

Lytchett Bay 2007

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Visiting birders frequently comment that Lytchett Bay is not an attractive site to visit so I thought I'd try to redress that opinion with a picture of a typical Lytchett sunrise.



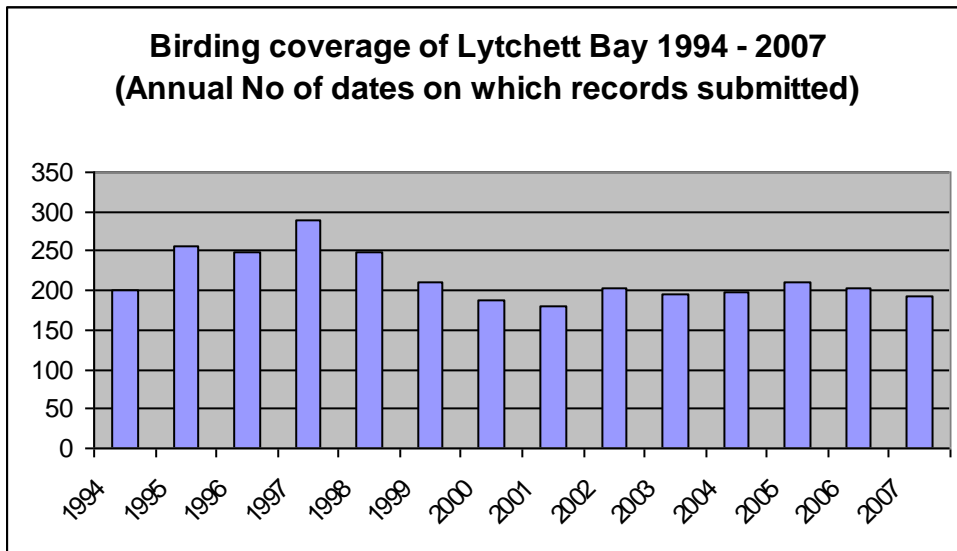
An enjoyable year's activity at the Bay was capped with the appearance of 4 Cattle Egrets on the 3rd Nov. These were the first records for the Bay and the forerunners of a massive late autumn invasion into Southern Britain and Ireland. Throughout the rest of the year birding was generally interesting, several records were broken and some "old friends" occurred for the first time in a few years.

There were record counts of Cormorant, Wigeon, Avocet, Bar-tailed Godwit, Cettis Warbler and Jackdaw. Mediterranean Gulls had a record year, not a surprise given the dramatic increase in their occurrence within Dorset. Barn Owl bred for the first time in 16 years. The number of breeding Song Thrushes increased. Swift arrived earlier than ever before in spring and Redwing & Brambling matched the feet in the autumn. Little Stint was recorded for the first time in almost 10 years. An Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit which has visited the Bay on migration during the last 2 springs was discovered wintering in Portugal.

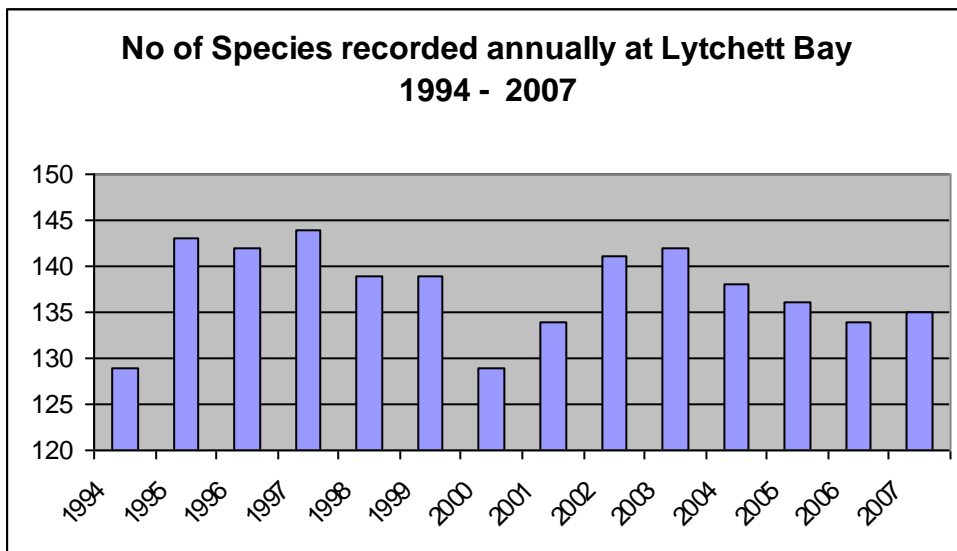
The Lytchett Bay list is now 209, thanks to the occurrence of Cattle Egret and the recent split by BOU of American Herring Gull (recorded in 2002).

The Bay was visited on 193 days as set out below.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
11	18	19	29	7	10	20	27	17	30	17	10



Coverage in 2001 was reduced in the early part of the year due to the foot and mouth outbreak.



Ringling 2007

893 birds of 36 species were ringed. Highlights included young Barn Owls and the first Redstart and Dartford Warbler to be ringed at the Bay.

The weather at both the beginning and end of the autumn season was poor for ringling. In the middle it was generally good and the passage of *acrocephalus* warblers was relatively good. Ringling took place on 34 dates. 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.

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 2007

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 - 16)

Winter visitor. Recorded until 25th Mar and from 29th Sept. Max 5 on 29th Nov.

Great Crested Grebe: (4 - 13)

Occasional visitor. Recorded on only 4 dates. 2 on 10th Mar, 1 on 22nd July, 1 on 3rd Sept and 1 on 10th Oct.

Cormorant: (107 – 16)

Regular visitor. A record year. 107 were present 10th Mar and 99 were feeding at high tide in a single flock on 17th Nov. The previous record was 57 on 18th Oct 1999.

Cattle Egret: (1 – 1)

First record for the Bay. 4 flew north over the Water Works and circled over the Far Fields before continuing their journey on the morning of 3rd Nov (MG, SR et al). This flock proved to be the fore runners of a massive eruption of this species into SW England and Ireland. I doubt we will have to wait long for the second record!

Little Egret: (22 – 15)

Common visitor.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
17	n.c.	n.c.	8	n.c.	8	13	13	15	8	5	2

Grey Heron: (10 – 16)

Recorded throughout the year. Always scarcer than the previous species. An unremarkable year. Max 7 on 1st Aug.

Mute Swan: (51 – 16)

Recently established breeder and common winter visitor. The resident pair raised 3 cygnets.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
21	18	2	6	Br	Br	7	6	8	5	5	15

Greylag Goose: (25 – 9)

Scarce feral wanderer. 1 on 9th Oct was the only record.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose: (35 – 8)

Scarce visitor. A single on 16th – 17th Feb was followed by a surprising sighting of one on 1st May. 15 were present most days from the 15th Dec until the year end.

Canada Goose: (137 – 16)

Increasingly frequent visitor. Still no indication that lingering spring birds are attempting to breed. Max 70 on 1st Sept.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	3	2	4	0	2	44	70	15	3	0

Shelduck: (645 – 548 – 16)

Declining winter visitor and annual breeder. 3 juveniles in late July may have hatched locally.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
58	83	53	39	2	6	18	13	8	19	39	42

Wigeon: (424 – 16)

Increasingly common winter visitor. Absent from 27th Mar until 20th Aug (earliest return date). 424 on 29th Nov was a record count for the Bay.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
245	53	15	0	0	0	0	1	24	123	424	300

Gadwall: (5 – 11)

Occasional visitor. 11 bird days on 7 dates, an average showing. Max 3 on 3rd Nov.

Teal: (402 – 16)

Winter visitor and passage migrant. No records between 12th April and 9th Aug.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
125	n.c.	n.c.	76	0	0	0	44	89	95	144	120

Mallard: (100 – 52 – 16)

Breeds at several sites around the recording area. No specific records this year but numbers from mid summer onwards were exceptionally high.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
10	n.c.	n.c.	br	br	14	10	32	45	49	43	39

Shoveler: (7 – 15)

Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. 18 bird days on 6 dates was a very good showing. Max 5 on 17th Dec.

Goldeneye: (12 – 16)

Common winter visitor in small numbers. Present until 11th Mar and from 24th Nov. Max 5 on 18th Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: (73 – 16)

Common winter visitor. Present until 14th Apr and from 27th Oct.

Bay monthly max:

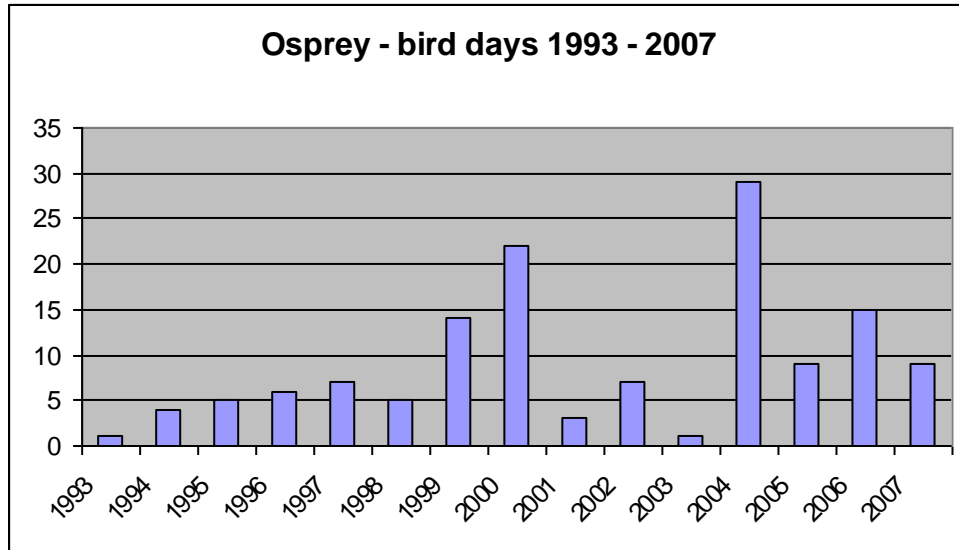
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
13	n.c.	11	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	12

Goosander: (3 – 4)

Rare visitor. A redhead was in the Bay during the afternoon of 10th Nov. The first record since 2000.

Osprey: (3 – 15)

Annual passage migrant. Noted on 8 dates in autumn between 20th Aug and 6th Oct, including 2 on 1st Sept.



Marsh Harrier: (2 – 15)

Irregular visitor. Another dreadful year. A blank in the list only saved by an imm/female on the 1st Dec.

Hen Harrier: (2 – 15)

Irregular Visitor. Recorded on 5 dates, an average showing. Jan (1), Mar (2), Nov (1), Dec(1).

Sparrowhawk: (2 – 16)

Uncommon visitor. Recorded on 33 dates, better than the average number of annual sightings (22.6 p.a. 1992-2006).

Common Buzzard: (15 – 16)

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

Kestrel: (2 – 16)

Frequently seen resident. Breeding not confirmed this year.

Merlin: (2 – 12)

Scarce winter visitor. Singles on 5th and 23rd Feb, a typical showing.

Hobby: (2 – 14)

Irregular visitor. Singles recorded on 3rd and 22nd Sept, a relatively poor year.

Peregrine: (2 – 15)

Uncommon visitor. Recorded on 6 dates between Jan and Apr. Despite this species resurgence as a breeding bird in Dorset over the last 15 years its status at the Bay remains almost unchanged. It has occurred every year since 1993 but there have never been more than 10 records in any one year (3 occasions). The average number of dates is 6.4 p.a.

Red-legged Partridge: (4 – 2)

Very occasional visitor? After the first records in 2005, none were seen in 2006. 2 were found on 17th Mar and birds were then recorded on 6 dates until 1st June, with a maximum of 4 on 26th Apr. The species was presumably present throughout this period but sightings decreased as the arable crop became established. None were recorded in late summer or autumn.

Pheasant:

Increasingly common Resident. Established in all parts of the recording area.

Water Rail: (23 – 14)

Common resident and winter visitor. No specific records this year but no perceived change in status. The 2004 breeding survey established a population estimate of more than 60 pairs in the Bay.

Moorhen: (12 – 16)

An uncommon resident. At least 3 pairs scattered across recording area. One visited Sandy Close Pond on 20th Jan.

Coot: (1 – 8)

9th record. 1 at Border Road on 17th Feb.

Oystercatcher: (400 – 16)

A winter visitor and passage migrant. Turlin Fields and Turlin Shore at high tide remain the favored locations, though more birds now remain in the bay to feed at low tide than in previous years. The maximum count was on 6th Jan.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
330	300	n.c.	8	2	1	16	30	n.c.	31	64	37

Avocet: (158 – 15)

Increasingly regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Observed on 16 dates. 158 on 29th Nov was a record count for the Bay. Absent from 18th Feb until 27th Oct.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
73	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	158	107

Little Ringed Plover: (5 - 8)

Very Scarce visitor. A very good spring with 1 on the Pool on 28th Mar and 3 there on 4th Apr.

Grey Plover: (14 – 12)

Scarce visitor. Singles on 25th Mar and 4th Apr were the only records.

Lapwing: (3000 – 16)

Formerly bred, now predominantly a winter visitor. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. The worst year on record. Recorded on only 20% of visits (39 out of 193). Completely absent from 29th May to 22nd July. Numbers remained extremely low until early October. As recently as 10 years ago flocks greater than 1000 were not uncommon.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
280	1	2	1	4	0	7	2	19	136	191	17

Little Stint: (7 – 6)

Rare visitor. A juvenile was on the Pool on the 29th & 30th Sept. The first record since 1998, when there were 22 bird days over 8 dates.

Dunlin: (1800 – 1200 – 16)

Declining winter visitor and passage migrant. Max count was on 29th Nov.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
46	5	0	6	0	0	1	1	15	29	120	0

Ruff: (9 – 13)

Scarce migrant, usually in autumn. One in Spring on 16th Apr. An excellent series of records in the autumn. 11 bird days, all juveniles, between 30th Sept and 16th Oct. Max 3 on 14th Oct.

Jack Snipe: (5 – 9)

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. 1 on 16th Mar was the only record.

Snipe: (160 – 70 – 16)

Declining winter visitor. Recorded until 29th Apr, returning on the 3rd Aug. Very scarce at either end of the year.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c.	6	15	2	0	0	0	13	13	22	19	n.c.

Black-tailed Godwit: (1240 – 16)

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. A very good spring (more than 400 were present on 10 dates in Apr) and a surprising peak at the year end. Max counts on 4th Apr and 16th Dec. Birds were occasionally attracted to The Pool with max of 39 in Oct.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	45	245	778	0	0	3	8	20	39	83	759

Over the last 8 years colour ringed birds have proved that birds visiting Lytchett Bay breed in Iceland (*L.l.islandica*). Predominantly, birds seen at Lytchett Bay on migration, winter in Western France. However some have also been recorded in Portugal, SW Ireland, Holland, Belgium, NE England as well as many locations along the south coast.

Colour ringed birds were recorded as follows.

LG+OR – 6th Apr. Ringed at Langhús, Fljót, N Iceland as an adult female on 26th June 2002.

This bird also visited the Bay in Apr 2006 and has also been seen on Humberside, the Avon Valley, and Western France and most recently was found wintering in Tejo Estuary, Setúbal, W Portugal in Jan 2008.

RR+WL – 6th Apr, also 1st and 9th Apr 2006. Ringed at Álftafjörður, E Iceland as a female on 3rd April 2000. It has spent the last two winters in Western France.

WR+OO – 3rd and 6th Apr. Ringed at Kaldaðarnes, Árnessýsla, S Iceland as an adult Female on 30th June 2003. This bird also visited the Bay in Apr 2006. It has also been seen in Wexford, Ireland, Western France and nr Ibsley, Hampshire in March 2007.

G//R+RO – 6th Apr. Ringed at Farlington, Hants as an adult male on 14th Sept 2005. It has Also visited the Avon Valley, nr Ibsley, Hants on 13th Feb 2008.

Details of 4 other birds seen Apr 2007 are still awaited.

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

O = Orange

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

R = Red

W = White

Y = Yellow

G = Green

B = Blue

Many thanks to Sigga Betta and Tómas G Gunnarsson for supplying this information.

Bar-tailed Godwit: (20 – 12)

Scare visitor. The best year on record. Birds seen on 10 dates between 16th Sept and 21st Oct. The species was probably present daily throughout this period. 20 on 21st Sept was a record count (TE), surpassing 17 on 3rd May 1989.

Whimbrel: (157 – 16)

Passage migrant, most numerous in spring. Following the first on 2nd Apr there were 146 bird days to the 3rd May. Max 24 on 30th Apr. Autumn passage was also average commencing on 7th July. There were 27 bird days until 31st Aug.

Curlew: (104 – 16)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Birds continued to visit the Far Fields in increasing numbers. Max of 42 on 19th Feb.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
47	42	55	36	1	5	21	17	51	63	39	70

Spotted Redshank: (68 – 42 – 16)

Declining passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. Recorded on 67 dates. Max 9 on 3 dates between 29th Sept and 28th Oct. Absent between 3rd May and 31st July.

Pool monthly max:

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

Bay monthly max

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2	3	7	3	1	0	1	1	3	8	1	1

Redshank: (608 – 436 – 16)

Common winter visitor. Small breeding population on salt marsh, probably 2 pairs (not including any that might be on Otter Island).

Pool monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
32	0	18	6	0	0	0	0	46	108	50	0

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
n.c.	98	134	39	3	11	11	7	116	168	195	139

Greenshank: (49 – 27 – 16)

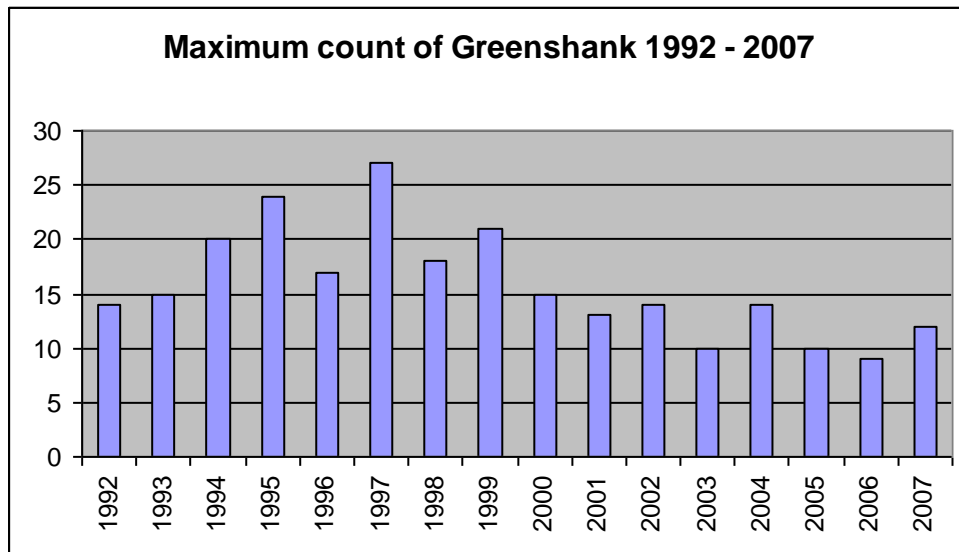
Common passage migrant and increasing winter visitor. Recorded until 3rd May. The first returning bird was noted on 8th July. Max 12 on several dates in Aug and Sept.

Pool monthly max:

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

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	1	3	4	1	0	11	6	4	3	4	0



Green Sandpiper: (10 – 16)

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 29th June. Recorded on 73 dates. Frequent on the Pool this year but one on Sandy Close Pond on 29th Sept was a real surprise.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	0	1	1	0	1	6	4	4	4	3	1

Wood Sandpiper: (2 – 7)

Very scarce visitor. 1 overhead on 5th Sept was the only record (SR, TE)

Common Sandpiper: (10 – 16)

Uncommon passage migrant. Typically only 1 in spring, on 16th Apr. Return passage started on 7th July and totaled 24 bird days until 9th Sept. Max 2 on 3 dates.

Mediterranean Gull: (13 – 15)

Uncommon visitor, increasing. A record year - 97 bird days between 19th Jan and 20th Sept. Max 11 on 22nd Apr. Juveniles were seen on 4 dates in July and Aug including 2 on 17th July.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	1	10	11	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0

Black-headed Gull: (12000 – 7000 – 16)

A very common visitor. 1000's regularly frequent the bay en route to the Wareham Channel roost. The first juveniles were noted on 18th June.

Common Gull: (1700 – 16)

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. No significant counts during the year. There were no records between 1st May and 16th July.

Lesser Black backed Gull: (2128 – 16)

Abundant autumn and common spring passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor.

Herring Gull: (2000 – 16)

Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Yellow legged Gull: (65 – 15)

Frequent visitor throughout the year, peaking in summer. Probably under recorded. Max was on 30th Aug.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	1	1	0	0	2	8	16	8	7	2	0

Great Black backed Gull: (151 – 16)

Recent increases were not sustained. There were no double figure counts. Bird scarring devices at Corfe Mullen tip the likely cause.

Sandwich Tern: (5 – 16)

Uncommon summer visitor. 16 bird days was a good showing by recent standards. However none were recorded before 5th Aug. The last record was 2 on 10th Oct.

Common Tern: (22 – 16)

Uncommon summer visitor. Seen on only 6 dates between 9th June and 5th Sept. Max 14 on last date, the second biggest flock recorded at the Bay.

Stock Dove: (29 – 16)

Uncommon Resident. Max 14 on 4th Nov.

Wood Pigeon: (1368 – 16)

Common resident. No significant autumn movements recorded this year.

Collared Dove: (11 – 16)

Uncommon resident. Rarely seen in the rural parts of the Bay, but regular on the urban fringe, particularly Sandy Close, Beach Road, Lytchett Way and Border Drive. No change in status noted.

Cuckoo: (2 – 16)

Uncommon summer visitor. Nationally reported declines in this species are evident at the Bay where there was only 1 record. A male on 15th May at Lytchett Heath.

Barn Owl: (2 – 9)

Occasional visitor. Routine inspection of a nest box at the farm in mid June found 2 young birds. These were ringed a few days later and fledged soon after. The first breeding record. Incredibly there was not a single field sighting of the species throughout the year. The nest box is at the edge of the recording area and it can only be presumed that the feeding territory

of these birds is outside the area.



Tawny Owl: (2 – 16)

Uncommon resident. Fewer records this year but change in status not confirmed. As well as birds around the Water Works area, a single was at Sandy Close Pond on 22nd Dec,

[Nightjar: (3 – 7)]

Irregular breeder. All suitable habitats were surveyed on 2 occasions but no birds were found this year.

Swift: (113 – 16)

Passage migrant and possible local breeder. First record 20th Apr, the earliest record at the Bay. Max count of 53, between heavy showers on 3rd July. Last sighting on 3rd Aug.

Kingfisher: (3 – 16)

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 scarce in first period. Regular from early July till year end. Max 3 on 31st Aug. 6 ringed.

Of the 8 birds ringed in 2006, 2 were re-trapped in 2007.

SB72040 – 1st yr ringed on 29th Oct 2006; Ad F re-trapped on 22nd Sept 2007 (328 days)

SB72042 – 1st yr ringed on 4th Nov 2006, Ad F re-trapped on 22nd July 2007 (260 days)

Of the 6 new birds ringed in 2007 only 2 were re-trapped more than 5 days after ringing.

SB72043 – 1st yr M ringed on 4th Aug; still present on 17th Nov (105 days)

SB72044 – 1st yr ringed on 4th Aug; still present on 1st Sept (28 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.

Woodlark: (15 – 9)

Recently established winter visitor. Favoured habitat is ungrazed at the moment, so not so attractive. After 1 on 5th Feb none were seen until a party of 5 was found on 19th Aug. Visits in the second winter period drew a blank. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Skylark: (250 – 20 – 16)

Scarce breeder and passage migrant. At least 2 territories established and held throughout the spring. Numbers in autumn poor, 15 bird days between 6th Oct and 6th Nov, max 5 on 4th Nov. No winter records.

Sand Martin: (5000 – 16)

Common passage migrant. First record was 2 on 2nd Apr. The last record of the year was on 30th Sept. Numbers were very poor through both migration seasons.

Swallow: (1000 – 540 – 16)

Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. First record of spring was 1 on 4th Apr. Autumn migration was reasonable with a max count of 400 on 24th Sept. The last date was 13th Oct.

House Martin: (1000 – 16)

Common passage migrant, breeding colonies on edge of recording area at Watery Lane and Turlin Moor. The first of the year was on 22nd Apr. The size of the breeding colony at Watery Lane was 14 nests, 1 down on 2006 but equal to 2004 & 2005 (plus 5 failed or destroyed). The colony at Turlin Moor was not surveyed. Autumn migration peaked with 200 on 20th Sept. The last record was 100 on 6th Oct.

Tree Pipit: (6 – 13)

Scarce passage migrant. Only 2 records. Single overhead migrants on 6th and 13th August. Breeds at Holton Lee.

Meadow Pipit: (130 – 16)

Breeding resident and common passage migrant. 2 pair was present throughout the breeding season. Small flocks frequented Turlin fields, the Stubble Field and the Cottage Area throughout both migration and winter periods. 38 ringed.

Rock Pipit: (50 – 15)

Common winter visitor. Recorded until 9th Mar and from 27th Oct. Common on saltings throughout. A very large flock (c150) of this and/or the previous species was flushed from saltings on Otter Island by a male Hen harrier on 24th Nov. 5 ringed.

Water Pipit: (20 – 15 – 14)

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. 1 was on the Pool on 19th Jan. 4 were found there on 15th and 16th Feb decreasing to 2 on 17th.

Yellow Wagtail: (42 – 16)

Uncommon passage migrant. 4 with cattle on 20th Apr was a good spring record. In autumn, 28 bird days between 24th Aug and 22nd Sept. Max 14 on 4th Sept.

Grey Wagtail: (12 – 16)

Breeding resident. Did not breed this year. None were recorded during spring and early summer. Common in autumn. Max 5 on during Aug and Sept. 2 ringed.

Pied Wagtail: (400 – 16)

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully. Birds roost at various points around the Bay during peak migration in October. Max 370 on 11th Oct. 173 ringed.

White Wagtail (*M.a.alba*)

Singles in spring on 18th Mar, 27th Mar and 8th Apr. 3 probables ringed in autumn.

Wren:

Common resident. 25 ringed.

Duncock:

Common resident. 11 ringed.

Robin:

Common resident. 23 ringed.

Common Redstart: (2 – 9)

Scarce autumn migrant. 1 at Border Road on 24th Apr during a good fall of migrants was a rare spring record. 2 at the Water Works on 24th Aug. 1 ringed.



1st W male Redstart, Lytchett Bay 24th August 2007

Whinchat: (11 – 14)

Scarce passage migrant. None in spring. A very poor autumn with only 2 records. A single at Turlin Moor on 20th Aug and 3 on Far Fields on 22nd Aug.

Stonechat: (23 – 16)

Breeding resident. 1 pair bred, fledging at least 2 juveniles in early July on the Far Fields. A welcome return after last years blank. Still generally much scarcer than in the past, recorded on only 39 visits. Max 7 on 6th Aug. 3 ringed.

Northern Wheatear: (15 – 16)

Uncommon passage migrant. A very good spring. 28 bird days between 6th and 28th Apr. Max 10 on 24th. Only 10 in autumn between 19th Aug and 14th Oct. Max 3 on 22nd Aug.

Ring Ouzel: (2 – 6)

Rare passage migrant. 2 were in Watery Lane on the 14th Oct, with one still present the following day.

Blackbird: (45 – 16)

Common Resident. No census of breeding birds carried out this year. No significant influxes in autumn, though recorded commonly across the area. 20 ringed.

Fieldfare: (121 – 16)

Uncommon winter visitor. Incredibly scarce this year. Only recorded on 5 dates! 4 on 17th Feb was the only record in the first part of the year. In autumn, 6 bird days from 3rd Nov.

Song Thrush: (424 – 16)

Breeding resident. Estimated to be slightly increasing across the area, c11 singing males (7 in 2006). One good migration flight in classic conditions at the end of Sept. 111 north in one hour on 28th Sept. 22 ringed.

Redwing: (1000 – 268 – 16)

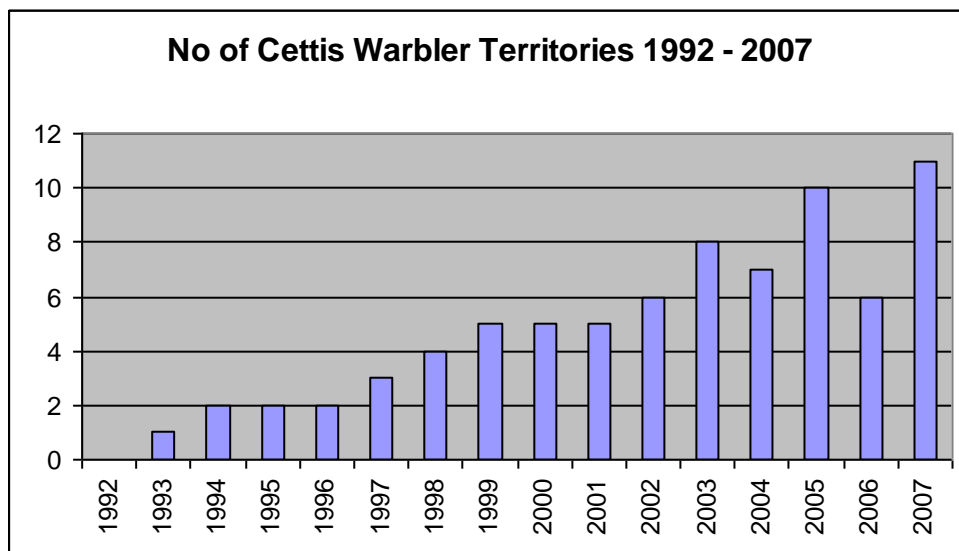
Winter visitor. Frequently recorded until 9th Mar. Max 90 at Kings Bridge on 17th Feb. First returning birds were 3 on 28th Sept, the earliest return date in the period since 1992. There were no significant counts among the frequent records until the year end. 8 ringed.

Mistle Thrush: (16 – 16)

Breeding resident. Breeding not confirmed this year but no change in status perceived. Max 11 on 28th July.

Cetti's Warbler: (11 – 15)

Breeding resident. 11 singing males, the best year on record. 5 ringed.



Grasshopper Warbler: (6 – 9)

Passage migrant, under recorded. 8 1st year birds were ringed between 24th Aug and 1st Sept, 5 of which were on the first date.

Sedge Warbler: (57 – 16)

Passage migrant. Spring passage was between 14th and 26th Apr was the strongest in the period since 1992. 22 bird days with a peak of 13 on 24th. In autumn from 28th July to 22nd Sept. 49 were trapped on the 13th Aug. 198 ringed.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			13			3	49	15			
			22			5	164	30			

V100721, a 1st year bird ringed on 2nd Aug 2006 at Icklesham, Sussex, was controlled 3 days later on 5th Aug. A movement of 192km.

Reed Warbler:

Common summer visitor. Breeds in all areas of the Bay. Present between 17th Apr and 5th Sept. 65 ringed.

Dartford Warbler: (2 pairs – 15)

Breeding resident. An increased presence this year, a singing male again held territory at Lytchett Heath in spring. Dispersing juveniles were seen at Border Road on 12th Aug and ringed at the Water Works on 17th Aug. A singing male was Lytchett Way from 4th Nov until the year end. 1 ringed.



Whitethroat: (8 – 14)

Uncommon passage migrant. 3 in spring between 24th and 26th Apr. 17 in autumn between 6th Aug and 6th Sept. Max 4 on 2 dates. 3 ringed.

Garden Warbler: (5 – 14)

Scarce passage migrant. None in spring. In autumn, 8 between 2nd Aug and 1st Sept. Turlin Moor and Border Road the favoured sites. Max 3 on 10th Aug. 2 ringed.

Blackcap: (10 – 16)

Passage migrant and summer visitor. At least 9 territories established. A pair wintered at Sandy Close Pond, the male remained until 17th Mar. The first presumed migrant was on 6th Apr. Autumn migration was poor, with the last record on the 20th Oct. A pair was at Sandy Close Pond on 15th Dec. 18 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	1	3	b	b	b	3	5	4		2
w	w	w	34	b	b	b	18	14	7		w

BLB.10184604, a 1st yr M ringed at Herne, Brabant, Belgium on 8th Oct 2006 was controlled at Lytchett Bay 27 days later on 4th Nov. A movement of 428km. An excellent example of a continental bird arriving in the UK for the winter.

Chiffchaff: (27 – 16)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. A wintering bird visited Sandy Close Pond on 17th February. The next was at on 9th Mar and may have been a migrant. An estimated 11 territories were established. Autumn migration was strong. Max 24 on 29th Sept. 29 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	4	5	b	b	b	3	24	8	2	
	1	17	48	b	b	b	12	70	58	5	

Willow Warbler: (19 – 16)

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. A decent year with a relatively good showing in spring. First recorded on 6th Apr. 1 territory at Lytchett Way. The last bird was noted on 6th Sept. 18 ringed.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			5	b	b	2	6	2			
			20	b	b	6	44	5			

Goldcrest: (14 – 16)

Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. Only 1 territory noted. Generally very scarce this year. 12 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	4	4	4	
1	2	1	b	b			1	9	27	11	

Firecrest: (3 – 8)

Rare visitor. 1 at Watery Lane on 27th Oct.

Spotted Flycatcher: (8 – 6 – 16)

Passage migrant, previously bred. Only 4 records of single birds this year between 20th Aug and 29th Sept. Another poor year.

Pied Flycatcher: (1 – 8)

Rare passage migrant. The first records since 2002. Singles on 2nd and 24th Aug at Border Road.

Bearded Tit: (29 – 16)

Rare breeder. A very poor year with only 2 records. 2 at Lytchett Heath on 3rd Feb, 3 at Lytchett Way on 4th Feb.

Long tailed Tit:

Common resident. Regularly recorded from most sites at the Bay. 11 ringed.

9Y3246, was ringed on 28th Oct 2003. It was re-trapped on 27th Oct 2007. A good age for this species.

Coal Tit:

Uncommon resident. Regularly recorded at Sandy Close Pond. 4 there in Aug suggested local breeding. Otherwise the only record of the year came from Kings Bridge in Feb.

Blue Tit:

Common resident. 52 ringed.

Great Tit:

Common resident. 14 ringed.

Nuthatch:

Uncommon. The only records came from the Cottage area in Oct.

Treecreeper:

Uncommon. Recorded during the autumn between the Cottage and Water Works. 2 ringed.

Jay: (6 – 16)

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

Magpie:

Common Resident.

Jackdaw: (205 – 16)

Resident. Recorded throughout the year. Max 205 on 10th Nov, a record count.

Rook: (185 – 16)

Breeds on edge of recording area. 20 nests in Apr.

Carrion Crow:

Common Resident, increasing.

Raven: (7 – 13)

Scarce visitor, increasing. Annual since the first record in 1995. 20 bird days on 8 dates throughout the year. Max 5 on 6th July.

Starling: (35000 – 5600 – 16)

Common resident. Small numbers of birds roosted in the reed beds in the west of the Bay in summer and autumn. 2 ringed.

House Sparrow: (80 – 16)

Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe. Bred at Turlin Moor, Border Road and French's Farm. Biggest single count was 20 at Border Road in Sept.

Chaffinch: (140 – 16)

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Good numbers around the stubble field in the late autumn. Max 100 on 25th Nov. 8 ringed.

Brambling: (7 – 13)

Scarce Visitor. A single at the Water Works on 20th Oct – the earliest arrival date for this species. 1 with Chaffinch flock on 25th Nov. Then singles at Sandy Close Pond on three dates between 19th and 29th Dec. 1 ringed.

Greenfinch: (60 – 16)

Common breeding resident. Border Drive, The Cottage and Turlin Moor remain the favored areas. Max 50 at Turlin Moor on 2nd Nov. 35 ringed.

Goldfinch: (120 – 16)

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. Flocks frequently recorded in the autumn. Flocks of up to 80 in the stubble field in Oct and 30 at Turlin Moor in Sept. 45 ringed.

Siskin: (280 – 13)

Scarce passage migrant. Recorded frequently from 29th Sept to the year end in small numbers. Max 23 on 20th Oct. 1 ringed.

Linnet: (250 – 16)

Uncommon breeding resident. Recorded at several sites during Apr and probably bred at Lytchett Way. Never common in autumn but a roost was formed at Lytchett Way in Oct. Max 83 on 11th.

Lesser Redpoll: (40 – 13)

Scarce passage migrant. Only 2 records. Singles on 5th and 29th Oct.

Bullfinch: (6 – 16)

Uncommon. Thinly recorded across the area throughout the year, though scarce between Apr and Oct.

Reed Bunting: (27 – 16)

Breeding resident. Very scarce during early summer when most pairs seemed to abandon their territories due to the very wet weather. Autumn migration was reasonable with a flock of at least 15 birds in stubble for most of Oct. 22 ringed.

Escapes

Carolina Wood duck:

A released bird on Folly Pond from March onwards was paired with a released female Mandarin duck.

Budgerigar:

1 was at Lytchett Way on 8th July

Lytchett Bay Ringing Totals 2007

	Full grown	Pulli	Retraps/ Recoveries	Total
Barn Owl	0	2	0	2
Kingfisher	6	0	6	12
Meadow Pipit	38	0	0	38
Rock Pipit	5	0	0	5
Grey Wagtail	2	0	0	2
Pied Wagtail	176	0	0	176
Wren	25	0	16	41
Duncock	11	0	6	17
Robin	23	0	17	40
Redstart	1	0	0	1
Stonechat	3	0	0	3
Blackbird	20	0	14	34
Song Thrush	22	0	5	27
Redwing	8	0	0	8
Cetti's Warbler	5	0	1	6
Grasshopper Warbler	8	0	0	8
Sedge Warbler	198	0	7	205
Reed Warbler	65	0	23	88
Dartford Warbler	1	0	0	1
Whitethroat	3	0	0	3
Garden Warbler	2	0	0	2
Blackcap	18	0	3	21
Chiffchaff	29	0	0	29
Willow Warbler	17	0	0	17
Goldcrest	12	0	2	14
Long-tailed Tit	11	0	5	16
Blue Tit	34	18	17	69
Great Tit	14	0	8	22
Treecreeper	2	0	0	2
Starling	2	0	0	2
Chaffinch	8	0	0	8
Brambling	1	0	0	1
Greenfinch	35	0	0	35
Goldfinch	45	0	0	45
Siskin	1	0	0	1
Reed Bunting	22	0	5	27
Total:	873	20	135	1028

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