

Lytchett Bay 1998

Shaun Robson

The format of the report follows that of previous years. The Pool refers to the flooded field at the end of Slough Lane which remained wet throughout the year.

The log book again proved invaluable in compiling this report. Just over 2000 entries were made. Despite this some of the commoner species were under recorded or not counted. Please remember to record your sightings in the log before you leave. The Bay was visited on 249 days as set out below.



Ringling took place on 14 dates. 343 birds were ringed. Full ringling details appear in the systematic list.

Review

Despite a slight decrease in the number of species recorded, 1998 was a good year. The Penduline Tit was unquestionably the highlight, the sites first BB rarity in recent years. The change and use of the habitats had a considerable effect on the numbers and distribution of the birds. The flooding of the Far Fields proved attractive to visiting birds but the scale of this in spring probably caused the failure in Lapwing and Redshank breeding. In autumn the Pool was largely ignored by waders in favour of this new habitat. It has been my view for a couple of years that the Pool is now too enclosed in summer and autumn due to the growth of the Oaks along the sea wall. Waders therefore feel threatened and are not using the site in the same numbers as before.

The existence of wheat in the stubble field and in the fields between the cottage and French's Farm proved attractive to several declining species of farmland bird. Yellowhammer, Linnet, Skylark and Reed Bunting were all present into 1999.

The area around Border Drive and Turlin Shore was found to be the best spot for passerine migrants in autumn and certainly warrants more attention.

There were 2 additions to the Lytchett Bay list. Penduline Tit and Wood Warbler. 7 species were also recorded for the first time in the period 1992-98; Red-throated Diver, Eurasian Bittern, Greylag Goose, Woodcock, Kittiwake, Common Redstart and Willow Tit. There were record counts of Little Stint, Ruff, Common Tern and Northern Wheatear.

The annual total number of species recorded in each of the last 5 years is as follows;

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
129	143	142	144	139

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 land owner Sir Thomas Lees for his kind permission to ring at Lytchett Bay.

Systematic List 1998

Red-throated Diver :

Rare visitor. The first record since 1985. One was seen to fly into the Bay from Rockley on the 20th Dec (IR)

Little Grebe:

Winter visitor. Present in the first period until 24th Mar, returning on 25th Oct. Max 6 6th Dec.

Great Crested Grebe:

Occasional visitor. A typical year. 2, 24th Feb; 1, 30th May; 2, 8th Nov.

Slavonian Grebe:

Rare Visitor. The first record since 1989. 1 on 30th December (ARP).

Cormorant:

Present throughout the year. This years maximum count was rather late. 7 on 1st Nov.

Eurasian Bittern:

Rare Visitor. The first record since 1981. One was found between the water works and the main sluice on 30th December (ARP). It remained into the New Year and was heard "booming" on two dates in January!

Little Egret:

Increasingly common visitor. Another new record count was made on 1st Nov when 13 were present. Recorded in every month and on virtually every visit. Numbers were relatively low until 11 were seen on the 15th Aug. After which numbers remained high until the year end. Birds occur all around the Bay but the Far Fields is the favoured site.

Bay monthly max:



Grey Heron:

Recorded throughout the year. Considerably scarcer than the previous species. The Far Fields is the favoured location. 5 were seen on several dates in summer.

Mute Swan:

Irregular visitor to the Bay. Recorded in 10 months. A pair were seen intermittently from the 24th Feb until late August but there was no evidence of breeding. The max count was 3 on 27th Aug.

Greylag Goose:

Rare visitor. The first record in the period 1992-98. 2 were often present at Turlin Moor in the first 3 months. They were undoubtedly feral, spending much of their time loafing on the rugby pitch. Last seen on 31st March.

Canada Goose:

Occasional visitor. Seen regularly between 8th Mar and 27th Sept. A dramatic increase on previous years. Recorded on the Far Fields on 25 dates. Max 6, 9th Mar; 7, 28th May; 9, 19th Aug.

Morning and evening flights were noted on 5 dates in late September. Max 67 on 27th.

Barnacle Goose:

Rare Visitor. Feral birds were seen on the Far Fields with the Canada Geese in May. 1 from 14th, joined by a second on the 30th. Both last seen on 31st.

Brent Goose:

Occasional Visitor. One was present around the Bay from 26th Nov to 19th Dec.

Shelduck:

Common winter visitor and annual breeder. There was no indication of successful breeding this year. Generally a very poor series of monthly maxima. (This may have been due to under recording)

Bay monthly max:



Wigeon:

Scarce visitor, recorded on 4 dates. 1, 10th Jan; 4, 14th Feb; 4, 19th Dec; 4, 30th Dec;.

Teal:

Winter visitor and passage migrant. An average year, but a poor year for the Pool, birds preferred the new habitat of the Far Fields where the maximum was 70 on 28th Sept. The annual maximum of 146 occurred on 19th March. Not recorded between 14th May and 15th August.

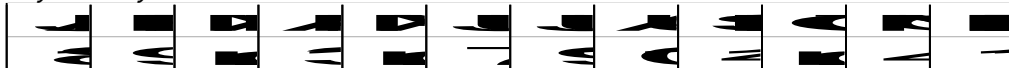
Bay monthly max:



Mallard:

At least 1 pair bred. Typically the maximum numbers occurred in summer.

Bay monthly max:



Shoveler:

Scarce visitor which can occur at any time. Only one record. 4 on 2nd August.

Tufted Duck:

Third and Fourth records in the period 1992-98. Bizzarely a female was seen in a ditch on the Far Fields on 31st August. A male was present in cold weather on 6th December.

Goldeneye:

Common winter visitor in small numbers. Present until 1st Apr and from 1st Nov. Dates almost identical to 1997. The maximum count of 12 on 6th Dec matched the highest in the period 1992-98 which was made on the 14th Dec 1997.

Red-breasted Merganser:

Common winter visitor. Present until 11th May and from 1st Nov. Apart from the late spring departure an unremarkable series of counts.

Bay monthly max:



Marsh Harrier:

Irregular visitor. Seen on 27 dates. Easily the best year in the period 1992-98.

First Winter Period: Birds roosted in the Bay on many dates. 2 were present on three dates.

Spring: 1 on 3rd May

Summer: Recorded on 3 dates in July and 4 in August.

Autumn: 1 on 13th & 15th October.

Hen Harrier:

Irregular Visitor. Seen on 12 dates. A good year. Birds regularly roosted in the first winter period, with 2 on 26th January. Only one record in the second winter period, 1 on 14th November.

Goshawk:

Rare visitor. The 1996 record has been accepted by DRP.

1996: 1 on 11th Feb (DP)

Sparrowhawk:

Common visitor recorded throughout the year. Recorded on 35 dates (41 in 1997).

Common Buzzard:

Retains its status as the commonest raptor of the area. Breeds widely in the vicinity. No significant counts made.

Osprey:

Scarce but annual passage migrant. An early returning bird was seen on 5th July. This should have heralded a bumper autumn. Despite birds lingering elsewhere in the Harbour there were only 4 more sightings at Lytchett. Singles between 27th and 31st August.

Kestrel:

Common resident which breeds. 1 pair bred successfully.

Hobby:

Scarce but annual summer visitor. Two good years in a row for this species. Seen on 6 dates. Singles in the Border Drive area in May and June, Then around the Far Fields on four dates up to 12th September.

Peregrine:

Uncommon visitor. 9 records between 23rd Jan and 4th Aug. All singles.

Pheasant:

Common resident. At least one pair bred successfully.

Water Rail:

Common resident and winter visitor. No effort was made to assess breeding success this year, but many juveniles were seen in mid summer at Border Drive, Lytchett Way, the water works, the main sluice and Otter Island, suggesting a successful season.

Moorhen:

An uncommon resident. Status unchanged. Seen in pairs on the Far Fields, Lytchett Way, Otter Island and Border Drive.

Oystercatcher:

A winter visitor and passage migrant. Occurs only in very small numbers at low tide but birds from elsewhere in the harbour roost at high tide on the Turlin Shore or school playing field.

Bay monthly max:



Avocet:

Scarce but annual visitor. The best count of the year was 17 sheltering in the lea of Otter Island during gales on 4th Jan. Recorded on a further 5 dates up to 7th Feb. One on 14th Dec was the only record in the second winter period.

Ringed Plover:

Very scarce but almost annual visitor. Typically just 2 records. One in the Bay on 21st April and one on the Far Fields on the 24th August.

Lapwing:

A common resident and winter visitor which occasionally breeds. 1 pair were present on the Far Fields in early May but flooding ended any attempt at breeding.

Pool monthly max:



Bay monthly max:



Knot:

Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Two records. 1 on the Pool on 30th Aug; 30 flew NE over the Bay on 12th Sept.

Little Stint:

Scarce, almost annual visitor. A good series of records including the best count in the period 1992-98. Present on the Far Fields on 8 dates between 11th & 28th Sept. 22 bird days. Max 7 on 17th (BJR).

Dunlin:

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. A poor year for this species. Birds visited the Pool on only 1 day, the Far Fields proving slightly more attractive. The majority of birds were recorded feeding in the Bay at low tide.

Bay monthly max:



Recorded in spring until 14th May and in the autumn from 7th Sept. One summer record, 2 on 5th July.

Ruff:

Scarce migrant, usually in autumn. In contrast to several other waders, it was an excellent year for this species. Easily the best in the period 1992-98. In the early part of the year; 2 on 24th Feb; 2 on 27th March with 1 remaining until 29th. Juveniles were present on the Far Fields and/or the Pool from 5th Sept to 2nd Oct. 67 bird days. Max 9 on 17th Sept (BJR).

Snipe:

Common winter visitor. Another poor year for this species. The only notable feature being the marked passage in Sept. Recorded in the first period until 22nd April and in the second from 2nd Aug. One was ringed.

Pool monthly max:



Woodcock:

First records in the period 1992-98. Two records, possibly concerning the same bird. Seen in the Beach Road area on 20th Feb and 13th March (MCo, SWS). It seems that this species is genuinely rare within the recording area. The location of these sightings has been checked on many previous occasions without success.

Black-tailed Godwit:

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Spring passage was again poor, with max of 363 on 19th Mar. The nationally important figure of 70 was exceeded on 16 dates (22 in 1996 & 1997). Flocks of up to 40 used the Far Fields during Sept.

Pool monthly max:



Bay monthly max:



Whimbrel:

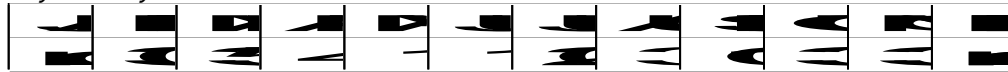
Passage migrant, most numerous in spring. The first of the year was 7 on 19th Apr. Spring passage was again prolonged lasting until the 22nd May (same as 1997), numbers were poor peaking at only 40 on 25th.

Autumn passage began on 26th July and consisted of 8 bird days up to 11th Aug. However there were further sightings of singles on the 17th & 26th Sept. The first Bay records for that in month in the period 1992-98.

Curlew:

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Normally seen in the Bay but occasionally flocks roost on the Pool or Far Fields. A poor set of figures, most probably due to under recording.

Bay monthly max:



Spotted Redshank:

This area continues to be the key site for this species in the county. Recorded on 102 days (148 in 1997). Birds were present at both the beginning and end of the year. Spring passage peaked on the 15th & 17th Apr with 12. The last record in spring being a single on the early date of 30th April. The first returning bird was not until 2nd July. Autumn passage was awful and considerably worse than 1997, the previous worst. There were no double figure counts. Max of 8 on 27th Sept. The few birds that did visit were spread evenly between the Far Fields and the Pool.

Pool 7 day max during autumn passage:



Bay monthly max:



Redshank:

Common winter visitor. Small breeding population. Scarce from late June to early Sept. The level of success of the breeding birds is unknown. None were successful on the wet grassland. It is intended that the breeding birds will be surveyed in 1999.

Pool monthly max:



Bay monthly max:



Greenshank:

Common passage migrant which occasionally winters. Recorded on 120 days. The first of the year was seen on 9th Feb. Spring passage started on 19th Mar and went on until 2nd June. Max 2 on the several dates. The first returning bird was noted on 2nd July. Autumn passage was consistent and continued until 1st Nov. Max 18, 29th July & 30th Aug. Unlike Spotted Redshank this species stayed loyal to the Pool and relatively few were seen on the Far Fields. The last record of the year was on the 29th Nov.

Pool 7 day max during autumn migration:



Bay monthly max:



Green Sandpiper:

Common autumn migrant, occasionally winters. The only record in the first half of the year was a single on 23rd Jan. The autumn was excellent for the second year in succession. There were 101 bird days between 6th July & 30th Sept. Birds favoured the wet ditches on the Far Fields more so than the Pool. Max counts were 5, 28th July; 18th Aug; 5th Sept. The last record of the year was on 15th Nov.

Common Sandpiper:

An uncommon passage migrant. 1998 matched 1997 with 45 bird days, Three spring records; 19th Apr; 26th April; 2nd May. First bird of the autumn 3rd July. Regularly present until 11th Sept. Max counts; 3, 24th July; 5, 30th Aug; 6, 10th Sept. Birds favoured the Far Fields but the max count of the year occurred on the Pool.

Mediterranean Gull:

Uncommon visitor. 22 birds recorded on 18 dates. 75% of records were between 15th Feb and 22nd May. The age split was 15 adults, 5 second year, 1 first year and 1 juvenile.

Little Gull:

Very scarce migrant, not annual. Two records, both, typically in spring. An adult on 5th & a 1st W on 13th April.

Black-headed Gull:

A very common visitor. The first record of juveniles was on the 1st July, numbers increased quickly with 50 seen on 4th. There were no specific counts made this year, several thousand are often present in the evening pre roost .

Common Gull:

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. The biggest count of the year was 300 on 14th Dec. The species was absent between 22nd April (a full month earlier than 1997) and 2nd August.

Lesser Black backed Gull:

A very common passage migrant and common winter visitor. Birds which occur in the Bay are *L.f. graellsii* almost without exception

Bay monthly max:



Herring Gull:

Usually present in very small numbers but increasingly common in autumn and winter. Huge numbers were present in October, when only Black-headed were more common. Counts of this species often lag behind Common, Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged at this time. Max count 1400 on 13th October.

Yellow legged Gull:

Increasingly frequent late summer visitor. The numbers in Poole Harbour in general continued to increase with a new max of 200 being recorded. In the Bay numbers were not as good as 1996 or 1997. Birds were present in every month except November. Typically a light

spring passage was noted before a quiet period leading up to increases in July. The max was 20 on 24th July. The undoubted highlight was the presence of juveniles on 28th July & 11th Aug. Counts exceeding 10 continued until 23rd Sept. A single adult remained at the year end. Though no graph showing the age make up of this species has been published this year, all data is still being collated. In order to allow this analysis to continue could all recorders please note the age of birds whenever possible.

Iceland Gull:

Second record for the Bay. A 2nd winter bird seen in the afternoon 7th March (TE). It was seen in the following week at Baitor and Holes Bay.

Great Black backed Gull:

A regular visitor in very small numbers. Max 10 on 19th Dec.

Kittiwake:

Rare visitor. First record in the period 1992-98. 3 adults and 1 1st winter flew north into the Bay at Rockley Bridge on 14th Oct (RHe).

Sandwich Tern:

Uncommon summer visitor. Seen on 6 dates between 13th Apr & 1st October. Maximum 2 on first date.

Common Tern:

Uncommon summer visitor. Recorded on 20 dates between 6th May & 22nd Aug. The max was an outstanding 22 which flew over the Bay on the last date (RGI), a record count for the period 1992-98.

Stock Dove:

Uncommon Resident. One pair bred. Seen throughout the year but the max count was only 10, on 11th Sept. One was found recently shot on 20th Sept.

Wood Pigeon:

Common resident. Large numbers were around the stubble field in Autumn. Max count 600 on 9th Oct. Numbers were severely controlled by shooting.

Collared Dove:

Uncommon resident. Rarely seen in the rural parts of the Bay, but regular on the urban fringe. No significant records submitted.

Turtle Dove:

Very scarce visitor, almost annual. One at Turlin Moor on 26th Sept.

Cuckoo:

Uncommon summer visitor. Only two records, both in May. Males on 10th and 24th.

Barn Owl:

Scarce visitor. One around French's Farm on 1st Mar.

Little Owl:

Breeding resident. One pair were successful at the usual site.

Tawny Owl:

Uncommon resident. A pair were recorded throughout the year.

Swift:

Passage migrant. Recorded between 30th Apr & 27th July. Max of only 10 on 30th May.

Kingfisher:

Uncommon winter visitor. Recorded on 36 dates. Present until 8th Feb in the early part of the

year. At least 2 present from 27th July until the year end. 2 ringed.

Green Woodpecker:

Breeding resident. Bred successfully. No other details available.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Breeding Resident. Bred successfully. 2 ringed.

Skylark:

Breeding resident and winter visitor. 2 territories again this year but no confirmation of success. The wintering situation was slightly improved with a max of 8 in Feb (15 were present in early 1999). Hardly recorded on passage, 5 between 28th Sept and 1st Nov.

Sand Martin:

Common passage migrant. First record was incredibly early, 22nd February (SR). This coincided with a very mild spell and the arrival of numerous early migrants in Dorset. Both spring and autumn migrations were very poor. The large July roosts of recent years failed to materialise. The last record of the year was on 9th Sept.

Swallow:

Common passage migrant. First record of spring was one on 7th Apr. Autumn migration noted until 26th Oct. Max 100 on 26th Aug.

House Martin:

Breeding colony on edge of recording area and common passage migrant. The first of the year was seen on 21st April. The size of the breeding colony more than doubled to 16 nests (6 in 1997). Migration in spring was poor but autumn was better. Max 225 on 7th Oct, the last date on which the species was recorded.

Meadow Pipit:

Breeding resident and common passage migrant. Only one singing bird was recorded. Passage was again poor in both migration periods. Max 30 on 22nd Sept.

Rock Pipit:

Scarce winter visitor. One on 25th Jan was the only record.

Water Pipit:

Winter visitor and spring passage migrant. Present early in the year from 3rd Feb until 1st Apr. Spring passage was the poorest in the period 1992-98, peaking at just 2 on 29th March. The first returning birds were 4 on 18th Nov. Birds were then present until the year end.

Yellow Wagtail:

Uncommon passage migrant. Seen on 2 dates in April; Singles on 18th & 21st. In autumn present on 11 dates between 30th Aug and 2nd Oct. However, the max was only 4, on 27th Sept.

Grey Wagtail:

Breeding resident. Present in small numbers until 19th April and from 29th August, usually around the water works. No evidence of breeding noted for the 2nd year running.

Pied Wagtail:

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. at least two pairs bred successfully. Max counts were 50, 11th Aug (in reeds on the Turlin Shore); 100, 28th Sept (Far Fields) and 134, 18th Oct (ringed). These included one ringed at Blandford on 17th Feb 1998.

There were 2 recoveries of Lytchett Bay ringed birds in 1998. One ringed on 26th Oct 1997 was controlled at Bethesda in North Wales on 3rd June. A movement of 303km. One ringed on 31st Oct 1992 was controlled at Blandford on 17th Feb 1998.

White Wagtail (M.a.alba):

Very scarce spring migrant. 3 were seen on the Far Fields, all singles on 22nd Mar, 13th & 18th Apr.

Wren:

Common resident. 19 ringed.

Duncock:

Common resident. 5 ringed.

Robin:

Common resident. 9 ringed.

Black Redstart:

Second record in the period 1992-98. One was around the spotted crane field on 30th Mar (SR).

Common Redstart:

First record in the period 1992-98! After a long wait, one seen at Border Drive on 2nd Sept (SR).

Whinchat:

Scarce passage migrant. The poorest year in the period 1992-98. One in the Far Fields on 11th Sept being the only record.

Stonechat:

Breeding resident. Present during the breeding season at Lytchett Way, Lytchett Heath and the Far Fields. Max count 15, in the stubble field on 20th Sept, indicating some passage.

Northern Wheatear:

Uncommon passage migrant. A record year. 33 bird days on 9 dates in spring between 29th Mar & 30th Apr. 15 on the Far Fields on 29th March was a record count for the period 1992-98. In autumn recorded on 10 dates between 31st Aug & 8th Oct. Max 3, on last date.

Blackbird:

Common Resident. The max count of the year was 15 at Border Drive on 24th Sept. 18 ringed.

Fieldfare:

Winter visitor. A very poor year. Hardly seen at the beginning of the year. Slightly better in the second period with a max of 61 on 29th Nov.

Song Thrush:

Breeding resident. Singing birds were noted at Turlin Moor, Border Drive, Lytchett Way and the water works. 6 ringed.

Redwing:

Winter visitor. Max in the first 3 months was 50 on 25th Jan. Last recorded on 15th Mar. The first returning birds on 18th Oct. Max 50 on 22nd Dec.

Mistle Thrush:

Breeding resident. One pair bred successfully. The biggest flock was 7 on 13th Mar. One ringed.

Cetti's Warbler:

Breeding resident. At least 4 singing males, an increase of one on last year. Ringing proved that at least 1 pair were successful. Wandering birds, presumably juveniles based on their weak song, were at the water works on 5th Sept and Turlin Moor hump on 29th Sept. 2 ringed.

Sedge Warbler:

Passage migrant. A dreadful year. Only 2 in spring on 21st & 25th April. In autumn recorded on 7 dates between 23rd July & 26th Sept. 3 were ringed during this period.

Reed Warbler:

Common summer visitor. First noted on 13th Apr. There was no survey of the breeding population. The last bird of the year was on 29th Sept. 58 were ringed. Max of 26 on 24th July.

One bird was controlled on 30th May. Interestingly it had been ringed at Downton in Wiltshire, 5 days earlier and 39km north east of the Bay.

Dartford Warbler:

Breeding resident. Back up to 2 pairs this year. Wandering birds were recorded on Turlin Moor hump on 26th Sept and the Far Fields on 15th Oct..

Lesser Whitethroat:

Scarce passage migrant. Single birds at Lytchett Way on 2nd May and 24th Aug.

Whitethroat:

Passage migrant. Singles recorded on only 4 dates. Extreme dates 2nd May & 29th Sept.

Garden Warbler:

Scarce passage migrant. One held territory at the water works between 16th May & 7th June. Though it was seen nest building, no evidence of successful breeding was obtained. Two other records; 10th May, Far Fields; 19th Sept, around cottage.

Blackcap:

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. The best year in the period 1992-98. The first of the year was on 31st Mar. Passage was confused by the presence of breeding pairs at the water works, Lytchett Way and Border Drive. The max in spring was 6 at Lytchett Way on 25th April. Noted on 15 dates in autumn. Max 6 at Border Drive on 29th Sept and last seen on 2nd Oct. 2 ringed.

Wood Warbler:

First record for the Bay. Another gap in the Bay's list was plugged at lunchtime on the 18th Aug, when one showed well in the willows by the Pool gate (SR).

Chiffchaff:

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. 2 wintering records; 7th Jan by the cottage & 23rd Jan at Turlin Moor. Breeding pairs were noted in most parts of the Bay. Common in autumn, the maximum at any one site was 20 at Border Drive on 29th Sept. The last record of the year was one on 29th Nov. 10 ringed.

Willow Warbler:

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. First recorded on 1st Apr. 1 pair were present at Lytchett Heath. Never common in autumn, maximum 8 at the cottage on 25th Aug. The last record of the year was on 10th Sept. 7 ringed.

Goldcrest:

Passage migrant which occasionally breeds. First of the year was on 7th Jan. 2 pairs present in breeding season. Recorded in autumn from the 12th Aug in autumn until the year end. Max 4 at any one site.

Firecrest:

Rare Visitor. One on 8th Feb at Turlin Moor. (ESB, SR)

Spotted Flycatcher:

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. One in spring on 27th Apr. Another poor autumn, only seen on 6 dates between 19th Aug and 29th Sept. Max 2 on several dates.

Pied Flycatcher:

Very Scarce passage migrant. One on 7th May by the cottage was the first since 1996.

Bearded Tit:

Rare breeder. One pair again bred successfully. Recorded in Jan and Sept at Turlin Moor. Otherwise all records came from the area west of Beach Road. 7 were around the water works on 15th Nov and were noted to leave high to the west. One ringed on 19th July 1997 was controlled at Radipole Lake on 18th July 1998.

Long tailed Tit:

Uncommon resident. At least two 2 pairs present. Parties of up to 15 were seen from mid summer. 9 ringed.

Willow Tit:

The first record in the period 1992-98. The last definite record being in 1982. One was seen around the cottage on 8th & 15th Feb (PB, JL)

Coal Tit:

Uncommon resident. The only records concerned birds around the cottage in August.

Blue Tit:

Common resident. 21 ringed.

Great Tit:

Common resident. 8 ringed.

Nuthatch:

Uncommon resident. Seen around the cottage in April and October.

Treecreeper:

Uncommon, presumably resident. Seen around the cottage in March and from Sept until the year end.

Penduline Tit:

First record for the Bay and only the 5th for Dorset. Found on 20th Jan at Turlin Shore (ND, CW) this splendid male initially proved elusive. Its habit of staying quite low and close to the waters edge was realised when it was refound in the same spot on 22nd Jan (IP). Following this it performed splendidly to many visitors until 13th Feb. Undoubtedly "the" bird of the 90's. A photograph was published in Birding World (Vol 11 No2).

Jay:

Resident. Regularly seen throughout the year but most often in autumn, presumably bred but no evidence found. Max count 6 on 2nd Oct.

Jackdaw:

Resident? Recorded throughout the year with max count 127 on 7th May. Breeding not proven.

Raven:

Rare visitor, proving to be just about annual. Single birds passed overhead on 15th Feb & 15th Nov.

Starling:

Common resident. The post breeding flock peaked at 300 on 8th August. In autumn birds roosted in the reed beds in the west of the Bay. Max 1300 on 15th Oct.

Chaffinch:

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Max 120 on 8th Feb. The second part of the year was not so good with max counts of only 40 on 9th Oct & 22nd Dec. These flocks are usually in the area between the cottage and French's Farm. 4 ringed.

Greenfinch:

Common breeding resident. Max count at any one site was 15 . Border Drive, Turlin Moor and

the cottage are the favoured areas. 10 ringed.

Goldfinch:

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. At least one pair bred successfully. Good numbers in autumn. Flocks of 20 to 50 were regularly encountered at Turlin Moor, Slough Lane or the water works. Max count was 80 at the latter site on 4th November. 4 ringed.

Siskin:

Scarce passage migrant. After last years bonanza only seen on 2 dates this year. 3 on 8th Feb & 1 on 13th Mar.

Linnet:

Uncommon breeding resident. No attempt to assess breeding but birds were present at Lytchett Way and the Far Fields. Good flocks present in both spring and autumn. The flock in the stubble field peaked on 29th March at 150. Numbers were still strong in April with 124 on 13th.

The autumn flock favoured the French's Farm area and peaked at 200 on 9th Oct. 25 remained at the year end.

Redpoll:

Scarce visitor. A typical year with 2 records. Singles on 8th Feb & 20th Oct.

Common Crossbill:

Rare visitor. Good numbers were still in the county in the first 3 months. One flew west on 3rd Feb (SR).

Bullfinch:

Scarce visitor. The second good year in a row. Seen on 12 dates. Max 4 on 7th March. No records between 21st Apr and 6th Nov.

Yellowhammer:

Bred as recently as 1993. After one blank year some grounds for hope. Seen on 2 dates in August and one in October. Then a small flock was present throughout December into 1999. Max 9 on 19th. Birds favoured the abandoned wheat in the stubble field.

Reed Bunting:

Breeding resident. Seen in all areas of the Bay. The biggest flock being 10 at Turlin Moor on 27th Sept. Up to 6 joined the previous species in the wheat in December. 7 ringed.

The following species were also recorded: Magpie, Rook, Carrion Crow and House Sparrow.

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