



Lytchett Bay

Birds and Wildlife 2025

Shaun Robson & Nick Hull

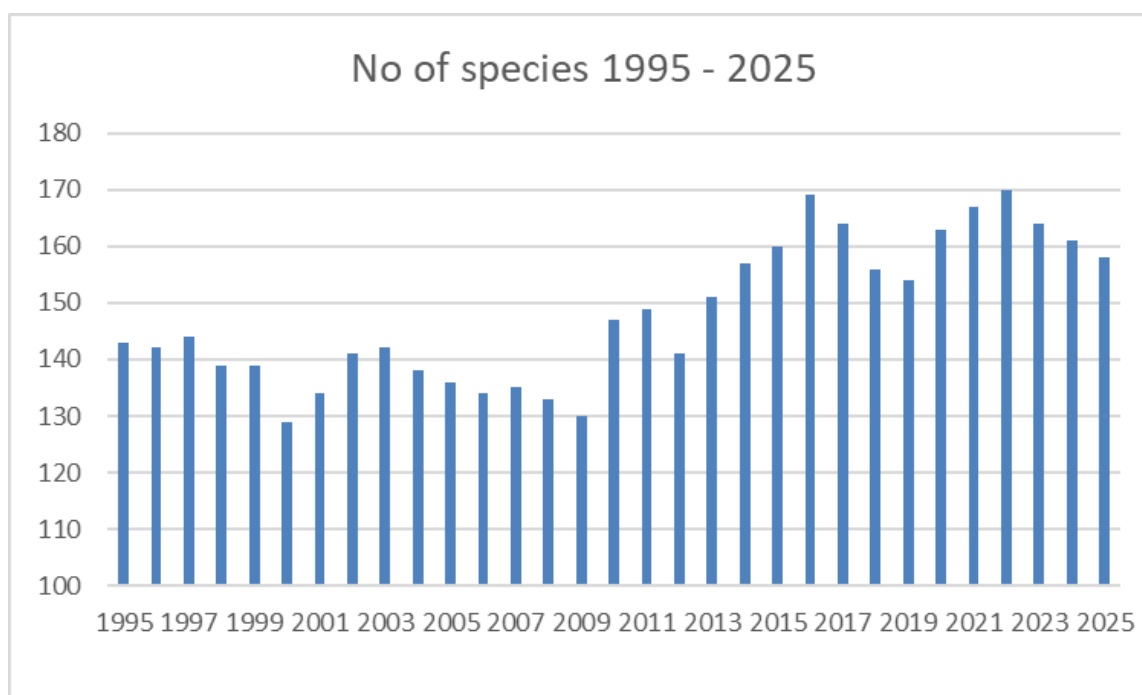
Welcome to the 34th consecutive Lytchett Bay annual report. The data that we have gathered & published over the period constitutes a comprehensive log of the site's ornithological importance since 1992. Since 2014, thanks to work led by **Nick Hull**, we have widened the report to cover a much wider taxa, interest in this section is growing year on year, page 38.

Many thanks to Mark Wright for the eye- catching Glossy Ibis photo on this year's front cover.

January was colder than average but overall was very variable with above average sunshine and rain! February was unremarkable. March saw the beginning of high pressure dominated weather which led to very dry, sunny weather for much of the month. April largely continued in the same pattern, a much dryer and warmer month than average. The dry warm weather, now well established continued through May. Drought conditions were developing. June was the warmest on record in England, though Dorset missed the hottest temperatures. No change in July, dryer and warmer than average. By August the drought was having significant impact and wildfires caused the fire service to declare major incidents. The weather finally broke in the first week of September. Rainfall was above average and it was generally mild and unsettled. October was again very mild with winds from the south and west predominant for much of the time. This continued in November with exceptionally mild weather for the time of year. Like October, rainfall was average. This continued into the first 3 weeks of December when finally we experienced some frost, clear skies and an easterly wind. Winter had arrived in the final week of the year (Source - Met Office).

In terms of birds and birding, Lytchett Bay was always enjoyable with plenty to look at. Pulse racing events were few and often brief. It was great to see the **Forster's Tern** back, two years to the day after the original sighting. We experienced a good share of the **Glossy Ibis** invasion and a **Pink-footed Goose** was our first record since 1981. Pity it did not stay with us longer. Most waders had a much better year than 2024, **Greenshank** in particular reaching numbers not witnessed since 1992.

Egyptian Goose, Wigeon, Goosander, Glossy Ibis and Redstart occurred in greater numbers than ever before. 158 species were recorded this year, the lowest since 2019.



Decade averages – 1990's = 141, 2000's = 136, 2010's = 154, 2020's = 164

Lytchett Bay – people and wildlife

The spring started with a brilliantly supported partnership event – “Upton Wildlife”. Dorset Wildlife Trust, Upton in Bloom and South-Western Railway came together to deliver a series of local events celebrating and promoting wildlife in Upton. The majority of events were sold out.





UPTON WILDLIFE

JOIN US FOR A SERIES OF FREE EVENTS

- Monday 24th March - 7pm - 'Creating Wildlife Friendly Spaces'. Talk - Dorset Wildlife Trust - Upton Community Centre
- Saturday 29th March - 2pm 'Lytchett Bay - wildlife on our Upton doorstep'. Talk - Upton Library
- Sunday 13th April - Guided walk around Lytchett Bay with Shaun Robson* time TBC
- Monday 14th April - Creating a Garden for Wildlife - talk and demonstration 1-4pm Dorchester Road*
- Thursday 17th April - Creating a Garden for Hedgehogs- talk and demonstration 1-4pm Gorse Lane*

*Places limited - email to book your place

**Dorset Wildlife Trust****South Western Railway**

email uptoninbloom@hotmail.co.uk to book your free tickets



At Lytchett Fields, in line with the RSPB agreement with Natural England, a pig proof fence was installed around the arable field and in the autumn four “environmental engineers” got to work rooting the ground. This will save ploughing and the natural disturbance will encourage the important assemblage of wild-flowers to germinate in the spring.

Longhorn Cattle continued to graze the remainder of the reserve.



Ground works team, RSPB Lytchett Fields 2025 © Shaun Robson



The same agreement also provided 5000 wildflower plant plugs to be planted at RSPB Lytchett Fields. Two days of hard work by numerous volunteers in the autumn ensured that they were all “plugged” before the winter. Our fingers are crossed as wait to see the results in 2026.



The new visitor facilities at Turlin Moor which opened at the end of 2024 by BCP, BARI and the Parks Foundation were well received. Their impact on managing recreational disturbance was noticeable later in the year when the Turlin saltmarsh regularly hosted good numbers of roosting birds on the high tide.

Viewed from the new Turlin Moor Platform Avocets, Spoonbill, Oystercatcher and more enjoy a peaceful high tide © Shaun Robson

In December volunteers from Amphibian Reptile Conservation, Dorset Wildlife Trust and the local Lytchett Bay volunteer group came together for some pre-Christmas gorse bashing at Lytchett Bay Nature Reserve. Gorse dominates heathland and is a step on the succession to woodland. Opening up the heath is an important aspect of maintaining diversity in this important habitat.

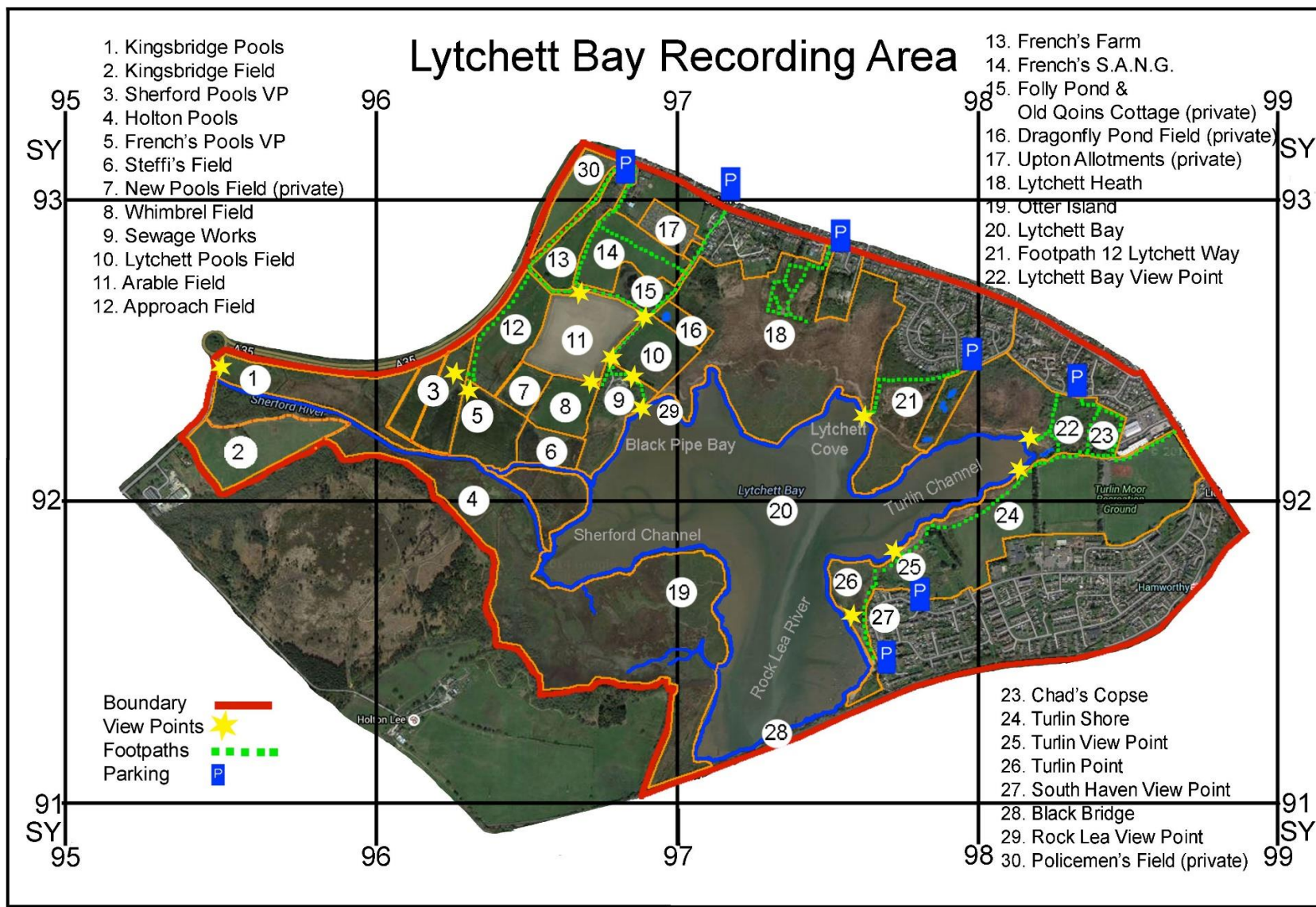


Attractive art installations at Lytchett Bay View created a gateway to this locally treasured open space. The cut and collect management continued thanks to the local Town Council.

The volunteers at Turlin Moor continued their valuable monthly litter picks and the RSPB Lytchett Fields feeding station was again operated thanks to donations and Ian Ballam's dedication.

Salterns Community Association were awarded a "Wildlife Friendly Space" award for the nature focused management of the pond in Sandy Close.





Nick Hull's map above gives a complete overview of the recording area. Whilst we have named as many sites as we can, please remember that some areas remain private and we would be grateful if visitors stick to the extensive network of public and permissive pathways that are available. There is a wide selection of viewpoints that provide visibility of the area.

Bird Ringing 2025

Collectively, ringing activities took place on only 45 dates, quite an improvement on the last 2 years. Largely thanks to the enthusiasm of Alex Gould. A total of 2149 new birds of 46 species were ringed. It was a very good year for common migrants. Chiffchaffs reaching an all-time record number by some margin. More than 100 birds were ringed on a record 9 dates. Efforts were spread between three sites: Lytchett Fields (RSPB) – Aquatic and Pipit projects, 13 dates, Lytchett Heath (ARC and DWT) – 28 dates and Sandy Close Pond (Private Garden) – 4 dates.

The Pipit project started well but birds became unresponsive then largely disappeared by mid-November. 8 Water and 6 Rock Pipit were ringed.

Thanks to again some keen eyed observation and photography we had some good colour ring reads to supplement the data gathered by conventional ringing. The details are contained within the systematic list.

Appendix 2 summarises species ringing totals. Details of recoveries and controls are detailed under species accounts. Since 1983, at least 39,066 birds of 88 species have been ringed at Lytchett Bay. We continue to research historical data and add new data and discoveries as we find them.

Our ringing data is published on Trektellen. All input data is available at [\[Trektellen.org\]](https://trektellen.org) - [Totals Lytchett Bay RS \(Dorset, England\) -1](#)

Acknowledgements:

The Birds of Poole Harbour & Dorset Bird Club host this and our previous annual reports on their websites which is hugely appreciated.

SR would like to add particular thanks to Ian Ballam for his continued commitment to birding and bird recording at Lytchett Bay and for his support with various volunteer activity at Lytchett Fields. Mick Brooks has joined the recording team supporting monthly WEBS counts and completing very regular full e-Bird checklists. To Ed Roe and his colleagues at RSPB Arne. To friends at Stour Ringing Group for companionship and support. Many thanks to fellow editor Nick Hull for his survey work and assistance in researching and writing this report. To the Lytchett Fields work party crew for their continued help in managing the reserve. A breeding bird survey was conducted, thanks to IB, MB & NH for help with this.

Stour Ringing Group would like to thank the RSPB, Post Green Estate, DWT & ARC for their kind permission to ring at Lytchett Bay.

Many thanks to all the observers who supplied records and comments via BirdTrack, e-Bird, Blue Sky and other information sources. Please please keep them coming. We can only produce such a detailed report if everyone submits their data. Finally, to everyone who has allowed us to use their ever impressive photographs which brighten and decorate this report, please keep posting and sharing.



Mixed wader flock roosting on Frenches Pool © Shaun Robson

Systematic List 2025 - Shaun Robson

2768 specific records were collated during the year via the **@BirdTrack** and **@Team_eBird** databases covering 158 species. In addition, many more records of common species were submitted via “complete lists” to both databases. Each of the main sites at Lytchett Bay have been set up as e-Bird “Hotspots” – including Rock Lea Viewpoint. Users of e-Bird are encouraged to log their sightings against these. If anyone would like advice on the use of e-Bird then SR is very happy to try and support. BirdTrack’s site mechanism is based around 1km squares, again records logged against the actual square are most helpful.

BTO Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS) are conducted monthly from September to March. RSPB Lytchett Fields is surveyed completely bi-weekly on the high tide. This data is incorporated within the species accounts.

Nocturnal sound recording conducted by **Nick Hull** at Lytchett Way continues to provide surprising information about the unseen migration over our area and the highlights of this research are included in the systematic list.

BirdTrack functionality has been used to generate graphs showing the weekly maxima throughout the year for some regularly occurring species. The interpretation of these requires some caution as not all “graphed” species are counted every week; this can lead to gaps in the data. Where necessary this is clarified in the text.

Bird records were received from the recording area on all but 2 days in the year!!

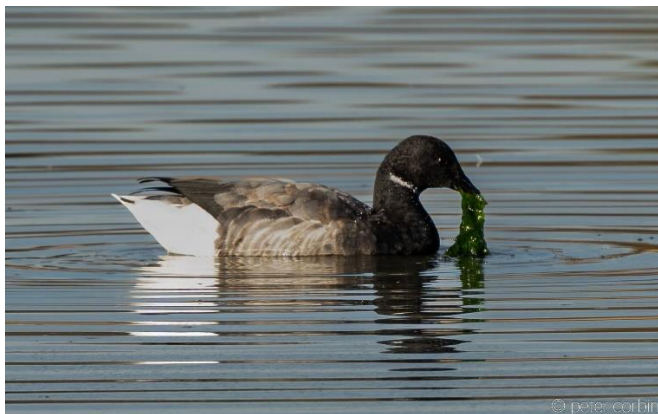
The systematic list follows the latest IOC list as followed by the Dorset Bird Club. Next year’s list will be updated to reflect the latest combined global taxonomy.

Species names are followed by 2 or 3 numbers. The first is the record known count recorded at the Bay. This now includes historical counts by observers going back to 1975. The middle figure is the maximum day count in the period since 1992 (if less than the first). The final figure is the number of years in which the species has been recorded since 1992 (max 34), the year in which the current spell of comprehensive coverage began.

The symbol which follows each species name shows the direction of travel of the species status at Lytchett Bay over the last 5 years. We think these are quite intuitive; strongly increasing, increasing, stable, declining and strongly declining. Hopefully this feature will enable others to compare the data from this site with experiences at their own site and engender some debate and understanding.

Each species or sub-species listed in **blue** did not occur in 2025 but has occurred previously as detailed.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose: (148 – 26) ↔



Common winter visitor. Numbers dwindled quickly in the new year and 4 on 7th Feb was the last record. 5 on 5th Mar was the only “spring” record. 2 on 20th Oct were the first of winter after which birds were present almost daily until the year end. Max 132 on 16th Dec.

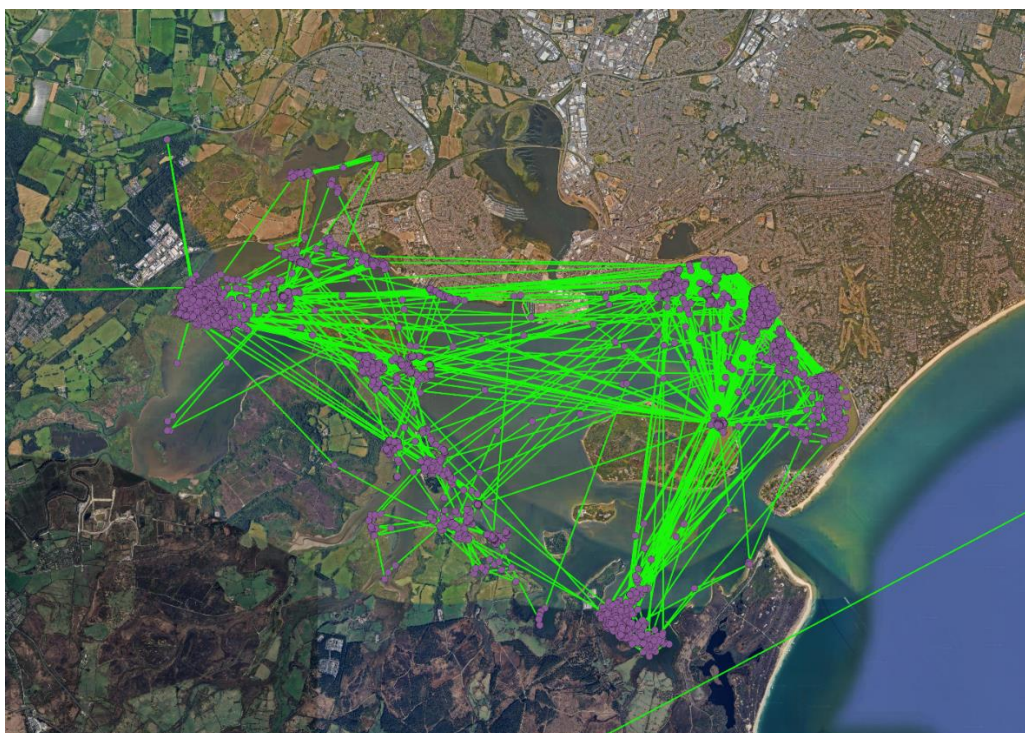
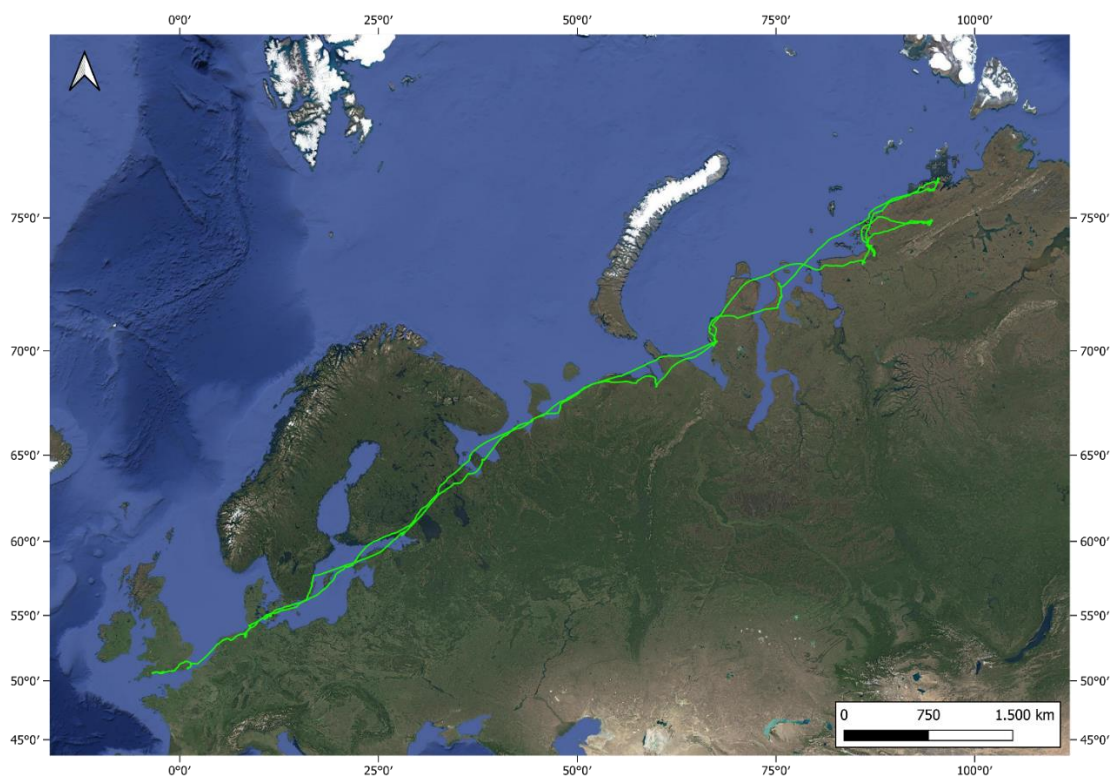
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SY – A Dark-bellied Brent Goose with a satellite tag was ringed in Butjadingen, Lower-Saxony, GERMANY in March 2025. It went on to breed in the Taimyr-Peninsula, RUSSIA before migrating to Poole Harbour

where it was photographed by Simon Johnson and seen by Mya Bambrick at Baiter Park. The ring was read some days later by Joe Parker. Their communications with Andreas Bange revealed the following fascinating information.

The bird made an almost straight line journey of c4800km from its breeding area to Poole Harbour. Since arriving in early November it has moved to all corners of the Harbour. Sending signals from Lytchett Bay on almost 40 occasions.

As ever bird migration and movement never ceases to surprise us. Until now it would be very easy to think that each day we are seeing the same Brent Geese in Lytchett Bay. We can now see the Poole Harbour population is continually on the move. Many thanks to Andreas, Mya and Joe for providing us with this information.



Pale-bellied Brent Goose: 4 records. Last in 2023.

Black Brant: 1 record. 2018.

Canada Goose: (800 – 34) ↗

Increasingly frequent visitor. 3 pairs again bred successfully raising at least 18 goslings. Large numbers lingering daily around Bay between early Jun and early Oct. Max 500 on 22nd Sep.

Barnacle Goose: Scarce visitor. Recorded in 13 years since 1992. Last record 2024.

Greylag Goose: (40 – 26) ↔

Uncommon but increasing feral wanderer. Scarce from Jun to Sep this year, otherwise encountered frequently. Max 29 on 26th Aug.

Two colour ringed birds, which seem to be a pair, were seen.

U224 – An Ad ringed at Poole Park, Dorset on 29th Jun 2024 was re-sighted at Lytchett Bay on 7th Oct and 22nd Nov 2025.

U279 – An Ad ringed at Poole Park, Dorset on 29th Jun 2024 was re-sighted at Lytchett Bay on 7th Oct and 22nd Nov 2025.

Pink-footed Goose:

Second record. One was found sitting on the mud with a flock of Black-tailed Godwits on the 3rd Apr (SR et al). It soon took flight towards the Wareham Channel, it was found at Swineham later in the day. A rare species in Dorset. The only previous site record was a flock of 24 seen in flight on 29th Dec 1981.

Tundra Bean Goose: 1 record. 2022.

White-fronted Goose: Scarce visitor. Recorded in 6 years since 1992. Last record 2021.

Mute Swan: (58 – 34) ↔

Uncommon resident, increases in winter. Bred for the second year in a row. 5 cygnets hatched but only 2 survived. 12 at the beginning of year and 15 on 24th Dec were the maximum counts.



Beautiful image of a flying Mute Swan. © Peter Corbin

Bewick's Swan: 1 record. 1983.

Whooper Swan: Rare visitor. 4 records. 2010, 2016, 2017, 2018.

Egyptian Goose: (16 – 12) ↗

Uncommon feral visitor. The first record was in 2011. Thankfully there was no repeat of last year's breeding. Nonetheless recorded throughout much of the year and 16 on 26th Nov was a record count. Previously 13 on 28th Sep 2022.

Shelduck: (645 – 548 – 34) ↘

Occasional breeder and winter visitor. 1 family party noted with 11 young chicks in Jun. 60 on 3rd Jan was the largest count of the year. The second half of the year was particularly poor, max 30 on 22nd Dec.

Mandarin Duck: 2 records. 2003 & 2011

Garganey: (3 – 10)

Scarce visitor. A pair at Lytchett Fields on 27th Mar. Then a juv/female type at the Fields on 5 dates between 17th - 25th Sep (MB et al).

Shoveler: (32 – 33) ↔

Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. Above average. Birds seen on 29 dates across 8 months. Max 27 on 20th Nov was the second highest count ever.

Gadwall: (73 – 28) ↔

Uncommon visitor and occasional breeder. Whilst birds were seen in most months, numbers were generally poor. Max 14 on 10th Jun.

Wigeon: (829 – 34) ↔

Common winter visitor. Absent from 9th Apr until 31st Aug. Max 829 on 28th Dec was a record count for the Bay. Previously 732 on 11th Jan 2019.

Mallard: (180 – 34) ↔

Breeds at several sites around the recording area. Very regular on Sandy Close Pond. Fewer in winter. Another year with excellent summer numbers at the Bay and Lytchett Fields. Max 145 on 26th Aug.

Northern Pintail: (21 - 25) ↔

Scarce visitor. 24 bird-days on 12 dates until 1st Mar and from 20th Sep. Max 4 on 8th Jan.

Teal: (1345 – 34) ↔



Winter visitor and passage migrant. 1 pr bred again, raising 5 young. Max, a rather poor, 453 on 5th Nov. 1 ringed.

Drake Teal in perfect in reflection © Ian Ballam

Green-winged Teal: 3 records. 2000, 2016-17 & 2022.

Pochard: Scarce visitor. Recorded in 17 years since 1992. Last record 2023

Tufted Duck: (20 – 17 - 21) ⇔
Scarce visitor. 2 on 22nd May was the only record.

Scaup: 1 record. 1986.

Common Scoter: Rare visitor. Recorded in 4 years since 1992. Last record 2024.

Goldeneye: Previously uncommon winter visitor. Now rare. Recorded in 25 years since 1992. Last record 2018.

Smew: 4 records, 1980, 1997, 2001 & 2014.

Goosander: (5 – 13)
Scarce visitor. 5 redheads were off Otter Point on 28th Oct. This was a record count for the Bay exceeding 4 seen in both 2021 & 2024. A pair flew over Lytchett Bay View on 17th Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: (73 – 34) ↘
Winter visitor. Recorded on at least 28 dates until 26th Mar. Max 4 on several days. In the second half of the year, 4 on 2nd Dec, 2 on 4th, 1 on 23rd, 3 on 29th. October arrivals and daily occurrence were once the norm.

Ruddy Duck: 2 records, both 2001.

Grey Partridge: 1 record since 1992, in 1999.

Pheasant: ⇔
Common resident.

Red-legged Partridge: Scarce introduced visitor. Recorded in 8 years since 1992. Last record 2023.

Nightjar: (3 – 26) ⇔
Irregular breeder. A pair present at Lytchett Heath from at least 20th May – 6th Aug. Breeding likely.

Swift: (140 – 34) ⇔
Passage migrant and occasional local breeder. Up To 5 in the vicinity of Tree Hamlets during June suggested a local breeding attempt. Recorded between 4th May – 26th Jul. Max 36 on 27th May.

Cuckoo: (2 – 33) ⇔
Scarce visitor in spring. Recorded on 7 dates from 23rd Apr in spring. An autumn record for the second year in a row, 4th Aug. An improvement on 2023.

Feral Pigeon: (- - 34)
Common resident.

Stock Dove: (138 – 33) ↗
Common resident, increasing. Again bred in the vicinity of Lytchett Fields. Max 23 on 20th Aug.

Woodpigeon: (17,785 – 34) ⇔
Common resident and autumn migrant. Autumn movements were noted almost daily between mid-Oct and mid-Nov. There were few dedicated efforts to count them, so many were missed. Max 3000 on 17th Nov.

Turtle Dove: Once scarce, now very rare visitor. Recorded in 12 years since 1992. Last record 2023.

Collared Dove: (18 – 34) ⇔
Resident but possibly declining. Commoner in the eastern part of the recording area. No significant counts.

Water Rail: (67 pairs – 34) ⇌

Common resident and winter visitor. No perceived change in status after 2013's complete breeding survey found 67 prs.

Corncrake: 1 record. 1996.

Spotted Crane: 4 records. 1983, 1992, 2014, 2016.

Moorhen: (18 – 34) ↘

Common resident. Declining notably across the area. Bred at Lytchett Fields. Nocturnal migrants recorded on 4 dates during the autumn.

Coot: (62 – 23)

Very scarce visitor, though night recording is proving that they are very frequent overhead nocturnal migrants. Nocturnal migrants were recorded on 5 dates during the autumn between 18th Sep – 17th Nov. There were no field sightings this year.

Common Crane: Rare visitor, recorded in 5 years since 1992. Increasing. Last record 2023.

Little Grebe: (12 - 34) ⇌

Winter visitor. Present in the Bay, and occasionally on Lytchett Fields, on many days until 3rd Mar and from 17th Aug. Max 7 on 26th Sep.

Great Crested Grebe: (7 - 31) ↗

Increasingly frequent visitor. Given the numbers seen in recent years, 2025 was very poor. 18 bird-days over 13 dates. Max 3 on 14th Apr, the first date of the year!

Slavonian Grebe: 1 record. 1989.

Black-necked Grebe: 2 records. 1994, 2019.

Stone Curlew: 1 record. 2019.

Oystercatcher: (400 – 34) ⇌

A common winter visitor and passage migrant. Turlin Fields and Turlin Shore at high tide remain the favored locations, with fewer birds remaining in the bay to feed at low tide. Increasingly birds are seen on Lytchett Fields, particularly in spring and summer. Max 160 at Turlin Moor on 27th Jan.

Black-winged Stilt: 2 records. 2014 & 2016.

Pied Avocet: (327 – 33) ⇌

Increasingly regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Now less reliant on cold weather. Present almost daily until 6th Apr and from 25th Oct. Max 258 on 4th Jan.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
258	222	11	1	0	1	0	0	0	15	145	198

Surprisingly, despite good number of birds present we were unable to confirm any colour ring reads this year.

Lapwing: (3000 – 34) ⇌

Formerly bred, now a non-breeding visitor in smaller numbers. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. Max 310 on 29th Nov.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
200	173	2	3	9	15	43	47	43	48	310	166

Golden Plover: (160 – 20)

Scarce visitor, surprisingly so. 3 singles at Lytchett Fields. 13th Aug, 14th Sep, 27th Nov. A nocturnal migrant was recorded on 5th Oct.

Grey Plover: (18 – 28) ⇄

Scarce visitor. A very good year, with records on at least 30 dates.

1 on 5th Feb was unusual. A poor spring with 4 on 1st May and 1 on 9th May. Excellent autumn and early winter with between 1 & 3 on many dates between 25th Sep and 12th Dec, mainly at Lytchett Fields.

Ringed Plover: (50 – 30) ⇄

Passage migrant, previously scarce. Almost twice as many as last year. 194 bird-days on 40 dates.

Spring migration 21st Apr – 29th May. Max 22 on 8th May. Autumn migration 13th Aug – 23rd Sep. Max 22 on 7th Sep.

Little Ringed Plover: (15 – 23) ⇄

Frequent summer visitor, but numbers in the last 3 years have decreased. The Fields are now very wet and the lack of dry, bare areas has reduced the sites attractiveness to this species.

2 on 2nd Apr were the first of the year. 36 bird-days to 26th Jun. Max 3 on 2 dates. No Jul or Aug records was unusual.

Whimbrel: (157 – 34) ⇄

Passage migrant, most numerous in Spring. The first was on 15th Apr and spring migration lasted until 5th Jun. 131 bird-days was better than last year. Max 18 on 27th Apr.

Autumn passage occurred between 10th Jul – 13th Sep involving at least 50 bird-days, max 5 on 1st Aug.

Curlew: (116 – 34) ⇄

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Numbers are slowly declining.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
26	33	n.c.	n.c.	1	12	17	13	16	31	15	15

M//R+R//WR (FP45756) - present at Lytchett Bay during winter 2024/25 until at least 1st Mar, arriving back the following season on 17th Jun 2025 and continuing until the end of the year.



It was ringed as an adult female at Strodgemoor, Burley Street, New Forest, Hampshire, UK on 25th May 2018. The bird was fitted with a GPS tag, but unfortunately this fell off one month after fitting. It was seen in the Avon Valley, Hants in Mar 2019, presumably on its way back to its breeding site. First encountered at Lytchett Bay on 16th Sep 2018, the bird has returned to over-wintered every year since. Many thanks to Pete Potts for this information.

© Ian Ballam

R//M+W(K1M) – was still present at Lytchett Bay on 14th Jul 2025.



It had been ringed as a pullus at Siikalatva, Pohjois-Pohjanmaa, Oulu, FINLAND on 1st Jul 2023.

It had previously been seen at Lytchett Bay on 28th Oct, 13th Nov 2023 and 30th Jan 2024. This is our first recovery of a bird from that country. Very exciting, even though it is known that a lot of Finnish Curlews move to the UK to winter. Many thanks to the University of Helsinki

© Ian Ballam

Yfi(5T)R+B (FK13265) – was seen at Lytchett Bay on 13th Oct 2025, 27th Oct 2025, 28th Oct 2025, and 3rd Nov 2025.



5T was released at Peppering on 10th August, 2025. This curlew was released as part of a re-introduction project in Southern England. Eggs are being taken from 'at-risk' nests within stable populations in Northern England, then incubated, hatched and reared in captivity. The young birds are released at three sites in the south: Cranborne in Dorset, Peppering in West Sussex, and Elmley in Kent. The project has been running since 2022. For more details on the project: [Headstarted curlews released in Sussex - BirdGuides](#)

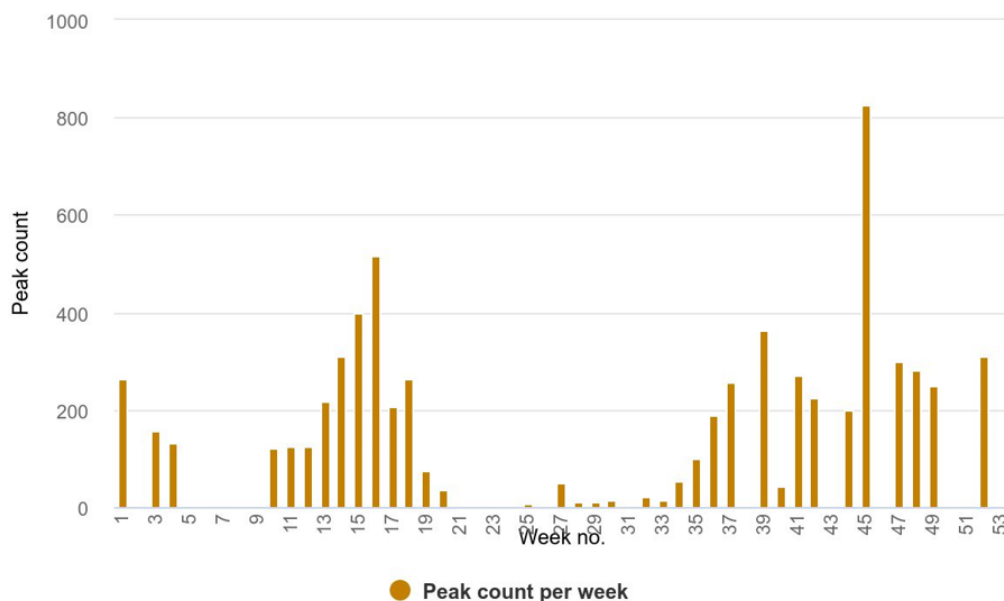
© Shaun Robson

Bar-tailed Godwit: (110 – 30) ↔

Scarce visitor. Recorded on 13 dates, more than double 2024. 11 bird-days between 8th - 30th Apr. Max 2 on several dates. 9 bird-days between 28th Jul – 28th Oct. Max 4 on 11th Sep.

Black-tailed Godwit: (1240 – 34) ↔

Common passage migrant and winter visitor. A good year as can be seen from the graph with between 200 – 400 frequently seen. Max 826 on 5th Nov. All crammed into the Pool Field on high tide.



www.birdtrack.net

Blank weeks on the chart outside of the period weeks 21-25 probably relate to under recording rather than absence.

Over the last 27 years colour ringed birds have proved that birds visiting Lytchett Bay breed in Iceland (*L.l.islandica*). Birds seen at Lytchett Bay also visit western France, Portugal, Ireland, Scotland, The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, E England as well as many locations along the south coast. Numbers of colour ringed birds detected in the flocks seem to be falling. Presumably ringing effort has declined as the studies are nearing completion? Thanks to Pete Potts and Jenny Gill for the following information.

BOL+RNR - present at Lytchett Bay on 4th Sep 2025.



It was ringed at Axe Estuary, Seaton, Devon on 10th Nov 2013. It has previously been encountered at Lytchett Bay in 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024. All recent records are from Poole Harbour.

© Ian Ballam

LL+O/W – present at Lytchett Bay on 18th Feb 2025.



It was ringed at Terrington, The Wash, Norfolk on 5th Oct 2024. This is the first re-sighting since ringing.

© Ian Ballam

Left leg always given first, all rings above the tibia (unless preceded by the mark //). Recently some birds have been marked with leg flags rather than rings. Colours are:

O = Orange	L = Lime (this can look very washed out in the field, approaching white)
R = Red	G = Green
W = White	B = Blue
Y = Yellow	N = Niger

Turnstone: (9 – 14)

Scarce visitor. 2 on 8th May at Lytchett Fields. One sounded recorded at 23:45 on 6th Oct was the first record for the listening station.

Red Knot: (300 - 48 – 25) ↔

Scarce visitor. A better year than the last two. Recorded on 6 dates. 1 on 30th Mar. 4 dates in Sep, max 6 on 14th. 2 on 25th Nov were the last of the year.

Ruff: (11 – 30) ↔

Scarce visitor. A decent year in terms of dates with 31 records. Two Jan records on 7th & 13th. None in spring. Seen on 17 dates in autumn possibly involving as few as 4 individuals. 11 dates from 27th Nov – 23rd Dec may have involved the same bird.

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 record. 2017.

Curlew Sandpiper: (13 – 19) ↗

Scarce autumn migrant. One in partial breeding plumage on 5th May was a rare spring record. 10 bird-days between 7th Sep – 29th Sep. Max 2 on 2 dates. 1 on 9th Nov.

Temminck's Stint. 1 record. 2014.

Sanderling: (7 – 9)

Rare visitor. 4 on the rising tide in the Bay on 1st Jun (SR). 3 in breeding plumage, 1 still largely non-breeding.

Dunlin: (1800 – 1200 – 34) ↔

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant. The poorest year for a good while. Max 132 on 7th Jan at Lytchett Fields. Both spring and autumn passage were very weak. Max 20 on 21st Apr & 11 on 22nd Sep. Second winter period again poor. Max 54 on 29th Nov.

Little Stint: (7 – 19) ↔

Scarce autumn migrant. A reasonable year. One on 26th Apr the first ever spring record (RS)! A juv on 20th Aug. 1 on at least 10 dates between 22nd Sep – 5th Oct. All at Lytchett Fields.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 record. 2017.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Rare Visitor. 4 records. 1992, 2014, 2021, 2022.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 record. 2020.

Woodcock: (5 – 24) ↔

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. The number of records of this species is largely a reflection of the effort made to see them. Nick Hopper studied Woodcock during early 2014 on behalf of The Birds of Poole Harbour. Following transects at Lytchett Bay the estimated winter population was predicted to be 8 birds (No more than 5 have ever been seen on one visit). Very little effort was made to survey birds at Lytchett Fields. Singles recorded on 4 dates. 24th Jan, 23rd Feb, 19th Mar and 23rd Nov.

Jack Snipe: (6 - 25) ↔

Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. Like Woodcock, records are to a degree a reflection of birder / survey effort as much as presence. This year, once again, there was relatively little effort. Recorded on 6 dates – all singles except 4 on 31st Oct. All records at Lytchett Fields. 3 ringed.

Snipe: (160 – 132 – 34) ↔

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded until 22nd Apr, returning on the 23rd Jul. Numbers were very poor. Max 20 on 3rd Jan.

Grey Phalarope: 3 records. 1978, 1999 & 2020.

Common Sandpiper: (18 – 34) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. The wintering bird from 2024 was reported twice in 2025 – 2nd Jan & 5th Feb. 6 bird-days in spring between 19th – 30th Apr. Autumn passage 5th Jul – 7th Oct. At least 132 bird-days, max 10 on 10th Sep.

Green Sandpiper: (30 – 34) ↗

Common non-breeding visitor. Lytchett Fields and western most part of the Bay is the favored area. Present until 21st Apr and from 20th Jun. Max 29 on 20th Jul. 2 - 4 seen daily in each winter period.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 record. 2016 -17.

Redshank: (608 – 436 – 34) ↘

Common winter visitor. Max 175 on 14th Dec.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
88	102	135	17	1	8	86	63	89	161	174	175

Wood Sandpiper: (5 – 22) ⇄

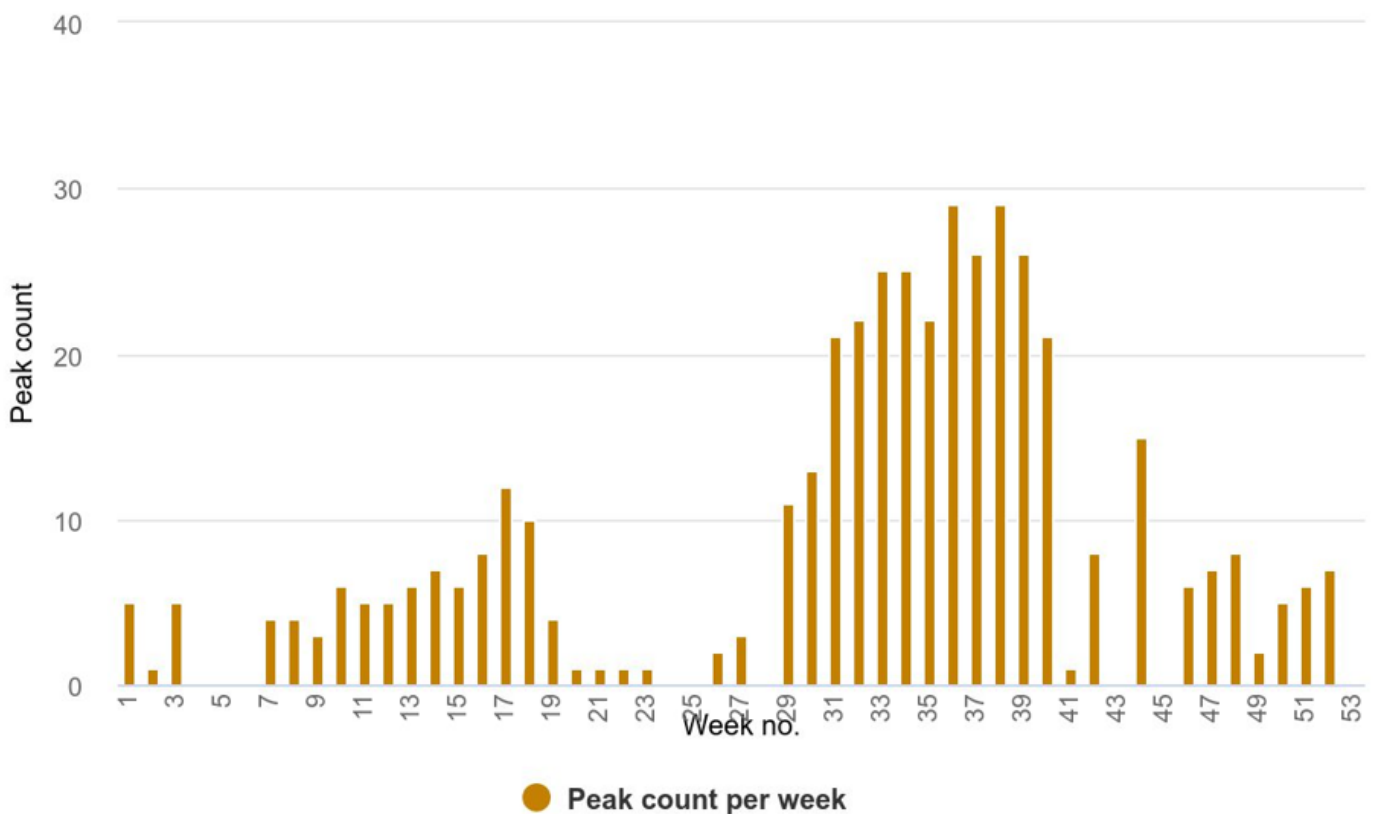
Scarce migrant. Our poor recent run for this species continues. Surprising given the good series of records elsewhere. 1 at Lytchett Fields on 20th – 22nd Aug.

Spotted Redshank: (68 – 42 – 34)

Scarce passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. The number of individuals remains low but presence is good and improving. 181 dates with 284 bird-days, almost identical to 2024. Present until 27th Apr, Max 3 on several dates. From 20th Jun till the year end. Max 5 on 8th – 9th Oct.

Greenshank: (49 – 29 – 34) ⇄

Common non-breeding visitor. Good years at the Bay continue. Present almost daily throughout the year. The only real gap that we could see in our records was between 6th & 24th Jun. Max 29 on 4th & 21st Sep were record counts for the period since 1992. Lytchett Fields was by far the most used habitat.



www.birdtrack.net

RN+GB (DT00415) was present from the beginning of the year until at least 22nd Mar 2025. It returned for its 11th season on 3rd Aug 2025 and continued into 2026.



It was ringed as a juvenile at Seabrook, Montrose Basin, Scotland on 29th Sep 2015. A seasoned visitor to Lytchett Bay, it was first encountered on 4th–12th Apr 2016, returning for the non-breeding seasons of 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-2024, 2024-2025. It was recorded at Steart, Somerset in Dec 2015.

© Ian Ballam



Common Sandpiper, Flying Greenshank and Whimbrel © Peter Corbin. 5 Spotted Redshank on Lytchett Fields © Mick Brooks



Kittiwake: Scarce visitor. Recorded in 8 years since 1992. Last record 2023.

Bonaparte's Gull: 1 record. 2022.

Black-headed Gull: (15000 – 34) ↔

A very common visitor. Max 4500 on 11th Mar. First juvenile noted on 15th Jun.



Juvenile Black-headed and Mediterranean Gulls. The former feasting on a frog © Richard Stephenson. The latter, the only one of the year © Ian Ballam

Little Gull: (2 – 20)

Scarce visitor. Good run continues. 4 records. 25th Feb, 2cy 23rd Apr, 2cy 4th May and 2cy 14th May.

Mediterranean Gull: (329 – 33) ↔

Spring and early summer visitor, occasional at other times. Assessing actual numbers in spring is very difficult due to the number of calling birds passing overhead.

A rather poor year by recent standards. Only 1 juvenile noted. 25 on 4th Oct was very unusual and occurred on the back end of Storm Amy.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
9	20	44	25	6	9	1	0	1	25	2	1

The following pair have been seen feeding on Turlin Moor for 3 Springs in a row.

3HY5 (white ring) – present at Turlin Fields, Lytchett Bay on 12th Mar 2025.



It had previously been recorded there on 15th Mar, 9th Apr, 22nd Apr 2023 & 17th Feb 2024.

It was ringed as an Ad on 18th May 2019 at Antwerp, Flanders, BELGIUM.

The bird has also been observed in FRANCE & Cornwall.

© Ian Ballam

3JX5 (White ring) – present at Turlin Fields, Lytchett Bay on 12th Mar 2025.



It had previously been recorded there on 15th Mar & 22nd Apr 2023 & 17th Feb 2024.

It was ringed as an Ad on 18th May 2019 at Antwerp, Flanders, BELGIUM.

This bird has been seen in Dorset, Sussex and the Isle of Wight.

© Ian Ballam

Common Gull: (3000 – 34) ↔

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. Max 600 on 24th Jan.

Ring-billed Gull: Rare visitor. Recorded in 10 years since 1992. Last record 2020.

Iceland Gull: Rare visitor. Recorded in 5 years since 1992. Last record 2008.

Great Black-backed Gull: (151 – 34) ↔

Daily visitor throughout the year in small numbers, usually single figures. The max count for the site of 151 was way back in 2003 when Corfe Mullen Tip was in its hey-day. Max 17 on 2nd Dec.

Herring Gull: (2500 – 34) ↔

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Numbers much lower than 90's/early 00's when Corfe Mullen tip attracted large numbers of gulls to the wider area. Max 130 on 26th Aug.

Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull hybrid: The bird first seen in Dec 2020 finally moved on during late 2023.

American Herring Gull: 1 record. 2002.

Yellow legged Gull: (65 – 33) ↓

Increasingly scarce visitor. As feared, the decline of records of this species at the Bay appears terminal. 3 birds recorded on only 7 dates. Ad on 6th – 7th Feb, 3cy on 9th Jun. Ad 6th – 9th Jul.

Lesser Black backed Gull: (2128 – 34) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Numbers are much lower now than they were in the 90's/early 00's when up to 2000 would occur associated with Corfe Mullen Tip. Another very poor year. Whilst present on most visits, 10 was the max count on several dates.



The Forster's Tern moulting into breeding plumage for the first time © Mick Brooks. A showy 2cy Little Gull © Mark Wright. Adult Sandwich and Common Terns © Peter Corbin.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (L.f.intermedius): Scarce visitor. Last record 2023.

Sandwich Tern: (14 – 34) ↗

Summer visitor. 79 bird-days on 42 dates between 3rd Apr – 1st Oct. Max 7 on 19th Jun.

Little Tern: Rare visitor. Recorded in 8 years since 1992. Last record 2024.

Common Tern: (26 – 34) ↗

Increasing summer visitor. 88 bird-days recorded on 52 dates between 15th Apr – 12th Sep. Max 6 on 2 dates.

Arctic Tern: Rare visitor. Recorded in 4 years since 1992. Last record 2020.

Forster's Tern: (1 – 3)

The bird first found on 23rd Apr 2023 returned for its 3rd year on exactly the same date. The bird fed around the Bay for a few hours on 23rd Apr. For the first time it was noted to be moulting into adult breeding plumage (IB, SR et al). It was seen elsewhere in Poole Harbour during short spells in both spring and autumn.

Black Tern: Rare visitor. Recorded in 4 years since 1992. Last record 2022.

Arctic Skua: 1 record. 2011.

Common Guillemot: 1 record. 2021.

Red-throated Diver: 4 records. 1985, 1998, 2011 & 2013.

Black-throated Diver: 1 record. 1977.

Great Northern Diver: Rare visitor. 8 records. Last record 2023

Black Stork: 1 record. 2011

White Stork: Rare visitor, now helped by reintroduction scheme. 1 record. 2021.

Cormorant: (500 – 34) ↗

Daily visitor. Large feeding flocks now occur frequently in autumn. Max 352 on 4th Nov.

Glossy Ibis: (9 – 5)

Rare Visitor. A record breaking influx into the UK occurred in Sep.

We quickly got in on the act with 5 on Lytchett Fields on 8th Sep (MB et al). These remained until the following day when they gave great views from the Pools Field screen at Rock Lea View. 6 appeared on 21st, increasing to 9 on 26th and decreasing to 1 on 28th.

It was believed that these birds then moved to the Wareham Channel area for the rest of the year.

2 on 17th Nov in flight were our last records (MB, SR). In a year that was slim for patch rarities this combined event was probably the standout.



On their second day the Ibis gave stunning views from the Rock Lea View screen. Great images by © Mark Wright

Spoonbill: (25 – 16) ⇄

Increasingly frequent visitor. Records on an excellent 43 dates. 38 bird-days to 16th Mar, Max 8. 98 bird-days from 14th Jul to year end. Max 14 on 11th Nov.

B(AE)+W(AE) was present on 7th Jan 2025 (and probably some dates at the yearend though sightings were never 100% certain). It was seen in Cornwall in Dec 2024.



It was ringed as a pullus at Schiermonnikoog, NETHERLANDS on 19th Jul 2006, and is now 19 years old! A familiar visitor to Lytchett Bay, it has previously been encountered in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024. The bird commutes back and forth between SW England and the Netherlands where it was again recorded breeding at its place of hatching in 2023. In previous years, the bird has also been seen en route at Somme, FRANCE during late Sept and Oct.

© Ian Ballam

Bittern: Rare visitor. Recorded in 7 years since 1992. Last record 2020

Cattle Egret: (24 – 12) ↗

Increasingly frequent visitor. 43 bird-days on 12 dates. Max 16 on 6th Oct (MB). Thought we may have had more given the remarkable and continued increase in this species around Poole Harbour.



Cattle Egret continue to increase but they still feel special. How long will that last? This shot of Spoonbills taking off was one of our favourites of the year. It almost looks like an overlaid time-lapse of one bird, when it is an actual picture of four. © Ian Ballam

Grey Heron: (13 – 34) ↔

Almost daily visitor in small numbers. Max 5 on several dates.

Purple Heron: 2 records. 1992 & 1994

Great White Egret: (7 – 13) ↗

Uncommon but increasing visitor. Recorded on 17 dates. Max 3 on 25th Sep. This species seems to prefer fresh water. Numbers at the Avon Valley, Longham Lakes and Lodmoor far outstrip numbers in Poole Harbour.

Little Egret: (67 – 33) ↔

Daily visitor. The largest counts occur in the early morning or late afternoon when birds arrive from or prepare to set off to roost. Max 39 on 10th Aug & 11th Oct

Osprey: (5 – 33) ↔

Annual passage migrant. Recorded on at least 95 dates. The Poole Harbour pair fledged 4 young.

Our first was on 2nd Apr. 3 or 4 were seen on many dates during Aug and early Sep. Excellent photography of colour ringed birds from Rock Lea View confirmed that a number were migrants from elsewhere (see below). The last record of the year was 29th Sep, almost a month earlier than last year.

Blue C6C was photographed at Lytchett Bay regularly during late Jun and Jul 2025.



It was hatched in Lancashire in 2022

© Mark Wright

Blue 536 (Aurora) was photographed at Lytchett Bay on 18th Aug 2025.



It was ringed at Loch Arkaig, nr Spean Bridge, Highland, Scotland. The bird is a 3 year old female and was seen again at that site on 28th Jul 2025

© Mark Wright

Blue 422 (Featherstone) was photographed at Lytchett Bay on 9th Sep 2025



It was ringed as a chick in Kielder Forest, Northumberland in 2022. It visited Poole Harbour on autumn migration in 2024.

© Alison Copland

Honey-buzzard: (1 – 9)

Rare visitor. Our first records since 2022. One over Lytchett Fields on 5th Sep (IB et al) and a juv over Frenches Farm on 7th Sep (PSa)

Sparrowhawk: (4 – 34) ↔

Uncommon. Recorded on at least 69 dates throughout the year. Present throughout the breeding season.

Goshawk: (1 – 8)

Scarce visitor. The anticipated increase in records is failing to materialise despite excellent habitat on our western shore!

Singles on 26th Feb (MB) and 12th Aug (PSu)

Marsh Harrier: (6 – 33) ↗

Almost daily visitor. Probably our most frequently recorded raptor. Noted on at least 178 dates. Recorded in every month of the year. Max 4 on 24th Nov. 1 or 2 roosted occasionally at both ends of the year.

Hen Harrier: (2 – 33) ↔

Irregular Visitor. A very poor year after 2 very good ones. Recorded on 3 dates. Ringtail and grey male on 9th Jan, ringtails on 28th Jan and 16th Feb. None in the second winter period when the number of birds in southern England seemed unusually few.

Montagu's Harrier: 2 records. 1995 & 2017

Red Kite: (29 – 20) ↗

Scarce migrant, increasingly expected on spring migration. A much improved year with records on at least 30 dates between 9th Jan – 5th May & 11th Nov – 19th Dec. Max 4 on 2nd Apr.

White-tailed Eagle: (4 – 5)

Scarce wanderer from Isle of Wight reintroduction scheme. It is now five years since the White-tailed Eagle Project on the Isle of Wight in partnership with Forestry England began. In that time a total of 45 young eagles have been released and the project reached a major milestone in 2023 when a pair of translocated birds reared a chick for the first time in Sussex. 2025 saw another significant event. A pair raised a chick in Dorset. <https://roydennis.org/isle-of-wight-see-eagle-reintroduction/>

Recorded on 28 dates. Max 4 on 28th Dec, a new day record count. Rock Lea View is a prime eagle watching location.

Rough-legged Buzzard: 1 record. 2005.

Common Buzzard: (15 – 34) ↔

We repeat last year's comments. "For 30 years we have commented that this is the commonest raptor in the area. However this year at times it was rather hard to find and wasn't seen anything like as frequently

as previously or as much as Marsh Harrier. It's too early to say if something has changed but certainly worth keeping an eye on". Max 8 on 14th Mar.

Barn Owl: (2 – 24)

Bred at French's Farm until 2009. Shortly after this the nest box was removed. Since then the species has been hard to see. One at Lytchett Fields on 17th Aug was the only sighting of the year. Nocturnal sound monitoring at our Listening Station recorded them on 8 dates between 25th Sep – 30th Nov, confirming that there are birds in the area but that they are strictly nocturnal.

Little Owl: Previously resident breeder. Now very rare. Recorded in 12 years since 1992. Last record 2003.

Short Eared Owl: Scarce visitor. Recorded in 9 years since 1992. Last record 2022.

Tawny Owl: (2/3 territories – 34) ⇄

Uncommon resident. Heard occasionally throughout the year from 2 locations. Successful breeding thought likely but not proven.

Hoopoe: Rare visitor. Recorded in 4 years since 1992. Last record 2021.

Kingfisher: (5 – 34) ⇄

Passage migrant and uncommon, but frequently seen, winter visitor. No breeding season records this year. 3 ringed.

Wryneck: Rare visitor. Recorded in 6 years since 1992. Last record 2023.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: Scarce visitor. Recorded in 11 years since 1992. Last record 2021.

Great Spotted Woodpecker: ↗

Breeding Resident. Seen regularly in most parts of the Bay. Drumming heard in most areas during spring.

CT58051 – ringed as 1cy male at Sandy Close Pond on 24th Dec 2018. It was re-trapped at the same location on 27th Dec 2025 making the bird 7.5 yrs old. The oldest known British bird is 11yrs and 10mnths.

Green Woodpecker: ↓

Declined catastrophically. Having had only 2 records in 2023 & 3 in 2024 it was uplifting to have 13 in 2025. Spread throughout the year and a juvenile photographed in Aug. Please submit all records of this species in 2026.



© Richard Stephenson

Kestrel: (3 – 34) ⇄

Uncommon resident. Recorded on at least 53 dates (probably under recorded). Seen in every month except Jun. All singles except 2 on 5th Aug.

Merlin: (2 – 30) ⇄

Scarce visitor. Recorded on 9 dates. 3rd & 10th Jan, 24th Feb, 16th Mar. In the second period, on 5 dates from 1st Nov. The best year was 2020 with birds seen on 27 dates.

Hobby: (4 – 32) ⇄

Irregular summer visitor. Singles recorded on 12 dates between 19th Apr – 17th Oct. A typical year.

Peregrine: (3 – 33) ⇄

Frequent visitor. Noted on at least 30 dates and in every month. Two on several dates. Felt like a poor year.

Ring-necked Parakeet: 3 records. 1993, 2002 & 2020

Red-backed Shrike: 2 records. 1988 & 2024.

Great Grey Shrike: 1 record. 2023.

Woodchat Shrike: 1 record. 2011.

Golden Oriole: 1 record. 1993.

Jay: (20 – 34) ⇄

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

Magpie: ⇄

Common Resident.

Jackdaw: (1400 – 34) ⇄

Resident. Recorded throughout the year. As in 2024, in autumn & winter a strong flight at the beginning and end of the day was noted flying towards and from a roost in Holes Bay. Serious efforts to count these movements were few. Max 530 on 25th Oct.

Rook: (185 – 34) ↗

Breeds on edge of recording area. The Watery Lane colony which had been present for at least 25 years was mysteriously abandoned. The number of nests had varied between 11 – 25 in the years 2010 – 2023. A new smaller colony established in Slough Lane this year with 6 nests.

Max 135 flying to roost on 16th Nov.

Carrion Crow: (100 – 34) ⇄

Common Resident. Breeds widely across the area. Max 47 on 16th Nov.

Raven: (15 – 31) ⇄

Uncommon. Recorded throughout the year, in particular during autumn.

Waxwing: Rare visitor. Recorded in 5 years since 1992. Last record 2024.

Coal Tit: ↗

Uncommon resident, increasing. Recorded from most sites across the calendar. 6 ringed.

Marsh Tit: Rare visitor. Recorded in 8 years since 1992. Last record 2024.

Willow Tit: 2 records. 1982 & 1998.

Blue Tit: ↔

Common resident. 98 ringed.

Great Tit: ↔

Common resident. 45 ringed.

Penduline Tit: 2 records. 1998 & 2015.

Bearded Tit: (40 – 34) ↗

Scarce breeder and uncommon passage migrant. A complete survey found at least 5 pairs in the reedbeds east of the Sherford. Relatively little ringing during the breeding season. 4 juvs ringed. Max 17 on 3rd Dec. 22 ringed.

Woodlark: (15 - 22)

Previous winter visitor. Now scarce migrant. 1 over Lytchett Heath 9th Oct. 1 over Lytchett Fields 22nd Oct.

Skylark: (781 - 34) ↔

Scarce breeder and passage migrant. A singing male was recorded in Mar – Jun, breeding not proven. Rather scarce in each winter period, Max 3. Autumn passage was better than of late and occurred between 26th Sep – 5th Nov. Max 20 on 9th Oct.

Sand Martin: (5000 – 34) ↔

Common passage migrant. Recorded from 30th Mar until 25th Sep. September was the best month of the year. Rather late, suggesting that many pairs may have second brooded? Max 100 on the 9th Sep. 58 ringed.

Swallow: (10750+ – 34) ↔

Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. Recorded from 20th Mar until 16th Oct. As 2024, spring migration was unremarkable and autumn migration was decent. Max 415 on 7th Sep. 9 ringed.

Red-rumped Swallow: 1 record. 2023.

House Martin: (1800 – 34) ↔

Common passage migrant, breeding colony on edge of recording area at Watery Lane. Present from 3rd Apr until 6th Oct. A poor year, no counts greater than 50. The colony at Watery Lane, Seaview Road and has extended into Slough Lane / Beach Road thanks to the provision of nest boxes. The House Martin nest tower has so far failed to attract any interest.

No of House Martin nests at the Watery Lane colony 2011 – 2025. No of nest collapsed or destroyed in brackets.

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
13 (4)	2 (0)	4 (1)	?	7 (3)	10 (4)	18 (?)	17 (?)	12 (4)	18 (-)	11 (-)	10 (-)	20 (3)	22 (-)	16 (-)

Cetti's Warbler: (11 males – 33) ↔

Breeding resident. A full breeding survey in 2025 found 9 territories, the best since 2017. Breeding was confirmed at two of these. 25 ringed.

© Ian Ballam

Long tailed Tit: ↗

Common resident. Regularly recorded from most sites at the Bay. 27 ringed.

Wood Warbler: 2 records. 1998 & 2013

Yellow-browed Warbler: Rare migrant. Recorded in 9 years since 1992. Last record 2024.

Willow Warbler: (60 – 34) ↔

Passage migrant. This species has been lost as a regular breeder. Recorded between 29th Mar & 12th Sep. Migration was poor in both seasons. Max 17 on 6th Aug. 83 ringed.

Chiffchaff: (142 – 34) ↗

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. A full survey found at least 16 territories, this is the most ever.

Winter records were well spread along the northern shore – involving at least 3 - 4 birds.

Autumn migration through Dorset was immense. Any ringing session between mid Sept and mid Oct was inundated with birds. Max 134 on 25th Sep. 620 were ringed despite reduced effort, 30% better than any other previous year.



© Mark Wright

DV1662 – A 1cy ringed at Zemst, Brabant, BELGIUM on 19th Oct 2024 was controlled 21 days later at Lytchett Bay on 9th Nov 2024. A E movement of 456km.

RJL613 – An unaged bird ringed at Portland Bird Observatory, Dorset on 11th Oct 2025 was controlled 6 days later at Lytchett Bay on 17th Oct 2025. A NE movement of 37km.

PBE696 – A juv ringed at East Rigg Farm, North Yorkshire on 23rd July 2024 was controlled 445 days later at Lytchett Bay on 11th Oct 2025. A SSW movement of 407km.

LPC296 – A juv ringed at Tophill Low, East Riding of Yorkshire on 25th Aug 2025 was controlled 47 days later at Lytchett Bay on 11th Oct 2025. A SSW movement of 371km

Siberian Chiffchaff: (2 – 11)

Rare visitor. 1 was at Lytchett Bay View on 12th – 13th Mar (SR et al)

Aquatic Warbler: Rare visitor. 10 records involving 12 individuals. Last record 2022

Sedge Warbler: (219 – 34) ↔

Passage migrant. 8 recorded on only 7 dates between 19th Apr & 8th May. Spring migration is now largely a thing of the past for this species. Autumn passage commenced on 18th Jul and continued to 22nd Sep. Max 86 on 2nd Aug. 377 ringed.

BAE6917 – A 1cy ringed on 6th Aug 2025 at Lytchett Bay was re-trapped 12 days later at Lieu-Dieu, Jard-sur-Mer, Vendée, FRANCE on 18th Aug 2025. A S movement of 481km.

BBD7532 – A 1cy ringed on 14th Aug 2025 at Sanford Reservoir, Northamptonshire was controlled 9 days later at Lytchett Bay on 23rd Aug 2025. A SSW movement of 200km.

AJZ1651 – A 1cy ringed on 2nd Aug 2024 at Lytchett Bay was re-trapped 355 days later at Alphington, Devon on 23rd Jul 2025. A W movement of 107km.

BAE6924 – A 1cy ringed on 6th Aug 2025 at Lytchett Bay was re-trapped 4 days later at Westdown Plantation, Wiltshire on 10th Aug 2025. A N movement of 58km.

Reed Warbler: (107 males – 34) ↔

Common summer visitor. Present between 11th Apr and 17th Oct. No survey, 107 singing males were recorded in a full survey in 2019. 240 ringed.

BRC1396 – a pullus ringed on 21st Jun 2025 at Littleton Brick Pits, Gloucestershire was controlled 56 days later at Lytchett Bay on 16th Aug 2025. A SSE movement of 107km.

Melodious Warbler: 1 record. 2015

Grasshopper Warbler: (33 – 27) ↔

Passage migrant, predominantly in autumn. Under recorded. Bred in 1986.

No spring records. 45 between 26th Jul & 25th Sep. All ringed except one field record at Lytchett Fields on 12th Sep. Max 9 on 6th Aug. 44 ringed.

BXA6423 – A 1cy ringed on 9th Aug 2025 at Lytchett Bay was re-trapped 5 days later at Charlston Reedbed, East Sussex on 14th Aug 2025. A E movement of 153km.

Blackcap: (75 – 34) ↗

Passage migrant, summer visitor and scarce winter visitor. A full breeding survey found 12 territories, a decrease on the 14 -18 in 2019. Seen at Lytchett Way, Turlin Moor and Lytchett Fields in the first two months.

Spring migration almost undetectable. Decent autumn migration. Max 40 on 14th Sep.

Occasional sightings in second winter period from Sandy Close Pond, Lytchett Bay View and Lytchett Fields. 150 ringed.

Garden Warbler: (7 – 32) ↔

Scarce passage migrant. 1 on 10th May was the only spring record. 7 bird-days in autumn between 26th Jul – 22nd Aug. Max 2 on 6th Aug. 4 ringed.

Lesser Whitethroat: (3 – 31) ↔

Scarce passage migrant, which occasionally breeds or holds territory. An excellent year. After 1 at Turlin Moor on 25th Apr, a male took up territory at Lytchett Fields between 26th Apr – 4th May. 4 singles in autumn between 15th Aug & 25th Sep (the latest ever, previously 22nd Sep 2014). 1 ringed.

Whitethroat: (18 – 32) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. Bred in 2013. A dreadful spring but 1 on 7th Apr was our earliest ever (previously 19th Apr 2024). 2 on 26th Apr, 1 on 17th May. Autumn was more typical, 23 bird-days between 17th Aug – 22nd Sep. Max 6 on 5th Sep. 15 ringed.

Dartford Warbler: (2 pairs – 32)

Did not breed at Lytchett Heath this year. Was present there occasionally at both ends of the year but no birds were present in the breeding season. 1 ringed.

Firecrest: (9 – 22) ↗

Recent colonist, previously scarce migrant. At least 1 pair bred successfully. Present throughout the year and recorded from all parts of the Bay. No more than 3 recorded on any one date at any one location. 7 ringed.

Goldcrest: (27 – 34) ⇄

Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. 2 territories found, success unknown. Autumn migration was steady. Max 11 on 8th Oct. 28 ringed.

Wren: ⇄

Common resident. 20 ringed.

Nuthatch: ⇄

Uncommon. Seen occasionally throughout the year from sites stretching from Lytchett Fields to Sandy Close Pond, seen frequently in the summer and autumn. Max 3 at Sandy Close Pond on 25th Jan. 4 ringed.

Treecreeper: ⇄

Scarce resident. Recorded occasionally across the year from Sandy Close Pond to Kingsbridge. Probably breeds but the population is obviously small.

Rose-coloured Starling. 1 record. 2008.

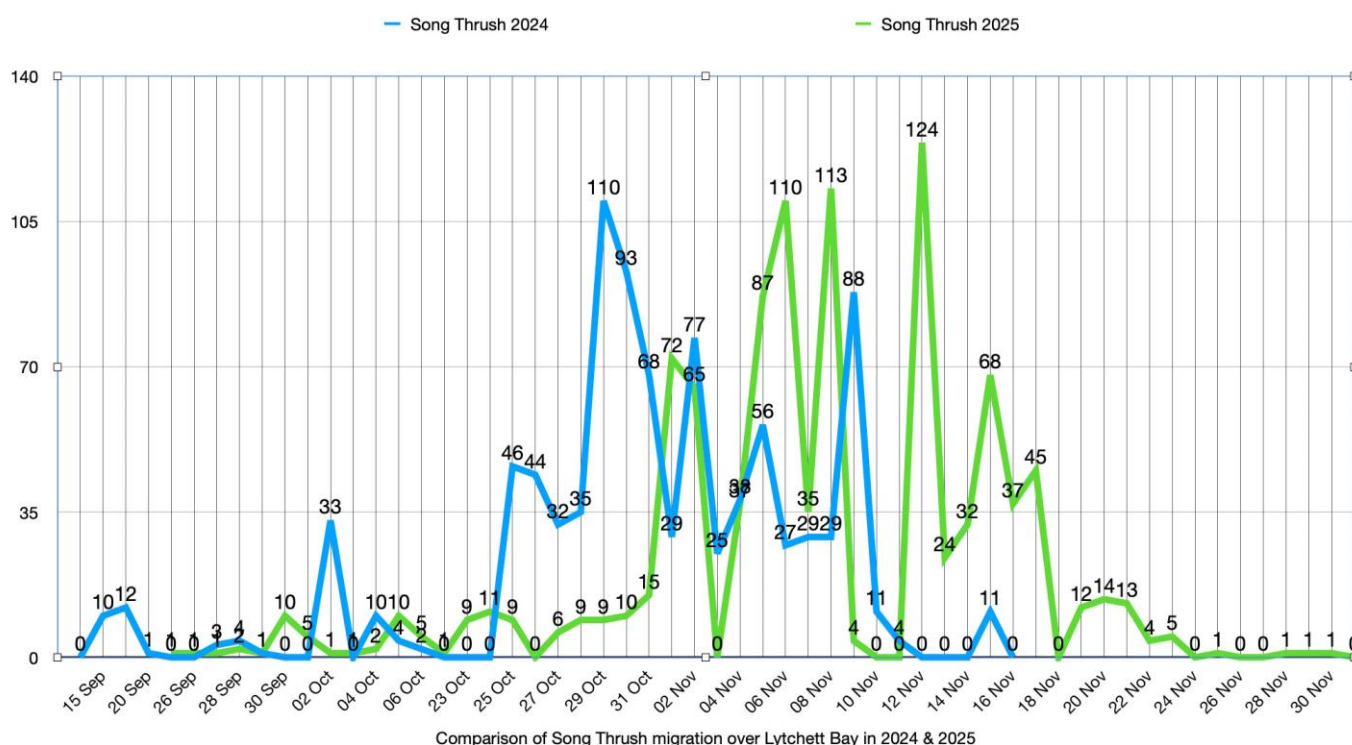
Starling: (35000 – 5600 – 34) ⇄

Common resident. Max 200 on 2 dates in Aug. Lots of juveniles present in breeding season. 3 ringed.

Song Thrush: (1256 – 34) ⇄

Breeding resident and passage migrant. A complete survey found 11 pairs, exactly as we had estimated in recent years. No diurnal migration witnessed. 3 ringed.

Nick Hull's graphic shows a rather late movement of Song Thrush which overlapped with Redwing movements. See below.



Mistle Thrush: (60 - 20 – 34) ⇄

Uncommon resident. 2024 was our worst year ever. 2025 saw a further deterioration. Recorded on only 10 dates, singles on each occasion.

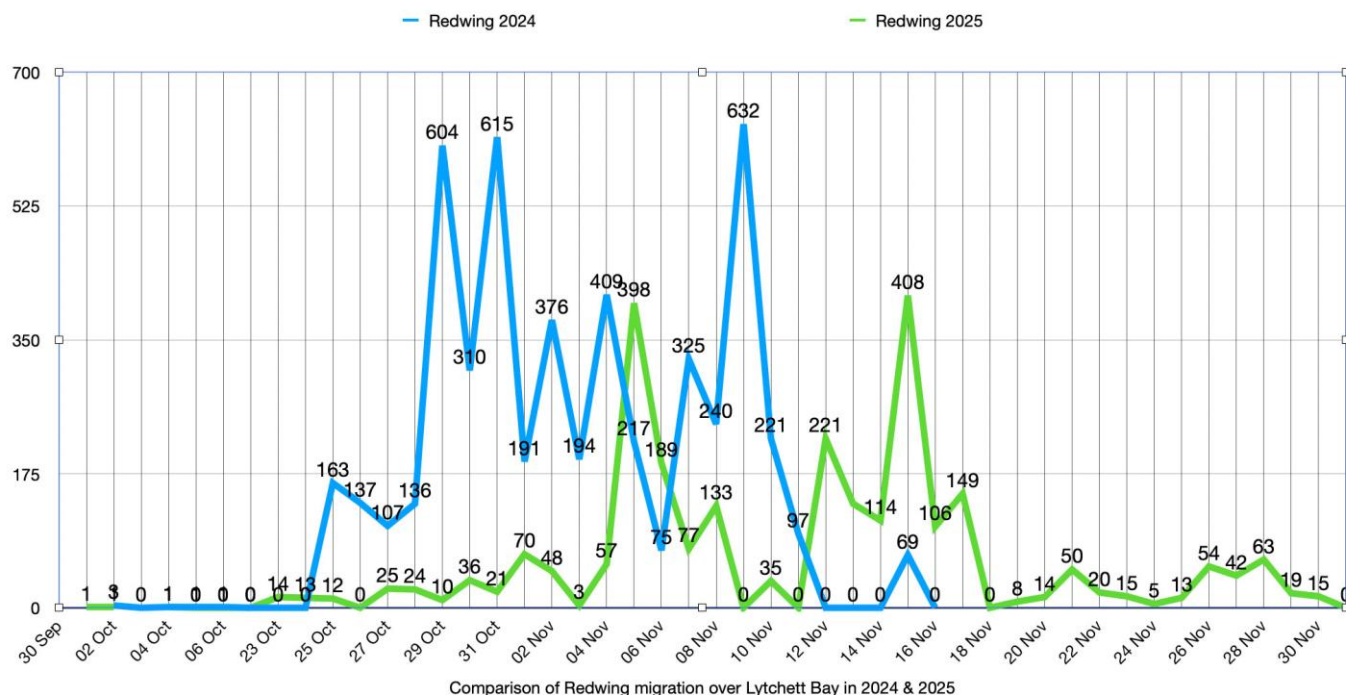
Redwing: (1000 – 514 – 34) ⇄

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded until 21st Mar and from 1st Oct (noc-mig).

Small numbers around Lytchett Fields in the first two months, max 20 on 13th Jan.
Diurnal migration in Oct - Nov was weak. Max 40 on 13th Oct.

90 around Lytchett Fields at the very end of the year.

Nick Hull prepared this graphic comparing nocturnal sound recording during the last two autumns. This confirms birders experience, 2025 was comparatively poor year due to mild temperatures and unhelpful wind direction. 1 ringed.



Blackbird: (45 – 34) ⇄

Common Resident. No significant records submitted but it felt that overall this species is in trouble locally. Numbers were only bolstered by migrants later in the year. 4 ringed.

Fieldfare: (559 – 34) ↘

Uncommon winter visitor. 3 on 4th Jan was the only record in the first part of the year. The first of autumn was 3 on 16th Nov. After which recorded on at least 5 dates. Max 29 on 19th Nov.

Ring Ouzel: Scarce migrant. Recorded in 14 years since 1992. Last record 2023.

Spotted Flycatcher: (8 – 6 – 34) ⇄

Passage migrant, previously bred. In spring singles on 2nd & 17th May. Only 12 bird-days in autumn between 13th Aug & 29th Sep. Max 2 on 2 dates.

Robin: ⇄

Common resident. 22 ringed.

We had a fantastic movement this year. What possessed this young Robin to make this journey so early in its life? Of course we don't know where it originated from, it may have already travelled some distance to get here?

BXA6442 – A 1cy ringed at Lytchett Bay on 9th Aug 2025 was re-trapped 6 days later at Icklesham, East Sussex on 15th Aug 2025. A E movement of 192km.

Bluethroat: 2 records. 1971 & 2015.

Nightingale: 3 records. 1970, 1991 & 2012.

Pied Flycatcher: (1 - 15)

Scarce migrant. Another good year. 2 records, singles at Turlin Moor on 15th Aug and the Water Works on 10th Sep.

Black Redstart: Rare visitor. Recorded in 10 years since 1992. Last record 2024.

Common Redstart: (4 – 28) ↔

Scarce migrant. 7 bird-days, all in autumn. 1 on 6th Aug, 4 on 16th Aug (an all-time record count), 1 on 17th Aug & 1 on 17th Sep. 5 ringed.

Whinchat: (11 – 32) ↔

Scarce passage migrant. A very poor year. 9 bird-days between 11th – 20th Sep. Max 5 on 19th Sep.

Stonechat: (23 – 34) ↗

Breeding resident. We thought there might be two pairs but in the end only 1 pair raised 2 broods.

Present in every month of the year and recorded at a wide range of sites around the bay. Reasonable migration during autumn. Max 12 on 13th Oct. 3 ringed.

Northern Wheatear: (39 – 34) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. Almost every record of this species occurs in the north-west of the recording area. The available habitat for this species has declined significantly in recent years due to habitat succession. Not surprisingly it was a poor year.

6 bird-days in spring from 27th Mar – 23rd Apr. Max 2 on last date.

6 bird-days between 21st Aug – 22nd Sep. Max 2 on first date.

Tree Sparrow: 2 records. 1981 & 1995

House Sparrow: (101++ – 34) ↔

Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe, seems to be doing well in many areas around the Bay. Max 30 at Turlin Moor at either end of the year. 5 ringed.

Dunnock: ↔

Common resident. 3 ringed.

Yellow Wagtail: (150 – 34) ↔

Uncommon passage migrant. 1 on 6th Apr. Autumn migration was a little better than recent years. 103 bird-days between 2nd Aug – 25th Sep. Max 50 on 11th Sep. 3 ringed.



© Ian Ballam

Blue-headed Wagtail: 4 records. 1983, 2013 (2) & 2014

Grey Wagtail: (15 – 34) ⇄

Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. No evidence of breeding this year. No significant counts submitted.

Pied Wagtail: (650 – 34) ⇄

Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. The third very poor year in a row. Very few anywhere at any time. 1 pair successfully bred at Lytchett Fields. The Lytchett Heath roost was very poor again with barely more than 20 present. 33 ringed.

White Wagtail:

Scarce passage migrant usually in spring. 8 bird-days 11th - 22nd Mar. Max 5 on 17th Mar.

Meadow Pipit: (460 – 34) ⇄

Historic breeder, now common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Max 120 on 22nd Sep. 86 ringed.

Tree Pipit: (18 – 30) ⇄

Scarce passage migrant, rare in spring. 1 on 6th Apr. Autumn produced 16 bird-days between 9th Aug – 5th Sep. Max 7 on 9th Aug.

Water Pipit: (20 – 28) ⇄



Uncommon winter visitor. Records have returned to previous levels since the creation of Lytchett Fields. Despite more being ringed than in any previous year, this species that was often hard to find in 2025. Present until 12th Mar, no more than one seen on any one date. The first returning bird was on 29th Oct with 5 present the following day. After this, seen until 21st Nov but none after that which was very unusual in recent years.

© Shaun Robson

Our “Pipitry” produced a record 8 individuals ringed (7 colour-marked as part of a national project). A total of 30 birds have now been colour-marked at Lytchett Bay since Nov 2020. No marked birds were seen in the field this year.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit: (50 – 34) ↘

Uncommon winter visitor. All Rock Pipits at Lytchett Bay are considered to be from Scandinavia of the race *littoralis*. Another very poor year. Recorded until 12th Feb and from 16th Oct. Max 5 on 8th Nov. Very scarce after 13th Nov. 6 ringed and colour marked.

Chaffinch: (450 – 34) ⇄

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Max 25 on 21st Jan and 40 on 29th Dec around the arable field. 7 ringed.

Brambling: (10 – 29)

Scarce winter visitor. Singles on 10th Nov & 22nd Dec. Both calling overhead.

Hawfinch: Rare Visitor Recorded in 7 years since 1992. Last record 2024.

Bullfinch: (20 – 34) ⇄

Uncommon, in decline after an increase earlier in the century. Recorded on at least 18 dates. Max 5 on 5th Jan. 3 ringed.

Greenfinch: (60 – 34) ⇄



Uncommon breeding resident. The feeders at Lytchett Fields proved popular. Max 53 on 25th Jan & 35 on 5th Dec. 2 ringed.

© Peter Corbin

Twite: 1 record. 1983.

Linnet: (475 – 34) ⇄

Uncommon breeding resident. No confirmed breeding records. Mostly seen around arable field, which remained uncultivated. Max 35 on 13th Jan.

Redpoll: (50 – 28) ⇄

Scarce passage migrant. 1 or 2 were seen around Lytchett Way or Lytchett Fields on 4 dates to 17th Feb. Autumn passage was excellent with a record count. Min 90 bird-days 17th Oct – 2nd Dec. Max 50 on 11th Oct (previous best 40 on 25th Sep 1997). 5 ringed.

Crossbill: (21 – 19)

Scarce passage migrant. A good year for dispersal and irruption led to a good series of records. 29 bird-days 2nd Aug – 20th Nov. Max 8 on 31st Oct.

Goldfinch: (120 – 34) ⇄

Common breeding resident and passage migrant. Notable counts included 62 at Lytchett Way on 18th Jan and 40 at Lytchett Fields on 9th Sep. 1 ringed.

Siskin: (280 – 31) ⇄

Uncommon resident. Recorded throughout the year in very small numbers. Probably bred given presence throughout breeding season. Max 15 on 25th Sep.

Lapland Bunting: 2 records. 2006 & 2015.

Snow Bunting: 1 record. 1993.

Yellowhammer: (13 – 22)

Extinct breeding species, now scarce migrant. 1 over Lytchett Fields on 22nd Sep was the only record.

Ortolan Bunting: 2 records. 2018 & 2021.

Reed Bunting: (110 – 34) ↔

Breeding resident, A full breeding survey found only 13 territories, down from c23 prs in 2019. Regularly encountered throughout the year from most parts of the Bay. 55 ringed.

This photo nicely shows the progression towards breeding plumage in male Reed Bunting. The remaining pale feather tips will wear off to create the jet black plumage on the head and breast. © Ian Ballam



Dark-eyed Junco: 1 record. 2025

Category E species:

Bar-headed Goose: 1 record. 2024

Red-breasted Goose: 2 records 2020 & 2 on 10th Apr 2024 (latter accidentally omitted from last year's report)

Great Bustard: 1 record 2014. Wiltshire reintroduction project.

Records received from: D.Bakewell, I.Ballam (IB), M Brooks (MB), M Buglar, A.Collyer, A.Copland, P.Corbin, A.P.Day, T.Elborn, D.Foster, R.Gifford, R.Goad, A.N. Gould, P.V.Harvey M&L Highfield, F.Hockey, J.Hull, N.Hull, S.Isherwood-Harris, P.Kirby, I.M.Lewis, P.Morton, G.Owen, R.Pitts, S.Robson (SR), S Ryde, P Saunders (PSa), S.F.Smith, R.Stephenson (RS), P.Sutton (PSu), P.Swann, A.M Taylor, J. Westacott, T Weston, D.White, M.Wood, N.Woods, L.Woodford. With additional information from Bird Track, e-Bird, Birds of Poole Harbour and the Dorset Bird Club. Apologies for any omissions.



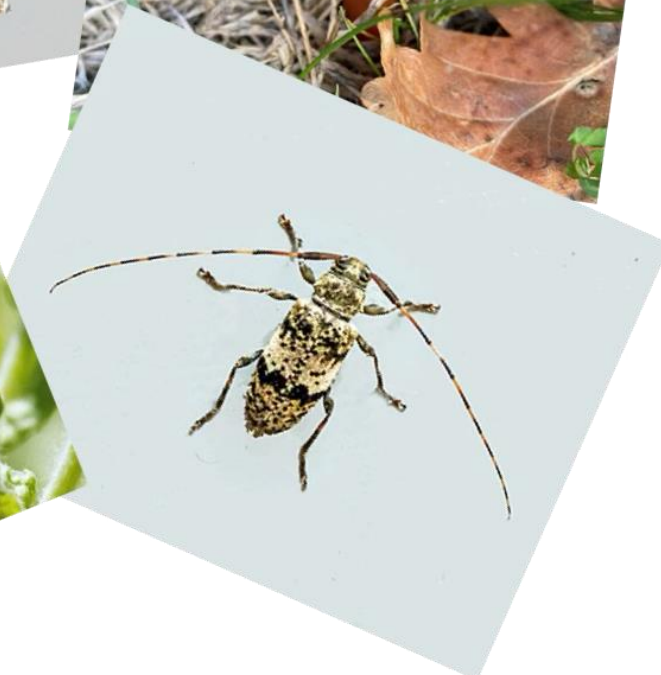
Lytchett Bay from Rock Lea View © Shaun Robson

Appendix 1 – Birds ringed at Lytchett Bay in 2025

Species	No ringed	No re-trapped	Total
Bearded Tit	22	7	29
Blackbird	4		4
Blackcap	150		150
Blue Tit	98	20	118
Bullfinch	3	1	4
Cetti's Warbler	25	6	31
Chaffinch	7		7
Chiffchaff	620	7	627
Coal Tit	6	3	9
Dartford Warbler	1		1
Dunnock	3	1	4
Firecrest	7	1	8
Garden Warbler	4		4
Goldcrest	28	9	37
Goldfinch	1		1
Grasshopper Warbler	44		44
Great Spotted Woodpecker		1	1
Great Tit	45	6	51
Greenfinch	2		2
House Sparrow	5		5
Jack Snipe	3		3
Kingfisher	3		3
Lesser Whitethroat	1		1
Long-tailed Tit	27	14	41
Meadow Pipit	86	1	87
Nuthatch	4	2	6
Pied Wagtail (yarrellii)	33		33
Redpoll (Lesser - cabaret)	5		5
Redstart	5		5
Redwing	1		1
Reed Bunting	55	5	60
Reed Warbler	240	21	261
Robin	22	9	31
Rock Pipit (Scandanavian)	6		6
Sand Martin	58		58
Sedge Warbler	377	2	379
Song Thrush	3		3
Starling	3		3
Stonechat	3		3
Swallow	9		9
Teal	1		1
Water Pipit	8		8
Whitethroat	15		15
Willow Warbler	83	2	85
Wren	20	4	24
Yellow Wagtail	3		3
Grand Total	2149	122	2271

Lytchett Bay

Non-avian Wildlife Report 2025



Micro moth *Diasemiopsis ramburialis*

Plantaloon Bee *Dasypoda hirtipes*

Butter Waxcap *Hygrocybe-ceracea*

Longhorn Beetle *Leiopus nebulosus*

Introduction

As always, recording the wildlife within the Lytchett Bay recording area has continued as normal, though there have been fewer people reporting sightings this year.

This year I've added 1546 records to the database recording 537 species, with records coming from most areas around Lytchett Bay. Of the 537 species there were 148 records of species which have designations of one kind or other.

If you haven't submitted your sightings but would like to it's never too late, you can email Nick Hull at nickh4142@gmail.com or you can post sightings and photographs on the Friends of Lytchett Bay Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2469123376495268> or tweet to Lytchett Bay Nature @LytchettP it's so easy to let us know what you're seeing. The more we know about the patch and its wildlife, no matter how small, it is valuable to keep Lytchett Bay and its heathland, fields and green space for us all to enjoy whatever your interest.

As always I have to thank the following contributors for their contributions and records in no particular order: Shaun Robson and Marie Smith, Ian Ballam, Jackie Hull, David White, Nick Mudge, Liz Woodford, Martin Wood, Ian Lewis, Alison Copland, John Westacott, Paul Swann, Pete Corbin, Mark Wright. Hopefully I haven't left anyone out. I apologise if I have.

I also would like to thank the following people for their help in verifying identification of various species groups. Tony Allen (Beetles); Paul Harris and Phil Sterling (Moths) and members from Diptera, Hoverfly and various experts from BWARS (Bees Wasps & Ants) FaceBook groups and Britain Arachnid Society, also Steven Falk via social media; whose help has been invaluable with identifying and advise on some of the more difficult and rare species of bee, wasps and diptera.

A number of species listed in the species account may have 'agg' written next to the name, this means for a definitive identification the species requires to be dissected (gen.det) to determine the species.

There may come a time when one or two species may have to be collected to prove identification. If work is required for their conservation we would need to know what species they are to provide information to the various NGO's to be able to help the species if required.

I have included the species designation where appropriate for those species that have them. The designations are explained below.

Thank you, Nick Hull

Photograph Acknowledgements - Big thank you to all who have allowed me to use their photographs in this report. Unless stated otherwise all photographs/videos are copyright of the individual photographer.

On some of the species in the account you will see in brackets i.e. (Recorded 6 out of 12 years) The first figure simply means the number of years which the species has been sighted in the 12 years we have been recording.

Designation and meaning used in this report

W&C (1981)	-	Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)
UK (2007)	-	UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species list
HR (2010)	-	Habitats Regulations (1994) includes those now covered by Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)
NERC (2006)S41	-	NERC Act (2006), Section 41 list Species of Principle Importance in England
UK BAP	-	UK Biodiversity Action Plan
Notable A	-	JNCC Rarity Status Nationally Scarce invertebrate species found in 16-30 10km squares nationwide
Notable B	-	JNCC Rarity Status Nationally Scarce invertebrate species found in 31-100 10km squares nationwide JNCC Rare

Status

Nationally Scarce	-	JNCC Rarity Status occurring in sixteen to one hundred 10km squares nationwide. JNCC Rarity Status
Nationally Rare	-	JNCC Rarity Status Occurring in less than sixteen 10km squares nationwide
Vulnerable-GB	-	National Red Data Book per lists from JNCC web-site
Near Threatened-GB	-	National Red Data Book per lists from JNCC web-site Lower Risk.
Dorset Notable	-	Dorset Notable Species Lists Species are chosen as indicators of good unimproved or semi-improved habitat to assist in the selection of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest.
Dorset Rare	-	Dorset Notable Species Lists Species found in three or less, assists in the selection of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. sites in Dorset since 01/01/1990.
Web spinners	-	Dorset Notable Species Lists - Web spinning moths and mites.

Mammals

There has been little change in the mammal species being recorded in the Lytchett Bay Recording area, one notable sighting was of Stoat which hasn't been recorded since 2019. Otherwise there have been sightings of ten species. The most obvious species which no sightings have been received has been Otter, Roe Deer the third year with no records of these species. Water Vole hasn't been recorded this year though there has been signs that they were still present along the Approach Field stream.

Otter *Lutra lutra* - Hab(1992);HR(2010);W&C(1981);UK(2007);NERC(2006)S41;Near Threatened-GB (Recorded in 9 of the 12 years)

As a rule during the year there is usually at least one sighting of an Otter in or on Lytchett fields. This year we haven't seen one but there have been signs they are still present with spraint being found on the concrete sluice.

Stoat *Mustela erminea*
(Recorded in 4 of the 12 years)

Recorded on 8th August in the Approach Field making this only the fourth year in the twelve years of recording that this species has been seen in the recording area.



Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* - UK(2007); NERC (2006)S41
(Recorded in 12 of 12 years)

Common Seal *Phoca vitulina* Hab (1992); HR (2010);UK(2007); NERC (2006) S41
(Recorded 10 of 12 years)

There were five sightings between 13th June and 17th October after which the seal became more regular and could be found somewhere in the bay most days.



© Ian Ballam

Pipistrelle Bat - *Pipistrellus sp.* HR (2010)
(Recorded in 10 of 12 years)

Eight reports received this year though I suspect they were around more often than reported. Six sightings from around the junction of Lytchett Way and Sandy Lane were between 13th May and 15th August. Two other reports, one from Lytchett Heath on 14th January and another from Sandy Close 22nd March.

Reptiles & Amphibians

Common Frog *Rana temporaria* - W&C (1981)

(Recorded in 12 of 12 years)

Recorded in a number of garden ponds in the area though in mine they seem to have stopped breeding. This may be due to predators such as newts and great diving beetle and dragonfly larvae which can be found in the pond. Though, during November during nighttime audio recording for migrant birds I recorded frogs croaking at various times at night and we have found frogs of various ages in and around the garden during 2025.

Common Lizard - *Zootoca (Lacerta) vivipara* (W&C (1981); UK (2007); NERC (2006)S41).

(Recorded 11 of 12 years)

Just a single record of 25th February at Lytchett Heath. I'm sure this species is more common than the records show but they are so hard to find as they keep themselves hidden in the heather.

Sand Lizard - *Lacerta agilis* (Hab (1992); HR (2010); W&C (1981); UK (2007); NERC (2006)S41)

(Recorded 10 of 12 years)

Six reports all from Lytchett Heath between 25th February and 7th May. The population here seems to be stable. Though some work on clearing areas on the banks is required to make basking areas as they are getting well covered by the gorse.



Slow Worm - *Anguis fragilis* W&C (1981); UK (2007); NERC (2006)S41)

(Recorded 10 of 12 years)

Regular at Sandy Close Pond. I was informed by a neighbour in Furzy Road that they had seen Slow Worm regularly in their compost bin.

Smooth Newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* W&C (1981)

(Recorded 8 of 12 years)

As usual the only records came from two garden ponds, my own and the Westacott's garden pond at each end of Lytchett Way.

Grass Snake - *Natrix helvetica* W&C (1981); UK(2007); NERC(2006)S41)

(Recorded 12 of 12 years)

Just two records received from Shaun Robson both from the traditional site, his garden and pond in Sandy close.

Adder - *Vipera berus* (W&C 1981); UK(2007); NERC(2006)S41)

(Recorded 12 of 12 years)

The first sighting of the year was from the Approach Field with a female out on an early date of 22nd February. This individual was regularly seen throughout spring. The first male was seen on

3rd April which is more usual. John Westacott reported a sighting of three individuals at the end of Footpath 12 on the 8th May.

Odonata - Dragonflies and Damselflies

In 2025 12 species of odonata were recorded. Over the twelve years, there have been two records of White-legged Damselfly but they appear not to have been accepted by the County Recorder. Which means we have had a total of 29 species of odonata for the patch. I think one of the reasons for the decline in numbers of species is due to the change in habitat. Footpath 12 Ponds have become choked by the expansion of the reedbed. Also the dry summers have dried the pools and ponds out at the time when the odonata requires it to be wet.

Beautiful Demoiselle - *Calopteryx virgo*

(Recorded 8 of 12 years)

3 Records, 31st May Lytchett Bay Viewpoint, 4th June along Watery Lane and the 26th June in the Approach Field.

Azure Damselfly *Coenagrion puella*

(Recorded 12 of 12 years)

Four records 10th & 25th May Lytchett Heath; 25th May Lytchett Way Garden and 19th June Footpath 12.

Large Red Damselfly *Pyrhosoma nymphula*

(Recorded in 12 of 12 years)

4 records, on several dates from 6th April to 31st May in my Lytchett Way wildlife garden. Single report on 8th April from Lytchett Heath.

Small Red Damselfly *Ceriagrion tenellum*

(Recorded 5 out of 12 years)

3 reports this year, 2 records on 17th June one from Lytchett Heath the other from my Lytchett Way garden and another from Lytchett Heath on the 1st July. The one photographed in my garden appears to be a female of the form C.t.typica showing the green abdomen segments



Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea*

(Recorded 11 out of 12 years)

4 records the first record was from Slough Lane of 2 on 11th July, 1 at Lytchett Heath on 14th July followed by two records from my Lytchett Way Garden on 17th August and 26th August;

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*

(Recorded 11 out 12 years)

Single record of three moving backward and forwards along the sea wall in front of the Rockley Viewpoint on 6th October.

Brown Hawker *Aeshna grandis*

(Recorded 10 out of 12 years)

Just a single report this year for this species 11th July from Footpath 12.

Golden-ringed Dragonfly *Cordulegaster boltonii*

(Recorded in 11 of 12 years)

2 Records both from Lytchett Heath on the 10th and 11th July.

Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*

(Recorded in 10 out of 12 years)

3 reports, first was of a male and female on Lytchett Heath on 1st May; followed by one on 11th May Lytchett Fields; The last record was from Lytchett Heath on 2nd June.

Scarce Chaser - *Libellula fulva* - Near

Threatened-GB

(Recorded 8 out of 12 years)

Two reports, one of a male on 7th May on Lytchett Heath and a second from Lytchett Fields on 1st July.



Keeled Skimmer *Orthetrum coerulescens*

(Recorded 9 out of 12 years)

3 records, the first was from my garden on 30th June; the next was from the dragonfly pond off Slough Lane where 2 were seen on 7th July; the third was from Footpath 12 on 14th August.

Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*

(Recorded 11 out of 12 years)

Just a single record from Footpath 12 on 14th August.

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*

(Recorded in 12 out of 12 years)

4 records, the first from my garden on 30th June and almost daily throughout the summer. The next report came from the dragonfly pond off Slough Lane and from Lytchett Heath on 7th July; from Footpath 12 on 14th August and Lytchett Fields when a pair was seen on 25th October.

Orthoptera & Allied Insects

We have records of 16 species over the recording area since 2014. In 2025 we only recorded the following species.

Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metrioptera roeselli*

(Recorded in 11 out of 12 years)

This species is commonly found in the Approach and other Fields first recorded on 25th June and thereafter into September.

Long-winged Cone-head *Conocephalus discolor*

(Recorded in 5 out of 12 years)

Just a single record this year was found by Ian Ballam in Lytchett Fields on 12th August.

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus bruneus*

(Recorded in 12 out of 12 years)

This is probably the most common species found throughout the recording area; the first record came from my garden on the 3rd of June and could be found daily well into October.

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*

(Recorded in 6 out of 12 years)

Much like the previous species, Meadow Grasshopper is common in the recording area and first recorded species in my garden on 30th June and thereafter into October.

Hemiptera - Bugs

So far we have recorded 73 species of bug within the Lytchett Bay recording area. This year we recorded eight species, one of which was for the first time.

Miridae* sp. *Pantilius tunicatus

(New species)

Common and widespread species across Southern Britain. Found in my moth trap on 24th August. This is a species that can be found on the lower branches of Hazel, Alder and Birch. They are considered a late season species usually appearing in September.



Pantilius tunicatus © Nick Hull

Rhopalidae sp. Rhopalus subrufus

(Recorded in 2 out of 12 years)

Recorded by Ian Ballam on 22nd April in Lytchett Fields. This is the second record for this species for the recording area. The previous record was on 18th May 2023.

Coleoptera – Beetles

The beetle list is still growing albeit slowly; this year's records brings us to 142 species of beetle with nine newly recorded and a second record for a Nationally Scarce species in 2025.

Diving Beetle *Colymbetes fuscus*

(New Species)

Recorded in my moth trap on the 29th July. This is a fairly large diving beetle which is a widespread species in the UK and can be found at any time of year.

Water Scavenger Beetle *Enochrus testaceus*

(New Species)

This species was again found in my moth trap on 29th July. It is a small beetle and a fairly widespread species in England.

Water Beetle *Berosus affinis*

(New Species)

Another species from my moth trap, found on the 3rd July. Also another small beetle 3.5-4.5mm in size. They are widespread in the southern half of Britain but populations can be local. They like ponds and marshy habitat.

Water Beetle *Helochares lividus*

(New Species)

This species again ventured into my moth trap on the 24th August.

It is another small beetle with a generally southeastern distribution though they are recorded in Devon. They like ponds, freshwater ditches and dykes on the coastal levels.

Black-clouded Longhorn Beetle *Leiopus nebulosus*

(New Species)

Again found in my moth trap 29th July. This is a super looking Longhorn beetle which is a widespread species in Britain that is associated with Oak, Alder and Lime trees.

Ground Beetle *Ophonus rufibarbis*

(New Species)

Found in my moth trap on 29th July. This is a widespread species in the UK which is usually seen from June to August.

Hornet Rove-beetle *Quedius dilatatus*

(New Species)

Found in the moth trap on the 29th July. This is one of the biggest rove beetles at 25mm in length and a species that isn't recorded often. This may be because they live in the nest of the European Hornet feeding on the debris piles at the bottom of the nest they may also eat larvae and aged workers.



Rove beetle sp. *Philonthus quinquillarius*

(New Species)

Attracted to the Moth trap on the 24th August this is a small species of rove beetle and pretty tricky to identify but thanks to Tony Allen who keyed this beetle out and arrived at this species which is the more common one of the three similar beetles. This is a fairly common species throughout Europe which has also been found in Africa, India and Australia.

Summer Chafer *Amphimallon solstitiale*

(New Species)

Found in the moth trap on the 3rd of July, This is a medium sized chafer at around 20mm in length. Found from June to August and flies at dusk and is like its larger cousin the Common Cockchafer (Maybug) is attracted to light. They are fairly common and widespread in the southern half of Britain.

Tumbling Flower Beetle *Varimorda villosa* Nationally Scarce Notable B

(Recorded 2 out of 12 years)

Two sightings were recorded this year, oddly Ian Ballam and myself found one each, Ian's was on Lytchett Heath and mine was in my garden both on the same day of 10th July. This is the second year in a row this nationally scarce species has been found here in the recording area. The adults are usually found on flowers, particularly umbellifers.



Lined Click Beetle *Agriotes lineatus*

(New Species)

Found in the moth trap on 03rd July. This 'click beetle' is relatively easy to identify due to the light and dark stripes along the length of its elytra. They are fairly widespread and common in England.

Mecoptera & Trichopyera

Speckled Peter (Caddisfly) *Agrypnia varia*

(New Species)

Attracted to my moth trap on 11th July this caddisfly is pretty large 12-18mm and attractively mottled black and white with banded legs. The larvae can be found in ponds and lakes and widely distributed in Britain.

Black Silverhorns (Caddisfly) *Athripsodes aterrimus*

(New Species)

Recorded in my moth trap on the 18th June, Length 7 to 10 mm. Members of this family have just 2 spurs on the hind tibia and very long antennae, especially in the males. It is a plain but variable caddisfly. Its colour may range through various shades of brown to almost black.

Caddisfly sp. *Odontocerum albicorne*

(New Species)

Found in the moth trap on 26th June This species of caddisfly is the only representative of the family found in Britain and Ireland.

Diptera

The order is extremely large with 109 families 1,490 genera which amounts to around 7,100 species in Britain and Ireland. This summer seemed to be a good year for many insect species and along with myself, Ian with his interest in diptera particularly hoverflies we have managed to add a number of species to the Lytchett Recording Area list this year.

Common Orange Legionaire *Beris vallata*

(New Species)

Recorded from Lytchett Heath on 3rd June. This species is common throughout Britain and found in the vicinity of marshes and wet woodland from May to September.

Heath Bee-fly *Bomblyus minor* - UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Vulnerable-GB

(New Species)

There are 11 bee-fly species in the UK, this is the third species we have recorded in the Lytchett area. Recorded on 14th August off Footpath 12 by Ian Ballam. This species has restricted distribution which is concentrated on heathlands of East Dorset and the Isle of Purbeck. (possibly the only place it now survives) (per S.Falk).



Downland Villa *Villa cingulata* - Endangered-GB

(New Species)

Again found by Ian Ballam who had two individuals visiting umbellifers beside the road to the sewage works at the bottom of Slough Lane on 3rd and 4th July. This was a bit of a surprise sighting though they are recorded annually in Dorset, Lytchett Bay isn't the usual habitat where you would find this species. They tend to be found on calcareous and limestone grasslands. *Villa cingulata* is a scarce southern species with most modern records coming from the Chilterns, and additional ones from the Cotswolds, Dorset, Middlesex, Oxfordshire and south Warwickshire. However there is growing evidence that it is increasing in southern central England.(per S.Falk)



Large Marsh Boxer *Platycheirus scambus*

(New Species)

Recorded on 8th August in Lytchett Fields. This hoverfly is a species that is fairly widespread and recorded in a variety of habitats which includes swampy water margins and lush vegetated ditches, Fens and marshy grasslands. They can be seen from May to August.

Large Spearhorn *Chrysotoxum cautum*

(New Species)

Recorded by Ian Ballam on 18th July Lytchett Fields. They are a large hoverfly which is widespread and fairly common species which likes grassland in sunny areas near woodland or scrub. They can be found from April to September peaking May-June.



Blotch-winged Whitebelt *Leucozona lucorum*

(New Species)

Recorded on 29th May in the Approach Field. This striking black and white hoverfly is a common and widespread species throughout Britain. They can be found on lush vegetation in damp woodland and well wooded areas from May to August.

Shiny-backed Halfband *Melangyna umbellatarum*

(New Species)

Recorded on 11th August Along the road to the Sewage Works at the bottom of Slough Lane. This is a small narrowly built hoverfly with pairs of creamy-white spots. Which is usually found around umbellifers such as Hogweed, from April through to November.

Summer Roundtail *Meligramma guttatum*

(New Species)

Recorded on the 8th July along the Arable Field hedge. This hoverfly is widespread but is scarce, usually found in woodland. Adults fly from May to September and can be found visiting umbellifers.

Pale-sided Epistrophe *Epistrophe diaphana* - Nationally Scarce

(New Species)

Recorded on 3rd June along the Arable Field hedgeline this hoverfly can be found on various umbellifers and they can be seen from May to September



Black-mouthed Epistrophe *Epistrophe melanostoma*

(New Species)

Recorded on the 7th May on Lytchett Heath. This hoverfly was first recorded in Britain in 1986 and has been found widely across Southern England. It may not be fully residential but a species prone to sporadic migration here from the continent. The adult fly from April to June and can be found around umbellifers.

Hoverfly *Cheilosia bergenstammi*

(New Species)

Recorded on the 7th May on Lytchett Heath. This hoverfly is a rather localised species found in a variety of ragwort-rich habitats and like warm and sheltered areas along rides of woodlands. They peak in late spring then again in late summer after the emergence of the second generation.

Greater Spring Blacklet *Cheilosia grossa*

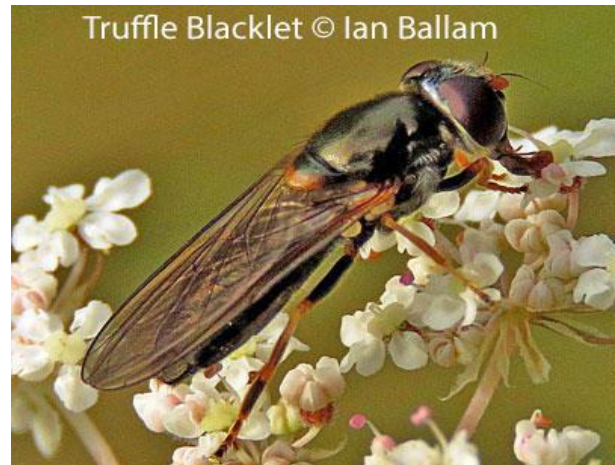
(New Species)

Recorded on 24th April Lytchett Fields, this is one of the hairy hoverfly species that flies in early spring and mimics *Adrena* mining bees. They can be found in a variety of habitats such as rough grassland, brownfield sites and woodland rides. Adults visit the flowers of Sallow/Willows, Blackthorn, Coltsfoot and Dandelions.

Truffle Blacklet *Cheilosia ruffipes*

(New Species)

Recorded on 17th July Lytchett Fields This species was previously known as *C.soror*. They are a widespread species and can be found from May to September often on white umbelifers.



Hoverfly *Pipiza lugubris* - Nationally Scarce

(New Species)

Recorded on 7th July along the Arable Field hedge. Records of this dark coloured hoverfly are thinly scattered in southern Britain. Though recognised in the UK as a species, some foreign organisations do not recognise it as a good species



Yellow-legged Beegrabber *Conops flavipes*

(New Species)

Recorded on the 10th and 25th July and 10th August once on Lytchett Heath (10th) and twice on Lytchett Fields. This is the fifth of the five Conopid fly species and the tenth of the 24 species in the genera that has been found in the Lytchett recording area. These flies are internal parasitoids of bees and wasps.

Pheonix Fly *Dorycera graminum* - UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Nationally Rare
(New Species)

Recorded on the 11th May on Lytchett Heath.
This is Britain's largest ulidid with a body length of 10mm. They are associated with grassland and brown field sites particularly where there are umbelifers.



Tachinid Fly *Frontina laeta* - Nationally Rare
(New Species)

Recorded on Lytchett Fields on the 21st July.
This is the only species of five known worldwide in the genera to be found in Britain.
They are a parasitoid of caterpillars and may specialise in hawkmoths.



Ladybird Balloon-belly
***Gymnosoma rotundatum* - Nationally Rare**
(New Species)

Recorded on the 8th July in Lytchett Fields.
There are three species in the British Isles one of them is confined to the Channel Island and fortunately the two other British species look different making it a fairly easy job to identify them apart. Though recent DNA of the family suggests a highly complex state of affairs making it difficult to define how many species are involved



Designated species of Diptera recorded in 2025 which have been caught in previous years.

<i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>	Hornet Robberfly	3	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Nationally Scarce
<i>Stratiomys longicornis</i>	Long-horned General	2	Vulnerable-GB
<i>Stratiomys singularior</i>	Soldierfly	3	Nationally Scarce
<i>Chrysotus verralli</i>	Hoverfly	1	Nationally Scarce
<i>Didea fasciata</i>	Hoverfly	1	Nationally Scarce
<i>Lejogaster tarsata</i>	Hoverfly	3	Nationally Scarce
<i>Microdon analis</i>	Hoverfly	1	Nationally Scarce
<i>Volucella inanis</i>	Hoverfly	1	Nationally Scarce
<i>Xanthandrus comtus</i>	Hoverfly	1	Nationally Scarce
<i>Leopoldius signatus</i>	Thick-headed Fly	1	Nationally Scarce

Lepidoptera – Butterflies & Moths

Both Butterflies and Moths seemed to have a good year with 25 species of butterfly being recorded and 315 species of moth, 18 of which were recorded for the first time. Of concern is there were no recorders of Silver-studded Blue from anywhere in the recording area in 2025. Hopefully the reduction in gorse and the re-seeding of heather will have a positive effect and we will see this beautiful butterfly recolonise our little heathland area. We had our best ever year for Wall Brown sightings and a good few sightings of Painted Lady and Clouded Yellows. Grayling didn't fare so well this year; perhaps the wet spring had an effect on their breeding success.

Butterflies

Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*

(Recorded 9 out of 12 years)

I recorded a single at Turlin Moor on the 16th August and Ian Ballam saw two in the Whimbrel Field on 12th September and Shaun Robson recorded another on the 13th September in the Arable Field.



Small Blue *Cupido minimus* W&C (1981) UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Near Threatened-GB
(Recorded 4 out of 12 years)

Two records this year from a Sandy Lane garden on 14th and 17th May this is a very odd place to find this species and away from their normal habitat of chalk downland and a location where their preferred food plant of Kidney Vetch which the caterpillars only eat. Though adults are known to use Bird's-foot-trefoil and Horseshoe Vetch for nectaring which can be found locally which suggests there may be a small population somewhere nearby. As this is the fourth record the last sightings were in 2020.

Silver-studded Blue *Piebejus argus* W&C(1981); UK(2007); NERC(2006) S41; Vulnerable-GB.
(Recorded in 6 of the 12 years)

This is a species that isn't always found on our patches of heathland and only in small numbers. In 2025 no reports were received. It may be the conservation work by ARC in the early part of the year clearing gorse and reseeding heather will have a positive effect in the future.

Painted Lady

(Recorded 12 out of 12 years)

The first of this common migrant occurred in my garden on 2nd March then Jackie had another in the garden on the 8th March. Alison Copland saw one at Rock Lea VP on 5th May; John Westacott saw one in his garden on 22nd May; Ian had one along Watery Lane on 3rd June followed by Shaun with one on Turlin Moor Mound on 13th June. Ian found another on Lytchett Fields on the 6th August and I recorded another at home on 8th August and Ian had the last record on 12th September.

Wall *Lasiommata megera* UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Near Threatened-GB
(Recorded 5 out of 12 years)

Four records on the 21st July, 30th July and 25th September Rock Lee VP. and on the 12 September in the Approach Field; It is always nice to record Wall butterflies as they are pretty scarce in the recording area and not found every year.

Grayling *Hipparchia semele* UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41 Vulnerable-GB
(Recorded 9 out of 12 years)

Single record from Lytchett Heath on 10th July. We do not record many on our small remnant piece of heathland but this was a very low number than usual. It may be the conservation work by ARC in the early part of the year clearing gorse and reseeding heather may increase numbers in the future.



Moths

Micro Lepidoptera

Ghost Moth *Hepialus humuli* 03.005

(Recorded 3 out of 12 years)

The third record of this relatively common species, I caught a female on the 30th May which was the first live record as previous individuals were killed in the trap by wasps



Green Longhorn *Adela reaumurella* 7.006

(New Species)

Single record from Lytchett Heath on 2nd May. This species is associated with woodland and scrub habitats. The larvae feed on leaf litter from a portable case. This species may be seen in swarms around the tops of trees and bushes. They are fairly widespread species in Britain and records in Dorset have increased since 1990.

Varied Ochre *Ypsolopha ustella* 17.011

(New Species)

Two records of singles caught on 8th March and 26th of June. They come in various colour forms but both of these were brown with darker brown markings. Like other *Ypsolopha* species its food plant is Oak.

Hawthorn Moth *Scythropia crataegella* 25.001

(New Species)

Single record caught on 30th May. This is listed as a common species; the food plant is Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

Maple Snout *Anarsia innoxia* 35.0191

(New Species)

Single record on 30th May. This is a species which was recognised as new to science as recently as 2017. It appears to be a local breeding species in southern England though its national status isn't known. (This record is still awaiting verification by Dorset Moth Recorder)

Beet Moth *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* 35.118 Nationally Scarce

(New Species)

Single record on 24th August. This is a rather local species occurring on shingle coasts and saltmarshes along the southern coasts of England and Wales. Its foodplant as its common name suggests is beet *Beta vulgaris* and Sea Beet *Beta maritima*.



Hemp Agrimony Plume *Adaina microdactyla* 45.043

(New Species)

Single record on 11th July. This is the smallest of the Pterophoridae and was probably attracted to the food plant Hemp Agrimony in our wildlife garden which has become well established in recent years. They are on the wing in May/June and again in August.

***Accleris laterana* / *comariana* 49.066 agg.**

(New Species)

Single record on 12th August. This species requires to be gen det to prove which species, so I aggregate the record. The two species food plants are different *A. laterana* is Rose, Hawthorn and Apple where *A. comariana* food plant is Cultivated and Wild Strawberry, Marsh Cinquefoil and Water Aven. All of which can be found in our wildlife garden,

White-cloaked Shoot *Gypsonoma sociana* 49.281

(New Species)

Two records of 2 in the trap on 30th May and a single on 21st June. The flight period is June - August and the food plants are Poplar, Aspen and Sallow.

Double Orange-spot *Pammene aurana* 49.379

(New Species)

Single record found by Ian Ballam in Slough Lane on 7th July. They are fairly widespread species though can be localised. They feed on hogweed and fly June-July.

Currant Clearwing *Synanthedon tipuliformis* 52.013

(New Species)

Single record attracted by pheromone trap in the garden on 13th June. This species status was formerly nationally Scarce B but due to better pheromone development they have been found to be more common than once thought. Their foodplant is mostly varieties of cultivated black and red currants. They are on the wing June - July.

Thistle Ermine *Myelois circumvoluta* 62.042

(New Species)

Single record of two individuals caught on the 21st June. In Dorset, the moth is widespread and locally common in thistle-rich habitats, especially in unimproved grassland on chalky soil, damp woodland, waste ground and old pasture. The food plants are Burdock, thistles and *cirsium* spp.

Long-winged Pearl *Anania lacealis* 63.017

(New Species)

Single record found in the trap on 11th July. In Dorset this species is found in low density though fairly widespread in areas that have Hemp Agrimony. They fly in June - July.

Migrant Sable *Diasemiopsis ramburialis* 63.044

(New Species)

Single record found in the trap on 18th June. A rare immigrant species that is resident in the Mediterranean region and in southern Europe. It is double brooded, In Dorset, 21 moths have been seen on thirteen occasions, mainly at light traps: Though this year there has been a small influx of this species which have turned up along the coastal area of the county. Nonetheless still a very nice moth to find in my trap.



Macro Lepidoptera

Blair's Mocha *Cyclophora puppillaria* 70.033

(New Species)

Single record of two individuals one in the MV and the other in an LED trap on 6th September. This is another rare migrant this moth is resident in the Mediterranean zone of southern Europe where large swathes of evergreen forest carpet the region. They are quite variable in colour and both the individuals that I caught looked completely different colour wise.



Small Yellow Wave *Hydrelia flammeolaria* 70.114

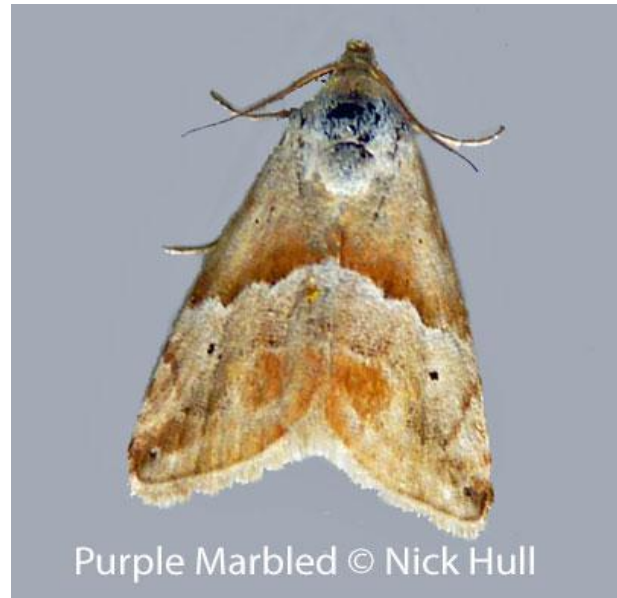
(New Species)

Recorded in the trap on 21st June. This is a small, very attractive moth which is fairly common in southern Britain. In Dorset, the moth is associated with deciduous woodland on chalky soil and here it is usually frequent. However, it is locally common in damp deciduous woodland on acid and clay soils.

Purple Marbled *Eublemma ostrina* 72.072

(New Species)

Recorded on 26th June. This is another rare immigrant species that is resident in the Mediterranean and the north African regions and a transitory resident in central Europe, the larva feeding on the flowers and seedheads of carline thistle. In Dorset, the moth is a rare immigrant and transitory resident that tends to be recorded along the coast.



The Brick *Sunira circellaris* 73.192

(New Species)

Recorded in the trap on 1st November. A widespread species in Britain, the larva feeding on the flowers or seeds of ash, willow, poplar and elm. In Dorset, the moth is widespread but at low density, occurring most often in localities where its food plants are frequent.

Blossom Underwing *Orthosia miniosa* 73.243 Dorset Rare

(New Species)

Single record on the 24th April In Dorset the moth is local, at low density and a decreased species. The species seems to prefer the soft, young foliage of Pendunculate oak and Sessile oak. They fly from March - April and there have been several instances of migration.



Langmaid's Yellow Underwing *Noctua janthia* 73.347

(New Species)

Recorded on 3rd July. This species was added to the British list in 2001 following a capture in Hampshire.

It is a widespread species in central and eastern Europe, more local further west, including western France. The larva feeds on various herbaceous plants and shrubs. Unfortunately two individuals were found dead in the trap on a night when a large number of Common Wasp, which was also attracted by the light and most likely responsible for killing them.



Designated species of moth trapped in 2025 which have been caught in previous years.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Adults	Designation
Euplagia quadripunctaria	Jersey Tiger	1	Hab (1992)
Tyria jacobaeae	Cinnabar	1	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Hepialus humuli	Ghost Moth	1	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Yponomeuta evonymella	Bird-cherry Ermine	4	WebSpinner
Calamotropha paludella	Bulrush Veneer	4	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Eudonia delunella	Pied Grey	4	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Synaphe punctalis	Long-legged Tabby	6	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Oncocera semirubella	Rosy Knot-horn	1	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Watsonalla binaria	Oak Hook-tip	6	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Timandra comae	Blood-Vein	1	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Idaea degeneraria	Portland Ribbon Wave	2	Nationally Rare
Orthonama vittata	Oblique Carpet	2	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Ennomos erosaria	September Thorn	2	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Lycia hirtaria	Brindled Beauty	4	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Spilosoma lubricipeda	White Ermine	1	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Spilosoma lutea	Buff Ermine	3	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Euplagia quadripunctaria	Jersey Tiger	5	Hab (1992)
Tyria jacobaeae	Cinnabar	2	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41

Diarsia rubi	Small Square-spot	1	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Orthosia gracilis	Powdered Quaker	1	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Senta flammea	Flame Wainscot	2	Nationally Rare
Acronicta rumicis	Knot Grass	5	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Helotropha leucostigma	Crescent	2	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Rhizedra lutosa	Large Wainscot	1	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41
Caradrina morpheus	Mottled Rustic	7	UK(2007) NERC (2006) S41

Hymenoptera Ants, Bees, Wasps & relatives

There are 64 families with approximately 1,292 genera which consists of 7,760 species recorded in Britain and Ireland. The Lytchett Bay recording area has records for 188 species in this group including the seven species added in 2025.

Ants, Bees, Wasps & relatives

Sawflies

Black-horned Tentredo *Tenthredo atra*

(New Species)

Recorded on the 12th June along the hedgeline to Lytchett Fields. This species is often called the Black Sawfly though it has reddish legs. They are fairly commonly found over much of Britain and typically seen from May to August and often found feeding on umbellifers. They are also often found in damp boggy habitats.

Yellow-sided Clover-sawfly *Tenthredo notha*

(New Species)

Recorded on 8th July they are a widespread and common grassland and legume rich habitat species. The adult fly in July and August and can be found visiting umbellifers, buttercups and thistles collecting pollen.



Tenthredo notha © Ian Ballam

Shiny-headed Wasp-Sawfly *Tenthredo amoena*

(New Species)

Recorded on the 7th July along the hedgeline of the Arable Field to the sewage works. I came across a mating pair of this widespread but local species which is mainly found in southern Britain. Their preferred food plant is St John's-wort but are often found on umbellifers from June to August.

Club-horned Sawfly *Zaraea fasiata*

(New Species)

Recorded on Lytchett Fields This is an uncommon species the adult favour umbellifers and they can be found from June to August. The larvae feed on Honeysuckle and possibly snowberry as well.

Ichneumon Wasps

Ichneumon Wasp sp. *Diphyus quadripunctorius*

(New Species)

Recorded on 26th June by Ian Ballam on Lytchett Fields. This is a large, distinctively marked black and yellow species, which like woodland edge and meadows. This is a male the female has a black abdomen with two yellow spots unlike the male bands. They are mostly seen in spring and summer; little is known about the British distribution mainly because of lack of records.



Ichneumon wasp sp. *Apechthis compuncator*

(New Species)

Recorded in Lytchett Fields on 8th July.

A widespread species in Britain but like many ichneumon species its status is difficult to determine due to the lack of records. They are a species of hedgerows and meadows and can be found on the wing from May to October.

Ichneumon wasp sp. *Ichneumon xanthorius*

(Recorded 2 out of 12 years)

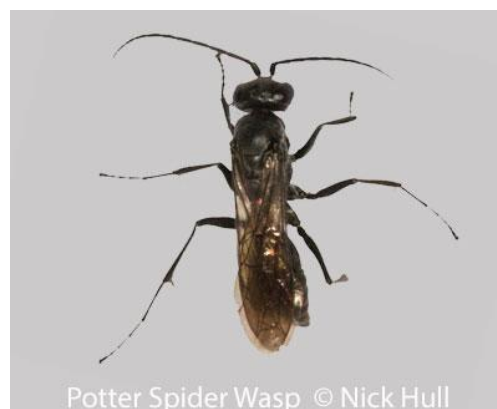
Recorded in Lytchett Fields on 8th July, this is the second record for this species in the Lytchett Recording area, the first was in 2017. Often found around low vegetation and flowers such as umbellifers. This is a species that is predatory on moths and butterfly larvae.

Pompilidae - Spider Hunter

Potter Spider Wasp *Auplopus carbonarius* - Nationally Scarce Notable B

(New Species)

Recorded in my garden on 30th May, they fly from May to September and used to be thought as a scarce southern species but in recent decades they seem to have extended their range and have been recorded in the Midlands and as far north as Yorkshire.



They also are regular garden visitors where they will catch various species of spider and unlike other pompilids they will carry small prey in flight where usually they will drag their spider prey across the ground.

Crabronidae

Hogweed Fly Fox *Ectemnius lituratus*

(New Species)

Recorded on the 7th July along the road to the sewage works hedge to the Arable Field. This is a species that likes various habitats but prefers woodland. They particularly like umbellifer species. They have a flight period of June to September with a peak at the end of August early September which is later than most ectemnius species.

Apidae Bees

Two-coloured Mason Bee *Osmia bicolor* - Nationally Scarce Notable B

(New Species)

Recorded on the 5th April. The males of this species are among the earliest of the solitary bees to emerge with a flight period of April to early July. The females will emerge shortly after the males. The females will lay their eggs in snail shells and once the laying process is completed they will cover the snail shells with dead grasses. They visit various flowers such as dandelion, dog-violets and bird-foot trefoil and sallow just to name a few.

Designated species of Apidae recorded in 2025 which have been caught in previous years.

Mutilla europaea	Velvet Ant	1	Nationally Scarce Notable B
Philanthus triangulum	Bee-wolf	1	Vulnerable-GB
Macropis europaea	Yellow-Loosestrife Bee	1	Nationally Scarce Notable A

Arachnids - Spiders

Humped Orbweb Spider *Gibbaranea gibbosa*

(New Species)

Recorded on the 2nd of April in Lytchett Fields. Although never particularly common, this species is widespread in southern and eastern England, with scattered records in the west, Wales and north to central Scotland. This is an attractively marked species which spins an orb web on trees and shrubs, especially evergreens, in woodland, hedgerows and more open areas.

Sac Spider *Clubiona comta* agg.

(New Species)

Recorded on the 13th May in my conservatory this is a small spider with males 3-5mm and females 3.5-6mm and is the smallest of the family. The species is widespread in much of England, but more scattered and patchy in the west and north, Wales and Scotland. It is widespread in western and central Europe.

Common Ground-Weaver *Tenuiphantes tenuis*

(New Species)

Recorded 5th August in Lytchett Fields at French's VP.

This is a common species that can be found in various habitats and also found indoors. Though they are mostly found in summer and autumn they are around all year.



Woodland Jumping Spider *Evarcha falcata*

(New Species)

Recorded on 22nd July in Lytchett Fields.

This is an attractive looking jumping spider which is mainly a woodland spider that can be found from March to November with a peak May to August. This is the fifth jumping spider species found in the recording area.



Fungi

Hasn't been recorded in this report before mainly due to the lack of knowledge in the subject. At the end of last year I attended an introduction to waxcap identification and helped with a few surveys on the Purbeck NNR. So I decided I would try and make an effort and try and record any here on the Lytchett Bay recording area, but with so much wet weather and the few frosts which has a bad effect on fungi It didn't go well but two species were recorded.

Butter Waxcap *Hygrocybe ceracea*

(New Species)

Recorded from of all places in my wildlife garden on 30th September with three mushrooms two of which had gone over. They thrive on nutrient poor grassland and indicate a healthy ecosystem.

Yellow Fieldcap *Bolbitus titubans*

(New Species)

This is an attractive little mushroom found by Frazor Hockey and posted on the Friends of Lytchett Bay FB page. These are common and widespread in most parts of Britain and other parts of the world including North America. They can be found from June to October but they are short lived.

Spectacular Rustgill *Gymnopilus junonlius*

(New Species)

Found off Footpath 12 on 6th October growing around an old stump which is a typical location for this species of mushroom. Though it is a widespread species it isn't particularly common

