

Lytchett Bay 2013

Bird Report and Ringing Report

Shaun Robson



2013 was the year of the Spoonbill (c Paul Morton)

The Bay was visited on 292 days as set out below. This is probably a record and I am indebted to Paul Morton, Ian Ballam, Nick and Jackie Hull for their records and coverage this year.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
17	19	21	29	28	21	30	31	28	25	27	16

At some point over the festive period at the end of 2012 Paul Morton suggested that we increase our observational effort at “the patch” and try to get a record year list. The cold snap in mid-January inspired us with a series of good birds. The inundation of the Far Fields created new habitat and a good spring. Autumn started early and all of our less regular waders were seen. By the end of August we had broken the record! All good things come to an end and despite continued effort the autumn was enjoyable but unremarkable. December 31st arrived and total of 153 species had been logged. A new record, 4 species better than the previous best.

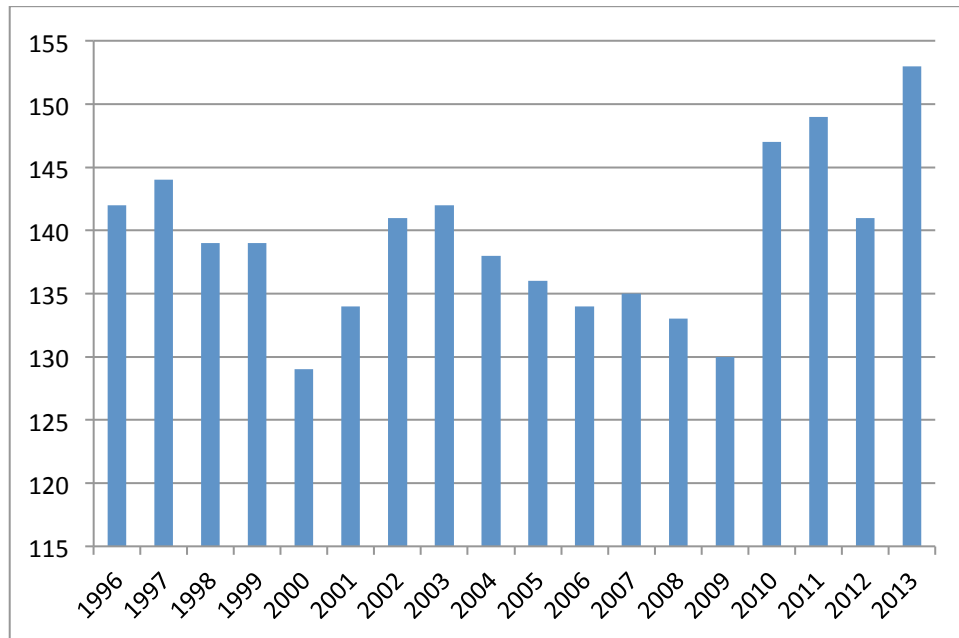
With so much effort and such good habitat we might have expected a new bird for the Bay (current list 196). Alas it did not happen. However there were some good records of Bay rarities. These included; second and third records of Blue-headed Wagtail; 2nd Montagu’s Harrier; 2nd Wood Warbler; 4th Northern Goshawk; 4th Red-throated Diver; 4th Turnstone(!); 5th Hoopoe; 5th and 6th Great Bittern; 6th Bohemian Waxwing.

Moreover a staggering number of species set new record counts or new record numbers of occurrences. Some (marked*) may have been due to the increased coverage but for most the increase was undoubtedly due to the new wetland habitat. The species were Dark-bellied Brent Goose; Teal; Sparrowhawk*; Hobby*; Peregrine*; Ringed Plover; Curlew Sandpiper; Curlew; Common Sandpiper; Green Sandpiper; Wood Sandpiper; Little Gull; Stock Dove; Wood Pigeon; Fieldfare; Chiffchaff; Raven; House Sparrow and Common Snipe which had its best year in the last 22.

One species not listed in the above records is Spoonbill. After only 5 previous records, 2013 will be remembered for a remarkable series of records peaking with a flock of 15 in November. 2013 was the year of the Spoonbill!

A complete survey of the Bay's Water Rails was undertaken and the detailed results are included in the report.

No of species seen annually at Lytchett Bay 1995 - 2013



Ringling 2013

683 birds were ringed at Lytchett Bay. Most of these were ringed in a concentrated period between 13th July and 30th August. Outside of these dates Stour Ringing Groups attention was focused on other projects.

The energy was again concentrated around the banks of the Sherford. Unfortunately our run of Aquatic Warblers came to a halt when August was dominated by westerly winds. In fact, 30 out of 31 days were blighted by winds west of south! For the first year in a good few there was no wagtail ringing in autumn. There was a small amount of training activity at Sandy Close Pond.

Our recent efforts have been rewarded with a number of good recoveries involving faraway places. These include our first Sedge Warbler to mainland Spain, a Cetti's Warbler to east Norfolk and a Goldfinch all the way from Walney in Cumbria.

Colour-ringing is increasing as a method of gathering knowledge of bird movements

and mortality. We had some excellent sightings at the Bay this year including Whimbrel from Iceland, Spoonbill from Holland, Avocet from France and Black-tailed Godwits from a large number of locations.

18,027 birds of 81 species have been ringed since 1983.

The full details, controls, recoveries and interesting re-traps are in the systematic list. Appendix 3 details the individual species totals and 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.

Stour Ringing Group would like 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. Savills Land Agents gave permission to ring on land around Lytchett Heath on behalf of Lord Wimborne and we are very grateful for this.

We are grateful to the RSPB for their support in relation to various matters associated with their site and look forward to working with them in 2014.

I'd like to add additional thanks to all observers who submitted records this year. In particular, Paul Morton, Ian Ballam and Nick & Jacqui Hull who put in considerable effort to watch the Bay this year and added significantly to the records in the database.



Lytchett Bay at sunset from Border Road (c Marie Smith)

Systematic List 2013

3044 records were collated during the year and all of these have been submitted to the [BTO's Birdtrack database](#). This has enabled some data for regularly occurring species to be presented using graphs. These show the weekly maxima throughout the year. The interpretation of these requires some caution as not all common species are counted every week; this can lead to gaps in the data. Where necessary this is clarified in the text.

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. This is the year in which the current spell of comprehensive coverage began.

The symbol which follows each species name shows the direction of travel of the species status at Lytchett Bay over the last 5 years. I think these are quite intuitive; strongly increasing, increasing, stable, declining and strongly declining. Hopefully this feature will enable others to compare the data from this site with experiences at their own site and engender some debate and understanding.

Mute Swan: (58 – 22) ↘

Common winter visitor, present in small numbers throughout the year. Bred between 2002 and 2007. After a significant increase from 2003 onwards numbers of this species visiting the Bay started to decline last year. The rate of decline accelerated this year.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
5	6	2	4	11	7	n.c.	6	5	12	11	3

Greylag Goose: (25 – 14) ↔

Scarce feral wanderer. A strong showing this year. Seen on 9 dates throughout the year with maximum counts of 20 on 2nd Aug and 22 east over Border Road on 16th Nov.

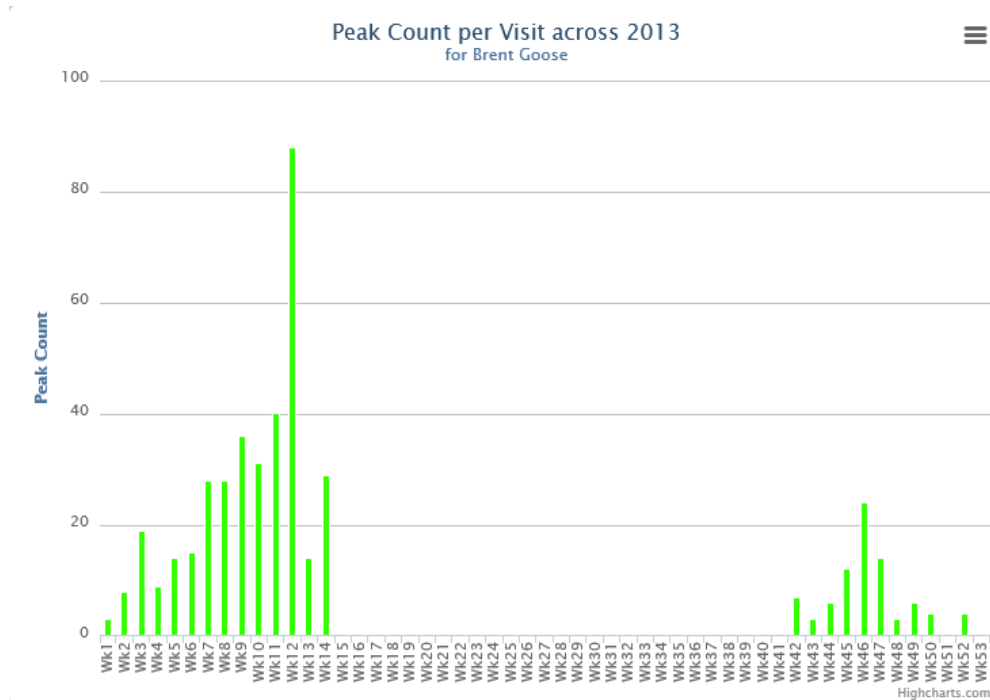
Grey Geese spp

8 flew south over Sandy Close on 21st Jan. Call suggested White-fronted Geese but identification could not be confirmed.

4 flew NE over the Bay on 21st Mar.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose: (88 – 14) ↗

Scarce visitor. Another record year. Birds were present from 1st Jan until 6th Apr. Numbers increased in late Mar as the extend cold weather intensified. This produced a record count for the Bay of 88 on 23rd Mar. The first returning birds were on 19th Oct and the species was recorded daily until the end of the year.



Barnacle Goose: (42 – 7)

Rare visitor. 20 were seen and heard flying NE at dusk on 17th Feb. A flock of this species continues to winter in west Dorset. Presumably this sighting refers to these birds beginning their spring migration?

Canada Goose: (145 – 22) ↗

Increasingly frequent visitor.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2	4	4	2	23	22	n.c.	89	120	21	3	n.c.

Shelduck: (645 – 548 – 22) ↘

Occasional breeder and winter visitor. None bred this year. This species is experiencing an erratic occurrence pattern at the Bay. Whilst 2012 was the worst on record, the last 2 months of 2013 produced the best counts since Dec 2010.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
41	46	39	40	20	24	8	5	0	5	145	196

Wigeon: (671 – 22) ↔

Common winter visitor. The sharp increase in numbers seen in recent years ended. The abundance of this species in the Bay is likely to be responsible for the increase in wildfowling, which is now very frequent during the winter months. Consequently disturbance has increased significantly. Might this might be responsible for the reduced numbers this year? Absent from 9th Apr until 11th Jul. The latter being the first record at the Bay in July.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
117	30	25	3	0	0	1	3	14	68	270	200

Gadwall: (73 – 17) ↔

Occasional visitor. Birds arrived on the Far Fields on 8th Mar and were present until 13th Jun. Breeding was not proven or thought likely, though it is looking increasing possible in the future. Numbers varied between 2 and 7 birds throughout the period.

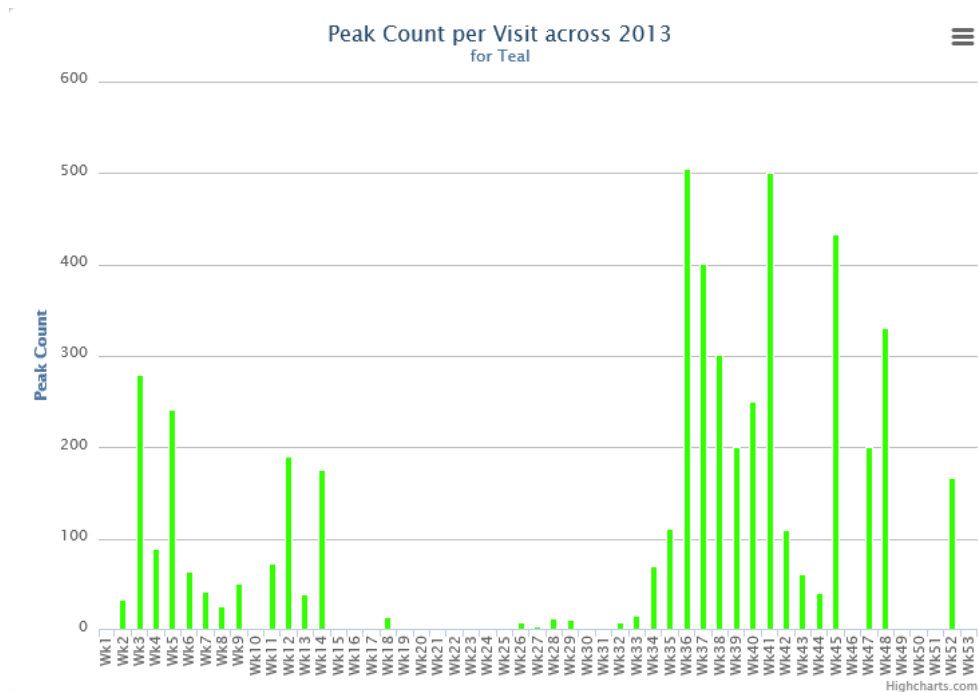
4 on 20th Jan was the only record in the early winter period. In the second half of the year a pair was in the Bay from 24th Nov until 8th Dec.

Teal: (504 – 22) ↗

Winter visitor and passage migrant. No records between 20th May and 28th Jun. A phenomenal influx occurred in early autumn. Numbers increased rapidly in the last couple of days in Aug and reached a record 504 on 7th Sep. The previous record of 488 was more typically recorded during a cold spell in 2010.

Numbers remained very high until early Oct when they began to return to normal. The gaps shown in the graph for the last few week of the year are due to under recording not absence of the species.

This species above all others favoured the wet fields created by the breach of the sea wall.



Mallard: (106 – 22) ↔

Breeds at several sites around the recording area. Very regular on Sandy Close Pond.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
11	7	Br	Br	Br	27	17	59	46	29	14	5

Northern Pintail: (21 - 14) ↔

Scare visitor. Seen on 5 dates in autumn. 3 on 8th Sep, with one the following day. 2 on 23rd and 5 on 30th. The last record of the year was a single on 8th Oct. All birds were on the Far Fields.

Shoveler: (7 – 21) ↔

Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. An exceptional year with records on 15 dates. After a single in Apr the species was recorded in each month from 8th Aug. Max of 4 on 6th Nov. All records were either in the Bay or on the Far Fields.

Tufted Duck: (20 – 10) ↔

Scarce visitor. 2 records. 4 on 24th Jan and a single on 9th May.

Goldeneye: (12 – 21) ↘

Declining winter visitor. The first winter period saw the best set of records since 2009. Recorded on 12 dates between 13th Jan and 7th Mar. Max 3 on several dates.

No records in the second winter period.

Red-breasted Merganser: (73 – 21) ↔

Winter visitor. Recorded on 29 dates (22 in 2011, 17 in 2010). Present until 6th Apr and from 3rd Dec.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
10	14	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8

Red-throated Diver:

4th record. An unseasonal but long staying bird was present daily from 16th Apr to 22nd May (SR et al).



Digi-scoping continues to produce some reasonable results. The Red-throated Diver rarely came close to the shore preferring the main channel (c Shaun Robson)

Pheasant: ↑

Increasingly common resident. Established in all parts of the recording area.

Little Grebe: (12 - 22) ↔

Winter visitor. Recorded until 30th Mar and from 6th Sep. Max 9 on 21st Feb.

Great Crested Grebe; (4 - 19) ↗

Increasingly frequent visitor. Recorded on 23 dates in throughout the year. Max 3 on 27th Oct.

Cormorant: (203 – 22) ↑

Regular visitor. Max count was 122 on 15th Oct.

Bittern: (1 – 4)

5th and 6th records. 1 was seen over Otter Island on 18th Feb (PM). Another lingered on the Far Fields during the severely cold weather at the end of March. It was seen on 7 dates between 26th Mar and 7th Apr (SR et al).

Little Egret: (29 – 21) ↔

Common visitor. Very scarce during the January cold spell. The site record was matched again. Will anyone ever count 30?

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
4	14	9	12	7	7	20	25	29	20	27	n.c.

Grey Heron: (10 – 22) ↔

Recorded frequently throughout the year. Max 5 on 19th Aug.

Spoonbill: (15 – 4)

2013 was the year of the Spoonbill. Prior to this year there had only been 5 records and the maximum count was 2 on 9th Jan 2010, the last year in which the species was recorded.

After 1 in the Bay on 21st Jan, 4 were seen on 3rd Feb, followed by 8 on 6th! On 23rd Feb, 2 arrived on the Far Fields and started feeding. 4 were feeding there on 2nd Mar and then there was then a gap, before 5 were seen there on 18th. Between 1 and 7 were then present daily until 8th Apr. Among these was one colour ringed bird (see below).

Hopes that birds might return to the fields in the second winter period were not fulfilled yet we were not to be disappointed. After 2 in the Bay on 21st Nov, a remarkable 15 were present the next day (IB, SR). An unforgettable year ended with 4 on 10th Dec.



11 of the 15 Spoonbills present on 22nd Nov (c Shaun Robson)

A colour ringed bird marked Blue(AE) + White(AE) was present on 23rd Mar.

It was ringed at Schiermonnikoog, The Netherlands on 19th Jul 2006. It has since visited France, Cornwall, Devon and has been seen frequently in Poole Harbour since 2007. Each year it seems to return to the Netherlands to breed.

Many thanks to Otto Overdijk for supplying this information.

Red Kite: (1 – 8) ↗

Scarce migrant. 4 records.

1 over Border Road on 1st May (SR)
1n over Lytchett Way on 9th May (SR)
1 over Far Fields on 22nd May (JE)
1 over Bay on 25th Aug (SD)

Marsh Harrier: (6 – 21) ↗

Irregular visitor. Noted on 33 dates.



Otter Island is the favoured habitat for visiting Marsh Harriers (c Ian Ballam)

The roost established in the previous winter was only used on 1 date. Nonetheless birds were seen regularly in both winter periods.

Outside of this period there occasional sightings in all of the summer months. This is not surprising given that breeding took place elsewhere in Poole Harbour for the first time since 1962.

Hen Harrier: (2 – 21) ↔

Irregular Visitor. An excellent year with birds recorded on 11 dates, the best year on record surpassing 1998.

2 records from January, singles on 15th and 20th Jan.

The remaining 9 records were between 28th Oct and the end of the year. These involved at least 3 different individuals including 2 grey males and at least one ringtail.

Montagu's Harrier:

2nd record. A ringtail flew east over the Far Fields on the 15th Apr (NHu). The only previous record was on 26th Apr 1995.

Harrier spp:

A ringtail Harrier flew east over the Pool on the 14th May (IB). Unfortunately the brevity of the views prevented specific identification.

Northern Goshawk:

4th record and first since 1997. One flew north over Lytchett Way just after mid-day on 6th May (JH, NHu). Probably the most gripping record of the year from the report editor's perspective. I'd been visiting from my garden for over an hour and had just stopped and started to clean the windows when the bird passed over!

Sparrowhawk: (3 – 21) ↔

Uncommon visitor. Recorded on 57 dates and in every month except Jun, almost double the average number of annual sightings (24.9 p.a. 1992-2011). Max 3 on 8th Oct.

Common Buzzard: (15 – 22) ↔

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

Osprey: (4 – 21) ↗

Annual passage migrant. 2 in spring. 1 on 30th Apr and 1 on 14th May. Seen on 11 dates between 23rd Aug and 21st Sep. All singles except 2 on 30th.

Kestrel: (3 – 22) ↘

Declining resident. Only logged on 10 dates. This is probably a fair representation of actual occurrence?

Merlin: (2 – 18) ↔

Scarce winter visitor. A good year with records on 6 dates. 23rd and 28th Feb, 14th Mar and 3 dates in Dec.

Hobby: (3 – 20) ↗

Irregular summer visitor. Records of this species are becoming more frequent by the year. Even allowing for the increased observer coverage, 26 birds on 23 dates is a significant improvement. After two on 25th Apr, there were records in each month through to 11th Oct. The latest recorded at the Bay.

Peregrine: (3 – 21) ↗

Uncommon visitor, rare in early summer. Recorded on 27 dates, this is 3 times the average for the previous 21 years. None between 29th Apr and 1st Aug. 3 together on 3rd Sep is also a record day count.

Water Rail: (67 pairs – 22) ↔

Common resident and winter visitor. A full survey of Poole Harbour was carried out by Nick Hopper on behalf of The Birds of Poole Harbour. Lytchett Bay was found to be the single most important site, holding 37.8% of the harbour population.



Water Rails are occasionally seen high in waterside scrub hunting recently fledged passerines (c Ian Ballam)

The survey was conducted in two parts. The reed beds of the east and north shores (LB) and the reed beds of East Holton shore, The Sherford and Otter Island (HL). The whole area produced a total of 67 pairs. In 2004 the total was 66 pairs. There was however a shift in the locations of breeding pairs.

Site	Pairs	Singles	P+S	Ha	Pairs per Ha	Pairs 2004	Singles 2004	P+S 2004	Change
LB	30	6	36	16.62	1.81	25	12	37	↑ 20%
HL	37	15	52	35.26	1.05	41	20	61	↓ 10%
Total	67	21	88	51.88	1.29	66	32	98	↑ 1.5%

177 pairs in total were found in Poole Harbour during the survey.

Maps showing the distribution of birds at the Bay are reproduced courtesy of the Birds of Poole Harbour in Appendix 1.

The full survey report is available at <http://www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk/sites/default/files//Water%20Rail%20Survey%202013%20new.pdf>

Thanks to the Birds of Poole Harbour for their support in including this information.

Moorhen: (12 – 22) ↔

An uncommon resident. Scattered sightings from across the recording area, including pairs at Folly Pond, Far Fields and Turlin Stream. Successfully bred at each of these sites.

Coot: (62 – 11) ↗

Very scarce visitor. A spring migrant appeared on 28th Apr. This was joined by a second the next day. Brief thoughts that they may stay and breed were erased when both birds disappeared on the night of the 2nd May.

Oystercatcher: (400 – 22) ↔

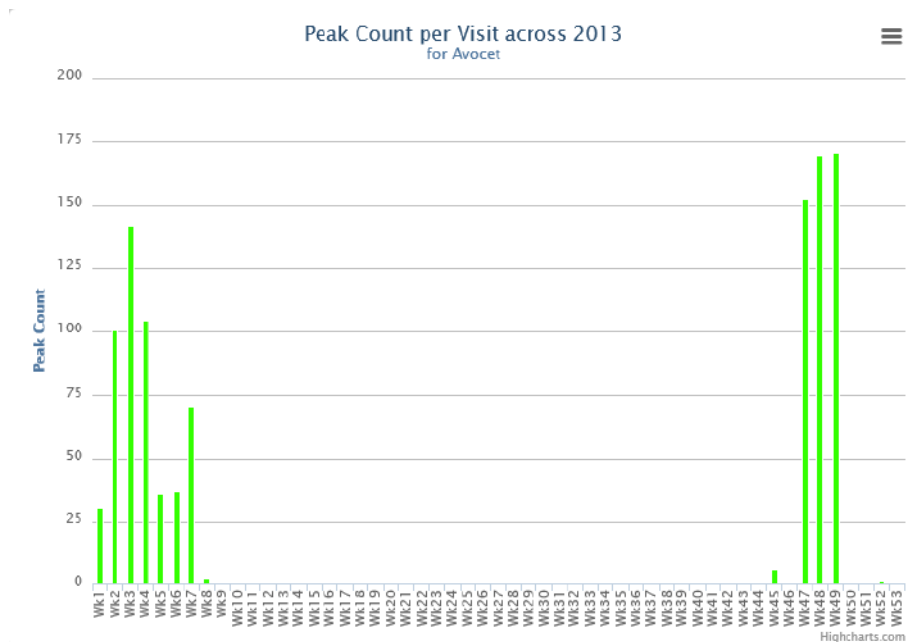
A common winter visitor and passage migrant. Turlin Fields and Turlin Shore at high tide remain the favored locations, though more birds now remain in the bay to feed at low tide than in previous years. The maximum count was on 23rd Jan.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
330	200	90	54	9	7	54	27	n.c.	134	n.c.	168

Pied Avocet: (327 – 21) ↗

Increasingly regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Occurrence closely related with cold weather. No records between 23rd Feb and 7th Nov. The max count of 169 was on 25th Nov.



WOf+GNG was present on 26th Nov.



WOf+GNG. Photographs proved essential in tracing our colour ringed Avocets (c Paul Morton)

It had been ringed at Les Rondees, l'Île de Re, France on 1st Jul 2013. This is our first from France.

R+R with unread white digits was present on 8th Dec.

It had been ringed at Dunkirk, Cambs before Nov 2011. This is our second sighting of a bird ringed at this site.

Details of two other colour ringed Avocet are outstanding. Unfortunately without photographs they might remain untraced.

Many thanks to Guillaume Gelinaud and Tony Martin for this information.

Ringed Plover: (17 – 10 – 18) ↔

Scarce visitor. An amazing year with 69 bird days on 22 dates. The previous best years only produced c15 bird days per year. Spring migration was protracted. The first record was on 24th Mar and it ended with 3 on 6th Jun. Birds were noted on 6 dates. Autumn migration began with 6 on 13th Aug, increasing to 10 the next day. Sightings continued through Aug, mainly on the Far Fields, and 10 were again counted on the 26th. 4 on 11th Sep were the last of the year.

Little Ringed Plover: (5 – 11)

Scarce visitor. An excellent year with records on 6 dates. 4 were on the Far Fields on 1st Apr. 1 was at the same site on the 20th. A juv visited the fields in Jul on 9th, 11th and 12th. The last of year was seen on 10th Sep, the latest record at the Bay.

Golden Plover: (160 – 13)

Scarce visitor. Recorded on 3 dates in Jan, typically associated with snow and freezing temperatures. 13 on 19th Jan, 4 on 20th and 5 on 21st.

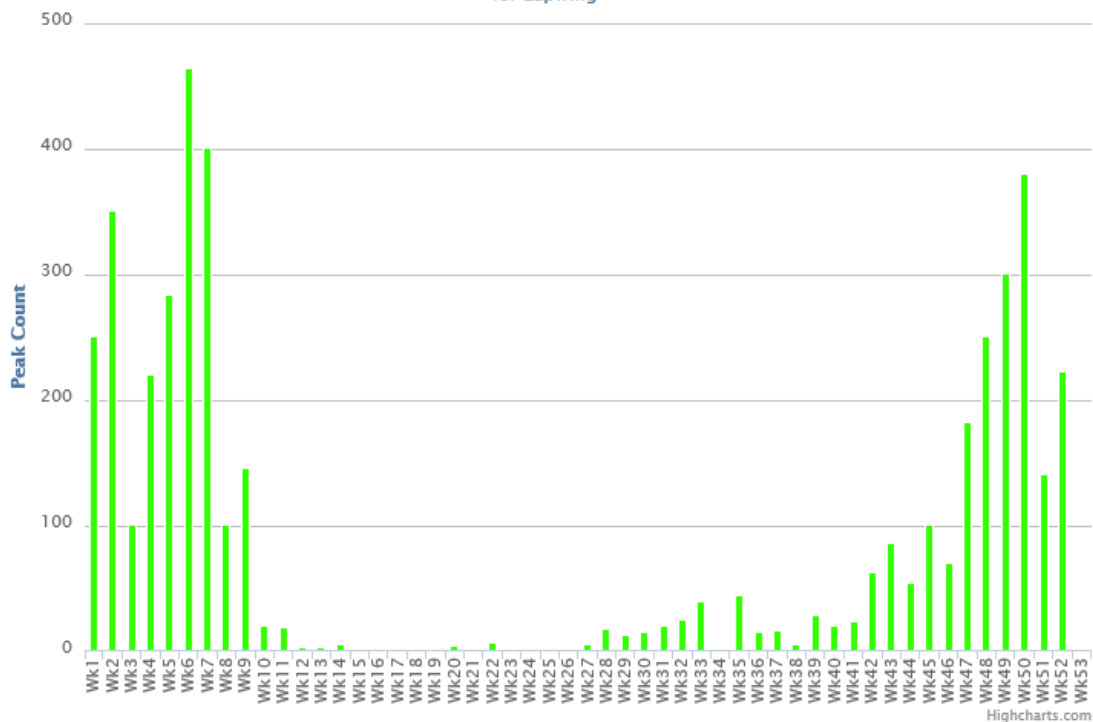
Grey Plover: (14 – 16)

Scarce visitor. A reasonable showing with 13 birds on 9 dates. The records were scattered throughout the year. 3 on 20th Jan was the max count.

Lapwing: (3000 – 22) ↔

Formerly bred, now a non-breeding visitor in smaller numbers. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. Present throughout the year with the only real gap being between 6th Apr and 2nd May. Birds were probably present on every other date and the Very Far Fields was the most favoured habitat. The max count of 464 was on 9th Feb.

Peak Count per Visit across 2013
for Lapwing



Red Knot: (34 – 13)

Scarce visitor. 1 on 9th May was the only record.

Little Stint: (7 – 7)

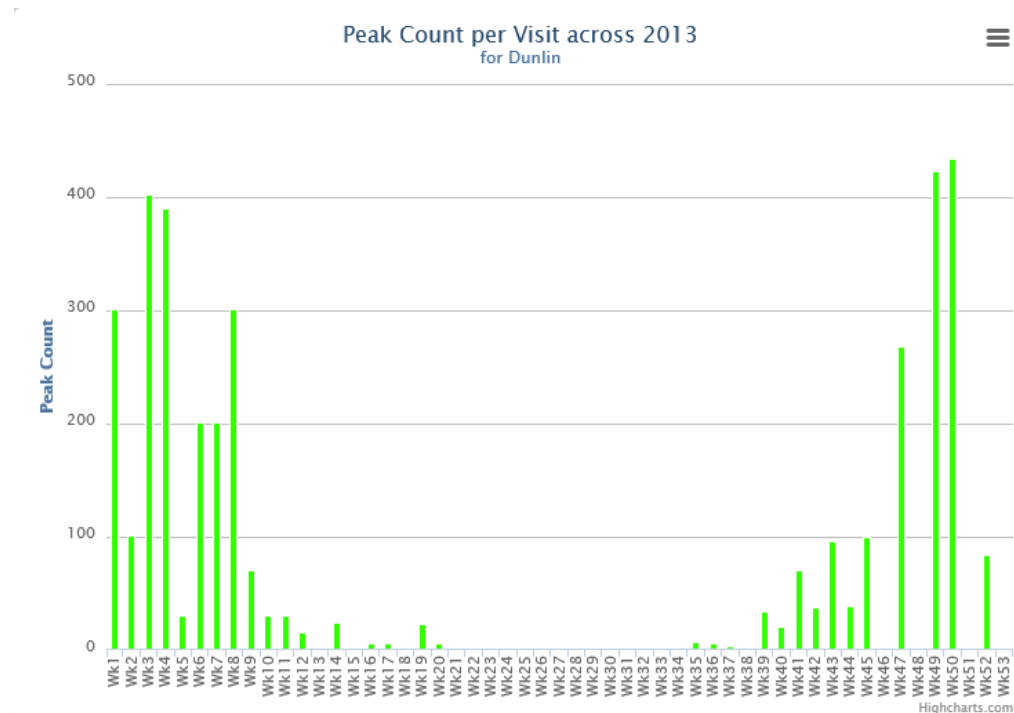
Rare visitor. The first record since 2007. A juv was on the Far Fields and in Bay on 10th – 11th Sep (IB et al).

Curlew Sandpiper: (3 – 7)

Rare visitor. A record year with 21 bird days over 14 dates. 4, an ad and 3 juvs, were in the Bay on the 27th Aug was the first record of the year and a record count. Birds were then seen frequently of the Far Fields between 7th Sep and 4th Oct, max 2 on any one date. The last of the year was a late bird on The Pool on 21st – 22nd Oct.

Dunlin: (1800 – 1200 – 22) ⇄

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Numbers currently much less than 1990's. Nonetheless 433 on 9th Dec is the best count since Dec 2010. Spring passage was quite good peaking at 22 on 10th May. There were no records between 6th Jun and 13th Aug.



Ruff: (9 – 18)

Scarce visitor. One on the Far Fields between 12th – 20th Jul was the first record in that month. The next was a single on 30th Aug. One lingered between 20th and 24th Oct and an excellent year finished with 2 surprise winter birds on 19th Dec.

Jack Snipe: (5 - 14) ↔

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. 9 records, all of singles at 5 different sites. A very late record on 27th Apr, the latest ever, was the last of 6 records in the first part of the year. The first returning bird was on 13th Oct, after another on 24th there were 2 on 3rd Dec.

Snipe: (160 – 132 – 22) ↔

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded until 3rd May, returning on the 16th Jul (earliest return date).

2012 was good but 2013 was even better. 132 on 7th Jan is the best count in the last 22 years. The new habitat undoubtedly responsible for the increase.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
132	64	22	19	2	0	0	10	57	50	32	33

Woodcock: (5 – 12) ↔

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. The number of records of this species is largely a reflection of the effort made to see them. They are probably present throughout each winter.

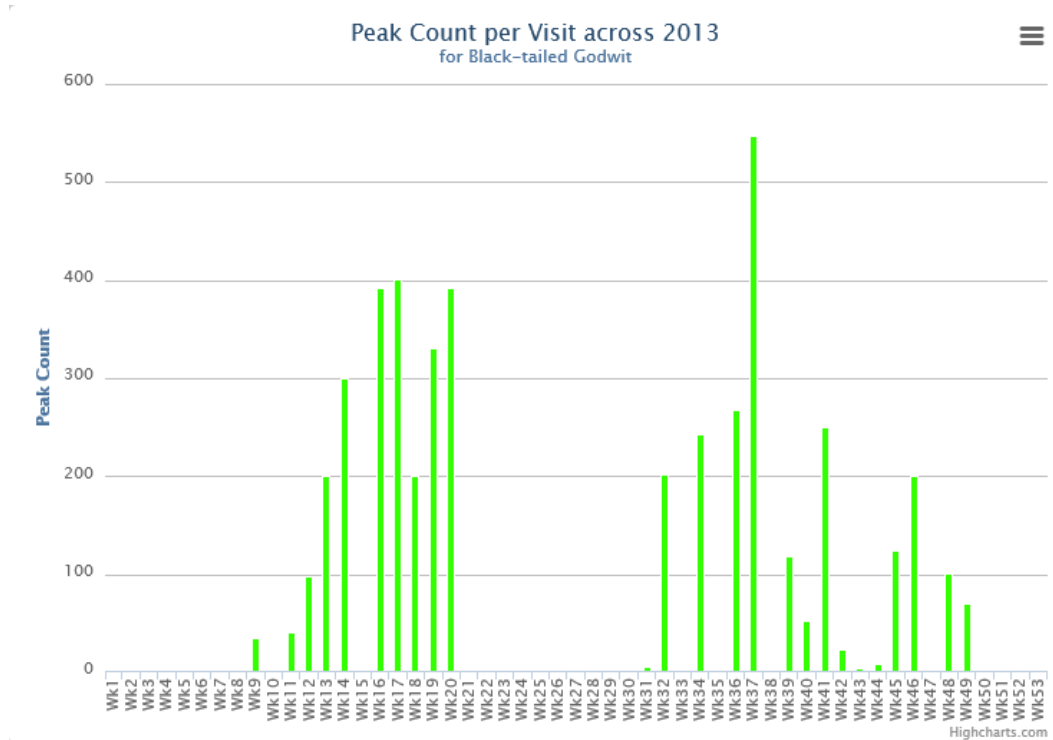
4 on 4th Feb, 2 on 17th Feb and 1 on 8th Dec.

Black-tailed Godwit: (1240 – 22) ↔

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. The species had abandoned Poole Harbour for the Avon Valley toward the end of 2012, birds did not return until 1st Mar.

The wet weather having returned the fresh water meadows to their former glory.

After this numbers increased quickly and there was a good passage in both spring and autumn. The only real gap was between 2nd June and 6th Jul. The max count was 569 on 10th Sep.



Over the last 20 years colour ringed birds have proved that birds visiting Lytchett Bay breed in Iceland (*L.l.islandica*). Predominantly, birds seen at Lytchett Bay on migration, winter in Western France. However some have also been recorded in Portugal, Ireland, Holland, Belgium, NE England as well as many locations along the south coast.

Colour ringed birds were recorded as follows.

LG+RO was present on 8th Aug 2013.

It had been ringed at Langhús, Fljót, N Iceland as an adult female on 26th June 2002. This bird also visited the Bay in 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2012. It has also been seen on Humberside, the Avon Valley, and Western France and wintered in Tejo Estuary, Setúbal, W Portugal in Jan 2008.

RG-YR was present on 16th Sep 2012.

It had been ringed as a pullus on 3rd Jul 2006 at Reykholar, NW Iceland. It has also been seen in the Isle of Lewis, Belfast, Staffordshire and Cheshire.

GY+GW(flag) was present on 24th Mar and 8th Aug 2013.

It had been ringed as breeding female on 19th June 2012 at Kaldaðarnes, Árnassýsla, S Iceland. It had previously visited the Bay on 19th Nov 2012 and also been at Wareham in Poole Harbour in Oct 2012.

RW(8) + GW – was present on 1st Apr 2013.

It had been ringed at Siglufjordur, N Iceland on 15th Jul 2010 as an AdM. It has since spent winters in Essex, Kent and Devon. It has been seen back in Iceland at the place of ringing in two summers.

LN+OW(X) – was present on 25th Apr 2013.

It had been ringed at Hrisholl, Berufjordur, Reykholar, NW Iceland on 10th Jul 2008 as an Ad F. It has since visited Exminster Marshes, Devon.

WN+WY(flag) – was present on 9th, 10th and 13th May 2013.



WN+WY(flag), a first summer bird which might not have returned to Iceland this year (c Shaun Robson)

It had been ringed at Fljot, SW of Siglufjordur N Iceland on 9th Jul 2012 as a chick.

LOY+YRY was present on 29th Mar and 1st Apr 2013.

It had been ringed on 4th Dec 2010 at Axe Estuary, Seaton, Devon.

GOW +YRY – was present on 1st, 26th and 27th Apr 2013.



It had been ringed on 26th Feb 2012 at Axe Estuary, Seaton, Devon. It had since visited Buren, Ameland, Friesland, The Netherlands on 28th Aug 2012 to 5th Oct 2012. (c Shaun Robson).

WOR+YRY – was present on 9th and 10th May 2013.



It was ringed on 9th Feb 2013 at Axe Estuary, Seaton, Devon as a 1stw. (c Shaun Robson)

YOO+YRY was present on 24th Apr 2012.

It had been ringed on the Axe Estuary, Devon on 5th Mar 2011 as a 1st W female. It spent the summer of 2011 on the North Norfolk coast at Titchwell and Cley.

G//R + BW – was present on 1st Apr 2013.

It had been ringed at Farlington Marshes, Hants on 5th Sep 2010. It had since visited Álfafjörður, south of Djúpivogur, SE Iceland on 30th Apr 2012, Cley NNT reserve, N Norfolk, E England on 16th Jul 2012, Snettisham RSPB reserve, The Wash, Norfolk, E England on 19th Sep 2012.

O+RB - was present on 25th Apr 2013.

It had been ringed at Farlington Marshes on 5th Sep 2010. It has since visited Clonakilty, County Cork, Ireland; Cley NNT reserve, N Norfolk, E England.

Left leg always given first, all rings above the tibia (unless preceded by the mark //). Recently some birds have been marked with leg flags rather than rings. 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

N = Niger

Many thanks to Pete Potts and the Farlington Ringing Group, Vigfus Eyjolfsson, Böðvar and the Iceland Wader Group for supplying this information.

Bar-tailed Godwit: (110 – 18) ↔

Scare visitor. Recorded on 7 dates. 42 over flying the Bay on 25th Feb was a good record. More typically the species was recorded on 4 dates between the 6th and 19th May, max 5 on first date. There two singles in autumn, 25th Oct and 10th Nov.

Whimbrel: (157 – 22) ↔

Passage migrant, most numerous in Spring. The first was on 17th Apr. There were 283 bird days (79 in 2012, 59 in 2011) to the 23rd May. Max 45 on 6th May. This was the best spring since 1996, though 2005 was almost as good.



A return to the good old days, spring Whimbrel passage is one of the highlights of the year (c Shaun Robson).

Autumn passage involved 42 bird days between 11th Jul and 25th Sep. Max 5 on 10th Aug. Many of these bird days involved a long staying injured bird on the Far Fields.

One of the most exciting finds of the year was a colour ringed Whimbrel on 25th Apr 2013. WG+YN.



It had been ringed at Hvolsvollur, SW Iceland in Jun 2009. It returned to the ringing site in 2010 and 2011. It is only the 6th Icelandic ringed Whimbrel recorded in the UK and was travelling with 12 other birds which all took off north, calling excitedly as they went, just before dusk. Magic! (c Shaun Robson)

Many thanks to Borgný Katrínardóttir and Tomas Gunnarsson for supplying this information.

Curlew: (116 – 22) ↔

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. 116 on 20th Jan was a record count for the Bay and overall numbers were up on previous years.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
116	76	83	61	16	10	49	40	45	88	103	61

This species continued to show a significant change in its high tide behavior. Whereas birds were in the past rare on the Pool, this changed in 2012. This year Curlew's continued to use the Pool, Stubble Field and Far Fields. 20's and 30's were regularly counted at these locations.

Common Sandpiper: (10 – 22) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. 6 birds on 5 dates was a good showing for spring. After 1 on 18th Apr, birds were seen on the 24th and 27th. 2 on 3rd May were followed by a further single on 9th.

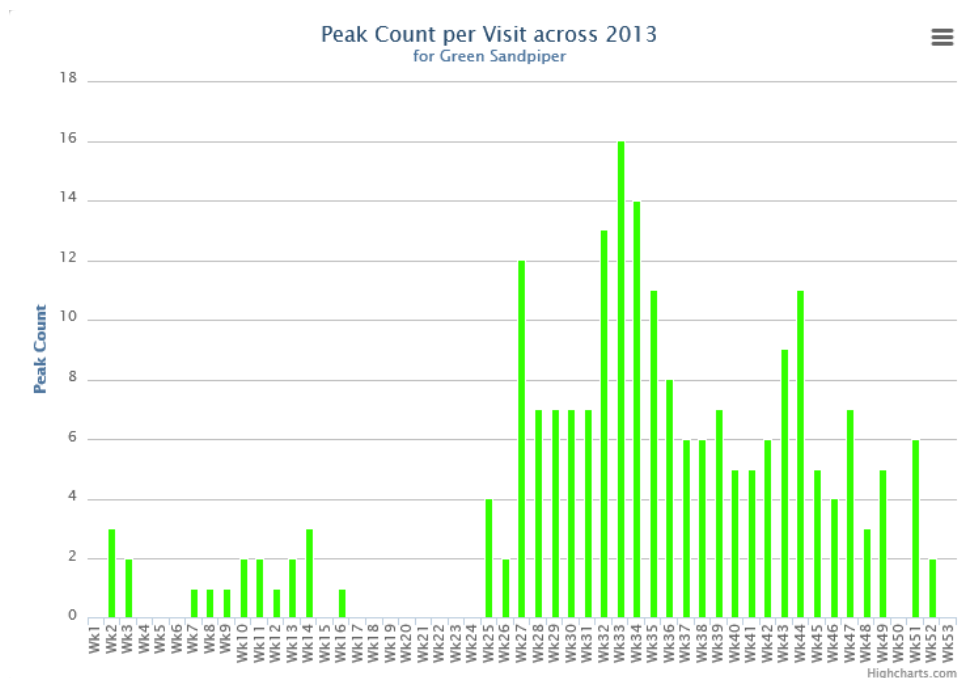
There was 79 bird days between 10th Jul and 30th Sep. Max 5 on 8th Aug. This was a record autumn surpassing 45 bird days in each of 1997 and 1998. This was no doubt due in part to the renewed habitat on the Far Fields.



A superbly detailed picture of Common Sandpiper demonstrating the capability of modern "Bridge" cameras (c Ian Ballam)

Green Sandpiper: (16 – 22) ↗

Common non breeding visitor. The Far Fields and western most part of the Bay are the favoured sites. Up to 3 were present from the beginning of the year until 21st Apr. The first returning bird was on 20th Jun. After this, birds were seen on most visits until the year end. 16 on 18th Aug was a record for the Bay surpassing the 14 which were seen in Aug last year. This was probably an underestimate and up to 24 may have been present. The extensive suitable habitat made accurate counting very difficult. One thing is certain this was the best year ever for this species at Lytchett Bay!



One was taken by a Sparrowhawk on 9th Sep.

Spotted Redshank: (68 – 42 – 22) ↘

Declining passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. Numbers did not improve but occurrence did. Recorded on 44 dates (15 in 2012, 18 in 2011). As recently as 1998 the species was typically recorded on 148 dates.

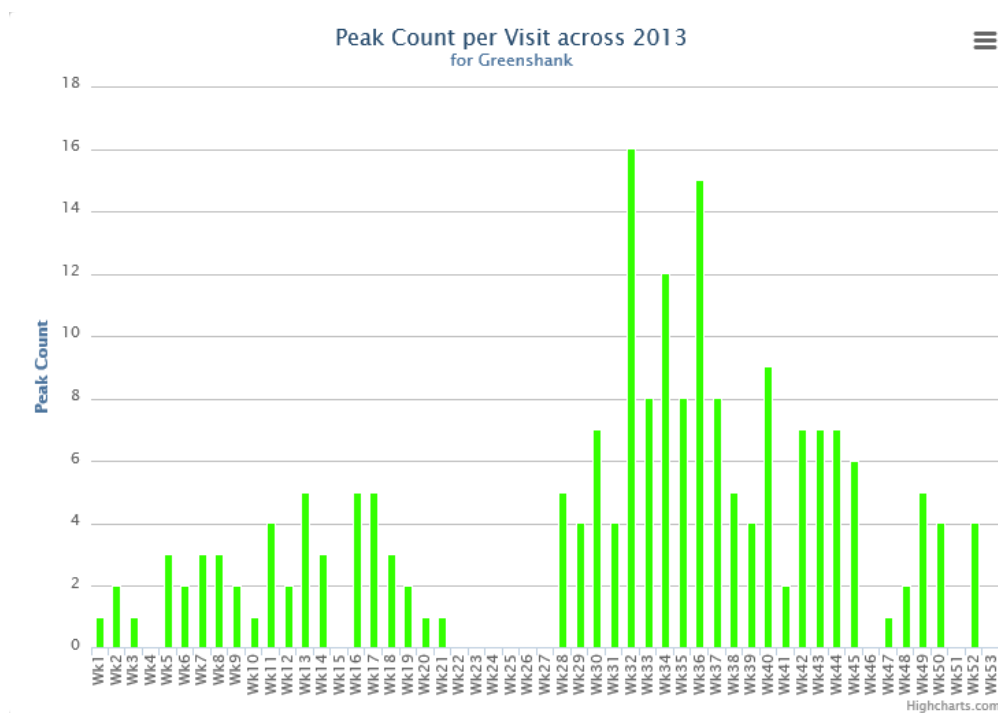
Bay monthly max

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
4	3	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1

Greenshank: (49 – 27 – 22) ↔

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Present on most dates during autumn, winter and spring. Recorded until 24th May, max 5 on several dates. The first returning bird was noted on the 8th Jul. Max 16 on 10th Aug.

Away from the Bay itself birds were regularly found on the Sherford Pools and Far Fields. The Pool is used less frequently, no doubt due to the increased availability of these alternatives.





Unlike Spotted Redshank, Greenshank remains an almost daily visitor to the Bay outside of their short breeding season. The use of graphs from Birdtrack illustrates the pattern of occurrence nicely (c Ian Ballam)

Wood Sandpiper: (2 – 10)

Scarce migrant. An excellent series of records, the best on record. The habitat changes certainly proved attractive to this species. 1 on 21st Jul. Then 1 or 2 each day between 10th - 18th Aug. The last bird of the year was on 22nd Aug.



The extensive and regular flooding of the Far Fields created a habitat not seen since 1998. Not surprisingly many species of wader had their best year at the Bay in at least the last 22 years. The habitat was just perfect for Wood Sandpipers (c Shaun Robson)

Redshank: (608 – 436 – 22) ↔

Common winter visitor with small breeding population on salt marsh. A pair held territory on the Far Fields until on adult was taken by a Buzzard in late Apr.

Unlike Greenshank the Pool was used, with a max of 123 in Nov. The monthly figures obscure the disappearance of this species from mid July to late Aug which occurs each year.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
60	70	82	40	Br	Br	4	7	64	144	170	244

Ruddy Turnstone: (9 – 4)

4th record. 1 on 9th May.

Black-headed Gull: (12000 – 7000 – 22) ↔

A very common visitor. 1000's regularly frequent the bay en route to the Wareham Channel roost. The first juveniles were noted on 2nd Jul.

Little Gull: (2 – 12)

Scarce visitor. First records since 2010 and the best showing on record. A 1stw was hawking over a snow covered Stubble Field on 19th Jan. It or another was in the Bay on 5th Feb. A 1st W arrived on 18th Apr and remained faithful to the Far Fields and Bay until 22nd May. It was joined by a 2nd S on the evening of 25th Apr.

Mediterranean Gull: (37 – 21) ↗

Spring and early summer visitor, occasional at other times. The explosion in this species population in Britain continues.

The peak occurrence at the Bay is during the period when pairs are establishing territories at the breeding islands in the Wareham Channel. This is quite different to other parts of Poole Harbour where maxima occur after the breeding season.

Assessing bird days between Mar and Jun was again impossible due to abundance of bird movements. Present from 5th Feb until 2nd Jul, after which the species became very scarce with only 4 further records. Max count was 26 on 20th Mar.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	1	26	n.c.	20	14	9	0	0	1	0	0

Common Gull: (3000 – 22) ↔

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. The last birds of winter were seen on 22nd May. The first returning bird was on 20th Jul. No specific counts this year.

Lesser Black backed Gull: (2128 – 22) ↔

Abundant autumn and common spring passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Rarely counted.

Herring Gull: (2500 – 22) ↗

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. No counts made this year.

Yellow legged Gull: (65 – 21) ↔

Frequent visitor, peaking in summer. Under recorded.

Bay monthly max:

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



It feels like the occurrence of Yellow-legged Gull is decreasing though as yet no one is taking the time to formally check this. A job for 2014, have we stopped looking for them or are they simply not there? (c Shaun Robson)

Great Black backed Gull: (151 – 22) ↔

Daily visitor throughout the year in small numbers.

Sandwich Tern: (5 – 22) ↔

Uncommon summer visitor. One on the 20th Jan was the first winter record for the Bay (GT). A very good showing on 25 dates between 15th Apr and 9th Oct. Max 4 on several dates.



As the summer progresses adult Sandwich Terns like this one, bring their young to feed in Bay (c Paul Morton)

Common Tern: (25 – 22) ↔

Uncommon summer visitor. Another good year with records on 26 dates between 16th May and 26th Sep (latest departure date). Max 4 on 6th Aug.

Stock Dove: (72 – 22) ↔

Uncommon Resident. A new record was established when 72 joined the Wood Pigeon movement on 13th Nov (JH, NHu).

Wood Pigeon: (14,131 – 22) ↑

Common resident and autumn migrant. Migration was late. After 980nw on 4th Nov the main event occurred between 10th and 15th Nov. 14,131w over Border Road on 10th Nov (JH,NHu) was a record flight surpassing the previous best of 10,246 on 7th Nov 2010. Further movements included 3,800 on 13th and 2,000 in 15 minutes on the 15th.

FP52362 – An Ad bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 1st Feb 2012 was shot at Lytchett Minister 563 days later on 17th Aug 2013.

Collared Dove: (14 – 22) ↔

Uncommon resident. No specific records of note but no change in status.

Cuckoo: (2 – 21) ↘

Scarce visitor in spring. Recorded on 4 dates between 24th Apr and 27th May. All records coming from the western side of the Bay.

Barn Owl: (2 – 14) ↔

Recent breeder. The nest box at French's Farm has been removed. One feeding over reed beds on the evening of 17th Mar and another over Otter Island on 4th Nov.

Tawny Owl: (2 – 22) ↘

Uncommon resident. Seems to be declining at the Bay? Recorded occasionally across the area between Feb and Nov. Presumed to have bred.

Short - eared Owl: (1 – 4)

Very scarce visitor. One was flushed at Holton Lee on 22nd Oct and flew out over Otter Island (Per HL Log)

Nightjar: (3 – 13) ↗

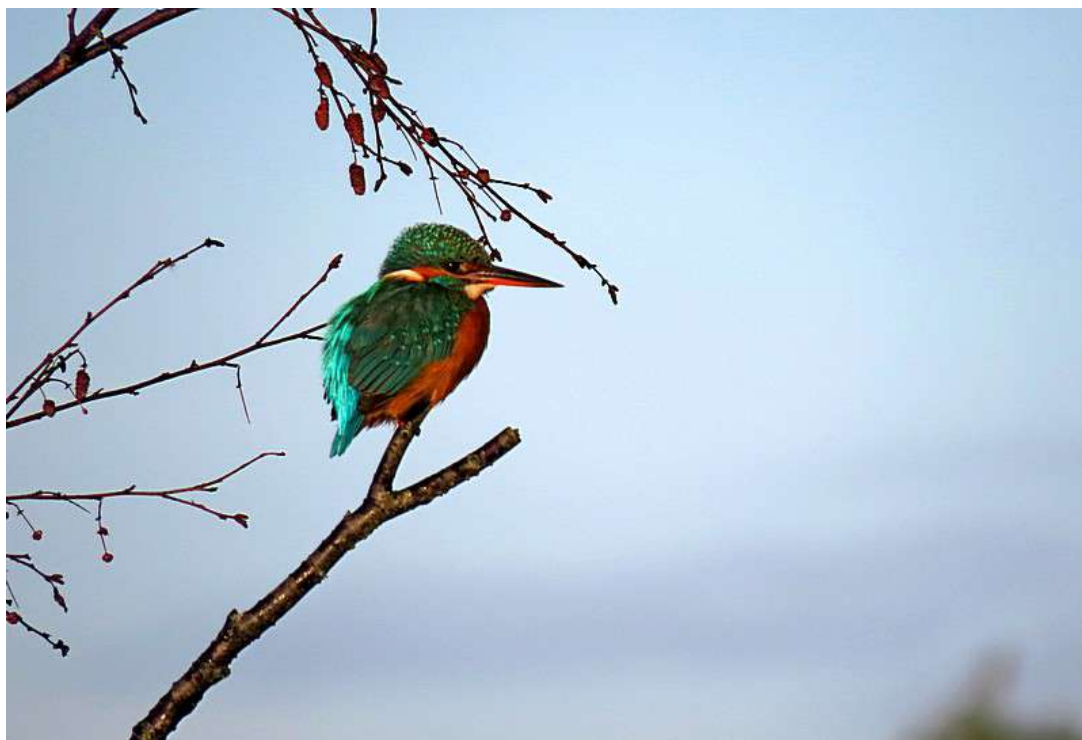
Irregular breeder. First recorded on 6th May. Males churring at 2 sites. The only record away from the immediate breeding sites was one over the Far Fields on 17th Aug.

Swift: (113 – 22) ↘

Passage migrant and possible local breeder. First seen on 24th Apr. 17 on 6th May was the largest day count in spring. Bred around French's Farm for the first time in recent years. Return passage was strong in early Jul with 85 hawking over Far Fields on 11th. The last of the year was 18th Aug.

Kingfisher: (3 – 22) ↔

Passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Bred in 2000. Recorded in every month except May. Sightings in early June suggested that breeding took place not far up the Sherford, if not within the recording area.



It always surprises me how many interested members of the public say that they have never seen a Kingfisher. At Lytchett we see them almost every day (c Ian Ballam)

Hoopoe:

Probably 5th record and perhaps the star of the year? The last was at Turlin Moor in spring 2003. This year's bird arrived on the unlikely date of the 15th Jan when it was reported by a M.o.P. from a garden near Lytchett Way. The report was received with scientism in some quarters but following a report on 23rd from Turlin Moor it was finally photographed there on 25th (JH & NHu). Despite the bird remaining on and off until 19th Mar, visiting Border Road on a number of occasions, this report's author never did catch up with it. The bird wandered widely being seen at the southern end of Hamworthy on some dates.



In most peoples books probably "the bird of the year". This record shot convinced the doubters (c Jackie Hull)

Green Woodpecker: ↔

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

Great Spotted Woodpecker: ↗

Breeding Resident. Seen regularly in most parts of the Bay. Drumming heard in most areas during spring and two nests found.

Woodlark: (15 – 12) ↔

Irregular visitor. A very good year by recent standards. 3 were at The Pool in snow on 19th Jan. 2 were at Turlin Moor on 23rd. A singing bird from the adjacent Holton Lee breeding site was heard on 10th Apr. 2 on Far Fields on 1st Oct completed the year's totals.

Skylark: (781 - 22) ↗

Scarce breeder and passage migrant. 1 territory established and held throughout the spring. Snow on 19th Jan produced an excellent cold weather movement of 511, 350 of which were sheltering in the Stubble Field. 300 were still present the following day. Autumn passage recorded 77 bird days between 14th Oct and 13th Nov. Max of 40 on 24th Oct was a very good day count. A single bird was on the saltmarsh at the year end.

Sand Martin: (5000 – 22) ↘

Common passage migrant. First record was 9th Apr. Max in spring of 35 on 15th Apr and in autumn 300 on 27th Jul. The last record of the year was on 17th Sep.

Swallow: (1000 – 800 – 22) ↔

Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. Recorded from 11th Apr until 15th Oct. Max count was a poor 200 on 23rd Jul.

House Martin: (1800 – 22) ↘

Common passage migrant, breeding colonies on edge of recording area at Watery Lane and Turlin Moor. First noted on 14th Apr. The Watery Lane colony improved slightly from last year with 4 nests. Spring passage was good with counts of 100 on several dates. Autumn passage peaked at 200 on 17th Sep and the last bird being seen on 18th Oct.

No of House Martin nests at the Watery Lane colony 2003 – 2013. No of nest collapsed or destroyed in brackets.

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
13	15	15	16	14	13	15	8	13	2	4
(9)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(5)	(8)	(5)	(7)	(4)	(0)	(1)

Tree Pipit: (10 – 18) ↔

Scarce passage migrant. After last year's record it was back to earth with a bump. Just two singles, both flyovers. 30th Aug and 13th Sep.

Meadow Pipit: (167 – 22) ↔

Breeding resident and common passage migrant. Autumn passage was notable from 14th Sep and peaked on 28th with 100.

Rock Pipit: (50 – 22) ↗

Common winter visitor. Recorded until early Mar and from 20th Oct. Common on saltings throughout the winter. Max at anyone location was 20 on Lytchett Heath Saltings on 9th Jan.

Water Pipit: (20 – 16)

Scarce winter visitor. The bird(s) present on the Far Fields at the end of 2012 were present throughout Jan, Feb and early Mar. However their skulking behavior meant that their identification was not confirmed until 6th Feb. At least 2 were present until 7th Mar. A further record of 2 on 6th Apr was either this species or Rock Pipit.

2 were present on 29th and 30th Oct but there was only 1 further confirmed sighting. 1 on 10th Dec.

Yellow Wagtail: (100 - 90 – 22) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. An excellent spring, the best for many years, started with the earliest ever, a male which took up a short residence on Folly Pond between 1st – 9th Apr. There were 9 further bird days until 26th Apr. Max 5 on 24th. Autumn migration started on 31st Jul but it was poor compared to recent years. 54 bird days until 10th Sep. Max 14 on 26th Aug.



It might have been barely above freezing but this bird warmed everybody's day. Our earliest ever Yellow Wagtail arrived during the coldest start to April since 1962 (c Paul Morton)

Blue-headed Wagtail:

2nd and 3rd records. A male was on Far Fields on 25th Apr (SR et al). What sounded like a different bird was on Sherford Pools on 27th (NHo).

The only previous record was seen exactly 30 years earlier on 25th Apr 1983.

Grey Wagtail: (12 – 22) ↔

Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. 6 on 7th Sep was the biggest day count.

Pied Wagtail: (500 – 22) ↔

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully. Birds roost at various points around the Bay during peak migration in October. For the first time in many years there was no ringing or counting of the autumn roost.

White Wagtail:

Scarce migrant. An excellent spring with 13 bird days between 24th Mar and 25th Apr, when 4 were present. 1 was identified in autumn on 8th Sep.

Waxwing: (20 – 4)

6th record. 1 was in a garden near Lytchett Way on 9th Jan (MoP).

Wren: ↔

Common resident.

Dunnock: ↔

Common resident.

Robin: ↔

Common resident. A spring “fall” on 9th Apr produced 20 on the Far Fields.

Common Redstart: (2 – 15) ↔

Scarce autumn migrant. A male on Far Fields on 9th Apr. In autumn singles at Turlin Moor on 22nd Aug and Border Road on 29th Aug.

Whinchat: (11 – 20) ↘

Scarce passage migrant. Only 3 records this year. 1 at Turlin Moor on 26th Apr. 2 in autumn was again very poor and results from the decline of this species across most of Britain. Singles on 20th Aug and 6th Sep.

Stonechat: (23 – 22) ↘

Past common breeding resident (7 pairs in 2002), last bred in 2005. Changed status to uncommon migrant. Recorded on 37 visits, increase probably due to increased coverage and observer attention (16 visits in 2012, 17 in 2011, 34 in 2010).

10 spring records between 5th Feb and 1st Apr. In second half of the year, from 2nd Sep. Max 4 on several dates.

Northern Wheatear: (15 – 22) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. Almost every record of this species occurs in the north west of the recording area.

24 bird days in spring between 24th Mar and 16th May. Max 4 on 28th Mar. These included a male Greenland Wheatear on 5th May.

Another poor autumn with only 7 bird days between 26th Aug and 30th Sep. Max 3 on 10th Sep.

Blackbird: (45 – 22) ↔

Common Resident. An influx of 40 to the Far Fields on 18th Oct.

Fieldfare: (559 – 22) ↗

Uncommon winter visitor. A record year. The cold spell in Jan produced a record count of 559 on 19th. Birds lingered over the next few days with 322 on 20th, 300 on 21st and 120 on 23rd. The last birds in spring were 2 on 24th Mar. Autumn was typical though 2 on 13th Oct were the earliest returning ever. 60 on 1st Dec was max the count.

Song Thrush: (1256 – 21) ↔

Breeding resident. No breeding survey this year. A minor influx of 20 into the Far Fields on 8th - 9th Apr was the only notable event of the year.

Redwing: (1000 – 514 – 22) ↔

Winter visitor. Less common than Fieldfare during the Jan cold spell but 257 on 19th was a good count. 155 were still present on 20th and 100 on 21st. The extremely cold spring brought an influx in late Mar. There were daily records from 24th until 12th Apr with a peak of 36 on 5th Apr. First of the autumn was on 9th Oct. There were two flights over Border Road. 70n on 11th Oct and 202n on 12th Nov. The oddest record of the year was one in song on 2nd Dec at Border Road.

Mistle Thrush: (60 - 16 – 22) ↔

Uncommon resident. Probably bred. A singing male was present in Jan and 3 juvs lingered during Jun. 11 bird days in Nov, max 6 on 7th.

Cetti's Warbler: (11 males – 21) ↔

Breeding resident. Despite the January cold spell, territories increased to 8 (4 in 2012, 5 in 2011, 9 in 2010). Present at Sandy Close Pond in both winter periods.

Y820282 – An un-aged bird ringed on 16th Oct 2012 at Lytchett Bay was re-trapped at Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk 200 days later on 4th May 2013. A movement of 329km.

Grasshopper Warbler: (7 – 15) ↔

Passage migrant, under recorded. The 2nd poor autumn in a row. 3 ringed on 24th Aug was the only record.

Sedge Warbler: (96 – 22) ↔

Passage migrant. Spring passage was good with 27 birds between 16th Apr and 11th May, max 7 on 30th Apr. In autumn 265 between 16th Jul and 17th Oct. Max 52 on 10th Aug.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			7	3		12	52	11	1		
			20	7		57	410	45	2		



Sedge Warbler is a common migrant in autumn. Thanks to ringing we can get a much better understanding of the scale and pattern of the migration (c Ian Ballam)

L517395 – A 1stw bird ringed on 5th Aug 2011 at Lytchett Bay, was re-trapped 11 days later on 16th Aug 2011 at Boada de Campos, Palencia, Spain. A movement of 996km.

L517287 – An Ad bird ringed on 30th Jul 2011 at Lytchett Bay, was re-trapped 274 days later on 29th Apr 2012 at Etang de Moisan, Messanges, Landes, France. A movement of 773km.

Y834539 – A 1stw bird ringed on 9th Aug 2012 at Portland Bird Observatory, Dorset was re-trapped the following day on 10th Aug 2012 at Lytchett Bay. A movement of 38km.

Y329460 – A 1stw bird ringed on 11th Aug 2012 at Lytchett Bay was re-trapped 4 days later on 15th Aug at Icklesham, East Sussex. A movement of 192km.

Y329472 – A 1stw bird ringed on 11th Aug 2012 at Lytchett Bay was re-trapped 8 days later on 19th Aug at Loire Atlantique, Donges, Tour aux Moutons, France. A movement of 378km.

Y820870 – A 1stw bird ringed on 6th Aug 2013 at Lytchett Bay was re-trapped 6 days later on 12th Aug 2013 at Sandouville, Seine-Maritime, France. A movement of 218km.

Y820885 – A 1stw bird ringed on 10th Aug 2013 at Lytchett Bay was re-trapped 4 days later on 14th Aug 2013 at Le Tertre Rouge, Bouee, Loire-Atlantique, France. A movement of 380km.

Reed Warbler: (84 males – 22) ↗

Common summer visitor. Present between 16th Apr and 20th Sep. No survey undertaken but status unchanged.



Reed Warblers return to the same breeding site year after year. This is one of our local birds that was ringed in 2012 (c Ian Ballam)

Dartford Warbler: (2 pairs – 20) ↔

Breeding resident. All records from Lytchett Heath where the species may have bred. A singing male was recorded on 27th and 28th Apr and again on 23rd May. It was presumably present throughout. The only other record was one on 23rd Oct.

Lesser Whitethroat: (3 – 17) ↔

Scarce passage migrant. After none in 2012 this was a very good year. One was on the Far Fields on 2nd May. On the same date one took up territory at Lytchett Way and was still singing on 26th Jun, this is the second breeding attempt after a pair raised 4 young at Turlin Moor in 2003. In autumn there were 10 bird days between 9th – 31st Aug. Max 3 at Turlin Moor on 22nd.

Whitethroat: (8 – 20) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. One pair bred successfully at the Water Works and another male held territory at the Cottage. This is the first confirmed breeding. The only other attempt was when two held territory in 2001. In addition 12 bird days between 17th – 29th Apr. Max 6 on 26th. 11 bird days in autumn between 8th Aug and 28th Sep. Max 3 on 28th Aug.

Garden Warbler: (5 – 20) ↔

Scarce passage migrant. 1 at Sandy Close Pond on 28th – 29th Apr was the first record there and the only record of spring. Autumn was decent with 7 bird days between 8th and 31st Aug. Max 3 at Border Road, this species favoured site, on 28th.

Blackcap: (13 – 22) ↗

Passage migrant, summer visitor and scarce winter visitor. An incomplete survey

found 8 territories during the breeding season. 2 regularly seen during the first winter period at Sandy Close Pond and another at Shore Lane on 20th Jan. The first presumed migrant was on 9th Apr on Far Fields. Autumn migration was again poor. The best day count was 10 on 30th Sep. 2 wintering birds back at Sandy Close Pond in late Nov.

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	2	4	b	b	b	4	10	1	2	1
w	w	w	20	b	b	b	13	31	3	w	w

Wood Warbler:

2nd record in the last 22 years. 1 was singing at Border Road on 5th May (JB). The only other record was one by the Cottage on 18th Aug 1998.

Chiffchaff: (50 – 22) ↗

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. No breeding survey but no perceived change in status, 11 territories in 2012. The first record and first spring migrant was on 13th Mar. The best day was the 8th Apr with 8. Autumn migration was excellent. Max “at least 50” around the Far Fields on 30th Sep was a record count for the site. The last bird of the year was on 16th Nov at Sandy Close.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
		5	8	b	b	b	3	50	3	1	
		29	60	b	b	b	10	179	22	1	

Willow Warbler: (23 – 22) ↘

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. This species has been lost as a local breeder, none have held territory since 2009. The first record was on 9th Apr. Spring migration was better than 2012 but still poor. Autumn migration started on 6th Aug and lasted until 16th Sep. Max 15 on 6th Aug.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			7	1			15	1			
			22	2			78	4			

Goldcrest: (14 – 22) ↔

Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. Singing males were singing at 2 locations in Apr. A poor year but possibly under recorded.

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	2	b	b	b		1		2	2	
2	1	3	b	b	b		2		5	4	

Firecrest: (3 – 10) ↔

Scarce visitor. A good year. 1 was in gardens at Shore Lane 19th - 21st Jan. Another was at the Cottage on 9th Feb and 1st Mar.

Spotted Flycatcher: (8 – 6 – 22) ↘

Passage migrant, previously bred. Another poor year. 1 in spring at the Water Works on 23rd May. 7 bird days in autumn is typical of recent years. Singles between 28th

Aug and 14th Sep with two later birds on 30th Sep. The best year in the last 22 was 2002 when there were 40 bird days in autumn.



There is no end to developments in technology. This spring Spotted Flycatcher was captured using an i-phone through a telescope (c Paul Morton)

Bearded Tit: (33 – 22) ⇄

Rare breeder and scarce passage migrant. No survey took place but birds were present during the breeding season, including 3 males in May. Scarce after Jul with only one record in autumn.

Long tailed Tit: ↗

Common resident. Regularly recorded from most sites at the Bay.

Coal Tit: ↗

Uncommon resident, increasing. Recorded from most sites this year across the calendar.

Blue Tit: ⇄

Common resident.

Great Tit: ⇄

Common resident.

Nuthatch: ⇄

Uncommon. Regularly seen throughout the year. All records from the Cottage – Water Works area, except two at the Old Sewage Works in autumn.



Nuthatch is more often heard than seen in the tall dense oaks, so this portrait is extra special (c Ian Ballam)

Treecreeper: ↔

Uncommon. 3 records until 12th Mar and 5 records from 8th Aug. Lytchett Way and the Water Works were the favoured areas.

Jay: (12 – 22) ↔

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

Magpie: ↗

Common Resident.

Jackdaw: (205 – 22) ↔

Resident. Recorded throughout the year. Max was 154 on 5th May.

Rook: (185 – 22) ↗

Breeds on edge of recording area. 25 nests at the Watery Lane colony (22 in 2012, 20 in 2011, 16 in 2010).

Carrion Crow: (100 – 22) ↑

Common Resident, increasing. The lack of a maize crop seemed to depress numbers compared to recent years. Very common nonetheless.

Raven: (7 – 19) ↗

Increasingly regular visitor. Now recorded in every month and so frequently that all records are no longer collected. Max day count was 6 on 25th Nov.

Starling: (35000 – 5600 – 22) ↔

Common resident. Max 2,500 on 20th Jan.

House Sparrow: (100 – 22) ↔

Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe. Bred at Turlin Moor, Border Road and French's Farm. Max 100 at Turlin on 8th Aug was a record for a single site during the last 22 years.

Chaffinch: (450 – 22) ↔

Breeding resident and winter visitor. A good number lingered from the previous year. Max in early winter was 100 on 21st Jan. No flocks noted in 2nd winter period.

Brambling: (10 – 19) ↔

Scarce Visitor. 1 was around the Stubble Field until 19th Mar, with 2 there on 21st Jan. A fine male in breeding plumage was at Border Road on 25th Mar. Unusually there were no records in autumn, very few reached southern Britain in the winter of 13-14.

Greenfinch: (60 – 22) ↘

Common breeding resident, which appears to be declining. No specific records but also no flocks noted this year confirming this species decline, at least locally.

Goldfinch: (120 – 22) ↗

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. Flocks frequently recorded in the first winter period and autumn, max 30 - 50 at Turlin Moor, Border Road and the Stubble Field. Regular at Sandy Close Pond feeders at year end.

X887398 – A 2nd cal yr bird ringed at South Walney, Cumbria on 17th Apr 2010 was re-trapped 1036 days later on 16th Feb 2013 at Sandy Close Pond. A movement of 376km.

Siskin: (280 – 19) ↔

Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor. Birds were recorded in every month except Jul and Aug. However numbers were small and there were no double figure counts.

Linnet: (250 – 22) ↔

Uncommon breeding resident. Confirmed breeding at 1 site and possible at another. Max counts were low, 30 in late Mar and Apr.

Lesser Redpoll: (40 – 18) ↔

Scarce passage migrant. A very poor year with only 5 bird days. One on 25th Apr then 4 between 29th Oct and 25th Nov.

Crossbill: (21 – 8)

Rare visitor. 36 bird days was an excellent showing, not far short of last year's record. The huge majority of which were recorded between 12th Jul and 29th Aug over the Far Fields. Max 18 on first date. Noted over Lytchett Way on two dates. The last of the year was a single on 20th Nov.

Bullfinch: (11 – 22) ↗

Uncommon but increasing. In keeping with recent years, widely recorded across the area throughout the year.

Reed Bunting: (110 – 22) ↔

Breeding resident. No breeding survey but no reason to suspect any change from 2011 when 23 singing males were present. There was also no census of the roosts

monitored in 2012. Regular visitor to Sandy Close Pond feeders during the first 5 months. Max flock size at any site was 14.



Lytchett Bay remains a stronghold for this declining bunting (c Shaun Robson)

List of contributors: I Ballam (IB), J Bale (JB), D Bandfield, M Constantine, S. Davis (SD), T Elborn, J Ellis (JE), R Gifford, G P Green, C M Grieg, R Heawood, N Hopper (NHo), R. Howell, J Hull (JH), N. Hull (NHu), K E Lane, I M Lewis, P Morton (PM), S Robson (SR), M. Smith, S.W. Smith, G Tims (GT), N Urch, S Walls, R Webb, G White, C Wilcox and L Woodford. With additional information from Holton Lee log, Birdguides and the Dorset Bird Club.

Appendix 1 The distribution of Water Rails in Lytchett Bay (Nick Hopper)



Distribution of water rails at Lytchett Bay (Dots: pairs. Circles: single birds)



Distribution of water rails at East Holton (Dots: pairs. Circles: single birds)

Appendix 2 – Bird ringing at Lytchett Bay 2013

	Full grown	Pulli	Recoverie	Total
Eurasian Teal	1	0	0	1
Common Sandpiper	1	0	0	1
Nightjar	1	0	0	1
Kingfisher	8	0	1	9
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	0	0	2
Sand Martin	47	0	0	47
Swallow	35	0	0	35
Wren	8	0	1	9
Duncock	3	0	2	5
Robin	8	0	2	10
Blackbird	7	0	2	9
Song Thrush	2	0	0	2
Cetti's Warbler	2	0	0	2
Grasshopper Warbler	3	0	0	3
Sedge Warbler	264	0	4	268
Reed Warbler	126	0	24	150
Whitethroat	2	0	0	2
Blackcap	3	0	0	3
Chiffchaff	5	0	0	5
Willow Warbler	7	0	0	7
Bearded Tit	2	0	1	3
Long-tailed Tit	15	0	3	18
Coal Tit	1	0	1	2
Blue Tit	13	0	8	21
Great Tit	5	0	4	9
Treecreeper	1	0	0	1
Starling	4	0	0	4
House Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Chaffinch	1	0	0	1
Greenfinch	5	0	1	6
Goldfinch	56	0	3	59
Siskin	10	0	1	11
Bullfinch	0	0	1	1
Reed Bunting	34	0	7	41
Total	683	0	66	749