

Lytchett Bay 2002

Shaun Robson

The annual total number of species recorded in each of the last 8 years is as follows;

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
143	142	144	139	139	129	134	141

Despite lacking a really good bird this was an enthralling year at the Bay. The highlights for me were the birds attracted to the marigold field during late summer & autumn and the excellent run of common migrants during the period. The Field provided us with the first opportunity at the Bay to concentrate on ringing birds of conservation concern. Unfortunately we did not discover the possibilities until early September otherwise our success would have been much greater.

There were several notable records at the Bay. The 3rd records of Honey Buzzard, Red Kite, Iceland Gull (and 4th), Kittiwake and the 5th record of Ring-billed Gull. The only addition to the Bay list came somewhere behind these, Ring-necked Parakeet. Though a record of American Herring Gull awaits verification. An "eastern chiffchaff" also provided interest. Lots of species exceeded previous daily or seasonal bests, or early or latest dates. However it was the number of Reed Buntings, Stonechats and common migrants that brought much pleasure during the year. The area of Border Drive and Turlin Moor is certainly confirmed as the prime spot at the Bay for warblers and flycatchers.

Ringing was more successful than in any year since I started. 338 new birds of 25 species were ringed. Details are included in the species accounts. The focus on colour ringed Black-tailed Godwit again reaped rewards with more birds from Iceland, new ones from France, and others that had visited Ireland and Belgium.

As always there were a few downsides. The habitat that attracted Woodlarks to breed was ploughed. May be suitable habitat will appear there again next autumn? Spotted Redshanks continued to decline. Water Pipits disappeared, as did Dartford Warblers.

The Bay was visited on 202 days (181 in 2001) as set out below.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
18	15	14	21	16	7	19	23	26	24	14	5

Acknowledgements

Please remember that the major part of the site is private and that access is at the discretion of the farmer and the estate. Please respect this privilege.

Finally we wish to thank the occupants of Olde Quoins Cottage for their assistance with the log and the landowner the Lees Estate for their kind permission to ring at Lytchett Bay and for access to Holton Lee.

Systematic List 2002

Little Grebe: (11 - 11)

Winter visitor. Recorded until 24th Mar and from 5th Oct. Max 7 on 1st Jan.

Great Crested Grebe: (4 - 8)

Occasional visitor. In keeping with the scarce status of this bird at the Bay, 2 records in the first 9 months were typical. 1 on 10th Mar and 2 on 26th May. However 1 on the 14th Oct preceded the best series of records to date. Numbers increased to 4 by the end of the month. Sightings of 1 or 2 birds continued until the yearend.

Cormorant: (57 - 11)

Present throughout the year. This year's maximum count was 10 in November.

Little Egret: (15 - 10)

Common visitor.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
6	6	5	8	9	7	12	8	9	12	5	5

Grey Heron: (10 - 11)

Recorded throughout the year. Usually considerably scarcer than the previous species. The sight of a flock of 10 flying high over the Bay on the 11th Sept made the heart flutter for a moment. Ten were also seen on the 29th Sept, the largest number ever recorded.

Mute Swan: (18 - 11)

Increasingly regular visitor. Present throughout the year for the first time. A pair built a nest but breeding was not successful. An influx during an early cold spell in October produced a record count of 18 on 20th. The previous maximum was 13 on 15th Dec 2001.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
15	1	2	4	2	2	4	2	9	18	14	2

Greylag Goose: (25 - 4)

Scarce feral wanderer. A single on the 5th May. An unprecedented 25W shortly after dawn on 22nd Sept. The biggest flock recorded in Poole Harbour for many years?

Canada Goose: (67 - 11)

Occasional visitor. 111 bird days on 13 dates between 2nd Feb and 27th Nov. Max 29 on Far Fields on 2nd Feb.

Shelduck: (548 - 11)

Common winter visitor and annual breeder. No confirmed breeding this year. The species was not recorded between 24th July and 3rd Sept.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
148	118	146	100	22	17	16	0	15	40	34	143

Wigeon: (104 - 11)

Uncommon visitor. Another excellent year which continued on from the end of 2001. 104 on 6th Jan is a max count for the Bay. The species was completely absent between 26th Feb and 28th August. The latter being the earliest return date.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
104	4	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	19	10	21

Gadwall: (5 - 6)

Occasional visitor. Another good year for this previously rare visitor. 2 were present on 1st Jan increasing to 4 on 6th, and a record 5 on the 12th. A pair appeared on 21st Apr. 1 was seen on 18th Sept and finally 3 on 15th Dec.

Teal: (314 - 11)

Winter visitor and passage migrant.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
191	60	62	65	1	0	0	52	250	86	15	136

9 at Holton Lee on 24th June was an interesting summer record.

Mallard: (52 - 11)

At least 1 pair bred.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
20	6	4	2	13	19	17	33	42	43	n.c.	n.c.

Pintail: (21 - 6)

Scarce visitor. 3 were present from 6th - 12th Jan. A male stayed from 13th Feb to 23rd Mar.

Shoveler: (5 - 10)

Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. 3 on 6th Jan. Seen in 10 out of the last 11 years, but on only one date in each of the last 4 years.

Tufted Duck: (4 - 5)

Scarce visitor. Increasing. 4 arrived on the frosty morning of 19th Oct. 1 on 1st Nov and 1 3rd - 6th Dec.

Goldeneye: (12 - 11)

Common winter visitor in small numbers. Present until 24th Mar and from 25th Nov. 9 on 29th Jan was the maximum count of the year.

Red-breasted Merganser: (73 - 11)

Common winter visitor. Present until 14th April and from 7th Nov. The max of 18 occurred on the 17th Feb.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
12	18	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	17

Honey Buzzard: (1- 3)

A female seen flying from the Bay over Holton Lee 20th July (IML, RDH, ESB, TE) is only the 3rd Bay record.

Red Kite: (1 - 3)

Third record. Well kind of ! One frequented Corfe Mullen Tip on several dates during March. The bird was definitely viewable from the S.C.gate on the afternoon of 16th March as it circled over Upton. Problem was, there no birders there to see it!

Marsh Harrier:

Irregular visitor. A typical series of records. A male was seen on 1st Jan, 6th Jan & 21st Feb. A juvenile was recorded on 28th Aug, 3rd Sept & 5th Sept. Then singles on 26th Oct and 25th Nov.

Hen Harrier:

Irregular Visitor. A poor year with only 3 records, all grey males. 18th Jan, 26th Jan & 6th Dec.

Sparrowhawk:

Common visitor. Recorded on 22 dates and in all months except June, between 14th Jan and 10th Nov. All singles except 2 on 28th Sept. 1 ringed.

Common Buzzard: (15 - 11)

The commonest raptor of the area. Breeds widely in the vicinity. 15 in the air at one time on 16th Mar is the biggest count at the Bay.

Osprey: (3 - 10)

Annual passage migrant. 1 on 14th Apr carrying a fish is only the 9th spring record at the Bay. In autumn recorded on 5 dates between 31st Aug and 28th Sept. All singles with 2 on 22nd.

Kestrel:

Common resident. 1 pair bred successfully.

Merlin: (1 - 7)

Scarce winter visitor. Two records is a relatively good showing. A female on 16th Feb and a male on 15th Nov.

Hobby: (2 - 9)

Irregular visitor. A very good showing, with 8 bird days. 2 were hawking insects over the Far Fields on 21st July. The House Martin flock proved attractive from the end of August with birds seen on the following dates; 31st Aug, 3rd Sept (2), 12th Sept, 19th Sept & 22nd Sept. One was also seen at Holton Lee 24th June.

Peregrine:

Uncommon visitor. A poor year. Singles on 2nd Feb, 9th Aug (juvenile), 30th Sept & 2nd Oct.

Pheasant:

Resident. Bred successfully and were very common during autumn when one kindly destroyed a mist net during a ringing session. Seen throughout the year.

Water Rail: (23 - 11)

Common resident and winter visitor. No change in status noted. At least 6 pairs, probably many more. Successful breeding occurred in most parts of the Bay.

Moorhen: (12 - 11)

An uncommon resident. Bred successfully on the Holton shore, Far Fields and Turlin Stream.

Coot: (1 - 4)

Formally very rare, but now 4 records in the last 4 years. 1 at Water Works on 15th Feb.

Oystercatcher: (400 - 11)

A winter visitor and passage migrant. All significant counts relate to birds using Turlin Fields at high tide. The maximum count was on 10th Nov.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
170	115	10	10	10	7	3	16	34	170	328	192

Avocet: (96 - 10)

Irregular visitor. The arrival of the species in the Bay is usually associated with cold weather freezing their favored haunts. An average year. Present between the 1st - 14th Jan, max 17 on 6th. Two records at the end of the year; 1 27th Nov & 1 31st Dec.

Ringed Plover: (4 - 8)

Very scarce visitor. One flew over the bay on 4th Sept. The first since 1999.

Golden Plover: (160 - 8)

Scarce visitor. After last years bonanza it was back to normal. 1 on 14th Jan and 2 on 24th Feb.

Grey Plover: (14 - 7)

Scarce visitor. After none in 2001 this was a good year. 1 on 14th Apr & 20th Apr. Then an immaculate juvenile at Turlin on 30th Sept.

Lapwing: (3000 - 11)

Formerly bred, now predominantly a winter visitor. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. The max count of 1000 was on 23rd Jan.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1000	474	2	1	2	0	8	7	60	150	50	690

In the second winter period the flock favored the fields between the cottage and the farm. Few birds seen on the Pool.

Knot: (34 - 7)

Scarce Migrant. Recorded on only 2 dates. 20 on 23rd Mar was an exceptional spring record. Then 2 on 5th Oct.

Curlew Sandpiper: (2 - 5)

Very scarce migrant. A juvenile on 16th - 20th Sept with a small flock of Dunlin.

Dunlin: (1200 - 11)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. An average year.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
223	150	30	0	0	0	1	1	7	16	15	259

Birds visited the Pool in the early part of the year. 32 on the 4th Jan, 35 on 23rd Jan, 100 on 4th Feb & 22 on 16th Mar.

The first returning bird in the autumn was on 28th July.

Ruff: (9 - 11)

Scarce migrant, usually in autumn. A good spread of records. 1 on Turlin Field on 26th - 27th Jan. 1 in Bay 24th Mar, 2 on the Pool 28th - 29th Apr. The only autumn records were 4 on the Far Fields on 10th Sept and 2 there the next day.

Jack Snipe: (4 - 5)

Rare winter visitor. One was found in the Far Fields on 1st Jan (SR) and another, or the same, was recorded on 6th, 7th & 13th (SR, JL, IML).

Snipe: (70 - 11)

Common winter visitor. A much better year with good numbers during cold weather in the first winter period. Recorded until 14th Apr, returning on the 4th Sept. 3 on the Pool on 14th Jan was the only record there. The species used to frequent this field so often it was once known as "the snipe field".

Bay monthly max:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
62	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	7	4	25	n.c.

Black-tailed Godwit: (1240 - 11)

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Both spring and autumn passage was very good. 711 on 20th April was the best count since 1996. The Pool proved attractive in spring, 133 on 17th Mar the max, but much less so in autumn 23 on 10th Sept.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
38	440	500	711	210	2	65	286	458	105	14	69

Colour ringed birds were recorded as follows:

LR+LL - 26th Feb, Ad, ringed at Borganes, W Iceland on 4th Sept 2001. Previously recorded at the Bay in Sept 2001. (Note the 2001 Report unexplainably described this bird as "LL+RL").

WY+WG (GE15211) - 16th & 19th Mar, Ad male, ringed to Le Duer, Sarzeau, Brittany, France on 26th Oct 2001.

LG+OL - 14th - 26th Apr, ringed at Alftafjordur, SE Iceland on 4th May 2000. This bird has subsequently been recorded on the Humber & at Waterford, Ireland.

RL+LL - 14th April, ringed at Leiruvogur, nr Reykjavik, Iceland on 28th Apr 2001.

YG+OR (554030) – 14th - 15th Apr, ringed at Villingaholt, S Iceland on 14th July 1999.

GR+OL – 15th Apr & 21st Apr, ringed at Alftafjordur, SE Iceland on 4th May 2000.

B+RO – 21st Apr, ringed at Farlington, Hants on 16th Nov 1998.

WO+LG - 18th Sept & 22nd Sept, ringed at Le Duer, Sarzeau, Brittany, France on 26th Oct 2001.

OY+YL - 20th Sept, Ad male, ringed at Pollengi, S Iceland on 27th Apr 2000. Subsequently recorded in Belgium.

Left leg always given first, all rings above the tibia. Colours are:

O = Orange

L = Lime (this can look very washed out in the field, approaching white)

R = Red

W = White

Y = Yellow

G = Green

B = Blue

Ring number stated where known.

Many thanks to Pete Potts, Guillaume Gélinaud and Tómas G Gunnarsson for supplying this information.

Bar-tailed Godwit: (8 - 7)

Scare visitor. 2 on the 23rd Mar and one on 21st Apr.

Whimbrel: (157 - 11)

Passage migrant, most numerous in spring. The worst spring on record was followed by probably the best autumn. The first of the year was not until 23rd April (as 2001). After which there were only 25 bird days to 19th May. Max 6 on 28th. Autumn passage began on 7th July. There were 34 bird days to 16th Sept. Max 4 on 3 dates.

Curlew: (104 - 11)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Normally seen in the Bay but frequently visit and feed in the whimbrel field and New Pools at high tide.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
54	10	23	28	5	4	17	11	26	30	18	41

Spotted Redshank: (42 - 11)

The worst year in the current recording period and the 5th consecutive poor year. The biggest count of the year was on the 28th July. This the first year in which there has not been a double figure count. Recorded in spring until 5th May. The first returning bird was seen on the 13th June.

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
5	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0

Bay monthly max

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	2	5	5	1	2	8	3	3	1	2	2

Redshank: (436 - 11)

Common winter visitor. Small breeding population on salt marsh. Scarce from late June to early Sept.

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
51	131	35	0	5	0	0	0	8	120	n.c.	n.c.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c.	38	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	12	4	2	50	50	80	n.c.

Greenshank: (27 - 11)

Common passage migrant, which occasionally winters. Recorded much more frequently than Spotted Redshank. Recorded between 10th Feb and 2nd May. The first returning bird was noted on 7th July. Max 14 on 29th July. The last of the year was seen on the 3rd November.

Pool monthly max;

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	8	0	0

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	1	2	3	1	0	14	10	6	1	1	0

Green Sandpiper: (6 - 11)

Common autumn migrant, occasional in winter and spring. One in the Far Fields on 1st - 7th Jan was followed by 2 in spring. 2 on Far Fields on 3rd Mar and 1 on 16th Mar. A good autumn started on 13th July. After which there were 47 bird days until the yearend. Max 4 on 11th September. In fact, birds were probably present daily throughout this period.

Common Sandpiper: (10 - 11)

An uncommon passage migrant. Only 1 in spring, on 18th Apr. Return passage was reasonable and started on 4th July. There were 23 bird days until 19th Sept. Max 4 on 10th Sept.

Mediterranean Gull: (11 - 10)

Uncommon visitor, increasing. The best year to date produced 50 bird days between 26th Jan and 10th Nov. Max 5 on 2 dates in March. The age break down was 5 1st W, 2 2nd S & 43 Ad.

Black-headed Gull: (c7000 - 11)

A very common visitor. 1000's regularly frequent the bay en route to the Wareham Channel roost.

Ring-billed Gull:

The 5th record for the Bay. A 2nd winter was off the main sluice on a rising tide on the 23rd Feb (SR, SFS)

Common Gull: (1700 - 11)

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. Peak counts were 100 on 17th Feb, 300 on 8th Mar & 200 on 3rd Nov. There were no records between 6th May and 28th July.

A bird in complete juvenile plumage was seen on Turlin Fields on 6th - 7th Aug. The first time

that SR has recorded this plumage in Dorset. The nearest recorded breeding birds are a very small population in the Solent. The bird is more likely to have come from France where a substantial population now exists and is known to migrate to Britain in winter (ref. The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland 1988 -1991 & BWP, Concise Vol 1).

Lesser Black backed Gull: (2128 - 11)

A very common passage migrant and common winter visitor. Birds that occur in the Bay are *L.f. graellsii* almost without exception. Few counts made this year, consequently significant under recording. Peaks noted were 70 on 20th Feb, 200 on 15th Mar & 150 on 18th Apr.

Herring Gull: (1400 - 11)

Increasingly common winter visitor and passage migrant due to the presence of Corfe Mullen dump. Again few counts made but significant flocks were present in most months. 350 on 4thMar, 500 on 8thMar, 500 on 21stApr & 800 on 25thSept.

American Herring Gull (*L.a.smithsonianus*):*

A record of a 1st W bird on the Pool appeared on the information services for 18th Mar. This bird frequented Corfe Mullen Tip in March and represented the first record for Dorset.

Yellow legged Gull: (65 - 10)

Frequent visitor throughout the year, peaking in late summer. Recorded in every month. 2-4 birds frequently recorded until the end of June. Numbers increased during July and declined from September onwards. Max was only 7, on several dates. This may be due to under recording or might be a real decline, possibly due to the increasing number of Herring Gulls?

Iceland Gull:

Third and Fourth records for the Bay. A 1st summer was found on 7th Mar, and visited the Bay on 5 dates to the 17th Mar (GJA et al). Remarkably it was joined by a 1st winter on the 11th (JL et al). Both birds were recorded at Corfe Mullen dump.

Great Black backed Gull: (76 - 11)

Increasing visitor throughout the year, undoubtedly due to the presence of the landfill site (see Herring Gull). The record count was broken twice during the year. Firstly during Jan when 55 were present on 4th. Then on 31st Dec, when 76 were counted.

Kittiwake:

The third record in the period since 1992. An adult joined the pre-roost on 10th Nov (SR).

Sandwich Tern: (5 - 11)

Uncommon summer visitor. A very poor year with only 3 records. Undoubtedly due to the abandonment of the Brownsea colony. 1 on 12th July, 1 on 16th July & 1 on 19th Sept.

Common Tern: (22 - 11)

Uncommon summer visitor. Not recorded until 12th July. 34 bird days recorded on a total of 13 dates to the 15th Sept. The year ended with a flourish on the last date, the latest for this species at the Bay, when 11 departed high to the north.

Little Tern: (7 - 2)

Only the second record since 1985, the last being 7 on 11th July 1997. One flew south through the bay on the evening of 13th June (SR).

Stock Dove: (29 - 11)

Uncommon Resident. A relatively poor year. Max 8 on 25th Sept.

Wood Pigeon: (600 - 11)

Common resident. 200 on 12th Jan the only notable count.

Collared Dove: (11 - 11)

Uncommon resident. Rarely seen in the rural parts of the Bay, but regular on the urban fringe, particularly Beach Road and Lytchett Way. No change in status noted.

Ring-necked Parakeet:

Not the most exciting first record for the Bay, but they all count! 1 in the apple tree of O.Q.Cottage at 07:00 on 3rd Sept (SR).

Cuckoo:

Uncommon summer visitor. A poor year, recorded on only 3 dates. 1 on 25th Apr, 1 on 5th May & 1 on 19th May.

Tawny Owl:

Uncommon resident. Rarely looked for, but usually found when one tries.

Little Owl:

Breeding resident. Seen throughout the year, breeding presumed but not confirmed.

Nightjar:

Rare breeder. A pair were present on the only survey visit made, 13th June.

Swift: (113 - 11)

Passage migrant and possible local breeder. Again present in vicinity of Border Drive during the breeding season. First record 28th April. No double figure counts made during the year.

Kingfisher:

Uncommon winter visitor. Bred in 2000. Recorded in both winter periods, though none between 6th May and 12th July. Seen along the Turlin Shore from September onwards.

Green Woodpecker:

Breeding resident. Bred successfully. No change in status. Bred at Holton Lea.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Breeding Resident. Seen regularly around the Cottage throughout the year. In autumn noted at Turlin on several dates. Bred at Holton Lea.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: (1 - 7) Scarce visitor. The first since 1999. 1 was at Kings Bridge on 5th Jan (TE,SFS).

Woodlark: (15 - 4)

Recently established winter visitor. A flock continued to inhabit stubbles and grassy sward during the first 5 months of the year. Singing and display was recorded and up to two pairs were thought to have bred. During the first winter period 15 were present in Jan, 8 in Feb and 5 in March. Sadly the area was ploughed and sown in early autumn and no birds were recorded in the second winter period. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Skylark: (20 - 11)

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Last bred in 2000. A further deterioration in the fortunes of this species. None were recorded until 2 in stubble on 20th October. Then 12 bird days until 15th November. Max 4 on 2 dates.

Sand Martin: (5000 - 11)

Common passage migrant. First record was 3 on 23rd Mar. Then generally scarce until 70 roosted at Beach Road on 7th May. Autumn migration began on 25th July, but was very poor with no significant counts. The last record of the year was 1 on 18th Sept.

Swallow: (540 - 11)

Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. First record of spring was 3 on 4th April. Then noted moving in small numbers until 6th May. Autumn migration was good and noted until 10th Oct. Maximum roost counts of 500 on 25th Sept, 100 on 3rd Oct & 500 on 6th Oct. Breeds at Holton Lee.

House Martin: (1000 - 11)

Common passage migrant, breeding colonies on edge of recording area at Watery Lane and Turlin Moor. The first of the year was seen on 27th Apr (3). The size of the breeding colony at

Watery Lane decreased to 13 (plus 6 failed or destroyed) nests (19 in 2001). However 50 plus were regularly around colony during August which suggested that breeding success was good. The colony at Turlin Moor was not surveyed, but 10+ were seen gathering mud in late spring. Between 50 & 70 were recorded above that colony in Aug and Sept Last record 27th Sept.

Tree Pipit: (6 - 8)

Scarce passage migrant. 1 at Kings Bridge on 28th April, the first spring record. Then 8 bird days between 16th Aug and 16th Sept. Max 3 on 2nd Sept. Birds were recorded at Holton Lee on 20th Apr (3) and 11th May (1). It is not yet clear whether they breed there.

Meadow Pipit: (100 - 11)

Breeding resident and common passage migrant. No survey of the breeding area this year. Up to 30 were present in January. Autumn passage lasted from 10th Sept to mid Nov with small numbers found wintering after then. Max 100 Kings Bridge on 22nd Sept. 25 at Turlin on 10th Nov.

Rock Pipit: (4 - 10)

Scarce winter visitor. Always considered to scarce, however that may be due to the lack of observations of their preferred habitat. A single search of saltings at Turlin found 4 on 10th Nov.

Water Pipit: (15 - 10)

Declining winter visitor and spring passage migrant. The first year in the period since 1992 that none have been recorded.

Yellow Wagtail: (42 - 11)

Uncommon passage migrant. Only 1 in spring, 1 on 1st May. A reasonable autumn with 57 bird days between 23rd Aug and 30th Sept. Max 13 on 14th Sept.

Grey Wagtail: (12 - 11)

Breeding resident. A pair bred again inside the water works with 3 young seen in July. Recorded throughout the year with passage birds noted at Turlin in Feb and Sept.

Pied Wagtail: (335 - 11)

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully. Birds roost at various points around the Bay. Turlin Moor, Beach Road and Otter Island were all used during the year. Between 20 and 25 were present during Jan to Mar. The biggest numbers occur in October. 335 on 10th Oct was a record for the Bay, surpassing 200 on 20th Oct 1996. 47 ringed.

Wren:

Common resident. 9 ringed.

Duncock:

Common resident. 4 ringed.

Robin:

Common resident. 3 ringed.

Common Redstart: (2 - 4)

Rare migrant. 2 at Border Drive - Turlin on 20th Sept.

Whinchat: (11 - 9)

Scarce passage migrant. None in spring. An excellent autumn, the best yet. Anything more than 10 bird days is unusual. Birds were recorded at Turlin, the Stubble Field and Far Fields. Max was 11 on 12th Sept, more than double the previous best of 5 on 21st Sept 1995. The last record was on 28th Sept. Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
							1	11			

							1	51			
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	----	--	--	--

1 ringed.

Stonechat: (23 - 11)

Breeding resident. This species occasionally leaves the Bay in the early part of the year but 4 were present in Jan. Breeding was noted in many parts of the recording area, with at least 7 successful pairs. At least 1 of which appeared to raise 2 broods. This resulted in good numbers during the autumn with gatherings of 17 to 23 noted during July - Sept. The peak count was 23 on 9th August. 13 ringed.

Northern Wheatear: (15 - 11)

Uncommon passage migrant. A poor year with only 6 bird days. 1 on 25th Apr was the only spring record. Then in September, 2 on 12th, 1 on 14th, 1 on 16th & 1 on 20th.

Blackbird: (45 - 11)

Common Resident. Up to 25 around the Far Fields in January with a further 20 at Turlin/Border on 30th. Breeding occurred in all parts of the Bay. In October small numbers were noted high overhead with Song Thrush (see below). 7 NE on 10th Oct and 6 NE on 11th. 5 ringed.

Fieldfare: (61 - 11)

Uncommon winter visitor. Only recorded on 3 dates. 50 on the Pool field 17th Feb. 1 on 27th Feb. 1 on 4th Nov.

Song Thrush: (55 - 11)

Breeding resident. At least 3 pairs bred. A visible movement occurred during clear cold weather in early October. Birds were noted flying high to the NE over Border Drive from the direction of Ham Common. The movement was limited to narrow corridor. 55 in 30 mins on 10th Oct, 27 in 45 mins on 11th Oct. This the first time a movement has been noted at the Bay. Following this 10 were in the Far Fields on 28th October, 13 at the water works on 23rd Nov and 15 there on 8th Dec. 5 ringed.

Redwing: (200 - 11)

Winter visitor. Between 6 & 25 present until 15th Mar. The first of the autumn was on 11th Oct. Up to 17 present until the yearend.

Mistle Thrush: (16 - 11)

Breeding resident. At least 2 pairs bred. Max count was 12 at Kings Bridge on 23rd August. Bred at Holton Lea.

Cetti's Warbler:

Breeding resident. 6 singing males, including a bird resident at the water works for the first time. Also noted on 2 dates in May around O.Q.Cottage, and dispersing birds at Kings Bridge & Far Fields during November.

Sedge Warbler: (9 - 11)

Passage migrant. Due to its choice of habitat this species is always under recorded. After several very poor years this was an excellent one. The best since at least 1997. Spring passage from 19th Apr to 6th May. In autumn from 16th July to 21st Sept. Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			1	4		1	8	8			
			4	10		1	24	46			

15 ringed.

Reed Warbler:

Common summer visitor. Breeds in all areas of the Bay. A partial survey found 15 singing birds. Present between 14th Apr and 11th Oct. 3 ringed.

[Dartford Warbler:]

Breeding resident. The first year in the period since 1992 that none have been recorded. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Lesser Whitethroat: (3 - 9)

Scarce passage migrant. Another good year. Recorded between 29th Apr and 1st June. In autumn from 2nd Aug to 20th Sept. Border Drive the favored site. Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			1	1	1		3	1			
			1	1	1		9	2			

Whitethroat: (8 - 9)

Passage migrant. The best year in the period since 1992 by a considerable margin. In spring from 27th Apr to 1st June. In autumn between 2nd Aug and 20th Sept. Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			1	2	1		3	7			
			2	5	1		17	41			

2 ringed.

Garden Warbler: (2 - 9)

Scarce passage migrant. 7 between 10th Aug & 21st Sept. Max 2 on 23rd.

Blackcap: (10 - 11)

Passage migrant. At least 2 pairs bred successfully at Border. The first of the year was not until 14th April. Returning birds were seen from 16th Aug until 10th Oct. Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			6	3(b)	b	b	5	9	4		
			14	10	b	b	20	56	7		

Breeds at Holton Lee.

Chiffchaff: (27 - 11)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. During the bird race an eastern type bird was found with a *collybita* at Border Drive. The bird remained from the 5th - 7th Jan (TE, SR et al). What was possibly the same bird was seen at the water works on 7th Mar (GJA). Though it lacked any green or yellow tones it called like *collybita* (JL pers comm.). The bird may have been of the Fenno-Scandinavian race *abietinus*. The nominate bird was still present on 12th Jan. The first of the spring was on 16th Mar. No birds held territory this year. Autumn passage was very strong. A new record day count of 27 was made on 16th Sept. Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
		1	1	1		1	5	27	12	3	1
		2	6	1		3	36	159	56	5	1

17 ringed.

Willow Warbler: (19 - 11)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. First recorded on 21st Apr, but spring passage was poor and none stayed to breed. A good autumn included a new record day count of 19 on 23rd Aug. The last bird was seen on 21st Sept. Daily max and bird days are

given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			1	2			19	4			
			2	5			57	11			

Goldcrest: (14 - 11)

Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. Single records in each of the first 3 months. Autumn passage was strong with birds remaining in to the second winter period. 14 on 10th November was a record count in the period since 1992. Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	1	1					2	6	7	14	5
1	1	1					2	12	43	32	10

Breeds at Holton Lee. 4 ringed.

Spotted Flycatcher: (6 - 11)

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. The first on 16th Aug, lead the strongest showing yet. 40 bird days to the 3rd Oct, the latest the species has been recorded at the Bay. Max 6 on 17th Sept was a new record. Breeds at Holton Lee. 2 ringed.

Pied Flycatcher: (1 - 7)

Rare passage migrant, not annual. 1 at Border Drive on 6th Aug.

Bearded Tit: (13 - 11)

Rare breeder. This was a national survey year, therefore extra effort was made to locate birds in the spring. At least 1 pair bred. 7 juveniles were seen on 16th July. On 19th Oct - 6 flew high off to SW. The only other autumn record was 1 at Border on 24th Oct.

Long tailed Tit:

Uncommon resident. Regularly recorded around the Cottage, Lytchett Way and Border Drive. 2 ringed.

Coal Tit:

Uncommon resident. Only recorded in autumn. 2 Border Drive on 7th Aug, 1 on 25th Sept & 2 on 9th Nov. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Blue Tit:

Common resident. 29 ringed.

Great Tit:

Common resident. 10 ringed.

Nuthatch:

Uncommon resident. Typically seen only at the O.Q.Cottage. Seen on 18th June, 14th Sept, 7th Nov & 9th Nov. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Treecreeper:

Uncommon. Only recorded in autumn for the second year running. Singles on 25th Sept, 9th Nov and 2 on 10th Nov. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Jay: (6 - 11)

Resident. Regularly seen throughout the year but most often in autumn.

Magpie:

Common Resident.

Jackdaw: (176 - 11)

Resident. Recorded throughout the year.

Rook: (185 - 11)

Breeds on edge of recording area.

Carrion Crow:

Common Resident. No specific counts but seems to be increasing.

Raven: (7 - 8)

Scarce visitor. Annual since the first record in 1995. Another good year with a maximum count in Sept. All records. Singles on 7th Jan, 5th Mar, 9th Apr, 2 on 4th May, 7 N on 22nd Sept and 1 N on 13th Nov.

Starling: (5000 - 11)

Common resident. Up to 500 birds roosted in the reed beds in the west of the Bay in summer and autumn.

House Sparrow: (31 - 11)

Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe. Seen at Turlin Moor, max 12, Slough Lane, max 4 and French's Farm.

Chaffinch: (140 - 11)

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Flocks in both winter periods. Reasonable counts in the early winter period. Max 30 on 1st Jan at French's Farm, 70 at Kings Bridge on 2nd Feb, and 50 at Kings Bridge on 3rd Mar. In autumn 10 NE on 11th Oct, then up to 30 in stubble on 8th Dec. 1 ringed.

Brambling: (7 - 8)

Scarce Visitor. Only recorded with the Chaffinch flock at Kings Bridge. 1 on 2nd Feb and 2 on 3rd Mar.

Greenfinch: (60 - 11)

Common breeding resident. Border Drive, The Cottage and Turlin Moor remain the favored areas. Peak counts were 30 at O.Q.Cottage on 11th Aug, 20 in stubble on 27th Aug and 60 at Turlin on 4th Nov, a record count. 12 ringed.

Goldfinch: (120 - 11)

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. At least 2 pairs bred. A flock started to form in the stubble field in early August. This slowly grew to a maximum of 120 on 18th Sept, a record count. A significant turnover of individuals was proven by ringing during the month. A flock of 50 remained around the field at the years end. 115 ringed

Siskin: (280 - 8)

Scarce passage migrant. An average year. All records. 6 on 17th Feb, 1 on 24th Feb, 1 on 2nd Mar, 2 on 3rd Mar, 1 on 11th Mar, 5 on 16th Mar, 2 on 19th Oct, 1 on 28th Oct and 1 on 4th Nov.

Linnet: (250 - 11)

Uncommon breeding resident. The year got off to a good start with a record 250 in a weedy field by French's Farm on 1st Jan. Kings Bridge also held a small flock in the early part of the year, max 30 on 3rd Mar. Breeding occurred at Lytchett Way and Lytchett Heath. Seen throughout the autumn. Two peaks noted 50 on 2nd Sept and 50 on 19th Oct. 13 ringed.

Lesser Redpoll: (40 - 9)

Scarce Visitor. A poor year, only 2 records. 1 on 3rd Mar and 2 on 22nd July.

Bullfinch: (6 - 10)

Scarce visitor. A good series of records with 1- 3 birds seen in 8 months of the year Recorded at the O.Q.Cottage, Lytchett Way and Border Drive.

Yellowhammer: (13 - 10)

Bred as recently as 1993. Another poor year with no sign of a recovery despite the attraction of the corn marigolds and stubbles. 2 on 3rd Sept and 1 on 21st Sept. 1 ringed.

Reed Bunting: (27 - 11)

Breeding resident. Another good year. In the early winter period 6 were at French's Farm on 12th Jan and 15 at Kings Bridge on 3rd Mar. At least 10 pairs bred successfully and juveniles were very obvious in most parts of the Bay. The marigolds and stubbles attracted this species, especially during the early autumn. Max 20 on several dates. 24 ringed.

Escapes

Grey Cockatiel: 1 on 4th April and 1 on 18th- 19th Sept,

List of contributors: G J Armstrong, P Christian, M R Davis, P Harvey, R.M.Heawood, I Alexander, E S Brodie, M Constantine, Mo Constantine, T Elborn, R Gifford, R D Howell, I M Lewis, J Lidster, D Lilley, I Prophet, I Rabjohns, S Robson, M Slater, J Smith, S F Smith, J Sullivan, H Wood-Homer.