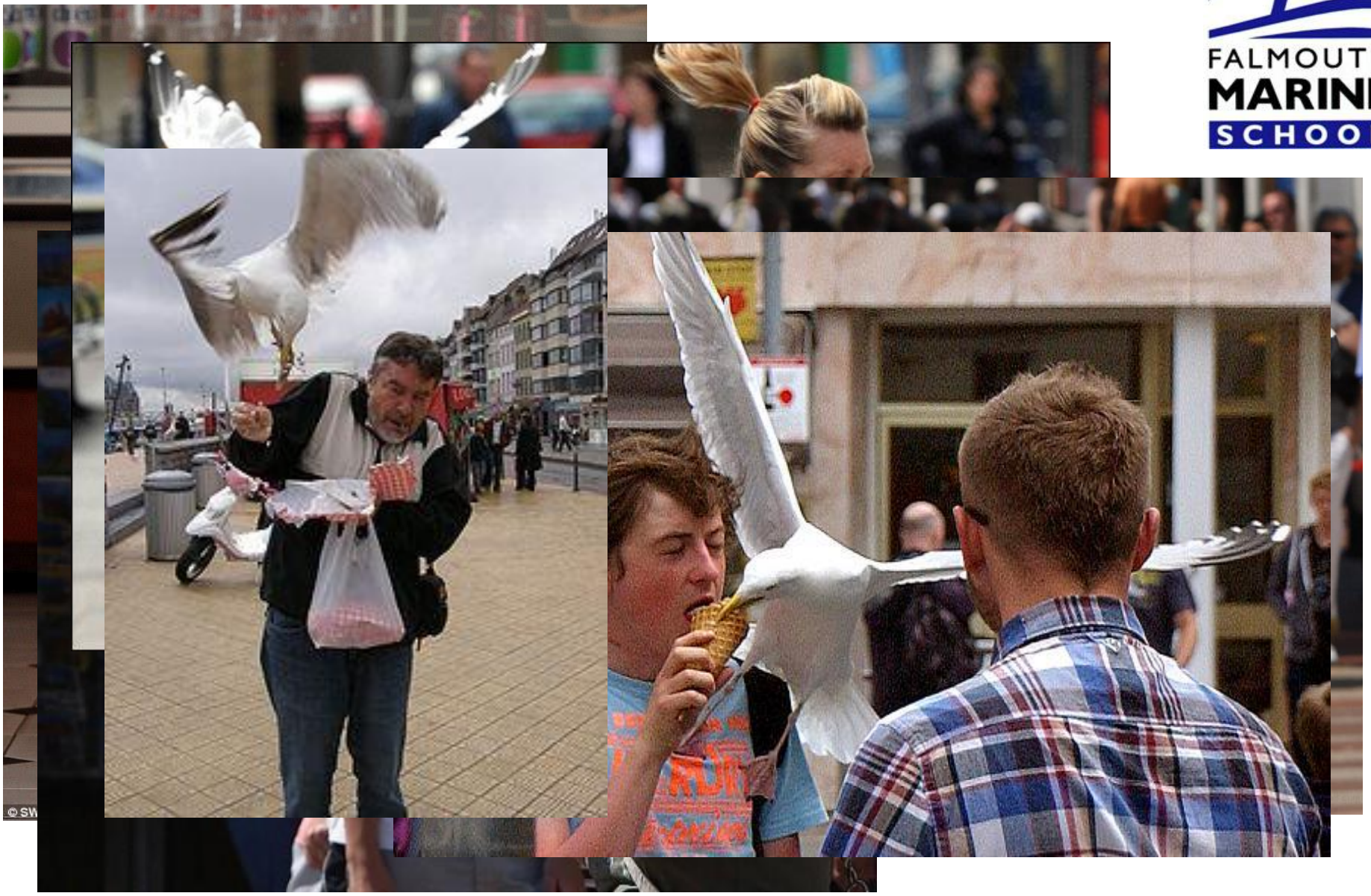


the Seabird Group

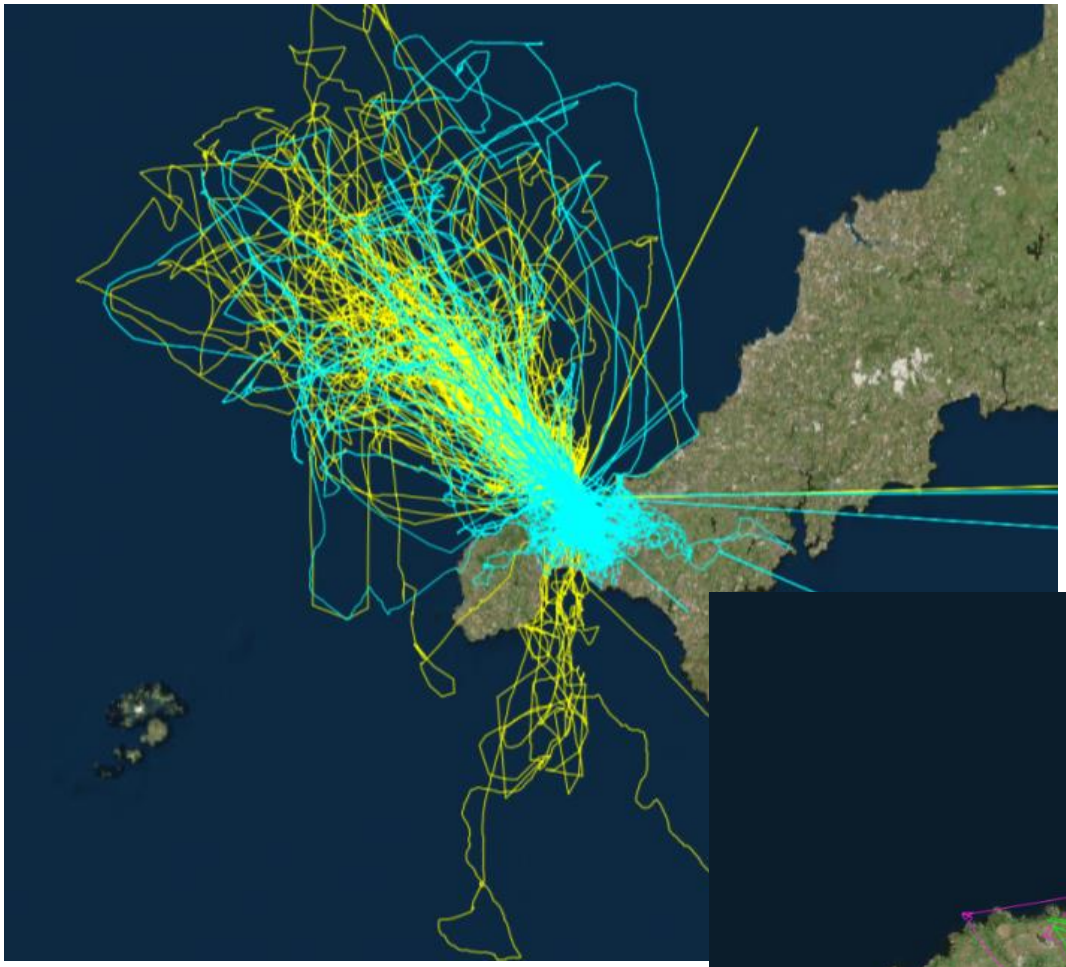
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Adults ringed		24	24	9	9
Chicks ringed		15	16	16	24
Own birds resighted	11	10	30	40	42
French birds resighted	4	4	4	6	6
% resighted		78	85	81	76

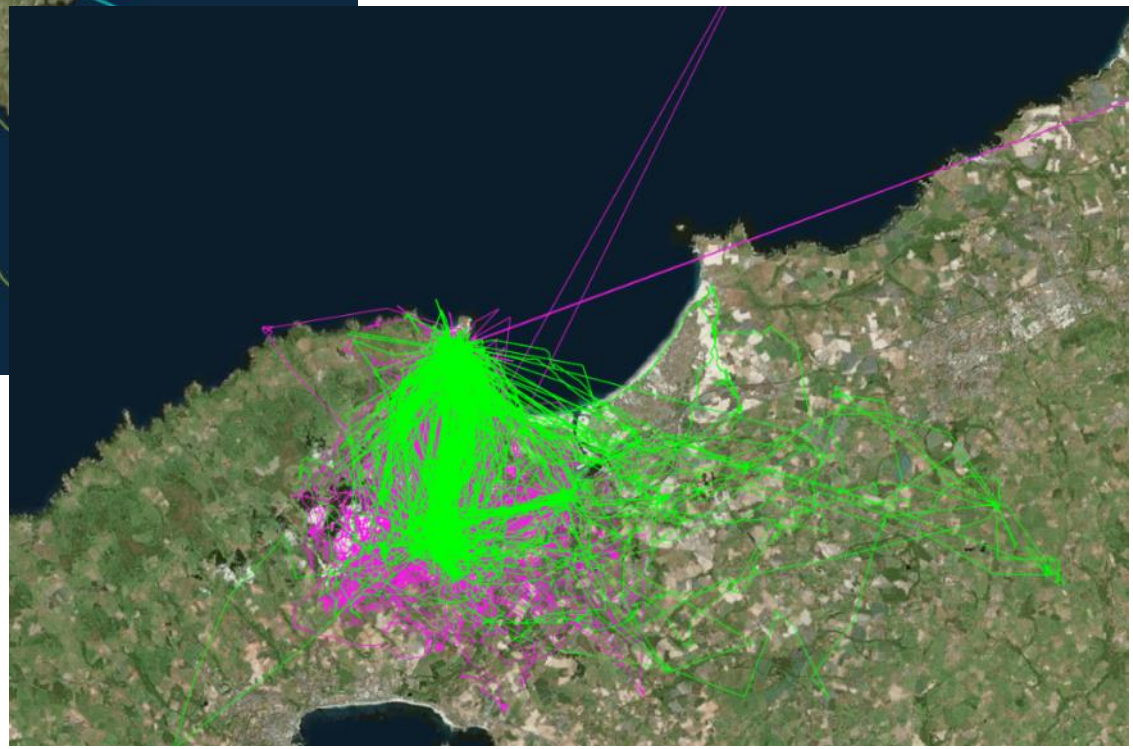
Apparent Adult Survival
1.0
0.9
0.8
0.7
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0.0
2000
2002
2004
2006
2008
2010
2012
2014
2016

Urban gulls



FALMOUTH
MARINE
SCHOOL





Priorities

- **further complete surveys of key species**
- **improved demographic monitoring (productivity, survival)**
- **dietary studies of declining species**