

# Lytchett Bay 2004

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

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
143	142	144	139	139	129	134	141	142	138

A quiet year with no additions to the site list. The Yellow-browed Warbler remained until late January, after which there were few surprises. The passage of Grasshopper Warblers, Kingfishers, Wood Sandpipers and Thrushes was notable. The discovery of a much larger breeding population of Water Rails than had ever been anticipated was probably the highlight of the year. Mute Swans bred for the 1<sup>st</sup> time though their young did not survive long. Reed Buntings enjoyed excellent breeding success. On the downside, spring Whimbrel passage continued to decline and Little Owls disappeared altogether. Little Egret, Teal, Osprey, Jack Snipe, Woodcock, Green Sandpiper, Mediterranean Gull, Herring Gull, Grasshopper Warbler and Sedge Warbler were all noted in greater numbers than ever before.

The Bay was visited on 198 days (195 in 2003) as set out below.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
16	8	14	26	11	8	27	14	26	20	19	9

## Ringling 2004

957 birds were ringed at the Bay. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest annual total and the most since 1985. The total would have been much greater had it not been for consistently poor weather during the last two weeks of August and much of September. Ringing took place on 54 dates. The highlights included 111 Reed Bunting, 22 Grasshopper Warbler, 12 Kingfisher and a Woodcock. The full details, including controls and interesting re-traps are in the systematic list. An appendix, detailing the individual species totals is included at the end of the report.

## Acknowledgements

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

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

## Systematic List 2004

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.

### Little Grebe: (11 - 13)

Winter visitor. Recorded until 29<sup>th</sup> Mar, and from 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. Max 6 on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Great Crested Grebe:** (4 - 10)

Occasional visitor. A typical year: 1 on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr, 2 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 1 juv 9<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July, with 2 juvs on 19<sup>th</sup>. 1 on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1 on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Cormorant:** (57 – 13)

Present throughout the year. This year's maximum count was again in September. 14 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret:** (16 – 12)

Common visitor. 16 on the 24<sup>th</sup> September were the largest single count at the Bay. The majority of sightings were in Bay or on the Pool. Very few were recorded in the Far Fields.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
7	n.c.	3	10	9	14	15	8	16	n.c.	7	n.c.

**Grey Heron:** (10 – 13)

Recorded throughout the year. Usually considerably scarcer than the previous species. Max counts were 5 south on 29<sup>th</sup> July and 5 on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Mute Swan:** (51 – 13)

Recently established breeder and increasingly common winter visitor. Breeding took place for the first time. A pair hatched 2 signets in the first week of June. Both survived until at least 8<sup>th</sup> July but only 1 was seen on 15<sup>th</sup>. After which neither was seen.

Numbers in the second winter period did not match those of winter 2003-04.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
44	4	4	4	2	4	10	0	15	17	24	19

**Greylag Goose:** (25 – 5)

Scarce feral wanderer. 2 on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. Then 2 records in November, presumably relating to the same flock. 21 on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov and 18 on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Canada Goose:** (137 – 13)

Increasingly frequent visitor. Despite a regular presence in March and April, no sign of breeding. Surely just a matter of time? A max count of 125 was made on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
11	0	19	3	0	0	13	20	125	5	0	0

**Barnacle Goose:** (2 – 3)

Rare feral visitor. 2 on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept, were accompanied by 3 hybrid Barnacle/grey geese. This is the first record since 1998.

**Dark-bellied Brent Goose:** (35 – 6)

Scarce visitor. 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan was the only record.

**Shelduck:** (645 – 548 – 13)

Common winter visitor and annual breeder. No confirmed breeding this year. Numbers seem to be declining. In the mid 90's counts in excess of 300 were not unusual. Not recorded between 18<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> Sept.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c.	89	94	55	26	18	13	0	20	30	101	23

**Wigeon:** (150 – 146 – 13)

Increasingly common winter visitor. 146 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec were a max count since 1992. The species was completely absent between 27<sup>th</sup> Mar and 7<sup>th</sup> Sept.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
108	9	14	0	0	0	0	0	2	62	130	146

**Gadwall:** (5 – 7)

Occasional visitor. A relatively poor year with only 1 record. 2 on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Teal:** (402 – 13)

Winter visitor and passage migrant. No records between 19<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. 402 on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec was the biggest number ever recorded at the bay and 30 % greater than the previous record of 314 on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 1996.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
250	50	119	149	0	0	0	10	104	105	n.c.	402

**Mallard:** (100 – 52 – 13)

At least 2 broods raised.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
6	6	3	n.c.	2	15	34	20	27	18	12	18

**Pintail:** (21 – 8)

Scarce visitor. 6 records scattered throughout the year. 1 30<sup>th</sup> Mar – 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr, 3 on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct, 4 on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct and 2 on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Shoveler:** (5 – 12)

Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan and 1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

**Tufted Duck:** (20 – 4 – 7)

Scarce visitor. Increasing. 3 on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar; followed by 3 more on the surprising date of 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

**Goldeneye:** (12 – 13)

Common winter visitor in small numbers. Present until 4<sup>th</sup> Apr and from 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. The spring departure date was the latest in the period since 1992. No more than 5 recorded on any one date.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** (73 – 13)

Common winter visitor. Present until 11<sup>th</sup> April and from 21<sup>st</sup> Nov.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
14	12	20	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	20

**Marsh Harrier:** (2 – 12)

Irregular visitor. Up to 3 birds, all recorded in the 1<sup>st</sup> winter period. Ad female 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, female on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb and Ad Female 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Mar.

**Hen Harrier:** (2 – 13)

Irregular Visitor. 5 birds on 4 dates. Ringtail 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, grey male 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov, grey male and ringtail 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, grey male 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Sparrowhawk:** (2 – 13)

Uncommon visitor. Recorded on 17 dates as last year. Seen in 7 months. All singles except 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Common Buzzard:** (15 – 13)

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

**Osprey:** (3 – 12)

Annual passage migrant. None in spring but a record autumn with 29 bird days. Recorded between 7<sup>th</sup> Aug and 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. Max 3 on 3 dates.

*Bird days 1994 – 2004*

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
4	5	6	7	5	14	22	3	7	1	29

**Kestrel:**

Common resident. 1 pair present but breeding not confirmed.

**Merlin:** (1 – 9)

Scarce winter visitor. 3 autumn records. Singles on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, 24<sup>th</sup> Nov and 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. The 2<sup>nd</sup> of which was observed in a mimicking flight, pursuing wagtails over the stubble field.

**Hobby:** (2 – 11)

Irregular visitor. A very good year with 13 birds over 10 dates. One record in spring on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Then recorded between 13<sup>th</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> Sept, with 2 on 3 dates.

**Peregrine:** (2 – 12)

Uncommon visitor. A typical year. Recorded on 10 dates throughout the year. Max 2 on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Pheasant:**

Resident. Increasing.

**Water Rail:** (23 – 13)

Common resident and winter visitor. A full survey of the Bay's breeding population was carried out by Dave Chown\*. This exposed the scale of our previous under estimation of this species breeding presence. A remarkable 41 pairs and 24 singles were found in the full recording area. In addition, a further 27 pairs and 6 singles were found in the areas of Holton Lee which abut the recording area. Juveniles were seen in all parts of the Bay during July.

\*(Chown, D. and Cook, K. 2004. Important Breeding Birds of Poole Harbour: Part1 Water Rail; Part2 Redshank. Poole Harbour Study Group, Wareham)

**Moorhen:** (12 – 13)

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

**Oystercatcher:** (400 – 13)

A winter visitor and passage migrant. A poor series of counts due to nothing more than negligence on behalf of the recorder. Turlin Fields and Turlin Shore at high tide remain the favored locations. The maximum count was on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c	n.c	n.c	4	0	1	20	89	n.c	153	n.c	n.c.

**Avocet:** (113 – 12)

Increasingly regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Another decent year. The appearance of this species is less tied to cold weather than it was in the past.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
37	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	16	34	37

**Ringed Plover:** (17 – 10 – 10)

Scarce visitor. Seen on 3 dates in September. 1 on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden Plover:** (160 – 9)

Scarce visitor. 1 on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan was the only record.

**Grey Plover:** (14 – 9)

Scarce visitor. A single on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**Lapwing:** (3000 – 13)

Formerly bred, now predominantly a winter visitor. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. One was seen displaying over Otter Island on 25<sup>th</sup> April and remained into May. The max count of 1000 occurred on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
911	1000	2	1	1	0	26	26	30	133	200	700

**Red Knot:** (34 – 8)

Scarce visitor. 3 on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct were the only record.

**Dunlin:** (1800 – 1200 – 13)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. An average year. Though 20 on 1<sup>st</sup> May was noteworthy passage record.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
250	2	1	3	20	0	0	6	6	44	149	180

**Jack Snipe:** (5 – 6)

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. An excellent series of records in the first winter period. 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan in the Far Fields, was followed by 2 there the next day. A record count of 5 was found at Otter Island on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr. This rarely accessed part of the Bay may prove to be a regular site?

**Snipe:** (160 – 70 – 13)

Common winter visitor. Recorded until 9<sup>th</sup> Apr, returning on the 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. 3 ringed.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
19	n.c.	15	1	0	0	0	1	5	18	12	30

**Woodcock:** (5 – 4)

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. Early evening sessions to ring Snipe discovered a previously unknown nocturnal feeding population. 1 bird was seen arriving at dusk on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 5 were flushed after dark on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1 of which was trapped and ringed.

**Black-tailed Godwit:** (1240 – 13)

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Numbers were consistently high during the early part of the year, peaking at 620 on 27<sup>th</sup> Apr. Spring tides in Oct attracted birds to The Pool with between 100 and 150 present between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Turlin fields frequently held a feeding flock at high tide during the autumn, max 135 on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
263	200	170	620	600	2	3	66	205	212	292	78

Given the good the frequent large flocks, the number of colour-ringed birds seen was relatively poor. Colour ringed birds were recorded as follows:

GR+OL – 28<sup>th</sup> March. Previously seen at the Bay in 2003 & 2002, ringed at Alftafjordur, SE Iceland on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2000.

LL+GL – 1<sup>st</sup> July. Previously recorded in 2003. Ringed at Altafiorour, SE Iceland on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2000

L+LL - details awaited.

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

O = Orange

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

R = Red

W = White

Y = Yellow

G = Green

B = Blue

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

**Bar-tailed Godwit:** (17 – 8 – 9)

Scarce visitor. Recorded on only 2 dates. Singles on 26<sup>th</sup> Apr and 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Whimbrel:** (157 – 13)

Passage migrant, most numerous in Spring. The magnitude and pattern of occurrence for this species has changed significantly since the early 90's. For the first time more were seen in autumn than spring. The first of the year was on a typical date, 16<sup>th</sup> April. After which there were only 31 bird days to 1<sup>st</sup> May. Max of only 6 on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Autumn passage began on 4<sup>th</sup> July. There were 32 bird days to 30<sup>th</sup> August. Max 7 on 2 dates.

*Max count 1992 – 2004*

1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
46	40	65	57	157	37	40	31	22	23	6	11	7

The final record was a surprising single on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. The first winter record at the Bay.

**Curlew:** (104 – 13)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c.	10	28	20	6	10	23	6	n.c.	24	n.c.	n.c.

**Spotted Redshank:** (68 – 42 – 13)

Decreasing passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. The biggest count of the year was 14 on 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, the largest single count since 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1997. Recorded in spring until 1<sup>st</sup> May. The first returning bird was not seen until 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. The first returning birds are usually recorded in June!

*Pool monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	14	8	0	0

*Bay monthly max*

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

**Redshank:** (608 – 436 – 13)

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

*Pool monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	120	0	0

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
130	92	65	59	1	4	1	5	25	120	162	n.c.

**Greenshank:** (49 – 27 – 13)

Common passage migrant and increasing winter visitor. Recorded until 9<sup>th</sup> May. The first returning bird was noted on 1st July. Max 14 on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug. The Pool attracts less birds with each passing year.

*Pool monthly max;*

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

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	1	2	3	1	0	12	14	9	7	4	2

**Green Sandpiper:** (10 – 13)

Common autumn migrant and winter visitor, occasional in spring. The Far Fields and western most part of the Bay are the favoured sites. Birds occasionally visit The Pool and Folly Pond. A record count of 10 was made on the 14<sup>th</sup> August.

*Monthly max:*

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

**Wood Sandpiper:** (2 – 5)

Very scarce visitor. In keeping with rest of England it was a good year for this species. 1 was present at dawn on 30<sup>th</sup> July. 2 were feeding on the rising tide on 13<sup>th</sup> Aug and 1 was still present the following day. All birds were in the Bay.

**Common Sandpiper:** (10 – 13)

An uncommon passage migrant. The wintering bird at Turlin Moor was still present on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Noted on 2 dates in spring. Singles on 13<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Apr. Return passage started with 3 on 11<sup>th</sup> July and totaled 31 bird days until 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. Max 5 on 11<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Mediterranean Gull:** (13 – 12)

Uncommon visitor, increasing. Significant increase to 91 bird days (59 in 2003) between 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan and 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. Max 10 on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr. In late spring many sightings relate to the same birds moving to and from the Poole Harbour breeding colony. The age break down was 3 1<sup>st</sup> W, 1 1<sup>st</sup> S, 1 2<sup>nd</sup> W, 11 2<sup>nd</sup> S and 75 Ad.

**Little Gull:** (1 – 10)

Scarce migrant, not annual. 1<sup>st</sup>W on 25<sup>th</sup> Apr. An adult on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Black-headed Gull:** (12000 – 7000 – 13)

A very common visitor. 1000's regularly frequent the bay en route to the Wareham Channel roost. The first juveniles were noted on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**Common Gull:** (1700 – 12)

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. No significant counts during the year. There were no records between 28<sup>th</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> July.

**Lesser Black backed Gull:** (2128 – 13)

A very common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. 160 on 13<sup>th</sup> Apr. 400 on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept was the biggest count of the year.

**Herring Gull:** (2000 – 13)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. The change in status in recent years was maintained. Max 2000 on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, a slight increase on the previous record (1926 on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2003).

**Yellow legged Gull:** (65 – 12)

Frequent visitor throughout the year, peaking in late summer. Probably under recorded. Max was 10 on 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July.

*Bay monthly max:*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	2	0	1	0	1	10	n.c.	9	2	0	0

**Great Black backed Gull:** (151 – 13)

Increasing visitor throughout the year. Max 100 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. The max count at the year-end was 58 on 29<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Sandwich Tern:** (5 – 13)

Uncommon summer visitor. A typical year. Recorded on 7 dates between 27<sup>th</sup> Apr and 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. Max 4 on first date.

**Common Tern:** (22 – 13)

Uncommon summer visitor. Seen on 11 dates (13 in 2003) between 24<sup>th</sup> Apr and 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. Max 2 on 18<sup>th</sup> July.



**Stock Dove:** (29 – 13)

Uncommon Resident. Max 5 in spring. In autumn, 17 moved west with Wood Pigeons on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.

**Wood Pigeon:** (650 – 13)

Common resident. 261 moved west on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. The only significant count of the year.

**Collared Dove:** (11 – 13)

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.

**Cuckoo:** (2 – 13)

Uncommon summer visitor. The first of the year was on 12<sup>th</sup> Apr, after which there were only 2 more spring records. A juv was seen on 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**Barn Owl:** (2 – 1 – 6)

Occasional visitor. One near the Bakers Arms on the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan was the only record.

**Tawny Owl:** (2 – 12)

Uncommon resident. At least 1 pair present through out, believed to have bred successfully.

**[Little Owl:** (2 – 12)]

Former breeding resident. This species tenancy at the Cottage has come to an end after more than 30 years. The species was not recorded in the recording area during the year. This mirrors the wide decline of this species across the Poole Harbour area. Many established haunts are now unoccupied.

**Nightjar:** (2 – 6)

Rare breeder. All suitable habitat was surveyed as part of the national survey. 1 pair at Lytchett Heath. This pair, or their young, may account for birds seen in the Far Fields on 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July. The latter, a bird feeding over the reed bed at 04:45.

**Swift:** (113 – 13)

Passage migrant and possible local breeder. First record 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the earliest arrival at the Bay in the period since 1992. Another poor year with max count of 15 on several dates in July. Not recorded after 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug.

**Kingfisher:** (3 – 13)

Passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Bred in 2000. Recorded in both winter periods, though none between 12<sup>th</sup> Apr and 24<sup>th</sup> July. Max 3 on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug.

The increased ringing activity during the early autumn revealed a strong passage of birds through the Bay. 12 individuals, all young birds were ringed between 24<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. Of these 5 birds were re-trapped on subsequent dates.

SA96727 – ringed on 24<sup>th</sup> July; still present on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug (13 days)

SA96732 – ringed on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug; still present on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug (36 days)

SA96734 – ringed on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug; still present on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept (38 days)

SA96736 – ringed on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept; still present on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov (73 days)

SA96737 – ringed on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept; still present on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct (32 days)

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

**Green Woodpecker:**

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

**Great Spotted Woodpecker:**

Breeding Resident. Seen regularly around the Cottage at Border and Turlin. 1 ringed.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:** (1 – 8)

Scarce visitor. One was found at Border Drive by YBW “dippers” on the 25<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Woodlark:** (15 – 6)

Recently established winter visitor. Present at both ends of the year. Jan 7, Feb 7, Apr 1 singing, July 3, Sept 2, Oct 10. Breeds at Holton Lee.

**Skylark:** (250 – 20 – 13)

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Last bred in 2000. 12 in Stubble Field on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan were the max count of the first winter period. 1 was singing just north of the dual carriageway on 9<sup>th</sup> June and 3 were in the Far Fields on 13<sup>th</sup> Aug. Autumn migration was the best in the period since 1992 with migrants recorded (bird days); 56 Oct, max 18 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 Nov, 4 Dec. The absence of stubble in the second winter period meant that none wintered in the area.

**Sand Martin:** (5000 – 13)

Common passage migrant. First record was 43 on the 11<sup>th</sup> April. Scarce throughout the spring. Autumn migration began on 5<sup>th</sup> July with 40. There were 4 dates with counts in excess of 100 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug. Max 300 on 14<sup>th</sup> July. The last record of the year was on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1 ringed.

**Swallow:** (1000 – 540 – 13)

Common passage migrant, breeds at French’s Farm. First record of spring was 3 on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Then noted moving in small numbers throughout the spring, max 32 on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. Autumn migration began with 200 on 27<sup>th</sup> July. There were 5 dates with counts in excess of 100 to 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, max 500 on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. The last date was 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. 6 ringed.

**House Martin:** (1000 – 13)

Common passage migrant, breeding colonies on edge of recording area at Watery Lane and Turlin Moor. The first of the year was on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. The size of the breeding colony at Watery Lane increased, 15 (plus 4 failed or destroyed) nests. The colony at Turlin Moor was not surveyed, but 15 were present there in late May/early June. Autumn migration quiet, except for 317 east on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. Last recorded on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Tree Pipit:** (6 – 10)

Scarce passage migrant. Another poor year. A single over Turlin Moor on 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr. A singing bird at Kings Bridge on 3<sup>rd</sup> July was interesting. Breeds at Holton Lee.

**Meadow Pipit:** (100 – 13)

Breeding resident and common passage migrant. A pair was present throughout the breeding season. Small flocks frequented Turlin fields in early part of the year, max 30 in Feb. Numbers typically increased in autumn with birds both in the Stubble Field, max 67 on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct, and at Turlin Moor, max 31 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Wintering birds were again present at Turlin in Dec, max 45 on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2 ringed.

**Rock Pipit:** (20 – 12)

Common winter visitor. Inspired by last years wintering birds, searches of the saltings proved that this species is in fact a common winter visitor. Up to 10, were present in early winter period until 8<sup>th</sup> Apr. Lytchett Way and Turlin Moor the favoured sites. The first returning birds were seen on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. 20 at Lytchett Way on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec was a record count for the Bay. On different dates up to 5 were at the Water Works.

**Yellow Wagtail:** (42 – 13)

Uncommon passage migrant. 1 in spring, 11<sup>th</sup> April, coincided with the first spring pulse of migrants. In autumn 50 bird days, all in Sept. Max 20 on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Wagtail:** (12 – 13)

Breeding resident. A pair bred again inside the water works. Recorded throughout the year. Max 6 in July and Aug. Small number of visible migrants noted over Turlin in Sept.

**Pied Wagtail:** (400 – 335 – 13)

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully. Birds roost at various points around the Bay. Numbers in autumn were generally poor with few before late Sept. Roosts peaked in early Oct with 300 on 8<sup>th</sup>. After which there no greater counts than 50.

Further work on separating *M.a.alba* from *M.a.yarrelli* in the hand was undertaken. Whilst we cannot claim to be 100% confident on all birds, it is apparent that a significant % of birds are *m.a.alba*. Further work and experience is needed to confirm these findings. Of 50 birds ringed at least 8 were considered to be White Wagtail *M.a.alba*

**Wren:**

Common resident. 45 ringed.

**Duncock:**

Common resident. 8 ringed.

**Robin:**

Common resident. 13 ringed.

N433615 ringed as an adult on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2001 is still holding the same territory and was still present at the end of 2004.

**Common Redstart:** (2 – 6)

Scarce but autumn migrant. 1 was at Turlin Moor between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept and 1 in Far Fields on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Whinchat:** (11 – 11)

Scarce passage migrant. None in spring. Recorded between 7<sup>th</sup> Sept and 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. Far Fields were the favoured area. Max 6 on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
								6	1		
								20	4		

**Stonechat:** (23 – 13)

Breeding resident. This species occasionally leaves the Bay in the early part of the year, just 1 present in Jan. Breeding was noted across the recording area but a slight decline with only 4 pairs breeding successfully. No post breeding groups were seen this year. 3 ringed.

**Northern Wheatear:** (15 – 13)

Uncommon passage migrant. A decent year with 9 in spring between 29<sup>th</sup> Mar and 28<sup>th</sup> Apr. Max 3 on first date. 8 in autumn, all in the last 2 weeks of Sept.

**Ring Ouzel:**

Rare visitor. The 5<sup>th</sup> record. A male in the water works on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr (SR, IML).

**Blackbird:** (45 – 13)

Common Resident. No census of breeding birds carried out this year. No significant influxes in autumn, surprising given the strong migration of other thrushes. 24 ringed.

**Fieldfare:** (121 – 13)

Uncommon winter visitor. Typically scarce in the first winter period, 25 on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. The first of the autumn was on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 120 moved NNE with Redwing in the 90 minutes after dawn.

**Song Thrush:** (424 – 13)

Breeding resident. No perceived change in status c7 pairs. The migratory flight line discovered over Turlin in 2002 was again established.

Overcast conditions with an easterly 3/4 on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Oct produced a record flight. 424 moved NNE on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A very similar number was noted at Studland that day, flying in the direction of Lytchett (Mark Constantine *pers comm*). On the 11<sup>th</sup>, 1081 moved over Studland in the same direction. Unfortunately no one could make it to the Bay to confirm the passage along the flight line.

17 ringed.

**Redwing:** (1000 – 268 – 13)

Winter visitor. Up to 60 present until early Feb. The first of the autumn was on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, with 4 NNE with Song Thrushes. The main movement came on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. A minimum of 268 moved NNE with at least 50 more Song Thrush/Redwing. A record count for the Bay since 1992. 5 ringed.

**Mistle Thrush:** (16 – 13)

Breeding resident. At least 2 pairs bred. Max count of the year was 12 at Turlin on 2 dates in early Sept. Also 9 at Kings Bridge in July.

**Cetti's Warbler:** (8 – 12)

Breeding resident. 2 wintered around the Water Works but none bred there. 7 singing males (8 in 2003). 4 ringed.

Two interesting re-traps. Neither bird has been re-trapped in the area of the ringing site in the interim period whilst 11 new Cettis Warblers have been ringed there?

N433618 was ringed as an adult on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2001 was re-trapped on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2004.

N433633 was ringed as a 1<sup>st</sup>W female on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2001 was re-trapped on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2004.

**Grasshopper Warbler:** (6 – 6)

Passage migrant, under recorded. A reeling bird on 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr at Lytchett Way was the first since 1997.

Ringing in early autumn was very successful. 22 birds were caught between 20<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> Aug. Max of 6 on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Only 2 birds were re-trapped, 1 staying 1 day, and the other 2 days.

**Sedge Warbler:** (57 – 13)

Passage migrant. This report has always drawn attention to the fact that this species is under recorded. Extensive ringing this year proved that we were correct. Spring passage was between 12<sup>th</sup> Apr and 29<sup>th</sup> Apr. In autumn from 20<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. 57 were trapped on the 31<sup>st</sup> July. A max count for the Bay and more than 5 fold the best count 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			57	22	5	1		
			10			121	118	33	1		

239 ringed.

FRP 4821165, an adult female, was controlled on 28<sup>th</sup> July. This bird had been ringed as a 1stW on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2003 at Frossay, Loire Atlantic, France.

T035197, a 1stW bird, was controlled on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. Details awaited.

**Reed Warbler:**

Common summer visitor. Breeds in all areas of the Bay. Present between 15<sup>th</sup> Apr and 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, the latest recorded date at the Bay. 125 ringed.

J677703, an adult female, was controlled on 6<sup>th</sup> July. This bird was ringed as a juvenile on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1994 at Keysworth. 10 years is a good age for this species. 12 yrs 11mths is the oldest recorded age.

Details of a French ringed bird, an adult female, controlled on 19<sup>th</sup> July are awaited.

**Dartford Warbler:**

Breeding resident. The first breeding record since 2001. A singing male held territory at Lytchett Heath.

**Lesser Whitethroat:** (3 – 11)

Scarce passage migrant. A relatively poor year. No sign of breeding following the success in 2003. 1 in spring on 27<sup>th</sup> April. 1 on 7<sup>th</sup> Aug; 4 on 3 dates in early Sept. 1 ringed.

**Whitethroat:** (8 – 11)

Passage migrant. Another poor year. None in spring. 16 in autumn between 31<sup>st</sup> July and 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. 3 ringed.

**Garden Warbler:** (5 – 11)

Scarce passage migrant. None in spring. The first returning bird was seen on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Then an excellent spell with 8 at Border Drive between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Aug, including a record 5 on 9<sup>th</sup>. 1 ringed.

**Blackcap:** (10 – 12)

Passage migrant. Only 1 in early winter, a single at Lytchett Way on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. At least 6 territories established, the best year at the Bay since at least 1992. Autumn migration was very weak, with the last record on the surprisingly early date of 13<sup>th</sup> 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			3	b	b	b	1	4	1		
1			24	b	b	b	3	23	1		

7 ringed.

**Yellow-browed Warbler:** (1 – 2)

Vagrant. The bird found on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2003 at Border Drive (SR et al) remained until 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. It became harder and harder to find throughout the New Year as it ranged over a wider and wider area.

**Chiffchaff:** (27 – 13)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. A good showing in the first winter period left only a short gap between 15<sup>th</sup> Feb and 17<sup>th</sup> Mar. The last bird of the year was on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3	1	5	6	b	b	b	3	14	7	1	
10	1	25	45	b	b	b	8	128	22	5	

33 ringed.

**Willow Warbler:** (19 – 13)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. First recorded on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr. There were no territories at 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
			2			2	10	3			
			10			9	44	8			

22 ringed.

**Goldcrest:** (14 – 13)

Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. A juvenile was ringed in August suggesting local breeding. Max of 9 occurred on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
4	3		2	1			1	4	9	6	1
11	5		10	1			2	13	22	26	1

34 ringed.

**Firecrest:** (3 – 6)

Rare visitor. 1 at Border Drive from 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Spotted Flycatcher:** (8 – 6 – 13)

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. 1 on 18<sup>th</sup> May was the only spring record. 7 between 1<sup>st</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Sept in the Turlin/Border area. Max 3 on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Bearded Tit:** (17 – 13)

Rare breeder. Recorded at 3 locations during the breeding season. 9 on the 30<sup>th</sup> Oct were the max count of the year.

**Long tailed Tit:**

Uncommon resident. Regularly recorded around the Cottage, Lytchett Way and Border Drive. 23 ringed.

**Coal Tit:**

Uncommon. Only 3 records. 1 at Border Drive on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 1 at Kings Bridge on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr and 1 at Border Drive on 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Blue Tit:**

Common resident. 71 ringed.

N433573 was ringed as an adult on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2000. It was re-trapped on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2004, in at least its 5<sup>th</sup> calendar year.

**Great Tit:**

Common resident. 15 ringed.

K631917 was ringed as an adult on 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 1998. It was re-trapped on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2004, in at least 7<sup>th</sup> calendar year.

**Nuthatch:**

Uncommon. Recorded around the cottage on 4 dates between Feb and July. Max 2.

**Treecreeper:**

Uncommon. Recorded on 7 dates throughout the year. All records from the area between the Cottage and Water Works.

**Jay:** (6 – 13)

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

**Magpie:**

Common Resident.

**Jackdaw:** (176 – 13)

Resident. Recorded throughout the year.

**Rook:** (185 – 13)

Breeds on edge of recording area.

**Carrion Crow:**

Common Resident, increasing.

**Raven:** (7 – 10)

Scarce visitor, increasing. Annual since the first record in 1995. Recorded on 6 dates. 1 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2 on 6<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2 on 13<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Starling:** (35000 – 5600 – 13)

Common resident. Small numbers of birds roosted in the reed beds in the west of the Bay in summer and autumn. The only significant counts of the year were 300, 5<sup>th</sup> Jan; 250, 18<sup>th</sup> July; 950, 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1 ringed.

**House Sparrow:** (45 – 13)

Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe. Bred at Turlin Moor and French's Farm. The only significant counts of non breeding birds came from the Border/Turlin area. A post breeding flock of 45 on 26<sup>th</sup> July, was a record count in the period since 1992.

**Chaffinch:** (140 – 13)

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Reasonable counts in the early winter period. Max 80 on 3rd Jan. In autumn, 50 NNE on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct was the only significant record. 10 ringed.

**Brambling:** (7 – 10)

Scarce Visitor. 1 in a garden at Slough Lane on 27<sup>th</sup> March was the only record.

**Greenfinch:** (60 – 13)

Common breeding resident. Border Drive, The Cottage and Turlin Moor remain the favored areas. 50 at Turlin Moor on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov and 25 in the vicinity of the Cottage on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec were the only notable counts. 31 ringed.

**Goldfinch:** (120 – 13)

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. 30 in stubble at the beginning of the year. At least 3 pairs bred in the recording area. Autumn was poor with only 1 significant count, 50 at Turlin on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. 10 ringed.

**Siskin:** (280 – 10)

Scarce passage migrant. A dreadful year. 2 at Kings Bridge on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct were the only record.

**Linnet:** (250 – 13)

Uncommon breeding resident. A reasonable presence in the early part of the year; 120 in stubble on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan; 70 still present on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar. 28 NE at Lytchett Way on 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. Bred on the Far fields and Lytchett Way. Poor numbers in autumn with max of 25 at Lytchett Way on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1 ringed.

**Lesser Redpoll:** (40 – 11)

Scarce Visitor. Typically rare in the first 9 months. 1 at Border Drive on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan the only record. A good series in autumn with birds seen on 6 dates; 1 on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, 9 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 1 on 29<sup>th</sup>, 1 on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 4 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Bullfinch:** (6 – 13)

Uncommon. Present at Border Drive and Lytchett Way during the breeding season. Frequent sightings throughout the year at these sites and at the Cottage/Water Works during the autumn. 2 ringed.

**Reed Bunting:** (27 – 13)

Breeding resident. No survey of the breeding population. However ringing proved that this species had a good year. 42 juvenile birds (which had not completed their post juvenile moult) were ringed between 5<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> August. Indicative of a strong local population and good breeding success. 111 ringed in total.

**Appendix 1 Birds ringed at Lytchett Bay in 2004**

Snipe	3	Reed Warbler	125
Woodcock	1	Lesser Whitethroat	1
Kingfisher	12	Whitethroat	3
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	Garden Warbler	1
Sand Martin	1	Blackcap	7
Swallow	6	Chiffchaff	33
Meadow Pipit	2	Willow Warbler	22
Pied/White Wagtail	50	Goldcrest	34
Wren	45	Long-tailed Tit	23
Dunnock	8	Blue Tit	71
Robin	13	Great Tit	15
Stonechat	3	Starling	1
Blackbird	24	Chaffinch	10
Song Thrush	17	Greenfinch	31
Redwing	5	Linnet	1
Cetti's Warbler	4	Bullfinch	2
Grasshopper Warbler	22	Reed Bunting	111
Sedge Warbler	239		



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