

Lytchett Bay 2006

Shaun Robson

The annual total number of species recorded in each of the last 10 years is as follows:

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
144	139	139	129	134	141	142	138	136	134

2006 was generally hard work for anyone birding Lytchett. Good days were few. The bird of the year was again a fly over – a Lapland Bunting, another excellent addition to the list. 23 Eurasian White-fronted Geese which spent a few days in the Far Fields were a highlight.

There were record occurrences of Gadwall, Wigeon, Shoveler, Raven and Coal Tit. Blackcap and Chiffchaff bred in greater numbers than at anytime since 1992. House Sparrow seems to be making a resurgence. However Stonechat failed to breed for the first time in 15 years. Little Ringed Plover appeared for the first time since 2000 and Ruff for the first time since 2002. Finally, a Marsh Harrier was satellite tracked to the Bay from its nest in Tayside.

Management works by the RSPB continued and the Pool continued to improve in its attraction to waders. The Far Fields are undergoing a significant change and it is hoped that this will improve the area for both breeding birds and migrants. On behalf of Stour Ringing Group, we look forward to working with the RSPB in the coming years to help improve the site.

The Bay was visited on 204 days (211 in 2005) as set out below.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
10	7	20	22	26	9	20	20	20	20	17	14

Ringling 2006

468 birds of 36 species were ringed at the Bay.

From August onward the weather was unkind with frequent weekend rain or wind (or both!). Ringing took place on only 22 dates. The highlights included a 1st year Blackcap ringed in Belgium en route from its place of hatching to its winter residence in the UK. 4 movements of Sedge Warbler are reported. 3 to France and 1 to Ireland. Interesting species included 4 Green Sandpiper, 5 Common Sandpiper, 8 Grasshopper Warbler and 8 Kingfisher. The full details, including controls and interesting re-traps are in the systematic list. An appendix, detailing the individual species totals is included at the end of the report.

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 Wessex Water and the landowner, the Lees Estate, for their kind permission to ring at Lytchett Bay and for access to Holton Lee.

Systematic List 2006

Species names are followed by up to 3 numbers. The first is the maximum known count recorded at the Bay. This now includes historical counts by observers going back to 1975. The middle figure (when necessary) is the max count in the period since 1992. The final figure is the number of years in which the species has been recorded since 1992.

Common Pheasant:

Resident. Increasing significantly, now very common in all areas of the Bay.

Greylag Goose: (25 – 8)

Scarce feral wanderer. 4 records. 2 on 2nd Jan, 2 on 1st Apr with one still present on 3rd. Finally 1 on 9th Oct.

Greater White-fronted Goose: (23 - 4)

A record count at the Bay and the first records since 1997. 22 of the European race *albifrons* were grazing in the Far Fields from the 1st Feb, increasing to 23 by 4th (MT, SR et al).

Canada Goose: (137 – 15)

Increasingly frequent visitor. A pair present from 27th March until the 21st May failed to breed. Fewer than in recent years.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	2	2	2	0	0	15	18	3	33	0

Dark-bellied Brent Goose: (35 – 7)

Scarce visitor. Any record of this species is a surprise, so one from 22nd – 25th July was particularly unexpected.

Mute Swan: (51 – 15)

Recently established breeder and increasingly common winter visitor. The first successful breeding record in the period since 1992. The resident pair successfully reared 2 cygnets from 6 hatchlings first seen on 28th May. Winter counts less than recent winters.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
31	8	4	2	9	br	br	br	br	br	9	13

Shelduck: (645 – 548 – 15)

Declining winter visitor and annual breeder. No confirmed breeding, last confirmed in 2003 when 3 broods were raised. Numbers slightly up on 2005.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
58	69	76	44	19	15	15	0	20	n.c.	140	13

Gadwall: (5 – 10)

Occasional visitor. 33 bird days made this the best year to date. These were mostly accounted for by a lingering pair which raised hopes that they may breed on the Far Fields. All records fell between January and May. Max 5 on 24th Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: (402 – 15)

Increasingly common winter visitor. Another record year. A large flock was present until early February, peaking at 402 on 4th Feb. The second winter period saw fewer but nonetheless a good daily flock. The species was completely absent between 28th Mar and 12th Sept.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
334	402	46	0	0	0	0	0	26	80	147	144

Mallard: (100 – 52 – 15)

Several broods raised. Usually less than 10 in winter with summer numbers bolstered by local breeders.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c.	4	12	n.c.	10	33	n.c.	32	21	16	n.c.	17

Northern Shoveler: (7 – 14)

Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. 29 bird days over 10 dates made this the best year in the period since 1992 for this species. Seen in January, February, March and November. Max 5 on 15th Jan.

Eurasian Teal: (402 – 15)

Winter visitor and passage migrant. In line with other wildfowl numbers were low in the second winter period. No records between 1st May and 17th July.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
138	202	200	120	2	0	3	5	29	61	16	83

Common Pochard: (24 – 9)

Scarce winter visitor. Single males on 22nd Mar and 2nd Dec. The first records since 2003.

Tufted Duck: (20 – 8)

Scarce visitor. 4 made a brief stop early morning on the 30th May. Presumably local breeders?

Common Goldeneye: (12 – 15)

Common winter visitor in small numbers. Present until 3rd Mar and from 2nd Nov. 4 was the maximum day count.

Red-breasted Merganser: (73 – 15)

Common winter visitor. A poor year with no significant counts. Present until 10th April and from 10th Nov.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
10	8	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	n.c.

Little Grebe: (11 - 15)

Winter visitor. Recorded until 4th Apr, and from 15th Sept. 11 on 22nd Feb equaled the biggest count at the Bay made on 14th Feb 1996.

Great Crested Grebe: (4 - 12)

Occasional visitor. A very poor year. Just one record, a single 20th-21st Apr.

Grey Heron: (10 – 15)

Recorded throughout the year. Considerably scarcer than the previous species. Max 7 on 13th July.

Little Egret: (22 – 14)

Common visitor. 22 early on the morning of the 10th Aug equaled the record count for the Bay made in 2005.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
8	5	3	5	6	n.c.	9	22	13	13	n.c.	10

Great Cormorant: (57 – 15)

Present throughout the year. 30 on 1st Nov was the biggest count of the year.

Common Kestrel:

Common resident. Only recorded infrequently this year, breeding not confirmed.

Merlin: (2 – 11)

Scarce winter visitor. A female/immature, possibly the same bird, was seen on 7th and 10th Oct. A male on 24th Dec.

Eurasian Hobby: (2 – 13)

Irregular visitor. Recorded on only 3 dates. 20th May, 25th May and 12th Sept.

Peregrine: (2 – 14)

Uncommon visitor. A typical year. Recorded on 9 dates throughout the year.

Osprey: (3 – 14)

Annual passage migrant. None in spring but seen on 13 dates from 30th Aug. 2 were noted on 31st Aug and 8th Sept. Last seen on 27th Sept.

Bird days 1996 – 2006

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
6	7	5	14	22	3	7	1	29	9	15

Red Kite: (1 – 4)

4th and 5th records. This is becoming rather gripping. 1 over Turlin Moor on 10th June (JB) and 1 over the Bakers Arms on 28th June (JB).

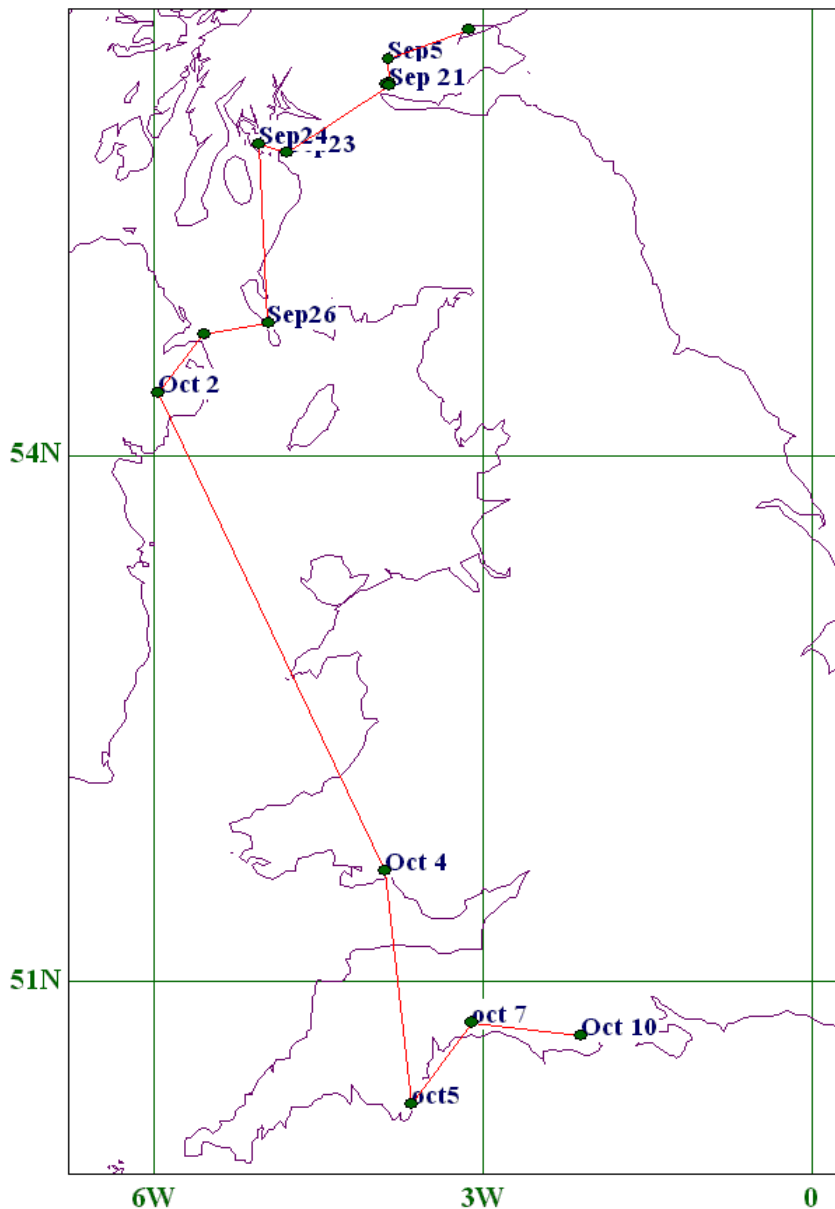
Western Marsh Harrier: (2 – 14)

Irregular visitor. After only 1 in 2005 it was good see the species on 11 dates this year. Female types were seen on 8 dates between 26th Jan and 6th Apr.

After 1 on 8th Sept, a satellite tagged bird was seen on 10th Oct (JH/NH). Following contact with the tracking scheme the following history of this Juvenile female bird was supplied.

Bird 21251 with ring number FP06677 was ringed at Tay reed beds in SE Scotland on 7th July 2006. Sadly it was not recorded again by the team after 10th October!

marsh harrier 21251



Copyright: Roy Dennis - [http://www.roydennis.org/Marsh Harrier 21251.htm](http://www.roydennis.org/Marsh%20Harrier%2021251.htm)

Hen Harrier: (2 – 15)

Irregular Visitor. Singles recorded on 6 dates. A substantial improvement on 2005.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk: (2 – 15)

Uncommon visitor. Recorded on 25 dates, a typical year. Recorded in every month except Jan and Dec. 1 ringed.

Eurasian Buzzard: (15 – 15)

The commonest raptor of the area. Breeds widely in the vicinity.

Water Rail: (23 – 15)

Common resident and winter visitor. No specific records this year but no perceived change in status, the breeding population of this shy species exceeds 60 pairs. The Max count figure of 23 is the maximum number seen on any single visit.

Common Moorhen: (12 – 15)

An uncommon and shy resident. At least 4 pairs scattered across recording area. Young seen in Aug.

Common Coot: (1 – 7)

8th record. The bird found in 2005 remained until 15th Jan. Another was seen on 8th Aug.

Eurasian Oystercatcher: (400 – 15)

A winter visitor and passage migrant. Turlin Fields and Turlin Shore at high tide remain the favored locations, though more birds are now remaining in the bay to feed at low tide. The maximum count was on 25th Nov.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c.	102	52	1	12	2	2	10	n.c.	31	185	n.c.

Pied Avocet: (113 – 14)

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Small numbers frequently recorded in the winter months, though the continued increase in Poole Harbour's wintering population is not mirrored at the Bay. Max count was on 27th & 28th Dec.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	35

Northern Lapwing: (3000 – 15)

Formerly bred, now predominantly a winter visitor. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. Another very poor year. In the 90's this species would be seen on virtually every visit throughout the year, often in very good numbers. In 2006 it was recorded on only 23% of visits (46 out of 200). The Pool attracted over 100 on several dates in Nov and Dec. The max count of 530 occurred on 2nd Jan. 1 ringed.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
530	60	1	1	0	2	10	15	20	64	137	158

Grey Plover: (14 – 11)

Scarce visitor. Seen on 3 dates in spring – a reasonable showing. 3 on 24th Apr, 1 on 29th Apr and 2 on 1st May.

Ringed Plover: (17 – 10 – 12)

Scarce visitor. Seen on 3 dates. 2 on 23rd Apr, 4 on 14th May and 4 on 8th Aug.

Little Ringed Plover: (5 – 7)

Very scarce visitor. 16 birds were seen between 1992 and 1997. No more were seen until 2000 when 10 found during the year, including 5 together in autumn. A 6 year drought ended with a juv on The Pool on the evening of 10th Aug (SR).

Eurasian Woodcock: (5 – 6)

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. Recorded on 4 dates. 18th Mar, 4th Nov, 12th Nov and 2nd Dec. All in the vicinity of the Water Works and Cottage.

Jack Snipe: (5 – 8)

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. 3 records. Singles were seen on the Far Fields on 5th

Mar and 20th Apr. 2 were at the same location on 10th Mar.

Common Snipe: (160 – 70 – 15)

Common winter visitor. Recorded until 5th May, returning on the 25th July, the earliest return date in the period since 1992.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c.	10	40	8	5	0	1	1	6	40	35	n.c.

Black-tailed Godwit: (1240 – 15)

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. A strong showing this year with counts of greater than 100 recorded on 57% of visits up until the end of April. 802 on 23rd Apr was the biggest count since the record year of 1996. Small numbers used the Pool during Oct. Max 28. 200 were on Turlin Moor fields on 24th Apr.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
178	250	467	802	294	0	1	13	18	36	25	275

Colour ringed birds were recorded as follows.

WR+OO – 1st Apr and 1st May. Ringed at Kaldaðarnes, Árnessýsla, S Iceland as an adult female on 30th June 2003.

LG+RO – 1st Apr and 25th Apr. Ringed at Langhús, Fljót, N Iceland as an adult female on 26th June 2002. This bird has also been seen on Humberside and in the Avon Valley.

R//R+LR – 10th Apr. This bird was previously seen at Lytchett Bay on 25th Mar 2000 and was ringed at Farlington Marsh, Hants on 16th Nov 1998.

Left leg always given first, all rings above the tibia (except when stated). 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

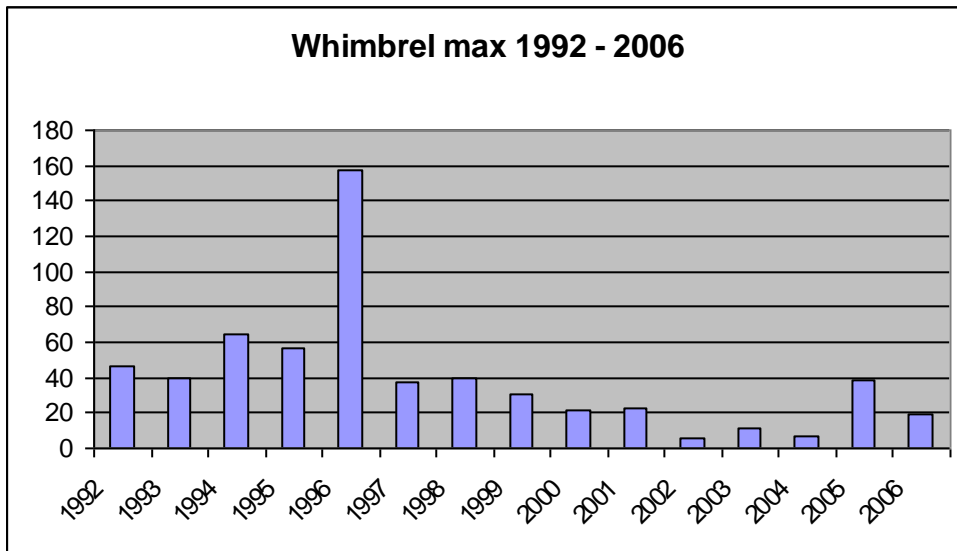
Many thanks to Pete Potts and Tómas G Gunnarsson for supplying this information.

Bar-tailed Godwit: (17 – 8 – 11)

Scare visitor. A very good year with birds seen on 8 dates between 23rd Apr and 5th May. Max 4 on 23rd Apr and 1st May.

Whimbrel: (157 – 15)

Passage migrant, most numerous in spring. A much needed reprise in the fortunes of this species at the Bay. 201 bird days in spring from 6th Apr and 26th May. Max 19 on 30th Apr. Autumn passage was also decent commencing with 5 on 22nd July. There were 48 bird days in autumn between 29th June and 27th Aug. Max 7 on 11th Aug.



Eurasian Curlew: (104 – 15)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Birds continued to feed on the Far Fields at high tide in larger numbers than usual. Max 23 on 21st Feb.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
48	52	41	62	7	6	29	11	12	31	14	23

Spotted Redshank: (68 – 42 – 15)

Decreasing passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. A much needed improvement. Recorded on 50 dates. The max count of 14 occurred on 6th Oct. Recorded in spring until 5th May and in autumn from 16th Aug.

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	1	6	5	0	0	0	3	7	14	3	3

Bay monthly max

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

Common Redshank: (608 – 436 – 15)

Common winter visitor. Small breeding population on salt marsh, probably 3 pairs (not including any that might be on Otter Island). A nest with 4 eggs was found and young were latter seen at 1 site. Good numbers roosted on The Pool toward the year end.

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	47	77	245

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
55	106	n.c.	90	Br	Br	8	11	58	80	88	n.c.

2005 correction: Last years report stated that the count on The Pool of 235 on the 2nd Dec is a record. The actual record is 397 on 25th Nov 1995.

Common Greenshank: (49 – 27 – 15)

Common passage migrant and increasing winter visitor. Recorded until 21st May. The first returning bird was noted on 2nd July. Max 9 on 26th July.

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	1	3	3	1	0	3	3	4	8	1	1

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2	1	3	3	0	0	9	8	8	5	0	1

Green Sandpiper: (10 – 15)

Common autumn migrant and winter visitor, occasional in spring. The Far Fields and western most part of the Bay are the favoured sites. Present until 23rd Apr, returning on 7th July. Present virtually daily throughout the rest of the year. Birds occasionally visit The Pool and Folly Pond. 4 ringed.

Monthly max:

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

Common Sandpiper: (10 – 15)

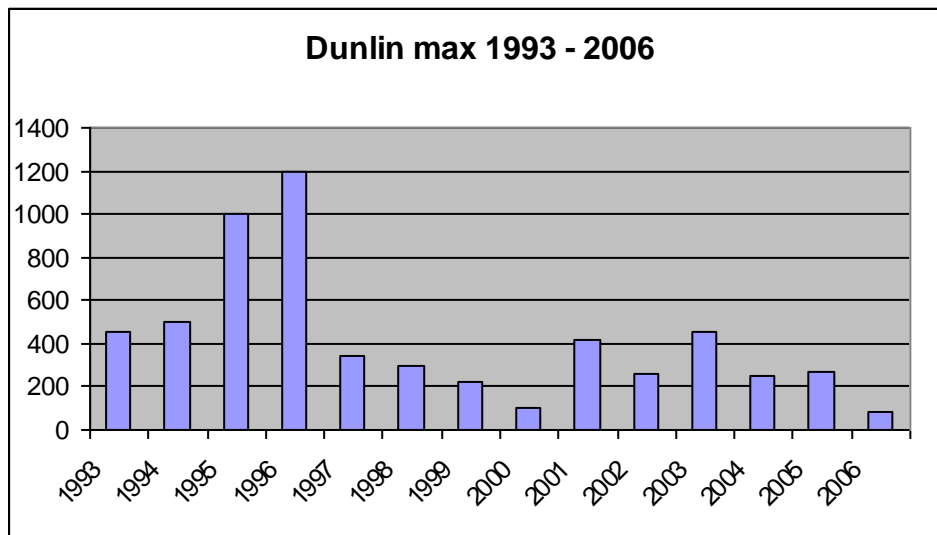
An uncommon passage migrant. As 2005 only one in spring, on 1st May. Return passage started on 2nd July and totaled 34 bird days until 25th Sept. Max 3 in mid Aug. 5 ringed.

Dunlin: (1800 – 1200 – 15)

Declining winter visitor and passage migrant. Max count was on 17th Dec.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
10	20	1	12	9	0	0	3	0	0	3	81



Ruff: (9 – 12)

Scarce migrant, usually in autumn. The first records since 2002. 1 on the Pool on 15th Apr. A

single juv in Bay on 26th Sept.

Common Gull: (1700 – 15)

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. The biggest day count was 320 on 27th Mar. There were no records between 9th May and 17th July.

Great Black backed Gull: (151 – 15)

Present in small numbers throughout the year. Max 71 on 30th Dec.

Herring Gull: (2000 – 15)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Max 1000 on 28th Sept.

Yellow legged Gull: (65 – 14)

Frequent visitor throughout the year, peaking in summer. A very poor beginning to the year gave way to a more typical summer. Max was on 11th Aug.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	0	0	0	3	6	21	n.c.	n.c.	4	0

Lesser Black backed Gull: (2128 – 15)

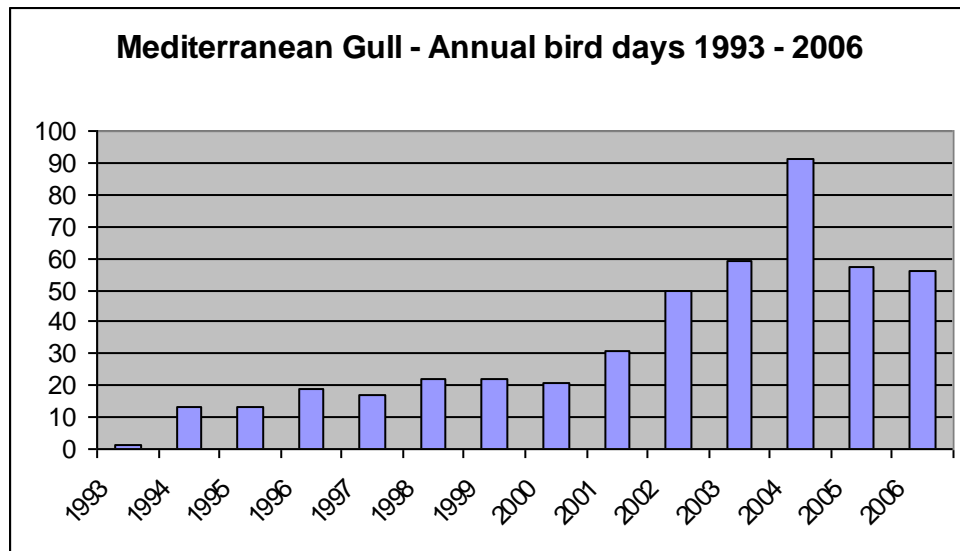
A very common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor.

Black-headed Gull: (12000 – 7000 – 15)

A very common visitor. 1000's regularly frequent the bay en route to the Wareham Channel roost. The first juveniles were noted on 17th June.

Mediterranean Gull: (13 – 14)

Uncommon visitor, increasing. 56 bird days between 15th Feb and 24th July, after which there were none! Max 5 on three dates. The age break down was 1 Juv, 1 1st W, 3 2ndS and 51 Ad.



Sandwich Tern: (5 – 15)

Uncommon summer visitor. Recorded on 7 dates between 9th Apr and 7th Sept. Max 2 in late Aug.

Common Tern: (22 – 15)

Uncommon summer visitor. Seen on 18 dates between 24th Apr (the earliest record at the

Bay) and 5th Sept. Max 3 on 15th May.

Feral Pigeon:

Common in small numbers around the urban fringe.

Stock Dove: (29 – 15)

Uncommon Resident. Max 11 on 16th Sept.

Wood Pigeon: (1368 – 15)

Common resident. Passage noted in early Nov. 897 west on 1st and 270 west on 4th. 1 ringed.

Collared Dove: (11 – 15)

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

Eurasian Cuckoo: (2 – 15)

Uncommon summer visitor. A very poor year. 1 on 28th Apr, with 2 the next day were the only records.

Barn Owl: (2 – 1 – 8)

Occasional visitor. 1 was around the Far Fields and French's Farm between 21st Jan and 3rd Aug, though it was only seen by birders on 4 occasions!

Tawny Owl: (2 – 15)

Uncommon resident. Very scarce this year, only confirmed on one date, 4th Nov.

[Nightjar: (3 – 7)]

Irregular breeder. Little effort was made to locate breeding birds this year. None were recorded.

Common Swift: (113 – 15)

Passage migrant and possible local breeder. First recorded on 26th Apr. There no double figure counts in the whole summer.

Common Kingfisher: (3 – 15)

Passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Bred in 2000 and must breed just outside the recording area most years. Recorded in both winter periods, though none between 11th May and 21st July. 8 ringed.

Of the 23 birds ringed in 2004 and 2005 none was re-trapped in 2006.

Of the new birds ringed in 2006 only 2 were re-trapped after ringing.

SB72040 – ringed on 29th Oct; still present on 2nd Dec (34 days)

SB72041 – ringed on 29th Oct; still present on 4th Nov (6 days)

Birds occur in all parts of the Bay and the wintering population is likely to be 3 or 4 individuals.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Breeding Resident. Seen regularly in most parts of the Bay.

Green Woodpecker:

Breeding resident. Bred successfully and recorded in all parts of the Bay. No change in status.

Eurasian Jay: (6 – 15)

Resident. Regularly seen throughout the year but most often in autumn. 1 ringed.

Common Magpie:

Common Resident. 1 ringed.

Eurasian Jackdaw: (176 – 15)

Resident. Recorded throughout the year. Max 110 on 8th Jan.

Rook: (185 – 15)

Breeds on edge of recording area.

Carrion Crow:

Common Resident, increasing.

Common Raven: (7 – 12)

Scarce visitor, increasing. Annual since the first record in 1995. 21 bird days on 9 dates throughout the year. Another record year.

Blue Tit:

Common resident. 56 ringed.

Great Tit:

Common resident. 15 ringed.

Coal Tit:

Uncommon, undoubtedly breeds near the recording area, if not within it. A record year. 20 bird days over 15 dates. Following birds at Lytchett Way in Jan none were seen until May. A pair were then found at Kings Bridge. The next was a Juv at Turlin Moor in Aug after which there were occasional records across the recording area until the year end.

Sand Martin: (5000 – 15)

Common passage migrant. First record was 16 on 26th Mar. Again scarce throughout spring. Autumn migration was virtually unnoticeable. The last record being on the 4th Sept.

European Swallow: (1000 – 540 – 15)

Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. A very poor year. First record was 31st Mar. Only noted in small numbers throughout the year. Max 70 on 3rd Aug. The last date was 7th Oct.

House Martin: (1000 – 15)

Common passage migrant, breeding colonies on edge of recording area at Watery Lane and Turlin Moor. The first of the year was on 27th Apr. The size of the breeding colony at Watery Lane was 16 nests plus 6 failed or destroyed (one up on 2004 and 2005). The colony at Turlin Moor was not surveyed, but 10 were present there in late May/early June. Small numbers in autumn, the last seen on 9th Oct.

Long tailed Tit:

Uncommon resident. Regularly recorded around the Cottage, Lytchett Way and Border Drive. 9 ringed.

Woodlark: (15 – 8)

Recently established winter visitor. The key site again remained uncultivated and proved unattractive. Consequently there was no wintering birds at either end of the year. 2 were present on the Far Fields on 10th Mar. One was heard singing from Kings Bridge on 23rd.

Breeds at Holton Lee.

Skylark: (250 – 20 – 15)

Scarce breeder and passage migrant. 2 territories were again established though singing did not commence until 14th May. Successful breeding was confirmed when a juvenile was trapped and ringed in Aug and up to 7 birds were present until early Oct. There were only 2 records of singles in early winter period – both on saltings. Autumn passage commenced on 12th Oct and lasted until 4th Nov. 32 birds days, max 13 on 29th Oct. 1 ringed.

Cetti's Warbler: (10 – 14)

Breeding resident. 6 singing males, a sizeable decline from 2005 when there were 10. Dispersing birds noted around the Bay throughout the autumn. 4 ringed.

Grasshopper Warbler: (6 – 8)

Passage migrant, under recorded. 8 birds were caught between 22nd July and 26th Aug. Max of 4 on 1st date. None were re-trapped and all were 1st year birds. 8 ringed.

2005: Additional record

One was reeling near French's Farm on 11th May.

Sedge Warbler: (57 – 15)

Passage migrant. Spring passage was between 24th Apr and 4th May. In autumn, from 17th July to 26th Aug. 59 ringed.

Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			2	5		15	10				
			4	10		33	34				

R835239, a 1st year bird ringed on 2nd Aug 2005, was re-trapped at Treogat, Finistere, France 14 days later on 16th Aug. A movement of 352km.

R835202, a 1st year bird ringed on 30th July 2005, was re-trapped at Tour aux Moutons, Donges, Loire Atlantique, France 8 days later on 7th Aug. A movement of 358km.

T494096, a 1st year bird ringed on 16th Aug 2005, was re-trapped at Tour aux Moutons, Donges, Loire Atlantique, France 5 days later on 21st Aug. A movement of 358km.

T494103, a 1st year bird ringed on 16th Aug 2005, was re-trapped at Ballycotton, Cork, Ireland 353 days later on 4th Aug 2006. A movement of 434km.

Reed Warbler:

Common summer visitor. Breeds in all areas of the Bay. Present between 23rd Apr and early Sept. 54 ringed.

T494085, a juvenile bird ringed on 13th Aug 2005, was trapped at Attenborough NR, Nottinghamshire, 308 days later on 17th June 2006. A movement of 249km.

Details of a French ringed bird, an adult female, controlled on 19th July 2004 are still awaited.

Willow Warbler: (19 – 15)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. First recorded on 1st Apr. 1, possibly 2, territories were established. The last bird was noted on 8th Sept.

Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			4	b	b	1	5	2			
			17	b	b	3	27	6			

3 ringed.

Common Chiffchaff: (27 – 15)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. There were no records until 1st Apr. Up to 11 territories established, the most recorded at the Bay. Seemingly increasing in line with the national trend? Generally scarce in autumn. The last bird of the year was on 17th Dec.

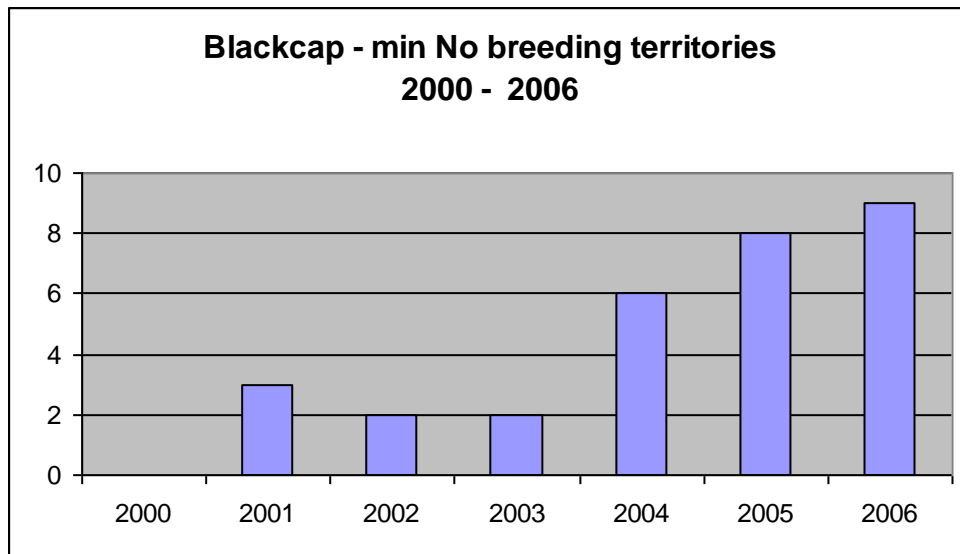
Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			4	b	b	b	3	5	4	1	1
			40	b	b	b	1	15	12	3	1

5 ringed.

Blackcap: (10 – 15)

Passage migrant and summer visitor. The first of the year was on 1st Apr. 9 - 12 territories established, yet another record year.



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	b	b	b	2	8	2	1	
		1	27	b	b	b	13	33	5	1	

4 ringed. Details of a Belgium ringed bird controlled on 4th Nov are awaited.

Garden Warbler: (5 – 13)

Scarce passage migrant. None in spring. In autumn, 4 were at Border Road on 15th Aug. Singles were seen at Turlin Moor on 24th and 27th Aug and at the Water Works on 26th Aug. 1 ringed.

Lesser Whitethroat: (3 – 13)

Scarce passage migrant and occasional breeder. One arrived and held territory for a few days from the 29th Apr but did not stay to breed. This was the only spring record. Autumn migration was very poor with 2 seen at Turlin Moor on both 24th and 27th Aug.

Whitethroat: (8 – 13)

Passage migrant. 8 in spring between 19th Apr and 4th May. 11 in autumn between 14th Aug and 12th Sept. Max 3 on 23rd Aug at Turlin Moor.

Dartford Warbler:

Breeding resident. 1 was at Lytchett Heath on 19th Jan but none were recorded there during the national breeding survey. 3 were present at the same site on 12th Nov including a singing male.

Bearded Tit: (29 – 15)

Rare breeder. Recorded during the breeding season. No more than 2 recorded on any single date. 2 ringed.

R971581, a male caught on the 18th Dec 2005 had been ringed 445 days earlier on 29th Sept 2004, at Thorney Island, Sussex. A movement of 80km.

Goldcrest: (14 – 15)

Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. Only 1 territory located. A very poor year, hard to find during the autumn.

Daily max and bird days are given in the following table.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3			1	b				1	2	4	2
3			2	b				1	12	15	4

7 ringed.

Winter Wren:

Common resident. 11 ringed.

Eurasian Nuthatch:

Uncommon. Recorded around the cottage occasionally throughout the year.

Eurasian Treecreeper:

Uncommon. Recorded throughout the year between the Cottage and Water Works and at Kings Bridge.

European Starling: (35000 – 5600 – 15)

Common resident. A very poor year. Small numbers of birds roosted in the reed beds in the west of the Bay in summer and autumn, but no counts exceeded 40.

Eurasian Blackbird: (45 – 15)

Common Resident. No census of breeding birds carried out this year. No significant influxes in autumn. 11 ringed.

Fieldfare: (121 – 15)

Uncommon winter visitor. Very scarce with no records in the first winter period and only 3 in the second. The first of the autumn was on 25th Nov, with 25 on 9th Dec and 1 on 17th.

Song Thrush: (424 – 15)

Breeding resident. No perceived change in status c7 pairs. No autumn flights witnessed. 4 ringed.

Redwing: (1000 – 268 – 15)

Winter visitor. Very scarce at both ends of the year. No significant counts made.

Mistle Thrush: (16 – 15)

Breeding resident. Recorded in small numbers across the area throughout the year. Post breeding flock of 6 in Far Fields on 6th July.

European Robin:

Common resident. 22 ringed.

A nest of 5 pulli ringed on 14th May 2006. 2 of the 5 were taken by a cat on consecutive days 19 days later a couple of hundred metres away in the same urban garden.

Common Redstart: (2 – 8)

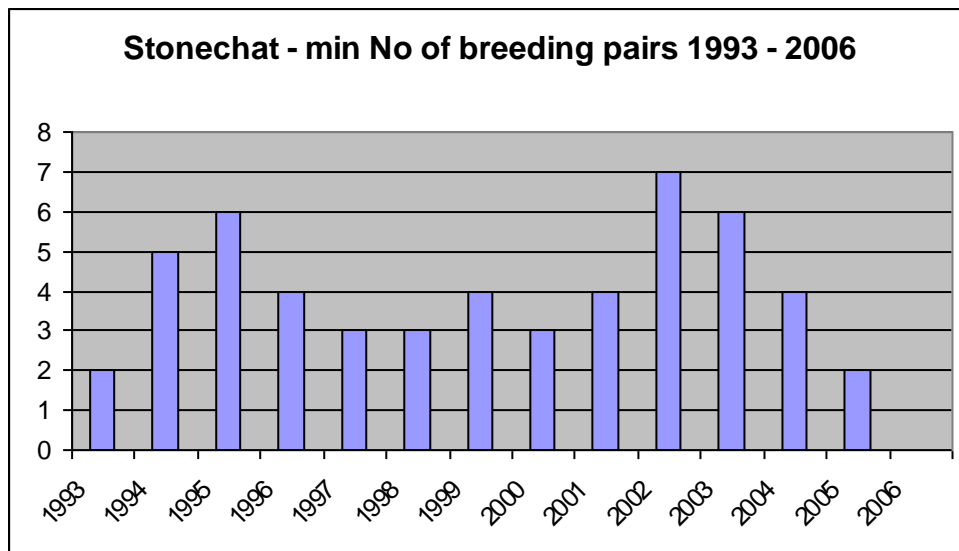
Scarce autumn migrant. A cracking male at Border Road on 1st Apr was the first spring record in the period 1992 – 2006. Recorded on 4 dates in autumn. 1 at Turlin Moor on 23rd, 24th and 27th Aug. 1 at the Pool on 15th Sept was the latest recorded at the Bay.

Whinchat: (11 – 13)

Scarce passage migrant. A very poor year, though one in spring was unusual, 1 on 3rd May at Turlin Moor. Only 2 in autumn. 1 at Turlin Moor on 15th Aug and 1 at Lytchett Way on 5th Sept.

Common Stonechat: (23 – 15)

Breeding resident. This species did not breed for the first time in the period 1992 – 2006. In fact birds were only recorded on a total of 20 dates! None were seen between 18th Mar and 25th Aug. Max 4 on 10th Nov.



Northern Wheatear: (15 – 15)

Uncommon passage migrant. 11 bird days in spring between 26th Mar and 28th May. Max 3 on 1st Apr. 4 between 15th and 16th Sept.

Spotted Flycatcher: (8 – 6 – 15)

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. Another poor year for this declining migrant. 1 on 3rd May was the only spring record and the earliest in the period 1992 - 2006. 7 between 24th Aug and 15th Sept. Max 3 on 7th.

House Sparrow: (80 – 15)

Resident - increasing. Recorded around the urban fringe. Bred at Turlin Moor, Border Drive and French's Farm. A post breeding flock of 80 at Turlin Moor on 8th Aug was a record count in the period 1992 – 2006.

Dunnock:

Common resident. 6 ringed.

Yellow Wagtail: (42 – 15)

Uncommon passage migrant. No spring records for the second year in a row. In autumn, 43 bird days between 25th Aug and 26th Sept. Max 12 on 4th Sept.

Grey Wagtail: (12 – 15)

Breeding resident. Regularly around the water works throughout the year but breeding not proven. 1 ringed.

Pied Wagtail: (400 – 15)

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. 67 was the single biggest count in spring and a rather poor 120 in autumn. 8 ringed.

Meadow Pipit: (130 – 15)

Breeding resident and common passage migrant. 2 pair were present throughout the breeding season. Small flocks frequented Turlin fields, the Stubble Field and the Cottage Area throughout both migration and winter periods. Spring passage was light but autumn was good. 130 on the 30th Sept was the biggest count at the Bay in the period 1992 – 2006. 15 ringed.

Tree Pipit: (6 – 12)

Scarce passage migrant. One at Turlin Moor on 1st Apr was the earliest ever at the Bay and the only record of the year. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Water Pipit: (20 – 15 – 13)

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Two records. One on 2ⁿ Jan and 1 on the Pool on the relatively "early" date of 29th Oct.

2005 Correction:

Records of this species were accidentally omitted from the 2005 report. 1 on 31st Oct was the first since Dec 2003. 4 on the 4th Dec was the biggest count since Nov 1998. All birds on the Far Fields.

Rock Pipit: (50 – 14)

Common winter visitor. Present until at least 17th Feb and from 4th Nov. Up to 25 were present at Beach Road saltings in each period with small numbers at Lytchett Way and Turlin Moor.

Chaffinch: (140 – 15)

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Widespread with small flocks in many parts of the Bay during winter but none bigger than 30. 7 ringed.

Brambling: (7 – 12)

Scarce Visitor. 1 over the Water Works on 4th Nov was the only record.

Greenfinch: (60 – 15)

Increasingly common breeding resident. 30 at Turlin Moor on 3rd Oct, the biggest single flock. 66 ringed.

Siskin: (280 – 12)

Scarce passage migrant. Recorded on 7 dates to 29th Apr. Max 5 at Kings Bridge on 21st Feb. Scarce in autumn. Noted on only 2 dates. Max 11 on 10th Oct.

Goldfinch: (120 – 15)

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. At least 3 pairs bred in the recording area. Flocks frequently recorded in the autumn. Max 30 at several sites during autumn. 4 ringed.

Linnet: (250 – 15)

Declining breeding resident. Small breeding presence at 2 locations. Overall a very poor year with few double figure counts. Max 22 on 8th Oct. 1 ringed.

Bullfinch: (6 – 15)

Uncommon but increasing. Recorded throughout the year at all locations except Turlin Moor. 1 ringed.

Reed Bunting: (27 – 15)

Breeding resident. No survey of the breeding population but 35 juvenile birds (which had not completed their post juvenile moult) were ringed between 22nd July and 5th Aug (24 in 2005 & 42 in 2004). Max day count at any one site was 15 at Border Drive on 27th Jan. 61 ringed.

Lapland Bunting:

First record and another unexpected addition to the Bay list. A calling bird flew east over the Water Works on 14th Oct (IML).

ESCAPES

Bar-headed Goose:

First record – one was present early morning on 5th Sept.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu:

A male at Border Road on 24th Aug was not the autumn jewel for which I was searching.

Appendix 1 Birds ringed at Lytchett Bay in 2006

Sparrowhawk	1	Reed Warbler	54
Lapwing	1	Garden Warbler	1
Green Sandpiper	4	Blackcap	4
Common Sandpiper	5	Chiffchaff	5
Wood Pigeon	1	Willow Warbler	3
Kingfisher	8	Goldcrest	7
Skylark	1	Bearded Tit	2
Meadow Pipit	15	Long-tailed Tit	9
Grey Wagtail	1	Blue Tit	56
Pied Wagtail	8	Great Tit	15
Wren	11	Jay	1
Dunnock	6	Magpie	1
Robin	23	Chaffinch	7
Blackbird	11	Greenfinch	66
Song Thrush	4	Goldfinch	4
Cetti's Warbler	4	Linnet	1
Grasshopper Warbler	8	Bullfinch	1
Sedge Warbler	59	Reed Bunting	61
		Total	468

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