

Lytchett Bay 1999

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.

The log book again proved invaluable in compiling this report. Please remember to record your sightings in the log before you leave. The Bay was visited on 210 days (249 in 1998) as set out below.



Ringling took place on only 4 dates. 71 birds were ringed. It is planned to improve on this considerably in 2000! Full ringling details appear in the systematic list.

Review

Despite the fact that there were no additions to the Lytchett list, this was still a memorable year. There were second records of Common Crane, Honey Buzzard, Grey Phalarope and Woodlark. The fourth Ring-billed Gull and, the Bittern remained from 1998.

There was also the first record of Grey Partridge for at least 15 years. Other farmland birds had mixed fortunes, Reed Bunting bred in the arable part of the recording area, Yellowhammer and Skylark wintered in reasonable numbers compared to recent years. However both disappeared by late Feb. There was only one singing Skylark and one pair of Lapwing. Numbers of wintering Snipe were again poor.

There were record counts of Cormorant, Little Egret, Pintail, Avocet, Mediterranean Gull, Great Black-backed Gull and Chiffchaff. Whilst Osprey and Little Gull had their best years to date.

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

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
129	143	142	144	139	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 1999

Little Grebe:

Winter visitor. Present in the first period until 9th Mar, returning on 24th Oct. Max only 3.

Cormorant:

Present throughout the year. This years maximum count was a staggering 57, on 18th October(GD). The previous record count was 19 on 28th August 1995.

Eurasian Bittern:

Rare Visitor. The bird found on the 30th December 1998 was last seen on the 24th January. It was seen on 6 dates and favoured the area in the vicinity of the water works.

Little Egret:

Increasingly common visitor. Another new record count was made on 18th Sept when 15 were present. The pager service did report 20 on the 13th Sept but no observer was traced and therefore this is not included in the records. Seen in every month and on virtually every visit. Given the increase in numbers it is not surprising to report that with the exception of June and August the monthly maxima for each month exceeded respective previous records .

Bay monthly max:



Birds occur all around the Bay but the Far Fields is the favoured site and birds were found roosting in trees by the Sherford at high tide, though none were known to have roosted overnight..

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 throughout the year.

Mute Swan:

Irregular visitor to the Bay. A pair was present from early April until late August but did not breed. The only other record was 4 on 2nd October.

Canada Goose:

Occasional visitor. A return to normal after the exceptional number of records in 1998. Seen on only six dates between Feb and Sept. 19 on the 27th Aug the only count to exceed 2.

Shelduck:

Common winter visitor and annual breeder. A single juvenile was seen in July suggesting local breeding.

Bay monthly max:



Wigeon:

Scarce visitor. A good year with a pair present from the start of the year until 14th April. These birds were joined by another pair between 27th Feb and 20th Mar. In the second winter period 4 between 8th and 18th Oct and 2 on 27th Nov.

Gadwall:

Very scarce visitor, not annual. 2 were seen on 16th May and 6th August.

Teal:

Winter visitor and passage migrant. A reasonably good year with a strong autumn passage.

Birds at this time preferred the Far Fields. Numbers on the pool were low.

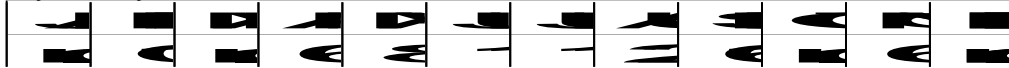
Bay monthly max:



Mallard:

At least 1 pair bred. Typically the maximum numbers occurred in summer. The largest number recorded in the Bay since 1992 remains, the uninspiring, 39 in Aug 1996.

Bay monthly max:



Pintail:

Very scarce visitor. The first record since 1996. 21 flew onto the Far Fields on the 24th October. This is the biggest count in the period 92-99, exceeding the previous best of 17 on 16th Nov 1993.

Shoveler:

Scarce visitor which can occur at any time. Typically just one record, 3 on 3rd Nov.

Pochard:

Scarce winter visitor, recorded just about annually. 7 were seen on the 8th May. The first record in this month at the Bay.

Goldeneye:

Common winter visitor in small numbers. Present until 16th Mar and from 21st Nov. The maximum was 8 in Jan.

Red-breasted Merganser:

Common winter visitor. An unremarkable year. Present until 5th April and from 19th Nov.

Bay monthly max:



Honey Buzzard*:

Rare visitor. One, believed to be a female, was watched for 10 minutes on the 13th May (SR). A very distinctive bird with a single primary missing on each wing. A bird matching the same description was recorded elsewhere in the county later in the year! This constitutes only the second record for the Bay.

Marsh Harrier:

Irregular visitor. Seen on only 8 dates. Back to normal after the excellent series of records in 1998. Female on 24th Jan, Male on 13th & 19th Feb were the only records in the first winter period. An immature Male was present on 31st May. In Sept Juveniles were seen on 3 dates with 2 together on 25th. The last record of the year was a ragged winged Female seen on the 19th Dec.

Hen Harrier:

Irregular Visitor. Seen on only 6 dates. Males were seen on four dates up to the 22nd March. A male was seen on 29th Oct, and the last record of the year was a ringtail was over the allotments on the 2nd November.

Sparrowhawk:

Common visitor recorded throughout the year. Recorded on only 20 dates (37 in 1998, 41 in 1997) with no records before the 22nd March. May be this species suffers from under recording by some observers, nonetheless, seemed to be genuinely scarce this year compared to the recent past.

Common Buzzard:

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

Osprey:

Scarce but increasing annual passage migrant. The best year on record with 14 bird days and the first multiple occurrence. One passed north on 7th April. The next was not until 21st Aug. 3, an Adult and 2 Juveniles were present on the 29th. The last was on the 28th Sept.

Bird Days 1992-1999:

1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
0	1	4	5	6	7	5	14

Kestrel:

Common resident which breeds. 1 pair bred successfully.

Merlin:

Very scarce winter visitor. The first records since 1996. Presumably the same male, was seen on three dates between 2nd and 17th Jan.

Hobby:

Scarce but annual summer visitor. A poor year, only two records, both in spring. Singles on 16th and 18th May.

Peregrine:

Uncommon visitor. Recorded on 8 dates between March and December. Two were seen talon grappling on 21st Mar. Two were also present on 7th May.

Grey Partridge:

First record since the early 1980's. One of the most surprising finds of the year. On the thick misty morning of the 20th October at least 23 were present in the stubble field (SR). At least 8 remained until the 22nd and the final sighting was three on the 24th (TM). The provenance of the birds is a complete mystery with no recent sightings in the immediate vicinity despite the presence of seemingly suitable habitat. There is no evidence that the birds were recently released, they were extremely wary. The release of the species for shooting is unusual due their habit of immediately dispersing from the release site (Hugo Wood-Homer pers comm).

Pheasant:

Common resident. At least one pair bred successfully.

Water Rail:

Common resident and winter visitor. For the second year running no effort was made to assess breeding success this year, but many juveniles were seen in mid summer. The maximum being 14 on 13th Aug. The most interesting record was a bird presumably "hunting" passerines, probably young Reed Warblers, in a blackthorn hedge on 3rd Aug. The bird eventually emerged on to the top of the 2m hedge, before being startled by its observer and flying down into the reedbed.

Moorhen:

An uncommon resident. Status unchanged. Seen in pairs on the Far Fields, Lytchett Way, Otter Island and Border Drive. Bred successfully in at least two of these areas.

Coot:

Rare Visitor. Its odd how such a common bird can bring such pleasure to the finder. One

present in the bay off Border Drive on the 17th&18th October was only the second in the period 1992-1999 (SR).

Common Crane:

Second record, the first being on 16th Aug 1975. A handsome adult was in the Far Fields on the 19th Sept (SR et al). Whilst enjoying this rarity, observers also enjoyed views of Osprey and Marsh Harrier overhead! Though it disappeared overnight, it made further appearances on the 22nd Sept, 3rd Oct and finally 10th Oct. It was occasionally recorded in other parts of the harbour and north to Charborough Park between these dates

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. The January total seen on the Turlin sports fields on 17th, is a record count. The previous best being 197 on 21st Feb 1995.

Bay monthly max:



Avocet:

Scarce but increasing visitor. A good year ending with a record count. Up to 5 were seen on 3 dates in Jan. The first ever autumn record occurred on 29th Aug when two flew around the bay in the early morning. Seen on 3 dates in Dec with good numbers in the last week. 65 on the 31st was a record for the bay, exceeding the previous best of 57 on 4th Feb 1996.

Ringed Plover:

Very scarce but almost annual visitor. Just 2 records as 1998. Different individuals, an adult and a 1st w , were seen on 13th &14th May respectively.

Golden Plover:

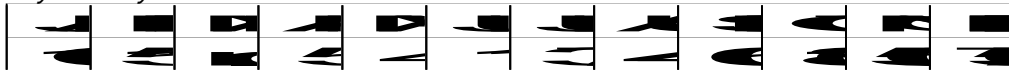
Very scarce visitor. The first record since Apr 1996. One with Lapwing, on 31st Dec.

Lapwing:

A common resident and winter visitor which occasionally breeds. 1 pair were displaying on the Far Fields in April and then a bird was sitting in the Stubble field in May. 2 juvs were seen in July.

Otherwise a good series of records in each winter period.

Bay monthly max:



Dunlin:

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Another poor year for this species. Birds visited the Pool on only 3 days. The majority of birds were recorded feeding in the Bay at low tide.

Bay monthly max:



Recorded in spring until 15th May and in the autumn from 18th Sept. One summer record, 1 on 25th July.

Ruff:

Scarce migrant, usually in autumn. Another good year for this species. 8 bird days in the

early part of the year between 24th Mar and 21st Apr, max 2 on 27th Mar. Single juveniles were present on the Far Fields and/or the Pool on 11 dates from 26th Aug to 3rd Oct.

Jack Snipe:

Rare visitor, recorded in only three years between 92-99. One on the 7th Feb on the Cottage Pool (DB).

Snipe:

Common winter visitor. Another poor year for this species. Only recorded on the pool on one date. In the early to mid 90's birds would be seen daily during the winter at this site. Again the Far Fields held the majority of birds. Recorded in the first period until 2nd May and in the second from 7th Aug.

Pool monthly max:



Black-tailed Godwit:

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. The poorest year in the period 92-99. Numbers in spring were particularly low.

Pool monthly max:



Bay monthly max:



Bar-tailed Godwit:

Scarce passage migrant. One on 8th May was the only record.

Whimbrel:

Passage migrant, most numerous in spring. The first of the year was a single on 21st April. Spring passage lasted until the 18th May, numbers were poor peaking at only 31 on 26th. Autumn passage began on 17th July and was typically light consisting of 7 bird days up to 8th Aug.

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.

Bay monthly max:



Spotted Redshank:

This area continues to be the key site for this species in the county. Though the peak counts exceeded those of 1998, the number of bird days was less. Spring passage was poor. The last record in spring being on 5th May. The first returning bird was not until 10th July. Autumn passage showed a slight improvement on 1998. Max of 13 on 22nd Sept.

Pool monthly max:



Bay monthly max



Redshank:

Common winter visitor. Small breeding population. Scarce from late June to early Sept. An attempt to assess the breeding population was made but the presence of none breeding migrants made an accurate outcome difficult to achieve. An estimate of 5 pairs might be conservative.

Pool monthly max:



Bay monthly max:



Greenshank:

Common passage migrant which occasionally winters. Recorded much more frequently than Spotted Redshank, on 102 dates. Present throughout the early part of the year. Spring passage ended on the 6th May. Max 3 on the several dates. The first returning bird was noted on 1st July. Autumn passage was consistent and continued until 29th Oct. Max 21, 9th August. The Far Fields were again the favoured habitat for this species

Pool monthly max;



Bay monthly max:



Green Sandpiper:

Common autumn migrant, occasionally winters. The only record in the first half of the year was a single on 3rd May. The second half of the year was again good. There were 58 bird days between 3rd July and the year end. Birds favoured the wet ditches on the Far Fields more so than the Pool. Max counts were 4, 29th Aug. One bird was found wintering in Dec.

Common Sandpiper:

An uncommon passage migrant. A poor year by recent standards Four bird days between 26th Apr and 6th May. First bird of the autumn 25th July. 8 singles up to 31st Aug.

Grey Phalarope:

Very Rare visitor. The second for the Bay was seen to fly in from Rockley Park on 7th Dec (IR). It had earlier been seen sitting on the water off Ham Common. The previous record was on 15th Dec 1978.

Mediterranean Gull:

Uncommon visitor. 22 birds on 15 dates, all between the 23rd Feb and 16th May. The age split was 13 adults, 6 second years and 3 first years. 3 on the 5th May was a max count for the Bay.

Little Gull:

Very scarce migrant, not annual. The best year to date, with 5 birds seen on 6 dates. All records; 1stW 23rd Mar, 1stS 31st Mar, 1stW 2nd Apr, 2ndS 28th Apr and 1stS 29th & 30th Apr.

Black-headed Gull:

A very common visitor. The first record of juveniles was on the 12th June. The maximum recorded count of settled birds was 3000 on 23rd Feb, though 1000's pass through the Bay daily in winter. A melanistic bird was present on 2nd April.

Ring-billed Gull*:

Fourth record for the Bay. An adult was seen on the falling tide for 30mins on the 23rd March (SR, TE). This bird had been present at Sturminster Marshall GP earlier in the day and had been watched there by SR!

Common Gull:

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. Counts of 500 were made in Jan and Feb. The species was absent between 30th April and 11th 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. The August maximum was on the 14th (JLi) and is a new site record, surpassing the previous best of 1400 in Sept 1997.

Bay monthly max:



Herring Gull:

Increasingly common winter visitor and passage migrant. The opening of the nearby landfill site at Corfe Mullen has no doubt contributed to the increase.



Scandinavian Herring Gull (*L.a. argentatus*)

Rare visitor. An adult was present on 21st Mar (SR)

Yellow legged Gull:

Increasingly frequent visitor, peaking in late summer. Birds were present in every month except May. The maximum was a rather ordinary 12 on 8th Aug.

Great Black backed Gull:

Increasing visitor throughout the year, undoubtedly due to the presence of the landfill site (see Herring Gull). Max 30 on 2nd Jan and 34 on 31st Dec. The latter is a record count for the Bay exceeding 20 on 20th July 1996.

Kittiwake:

Rare visitor. Second record in the period 92-99. An adult in breeding plumage was present in fine weather, early in the morning of 15th May (SR). The bird lingered for 15 minutes before flying off south.

Sandwich Tern:

Uncommon summer visitor. Seen on 5 dates between 26th Mar & 5th Sept. Maximum 2 on several dates. The first March record for the Bay.

Common Tern:

Uncommon summer visitor. Recorded on only 10 dates between 5th May & 29th Aug. The max was 6 on 3rd Aug.

Stock Dove:

Uncommon Resident. One pair believed to have bred. Seen throughout the year but the max count was only 17, on 17th Aug.

Wood Pigeon:

Common resident. Large numbers were again around the stubble field in Autumn.

Collared Dove:

Uncommon resident. Rarely seen in the rural parts of the Bay, but regular on the urban fringe, particularly Beach Road and Lytchett Way.

Cuckoo:

Uncommon summer visitor. Recorded on 6 dates between 1st and 29th May.

Barn Owl:

Very Scarce visitor. One on the by-pass near French's Farm on 2nd Jan.

Little Owl:

Breeding resident, though rarely seen after late August. One pair were successful at the usual site.

Tawny Owl:

Uncommon resident. A pair were recorded throughout the year.

European Nightjar:

First record since 1996. A male was churring on several dates in early June.

Swift:

Passage migrant. Recorded between 8th May & 7th August. Max of only 15 on several dates.

Kingfisher:

Uncommon winter visitor. Recorded on 30 dates. Present until 5th Apr in the early part of the year. From 12th June until the year end. Two were regularly seen around the north west area of the Bay and Far Fields whilst another frequented the Turlin shore area.

Green Woodpecker:

Breeding resident. Bred successfully. At least 2 pairs within recording area.

Great Spotted Woodpecker:

Breeding Resident. Seen regularly around the Cottage throughout the year.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:

Scarce visitor? One in the cottage garden on 21st Jan (DB).

Woodlark:

Second record for the Bay . One over the Far Fields on 7th Jan (RMH).

Skylark:

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Only one singing bird this year and that did not start singing until 15th Apr! Breeding success unknown. The wintering situation was again improved with up to 15 birds present in the stubble during Jan and Feb. Small numbers recorded in the stubble throughout the autumn. Max 11 on 17th Oct.

Sand Martin:

Common passage migrant. First record was 4 on 20th March. Spring migration peaked in early May with daily counts of 50. Autumn migration was again poor. The largest July roost was 200 on 6th. The last record of the year was on 20th Sept.

Swallow:

Common passage migrant. First record of spring was one on 5th Apr. Autumn migration noted until 25th Sept. Max 540 on the last date (RMH). This is the largest count at the Bay in the period 92-99.

House Martin:

Breeding colony on edge of recording area and common passage migrant . The first of the year was seen on 5th April. The size of the breeding colony remained steady at 15 (16 in 98). Migration was poor in both periods. Max 80 on 25th Sept, The last record of the year was on 2nd Oct.

Tree Pipit:

Scarce passage migrant. 3 records. Singles on 29th Aug, 8th & 16th Sept

Meadow Pipit:

Breeding resident and common passage migrant. Two territories this year. Passage was again poor in both migration periods, October being "best" with 20 to 40 daily between 14th and 29th.

Rock Pipit:

Scarce winter visitor. 2 on 1st Jan and one on 23rd Oct were the only records.

Water Pipit:

Winter visitor and spring passage migrant. What has happened to this species at the Bay? The second very poor year in a row (and at the time of writing, 2000 looks worse still). All records: 2 10th Jan, 1 20th Feb, 2 25th Feb, 1 13th Nov, 1 20th Nov, 1 8th Dec.

Yellow Wagtail:

Uncommon passage migrant. Another good year, recorded on 19 dates. Seen on 5 dates in Spring, the first on the 5th Apr. In autumn present on 14 dates between 25th July and 24th Sept. Max was 21 on 29th Aug.

Grey Wagtail:

Breeding resident. Singles present until 13th Mar and from 9th July, usually around the water works. No evidence of breeding for the 3rd year running.

Pied Wagtail:

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully but no further details available. Max counts were 200 going to roost on several dates in mid October.

Wren:

Common resident. 6 ringed.

Dunnock:

Common resident. 1 ringed.

Robin:

Common resident. 2 ringed.

Common Redstart:

Second record in the period 1992-99. A fine male was around the water works on the 29th Aug (TE,SR)

Whinchat:

Scarce passage migrant. Another poor year. One on 29th Aug and 2 the following day being the only records.

Stonechat:

Breeding resident. At least 4 pairs this year. None noted on Lytchett Heath.

Northern Wheatear:

Uncommon passage migrant. A typical year. First noted on 9th April then 12 bird days up to 1st May. Max 3 on 30th Apr. In autumn just 5 bird days. Last being on 25th Sept.

Blackbird:

Common Resident. The max count of the year was 15 at Border Drive on 26th Oct. 1 ringed.

Fieldfare:

Winter visitor. Another very poor year. Max of only 14 on 5th Dec.

Song Thrush:

Breeding resident. 1 ringed.

Redwing:

Winter visitor. Up to 40 present until the 19th Mar. The first returning birds on 29th Oct. Max 30 on 31st Dec.

Mistle Thrush:

Breeding resident. One pair bred successfully. The biggest flock was 16 on 29th Oct.

Cetti's Warbler:

Breeding resident. 5-7 singing males, an increase of 1-3 on last year. The uncertainty refers to 2 singing birds in the Far Fields on two dates in April.

Sedge Warbler:

Passage migrant. 5 bird days in spring from the 5th April, the earliest record in the period 92-99. In autumn 19 bird days between 25th July & 9th Sept. Max 4 on 25th July. 4 ringed.

Reed Warbler:

Common summer visitor. Present between 18th Apr and 14th Sept. 36 ringed. One was controlled on the 25th July but details are still awaited from the BTO.

Dartford Warbler:

Breeding resident. 1 pair. Dispersing birds were seen in the Far Fields on 3 dates in Autumn.

Lesser Whitethroat:

Scarce passage migrant. Seen on 5 dates, matching 1994 as the best annual total. Singles on 15th May, 8th Aug, 27th Aug, 1st Sept & 7th Sept.

Whitethroat:

Passage migrant. Singles recorded on 5 dates. Extreme dates 16th May & 6th Sept.

Garden Warbler:

Scarce passage migrant. Only two records. Singles at Border Drive on 8th & 14th Aug.

Blackcap:

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. The first of the year was on 8th Apr. Passage was confused by the presence of breeding pairs at the water works and Border Drive. In autumn only 13 bird days between 5th Aug and 26th Oct. 2 ringed.

Chiffchaff:

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. 2 wintering records; 16th Jan & 21st Feb. Breeding pairs were noted in most parts of the Bay. Common in autumn from the 6th Aug. The maximum at any one site was 27 at Border Drive on 16th Sept, the biggest count in the period 92-99. Autumn passage ended on the 25th Oct. The last record of the year was one on 31st Dec.

Willow Warbler:

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. First recorded on 5th Apr. 2 pairs thought to have bred. Recorded in autumn from 5th Aug, maximum 11 on 8th Aug. The last record of the year was on 29th Aug. 4 ringed.

Goldcrest:

Passage migrant which occasionally breeds. Not recorded between 13th Mar and 8th Aug. Max 4 at any one site.

Spotted Flycatcher:

Passage migrant, might occasionally breed. Another poor autumn, only seen on 4 dates between 20th Aug and 16th Sept. Max 2 on last date.

Bearded Tit:

Rare breeder. At least one pair again bred successfully, two broods were noted, one in late April and another in Aug. Max 6 on 7th Aug. Recorded in all areas of the Bay.

Long tailed Tit:

Uncommon resident. Max flock size was 18 on 2nd July. 1 ringed.

Coal Tit:

Uncommon resident. The only records concerned birds in Jan, May and Aug at 3 separate sites.

Blue Tit:

Common resident. 4 ringed.

Great Tit:

Common resident.

Nuthatch:

Uncommon resident. Seen only at the cottage in Aug.

Treecreeper:

Uncommon, presumably resident. Recorded around the Cottage from Jan to Sept.

Jay:

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

Jackdaw:

Resident. Recorded throughout the year with max count 100 on 2nd Dec. Breeding not proven.

Raven:

Rare visitor, proving to be just about annual. Two on 11th Mar.

Starling:

Common resident. The first juveniles were noted on 23rd May. In autumn birds roosted in the reed beds in the west of the Bay. Max 2000 on 22nd Oct.

Chaffinch:

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Up to 40 present until 4th Mar. The second part of the year produced a max of 120 on 5th Dec. These flocks are usually in the area between the cottage and French's Farm. Though the stubble field proved attractive this autumn.

Brambling:

Scarce winter visitor. Just one record, one on 5th Jan with Chaffinches.

Greenfinch:

Common breeding resident. Max count at any one site was 25. Border Drive, Turlin Moor and the cottage are the favoured areas. 1 ringed.

Goldfinch:

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. At least one pair bred successfully. Frequently recorded in the autumn, max 28 on 5th Sept. 3 ringed.

Siskin:

Scarce passage migrant. Noted on 4 dates; 3 25th Feb, 1 17th Oct, 2 18th Oct & 3 27th Dec.

Linnet:

Uncommon breeding resident. No attempt to assess breeding but birds were present at Lytchett Way, Lytchett Heath and the Far Fields. Flocks present throughout spring. Max 70 on

5th Apr . Recorded throughout October. Max 40 on 29th.

Redpoll:

Scarce visitor. A typical year with 3 records. One 27th July, 3 on 22nd Oct & 2 on 29th Oct.

Common Crossbill:

Rare visitor. One, overhead on 29th Aug (GJA).

Bullfinch:

Scarce visitor. Seen on 3 dates: Singles on 27th Aug, 12th Oct and 2 on 23rd Nov.

Yellowhammer:

Bred as recently as 1993. Birds were present in the abandoned wheat in the stubble field until it was ploughed at the end of Feb! Max 13 on 21st. There was only one further record. A single on 27th Aug.

Reed Bunting:

Breeding resident. At least 10 pairs, including one in the cereal crop. Recorded throughout the autumn with a flock of 10 favouring the stubble. 5 ringed.

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

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