

Lytchett Bay 2005

Shaun Robson

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

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
142	144	139	139	129	134	141	142	138	136

Whilst the number of species recorded was disappointing this was more than made up for by the quality of species seen. The brief appearance of a Rough-legged Buzzard was well beyond any expectation. Red-legged Partridge was much less surprising, hardly charismatic but nonetheless a new bird for the Bay. Aquatic Warbler could have taken the honors but after a minute or so of strong song went silent and was not seen or heard from again. Little Egret, Wigeon, Shoveller, Rock Pipit and Bearded Tit occurred in bigger numbers than ever before. Skylark returned to breed after a 4 year absence.

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

The Bay was visited on 211 days (198 in 2004) as set out below.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
8	9	20	28	20	9	21	27	20	25	12	12

Ringling 2005

1039 birds of 47 species were ringed at the Bay. However the highlight concerned a bird ringed in 2004. The Woodcock ringed in December was shot in Russia almost 3000km east of Poole Harbour!

Whilst the weather in July and August was kind, the number of *acrocephalus* warblers was lower than 2004. Ringing took place on 58 dates. The highlights included 27 Bearded Tit, Firecrest, Green Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, 13 Grasshopper Warbler, 11 Kingfisher, 9 Grey Wagtail and 3 Rock Pipit. 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; Wessex Water and the landowner, the Lees Estate, for their kind permission to ring at Lytchett Bay and for access to Holton Lee.

Systematic List 2005

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 - 14)

Winter visitor. Recorded until 3rd Apr, and from 29th Sept. Max 7 on 3rd Jan.

Great Crested Grebe: (4 - 11)

Occasional visitor. All birds seen were spring migrants. 9 bird days between 18th Apr and 3rd May. Max 2 on 3 dates.

Cormorant: (57 – 14)

Present throughout the year. 39 arrived shortly after dawn on 29th Aug. The second biggest flock recorded at the Bay.

Little Egret: (22 – 13)

Common visitor. 22 early on the morning of the 3rd Sept was a record count for the Bay.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
8	5	10	11	9	10	10	11	22	12	12	n.c.

Grey Heron: (10 – 14)

Recorded throughout the year. Considerably scarcer than the previous species. An unremarkable year. Max 7 on 25th Sept.

Mute Swan: (51 – 14)

Recently established breeder and increasingly common winter visitor. A pair were present during the breeding season but were unsuccessful.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
16	n.c.	2	2	5	4	0	5	7	8	31	24

Greylag Goose: (25 – 7)

Scarce feral wanderer. 2 sightings, both in spring. 1 on 26th Apr and 3 on 18th May.

Canada Goose: (137 – 14)

Increasingly frequent visitor. Still no indication that lingering spring birds are attempting to breed. Max 97 on 7th Oct.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3	0	4	57	2	3	17	62	20	97	0	0

Shelduck: (645 – 548 – 14)

Declining winter visitor and annual breeder. No confirmed breeding for the second year running. This is the first year in the period that no count has reached 3 figures.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c.	98	n.c.	20	11	3	7	2	3	12	59	92

Wigeon: (283 – 14)

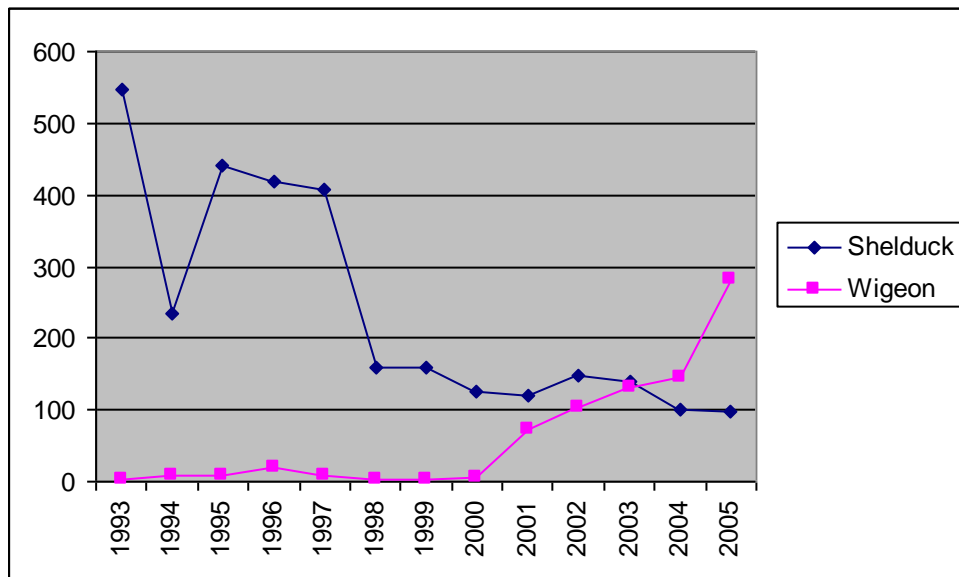
Increasingly common winter visitor. After a record count on the 3rd Jan birds soon departed and by early Feb only a few remained. 283 on 18th Dec was an all time record count for the Bay. Numbers during the second winter period were consistently around the 200 mark. The species was completely absent between 3rd Apr and 29th Aug. The 3rd Apr is the latest departure date.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
210	3	11	3	0	0	0	1	5	87	198	283

The changes in wintering populations of Shelduck and Wigeon over the last 13 years are worthy of note. After a sharp decline in the mid 90's the number of Shelduck has continued to gradually reduce. Meanwhile Wigeon have increased, from a previously small population, consistently and significantly, since 2001. Early 2006 suggests that the trend is continuing with Wigeon have exceeded 300 whilst Shelduck are struggling to pass 50.

Maximum counts of Shelduck and Wigeon at Lytchett Bay 1993-2005



Gadwall: (5 – 9)

Occasional visitor. 17 bird days on 9 dates is the best set of records at the Bay. Max 3 on 21st Apr.

Teal: (402 – 14)

Winter visitor and passage migrant. No records between 10th April and 30th July.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
100	157	217	173	0	0	3	6	65	213	120	n.c.

Mallard: (100 – 52 – 14)

At least 2 broods raised. Usually less than 10 in winter with summer numbers bolstered by local breeders.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c	n.c	n.c.	10	8	19	20	20	28	16	14	n.c.

Pintail: (21 – 9)

Scarce visitor. Only 2 records. 15 over the Bay on 17th Sept was the second biggest group recorded at the Bay. 1 on 20th Nov.

Shoveler: (7 – 13)

Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. Recorded on 4 dates between 20th Nov and 14th Dec represented an excellent showing for this species. 7 on 10th Dec was a record count for the Bay.

Goldeneve: (12 – 14)

Common winter visitor in small numbers. Present until 6th Mar and from 23rd Nov. The spring departure date was the latest in the period since 1992. 7 on 3rd Jan was the biggest day count.

Red-breasted Merganser: (73 – 14)

Common winter visitor. Present until 3rd April and from 23rd Oct. The latter being the earliest return date for the site.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
25	17	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	10

Marsh Harrier: (2 – 13)

Irregular visitor. 1 on 22nd Apr was the only record of the year. The worst year since 1994. The peak year of 1998, with 27 sightings seems along time ago.

Hen Harrier: (2 – 14)

Irregular Visitor. The only record the year was a grey male on the evening of 26th Mar. Like Marsh Harrier above this is the worst year for this species since 1994. 1998 was the best year with 10 records.

Sparrowhawk: (2 – 14)

Uncommon visitor. Recorded on 43 dates, more than double the average number of annual sightings (21 p.a. 1992-2004), suggesting that local breeding occurred. Recorded in every month except June when observer coverage was much reduced. 2 ringed.

Common Buzzard: (15 – 14)

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

Rough-legged Buzzard: (1 – 1)

First site record. The most unexpected of additions to the Bay list. A juvenile flew east along the northern edge of the recording area on 16th Oct. Hopes that it might linger were short lived but its brief appearance remains etched on the memories of its grateful observers. (SR, TE, RG)

Osprey: (3 – 13)

Annual passage migrant. 2 in Spring – singles on 21st Mar and 12th Apr. Noted on 7 dates in autumn between 13th Aug and 12th Oct, all singles. The 12th Oct is latest record at the Bay.

Bird days 1994 – 2004

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
5	6	7	5	14	22	3	7	1	29	9

Kestrel:

Common resident. 1 pair bred. 2 juveniles seen in July.

Merlin: (1 – 10)

Scarce winter visitor. 2 on 7th Nov was the first multiple day sighting at the Bay and the only record of the year.

Hobby: (2 – 12)

Irregular visitor. Singles recorded on 7 dates between 1st May and 7th Sept.

Peregrine: (2 – 13)

Uncommon visitor. A typical year. Recorded on 10 dates throughout the year (as 2004). Max 2 on 3 dates.

Red-legged Partridge: (1 – 1)

First record. Two were found in the stubble field on 23rd March. They had undoubtedly been present for some days as a partridge species was flushed from the same location on 18th Mar. The birds were still present on the 1st May though there was no sign of breeding. Whilst I had rated this species as the 8th most likely addition to the area list, I can't say that it was the one that I had dreamt about! (SR, BC et al)

Pheasant:

Resident. Increasing significantly, now very common around northern shore of Bay. First record for Turlin Moor in Apr 2005.

Water Rail: (23 – 14)

Common resident and winter visitor. No specific records this year but no perceived change in status. The Max count figure of 23 is the maximum number seen on any single visit. I appreciate that this is rather nonsensical given that the breeding population of this shy species exceeds 60 pairs. 1 ringed.

Moorhen: (12 – 14)

An uncommon resident. At least 4 pairs scattered across recording area.

Coot: (1 – 6)

6th record. One was in Bay from 29th Nov until 2006. (RG et al)

Oystercatcher: (400 – 14)

A winter visitor and passage migrant. Turlin Fields and Turlin Shore at high tide remain the favored locations, though more birds are now remaining in the bay to feed at low tide. The maximum count was on 3rd Jan.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
70	n.c.	53	13	16	1	37	32	33	31	n.c.	n.c.

Avocet: (113 – 13)

Increasingly regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Small numbers frequently recorded in the winter months. Max count was on 15th Jan.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
73	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	17

Ringed Plover: (17 – 10 – 11)

Scarce visitor. 1 on 1st Aug was the only record.

Grey Plover: (14 – 10)

Scarce visitor. 1 on 17th Aug was the only record.

Lapwing: (3000 – 14)

Formerly bred, now predominantly a winter visitor. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. This species seems to be in free fall. Numbers were poor throughout the year and none were present for large parts of both winter periods. Hopefully recent management works will prove attractive for both breeding and wintering. The max count of 500 occurred on 3rd Jan.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
500	0	1	0	2	1	13	21	26	80	33	200

Red Knot: (34 – 9)

Scarce visitor. 1 on 1st Apr was the only record.

Dunlin: (1800 – 1200 – 14)

Declining winter visitor and passage migrant. Max count was on 15th Jan.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
270	15	0	1	1	0	3	7	6	10	103	73

Jack Snipe: (5 – 7)

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. 4 records. Singles were seen on the Far Fields on 23rd Mar, 8th Apr and 31st Dec. One was on the Beach Road Saltings on 17th Dec.

Snipe: (160 – 70 – 14)

Common winter visitor. Recorded until 29th Apr, returning on the 3rd Aug. 1 ringed.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
50	7	1	1	0	0	0	6	7	10	25	43

Woodcock: (5 – 5)

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. Recorded on 7 dates. 2 on 3rd Jan, 1 on 4th Mar, 1 on 13th Apr, 1 on 7th Nov, 1 on 27th Nov, 2 on 4th Dec and 2 on 10th Dec. All records were in the vicinity of the Water Works and Far Fields except for one at Lytchett Way.

ES07284 was ringed as an adult male on 10th Dec 2004. It was only the second Woodcock to be ringed at the Bay and the first since 1984. Sadly it was shot 139 days later on the 28th April 2005. However the location was rather impressive...

The site of the bird's demise was 2893km from Lytchett Bay at Mordvinovo in the province of Vladimir, Russia. This is east of Moscow in the direction of Kazan!



Healthier days, ES07284 before its incredible journey!

Black-tailed Godwit: (1240 – 14)

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. A relatively poor year with the best count of the year on 3rd Jan. Spring tides in Oct attracted birds to The Pool with max of 27 on several dates. Turlin fields again proved attractive at high tide with up to 50 present on several dates.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
438	100	113	164	44	0	14	33	52	50	n.c.	30

Colour ringed birds were recorded as follows. There is clearly a strong link between Altafiorour, SE Iceland and Lytchett Bay.

RL + LL – 3rd Jan. Previously seen at the Bay in 2002 & 2003, ringed at Leiruvogur, nr Reykjavik, SW Iceland on 28th Apr 2001.

GR + OL – 3rd Jan. Previously seen at the Bay in 2002, 2003 & 2004, ringed at Altafjordur, SE Iceland on 4th May 2000.

LL+GL – 19th Mar. Previously seen at the Bay in 2003 & 2004, ringed at Altafjordur, SE Iceland on 4th May 2000.

OR+YL – 15th Aug. Previously seen by SR at Middlebere in 2003, ringed at Altafiorour, SE Iceland on 4th May 2000.

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 – 10)

Scare visitor. A good year with birds seen on 6 dates. 7 on 6th Apr was the second biggest count in the last 14 years. Single birds were recorded on 3 dates latter in the month associating with Whimbrel. Two singles in autumn; 13th Sept at Turlin Fields and 23rd Sept in the bay.

Whimbrel: (157 – 14)

Passage migrant, most numerous in spring. A much needed reprise in the fortunes of this species at the Bay. Following the first on 12th Apr there were 278 bird days to the 22nd May (Compared to just 31 bird days in the same period in 2004). Counts of over 25 occurred on 6 scattered dates and the max was 39 on 30th Apr. Autumn passage was also decent commencing with 5 on 22nd July. There were 36 bird days until 15th Oct.

Max count 1992 – 2005

1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
46	40	65	57	157	37	40	31	22	23	6	11	7	39

Curlew: (104 – 14)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Birds visited the Pool and Far Fields in larger numbers than usual with counts of up to 10 and 15 respectively during December.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
82	n.c.	28	8	5	5	18	14	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.

Spotted Redshank: (68 – 42 – 14)

Decreasing passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. A truly dreadful year, the worst on record. Recorded in spring until 30th Apr and in autumn from 3rd July.

Pool monthly max:

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

Bay monthly max

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

Redshank: (608 – 436 – 14)

Common winter visitor. Small breeding population on salt marsh, probably 2 pairs (not including any that might be on Otter Island). Scarce from late June to early Sept. An excellent series of records of flocks using the Pool. The count of 235 on the 2nd Dec is a record.

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	18	6	0	0	0	0	0	5	177	235

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
20	122	103	5	7	6	1	5	50	180	n.c.	n.c.

Greenshank: (49 – 27 – 14)

Common passage migrant and increasing winter visitor. Recorded until 1st May. The first returning bird was noted on 8th July. Max 10 on 6th Sept. Habitat management works around The Pool lead to best year since 2001.

Pool monthly max;

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

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	1	2	2	2	0	6	8	10	9	0	0

Green Sandpiper: (10 – 14)

Common autumn migrant and winter visitor, occasional in spring. The Far Fields and western most part of the Bay are the favoured sites. Present until 24th Apr, returning on 8th July. Birds occasionally visit The Pool and Folly Pond. 1 ringed.

Monthly max:

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

Wood Sandpiper: (2 – 6)

Very scarce visitor. 2 calling birds arrived from the north early on the morning of the 18th July. After a brief stop on the north edge of the bay they headed off south with 6 Common Snipe.

Common Sandpiper: (10 – 14)

An uncommon passage migrant. One in spring on 8th Apr, equaled the earliest arrival date. Return passage started on 10th July and totaled only 17 bird days until 25th Sept. Max 3 on 20th Aug. 1 ringed.

Mediterranean Gull: (13 – 13)

Uncommon visitor, increasing. 57 bird days between 5th Feb and 20th Nov. Max 4 on two dates in spring. The age break down was 3 1st W, 5 2ndS and 51 Ad.

Black-headed Gull: (12000 – 7000 – 14)

A very common visitor. 1000's regularly frequent the bay en route to the Wareham Channel roost. The first juveniles were noted on 22nd June. 3 ringed.

Common Gull: (1700 – 14)

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. No significant counts during the year. There were no records between 1st May and 10th July.

Lesser Black backed Gull: (2128 – 14)

A very common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor.

Herring Gull: (2000 – 14)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Yellow legged Gull: (65 – 13)

Frequent visitor throughout the year, peaking in summer. Probably under recorded. Max was on 31st July.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	1	1	2	1	5	16	9	14	4	0	1

Great Black backed Gull: (151 – 13)

Increasing visitor throughout the year. Recent increases were not maintained. Perhaps bird scaring devices at Corfe Mullen tip have reduced its attractiveness. Max 29 on 15th Jan.

Sandwich Tern: (5 – 14)

Uncommon summer visitor. Despite the earliest occurrence at the Bay, a poor year, with only

3 records. 2 on 23rd Mar were 3 days ahead of the previous earliest arrival on 26th Mar 1999. Singles were seen on 22nd Apr and 25th June.

Common Tern: (22 – 14)

Uncommon summer visitor. Seen on 23 dates, the best year since the record year of 2002 (34 dates). Noted between 31st May and 3rd Sept. Max 7 on 2nd Aug.

Stock Dove: (29 – 14)

Uncommon Resident. Max 5 on several dates in spring.

Wood Pigeon: (1368 – 14)

Common resident. Despite an excellent autumn for this species across Dorset only 1 visit to the Bay coincided with a movement. 1368 flew south over Border Drive in the 50 minutes after dawn on 4th Nov. A record count. 2 ringed.

Collared Dove: (11 – 14)

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 – 14)

Uncommon summer visitor. The first of the year was on 14th Apr. 8 records in spring; including 2 on 16th Apr. Juveniles were seen on 12th July, 1st Aug and 8th Aug.

Barn Owl: (2 – 1 – 7)

Occasional visitor. 1 was around the Far Fields and Water Works on 3 dates between 2nd and 15th Aug.

Tawny Owl: (2 – 14)

Uncommon resident. At least 1 pair present through out, believed to have bred successfully. Three were around the Water Works on 10th Oct.

Nightjar: (3 – 7)

Irregular breeder. All suitable habitat was surveyed and produced a good series of records. A pair was displaying at Lytchett Way and a churring male was at Lytchett Heath on 29th June. Churring males were then heard on the Far Fields on 29th July and 3rd Aug. Perhaps birds wandering from Holton Lee? Finally one was feeding around the Water Works on 16th Aug.

Swift: (113 – 14)

Passage migrant and possible local breeder. Not seen until 4th May. Max count of 25 on 14th May.

Kingfisher: (3 – 14)

Passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Bred in 2000 and must breed just outside the recording area most years. Recorded in both winter periods, though none between 29th May and 8th July. 11 ringed.

Of the 12 birds ringed in 2004 only 1 was re-trapped in 2005. This bird had not been re-trapped since the date of capture.

SA96731 – ringed on 6th Aug 2004; re-trapped on 25th Mar 2005 (232 days)

Of the new birds ringed in 2005 only 2 were re-trapped more than 5 days after ringing.

SA96739 – ringed on 16th July; still present on 26th Nov (134 days)

SA96740 – ringed on 22nd July; still present on 5th Nov (107 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 and recorded in all parts of the Bay. No change in status.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Breeding Resident. Seen regularly in most parts of the Bay. 1 ringed.

Woodlark: (15 – 7)

Recently established winter visitor. Present at the beginning of the year with 12 on 12th Feb. Visits in the second part of the year found that the habitat had not been grazed and consequently no birds were found. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Skylark: (250 – 20 – 14)

Winter visitor and passage migrant. After 4 years absence, up to 2 birds held territory between 20th Mar and 13th July. In autumn, 25 birds days between 15th Oct and 1st Nov, max 11 on 23rd Oct. The only winter records were 3 on saltings in December.

Sand Martin: (5000 – 14)

Common passage migrant. First record was 2 on 1st Apr. Again scarce throughout spring. Autumn migration began on 8th July with 50, but was poor with only a max of 80 birds seen on any one evening. The last record of the year was on 26th Aug. 1 ringed.

Swallow: (1000 – 540 – 14)

Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. First record of spring was 1 on 2nd Apr. Then noted moving in small numbers throughout the spring, max 80 on 30th Apr. Autumn migration was poor with a max count of 200 on several dates. The last date was 27th Oct. 20 ringed.

House Martin: (1000 – 14)

Common passage migrant, breeding colonies on edge of recording area at Watery Lane and Turlin Moor. The first of the year was on 15th Apr. The size of the breeding colony at Watery Lane was 15 nests as 2004 (plus 5 failed or destroyed). The colony at Turlin Moor was not surveyed, but 10 were present there in late May/early June. Autumn migration peaked with 200 on 18th Sept.

Tree Pipit: (6 – 11)

Scarce passage migrant. Only 2 records. Single overhead migrants on 17th and 18th August. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Meadow Pipit: (100 – 14)

Breeding resident and common passage migrant. 2 pair was present throughout the breeding season. At least one which was successful. Small flocks frequented Turlin fields, the Stubble Field and the Cottage Area throughout both migration and winter periods. Max 30 on 6th Oct. 3 ringed.

Rock Pipit: (50 – 13)

Common winter visitor. Exploration of the saltings in 2004 changed the perceived status of this species. New searches in 2005 produced even greater changes. The early part of the year found at least 23 scattered between Turlin Moor, Lytchett Way and the northwest shore. The last of the season being on the 20th March. The first returning birds were noted on 20th Nov. The above mentioned areas held typical numbers but all records were broken in mid Dec when at least 50 were found at Beach Road saltings. 3 ringed.

Yellow Wagtail: (42 – 14)

Uncommon passage migrant. No spring records for the first time. In autumn 42 bird days between 18th Aug and 23rd Sept. Max 15 on 28th Aug.

Grey Wagtail: (12 – 14)

Breeding resident. Regularly around the water works throughout the year but breeding not proven. Small number of visible migrants noted over Turlin in Sept. 9 ringed.

Pied Wagtail: (400 – 14)

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully at 2 sites. Birds roost at various points around the Bay during peak migration in October. Max 400 on 17th Oct – the biggest count in the period since 1992. 84 ringed.

R835913, ringed as a 1st year bird on 8th Oct 2004 was trapped 122 days later at Torres Vedras, Lisbon, Portugal on 7th Feb 2005. A movement of 1411km.

White Wagtail (*M.a.alba*)

1 was on the Pool on 2nd Apr.

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, of 103 *alba* wagtails ringed, 19 were considered to be White Wagtail *M.a.alba*

Wren:

Common resident. 39 ringed.

Duncock:

Common resident. 16 ringed.

Robin:

Common resident. 30 ringed.

Common Redstart: (2 – 7)

Scarce autumn migrant. 1 was at Turlin Moor on 23rd Aug.

Whinchat: (11 – 12)

Scarce passage migrant. None in spring. A poor autumn with only 5 bird days between 22nd Aug and 9th Oct. Max 2 on first date.

Stonechat: (23 – 14)

Breeding resident. A decline in the number of breeding pairs was again noted. Only 2 pairs were confirmed with possibly a third pair present. There were at least 7 pairs in 2002. The largest post breeding group was 8 on 22nd Aug. None were recorded at Turlin Moor until 1st Sept. 1 ringed.

Northern Wheatear: (15 – 14)

Uncommon passage migrant. 3 in spring between 25th Mar and 1st May. A good autumn with 14 between 4th Aug and 19th Oct. The last date being the latest recorded date at the Bay. Max 3 on 2 dates. 1 ringed.

Blackbird: (45 – 14)

Common Resident. No census of breeding birds carried out this year. No significant influxes in autumn, though recorded commonly across the area. 44 ringed.

RJ18343, an adult female ringed on 23rd July 2000 was re-trapped on 29th Oct 2005.

Fieldfare: (121 – 14)

Uncommon winter visitor. Again scarce in the first winter period with 15 on 6th Feb, the only record. The first of the autumn was on 30th Oct, with 17 over the Far Fields. 44 past west over there the next day, with a further 29 over Border Drive on the 4th. There was no further coverage during the migration season and no further records during the year.

Song Thrush: (424 – 14)

Breeding resident. No perceived change in status c7 pairs. Unfortunately migration watches did not coincide with any significant flights this year. 16 ringed.

RW21826, was ringed as 1st year bird on 16th Nov 2003. It has been re-trapped twice since on 3rd Dec 2004 and 23rd Oct 2005. An example of wintering site fidelity.

Redwing: (1000 – 268 – 14)

Winter visitor. Noted in small flocks until 25th Feb. The first of the autumn was on 10th Oct, as 2004. There was no coverage during the massive unpredicted Dorset movement on the 2nd Nov. The tail ends of that movement were noted on the 3rd and 4th with 160 and 168 respectfully recorded shortly after dawn on each morning. 17 ringed.

Mistle Thrush: (16 – 14)

Breeding resident. At least 2 pairs bred. Recorded in small numbers across the area throughout the year.

Cetti's Warbler: (10 – 13)

Breeding resident. 10 singing males, the best year on record. Each area of the Bay at least 1 pair. 9 ringed.

Grasshopper Warbler: (6 – 7)

Passage migrant, under recorded. A reeling bird on 27th Apr at Lytchett Heath was a rare spring record.

Ringling in early autumn failed to match 2004. 13 birds were caught between 22nd July and 17th Sept. Max of 2 on 3 dates. None were re-trapped and all were 1st year birds except 1 adult on 2nd Aug. 34 out of 35 birds ringed in the last 2 years have been 1st years.

Aquatic Warbler: *

Second record. For the second consecutive summer a determined effort was made to catch this threatened species. Winds were again largely unfavourable but a sprinkle of birds across southern England in mid August gave hope. On the 16th, after another blank morning, we took down our mist nets. As we left the area, RG commented that the tape lure was still playing to which SR assured him that it was not. RG then invited SR to join him. Upon arrival the clear and unmistakable song of Aquatic Warbler could be heard. SR immediately believed that they were subject to a hoax. After a minute or so the song stopped. Despite a thorough search of the area, no hoaxter or bird could be found. We could only conclude that this migrant had been encouraged to sing by the tape lure and was still in good voice immediately after the lure was switched off. A remarkable but frustrating record. (RG, SR).

Sedge Warbler: (57 – 14)

Passage migrant. Breeding is believed to have occurred for the first time. A singing male held territory in the Far Fields from 8th May. 3 freshly fledged juveniles were seen together on 25th June.

Spring passage was between 24th Apr and 1st May. In autumn from 28th July to 24th Sept. 34 were trapped on the 2nd Aug. 197 ringed.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			3	2	b	17	34	7			
			11	2		24	173	18			

R835518, a 1st year bird ringed on 29th July 2004, was trapped at Treogat, Finistere, France 8 days later on 6th Aug. A movement of 352km.

R835656, an adult female ringed on 4th Aug 2004, was trapped at Treogat, Finistere, France 17 days later on 21st Aug. A movement of 352km.

T035197, a 1st year bird, controlled on 14th Aug 2004, had been ringed at Holme Pierre Point, Notts 6 days earlier on 8th Aug. A movement of 257km.

T494063, a 1st year bird, ringed on 11th Aug 2004, was trapped at Haddiscoe, Norfolk 18 days later on 29th Aug. A movement (in an unusual direction) of 325km.

Reed Warbler:

Common summer visitor. Breeds in all areas of the Bay. A survey of the shore from Turlin Moor to Lytchett Way found 19 territories. Present between 18th Apr and 8th Oct. 103 ringed.

R835826, ringed as a 1st year bird on 4th Sept 2004, was trapped at Soria, Spain, 48 days later on 22nd Oct. A movement of 994km.

N433523, an adult female, ringed on 23rd July 2000 was re-trapped 5 years to the day later on 23rd July 2005. It had not been recaptured during the intervening period.

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

Dartford Warbler:

Breeding resident. A singing male again held territory at Lytchett Heath and was present throughout the year. Breeding was not proven.

Lesser Whitethroat: (3 – 12)

Scarce passage migrant and occasional breeder. Two territories were established. The first arrived on 26th Apr and the second on 1st May. Autumn migration was poor with only 4 records between 9th Aug and 4th Sept, all at Turlin Moor.

Whitethroat: (8 – 12)

Passage migrant. A very poor year. None in spring. 9 in autumn between 9th Aug and 19th Sept.

Garden Warbler: (5 – 12)

Scarce passage migrant. None in spring. In autumn, single birds at the Water Works on 2nd and 6th Aug, then 1 at Turlin Moor on 9th Aug. 2 ringed.

Blackcap: (10 – 14)

Passage migrant and summer visitor. At least 8 territories established, another record year. The first of the year was on 27th Mar. Autumn migration was good, with the last record on the 29th Oct. 34 ringed.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
		1	2	b	b	b	2	8	2		
		1	27	b	b	b	12	33	4		

Chiffchaff: (27 – 14)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. 2 birds were present in the first winter period. 1 present at French's Farm between 8th and 16th Jan showed characteristics an "eastern race" but remained silent throughout its stay.



There were no further records until 22nd Mar. A bird showing characteristics of the scandinavian race *abietinus* was at Lytchett Way on 13th Apr. 8 territories were established. Another "eastern" bird at Border Drive on 25th Nov. The last bird of the year was on 18th Dec. 31 ringed.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2		13	7	b	b	b	3	12	12	2	1
4		21	49	b	b	b	17	52	41	2	3

Willow Warbler: (19 – 14)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. A decent year with a relatively good showing in spring. First recorded on 23rd Mar, the earliest record at the Bay. After a blank year in 2004, 2 territories were established. The last bird was noted on 20th Sept. 20 ringed.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
		1	5	b	b	2	6	1			
		2	28	b	b	2	29	3			

Goldcrest: (14 – 14)

Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. Up to 3 territories, a very good year. Max of 9 occurred on 16th Oct. 23 ringed.

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	b	b		1	1	1	10	5	1
5	1	3	b	b		1	2	2	43	18	4

Firecrest: (3 – 7)

Rare visitor. 1 at Water Works from 24th Nov – 4th Dec. 1 ringed.



Spotted Flycatcher: (8 – 6 – 14)

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. 1 on 17th May was the only spring record. 6 between 18th Aug and 3rd Sept. Max 3 on 18th.

Bearded Tit: (29 – 14)

Rare breeder. Recorded on 4 during the breeding season. After 6 on 8th Oct there were no more records until December. A flock of at least 25 were found at Lytchett Way on 14th. These were re-found in the Beach Road reed-bed on the 17th. 29 were trapped on the 18th, 2 of which already bore BTO rings. 27 ringed.

R300770, re-trapped on 18th Dec, was ringed on 14th May 2004 at Holton Heath and was an adult male.

Details are awaited on the other bird.

Long tailed Tit:

Uncommon resident. Regularly recorded around the Cottage, Lytchett Way and Border Drive. 15 ringed.

Coal Tit:

Uncommon, undoubtedly breeds near the recording area but not within it. 7 records, all singles. At Lytchett Way on 2nd Jan, Lytchett Heath 19th Apr, a juv at Turlin Moor on 22nd June, another there on 8th July, Water Works on 17th Aug, Lytchett Way on 23rd Aug and Lytchett Heath on 17th Dec.

Blue Tit:

Common resident. 54 ringed.

N433620 was ringed as an adult on 21st Nov 2001. It was re-trapped on 6th Aug 2005, in at least its 5th calendar year.

Great Tit:

Common resident. 19 ringed.

Nuthatch:

Uncommon. Recorded around the cottage occasionally throughout the year. Max 2. A vocal individual at Turlin Moor on 9th Aug was the first record for that site and presumably a dispersing youngster.

Treecreeper:

Uncommon. Recorded throughout the year between the Cottage and Water Works and at Kings Bridge. A juvenile was ringed on 16th July.

Jay: (6 – 14)

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

Magpie:

Common Resident.

Jackdaw: (176 – 14)

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

Rook: (185 – 14)

Breeds on edge of recording area.

Carrion Crow:

Common Resident, increasing.

Raven: (7 – 11)

Scarce visitor, increasing. Annual since the first record in 1995. 18 bird days on 12 dates throughout the year. A record year.

Starling: (35000 – 5600 – 14)

Common resident. Small numbers of birds roosted in the reed beds in the west of the Bay in summer and autumn, but no counts exceeded 150. 1 ringed.

House Sparrow: (45 – 14)

Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe. Bred at Turlin Moor, Border Drive and French's Farm. The only significant counts of non breeding birds came from French's Farm where 30 were present on 18th Dec.

Chaffinch: (140 – 14)

Breeding resident and winter visitor. No flocks exceeded 25 in number, a poor showing. 20 ringed.

Brambling: (7 – 11)

Scarce Visitor. 3 records. 1 over the Cottage on 1st Nov, 3 over Border Drive on 4th Nov. 1 ringed at Water Works on 26th Nov.

Greenfinch: (60 – 14)

Common breeding resident. Border Drive, The Cottage and Turlin Moor remain the favored areas. 30 at Turlin Moor on 30th Oct, the only notable flock. The feeding station proved attractive, 62 ringed.

Goldfinch: (120 – 14)

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. At least 2 pairs bred in the recording area. Flocks frequently recorded in the autumn. Max 84 over Border Drive on 14th Oct. 12 ringed.

Siskin: (280 – 11)

Scarce passage migrant. After a dearth in 2004 this was a bumper year. 170 bird days in autumn between 17th Sept and end of the year. Max 25 at Water Works on 23rd Oct. 5 ringed.

Linnet: (250 – 14)

Uncommon breeding resident. A max of 60 roosted at Lytchett Way in the first winter period. At Kings Bridge a spring flock grew to a max of 41 in April. Bred on the Far fields, Lytchett Heath and probably Turlin Moor. Scarce in autumn with records limited to 2 dates. Max 30 on 6th Oct.

Lesser Redpoll: (40 – 12)

Scarce Visitor. Not recorded until Oct 23rd. Then 9 bird days over 5 dates till the year end. Max 3 on 29th Oct.

Crossbill: (8 – 1 – 4)

Rare visitor. 1w on 2nd Aug (TE,SR)

Bullfinch: (6 – 14)

Uncommon. This species is increasing year on year. In 1995 there were 2 records all year. In 2005 there were 45 bird days over 29 dates. Present in many areas during the breeding season. 7 ringed.

Yellowhammer: (13 – 12)

Bred until 1993. First records since Nov 2003. 1 over Water Works on 23rd Oct and 2 over Border Drive on 4th Nov.

Reed Bunting: (27 – 14)

Breeding resident. No survey of the breeding population but 24 juvenile birds (which had not completed their post juvenile moult) were ringed in July and early Aug (42 in 2004). In autumn the max day count at any one site was 20 at Border Drive on 4th Nov. 55 ringed in total.

Appendix 1 Birds ringed at Lytchett Bay in 2005

Sparrowhawk	2	Reed Warbler	103
Water Rail	1	Garden Warbler	2
Snipe	1	Blackcap	34
Green Sandpiper	1	Chiffchaff	31
Common Sandpiper	1	Willow Warbler	20
Black-headed Gull	3	Firecrest	1
Wood Pigeon	2	Goldcrest	23
Kingfisher	11	Bearded Tit	27
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	Long-tailed Tit	15
Sand Martin	1	Blue Tit	54
Swallow	20	Great Tit	19
Rock Pipit	3	Treecreeper	1
Meadow Pipit	3	Jay	1
Grey Wagtail	9	Starling	1
Pied/White Wagtail	103	Chaffinch	20
Wren	39	Brambling	1
Dunnock	16	Greenfinch	62
Robin	30	Goldfinch	12
Stonechat	1	Siskin	5
Northern Wheatear	1	Bullfinch	7
Blackbird	44	Reed Bunting	55
Song Thrush	16		
Redwing	17	Total	1039
Cetti's Warbler	9		
Grasshopper Warbler	13		
Sedge Warbler	197		

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