

Lytchett Bay 2003

Shaun Robson

The annual total number of species recorded in each of the last 9 years is as follows:

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
143	142	144	139	139	129	134	141	142

A fabulous start to the year gave way to a poor late spring, dreadful summer and early autumn. Frustration brought on by dry fields and little progress with the management project was ultimately replaced by the elation of a strong late autumn migration and the discovery of a Siberian vagrant. I managed to see 139 species, a year list record.

There were 2 additions to the Lytchett list, which now stands at 204. Head and shoulders above all others was a Yellow-browed Warbler at Border Drive in December. A pair of Mandarin was found on the Sherford, the only piece of suitable habitat at the Bay. A Hoopoe at Turlin in April would have been the top bird in many a year. An "eastern" Chiffchaff was further confirmation of the Turlin/Border attraction to passerine migrants. In February a Short-eared Owl was found, the first since 1993. In March 2 Ring-billed Gulls were found on the same day. Lesser Whitethroat bred for the first time. Cettis Warbler reached a new high number of singing males. There were new record counts for the period since 1992 for Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Wigeon, Avocet, Ringed Plover, Mediterranean Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pipit, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Bearded Tit and Starling.

The Bay was visited on 195 days (202 in 2002) as set out below. The poor coverage in the key month of September due to foreign travel.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
19	6	14	21	17	12	16	20	7	20	25	19

Ringing 2003

246 new birds were ringed of 25 species. Full details are included in the systematic list.

Acknowledgements

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

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

Systematic List 2003

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 given) 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.

Little Grebe: (11 - 12)

Winter visitor. Recorded until 25th Mar, when a display was noted on the Sherford, and from

26th July. The early return date may be indicating breeding in the vicinity? Max 6 on 12th Dec.

Great Crested Grebe: (4 - 9)

Occasional visitor. A typical scattering of records: 1 on 2nd Jan, 1 on 24th Jan, 1 on 16th Mar, 1 from 16th – 21st April, 2 on 30th Oct and finally, 1 31st Oct – 1st Nov.

Cormorant: (57 – 12)

Present throughout the year. This year's maximum count was 13 on 2nd Sept.

Little Egret: (15 – 11)

Common visitor.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
4	5	7	9	7	9	13	10	n.c.	8	n.c.	6

Grey Heron: (10 – 12)

Recorded throughout the year. Usually considerably scarcer than the previous species. 6 on 8th July max count.

Mute Swan: (51 – 12)

Increasingly regular visitor. For the second consecutive year a pair built a nest but breeding was not successful. An unprecedented influx occurred throughout the autumn and the previous record count of 18 (in October 2002) was exceeded almost threefold. From early November onwards the count never fell below 35. This increase is probably explained by the growth of a vigorous weed across the bay during the summer and autumn. Swans and Wigeon (see below) appeared to graze on this throughout the second part of the year. The max count of 51 occurred on 17th Dec.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2	0	1	7	2	2	2	0	3	17	47	51

“Wild Swan” Spp:

4 yellow-billed swans flew west over Border Drive on 8th Dec (IMS). Unfortunately poor views prevented specific identification. Bewick's Swan is a rare visitor with only 1 record in the last 12 years. Whooper Swan is not on the Lytchett Bay list. Either way, a very frustrating observation for the finder.

Greylag Goose: (25 – 5)

Scarce feral wanderer. 2 flew S on 18th April.

Canada Goose: (137 – 12)

Occasional visitor. Three lingered around the Far Fields from mid April to mid May but no sign of breeding. Singles in late May and June were followed by sightings on two dates in August. Including 18 on 18th. A new record count of 137 was made on 20th Sept when several flocks flew north during the morning. After 15 on 20th Oct birds were noted on 2 further dates.

Brent Goose: (35 – 5)

Scarce visitor. After none in 2002 this was quite a good year. 17 in the Bay on 15th Jan, 2 on 7th Nov and 1 on 18th.

Shelduck: (548 – 12)

Common winter visitor and annual breeder. 3 broods were raised this year. 2 in May and 1 in July. The species was not recorded between 31st July and 1st Sept.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
139	87	96	83	25	26	16	0	12	93	93	n.c.

Mandarin Duck: (2 – 1)

The first record for the Bay. A pair was found on a heavily wooded part of the Sherford on 26th Oct (SR). Very elusive, they were seen once more, on 1st Nov. A nest box has been erected in the area, as the habitat looks perfect for this species.

Wigeon: (150 – 132 – 12)

Increasingly common winter visitor. The weed growth in the Bay providing an excellent food source. 132 on 14th Dec were a max count since 1992. Apart from 1 on 26th August the species was completely absent between 16th April and 11th Oct.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
47	18	9	2	0	0	0	1	0	127	126	132

Gadwall: (5 – 7)

Occasional visitor. All records; 3 on 12th Jan, 5 on 7th Nov, 1 on 16th Nov and 2 on 4th Dec.

Teal: (314 – 12)

Winter visitor and passage migrant. No records between 19th April and 26th July.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
60	125	160	146	0	0	1	15	38	298	260	n.c.

Mallard: (100 – 52 – 12)

At least 3 pair bred.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
30	n.c.	7	10	24	n.c.	11	19	34	12	22	n.c.

Pintail: (21 – 7)

Scarce visitor. Only two records, possibly of the same bird. 1 male on 7th Nov and 30th Nov.

Shoveler: (5 – 11)

Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. For the 5th year in row this species was recorded on only 1 date. 3 on 26th Jan.

Pochard: (24 – 8)

Scarce winter visitor. Single males on 5th Jan & 4th Dec. The first records since Nov 2001.

Tufted Duck: (20 – 4 – 6)

Scarce visitor. Increasing. 4 arrived on the frosty morning of 7th Nov, 2 remained until 9th.

Goldeneye: (12 – 12)

Common winter visitor in small numbers. Present until 16th Mar and from 26th Nov. No more than 4 recorded on any one date.

Red-breasted Merganser: (73 – 12)

Common winter visitor. Present until 21st April and from 27th Oct. The max of 24 occurred on the 26th Nov.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
18	7	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	24	17

Marsh Harrier: (2 – 12)

Irregular visitor. A very poor year. Only 2 records. A juv was seen on 4th Jan and a male on 20th Apr.

Hen Harrier: (2 – 12)

Irregular Visitor. Another poor year. Only 3 records. A ringtail on 4th Jan, a grey male the next day and a ringtail on 18th Feb.

Sparrowhawk: (2 – 12)

Uncommon visitor. Recorded on only 17 dates with majority from mid October onwards. All singles except 2 on 16th Oct.

The bird ringed on 21st Sept 2002 was found dead in a garden only several hundred meters from the ringing site on 27th Jan. It had collided with a window.

Common Buzzard: (15 – 12)

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

Osprey: (3 – 11)

Annual passage migrant. One seen in the morning and evening of 26th August was the only record.

Bird days 1993 – 2003

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1	4	5	6	7	5	14	22	3	7	1

Kestrel:

Common resident. 1 pair bred successfully raising 2 young.

Merlin: (1 – 8)

Scarce winter visitor. Another decent year. 1 roosted on 5th Jan and a male was seen on 15th and 23rd Jan.

Hobby: (2 – 10)

Irregular visitor. It was back to normal after an excellent 2002. Only 1 record of 2 on 11th May. This might be partially due to the lack of coverage during September.

Peregrine: (2 – 11)

Uncommon visitor. Recorded on 9 dates in spring, late autumn and winter.

Pheasant:

Resident. Bred successfully and were very common during autumn when birds took too much of a liking to our feeding station. Seen throughout the year.

Water Rail: (23 – 12)

Common resident and winter visitor. No change in status noted. Successful breeding occurred in most parts of the Bay, minimum of 6 successful pairs. Largest single count at one location was 10 near the mouth of the Sherford on the 25th August.

Moorhen: (12 – 12)

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

7 together at the mouth of the Sherford on 24th August were the biggest single count.

Coot: (1 – 5)

Formally very rare, but now recorded in the last 5 years. 1 appeared at the mouth of the Turlin Stream on 14th October and despite its skulking behavior was seen occasionally until the yearend.

Oystercatcher: (400 – 12)

A winter visitor and passage migrant. All significant counts relate to birds using Turlin Fields at high tide. The maximum count was on 29th Nov.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
20	n.c.	52	10	5	3	8	4	n.c.	55	245	n.c.

Avocet: (113 – 11)

Increasingly regular winter visitor and passage migrant. A very good year with a new peak count. 113 on 12th Jan.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
113	13	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	2	60	26

Ringed Plover: (10 – 9)

Scarce visitor. Following one in spring on 14th April, 10 were seen on 25th August. This flock included 5 juveniles and is easily the biggest number seen at the Bay, surpassing 4 on 1st Sept 1995.

Grey Plover: (14 – 8)

Scarce visitor. An average year. 1 on 12th Jan, 2 on 17th April and 2 on 27th April.

Lapwing: (3000 – 11)

Formerly bred, now predominantly a winter visitor. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. The max count of 618 occurred on 25th Jan and 15th Feb.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
618	618	n.c.	1	4	1	20	25	3	80	500	300

Dunlin: (1200 – 12)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. An average year.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
450	44	43	5	0	0	0	0	1	25	200	250

Birds visited the Pool in the early part of the year. 20 on the 4th Jan.

Snipe: (150 – 70 – 12)

Common winter visitor. Recorded until 23rd Apr, returning on the 21st Aug.

Bay monthly max:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
45	n.c.	49	3	0	0	0	1	n.c.	1	12	n.c.

Woodcock: (2 – 3)

Scarce visitor. During a cold spell, 2 flew into the stubble field at dusk on 12th Jan. Finally removing a long standing blank from the list of SR.

Black-tailed Godwit: (1240 – 12)

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Spring passage was good with a max of 666 on 14th April. The Pool was occasionally attractive in spring, max 26 on 19th April.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	91	250	666	106	6	1	17	148	84	74	2

Colour ringed birds were recorded as follows:

RL+LL – 14th Apr. Previously recorded 14th April 2002, ringed at Leiruvogur, nr Reykjavik, Iceland on 28th Apr 2001. Has also been seen in Holland.

GR+OL – 14th & 16th April. Previously seen on 15th Apr & 21st Apr 2002, ringed at Alftafjordur, SE Iceland on 4th May 2000.

Y+OR – 15th Apr. Previously recorded 12th & 18th May 2000. Ringed at Farlington, Hants 16th Nov 1998.

LL+GL – 16th Apr. Ringed at Altafiorour, SE Iceland on 4th May 2000

B/R+WW – 16th Apr. Ringed at Farlington Marsh on 16th Nov 1998. Also seen in Iceland 26th April 1999 (R ring on left ankle)

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

Ring number stated where known.

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

Bar-tailed Godwit: (12 – 8 – 8)

Scarce visitor. A decent year with birds recorded on 5 dates. 1 on 12th Jan, 2 on 24th Jan, 1 on 14th April, 1 on 20th April and 1 on the Pool on 5th May.

Whimbrel: (157 – 12)

Passage migrant, most numerous in spring. Another very poor spring. The first of the year was on 16th April. After which there were only 57 bird days to 20th May. Max of only 11 on 27th April. Autumn passage began on 22nd July. There were 28 bird days to 29th August. Max 5 on 12th August.

Curlew: (104 – 12)

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

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
18	5	n.c.	12	2	9	24	7	n.c.	44	66	69

Spotted Redshank: (42 – 12)

Another really poor year, the 6th in a row. The biggest count of the year was 6 on 3rd Sept. Recorded in spring until 1st May. The first returning bird was seen on the 15th June.

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	2	1

Bay monthly max

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

Redshank: (500 – 436 – 12)

Common winter visitor. Small breeding population on salt marsh. A recently fledged juvenile was seen on 27th July. Scarce from late June to early Sept.

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
70	0	25	0	5	0	0	0	8	166	40	20

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
116	116	40	36	n.c.	18	2	3	n.c.	50	240	n.c.

Greenshank: (49 – 27 – 12)

Common passage migrant, which occasionally winters. A poor year by recent standards. Recorded between 25th Jan and 2nd May. The first returning bird was noted on 1st July. Max 10 on 25th Aug. The last of the year was seen on the 17th Nov.

Pool monthly max;

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

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	0	1	1	1	0	4	10	4	2	1	0

Green Sandpiper: (6 – 12)

Common autumn migrant and winter visitor, occasional in spring. Birds were present in the Far Fields between 1st and 25th Jan. Max 3 on last date. There were no further records until 15th Feb. Following this, birds were noted until 20th April, max 2 on 20th March. Autumn passage commenced on 7th July after which birds were noted until the year-end. Max 3 on several dates.

Common Sandpiper: (10 – 12)

An uncommon passage migrant. A single record of 3 on 11th May was the only spring appearance. Return passage started on 3rd July. Only 12 bird days until 4th Sept. Max 3 on 1st Sept. The first winter record for the Bay was 1 on the Turlin Shore on 18th Dec (JVS).

Mediterranean Gull: (13 – 11)

Uncommon visitor, increasing. Another good year with a slight increase to 59 bird days (50 in 2002) between 2nd Mar and 15th Dec. A new record of 13 was recorded on 16th March (SR, GJA). The age break down was 3 1st W, 1 1st S, 1 2nd W, 5 2nd S and 49 Ad.

Little Gull: (1 – 9)

Scarce migrant, not annual. 1stW on 6th Mar (IP). An adult on 21st Oct (IR).

Black-headed Gull: (12000 – 7000 – 12)

A very common visitor. 1000's regularly frequent the bay en route to the Wareham Channel roost. The biggest single count was 3000 on 18th Feb. An albino was seen on 21st Mar. The first juveniles were noted on 15th June.

Ring-billed Gull:

The 6th and 7th records for the Bay. An adult (SR) and 1st W (GJA) were present on 16th March, the first multiple occurrence at the Bay. The first year bird was relocated on the 17th (SR, IP).

Common Gull: (1700 – 12)

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. The peak count of 1200 on 18th Feb, was considered to be a gross underestimate of the birds passing through the Bay on that evening. There were no records between 19th April and 22nd June.

Lesser Black backed Gull: (2128 – 11)

A very common passage migrant and common winter visitor. No significant counts made.

Herring Gull: (1926 – 12)

Increasingly common winter visitor and passage migrant due to the presence of Corfe Mullen dump. Significant flocks were present in most months. 1280 on 8th Jan was followed by a record 1926 on 18th Feb. Flocks between 300 and 1000 were frequently present throughout the rest of the year.

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

The record of 1stW bird on 18th Mar 2002 has been accepted by BBRC. This bird frequented Corfe Mullen Tip in March 2002 and represented the first record for Dorset.

Yellow legged Gull: (65 – 11)

Frequent visitor throughout the year, peaking in late summer. Probably under recorded. Max was 15 on 24th July.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	1	2	0	0	2	15	10	n.c.	2	1	0

Great Black backed Gull: (151 – 12)

Increasing visitor throughout the year, undoubtedly due to the presence of the landfill site (see Herring Gull). The record count was broken again this year. 151 were present on 8th Jan (RMH). The max count at the year-end was 98 on 13th Dec.

Sandwich Tern: (5 – 12)

Uncommon summer visitor. A typical year. Recorded on 7 dates between 15th June and 26th Aug. Max 2 on several dates.

Common Tern: (22 – 12)

Uncommon summer visitor. First recorded on 5th May. Seen on 13 dates (as 2002). Max 3 on

several dates.

Stock Dove: (29 – 12)

Uncommon Resident. Max 9 on 25th Feb.

Wood Pigeon: (650 – 12)

Common resident. 650, in 3 flocks, flew very high over the Bay in an easterly direction on 15th Nov. A max count for the Bay.

Collared Dove: (11 – 12)

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.

Turtle Dove: (2 – 1 – 9)

Very scarce visitor. 1 flew across the Pool on 4th May.

Cuckoo: (2 – 12)

Uncommon summer visitor. A good year. A pair was seen on 23rd Apr, after which birds were regularly encountered until 22nd June. Pairs were seen on 2 dates.

Barn Owl: (2 – 1 – 5)

Occasional visitor. An excellent series of sightings this year. A single bird was noted on 6 dates in January between the Cottage and Upton bypass. At the end of the year there were 2 sightings at the Bakers Arms.

Tawny Owl: (2 – 11)

Uncommon resident. Rarely looked for, but usually found when one tries. At least 1 pair present throughout.

Little Owl: (2 – 12)

Breeding resident. This species tenancy at the Cottage may have come to an end after more than 30 years. No birds were recorded after 6th Jan. Hopefully the pair has moved only a short distance and will be relocated in 2004.

Short-eared Owl: (1 – 2)

Rare visitor. Only the second record in the period since 1992. One was found on Otter Island on 14th Feb (SR). Despite being seen on only 2 further dates until 17th Mar, it was presumably present throughout.

[Nightjar:]

Rare breeder. Despite searches of suitable habitat in May and June none were found. Habitat management at Lytchett Way might encourage the species to return in 2004.

Swift: (113 – 12)

Passage migrant and possible local breeder. Again present in vicinity of Border Drive during the breeding season. First record 26th April. Another poor year with no double figure counts made during the year.

Kingfisher: (3 – 12)

Uncommon winter visitor. Bred in 2000. Recorded in both winter periods, though none between 5th May and 7th July. Birds occur in all parts of the Bay and the wintering population is likely to be 3 or 4 individuals.

Hoopoe:

Vagrant. One on Turlin Moor at 8:00am on 16th April (SR) is probably the 4th for the Bay. Sadly, having put on a breath taking display for its finder it disappeared without trace before others arrived. The previous records are; 2 MoP reports from the 80's and one heard by Ewan Brodie on 6th May 1994.

Green Woodpecker:

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

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Breeding Resident. Seen regularly around the Cottage throughout the year with a juvenile on 22nd June. In November noted at Turlin and Border on several dates. Bred at Holton Lea. 1 ringed.

[Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:] (1 – 7)

Scarce visitor. Whist not found within the recording area this year a nest was found at Holton Lee (IML, ESB). This provided great viewing opportunities throughout early May.

Woodlark: (15 – 5)

Recently established winter visitor. None were present at the usual site in the early part of the year. However singing birds were recorded there in May and it is possible that breeding occurred. During the second winter period 10 were present in Oct, 4 in Nov and 8 in Dec. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Skylark: (250 – 20 – 12)

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Last bred in 2000. 3 in Stubble Field on 23rd Jan was the only record in the first part of the year. Autumn was much better with the following migrants recorded; 3ne 14th Oct, 1 21st Oct, 3 1st Nov, 1 7th Nov, 1 9th Nov, 9ne 15th Nov. Settled birds were present in the stubble throughout the second winter period from 5th Nov, max 5 on 20th Nov and 10 on 9th Dec.

Sand Martin: (5000 – 12)

Common passage migrant. First record was 3 on the extraordinarily late date of 30th April. Scarce throughout the spring. Autumn migration began on 15th July with 200 but was very poor and this was the only significant count.

Swallow: (1000 – 540 – 12)

Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. First record of spring was 3 on 12th April. Then noted moving in small numbers throughout the spring. Autumn migration began with 50 on 15th July. Then recorded until the last sighting of 61 on 13th Oct. Breeds at Holton Lee.

House Martin: (1000 – 12)

Common passage migrant, breeding colonies on edge of recording area at Watery Lane and Turlin Moor. The first of the year was not seen until 26th Apr. The size of the breeding colony at Watery Lane was exactly the same as 2002, 13 (plus 9 failed or destroyed) nests. The colony at Turlin Moor was not surveyed, but 4+ were seen gathering mud in late spring. Between 30 & 50 were recorded above that colony in Aug and Sept Last record 20th Sept.

Tree Pipit: (6 – 9)

Scarce passage migrant. A poor year with only 1 record. A single over Border Drive on 4th Sept.

Meadow Pipit: (100 – 12)

Breeding resident and common passage migrant. A pair carrying food on 31st May in the Far

Fields confirmed local breeding. Numbers typically increased in autumn with birds both in the Stubble Field, max 16 on 20th Nov, and at Turlin Moor, max 57 on 3rd Dec. 3 ringed.

Rock Pipit: (15 – 11)

Scarce winter visitor. Regular searches of the saltings early in the year confirmed that this species is a regular visitor to the Bay. At least 15, most ever recorded, were present during January with 7 at Lytchett Way, 4 at Turlin Moor and 4 on the Far Fields. The last sighting of the winter was on 21st Feb. Birds were again frequently seen at Lytchett Way and Turlin from 2nd Nov, with a max of 9 at the former and 5 at the latter.

Water Pipit: (20 – 15 – 11)

Declining winter visitor and spring passage migrant. A single bird was with the Meadow Pipit flock at Turlin Fields on 24th Nov and 3rd Dec. The first since the 25th Oct 2001.

Yellow Wagtail: (42 – 12)

Uncommon passage migrant. 3 in spring; 16/4, 21/4 23/4. A poor autumn with only 14 bird days between 21st Aug and 10th Sept. However the main passage period in mid – late Sep was not covered.

Grey Wagtail: (12 – 12)

Breeding resident. A pair bred again inside the water works. Recorded throughout the year. Max 6 in Sept. Small number of passage birds noted throughout the autumn.

Pied Wagtail: (400 – 335 – 12)

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully. Birds roost at various points around the Bay. Significant counts as follows; 100 roost 21st Mar, 157 roost 13th Oct, 180 roost 2nd Nov, 100 roost 15th Nov.

70 were ringed and there was 1 control.

R517701 was ringed in East Kilbride, Glasgow on 19th Sept and recovered by us 57 days later on 15th Nov. A distance of 577km. The bird was identified by its ringer as a 1stW male White Wagtail *M.a.alba*! In our eyes the identification criteria for birds of this age needs to be tested before we could agree.

Wren:

Common resident. 14 ringed.

Duncock:

Common resident. 1 ringed.

Robin:

Common resident. Up to 7 territories at French's Farm area. 5 ringed.

Common Redstart: (2 – 5)

Rare autumn migrant. 1 was on Turlin Moor between 1st and 4th Sept.

Whinchat: (11 – 10)

Scarce passage migrant. None in spring. The first was on the Far Fields on 21st Aug. With most Sept uncovered the true status of the migration this year cannot be ascertained. The last record was on 21st Oct.

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

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

Stonechat: (23 – 12)

Breeding resident. This species occasionally leaves the Bay in the early part of the year but 2 were present in Jan. Breeding was noted in many parts of the recording area and at least 6 pairs bred successfully.

Northern Wheatear: (15 – 12)

Uncommon passage migrant. An extremely poor year with only 2 records. 1 on 20th Apr and 2 on 1st Sept.

Ring Ouzel:

Rare visitor. The 4th record. A male in the water works oaks on 20th Oct (SR).

Blackbird: (45 – 12)

Common Resident. Breeding occurred in all parts of the Bay with at least 7 territories at French's Farm. In October small numbers were again noted high overhead with Song Thrush (see below). 14ne on 13th Oct, 10 on 27th Oct and 19 on 6th Nov. 19 ringed.

Fieldfare: (121 – 12)

Uncommon winter visitor. A superb autumn passage, easily the best noted at the Bay since 1992. Only recorded once in the first winter period, 1 on 4th Jan. Autumn passage commenced on 27th Oct and comprised of 400 bird days until 9th Dec. Most birds were noted heading west with a max of 121 on 15th Nov. The best day count for the Bay. 1 ringed.

Song Thrush: (148 – 12)

Breeding resident. Up to 7 pairs bred. The migratory flight line discovered over Turlin in 2002 again proved fruitful. Strong passage occurred in mid October, 262 between 13th and 16th. Max 148 on 13th. Lesser numbers in early Nov, 95 between 4th and 13th. Max 43 on 4th. 13 ringed.

Redwing: (200 – 12)

Winter visitor. Up to 40 present until 15th Mar. A late bird was seen at Lytchett Way on 20th April. The first of the autumn was on 20th Oct. Up to 30 present until the yearend.

Mistle Thrush: (16 – 12)

Breeding resident. At least 2 pairs bred. Max count of the year was 12 at Turlin on 20th Aug. Bred at Holton Lea.

Cetti's Warbler: (8 – 11)

Breeding resident. 8 singing males. Dispersal was noted at the water works ringing site where 6 were ringed in autumn without a single retrap. 7 ringed.

Sedge Warbler: (20 – 10 – 12)

Passage migrant. Due to its choice of habitat this species is always under recorded. Spring passage from 23rd Apr but was very poor. In autumn from 12th July to 11th Sept after which there was no further coverage. 10 on the 25th August is the max day count in the period since 1992.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			2			1	10	5			
			3			2	37	11			

8 ringed.

Reed Warbler:

Common summer visitor. Breeds in all areas of the Bay. A survey found at least 29 singing birds. Present between 15th Apr and 11th Sept. 20 ringed.

Dartford Warbler:

Breeding resident. After none in 2002 there was only 1 record this year. A single at Lytchett Way on 15th Nov. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Lesser Whitethroat: (3 – 10)

Scarce passage migrant. Following 1 at the Cottage on 10th May, one was found singing at Turlin on the 1st June. It was still present on the 9th. The next visit on the 1st July found a family party including at least 4 recently fledged young. This is the first breeding record for the Bay.

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

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

Whitethroat: (8 – 10)

Passage migrant. A poor year following the exceptional series of records in 2002. In spring from 19th April. In autumn between 17th Aug and 11th Sept.

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

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

Garden Warbler: (2 – 10)

Scarce passage migrant. 1 on 17th April at Lytchett Way was the only spring record. Only 3 in autumn between 24th Aug & 20th Sept.

Blackcap: (10 – 12)

Passage migrant. At least 2 pairs bred successfully. The first of the year was not until 16th April. Returning birds were seen from 19th Aug. Following the anticipated decline into November, with the last record on 4th, there was an arrival of at least 5 wintering birds in the first week of December. Presumably of continental origin.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			3	b	b	b	3	9	1	1	5
			16	b	b	b	10	26	3	2	35

Breeds at Holton Lee. 1 ringed.

Yellow-browed Warbler:

First record for the Bay. One was found on the morning of 5th Dec at Border Drive (SR et al).

It remained faithful to a single clump of trees until the yearend. The first twitchable bird in Poole Harbour and undoubtedly the bird of the year.

Chiffchaff: (27 – 12)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Following 1 in Jan the next was on 30th Mar. Up to 5 territories this year with 3 at Lytchett Way, 1 at Lytchett Heath and 1 around the Cottage. An eastern bird that showed all the characters of P.c.tristis, except the call, was found on 3rd Dec (SR et al). Presumably from a long way east, its arrival preceded the Yellow-browed by 2 days. It lingered until the 14th in the company of at least 5 nominate birds.

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	4	2	b	b	4	12	18	3	5
1		3	19	2	b	b	20	50	62	11	12

5 ringed.

Willow Warbler: (19 – 12)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. First recorded on 17th Apr. 1 pair held territory at Lytchett Way. A poor 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	1		1	7	4			
			2	1		1	15	7			

2 ringed.

Goldcrest: (14 – 12)

Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. A typical 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	1	1			1				5	7	10
2	1	1			1				31	26	14

Breeds at Holton Lee. 4 ringed.

Firecrest: (3 – 5)

Rare visitor. 1 at Border Drive from 5th to at least the 14th Dec (SR et al).

Spotted Flycatcher: (8 – 6 – 12)

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. The first on 4th Aug at Turlin was followed by a further 8 individuals till the 4th Sept. Max 3 on the last date. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Bearded Tit: (17 – 12)

Rare breeder. A record year started with up to 6 at Turlin during January. At least 1 pair bred. Following regular sightings in July and August there no further records until November. Then 30 bird days between 4th and 30th, peaking with a splendid flock of 17 at Lytchett Way on 15th. A record count for the Bay. 2 ringed.

Long tailed Tit:

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

Drive. 10 ringed.

Coal Tit:

Uncommon. Only recorded in autumn, with 9 bird days between 24th Aug and 5th Dec. Noted at Turlin, Border Drive and Kings Bridge. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Blue Tit:

Common resident. 17 ringed.

Great Tit:

Common resident. 8 ringed.

Nuthatch:

Uncommon. 1 on 15th May then 3 records between 3rd Sept and 15th Nov. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Treecreeper:

Uncommon. Following 1 on 15th Jan at the Cottage there were 6 bird days between 3rd Sept and 15th Nov. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Jay: (6 – 12)

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

Magpie:

Common Resident.

Jackdaw: (176 – 12)

Resident. Recorded throughout the year. 100 on 25th Feb was the only count submitted.

Rook: (185 – 12)

Breeds on edge of recording area.

Carrion Crow:

Common Resident, seems to be increasing. At least 2 pairs bred successfully.

Raven: (7 – 9)

Scarce visitor. Annual since the first record in 1995. 3 records; 1 on 16th Jan, 2 on 18th Aug and 1 on 10th Sept.

Starling: (5600 – 12)

Common resident. The first Juveniles of the year were seen on 20th May. Small numbers of birds roosted in the reed beds in the west of the Bay in summer and autumn but an exceptional 5600 arrived to roost within the space of 15 minutes on 25th Oct. A max count for the bay in the period since 1992.

House Sparrow: (31 – 12)

Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe. Bred at Turlin Moor (6 gathering nest material in May) and French's Farm (at least 5 pairs).

Chaffinch: (140 – 12)

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Flocks in both winter periods. Reasonable counts in the early winter period. Max 60 on 24th Jan. Up to 11 territories in French's Farm area. In autumn, 16 on 14th Oct, then up to 30 in stubble till the year-end. 1 ringed.

Brambling: (7 – 9)

Scarce Visitor. All records were overhead migrants between Border Drive and Turlin. 1 4th Nov, 1 7th Nov, 1 9th Nov and 1 24th Nov.

Greenfinch: (60 – 12)

Common breeding resident. Border Drive, The Cottage and Turlin Moor remain the favored areas. Up to 6 territories at French's Farm area. Flocks of up to 30 at either end of the year. 5 ringed.

Goldfinch: (120 – 12)

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. 64 in stubble at the beginning of the year. 2 pairs bred in the French's Farm area. Then up to 80 in stubble during the autumn, with lesser numbers at Turlin. 1 ringed.

Siskin: (280 – 9)

Scarce passage migrant. A poor year. Only 8 bird days between 11th Oct and 14th Dec.

Linnet: (250 – 12)

Uncommon breeding resident. 15 stubble at the beginning of the year and 72 east on 18th Feb. Bred on the Far fields (at least 4 singing males) and Lytchett Way (up to 4 singing males). Poor numbers in autumn with max of 30 at Turlin in Nov and 14 Lytchett Way in Dec.

Lesser Redpoll: (40 – 10)

Scarce Visitor. 7 on 23rd Jan was the only record in the first 9 months. 2 on 16th Oct started a good run of birds at Turlin and Border, with 21 bird days until 8th Dec. Max 6 on 27th Oct.

Bullfinch: (6 – 12)

Uncommon. May have bred for the first time in the period since 1992. A pair was at Border Drive in April and a juvenile was trapped on the 3rd August. Birds were recorded frequently at Border and the Water Works during the autumn. 2 ringed.

Yellowhammer: (13 – 11)

Bred as recently as 1993. Three records; 1 on 23rd April, 2 on 10th July and 1 on 4th Nov.

Reed Bunting: (27 – 12)

Breeding resident. Up to 16 breeding pairs marked an increase in numbers compared to recent years (10 in 2002). Autumn groups included 10 at Turlin at the end of Aug, 10 in stubbles in early Sept, 13 at Turlin in Oct and 14 at the Water Works in Nov. 26 ringed.

Escapes

Black Swan:

1 frequented the Bay between 28th June and 14th Aug.

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