

Lytchett Bay 2001

Shaun Robson

The annual total number of species recorded in each of the last 7 years is as follows;

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

2001 will be most remembered for the Foot and Mouth outbreak that limited access to the countryside for most of the spring. Recording of species which were affected by the limited access contain an asterisk within their texts at the relevant point.

The New Year got off to great start with the appearance of a Ruddy Duck, a new species for the Bay. This brings the list to 202. That day also produced record counts of Golden Plover and Oystercatcher. Record counts seemed to be the theme for the year with 18 other species present in greater numbers than ever before. Skylark and Yellowhammer sadly continued to decline. The Pool was generally less attractive to waders than in previous years. The trees on the seawall are now maturing and waders feel less secure in the enclosed habitat.

A new feature to the report this year, is the inclusion of two figures after the name. The 1st is the Bay's maximum count for each species since 1992, and the 2nd the number of years in which the species has been recorded out of the last 10. For passerines the maximum counts refer to numbers at a particular site rather than the whole Bay, as it is rarely possible to complete coverage of all areas on any one day.

The Bay was visited on 181 days (188 in 2000) as set out below. Given the extremely poor coverage in February and March* this was a relative increase on the previous year.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
12	7	4	13	17	7	18	22	25	18	25	13

Ringling took place on only 6 dates and 89 birds were ringed. The best control of the year was a colour ringed Black-tailed Godwit, ringed in Iceland, 4 months earlier.

Access to Holton Lea was granted to SR and IML from July onwards. Whilst the area of Holton Lea to the north of the access road is geographically part of Lytchett Bay, I have decided to keep these records separate from those of the traditional recording area for the time being. The records for this area are included at the end of each species account but are not included in the overall totals. This situation will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

Acknowledgements

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

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

Systematic List 2001

Little Grebe: (11 - 10)

Winter visitor. 5 were present on the 27th Jan, this was the last record in the first winter period*. Returned on 13th August. This is the earliest autumn arrival since the recording period began in 1992. Usual departure and arrival dates are in March and October respectively. Max 8 on 27th Nov.

Great Crested Grebe: (4 - 7)

Occasional visitor. Only one record. A single on 7th Nov.

Cormorant: (57 - 10)

Present throughout the year. This year's maximum count was 21 in November.

Little Egret: (15 - 9)

Common visitor. This species is now so common that observers have virtually stopped recording them. However the recent record of a Snowy Egret in Scotland should ensure that we do keep looking! Numbers were a little up on last year, with birds visiting most fields in the recording area.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
7	4	5	4	3	6	12	9	9	14	10	8

Grey Heron: (7 - 10)

Recorded throughout the year. Considerably scarcer than the previous species. The Far Fields and Otter Island is the favored location. 5, was the maximum count on 22nd July.

Mute Swan: (15 - 10)

Increasingly regular visitor. Birds were present in each month from 18th February until the year-end. No sign of breeding though this may occur in the near future. Max was 13 on 15th Dec, a record in the period since 1992.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	6	1	2	3	2	6	5	9	7	10	13

Greylag Goose: (2 - 3)

Scarce feral wanderer. Singles on the 25th June and 10th Nov.

Canada Goose: (67 - 10)

Occasional visitor. Seen on 14 dates between 7th April and 31st Aug. All counts were less than 10 except 42, in the Bay on the last date.

Brent Goose: (35 - 5)

Rare visitor. 2 were present on the 17th November. 3 left the Bay early on the morning of the 27th.

Shelduck: (548 - 10)

Common winter visitor and annual breeder. At least one pair bred successfully producing up to 10 young in June. The species was not recorded between 15th July and 26th Sept.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
109	75	n.c.*	48	85	20	2	0	8	65	111	120

Wigeon: (73 - 10)

Scarce visitor. An excellent year. Easily the best on record. Will this increase continue into future winters? Or is this another one off, following recent examples such as Brent Goose (1997)?

3 were on the Far Fields on the 2nd Jan. There were 2 more records in the first part of the year. Up to 7 were in the Bay between the 26th - 28th Sept, followed by 2 more on 14th Oct. Following the arrival 4 on the 4th Nov, an increasing number of birds were present until the year end. By which time the flock had reached 73. Easily surpassing the previous best of 20 on 28th Jan 1996.

Gadwall: (4 - 5)

Rare visitor. A good series of records late in the year, including a record count. Birds were probably present from the 28th Nov until the year-end. Recorded on 4 dates; 2 on 28th Nov, 4

on 15th Dec, 2 on 20th Dec and 2 on 27th Dec. At Holton Lea one was present on the 22nd July.

Teal: (314 - 10)

Winter visitor and passage migrant.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
288	119	n.c.*	52	0	0	4	4	175	310	71	250

310 on the 2nd Oct is the second biggest number to be recorded at the Bay.
One ringed.

Mallard: (52 - 10)

At least 1 pair bred. Typically the maximum numbers occurred in summer. A record count for the period was made on 4th Sept. 52, surpasses the previous best of 44 in Aug 2000.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
12	23	n.c.*	4	23	28	36	48	52	15	13	25

Pintail: (21 - 5)

Scarce visitor. Recorded on 4 dates. 4 were on the Far fields during flooding on the 19th Oct. Up to 3 were then in the Bay from 15th Dec until the year-end. Recorded on 15th, 20th and 23rd Dec.

Shoveler: (5 - 9)

Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. For the 3rd year running, just one record, 1 on the 13th April.

Pochard: (24 - 7)

Scarce winter visitor, recorded just about annually. 1 was in the Bay on the 24th November.

Tufted Duck: (4 - 4)

Rare visitor. 2 present at the end of 2000 remained until 17th Jan. One of which stayed until the 29th Jan.

Goldeneye: (12 - 10)

Common winter visitor in small numbers. Present until 3rd Feb* and from 24th Nov. The maximum was 8 on 3rd Feb.

Smew: (3 - 2)

Rare Visitor. A redhead was found by SR whilst counting Little Grebes on the 27th Nov. It remained until the next day but was surprisingly elusive, spending much of its time underwater. HWH was the only visiting birder to see it.

Red-breasted Merganser: (73 - 10)

Common winter visitor. Present until 14th April and from 17th Nov. The max of 13 occurred on the 27th Jan.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
13	6	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	11

Ruddy Duck: (1 - 1)

First and second Bay records. A male was in the Bay during bad weather on New Years Day (SR). It was gone the next day. Any hope that this would become a long standing Lytchett blocker were shattered when a female was found by IML on the 8th Dec. This also moved on quickly. Leaving the Bay's leading two (only two?) listers to share the spoils.

Marsh Harrier:

Irregular visitor. A female was seen on 2 dates in the January. A passage bird was seen on the 2nd May. A imm male was seen on 2 dates in December. Roosting was noted at both beginning and end of the year.

Hen Harrier:

Irregular Visitor. A ringtail was present on the 18th Feb. Grey males were seen on 10th Nov and 1st Dec. A rather poor showing.

Sparrowhawk:

Common visitor. Recorded on only 15 dates. After one on the 7th April, none were recorded until the 21st June. There were no further sightings until the 21st Aug, after which records were frequent.

Common Buzzard: (11 - 10)

The commonest raptor of the area. Breeds widely in the vicinity. No specific records submitted.

Osprey: (3 - 9)

Annual passage migrant. The poorest year since 1993. Only three records. Singles on 15th & 24th Sept and 12th Oct.

Kestrel:

Common resident. 1 pair bred successfully, raising at least 2 young.

Peregrine:

Uncommon visitor. Seen on 7 dates, spread throughout the year. The highlight being, one repeatedly attempting to take a Little Grebe on the 27th Jan.

Pheasant:

Resident. Seen throughout the year.

Water Rail: (23 - 10)

Common resident and winter visitor. No change in status noted. Successful breeding occurred in most parts of the Bay.

Moorhen: (12 - 10)

An uncommon resident. At least 4 pairs in the area. Bred successfully on the Holton shore, Far Fields and Turlin Stream.

Coot: (1 - 3)

Formally very rare, but 3 records in the last 3 years. Singles were seen in the west of the bay on 29th April and 15th Aug. One was at Holton Lea on the 22nd July.

Oystercatcher: (400 - 10)

A winter visitor and passage migrant. 400 were on Turlin Fields during bad weather on New Years Day. A record count surpassing 330 on 17th Jan 1999.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
400	90	142	27	2	8	2	2	20	20	40	85

Avocet: (96 - 9)

Scarce but increasing visitor. The arrival of the species in the Bay is usually associated with cold weather freezing their favored haunts. A typical year. Recorded throughout January with a maximum of 35 on the 27th. Absent between 5th Feb and 12th Oct. Seen on 2 further dates up to the year-end.

Golden Plover: (160 - 7)

Very scarce visitor. The severe weather over New Year's Eve produced a superb flock of 160 on the Far Fields on New Years Day. The previous high count was 40 in January 2000. Only

2 were present the following day and there were no further records throughout the year!

Lapwing: (3000 - 10)

A common resident and winter visitor, which occasionally breeds.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
477	500	n.c.*	0	0	0	26	21	54	230	200	405

In the second winter period the flock favored the stubble field as they did in 2000. Birds used the Pool more frequently than recent years with 405 present at high tide on 3rd December.

Knot: (34 - 6)

Scarce Migrant. A good autumn passage with birds present between the 4th & 15th Sept. Max 14 on the 9th.

Curlew Sandpiper: (2 - 4)

Scarce Migrant. A juv was with the Dunlin flock on the 30th Sept. This was joined by a second on the 2nd Oct.

Dunlin: (1200 - 10)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. A good year with an excellent series of counts in the autumn.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
419	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	90	176	320

No spring passage recorded*. In the autumn from 4th Sept. Then recorded on each visit until the year-end.

Ruff: (9 - 10)

Scarce migrant, usually in autumn. An adult was caught up with the New Year bird movement and was on the Far Fields on the 1st & 2nd Jan. Autumn was again disappointing, just one on the 19th Sept.

Jack Snipe: (4 - 4)

Rare winter visitor. One was on the pathway at Slough Lane on the morning of New Years Day (TM).

Snipe: (70 - 10)

Common winter visitor? Another poor year. Recorded only once in the first winter period. 23 on the Far Fields on the 13th Jan, was the biggest count of the year. No further records until the 5th Sept*. Autumn passage was negligible. 13 on the 20th Dec was the biggest count in the second period.

Black-tailed Godwit: (1240 - 10)

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Monitoring spring passage was impossible*. Autumn passage was very good. No large flocks were recorded on The Pool, 31 on 7th of October the max.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3	n.c.*	n.c.*	80	62	0	9	153	361	180	50	65

A colour-ringed bird was seen on 4th and 9th Sept.

LR+LL, It was ringed as an adult near Borganes, west Iceland on 27th Apr 2001.

2000: Colour ringed individuals were seen as follows.

25th March - R+LR, ringed at Farlington, Hants as an adult 16th Nov 1998. 15 subsequent sightings from Hampshire.

1st April - W+WL, ringed Farlington, Hants as an adult on 16th Nov 1998. 25 subsequent sightings from Hampshire,
 14th April - O+OW, ringed at Totton, Hants as an adult female on 25th Nov 1998. This bird was seen at Akureyri, north Iceland on 6th May 1999. She returned to Hampshire in Aug 2000.
 22nd April - W+YO, ringed at Farlington, Hants 6th Dec 1991. Since recorded 125 times including Lodmoor in Aug 1998.
 12th May - Y+OR, ringed at Farlington, Hants on 16th Nov 1998.

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

O = Orange

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

R = Red

W = White

Many thanks to Pete Potts for supplying this data.

Bar-tailed Godwit: (8 - 6)

Scare migrant. 2 on the 14th April was the only spring record. In autumn 1 arrived on the 9th Sept and was joined by a second on the 12th. These remained until the 19th.

Whimbrel: (157 - 10)

Passage migrant, most numerous in spring. The first of the year was not until 23rd April. Spring passage lasted until the 20th May but numbers were again poor, peaking at only 23 on the 29th April.

Autumn passage began on 7th July and consisted of 24 bird days up to 12th Aug, max 5 on the 5th and 7th August.

Curlew: (104 - 10)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Normally seen in the Bay but occasionally flocks roost on the Far Fields.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
36	34	n.c.*	10	2	1	16	8	20	37	50	37

Spotted Redshank: (42 - 10)

The claim that this site is the best in the county for this species is threatened. Whilst it can be reliably seen throughout much of the year, counts were poor for the fourth consecutive year. The biggest count of the year was on the 7th Oct. The last count over 20 was in 1996. Recorded in spring until 8th May. The first returning bird was seen on the 1st July.

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	0	1	7	0	0	0	6	10	12	0	1

Bay monthly max

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
5	5	1	2	3	0	11	3	4	2	1	1

Redshank: (436 - 10)

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

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
50	0	92	15	2	0	0	0	8	30	12	85

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
100	162	100	12	6	10	10	5	85	130	175	200

Greenshank: (27 - 10)

Common passage migrant, which occasionally winters. Recorded much more frequently than Spotted Redshank. Spring passage ended on the 6th May. The first returning bird was noted on 1st July. Max 13 on 22nd Aug. The last of the year was seen on the 28th November.

Poole monthly max;

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	1	1	0	0	5	13	9	10	1	0

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	2	0	2	1	0	3	6	8	2	2	0

Green Sandpiper: (6 - 10)

Common autumn migrant, occasional in winter and spring. The first record of the year was not until the 25th July. Only recorded on 11 dates, making this the worst on record. Max was 4 on 11th Aug. The last of the year was 1 on 23rd Oct. The worst year since 1993. See Common Sandpiper below!

Wood Sandpiper: (2 - 5)

Rare migrant. One was seen in the Bay on the 11th Aug (GJA).

Common Sandpiper: (10 - 10)

An uncommon passage migrant. A very poor year. Only recorded on 5 dates. 1 on 6th May, 1 10th Aug, 2 21st Aug, 1 22nd Aug and 1 on 14th Sept. The worst year since 1993.

Mediterranean Gull: (11 - 9)

Uncommon visitor. The peak period of occurrence was missed due to F&M. This did not prevent 2001 being an excellent year for this species, with a new maximum count. 31 bird days over 14 dates. 6 on the 14th April was a new maximum until it was exceeded almost two fold by 11 on the evening of the 7th July (JLi). The age breakdown was 1 juv, 2 1stW, 1 1stS, 1 2ND W, 1 2NDS, 25 Ad.

Little Gull: (1 - 8)

Very scarce spring migrant, not annual. None in spring. A 1stW, retaining much juvenile plumage was present between the 2nd - 8th Oct and constitutes the first autumn record in since the current recording period began.

Black-headed Gull: (c7000 - 10)

A very common visitor. Max counts this year included 5000 on 3rd Feb and 7th July. Also 1000 were on the Far Fields on 29th April. The first juveniles were recorded on 17th June.

Common Gull: (1700 - 10)

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. The max count was 350 on 3rd Feb. There were no records between 6th May and 22nd July.

Lesser Black backed Gull: (2128 - 10)

A very common passage migrant and common winter visitor. Birds that occur in the Bay are *L.f. graellsii* almost without exception. Few counts made this year. 800 on 7th July was the maximum count.

Herring Gull: (1400 - 10)

Increasingly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Few counts made, though 565 on 9th Feb and 300 on 1st May continue to show the species change in status from the early 90's. This is considered to be due to the opening of the nearby landfill site at Corfe Mullen.

Yellow legged Gull: (65 - 9)

Frequent visitor throughout the year, peaking in late summer. Whilst numbers recorded in Poole Harbour continue to increase, this is not reflected in counts at the Bay. This is undoubtedly due to observer application & skill and does not reflect the true status. The attentions of Mr. Lidster and Mr. Stanley would produce bigger numbers. Scarce in the early

part of the year, recorded on just 4 dates prior to 1st July. After which it was recorded regularly until the year-end. Max 22 on 22nd July.

Great Black backed Gull: (34 - 10)

Increasing visitor throughout the year, undoubtedly due to the presence of the landfill site (see Herring Gull). Max 13 on 1st May.

Sandwich Tern: (5 - 10)

Uncommon summer visitor. Recorded on six dates between 29th Apr and 23rd Sept. Max 2 on several dates.

Common Tern: (22 - 10)

Uncommon summer visitor. Very poor year. Recorded on only 4 dates between 17th June and 1st Sept. All singles. The worst year since 1993.

Stock Dove: (29 - 10)

Uncommon Resident. Seen throughout the year, with an excellent count of 29 in the Stubble Field on 20th May. A new record for the Bay. The previous best was 24 on 24th Dec 1995.

Wood Pigeon: (600 - 10)

Common resident. No specific records.

Collared Dove: (11 - 10)

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

Turtle Dove: (1 - 8)

Very scarce visitor. One was with the Stock Dove flock on the 20th May.

Cuckoo:

Uncommon summer visitor. A typical year. Recorded on 6 dates between 11th and 28th May. A pair was seen on the 20th.

Little Owl:

Breeding resident, though rarely seen this year. One pair present at the usual site but breeding was not proven. One trapped and ringed in the Far Fields on 6th Jan.

Nightjar:

Rare breeder. A pair were present on the only survey visit made, 4th June.

Swift: (113 - 10)

Passage migrant and possible local breeder. Up to 4 were present in the area of Border Drive throughout May and June and might indicate breeding in the local vicinity. Recorded between 2nd May & 12th August. Max of 26 on 17th June.

Kingfisher:

Uncommon winter visitor. Recorded in both winter periods, though none between 8th May and 25th July.

Green Woodpecker:

Breeding resident. Bred successfully. At least 2 pairs within recording area. No change in status. Bred at Holton Lea.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Breeding Resident. Seen regularly around the Cottage throughout the year. 1 ringed on 6th Jan. Bred at Holton Lea.

Woodlark: (13 - 3)

Recently established winter visitor. In contrast to the next species it is refreshing to have some good news. 10 were found wintering in stubble on the 27th Jan. In the second winter period visits to the same area produced 3 on 6th Oct, 2 on 25th Oct, 11 on 3rd Nov and 13 on

1st Dec. The birds are on private land and birders are requested not to trespass.

Skylark: (20 - 10)

Breeding resident and winter visitor. For the first year on record no singing birds recorded. Worse still the species was only seen on 6 dates! 6 in the Stubble Field on 27th Jan, migrants seen on 12th Oct (2) and 4th Nov (2). Then finally 2 at French's Farm on 24th Nov. Is this species to go the same way as Yellowhammer and become nothing more than a scarce visitor?

Sand Martin: (5000 - 10)

Common passage migrant. First record was 3 on 13th Apr*. Autumn migration was reasonable with a peak of 400 on the 7th July. The last record of the year was 1 on 8th Sept.

Swallow: (540 - 10)

Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. First record of spring was one on 13th Apr*. Spring migration peaked with 63 on 28th Apr. Autumn migration noted until 9th Oct. Max 85 on 14th Aug.

House Martin: (1000 - 10)

Common passage migrant, breeding colonies on edge of recording area at Watery Lane and Turlin Moor. The first of the year was seen on 14th Apr. The size of the breeding colony at Watery Lane increased to 19 (15 in 99, 10 in 2000). The colony at Turlin Moor was not surveyed. Migration was poor in both periods. Max 80 on 15th Sept, the last day on which the species was recorded.

Meadow Pipit: (100 - 10)

Breeding resident and common passage migrant. One territory again this year. Up to 15 were present in January. Autumn passage lasted from 14th Sept to mid November. Max 80 on 19th Oct.

Water Pipit: (15 - 10)

Winter visitor and spring passage migrant. This species seems to have become very scarce across Dorset. Only 2 records all year. Singles on 6th Jan and 25th Oct.

Yellow Wagtail: (42 - 10)

Uncommon passage migrant. Recorded on 12 dates. Just 1 in spring, on 3rd May. An excellent autumn with flocks at various sites between 22nd Aug & 24th Sept. Peak counts were 12 on 7th, 42 on 14th and 21 on 21st. 42 is the biggest count in the period since 1992.

Grey Wagtail: (12 - 10)

Breeding resident. A pair bred inside the water works with young seen in early July. Recorded throughout the year, max 5 on 11th Aug.

Pied Wagtail: (200 - 10)

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully but no further details available. Max count was 70 going to roost on 10th Nov.

Wren:

Common resident. 9 ringed.

Duncock:

Common resident. 3 ringed.

Robin:

Common resident. 2 ringed.

Common Redstart: (2 - 3)

Rare migrant. After only 2 records between 1992 and 2000, this year produced 6. Singles at Border Drive on 29th Aug & 21st Sept; 2 at Turlin Moor on 31st Aug and finally one in Slough Lane on 25th Sept. Prior to these a fresh juvenile was at Holton Lea on 25th July and raised the possibility of local breeding.

Whinchat: (5 - 8)

Scarce passage migrant. None in spring. 12 bird days in autumn between 23rd and 28th Sept. Max 4 on 14th Sept.

Then a remarkable occurrence. In November 1 was found in the Stubble Field on the 2nd and was still present on the 6th. There no further sightings until the 22nd when it, or another, appeared in a weedy field opposite the farm. I believe this is the 4th latest occurrence ever in Dorset. The latest three being:- 15th Dec 1984 at Studland, 5th Dec 1998 at Langton Herring and 25th Nov 1989 at Holcombe Bottom.

Stonechat: (15 - 10)

Breeding resident. At least 4 pairs present this year. 1 ringed.

Northern Wheatear: (15 - 10)

Uncommon passage migrant. 7 were on Turlin Fields on 18th March. If access to the Far Fields had been allowed at this time then undoubtedly many more would have been found. On this date 1000's were present along the Dorset coast. Only 3 more seen in spring up to 11th May. Only 2 in Aug, the last on 10th.

Blackbird: (30 - 10)

Common Resident. A notable influx in autumn. The max counts were 30 on 4th Nov and 25 in the Far Fields on 16th Dec. 6 ringed.

Fieldfare: (61 - 10)

Winter visitor. Another very poor year, the Bay is clearly not a favored site for this species as many were in Dorset during the autumn. 35 seen on 27th Jan. In autumn only noted on 2 dates 1st and 13th Nov. Both singles.

Song Thrush: (15 - 10)

Breeding resident. At least 4 pairs bred. Biggest number in any one location was 15 on 4th Nov. 1 ringed.

Redwing: (200 - 10)

Winter visitor. Present until 18th Feb. Max 80 on 6th Jan. Not recorded again until 27th Oct. Max 44 on 26th Dec.

Mistle Thrush: (16 - 10)

Breeding resident. One pair bred. Present throughout the year but not more than 2 on any date. Regularly seen at Holton Lea.

Cetti's Warbler:

Breeding resident. 5 or 6 singing males. None of these were in the water works area where 4 different birds were trapped between 27th Oct and 24th Nov. Two birds remained in this area at the year-end.

Sedge Warbler: (9 - 10)

Passage migrant. Only one in spring on 11th May. 17 in autumn between 1st Aug and 21st Sept. A very late bird was a surprise on 27th Oct. I believe this is the 2nd latest record for Dorset. Bettered only by one at Little Sea, Studland on 28th Nov 1984. 3 ringed.

Reed Warbler:

Common summer visitor. Breeds in all areas of the Bay. Present between 23rd Apr and 14th Sept. No change in status noted. 20 ringed.

Dartford Warbler:

Breeding resident. 1 pair present during breeding season. A dispersing bird on Turlin Moor on 28th Sept.

Lesser Whitethroat: (3 - 8)

Scarce passage migrant. The best year yet with 14 bird days. In spring singing migrants were at Turlin on 9th May, Slough Lane on 12th-13th May and Lytchett Way 22nd May. In autumn

recorded between 16th and 31st Aug at Border Drive and Turlin Moor. Max 3 on 16th Aug.

Whitethroat: (8 - 8)

Passage migrant. Possibly bred for the first time in the period since 1992. Singing birds held territory at Lytchett Way between the 13th May and 21st June and Turlin Moor in June. In addition to these, spring migrants were recorded on 8th and 11th May. In autumn, 19 bird days between 16th Aug and 8th Sept. 8 at Turlin and Border Drive on 28th Aug was easily the biggest day count at the Bay.

Garden Warbler: (2 - 8)

Scarce passage migrant. 6 between 9th & 31st Aug. Max 2 on 31st. All sightings at Border Drive.

Blackcap: (10 - 10)

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. The first of the year was not until 22nd April. Then recorded throughout the Bay, with 27 bird days until the end of May. Max 5 on 28th Apr. 3 birds held territory during June. Returning birds were seen from 9th Aug until 4th Nov. Max 10 on 5th Sept

Chiffchaff: (27 - 10)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. The first was on 18th Mar. Four territories identified. Return passage noted between 14th Aug and 14th Nov. No day count greater than 6.

Willow Warbler: (11 - 10)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. First recorded on 7th Apr. Present during the breeding season at Lytchett Way and Slough Lane. Return passage between 31st July and 8th Sept. Max in autumn at any one location was 6 on 29th Aug. A very late straggler at the water works on 3rd Nov was a real surprise and is the latest record at the Bay. 2 ringed. 10 were at Holton Lea on 1st September.

Goldcrest: (8 - 10)

Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. After 2 on 27th Jan none were recorded until April. A pair held territory at Border Drive. Recorded in autumn from 26th Sept. Max 6 on 4th Nov. Present during the breeding season at Holton Lea.

Firecrest: (3 - 4)

Rare visitor. One was in the lane by the Pool on 5th Nov.

2000: One was seen on the 17th Jan (per Dorset Bird Report)

Spotted Flycatcher: (3 - 10)

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. Seen on 6 dates. 1 in spring on 14th May. In autumn between 14th Aug and 23rd Sept. All singles. In addition to this the species bred at Holton Lea where juveniles were seen on 25th July. 3 were also seen here on 14th Aug.

[Pied Flycatcher: (1 - 6)]

Rare passage migrant, not annual. None in the traditional recording area. 1 at Holton Lea on 22nd Sept.

Bearded Tit: (13 - 10)

Rare breeder. No confirmed breeding this year. Only one record, a single on 6th May.

Long tailed Tit:

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

Coal Tit:

Uncommon resident. The only records, as 2000, concerned birds in Aug and Nov. Bred at Holton Lea.

Blue Tit:

Common resident. 14 ringed.

Great Tit:

Common resident. 4 ringed.

Nuthatch:

Uncommon resident. Typically seen only at the cottage. Seen throughout the spring and summer in this area, presumably bred. Bred at Holton Lea.

Treecreeper:

Uncommon, presumably resident. Recorded around the cottage and the water works but only in autumn and winter this year. Bred at Holton Lea.

Jay: (6 - 10)

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

Magpie:

Common Resident.

Jackdaw: (176 - 10)

Resident. Recorded throughout the year.

Rook: (185 - 10)

Breeds on edge of recording area. No flocks recorded in either winter period.

Carrion Crow:

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

Raven: (3 - 7)

Scarce visitor. Annual since the first record in 1995. Increasingly frequent visitor. 3 feeding on a dead sheep on 13th Aug is a record count. Other records 1 on 27th Jan, 1 on 8th May, 2 on 21 July, 1 on 2nd Oct, 1 on 19th Oct, 2 on 1st Dec and 1 on 26th Dec.

Starling: (5000 - 10)

Common resident. The first juveniles were noted on 26th May. In autumn birds roosted in the reed beds in the west of the Bay. Max was 850 on 10th Nov.

House Sparrow: (31 - 10)

Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe. Seen at Lytchett Way, Turlin Moor and French's Farm. Max 31 at the latter on 16th Dec.

Chaffinch: (140 - 10)

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Flocks in both winter periods. Max 30 on 27th Jan & 70 during Dec. 1 ringed.

Brambling: (7 - 7)

Scarce Visitor. 7, the most ever seen at the Bay, were with the finch flock at French's Farm on 15th Dec. At least one was still there the following day.

Greenfinch: (50 - 10)

Common breeding resident. Border Drive, The Cottage and Turlin Moor remain the favored areas. 50 feeding in weeds at the latter on the 20th November is a site record count. 11 ringed.

Goldfinch: (80 - 10)

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. At least one pair bred successfully. Frequently recorded in the autumn, max 25 on 30th Oct. At Holton Lea 40 were feeding on thistles on 11th Aug.

Siskin: (280 - 7)

Scarce passage migrant. Recorded on 7 dates between 17th Oct and 1st Dec. Most birds were overhead migrants though 6 were in the water works on 19th Nov and 30 were at Kings Bridge on 1st Dec. 6 were at Holton Lea on 22nd Sept.

Linnet: (200 - 10)

Uncommon breeding resident. Present during the breeding season at Lytchett Way, Lytchett Heath and Turlin Moor. 88 were at Kings Bridge on 27th Jan. Regularly seen throughout the autumn and into the second winter period. Max 100 at French's Farm throughout December.

Lesser Redpoll: (40 - 8)

Scarce Visitor. Recorded on 6 dates between 27th Oct and 1st Dec. Most were overhead migrants in single figure groups. 15 were at Kings Bridge on 1st Dec.

Bullfinch: (6 - 9)

Scarce visitor. Seen on 7 dates in autumn and winter. Recorded at the water works, Lytchett Way and Border Drive. Max 4 on 20th Nov.

Yellowhammer: (13 - 9)

Bred as recently as 1993. A member of the public reported a male at Turlin Moor on 26th May. Disappointingly none were attracted to the weedy field at French's Farm.

Reed Bunting: (27 - 10)

Breeding resident. This species seems to be holding its own at the Bay. Pairs were seen in all parts of the recording area during the breeding season and many juveniles were recorded in mid summer. In the first winter period 27 were with the finch flock at Kings Bridge. The single biggest flock recorded at the Bay. In autumn good counts included 12 at Turlin Moor on 28th Sept and 12 at the water works on 4th Nov. 5 ringed.

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