# Lytchett Bay
# Birds and wildlife 2016

***Shaun Robson and Nick Hull***

*I.Ballam*

Records were received from the Bay on all but 5 days (!) as set out below.

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | 29 | 30 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 31 | 31 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 20 |

Another remarkable year, which surpassed even our growing expectations. 1 new species was added to the Bay list, Lesser Yellowlegs.

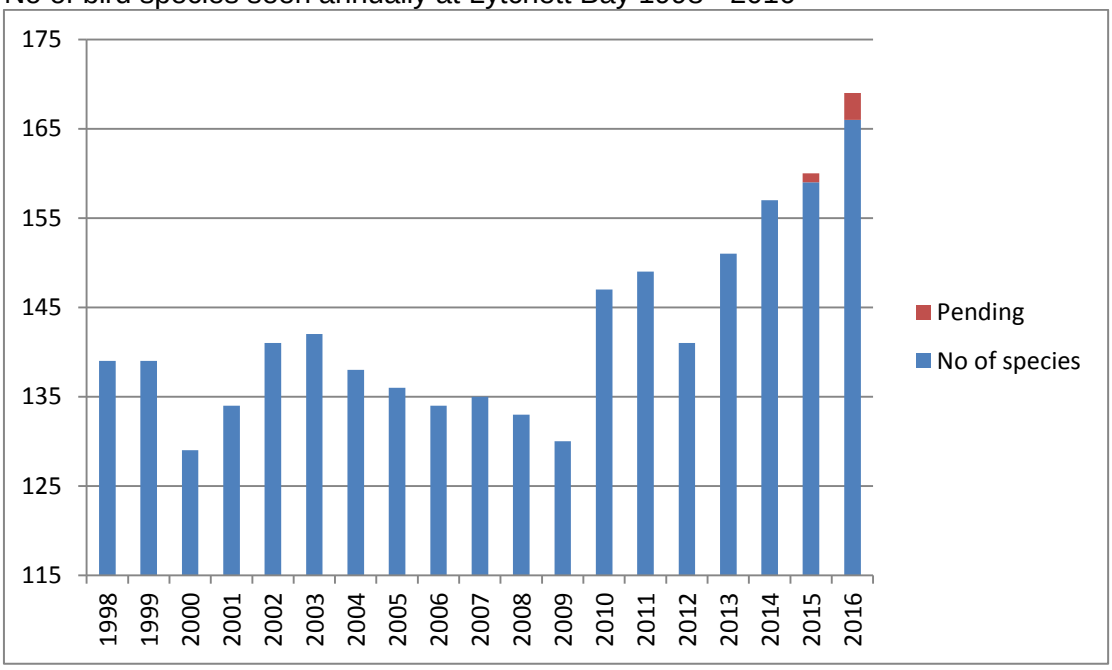
There were 2nd records of Black-winged Stilt, Glossy Ibis, Green-winged Teal, Wryneck and Whooper Swan. 3rd records of Common Crane (and 4th), Yellow-browed Warbler (and 4th & 5th), Sanderling (and 4th) and Marsh Tit. 4th - 9th records of Great White Egret, 4th Spotted Crake, 5th Honey Buzzard and 6th Aquatic Warbler (2nd field record)

Given all of these, and a good many more scarce species in a local context detailed in the systematic list, it is not surprising that the year list climbed to an amazing 169 (including 3 pending records as detailed in the systematic list).

The following species occurred in either greater numbers or greater frequency than ever before.

Egyptian Goose, Ringed Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Grasshopper Warbler and Chiffchaff.

No of bird species seen annually at Lytchett Bay 1998 - 2016




The Lytchett Bay list is now 222 plus 1 species pending. The first record of Melodious Warbler (2015) is still under consideration by DRP at the time of writing. For completeness we have now been informed that the records of Great White Egret and Penduline Tit from 2015 have been accepted.

Nick Hull has again produced a fine illustrated report of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and insects. See page 56.

A request to anyone visiting the area…..if you have a knowledge of any wildlife groups from butterflies & dragonflies to beetle & bugs, or if you spot something unusual and manage to take a photograph of something you can't identify, please send it in to Nick Hull at nickh4142@gmail.com and he'll try to identify it and add it to the ever growing data of biodiversity for the Lytchett Bay recording area.

The one area that so far we have made little effort to record is botany. If anyone has an interest in taking on the challenge we'd be delighted if you wanted to contribute to or join our team.

**Lytchett Bay – people and wildlife**

Two improvement projects were delivered in 2016, both outcomes were beyond expectations.

A new viewpoint was constructed at Lytchett Bay View thanks to the vision and fundraising capabilities of the Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council. This was funded by Awards for All and the Birds of Poole Harbour. The design and construction were delivered by the Streetscene Team at Borough of Poole. This new facility gives everyone a fantastic vista over the eastern part of Lytchett Bay.

*S.Robson*

Islands were installed at RSPB Lytchett Fields and some minor ground works to improve viewing were delivered at the same time. Observations of the tidal fields had identified that on spring tides all of the available roost sites were submerged. A plan was hatched to provide some higher dry ground and thanks to the great support of the Dorset Bird Club and their allocation of a legacy left by Eileen Bowman, the work was quickly commissioned by the RSPB and their contractor Alaska Environmental Contracting Ltd. The work was completed in September and it wasn't long before the islands were being enjoyed by the birds.

*S.Robson*

The RSPB also reviewed the management of the arable field. This involved turning half of the field over to a headland and the other half sown with wheat without inputs or herbicides. The field was to be left unharvested throughout the winter. The aim was to provide habitat for pollinators and farmland birds and the work was funded through a newly drawn up Higher Level Stewardship payment. Everything went well during the summer with a fantastic flush of flowers and breeding skylarks.

*M.Wood*

Unfortunately the field was subject to unauthorised grazing by cattle in October and by the time we regained full possession much of the crop had been grazed out. This removed much of the structure and diminished the overall wildlife interest. Nonetheless the more open habitat did attract small flocks of Skylark and Curlew, regular Woodcock and Barn Owl hunting apparently numerous small mammals during the winter.

It is intended to continue with the experiment in 2017 replacing the wheat with barley.

2017 also saw the commencement of housing building at Policeman's Field. This is on-going at the time of writing. With this much needed housing development come opportunities. The main addition will be the provision of a SANG in fields between French's Farm, the Allotments and Olde Quions Cottage. This will not only provide new access which provides an alternative route between Upton and Lytchett Fields viewpoints, it will include new tree planting which might attract more birds. Most importantly it will also help relieve the increasing pressure for dog walking on the Lytchett Fields site. It is hoped that this will be available toward the end of the year.

*S.Robson*

Cut and collect meadow management was extended to Lytchett Bay View in addition to that at Turlin Moor.

*S.Robson*

Engagement events included a bird ringing demonstration for Dorset Wildlife Trust as part of The Great Heath project and 2 guided walks. In addition to this the Birds of Poole Harbour and Ian Ballam provided great day to day engagement with the increasing number of visitors to the site. The birders guide created and hosted on the Birds of Poole Harbour website proved very valuable for visitors and many were seen using it in the field. It is available here.

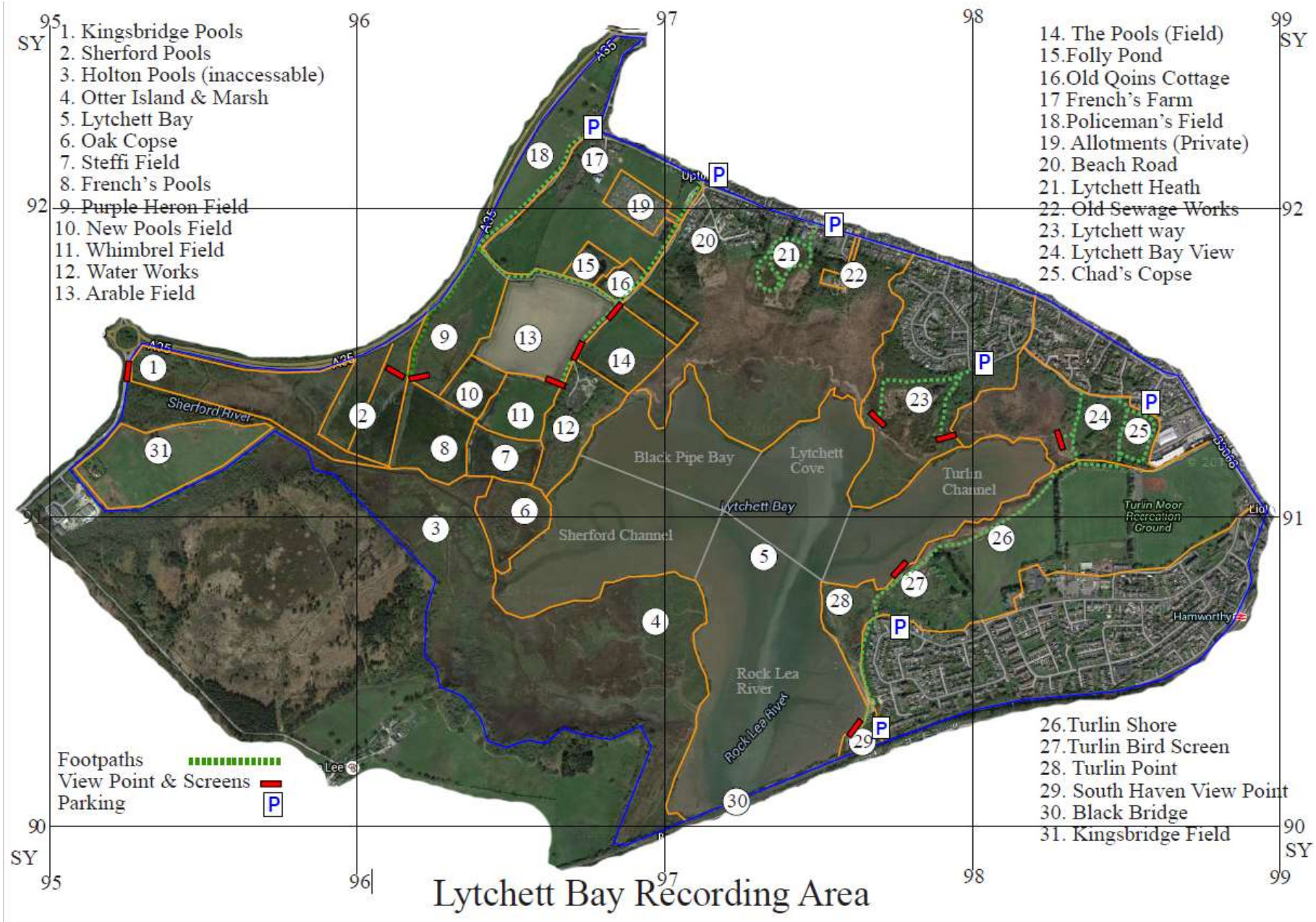
https://www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk/sites/default/files//new%20A%20Guide%20to%20Birding%20Lytchett%20Bay-2_0.pdf

The year ahead is already looking exciting with a number of ideas in the melting pot. In addition we will be building on previous engagement by running a spring migrant event in May, a wader identification course at Lytchett Fields in August and a bird ringing demonstration in September.

Thank you to everyone, both individuals and the organisations mentioned for their continued interest and support in making Lytchett Bay as good as it can be for people and wildlife.

Nick Hull's map 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 whole area.

*Migrants across the "super moon" Nov 2016. S.Robson*




Lytchett Bay Recording Area

## Bird Ringing 2016

1279 birds were ringed at Lytchett Bay. Efforts were spread around 3 ringing sites. The banks of the Sherford at Lytchett Fields (285 birds / 15 dates), Sandy Close Pond (126 birds / 10 dates) and at Lytchett Heath and reed bed (868 birds / 21 dates).

Despite long spells of settled weather in autumn the number of birds passing through the site was much reduced on 2015. More than 100 birds were ringed on 2 mornings, both at Lytchett Heath.

Our main target remained the "red listed" Aquatic Warbler. 2016 benefited from more promising atmospheric pressure systems than many previous years with 2 windows of winds from the south east. Sadly none were trapped but one was found in the field (see appendix 1).

Our 2nd target species – Grasshopper Warbler, occurred in record numbers but this was largely thanks to 18 on the morning of 27th Aug. More than twice the previous record day total.

Highlights in terms of recoveries and controls included a Siskin to Merseyside and two Long-tailed Tits ringed on the same day in north Dorset being re-captured on the same day at Lytchett Bay. As expected there were a number of exchanges between our site and sites in western France and also examples of birds moving back and forth along the Channel coast.

Colour ring reading again proved fruitful. The highlight being our first Greenshank, this was first seen in spring and then returned in autumn to spend the winter with us. It had been ringed in eastern Scotland.

23,081 birds of 84 species have been ringed since 1983. Yellow-browed Warbler and Ring Ouzel being ringed for the first time this year.

The full details of controls, recoveries and interesting re-traps are in the systematic list. Appendix 2 details the individual species totals at the end of the systematic list.

## Acknowledgements

Stour Ringing Group would like to thank Wessex Water, The RSPB and the landowner, the Lees Estate, for their kind permission to ring at Lytchett Bay.

The Dorset Wildlife Trust and ARC for their permission to ring on land around Lytchett Heath, we are very grateful for this, the site continues to prove its value to migrant and breeding birds.

Thanks are due to the RSPB, DWT, ARC, Lytchett & Upton Town Council, The Birds of Poole Harbour Charity and The Borough of Poole for their support in relation to various matters associated with their site and we look forward to continuing to work with them in 2017.

I'd like to add additional thanks to Ian Ballam for his enthusiasm for birding at Lytchett and for support with various volunteer activity at Lytchett Fields. To friends at Stour Ringing Group for companionship and hard work. Nick & Jacqui Hull who put considerable effort in to collating a checklist of other wildlife and operating our "listening station". To all of the observers who supplied records and comments via Twitter and other information sources. We look forward to seeing you all again this year.

**Systematic List 2016**

4658 specific records were collated during the year and all of these have been submitted to the **BTO's Birdtrack database**. This has enabled some data for regularly occurring species to be presented using graphs. These show the weekly maxima throughout the year. The interpretation of these requires some caution as not all common species are counted every week; this can lead to gaps in the data. Where necessary this is clarified in the text.

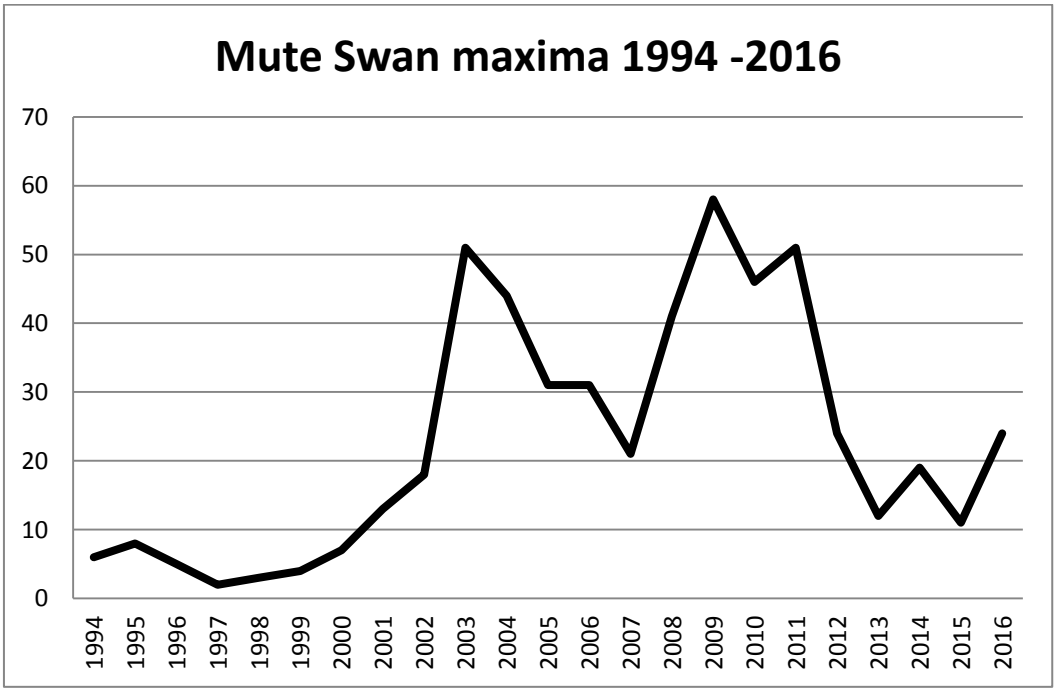
Species names are followed by up to 3 numbers. The first is the maximum known count recorded at the Bay. This now includes historical counts by observers going back to 1975. The middle figure (when necessary) is the max count in the period since 1992. The final figure is the number of years in which the species has been recorded since 1992. This is 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. I 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.

**Mute Swan:** (58 – 25) ↘

Uncommon resident. Bred between 2002-2007 and in 2015.

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 24 |




After a significant increase from 2003 onwards numbers visiting the Bay started to decline in 2012. They have since stabilised. It would appear that there is a positive correlation between amount of macro algal matt and the numbers Mute Swan, Brent Goose and Wigeon.

**Whooper Swan:**
2nd record. 1 on 20th Oct (IB et al)

In Ian's own words…… I was watching the Lesserlegs in the bay for 20 mins when I suddenly thought about yesterday's Abbotsbury Whoopers and maybe I should check the distant 3 Swans off Otter Point. Mute, Mute, #!$ Whooper!!!!! After 20 mins they all flew but luckily they only circled the bay and came down in Lytchett Cove at end of FP12, eventually got great views with Ian L from end of Footpath 12. And I know it's not such a significant bird for all you big-listers, but a British Lifer for me!!!! I must get out more, well maybe out of Lytchett more!

The first record involved 2 which lingered from 27th Oct to 13th Nov 2010.

*The second record of Whooper this decade, how long will we wait for another Bewicks? (I.Ballam)*

**Greylag Goose:** (32 – 17) ⇔
Uncommon feral wanderer. Recorded until 30th May and from 11th Sep on 35 dates (c50% increase on 2014 & 2015). Max 22 on 12th Feb.

**Canada Goose:** (209 – 25) ↗
Increasingly frequent visitor. Possibly bred for the second year in a row. A pair was seen with a very young chick in Jun. Overall scarcer than in recent years. Max 167 on 2nd Aug.

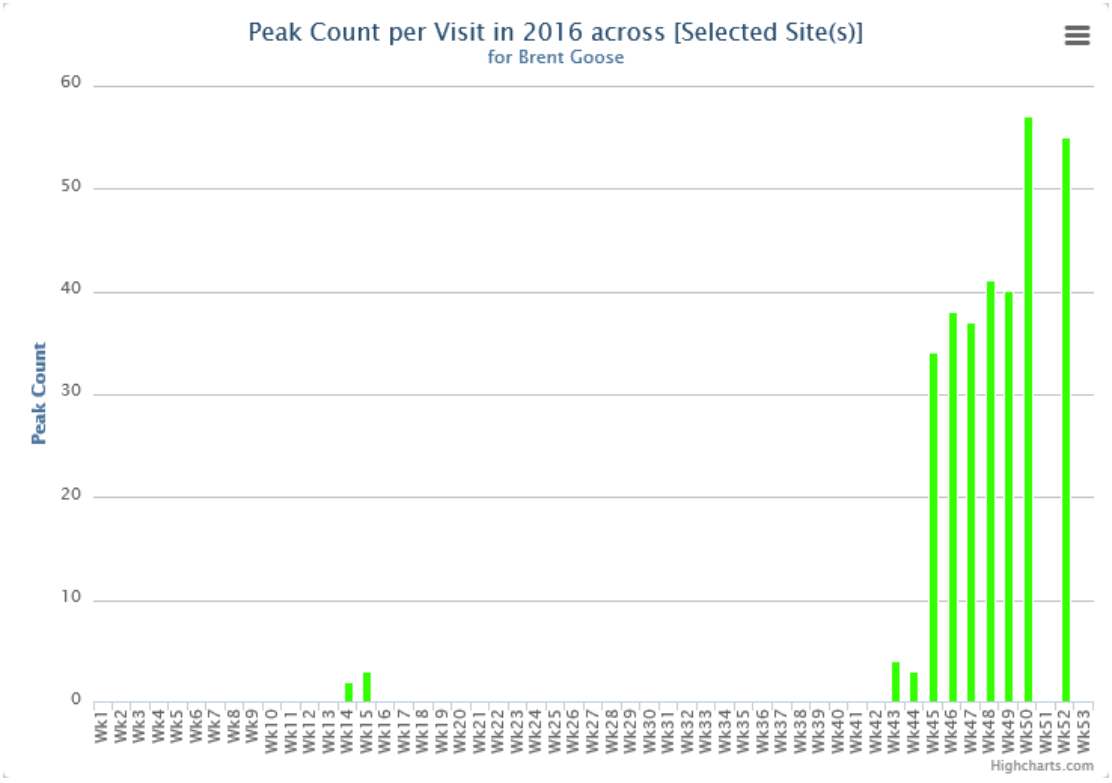
| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | n.c. | 2 | n.c. | 7 | 3 | 27 | 167 | 10 | n.c. | 15 | n.c. |

**Barnacle Goose:** (42 – 9)
Rare visitor. As in 2010, 2011 and 2013 we were visited by wild flocks. 24 were in the Bay at dawn on 24th Nov. They had departed by mid-morning and what was presumed to be the same flock had arrived at Exminister Marshes in East Devon by late afternoon.

*I.Ballam*

On the 26th Dec 22 circled the Bay in the late afternoon. These were presumably the same flock that had spent the previous weeks at Swineham GP.

**Dark-bellied Brent Goose:** (88 – 17) ↗
Uncommon winter visitor. Very scarce in the first winter period, present on only 10-11th Apr. 4 returned on 25th Oct after which birds were present daily until the year end. The flock increased in size and exceeded 50 for much of Dec. Max 57 on 8th Dec




**Egyptian Goose:**
Sixth record. 8 flew west through the Bay on 16th Jan (SR). This is the biggest flock yet recorded in Poole Harbour.

**Shelduck:** (645 – 548 – 25) ↔
Occasional breeder and winter visitor. A pair was seen with 9 chicks in Jun. The

largest congregations of the year again involved presumably non-breeding birds at Lytchett Fields in Apr and May.

*Bay monthly max:*

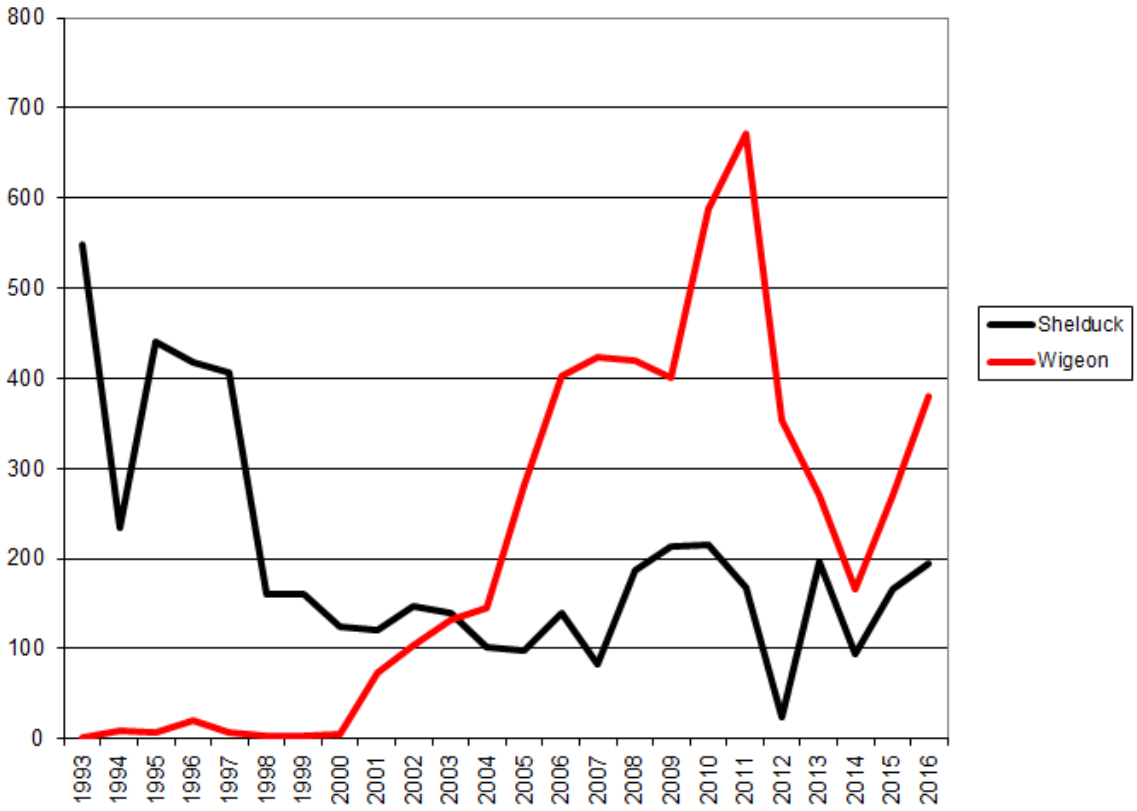
| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 44 | 90 | 52 | 154 | 194 | 55 | 18 | 5 | 2 | 32 | 111 | 118 |

**Wigeon:** (671 – 25) ⇔
Common winter visitor. With the exception of a presumably injured summering male, absent from 29th Mar until 9th Sep. Max 380 on 1st Dec.

*Bay monthly max:*

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 200 | 136 | 100 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 84 | 257 | 346 | 380 |

**Annual Maxima Shelduck and Wigeon 1993-2016**




The fortunes of Shelduck and Wigeon have varied significantly at the Bay over the last 25 years. Shelduck was present in large numbers but declined sharply after 1997, though numbers now seem to be slowly recovering. The reason for these changes is unclear. Wigeon was a scarce visitor until 2001 when its status began to change dramatically. As stated earlier the presence of macro algal matt seems to be the attraction. Numbers peak when the matt is extensive, disturbance is low and the weather is cold.

**Gadwall:** (73 – 20) ↗
Increasingly frequent visitor. Breeding was confirmed for the first time. 8 chicks were seen in early July. Most birds in spring and early summer are presumed to be non-breeding individuals.

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 6 | 17 | 13 | 29 | 26 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 10 |

**Teal:** (1094 – 25) ↗
Winter visitor and passage migrant. Like 2015 there was no identifiable period without records but breeding was not suspected. Overall numbers were again very high, especially during autumn passage.

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 400 | 206 | 302 | 134 | 2 | 24 | 31 | 283 | 784 | 991 | 567 | 477 |

**Green-winged Teal:**
2nd record. With so many Teal it just had to happen. A drake was found on Sherford Pools on 5th Dec (IB et al) and after being elusive early in its stay it settled down and is still present (Mar 2017). Whilst mostly loyal to Sherford Pools it was also seen in the Bay at low tide. The first was in the Bay between 14th - 17th Apr 2000. The 16th record for Poole Harbour involving at least 9 individuals.

*S.Robson*

**Garganey:** (3 - 6)
Rare visitor. Recorded for the 3rd year in a row. An eclipse drake at Lytchett Fields on 24th - 25th Jul (IB et al).

**Mallard:** (106 – 25) ↔
Breeds at several sites around the recording area. Very regular on Sandy Close Pond.

*Bay monthly max:*

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25 | 4 | Br | Br | Br | Br | 27 | 34 | 86 | n.c. | 31 | 21 |

**Northern Pintail:** (21 - 17) ↔
Scare visitor. Seen on 14 dates (double that of 2014 and 2015). 2 on 6th and 3 on 7th Feb, after which there no records until autumn. Singles were then seen on 10 dates

between 2nd Sep and 22nd Dec. In addition there were 2 on 27th Sep and 6 on 12th Nov.

**Shoveler:** (28 – 24) ⇔
Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. 32 bird days on 15 dates was a very good showing. Apart from 1/2 using Lytchett Fields in May all birds were in the Bay. Max 8 on 1st Jan.

**Tufted Duck:** (20 – 13) ⇔
Scarce visitor. A male got the year off to a good start on 2nd Jan. 4 flying from the Sherford River on 1st Jun was an unseasonal surprise.

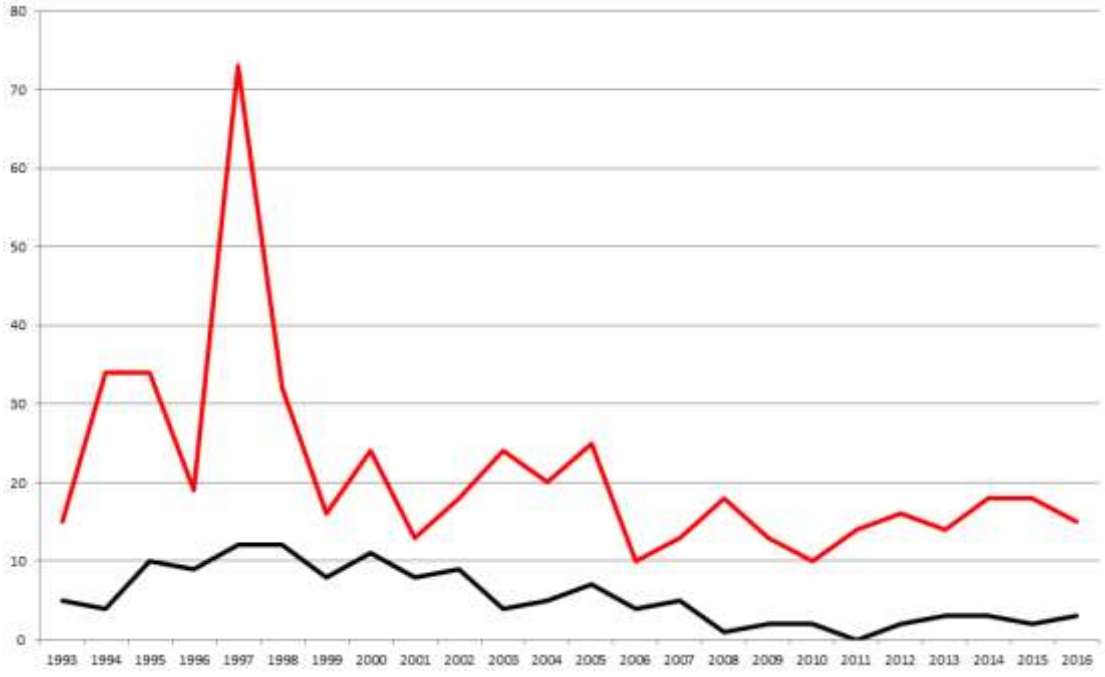
**Goldeneye:** (12 – 24) ↘
Declining winter visitor. By recent standards a very good year with records on 12 dates, though 11 of these referred to the first winter period between 1st Jan and 11th Feb. Max 3 on 4th Jan. 1 on 24th Nov was the only record in the second part of the year.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** (73 – 25) ⇔
Winter visitor. Recorded on at least 46 dates. Present until 8th Apr and from 28th Oct. Max 15 on 23rd Feb.

*Bay monthly max:*

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 13 |

Annual maxima Red-breasted Merganser and Goldeneye 1993-2016




The graph showing Red-breasted Merganser (red) and Goldeneye (black) hides the actual change in the occurrence of these species at the Bay. Whilst “Mergs” seem to have declined significantly, in reality the large count in 1997 was a one off. The species is still present on many winter days. Goldeneye however is now a truly scarce bird and in 2011 there were no records at all. Whilst maxima are down by around 60%, bird days have reduced by an even bigger margin.

**Goosander:** (3 – 6)
Rare visitor. This was a very good year with an unknown number of individuals, all redheads, seen on 3 dates. 1 flew up the Sherford on the 27th Oct (SR), the next was in the Bay on 5th Nov (IB) and 3 were in the Bay at the mouth of the Sherford on 13th Nov (SR et al). The last record equals our maximum count, previously recorded in both Dec 1995 and Aug 2000.

**Red-legged Partridge:** (4 – 5)
Very scarce visitor, no doubt emanating from recent releases for shooting. One on 20th Apr (IB). The 2nd year in a row in which the species has been recorded.

**Pheasant:** ↘
Common resident. Established in all parts of the recording area. The decline noted in 2015 has accelerated in 2016. The species is currently quite hard to find.

**Little Grebe:** (12 - 25) ⇔
Winter visitor. Recorded until 15th Feb and from 6th Sep. Max 8 on 25th Nov.

**Great Crested Grebe;** (4 - 22) ↗
Increasingly frequent visitor. Recorded on 34 dates. Unusually recorded in every month from Jan to Oct. Max 4 on 18th May. This equaled the site max previously set on 14th Dec 2000.

**Cormorant:** (203 – 25) ↗
Regular visitor. Max 80 on 14th Sep.

**Little Egret:** (32 – 24) ⇔
Common visitor, seen every day. The small evening roost on the boundary of the recording area was again used occasionally. Max 15 on 5th Apr.

*Bay monthly max:*

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 18 | 11 | 15 | 12 | n.c. | 21 | 21 | 28 | 10 | n.c. | n.c. |

**Great White Egret:** (1 – 4)
4th to 9th records. The invasion of this species in a British context reached new heights this year. In addition to increased breeding in Somerset there was a significant influx into Britain with 100's of records during the autumn.

The Bay enjoyed 5 records though none lingered for long or were twitchable. All records were at Lytchett Fields.

1 on 17th Mar (IB)
1 on 13th Sep (IB)
1 on 19th Sep (IB)
1 on 30th Sep (NiH)
1 over on 6th Dec (JM)

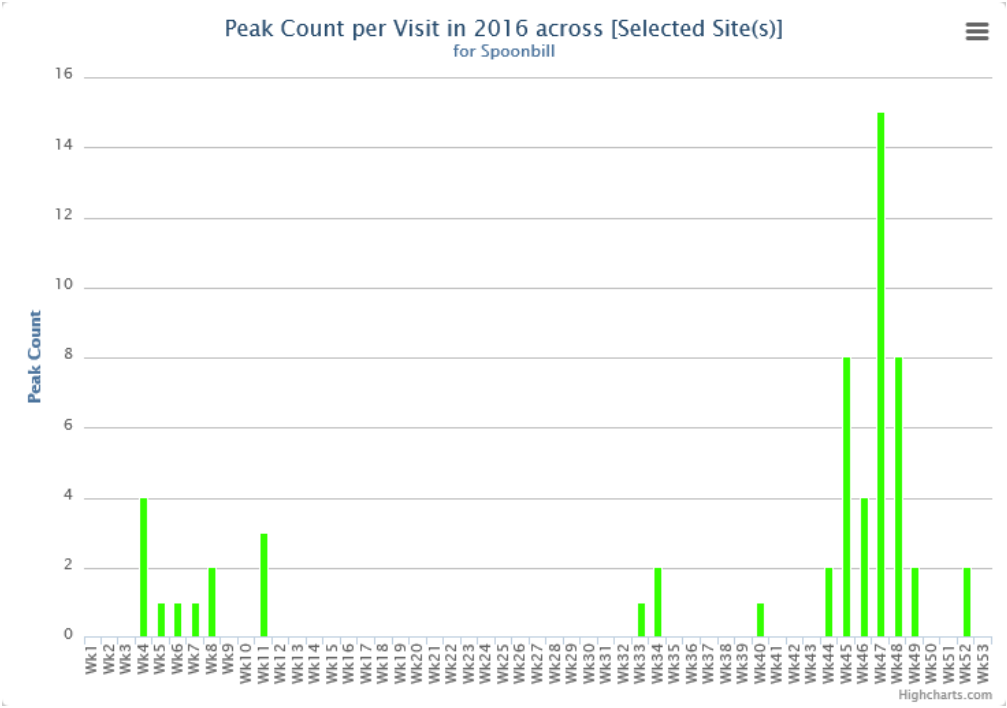
**Grey Heron:** (10 – 25) ⇔
Daily visitor in small numbers. Max 3 on any one date.

**Glossy Ibis:**
2nd record. Found early on the 11th May (IB) it seemed that everyone else's chances of catching up with this long awaited Mediterranean stray had gone when it soon flew off toward Holton Lee. To our surprise and delight it was re-found the following

morning and remained until 13th. Given that the last record was of 2 shot in Aug 1842 this felt like a first record for the site! (See Ian's account in appendix 1)

*I.Ballam*

**Spoonbill:** (15 – 7)
Increasing winter visitor. Not as regular as 2015, recorded on 26 dates (69 in 2015) but still remarkable given the pre 2013 occurrence. Most birds were in the Bay but they were seen on Lytchett Fields on 7 dates. Max 15 on 24th Nov equaled our best count, previously on 22nd Nov 2013.




***Honey Buzzard:****
*5th record. One flew NE over Lytchett Fields early in the evening of 6th May (SR). (Subject to acceptance by DRP)*

**Red Kite:** (3 – 11) ↗
Scarce migrant, increasingly expected on spring migration. Recorded on 6 dates, all in the first half of the year. Singles on 16th Feb, 6th Mar, 21st & 24th Apr and 16th Jun. 3 which passed east on 7th May was a record count for the site.

**Marsh Harrier:** (6 – 24) ↗
Increasingly regular visitor. Noted on 99 dates, sustaining the dramatic increase witnessed in 2015. Seen in every month of the year. A roost formed on at least one date. Max day count was 3 on 21st Oct.

**Hen Harrier:** (2 – 24) ⇔
Irregular Visitor. Birds were recorded on 12 dates maintaining the current good run. Recorded on 7 dates between 16th Jan and 10th Mar. All records related to ringtails and could conceivably have involved just one bird? Recorded on 5 dates between 14th Nov and 11th Dec. A "grey male" was seen on 24th with remainder referring to ringtails.

**Sparrowhawk:** (3 – 25) ⇔
Uncommon visitor. Breeding was confirmed for the first time within the recording area. Recorded on 68 dates and in every month. 3 on 23rd Jan was the biggest single day count. 1 ringed.

**Common Buzzard:** (15 – 25) ⇔
The commonest raptor of the area. Breeds widely in the vicinity.

**Osprey:** (4 – 24) ⇔
Annual passage migrant. 3 spring records. 5th & 14th Apr and 7th May. In autumn logged on 14 dates between 29th Jun and 22nd Oct. All singles except 2 on 27th Aug and 20th Sep.

**Kestrel:** (3 – 25) ⇔
Resident. Seen much more frequently than in recent years suggesting local breeding. Seen in every month of the year, at times daily, primarily around Lytchett Fields.

**Merlin:** (2 – 21) ⇔
Scarce winter visitor. A very good year with singles on 10 dates. A male on 4th Aug (CW) at Lytchett Fields was our earliest returning bird by 2 months. Other records were typically spread throughout Jan – Feb and Oct – Dec.

**Hobby;** (3 – 23) ↗
Irregular summer visitor. Above average with 18 birds on 16 dates between 28th Apr and 11th Oct (equaling latest departure date). Max 3 on 8th May. The majority of records were from Lytchett Fields.

**Peregrine:** (3 – 24) ↗
Uncommon visitor, rare in early summer. Recorded on record 58 dates (previous record 46 dates). This increase may be due to increased coverage of the site rather than an increase in occurrence? Recorded throughout the year but only one record between 26th Apr and 10th Jul. All singles except 2 on 6th Sep.

**Water Rail:** (67 pairs – 25) ⇔
Common resident and winter visitor. No change in status after 2013's complete breeding survey.

***Spotted Crake:*** *(1 – 3)*
*4th record. One showed for around 10 minutes on 19th Sep on Lytchett Fields (SR, IB). The rising tide pushed it off into the reeds and it was never seen again. (subject to acceptance by DRP)*

**Moorhen:** (15 – 25) ⇔
An uncommon resident. Scattered sightings from across the recording area, including pairs at Lytchett Fields and Turlin Stream. Successfully bred at each of these sites. 12 at Lytchett Fields on 27th Dec was max count of the year.

**Coot:** (62 – 14) ↗
Very scarce visitor. One was at Lytchett Fields on 9th – 12th May.

The other 6 records all referred to nocturnal migrant's sound recorded flying over Nick Hull's listening station at Lytchett Way. 28th Feb at 02:38, 12th Mar at 00:34, 2 on 21st Mar at 23:22 and 03:22, 3rd Oct (time not recorded) and 30th Oct at 22:58

***Common Crane:***
*3rd and 4th records. 2 flew SE over the Bay on 5th Mar at 13:10 (PM). The same observer was in the right place at the right time on 3rd Jun when another flew N (PM). The previous records were in 1998 and 1975. (subject to acceptance by DRP).*

**Oystercatcher:** (400 – 25) ⇔
A common winter visitor and passage migrant. Turlin Fields and Turlin Shore at high tide remain the favored locations, though more birds now remain in the bay to feed at low tide than in previous years. There were occasional records of small numbers using Lytchett Fields in spring and summer. The maximum count was on 4th Jan.

*Bay monthly max:*

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 362 | 100 | 40 | 15 | 8 | 5 | n.c. | n.c. | 25 | n.c. | 240 | 90 |

**Black-winged Stilt:**
2nd record. After the 2014 record and with another spring influx in to the U.K. this species was almost expected.

*I.Ballam*

On 11th May, the same day as the Glossy Ibis, one arrived on Lytchett Fields during evening fog. It remained until 14th (DJ et al). These events led one correspondent to christen the site "Costa del Lytchett".

**Pied Avocet:** (327 – 24) ↗
Increasingly regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Occurrence often related with colder weather. Present on at least 52 dates. There were no records between 5th May and 2nd Nov. The max count was on 17th Jan. Birds visited Lytchett Fields on 6 dates. Max 8 on 24th Jan.

*Bay monthly max:*

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 206 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 109 | 199 |

***WGf/RYG** – was present on 17th Jan 2016*

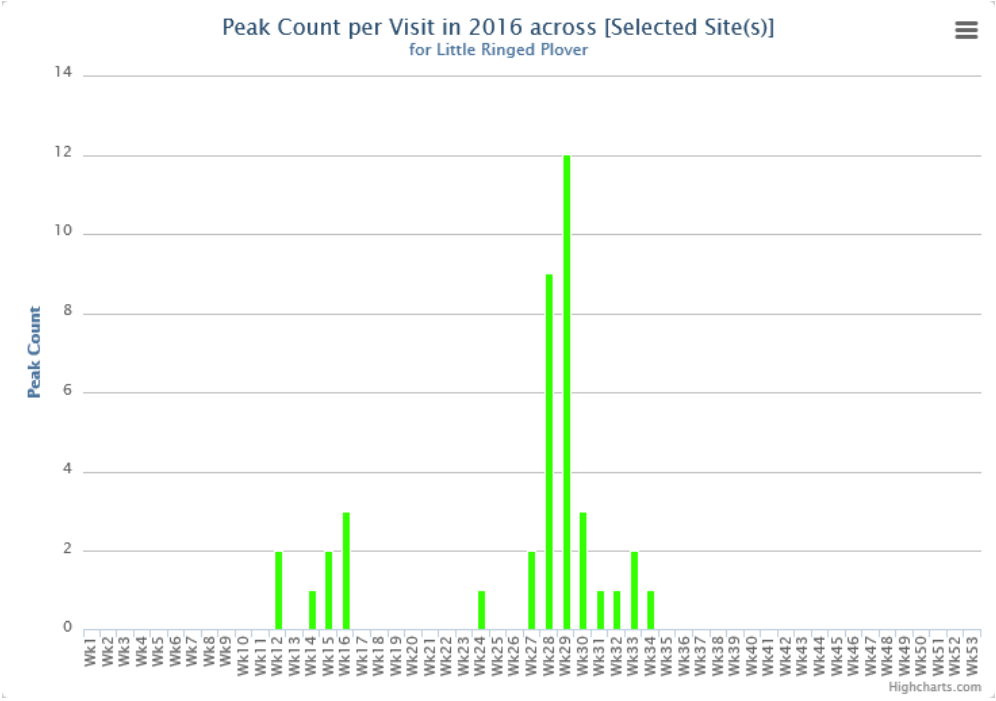
*S.Robson*

*It had been ringed as a pullus at Marais du Moulin à eau, Mesquer, France on 3rd June 2013. In Sept 2015 it was at Titchwell, Norfolk.*

Many thanks to Guillaume Gélinaud for this information.

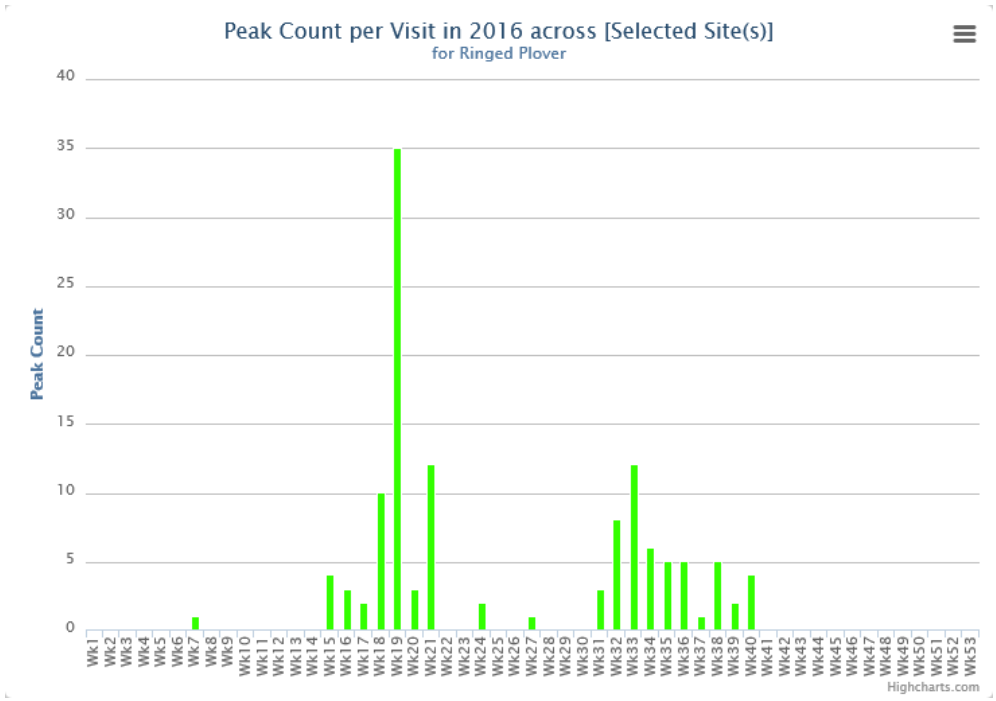
**Little Ringed Plover:** (12 – 14)
Increasingly frequent summer visitor. 2016 continued the increases of recent years but the pattern was very different. Birds were recorded on 43 dates (67 in 2015, 40 in 2014). Despite the reduced frequency of occurrence, particularly in spring, bird days were virtually the same as 2015 with 136. The main difference was a very strong passage between 13th and 23rd Jul, peaking with a record count of 12 on 20th. Every record came from Lytchett Fields.

The first record was on 21st Mar and the last on 26th Aug.




**Ringed Plover;** (35 – 21) ↑

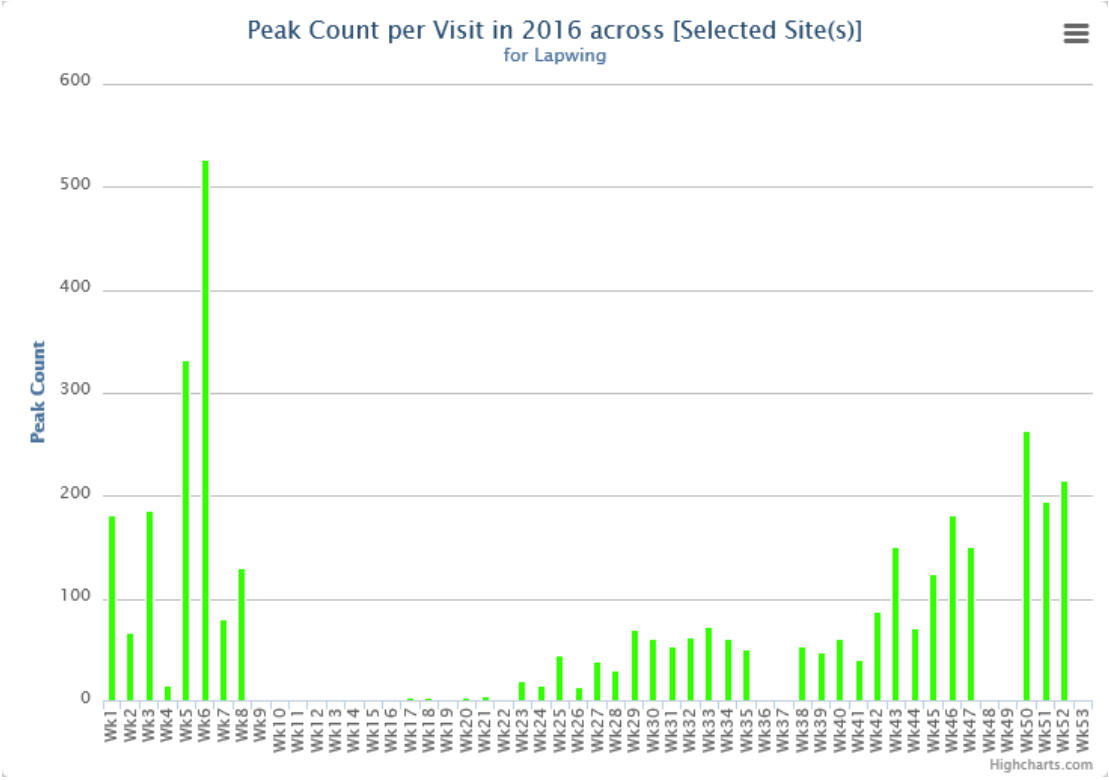
Passage migrant, previously scarce. Another special year. There were 315 bird days 63 dates (292 / 60 in 2015). As can be seen from the graph below, the species only visits the Bay on migration. After a single heard in the dark on 17th Feb the first spring record was on 14th Apr. Spring migration in early May was unprecedented. Winds from the east and north produced waves of birds through the area. At least 35 birds passed through on 10th May (a record count for the Bay) and 31 different birds were on the fields the next day. 2 birds on 17th Jun were either very late or very early? Autumn migration commenced on 8th Jul and continued until 9th Oct. Why birds don't visit in winter remains a mystery, though it has been suggested that strong site fidelity means that adoption of new sites is a slow process? The huge majority of records came from Lytchett Fields.



**Golden Plover:** (160 – 14)
Scarce visitor, surprisingly so given that more than 1000 winter a little over 20 miles away! 3 flew over the Bay on 21st Oct (IB)

**Grey Plover:** (18 – 19)
Scarce visitor. An excellent year with 77 bird days on 44 dates (seen on only 4 in 2015). 12 were present on 3 dates in autumn, 21st Sep, 23rd Oct and 1st Nov. All on Lytchett Fields.

**Lapwing:** (3000 – 25) ⇔
Formerly bred, now a non-breeding visitor in smaller numbers. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. Display was noted in May but there was no evidence of a breeding attempt. Birds were recorded in every month of the year and on the huge majority of visits. The max count of 526 was on 10th Feb.




**Red Knot:** (34 – 16)
Scarce visitor. A good year with records on 30 dates (29 in 2015). Numbers of birds were however much lower. 1 on 10th May was the only spring record. The next was on 15th Jul after which there were 52 bird days until 21st Oct. Max 4 on several dates.

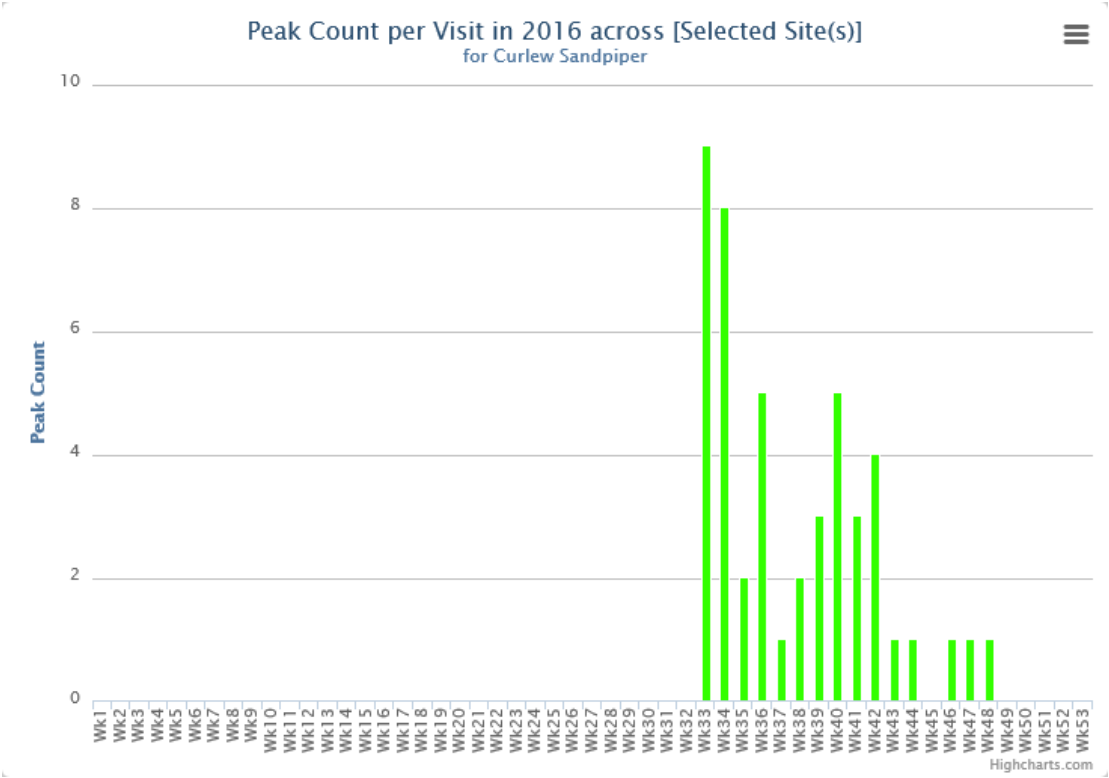
**Sanderling:**
3rd and 4th records. After 2015's list debut we could not have expected a repeat so quickly. Thanks to the record breaking wader passage in the first 2 weeks of May we enjoyed 2 more records. One joined the large Dunlin flock on May 2nd (MW, SR) and 2 "popped in" on the big day of the 10th (SR) as the tide rose. Like 2015 none lingered for long.

*The recent increase in Spoonbills continued. These two flying over Lytchett Bay View (S.Robson). Ospreys are now an expected spring and autumn migrant. This bird was ringed but the details were not ascertainable (I.Ballam)*

*Green Sandpiper had another record year. Numbers remained high into early winter when this fine image was taken (Steve Gantlett/www.cleybirds.com). Common Sandpiper enjoyed a more typical autumn migration than 2015 with good numbers appearing from July onwards (S.Robson).*

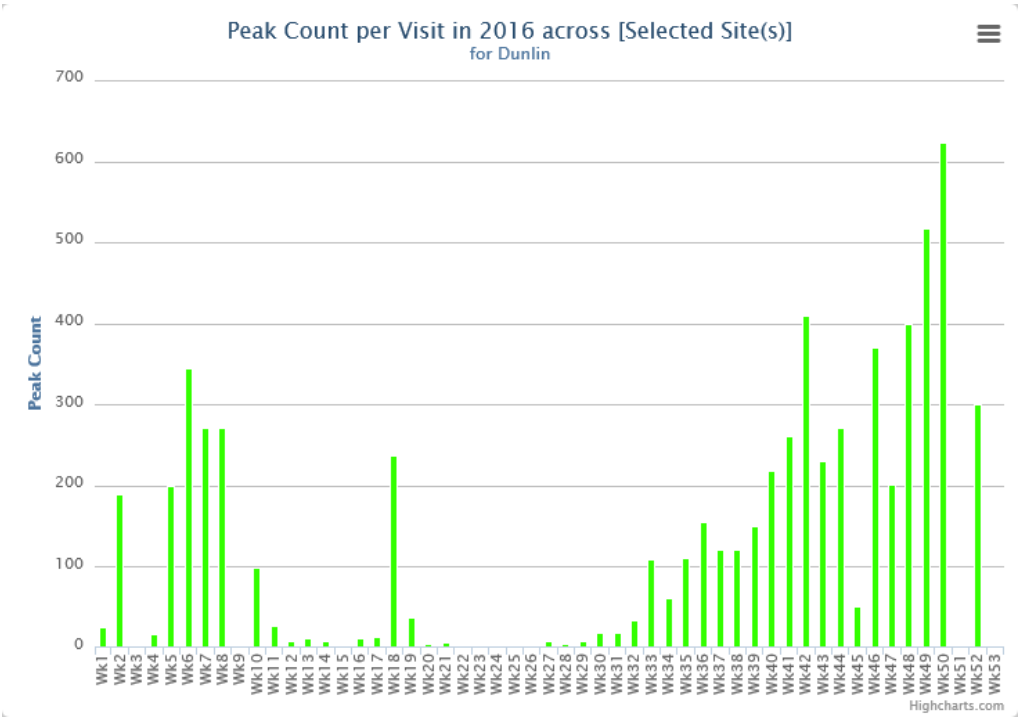
**Little Stint:** (7 – 10)
Rare visitor. 45 bird days over 27 dates represents another new high for this species. The first of the year dropped into the Bay on the evening of 8th Aug (our earliest return date). After 2 on 15th Aug, birds were seen almost daily on Lytchett Fields until 10th Sep. Max 3 on 27th - 28th Aug. The last of the autumn was on 29th Sep. Like 2015 the turnover of birds was disguised by similar counts over multiple days but the ages and plumage of individuals were often different! 1998 still holds the record day count when 7 were present on 17th Sep, contributing to 22 bird days that year. The year had a final surprise when one occurred with Dunlin at Lytchett Fields on 26th Nov (JMe) – our 1st winter record.

**Curlew Sandpiper:** (9 – 10)
Rare visitor. Last year's surprise graph illustrated the record movement of Wood Sandpiper. This year the prize goes to this species which was recorded on 60 dates (158 bird days) between 19th Aug and 30th Nov (latest departure date). A then record 6 on the first date soon became 9 on 21st Aug. Birds came and went. 4 on 17th Oct was the last "flock". The majority were seen on Lytchett Fields but there were some sightings in the Bay including the Turlin Stream area.




**Dunlin:** (1800 – 1200 – 25) ⇔
Regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Numbers wintering in Poole Harbour, and Britain as a whole, have been declining since the mid 90's. In this context the numbers using the Bay, in particular Lytchett Fields (majority of records) is encouraging. Spring passage was protracted and the best recorded by a considerable margin. Between 22nd Apr and 25th May there were 465 bird days with an astonishing flock of 236 in cool damp conditions on 2nd May alone. Other notable counts included 53 on 6th, 46 on 10th and 37 on 11th. Many of these dropped in briefly before visibly moving off north. A single on 21st Jun was the only record between 25th May and 3rd Jul (earliest arrival date). Max 622 on Lytchett Fields on 17th Dec.

*The spectacle of a shimmering flock of flying Dunlin is now a winter joy at Lytchett Fields (I.Ballam)*




**Ruff:** (9 – 21)

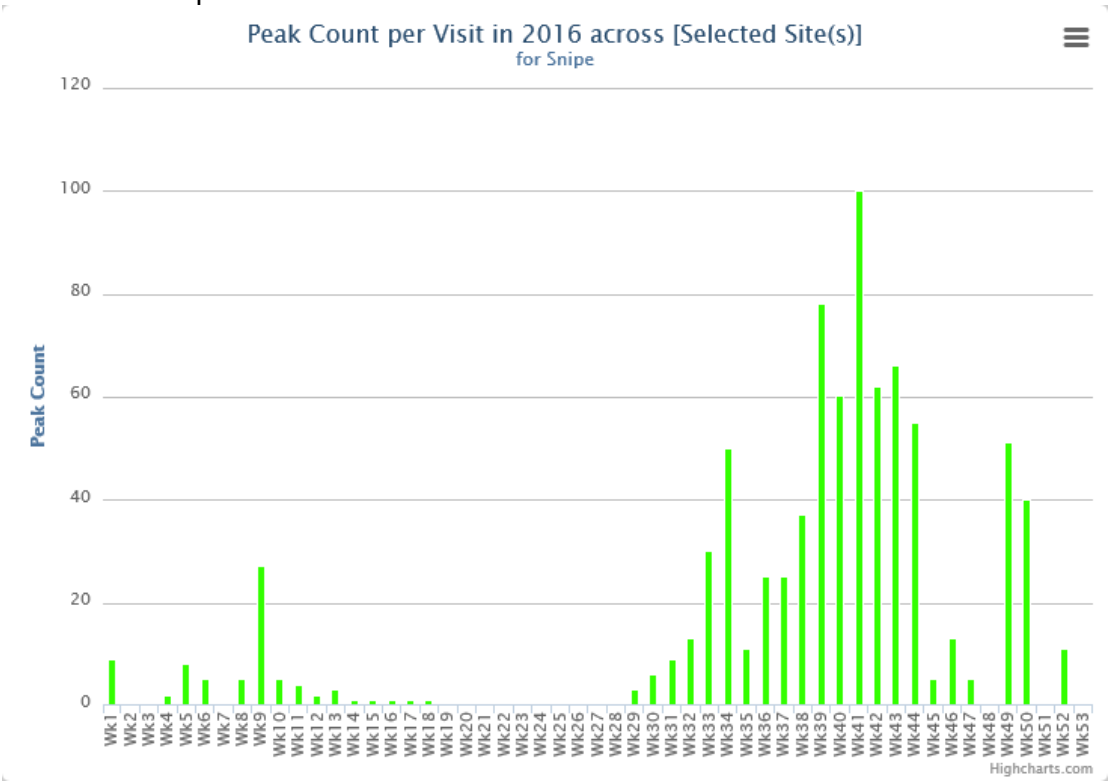
*I.Ballam*

Scarce visitor. Another excellent year, recorded on 66 dates, producing 114 bird days. 8 bird days in spring from 5th - 12th May. Max 2. The first returning bird was 1 from 27th – 30th Jun. After one on 25th Jul, the main arrival started on 10th Aug. After this birds were seen most days until 28th Sep. Max 6 on 14th Sep. Finally one from 10th – 20th Nov, went on to spend the end of the year at Upton Country Park. All records from Lytchett Fields.

**Jack Snipe:** (5 - 17) ⇔
Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. This hard to find species was recorded on 12 dates and is presumably present throughout the winter. Recorded until 11th Feb and from 21st Oct. Max 2 on 3 dates. Records fairly widely distributed between the fields and saltmarsh.

**Snipe:** (160 – 132 – 25) ⇔
Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded until 2nd May, returning on the 18th Jul.

Numbers of birds present are likely to be significantly under recorded due to the inaccessibility of the site. The birds recorded in the graph are those seen following scans with a telescope. Many more are likely to have remained hidden. Blank weeks within the period of occurrence are an indication that counts were not made, not that birds were not present. Max 100 on 12th Oct.




**Woodcock:** (5 – 15) ⇔
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).

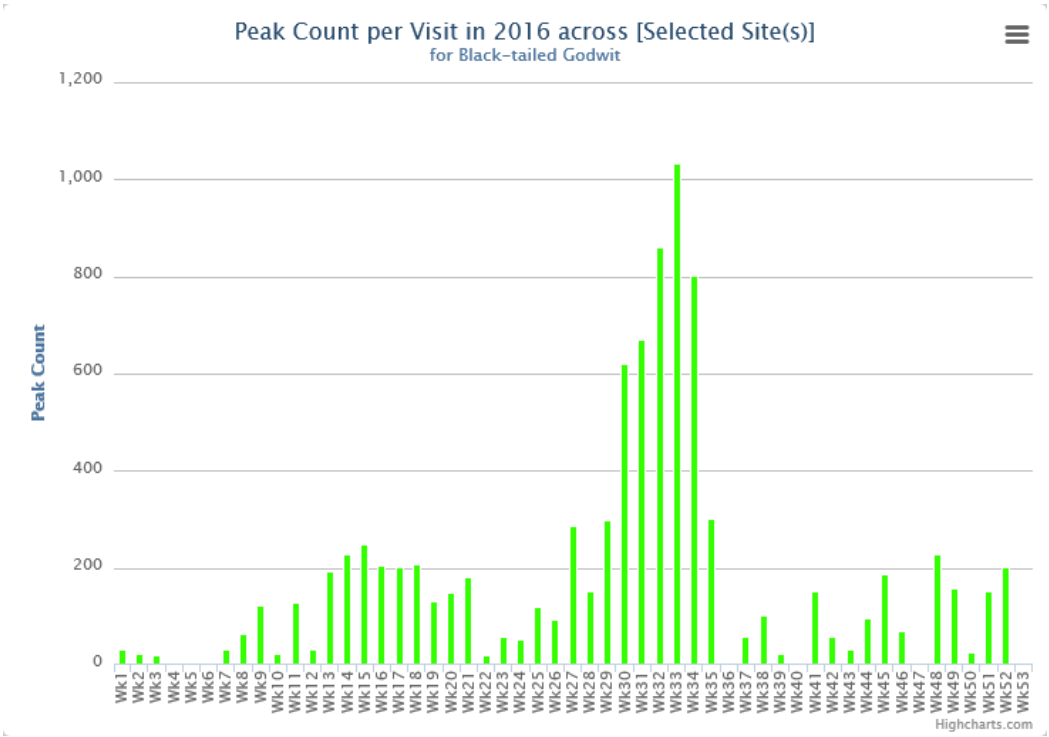
Present until at least 21st Feb and from 10th Nov. 15 bird days recorded on 6 dates. Max 4 on 4th Jan. 3 ringed.

**Black-tailed Godwit:** (1240 – 25) ⇔
Common passage migrant and winter visitor. The species was present throughout the year, late summer passage was exceptional.

Birds began to gather and feed at high tide on Lytchett Fields from mid Mar onwards, peaking at 246 on 12th Apr. Numbers remained high until the end of May. June was quieter but the summering flock still numbered up to 118. Returning migrants in Jul boosted numbers once more peaking at 618 on 27th. Further increases were

observed in Aug reaching a spectacular 1031 on 21st. Typically the fields were less favoured from mid Sep onwards.

*One of Lytchett Bay's commonest and most handsome visitors (I.Ballam)*



Over the last 20 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, Holland, Belgium, Germany, E England as well as many locations along the south coast.

Colour ringed birds were recorded as follows.

***GRY+RNR*** *was present on 10th – 22nd Mar 2016.*

*S.Robson*

*It had been ringed at Harty, Swale Estuary, Kent on 13th Jul 2013. It had previously been seen at the Bay from 15th Dec 2014 until 20th Feb 2015.*

***NW+OfL*** *was present on 30th Jul, 11th and 20th Aug 2016.*

*I.Ballam*

*It had been ringed on 29th Jul 2014 at Moeze, Charente Maritime, France as an Ad male. It has not been seen at any other locations. It had previously been seen at the Bay in Feb, Mar, Aug and Dec 2015.*

***GYG+BYG*** *was present on 7th Mar and 6th Apr 2016.*

*S.Robson*

*It had been ringed on 4th Oct 2013 as an Ad female at Iken, River Alde, Suffolk. It was seen at Akureryri causeway, N Iceland on 29th Apr 2014. On 23rd Jan 2016 it was at Prunjepolder near Moriaanshoofd, The Netherlands. It previously visited the Bay on 17th Apr 2015.*

***GOG+YNY** was present on 2nd, 15th and 21st Mar 2016.*

*I.Ballam*

*It had been ringed on 20th Sep 2015 at Brownsea Island, Dorset by Stour Ringing Group. It had previously visited the Bay on 25th Oct 2015.*

***RNW+YRY** was present in Mar, Aug, Sep and Dec 2016*

*I.Ballam*

*It had been ringed on 18th Jan 2015 as a 1stW female at Axe Estuary, Devon. It was also seen at La Manche, Normandy, France on 29th Apr 2015. It had previously visited the Bay in Nov and Dec 2015.*

***YG+OR(Z)** was present from 17th – 26th Aug 2016.*

*I.Ballam*

*It had been ringed on 8th May 2016 at Gunnersholt, S. Iceland. This was the first sighting since ringing.*

***R//R+RG** was present on 30th Jul 2016.*

*I.Ballam*

*It had been ringed on 15th Oct 2013 at Farlington Marshes, Hants. It has been seen at Belfast Harbour in Apr 2015 and Somerset Levels in Jan 2016.*

***WN+RW(X)** was present on 27th Aug 2016.*

*I.Ballam*

*It had been ringed at Siglufjordur, N Iceland on 11th Jul 2009. It has previously visited the Bay on 10th Mar 2010. It has also visited the Humber and been seen back in Iceland in 2013, 2014 and 2016.*

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 |

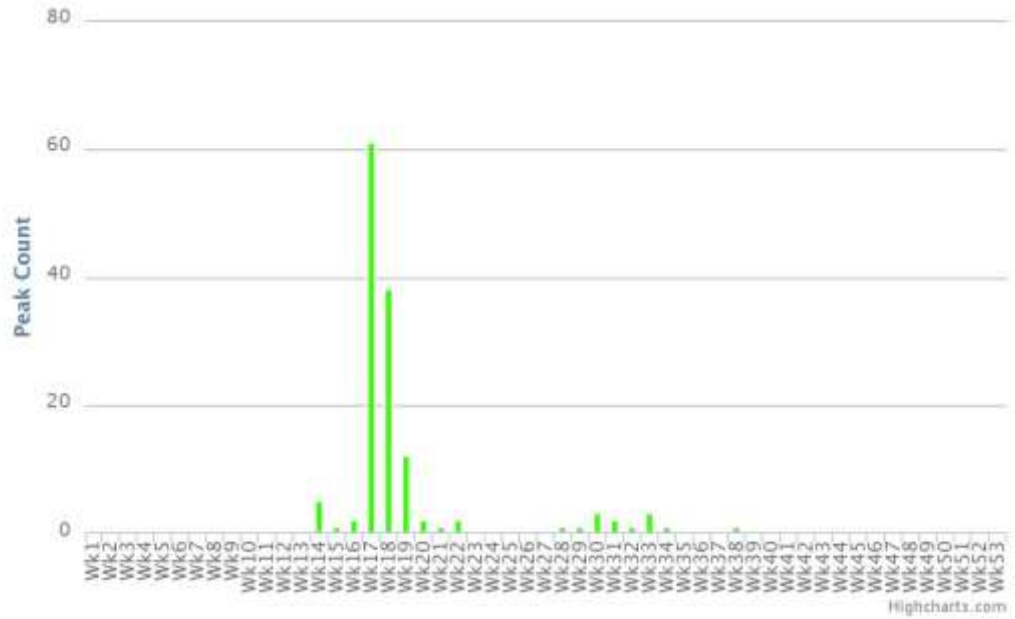
Many thanks to Pete Potts and the Farlington Ringing Group, Böðvar and the Iceland Wader Group and Vincent Lelong for supplying this information.

**Bar-tailed Godwit:** (110 – 21) ⇔
Scare visitor. After just 1 record in 2015 this year bounced back. Birds visited the Bay and Fields every day from May 1st – 9th. 43 bird days, Max 12 on 5th. Many were in stunning breeding dress. In autumn, 16 bird days on 3 dates in Sep. Max 13 on 5th.

*2016 was the best year yet in terms of visible migration of spring waders. Flocks of several species were enjoyed arriving from the south and moving north. Bar-tailed Godwit and Whimbrel are captured in these two frames (I.Ballam)*

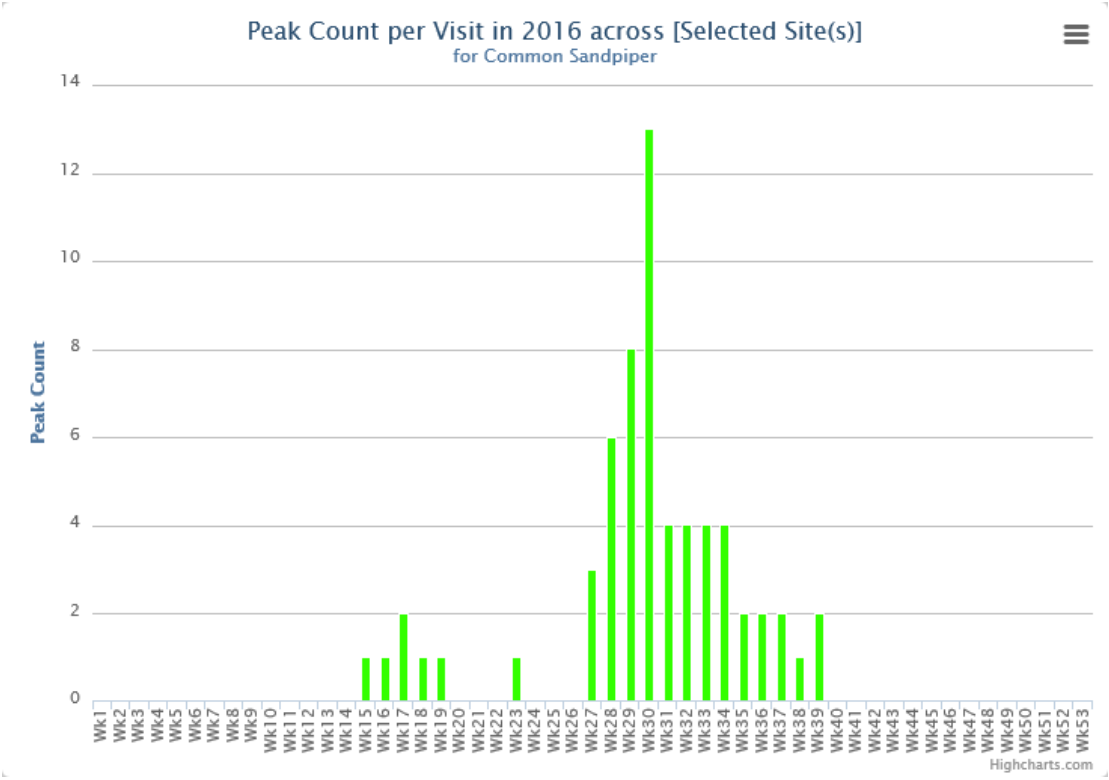
**Whimbrel:** (157 – 25) ⇔
Passage migrant, most numerous in Spring. A protracted spring passage from 8th Apr until 5th Jun. However the main movement was concentrated between 28th Apr and 8th May as shown by the Birdtrack graph below. Max 61 on 29th Apr.

Autumn passage was typically much lighter and occurred between 15th Jul and 22nd Sep. Max 3 on 2 dates.



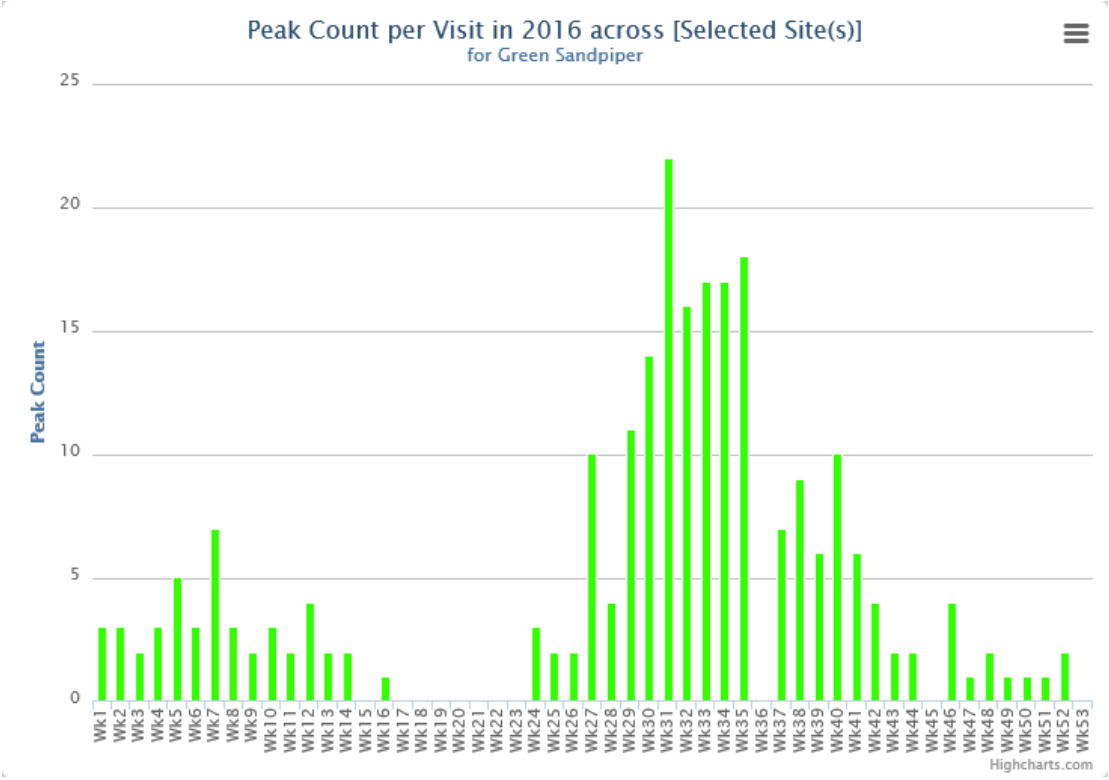

**Curlew:** (116 – 25) ↔
Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Present throughout the year, most common in early autumn and winter. Max 67 on 17th Jan. Frequently seen on The Pool and in the stubble field during high tide in winter.

**Common Sandpiper:** (14 – 25) ↔
Uncommon passage migrant. 8 bird days in spring between 17th Apr and 12th May. After an odd record on 11th Jun, return passage proper began on 4th Jul. Strongest in late Jul it peaked on 27th with 13. Birds were seen almost daily until 29th Sep. 2 ringed.



In total there were 208 bird days in autumn (148 in 2015).

**Green Sandpiper:** (22 – 25) ↗
Common non-breeding visitor. Lytchett Fields and western most part of the Bay are the favoured sites. Present until 24th Apr and from 16th Jun. After which birds were seen on most visits until the year end. A coordinated count of the whole site on 5th Aug found a record 22 birds (Previous best 18 on 11th Aug 2015). Numbers remained very high during Aug and into Sep. 10 were present as late as 3rd Oct after which fewer were recorded.



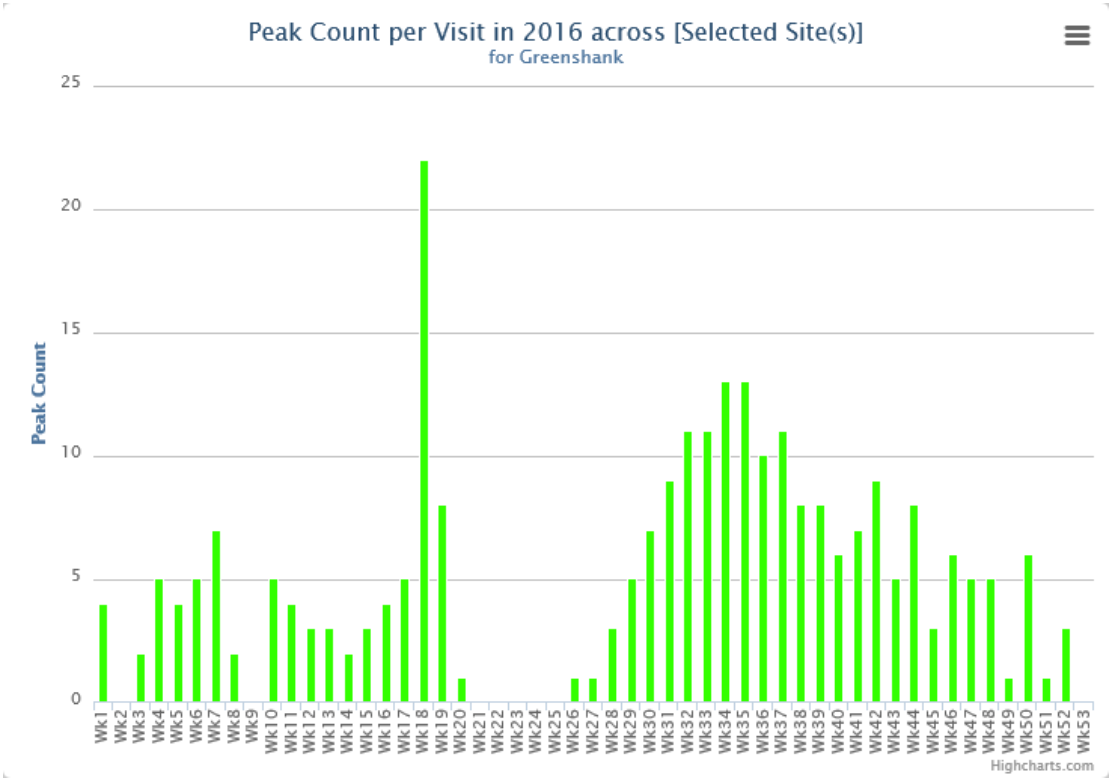

**Spotted Redshank:** (68 – 42 – 25) ⇔
Declining passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. Recorded on 54 dates (68 in 2015, 85 in 2014, 44 in 2013, 15 in 2012, 18 in 2011). No records between 28th Apr and 15th Jul. Max 5 on 23rd Apr. Had it not been for a single bird which remained from 24th - 31st Dec there would have only been 12 bird days in the second half of the year.

*Bay monthly max*

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

**Greenshank:** (49 – 27 – 25) ⇔
Common non-breeding visitor. This species is almost a daily ever present. The last bird of spring was on 17th May and the first of autumn was 29th Jun. The spring max of 22 on 5th May was the best number in this season since the late 70's. To put it into some perspective the biggest spring count since 1992 was previously 7 in 1995. Autumn was pretty typical of recent years.

Lytchett Fields was far and away the most used habitat.




**GB+RN** - *was present on at least 4th – 12th Apr. Returning on 18th Jul and seen subsequently on at least 17 dates until the year end.*

*I. Ballam*

*It had been ringed on 29th Sep 2015 as a juv at Seabrook, Montrose Basin, Scotland. It was seen at Steart, Somerset in Dec 2015.*

*Thanks to Raymond Duncan for this information.*

**Lesser Yellowlegs:**

First record. This elegant North American shank was having a good autumn, several birds having been found across Britain. This did nothing suppress the shock or

excitement when Ian phoned me to say that he had found one on Sherford Pool on 18th Sep (IB et al). 10th Dorset record and 2nd for Poole Harbour.

After the initial rush of admirers the bird settled into an established pattern of lurking around the back of the fields at high tide and feeding actively in the Bay at low tide. At times here it showed exceptionally well in Black Pipe Bay.

Our esteemed visitor seems to like Lytchett Bay. It is still here at the time of writing (Mar 2017). See Ian's finders account in Appendix 1.

*A nice comparison alongside Common Redshank (I.Ballam)*

**Wood Sandpiper:** (5 – 13)
Scarce migrant. After the wonderful excesses of 2015 (94 bird days on 49 dates, max 5), this year was merely very good.

1 on 8th May was the only spring record (equaling the earliest first date in 1996).

Return passage commenced on 18th Aug and there were 27 bird days on 24 dates until the 19th Sep. Max 2 on 3 dates.

**Redshank:** (608 – 436 – 25) ⇔
Common winter visitor with small breeding population on salt marsh. Bred on Lytchett Fields for the 3rd year in a row, 2 fledged young in the first week of July.

As per 2015 Lytchett Fields was used extensively at high tide. This peaked at 204 on 19th Aug. Use continued in Nov (max 150 on 17th) before declining. The Pool was used frequently as a high tide roost, with a max of 200 in Oct.

*Monthly max (all sites):*

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 63 | 81 | 137 | 25 | Br | 44 | 74 | 204 | 150 | 200 | 150 | 61 |

**Turnstone:** (9 – 6)
6th and 7th records, all of which have occurred since 1995, 6 since 2011.

2 flew N at 04:30 on 5th Aug (PM). Another was more co-operative on Lytchett Fields on 17th Sep (SR,IB)

**Black-headed Gull:** (12000 – 7000 – 25) ⇔
A very common visitor.

***2FFN*** *(black figures on a yellow ring) was found dead on 10th May 2016, or more precisely the leg and colour ring were found!.*

*It had been ringed as an Ad on 6th Dec 2014 at Pitsea Landfill, Essex and had been previously been seen alive at Lytchett Bay on 11th May 2015.*

***2NRF****(black figures on yellow ring) was seen at Lytchett Bay on 16th May 2016.*

*It had been ringed as an Ad on 23rd Jan 2016 at Pitsea Landfill, Essex*

*Thanks to North Thames Gull Group for these details.*

**Little Gull:** (2 – 15)
Scarce visitor. It seems that winter is almost as likely to produce one these dainty gulls as spring. An adult was present on 3rd and 4th Jan. A juv on 21st Sep was a rare autumn record.

**Mediterranean Gull:** (139 – 24) ↗
Spring and early summer visitor, occasional at other times. The explosion in this species population in Britain continues but this year the pattern at the Bay was very different.

The peak occurrence at the Bay is during the period when pairs are establishing territories at the breeding islands in the Wareham Channel. This is quite different to other parts of Poole Harbour where maxima occur after the breeding season.

Assessing bird days in spring is impossible due to abundance of bird movements. The peak count made was a rather poor 25 on 1st Mar.

Birds became very scarce during Apr and when surveys of breeding islands were carried out it was discovered that the nest had been egged and the majority of the population had abandoned the area. See

https://www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk/illegal-sale-mediterranean-gull-eggs-potentailly-puts-restaurants-risk

*Monthly max:*

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 25 | n.c. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

**Common Gull:** (3000 – 25) ⇔
A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. Present until 6th May. The first returning bird was on 8th Aug which was very late. No specific counts submitted.

**Lesser Black backed Gull:** (2128 – 25) ⇔
Abundant autumn and common spring passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Rarely counted.

**Herring Gull:** (2500 – 25) ↗
Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Max 1000 on 21st Sep.

**Yellow legged Gull:** (65 – 24) ↓
Frequent visitor, peaking in summer. Another really poor year. Max count of only 4 on 15th Sep. There only 31 bird days in total.

*Bay monthly max:*

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

**Great Black backed Gull:** (151 – 25) ⇔
Daily visitor throughout the year in small numbers. The max count for the site of 151 was way back in 2003. With closure of the local landfill this species occurs only in single figures.

***P:30A*** *was ringed as pullus at Portland Harbour, Dorset on 11th June 2012.*

*S.Robson*

*It was seen at Lytchett Fields on 4th June 2016. It has also been seen in Guernsey in Jan 2013.*

**Little Tern:** (10 – 7 – 5)
6th record since 1992. 2 lingered in the Bay on the morning of 6th May (earliest date) (IB et al).

**Sandwich Tern:** (6 – 25) ⇔
Uncommon summer visitor. Recorded on 11 dates. 3 on 20th Feb were our second winter record and no doubt Poole Harbour's wintering birds. The next was 1 on 4th Apr. The last 4 on 13th Oct. This was also the biggest count of the year.

**Common Tern:** (25 – 25) ⇔
Uncommon summer visitor. As 2015 recorded on only 7 dates.

There were 18 bird days between 2nd May and 29th Jul. Max 7 on first date.

**Stock Dove:** (72 – 25) ⇔
Uncommon Resident. Frequently seen and widely scattered records. Max 7 on 10th Jul.

**Woodpigeon:** (17,785 – 25) ↑
Common resident and autumn migrant. Intriguingly no big flight days were witnessed here or any nearby sites this year.

**Collared Dove:** (15 – 25) ⇔
Uncommon resident. Recorded across the site. Max 15 at Lytchett Bay View on 3rd Feb was a record count at a single location.

**Cuckoo:** (2 – 24) ↘
Scarce visitor in spring. 4 records between 4th - 19th May, from the west of the recording area.

**Barn Owl:** (2 – 16)
Bred at French's Farm until 2009. Shortly after this the nest box was removed. Since then the species has been very scarce. A very good year with records on 16 dates. Single birds were seen in the vicinity of Lytchett Fields in Feb, Mar, Jun, Sep, Oct and Nov. The number of small mammals in the arable field no doubt helped and hunting birds were seen their on several occasions.

**Tawny Owl:** (2 – 25) ↘
Uncommon resident. At least 1 pair present. Dispersing birds heard at Sandy Close Pond in late summer.

**Short-eared Owl:** (1 – 6)
Very scarce migrant in autumn or spring. 1 in Purple Heron Field on 11th Feb. In autumn one was seen around the Sherford on 3 dates between 28th Oct and 2nd Nov.

**Nightjar:** (3 – 16) ↗
Irregular breeder. Present at Lytchett Heath during the breeding season from at least 8th May to early Jul. Nest accidently discovered with 1 egg but later abandoned.

**Swift:** (113 – 25) ↘
Passage migrant and occasional local breeder. First seen on 28th Apr. Numbers remained very low until 1st Jun when 50 were present. There was no indication of breeding around the area and the last noted record was on 17th Aug.

**Kingfisher:** (4 – 25) ⇔
Passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Bred in 2000.

No records between 12th Mar and 29th Jun suggesting that no birds bred in the area. Otherwise recorded daily during both periods. 10 ringed.

**Green Woodpecker:** ⇔
Breeding resident. Bred successfully and recorded in all parts of the Bay. No change in status.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker:** ↗
Breeding Resident. Seen regularly in most parts of the Bay. Drumming heard in most areas during spring. 3 ringed.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:** (1 - 10)
Very scarce visitor. Recorded for the second year in a row after a gap of 11 years.

One was in trees at Lytchett Fields on 12th Mar (MW).

**Wryneck:**
Second record. After last year's debut we did not have to wait too long for the second. Whilst twitching an arrival of Curlew Sandpipers on a wet 19th Aug at Lytchett Fields two lucky birders were delighted when one alighted briefly on the sign at Sherford Pools (SC, IML).

**Woodlark:** (15 – 15) ⇔
Irregular visitor. This species is always scarce when we do not have very cold weather. 4 records.

A singing bird at Holton Lee was heard from Lytchett Fields on 17th May; 2 flew over the Bay from Holton Lee on 23rd Jul; 1 over Lytchett Fields on 30th Sep; 1 over Lytchett Heath on 11th Oct.

**Skylark:** (781 - 25) ↗

*I.Ballam*

Scarce breeder and passage migrant. 1 territory established and held throughout the spring. 5 on spring passage, 25th Mar. Autumn passage was hard to discern as birds frequently lingered in the stubble field. Records of flocks there were frequent from 9th Oct until the year end. Max 18 on 1st Nov

**Sand Martin:** (5000 – 25) ↘
Common passage migrant. Recorded from 24th Mar until 22nd Sep. Another poor year with no significant counts.

**Swallow:** (1000 – 800 – 25) ⇔
Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. Recorded from 24th Mar until 14th Oct. Max count was 300 on 27th Sep. 2 ringed.

**House Martin:** (1800 – 25) ↘
Common passage migrant, breeding colony on edge of recording area at Watery Lane. 1 on 28th Mar was our earliest record by 7 days (previous earliest 4th Apr 2015). The last bird being seen on 14th Oct. No significant counts.

No of House Martin nests at the Watery Lane colony 2004 – 2016. No of nest collapsed or destroyed in brackets.

| 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 (4) | 15 (5) | 16 (6) | 14 (5) | 13 (8) | 15 (5) | 8 (7) | 13 (4) | 2 (0) | 4 (1) | ? | 7 (3) | 10 (4) |

**Tree Pipit:** (17 – 21) ⇔
Scarce passage migrant. 15 bird days between 13th Aug and 3rd Oct. Max 4 on first date. 3 on 27th Aug and 1 on the last date were sound recorded at the Lytchett Way nocturnal listening station.

**Meadow Pipit:** (300 - 200 – 25) ⇔
Breeding resident and common passage migrant. No evidence of breeding this year. Spring migration peaked with 70 on 18th Mar. Autumn passage began in mid Sep. Max 200 on 6th Oct (The biggest day count in the last 25 years, previously 167 on 25th Sep 2009). 20 ringed.

**Rock Pipit:** (50 – 25) ⇔
Common winter visitor. Recorded until 27th Mar and from 9th Oct (equal earliest return date). Common on saltings throughout the winter. No single site counts reached double figures.

*Scandinavian Rock Pipit: In Feb these start to show breeding plumage and can be differentiated from nominate British birds. All birds seen at the bay at this time appeared to be A.p.littoralis. Records from The Pool included 7 on 2nd Feb and 8 on 22nd Feb.*

**Water Pipit:** (20 – 19)
Scarce winter visitor. It seems that the habitat created at Lytchett Fields is to this species liking. Another brilliant year with records on 92 dates. Present continually in the first winter period until 14th Apr, max 12 on 22nd Feb. Returned on 29th Oct after which birds were seen almost daily until the end of the year. Max 7 on 6th Dec. Lytchett Fields and The Pool were the preferred locations.

1 ringed on 4th Nov. Feathers dropped during processing were analysed by Dr Martin Collinson's team at Aberdeen University and the DNA matched that of the nominate subspecies *A.spinoletta.spinoletta*

**Yellow Wagtail:** (150 – 25) ⇔
Uncommon passage migrant. 18 bird days between 15th Apr and 6th May constituted an excellent spring. Max 4 on first date. 1 summer record on 15th Jun. Autumn migration started on 6th Jul but was very poor. 88 bird days to 27th Sep, max 10 on 3rd Sep.

**Grey Wagtail:** (15 – 25) ⇔
Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Recorded frequently throughout the autumn when passage peaks in Sep. Records widely spread including wintering at Sandy Close Pond.

**Pied Wagtail:** (500 – 25) ⇔
Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully. Birds roost at various points around the Bay during peak migration in October.

*White Wagtail: Scarce migrant. 11 bird days between 22nd Mar and 3rd May. Max 3 on 2 dates.*

**Wren:** ⇔
Common resident. 31 ringed.

**Dunnock:** ⇔
Common resident. 9 ringed.

**Robin:** ⇔
Common resident. 21 ringed.

**Common Redstart:** (2 – 18) ⇔
Scarce autumn migrant. Like many passerines, a quieter year than of late. 7 bird days on 5 dates.

A female on 17th Apr was followed by a male on 19th. The next day both a male and female were present – all at Lytchett Fields.

2 were present on 27th Aug, 1 at Lytchett Fields and 1 ringed at Lytchett Heath. The last bird of the year was at Lytchett Heath on 31st Aug. 1 ringed.

**Black Redstart:** (1 – 6)
6th record since 1992. A male at Lytchett Bay View on 6th May was one of the surprise records of the year both in terms of date and location (CH)

**Whinchat:** (11 – 23) ⇔
Scarce passage migrant.

3 spring records continued the recent good run in that season. 21st Apr at Lytchett Fields, 2 there on 3rd May and 1 at Lytchett Bay View on 6th May.

After 83 bird days in autumn last year it was disappointing to have only 9 this year. These were distributed between 27th Aug and 17th Sep with max 4 on 15th. All records from Lytchett Fields.

**Stonechat:** (23 – 25) ⇔
Previously common breeding resident (7 pairs in 2002), last bred in 2005. Changed status to winter visitor and passage migrant.

Present from start of the year until 24th Apr and from 15th Aug till the year end, with 4 single records in the late spring/early summer. Max 12 on 14th Oct. 5 ringed.

**Northern Wheatear:** (39 – 25) ⇔
Uncommon passage migrant. Almost every record of this species occurs in the north west of the recording area.

Another poor year with only 21 bird days all year. The first was on 25th Mar and there were records on a further 13 dates until May 3rd. No more than 2 on any one date.

Autumn migrants are always scarcer than in spring. Recorded on only 5 dates between 14th and 26th Sep. Max 2.

**Ring Ouzel:** (3 – 8)
Scarce migrant. 1 was trapped at Lytchett Heath on 8th Oct (RG et al), the first to be ringed at the Bay.

The Listening Station picked up nocturnal migrants on 3rd Oct, 8th Oct at 01:13 and 05:14, 10th Oct at 01:24 and 03:40, 20th Oct at 21:37.

In summary 7 records and none found in the field….just what else are we missing?

**Blackbird:** (45 – 25) ⇔
Common Resident. 34 at Lytchett Way on 31st Oct was the biggest count from a single site. 67 ringed.

***CW28775*** *– A 2nd cal yr M bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 7th Aug 2014 was found dead 725 days later on 1st Aug 2016 in Upton.*

**Fieldfare:** (559 – 25) ↗
Uncommon winter visitor. Typically scarce in the first winter period, with only 3 records up to 12th Mar. First returning birds were seen on 10th Oct (earliest return date). There were few flights and most records came from Lytchett Bay View. Max 26 on 25th Nov.

**Song Thrush:** (1256 – 25) ⇔
Breeding resident. Minimum of 12 territories identified. The Listening Station at Lytchett Way recorded 164 over on 3rd Oct. 100 were around the stubble field on 5th Oct. Flights over Lytchett Bay View peaked on 12th Oct with only 35n (but see Thrush Sp below). 2 had recommenced singing by 19th Dec. 23 ringed.

**Redwing:** (1000 – 514 – 25) ⇔
Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded until 24th Mar. The Listening Station at Lytchett Way helped reveal the extent of nocturnal spring migration with 204 over on 12th Mar & 140 over on 21st Mar. First of the autumn was 28 over Listening Station on 3rd Oct. Recordings there peaked with 317 over on 31st Oct. Visible migration was noted on several mornings with 128n at Lytchett Heath on 30th Oct and 76n at Lytchett Bay View on 2nd Nov. 10 ringed.

*Thrush Sp:*
*The identification of small silent thrushes on active migration continues to puzzle us. This year flights were limited but 225n on 12th Oct was notable.*

**Mistle Thrush:** (60 - 20 – 25) ⇔
Uncommon resident. Recorded frequently except in mid-summer. 1 pair bred successfully. No significant counts.

**Cetti's Warbler:** (11 males – 24) ⇔
Breeding resident. At least 9 territories (11 in 2016). Present at Sandy Close Pond occasionally in both winter periods. 16 ringed.

***D316464*** *– A 1st yr bird ringed at Hengistbury Head, Dorset on 16th Aug 2015 was controlled 312 days later on 23rd Jun 2016 at Lytchett Bay. A W movement of 21km.*

**Grasshopper Warbler:** (18 – 18) ⇔
Passage migrant, predominantly in autumn. Under recorded.

In spring one was reeling in PHF on 27th Apr.

A good autumn with 42 bird days between 14th Jul and 18th Sep. This was largely down to a record total of 18 on 27th Aug (previous best 8 on 23rd Aug 2015). Only one bird was recorded again subsequent to ringing. 41 ringed.

**Aquatic Warbler:**
6th record (involving 7 birds). Despite a small number of promising mornings during the season we had not caught one during our ringing operations. IB's attempts to count Green Sandpipers was suitably rewarded when he found a very showy 1st W in the rushes on Lytchett Fields on 31st Aug. Remarkably it was relocated from Sherford Viewpoint the following morning and was "twitchable" for 3 hours or so as it appeared to sing from a sunny perch on top of some rushes. To put this into context Stour Ringing Group has ringed 98 Aquatic Warblers in Dorset and have never re-trapped one on a subsequent day! (See Ian's finders account in appendix 1)

*I.Ballam*

**Sedge Warbler:** (219 – 25) ⇔
Passage migrant. Spring passage was average with 17 birds between 16th Apr and 6th May, max 4 on 17th Apr. Autumn passage commenced on 14th Jul and was much weaker than in 2014 or 2015. 296 ringed.

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

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 4 | 3 | | 22 | 50 | 23 | 1 | | |
| | | | 6 | 11 | | 80 | 263 | 96 | 1 | | |

***D464584*** *– A 1stW bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 2nd Aug 2015 was re-trapped 14 days later on 16th Aug 2015 at Pont d'Hiern, Soorts-Hossegor, Landes, France. A S movement of 789km.*

***D464935*** *– A 1stW bird ringed at Lytchett bay on 12th Aug 2015 was re-trapped 311 days later on 18th Jun 2016 at Seaside Dyke, Errol, Perth and Kinross, Scotland. A N movement of 633km.*

***D464961*** *– A 1stW bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 12th Aug 2015 was re-trapped 361 days later on 7th Aug 2016 at Reserve du Massereau, Frossay, Loire Atlantique, France. A S movement of 389km.*

***S164832*** *– A 1stW bird ringed at Belvide, Staffordshire on 6th Aug 2016 was controlled 12 days later on 18th Aug 2016 at Lytchett Bay. A S movement of 217km.*

***Z807074*** *– A 1stW bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 31st Jul 2016 was taken by a cat the following day on 1st Aug 2016 at Blandford, Dorset. A NNW movement of 17km.*

***S273353*** *– A 1stW bird ringed at Oxwich Marsh, Swansea, Wales on 14th Aug 2016 was controlled 9 days later on 23rd Aug 2016 at Lytchett Bay. A ESE movement of 175km.*

***D234941*** *- A 1stW bird ringed at Newshot Island, West Dumbartonshire, Scotland on 30th Jul 2016 was controlled 28 days later on 27th Aug 2016 at Lytchett Bay. A SSE movement of 596km.*

**Reed Warbler:** (84 males – 25) ⇔
Common summer visitor. Present between 14th Apr and 29th Sep. No survey undertaken but status unchanged at c80 singing males. 174 ringed.

***FRP 7700552*** *– ringed at Conchemarche, Mortagne-sur-Gironde, Charente-Maritime, France on 18th Apr 2016 was re-trapped 103 days later on 30th Jul 2016 at Lytchett Bay. A N movement of 593km.*

***Y820996*** *– A 1stW bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 21st Aug 2013 was re-trapped 346 days later on 2nd Aug 2014 at Reserve Naturelle de la Maziere, Lot-et-Garonne, France. A SSE movement of 729km.*

***Z807178*** *– A 1stW bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 15th Aug 2016 was re-trapped 11 days later on 26th Aug 2016 at Icklesham, East Sussex. An E movement of 192km.*

**Blackcap:** (25 – 25) ↗
Passage migrant, summer visitor and scarce winter visitor. 13 territories were located. 15 years ago the species was described as an "occasional breeder".

Regularly seen during the first winter period at Sandy Close Pond. At least 4 individuals visited feeders up to 5th Apr.

Identifying the first summer arriving migrant is made more difficult due to the risk of counting south-east bound continental winterers as north bound summer migrants!

Migration seemed to be underway by 7th Apr when 8 were at Lytchett Fields. 20 on 17th Apr at the same site was a record spring count but this was soon surpassed when 25 were counted on 30th Apr. 18 ringed. Autumn migration was light.

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

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 25 | b | b | b | 1 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| w | w | w | 68 | b | b | b | 2 | 38 | 26 | 3 | 4 |

**Garden Warbler:** (5 – 23) ⇔
Scarce passage migrant. Recorded on 4 dates in spring between 1st and 5th May. Max 3 on 4th. Autumn was poor with records on 5 dates between 14th Aug and 1st Sep. Max 2 on 15th. 2 ringed

**Lesser Whitethroat:** (3 – 20) ⇔
Scarce passage migrant, which occasionally breeds or holds territory. The first record was on 18th Apr at Lytchett Way (earliest arrival date). Males held territory at Turlin Moor from 26th Apr to at least 13th May and around Lytchett Fields from 6th May to 8th Jul. Breeding was not proven at either site.
In addition there were records on 4 other dates in spring from Lytchett Fields including 3 on 30th Apr.

There were no autumn records for the first time since 2012 when the species was not recorded at all.

**Whitethroat:** (18 – 23) ⇔
Uncommon passage migrant. Bred in 2013. One held territory at Lytchett Heath. 19 bird days on 11 dates in spring between 15th Apr and 18th May. Max 6 on 21st. Autumn was poor with only 14 bird days between 10th Aug and 15th Sep. Max 4 on 27th. 7 ringed.

**Dartford Warbler:** (2 pairs – 23) ⇔
Breeding resident. Resident at Lytchett Heath throughout the year where at least 1 pair was present raising least 1 brood. Dispersed birds also recorded at Lytchett Way and Lytchett Fields on 3 dates. 2 ringed.

**Yellow-browed Warbler:** (1 – 4)
3rd to 5th records. The autumn invasion of this species continues to increase in scale. In 2016 there were 139 at Flamborough Head, Yorks on 21st Sep alone! We enjoyed our own tiny share of the changing status.

Singles were trapped at Lytchett Heath on 8th (RG et al) and 11th Oct (SR et al). In between times one was at Lytchett Bay View on 9th -10th Oct (PM et al)

**Willow Warbler:** (60 – 25) ⇔
Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. This species had been lost as a local breeder. For the second year in a row a bird held territory at Lytchett Way throughout May (not included in table below).

The first record was on 31st Mar. Migration in both periods returned to normal after the autumn excesses of 2015. Autumn migration started on 20th Jul and lasted until 18th Sep. Max 18 on 5th Aug. 51 ringed.

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

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 6 | | | 10 | 18 | 1 | | | |
| | | 1 | 32 | | | 18 | 101 | 4 | | | |

**Chiffchaff:** (142 – 25) ↗
Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Another species which is doing well at The Bay. Limited breeding surveys found 9 territories. There were 11 territories across the whole site in 2012.

Spring max 24 on 2nd Apr. Autumn migration was again record breaking both in terms of bird days and max day count. At least 142 were present on 18th Sep (in practice this is probably a considerable under estimate) and 57 occurred in a second influx on 8th Oct. 190 ringed.

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

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 16 | b | b | b | b | 20 | 142 | 57 | 5 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 37 | b | b | b | b | 43 | 228 | 233 | 47 | 10 |

***HLN528*** *– A juv bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 13th Aug 2016 was re-trapped 60 days later on 12th Oct 2016 at Forston, Dorset. A W movement of 31km.*

***JLE021*** *– A 1stW bird ringed at Ipsley, Redditch, Worcestershire on 5th Oct 2016 was controlled 6 days later on 11th Oct 2016 at Lytchett Bay. A S movement of 175km.*

*Siberian Chiffchaff – one was at Lytchett Fields on 22nd Mar (SR et al)*

**Goldcrest:** (27 – 25) ⇔
Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. Singing males were recorded at 6 locations in Apr-May. The year started well thanks to birds lingering from the influx in 2015. The autumn however was unremarkable. 11 ringed.

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

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 2 | b | b | b | | | 3 | 10 | 2 | 10 |
| 26 | 14 | 16 | b | b | b | | | 8 | 54 | 34 | 21 |

**Firecrest:** (3 – 13) ⇔
Scarce visitor. A reasonable year similar to 2015.

In the first half of the year single birds were seen at Beach Road, Sandy Close Pond and the water works in Feb. The next was not until the autumn, 1 at the Cottage on 23rd Sep. Birds were then seen on a further 10 dates to the year end. These all came from the area between the allotments and Lytchett Fields, max 2 on several dates. In reality a pair was probably present throughout this period.

**Spotted Flycatcher:** (8 – 6 – 25) ↘
Passage migrant, previously bred. In complete contrast to 2015 (41 bird days) this year was extremely poor. After a great start with 4 present on 6th May there were no further spring records. The next was 1 on 14th Aug and there were only 3 more records involving 4 birds to 18th Sep. 1 ringed.

*SRG have rung more than 23,000 birds at Lytchett Bay. Of these less than 10 could be described as rare or scarce. On the 8th Oct this year we managed two in one morning (S.Robson)*

*Song Thrush and Reed Bunting continue to breed in good numbers in most parts of Lytchett Bay (I.Ballam)*

**Bearded Tit:** (33 – 25) ⇔
Scarce breeder and scarce passage migrant. At least 1 pair bred, possibly 2. Recently fledged juveniles were ringed in Aug. Seen at Lytchett Heath and around the Sherford in the breeding season. 11 ringed.

Max 10 on 10th Nov.

**Long tailed Tit:** ↗
Common resident. Regularly recorded from most sites at the Bay. 33 ringed.

***JCJ620*** *– A 1st W bird ringed at Boys Hill, Ryewater Nursery, Dorset on 11th Oct 2015 was controlled 91 days later on 10th Jan 2016 at Lytchett Bay. An ESE movement of 35km.*

***JCJ627*** *– A 1st W bird ringed at Boys Hill, Ryewater Nursery, Dorset on 11th Oct 2015 was controlled 91 days later on 10th Jan 2016 at Lytchett Bay. An ESE movement of 35km.*

*The above recoveries are remarkable. JCJ620 was ringed at 15:40 and JCJ627 at 15:50. They were controlled at 10:45 and 11:55 respectively but had clearly travelled together.*

**Coal Tit:** ↗
Uncommon resident, increasing. Recorded from most sites across the calendar. 4 ringed.

**Blue Tit:** ⇔
Common resident. 44 ringed.

**Great Tit:** ⇔
Common resident. 19 ringed.

**Marsh Tit:** (1 – 3)
3rd record in the period since 1992. Having been reported by a MoP as visiting feeders in a garden on Slough Lane, 2 were tracked down on 22nd Jun (IB).

**Nuthatch:** ⇔
Uncommon. Seen occasionally throughout the year from sites stretching from French's Farm to Lytchett Bay View including Sandy Close Pond.

**Treecreeper:** ⇔
Uncommon. Not recorded between 28th Apr and 30th Sep. Recorded outside this period in the same areas as Nuthatch but less frequently. 1 ringed.

**Jay:** (12 – 25) ⇔
Resident. Regularly seen throughout the year but most often in autumn. Max 9 at Lytchett Fields on 21st Sep.

**Magpie:** ↗
Common Resident.

**Jackdaw:** (346 – 25) ⇔
Resident. Recorded throughout the year. 200 on 1st Jan at Lytchett Fields was the max count of the year.

**Rook:** (185 – 25) ↗
Breeds on edge of recording area. 17 nests at the Watery Lane colony. The same as 2014. (23 in 2015 & 2014, 25 in 2013, 22 in 2012, 20 in 2011, 16 in 2010).

Max 50 on 9th Jan.

**Carrion Crow:** (100 – 25) ⇔
Common Resident. Breeds widely across the area. The absence of stubble, and in particular maize, meant that thankfully there were no large or lingering flocks this year.

**Raven:** (7 – 22) ↗
Increasingly regular visitor. Now recorded on an almost a daily basis. Max 6 on 14th Oct.

**Starling:** (35000 – 5600 – 25) ⇔
Common resident**.** A roost of around 1000 birds formed in early Dec near Lytchett Way. It was short lived. At the very end of Dec birds presumably leaving the Studland roost (c15,000) were seen passing over the Bay shortly after dawn. Max 400 on 29th Dec. 2 ringed.

**House Sparrow:** (100 – 25) ⇔
Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe. Bred at Turlin Moor, Border Road and French's Farm. At least 79 roosted in bamboo near Sandy Close Pond in the first winter period. 1 ringed.

**Chaffinch:** (450 – 25) ⇔
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Max 40 in the arable field 16th Dec. Regular at Sandy Close feeders in both periods, max 13 on several dates. 5 ringed.

**Brambling:** (10 - 21)
Scarce winter visitor, which is having a lean spell at the Bay. A male in the arable field on 5th Apr was nice find. Only 2 singles in autumn – 15th Nov and 15th Dec, both at the arable field.

**Greenfinch:** (60 – 25) ⇔
Common breeding resident, which has declined due to on-going Trichomonosis disease in the population. This arrived in late summer 2006 and has had a severe impact on English Greenfinch populations. Regular at Sandy Close Pond feeders early in the year, Max 13 on 3rd Jan. In the autumn regularly seen around the arable field, Max 15 on 18th Dec. 17 ringed.

**Goldfinch:** (120 – 25) ↗
Common breeding resident and passage migrant. Max counts included 30 at Lytchett Bay View on 5th Jan, 40 in PHF on 11th Aug, 50 at Turlin Moor on 19th Sep and 38 at Lytchett Bay View on 15th Dec. 46 ringed.

**Siskin:** (280 – 22) ⇔
Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor. A very poor year all round though a regular singing bird around the Water Works in May is an indication of local breeding. Max 10 on 31st Jan. Autumn migration was almost non-existent. The biggest count on any date in autumn was 4! 7 ringed.

***Z408887*** *– An Ad F bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 4th Mar 2016 was re-trapped 31 days later on 4th Apr 2016 at Bidston, Wirral, Merseyside. A N movement of 305km.*

**Linnet:** (250 – 25) ⇔
Uncommon breeding resident. Confirmed breeding with recently fledged young ringed. No sign of a winter roost at Lytchett Way at either end of the year. Rather thin on the ground in autumn, Max 45 on 28th Oct. 4 ringed.

**Lesser Redpoll:** (40 – 21) ⇔
Scarce passage migrant. Like Siskin a poor year. 1 on 30th Jan, 1 on 4th Mar, 3 on 3rd Oct and 9 on 9th Oct.

**Bullfinch:** (11 – 25) ↗
Uncommon but increasing. In keeping with recent years, widely recorded across the area throughout the year, noted in every month. Max 9 on both 15th Jan at Lytchett Heath and 29th Jan at Lytchett Bay View. Regular visitor to feeders at Sandy Close Pond.

**Red Crossbill:** (21 – 10)
Scarce passage migrant. 1 over Lytchett Way on 24th Jul, 2 over Lytchett Fields on 19th Nov.

**Yellowhammer:** (13 - 14)
Extinct breeding species. Very scarce passage migrant. By recent standards a very good year with singles on 4 dates. 30th Jun, 16th Aug, 23rd Sep and 27th Nov. All from the area of Lytchett Fields.

**Reed Bunting:** (110 – 25) ⇔
Breeding resident. No breeding survey but no reason to suspect any change from 2011 when 23 singing males were present. The roost at Lytchett Heath seems to have dispersed. 63 ringed.

***D155250*** – A juv bird ringed at Longham Lakes, Dorset on 2nd Jul 2013 was controlled 1197 days later on 11th Oct 2016 at Lytchett Bay. A WSW movement of 11km.

Records received from: I.H.Alexander, I.Ballam (IB), D.Bandfield, M.Constantine, Mo Constantine, S.Craft (SC), T.Elborn, R.Farrington, R.Gifford (RG), C.Hargrave (CH), P.Harvey, N.Hoare (NiH), N.Hopper, J.Hull, N.Hull, D.Jones (DJ), K.E.Lane, I.M.Lewis (IML), J.Mercer (JMe), J.Mitchell (JM), P Morton (PM), G.Owen, B.J. Robson, S.Robson (SR), M.Smith, A.Taylor, S.Walls, R.Webb, M.Wood (MW), L.Woodford, C. White (CW) . With additional information from Bird Track, Holton Lee log, Rare Bird Alert and the Dorset Bird Club. Apologies for any omissions.

*Returning Black tailed Godwits still in breeding plumage "carpet" Lytchett Fields (I.Ballam)*

## Appendix 1 – Finders accounts

**Lesser Yellowlegs** - the 1st record for Lytchett Bay Ian Ballam

I had been on site since 7:10am on 18th Sep, the fields were generally quiet as the tide was low in the adjacent Lytchett Bay, traditionally waders/gulls from the bay will move onto the fields as the high tide pushes them out. I was with a fellow birder, Richard Seargent, we had viewed Sherford Pools for 30 minutes and had moved over to French's Viewpoint so we could watch for any waders approaching from the bay. After an hour of watching a few waders (mainly Redshank) coming from the bay we decided to call it a day, as we started to walk away I said I would give Sherford Pools one last scan and bade Richard farewell. A lady was standing at the viewpoint and we spoke about how quiet it was. I started to scan the many Redshank that had gathered on the pool and immediately picked up a bird that clearly stood out, I immediately noted long yellow legs, a dark brown colouration on its back with a white speckling (similar to a Wood Sandpiper) and a very fine bill. I immediately said "I've just found a Lesser Yellowlegs". My first thought was to try and get a record shot in case it flew off but I couldn't locate it in my camera viewfinder, I went back to my scope but in the meantime the bird had moved and I couldn't relocate it.

I then phoned Shaun Robson who was ringing at Lytchett Heath on the other side of the bay, I relayed the news and he questioned me as to what features had led me to call it as a Lesser Yellowlegs. After a short conversation he said he and Paul Morton would be straight over. Whilst Shaun and Paul were making their way over I continued to look in the area that I had seen the bird but could not find it again. After a long 15 minutes Shaun and Paul arrived. I re-explained the sighting circumstances as they set up their scopes and said I had not relocated it. Almost immediately Shaun found the bird which had moved from the main Redshank flock to a pool about 30 metres away from flock, it was busily feeding in this pool with a few redshank, there were also a few Teal present in the pool. We all got on the bird and began to grill it, other than the ID features I mentioned above we picked out its prominent primary projection extending well past the tail and also its short supercilium which stopped at the eye. We compared size again against the adjacent Redshank, the bird was significantly smaller with a much more slender appearance and smaller head than the Redshank. We continued to watch the bird eventually it flew a short distance which gave us a chance to see its square white rump and plain brown back and we could also see that it had plain brown wings with no significant white markings.

Paul and Shaun watched the bird for another 15 minutes before returning to ringing duties, I continued for another 90 minutes where it gave good but distant views including comparisons with adjacent Greenshank. During this 90 minutes many local birdwatchers managed to connect with the bird. The bird was eventually seen to leave the fields at midday due to the fields flooding on the extreme high tide.

The bird returned to the fields in the following days and weeks where it continued the same pattern of leaving when the high tide flooded the fields. More often than not it lingered at the rear of the fields. After a few weeks it

started to appear in the Bay at low tide where it fed very successfully. Incredibly the bird is still present at the time of writing (Mar 2017) though it has become harder to see in recent weeks.

*On one wet morning the Yellowlegs moved to a pool near the viewpoints and to my eye Ian captured the best image of the bird that we have to date.*

**Aquatic Warbler** – found in the field! Ian Ballam

I am an RSPB volunteer at Lytchett Fields, I was approaching a small reed fringed pool on an area of the site with no general access counting Green Sandpipers on 31st August. I was walking close to some low rush/sedge to attempt to view a Wood Sand that had landed in the pool when I noticed the rush moving about 2 mtrs ahead of me. After about 20 secs a small streaked warbler flew out and landed about 20ft ahead of me on some reed stems. Knowing that the rush it had come from was perfect for Aquatic Warbler I got the bird in my bins and was staggered to see a pale crown stripe that matched in colouration the supercilium. It flew to another reed stem giving me a side on view, which showed its very well streaked back with 2 large buff panels. Checking the head pattern again I confirmed it had pale lores. The bird had a very small amount of streaking just about the shoulder area, it appeared to be a juvenile. The pale crown stripe and well streaked back confirmed that it was not Sedge Warbler. I managed to get some photos before it flew into cover. After 5 minutes it came out again only 15ft away and I confirmed the ID without doubt. In total the bird remained in view for about 5

minutes across a 15 minute period.

The next day Shaun Robson found the bird again from the public viewing area at a range of about 150mtrs, this sighting was at 8am. News was put out and I arrived at 9am and with Shaun and Paul Morton we viewed the bird again at 9:05am in the same place as where Shaun had seen it. The bird was seen on several occasions over the rest of the morning by many observers.

*Two contrasting photos of what to many observers was our "bird of the year". The first taken by Ian when he discovered it. The second digiscoped by me when it reappeared in the sun from Sherford Viewpoint the following morning much to our surprise and delight.*

**Glossy Ibis** – 2nd record for Lytchett Bay but the 1st for 174 yrs Ian Ballam

As normal I was doing my daily route around Lytchett Fields on 11th May 2016. The weather was fine and warm but with a fair amount of cloud cover.

As it was early May I had high hopes of some interesting arrivals. First I checked the bay and then made my way across the fields to the viewpoints. I watched from both Sherford Pools and latterly French's Pools Viewpoints and noted birds like Whimbrel, Greenshank and Dunlin but there seemed to be nothing unusual to report.

I had been at the viewpoint for about an hour when whilst watching over French's Pools my mobile rang. It was Paul Morton who was at Arne and just wanted to enquire if much was about. We had a brief conversation and I said it was quiet and my parting comment was "it's about time we turn up a decent bird at Lytchett". As soon as I put the phone down and put my eye to my scope out of the vegetation at the rear of the field strutted out a large black wader with long decurved bill, GLOSSY IBIS!! I watched it feeding for a couple of minutes and got a couple of record shots. I immediately rang Paul back and told him to scratch our last conversation and relayed the sighting and then phoned the regular patcher's and put the news out. This was a major Lytchett sighting as the only previous sighting was an historical record from 1842!

Shortly after phoning around the bird took flight and flew over and landed at the back of Sherford Pools on the raised bank. It continued to feed here for another 20 minutes before taking flight again and flying off in the direction of the Wareham Channel. Thankfully the bird returned and was relocated by Jol Mitchell the following morning. It lingered over the next couple of days and was enjoyed by many birders.

*M.Wood*

## Appendix 2 – Bird ringing at Lytchett Bay 2016

| | Full grown | Pulli | Recoveries | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sparrowhawk | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Woodcock | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Common Sandpiper | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Woodpigeon | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Kingfisher | 10 | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Swallow | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Meadow Pipit | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Water Pipit | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wren | 31 | 0 | 11 | 42 |
| Dunnock | 9 | 0 | 7 | 16 |
| Robin | 21 | 0 | 12 | 33 |
| Redstart | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Stonechat | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Ring Ouzel | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Blackbird | 67 | 0 | 27 | 94 |
| Song Thrush | 23 | 0 | 3 | 26 |
| Redwing | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Cetti's Warbler | 16 | 0 | 5 | 21 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | 41 | 0 | 1 | 42 |
| Sedge Warbler | 296 | 0 | 4 | 300 |
| Reed Warbler | 174 | 0 | 32 | 206 |
| Dartford Warbler | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Whitethroat | 7 | 0 | 2 | 9 |
| Garden Warbler | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Blackcap | 18 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Yellow-browed Warbler | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Chiffchaff | 190 | 0 | 9 | 199 |
| Willow Warbler | 51 | 0 | 0 | 51 |
| Goldcrest | 11 | 0 | 5 | 16 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Bearded Tit | 11 | 0 | 2 | 13 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 33 | 0 | 22 | 55 |
| Coal Tit | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Blue Tit | 44 | 0 | 38 | 82 |
| Great Tit | 19 | 0 | 9 | 28 |
| Treecreeper | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Starling | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| House Sparrow | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Chaffinch | 5 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Greenfinch | 17 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Goldfinch | 46 | 0 | 3 | 49 |
| Siskin | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Linnet | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Reed Bunting | 63 | 0 | 11 | 74 |
| Total for: Lytchett Bay | 1279 | 0 | 206 | 1485 |

Lytchett Bay Annual Report

# Non-Avian Wildlife 2016

Nick Hull

Marbled White - © Nick Hull

**Introduction**
Though recording officially started in 2014 for the Lytchett Patch as a whole, my garden is within the boundary and some species i.e. moths in particular have been recorded since May 2012 and have now been added to the list for completeness. In total, we have recorded 577 non-avian species, by far the largest group being moths with 414. We've managed to add 73 new species in 2016 all of which are listed below in red.

Last year, Jackie and I, in an aim to increase our knowledge and to help enlarge the patch wildlife list attended courses on Bumblebee, Ladybird, Shieldbug and Leatherbug identification and in 2017 we are attending courses on identification of Grasshopper and Crickets and how to identify Hoverflies, the latter of which is a very large group some of which are very attractive species.

I would also like to thank the following patch watchers and visitors for their contributions to this list: Shaun Robson, Ian Ballam, Jackie Hull, Liz Woodford, Richard Webb, Kevin Lane, Martin Wood, Tony and Ann Taylor. I would also like to thank Tony Allen for his help with identifying a number of the Beetles that I've needed help with, and to Paul Harris for his help with identification of various moths that gave me problems identifying over the year.

**The List**

**Mammals**
Little has changed with just two new additions. Shaun recorded a bat which we believe to be a Serotine over the fields one evening. Martin Wood found a Bank Vole along Slough Lane. The Serotine is only the second bat species to be recorded in the area. Hedgehogs continue to be recorded though reports seem to be fewer than in 2015. No visual sighting has been reported of Badger only track evidence that they occur on occasions around the Slough lane area. There haven't been any reports of Common Shrew in 2016 though their small size and habits are probably the reason. Sightings of the Roe Deer seem to be less than previous years whether this is an effect of the larger Sika population or that the fields have public access now remain to be seen.

| Common Names | Scientific Name | First date recorded |
|---|---|---|
| Sika Deer | Cervus nippon | Common |
| Roe Deer | Capreolus capreolus | A reduced number of Sightings |
| Fox | Vulpes vulpes | Common |
| Badger | Meles meles | Still no sightings tracks only seen |
| Otter | Lutra lutra | Spraint regularly seen |
| Weasel | Mustela nivalis | Recorded near sewage works |
| Hedgehog | Erinaceus europaeus | A number of records |
| Water Vole | Arvicola terrestris-amphibius | Small resident population |
| Bank Vole | Myodes glareolus | Seen 7th May 1st record |
| Brown Rat | Rattus norvegicus | Recorded throughout year |
| Wood Mouse | Apodemus sylvaticus | Recorded 41 Lytchett Way |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Common Shrew | Sorex araneus | None reported this year |
| Grey Squirrel | Sciurus carolinensis | Common |
| Serotine Bat | Eptesicus serotinus | Single record Lytchett Fields |
| Common Pipistrelle | Pipistrellus pipistrellus | Regular during summer |
| Mole | Talpa europaea | Regular activity recorded |

Badger track © Nick Hull and Bank Vole © Martin Wood

Weasel © Ian Ballam

**Reptiles & Amphibians**

There doesn't seem to be any change in this group over 2016, no Sand Lizards were recorded for the second year in succession. Going by the number of frogs and newts in my own garden pond this year both species have had a good season. It was also good year for Grass Snake with nearly double figures being reached sun bathing on the large air filled cushions in Shaun's Pond.

A species which seems noticeable because of its absence is the Toad but perhaps this is because the ponds just aren't suitable.

| Common Names | Scientific Name | First date recorded |
|---|---|---|
| Common Frog | *Rana temporaria* | A good breeding year |
| Common Lizard | *Lacerta vivipara* | First recorded on 10th February earliest record |
| Sand Lizard | *Lacerta agilis* | No records again this year |
| Slow Worm | *Anguis fragilis* | Recorded at The Lytchett View point 6th May |
| Palmate Newt | *Lissotriton helveticus* | Recorded |
| Smooth Newt | *Lissotriton vulgaris* | Recorded |
| Grass Snake | *Natrix natrix* | Recorded Max 1st May Shaun's Pond 8 individuals |
| Adder | *Vipera berus* | Recorded along the sea wall Lytchett Fields |

**Odonata**

Just one addition to the Lytchett Odonata list that of Beautiful Demoiselle seen by Ian in the Whimbrel Field on the 7th then a month later in the Purple Heron Field. With no records of Hairy Dragonfly in 2015 it was nice when Shaun found a small number around the pond off footpath 12 off Lytchett Way.

Three species not recorded in 2016 Common, Hawker, Black Darter for the second year and Scarce Scarcer.

| Common Names | Scientific Name | First date recorded |
|---|---|---|
| Beautiful Demoiselle | ***alopteryx*** *virgo* | 7th June Whimbrel field & 1 Purple Heron field 7th July |
| Large Red Damselfly | *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* | 26th May |
| Azure Damselfly | *Coenagrion puella* | 21st May |
| Common Blue Damselfly | *Enallagma cyathigerum* | 17th July 41 Lytchett Way |
| Blue-tailed Damselfly | *Ischnura elegans* | 26th May 41 Lytchett Way |
| Hairy Dragonfly | *Brachytron pratense* | 28th May in the Bull Rush Pond Lytchett Way |
| Common Hawker | *Aeshna juncea* | No records |
| Migrant Hawker | *Aeshna mixta* | 25th August in Watery Lane |
| Southern Hawker | *Aeshna cyanea* | 27th August Chad Copse |
| Golden-ringed Dragonfly | *Cordulegaster boltonii* | 25th June Slough Lane (Same date as 2015). |
| Common Darter | *Sympetrum striolatum* | 1st July nearly a month later than in 2015 |
| Black Darter | *Sympetrum danae* | No records |
| Ruddy Darter | *Sympetrum sanguineum* | 30th August Lytchett Way near Bull Rush pond |
| Brown Hawker | *Aeshna grandis* | 30th August - 16th Sept Lytchett Fields |
| Broad-bodied Chaser | *Libellula depressa* | 29th May Purple Heron Field |
| Four-spotted Chaser | *Libellula quadrimaculats* | 10th July |
| Scarce Chaser | *Libellula fulva* | Not recorded |
| Keeled Skimmer | *Orthetrum coerulescens* | 1st May Bull Rush Pond (27th June) |
| Black-tailed Skimmer | *Orthetrum cancellatum* | 7th June Purple Heron field two males |
| Emperor Dragonfly | *Anax imperator* | 7th June Purple Heron Fields 30th June |

male Migrant Hawker © Terry Elborn – female Hairy Dragonfly laying eggs © Ian Ballam

## Lepidoptera

No butterfly species added this year and three species not recorded in 2016 Clouded Yellow plus not surprising the sub species helice, Grayling and Small Copper. What is good, it appears that we have a fairly heathy population of Essex Skipper on the Lytchett recording area; I even recorded them in my garden. It maybe they have just been over looked in the past. Purple Hairstreak have now been recorded in three areas on the patch and again it's hard to say if this is an expansion or just that they have been overlooked in the past and that there is more people now recording and reporting the wildlife.

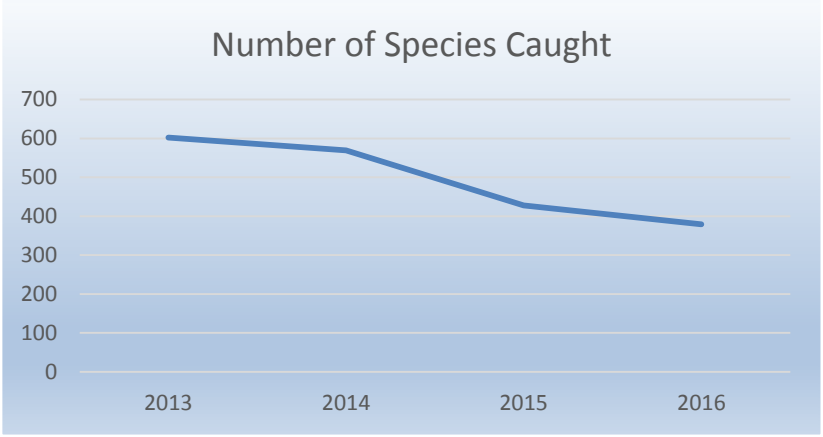
| Common Names | Scientific Name | First date recorded |
|---|---|---|
| Essex Skipper | *Thymelicus lineola* | 3rd July Lytchett Fields (10th July 2015) |
| Small Skipper | *Thymelicus sylvestris* | 3rd July Lytchett Fields (27th June 2015) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Large Skipper | *Ochlodes venata* | 9th June Lytchett Way (25th June 2015) |
| Clouded Yellow | *Colias croceus* | Not Recorded |
| Clouded Yellow ssp. *helice* | *Colias croceus helice* | Not Recorded (15th Sept 2015) |
| Brimstone | *Gonepteryx rhamni* | 13th April Lytchett Fields (5th April 2015) |
| Large White | *Pieris brassicae* | 6th July Lytchett Way (10th July 2015) |
| Small White | *Pieris rapae* | 18th April Lytchett Way (22nd April 2015) |
| Green-veined White | *Pieris napi* | 26th April Lytchett Fields (23rd April 2015) |
| Grayling | *Hipparchia semele* | Not Recorded (31st July 2015) |
| Marbled White | *Melanargia galathea* | 15th July Lytchett Way (25th June 2015) |
| Orange Tip | *Anthocharis cardamines* | 7th June Water Works (28th April 2015) |
| Purple Hairstreak | *Quercusia quercus* | 17th August Watery Lane (30th July 2015) |
| Small Copper | *Lycaena phlaeas* | Not Recorded (17th July 2015) |
| Common Blue | *Polyommatus icarus* | 2nd June Lytchett Way (24th May 2015) |
| Holly Blue | *Celastrina argiolus* | 6th May Shaun's garden (28th April 2015) |
| Red Admiral | *Vanessa atalanta* | 29th February Lytchett Fields (7th May 2015) |
| Painted Lady | *Cynthia cardui* | 7th June 5th & 20th Aug Lytchett Fields (5th June 2015) |
| Small Tortoiseshell | *Aglais urticae* | 29th February – Turlin Moor Rec. (13th March 2015) |
| Peacock | *Inachis io* | 13th April Lytchett Fields (13th March 2015) |
| Comma | *Polygonia c-album* | 13th April Lytchett Fields (9th July 2015) |
| Speckled Wood | *Pararge aegeria* | 1st May Shaun's garden (7th April 2015) |
| Gatekeeper | *Pyronia tithonus* | 13th July 41 Lytchett Way (7th July 2015) |
| Meadow Brown | *Maniola jurtina* | 13th June – 41 Lytchett Way (25th June 2015) |
| Ringlet | *Aphantopus hyperantus* | 30th June Lytchett Heath (25th June 2015) |

Purple Hairstreaks © Nick Hull

**Moths**

Though forty-six new species have been recorded this year, this is due to the fact that I have managed to identify a number of micro Lepidoptera a group that I haven't tried to identify in the past. I try to trap at least once a month from April to end October and during mild nights during the other months. Since my first full year, in 2013 there has been a slow decline in the total number of species caught as indicated in the graph below.




Of the day flying moths only a single record of Hummingbird Hawkmoth was recorded in 2016. Our first record of Burnet Companion was a really nice find with the first being found at the view points on 6th May and then in my garden a month later. Five-spot Burnets were recorded on Lytchett Fields and my garden again this year along with the many Six-spot Burnets. Another excellent find by Paul Morton was the Emperor Moth caterpillar on Lytchett Heath the first time this species had been recorded hopefully adult moths of this beautiful species will be found in 2017.

So far since starting in May 2012 I've recorded a total of 414 species of which 11 are designated species, 3 are listed as rare in Dorset, and 4 are listed as Nationally Important and 1 listed at Threatened.

All new species are highlighted in red.

As the moth list is quite large and would cover around ten further pages, I've only included below the new species recorded in 2016. If anyone is interested in a copy of the complete list please e-mail me nickh4142@gmail.com and request a copy.

Designated species *, Dorset Rare **, Nationally Rare ***, Threatened ****

Esperia sulphurella © Nick Hull

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Code | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tinea trinotella | | 12.033 | | | | | 1 |
| Yponomeuta cagnagella | Spindle Ermine | 16.004 | | | | | 1 |
| Paraswammerdamia nebulella | | 16.020 | | | | | 1 |
| Glyphipterix thrasonella | | 19.002 | | | | | 1 |
| Argyresthia pygmaeella | | 20.013 | | | | | 1 |
| Crassa unitella | | 28.014 | | | | 2 | 1 |
| Esperia sulphurella | | 28.019 | | | | | 1 |
| Bryotropha affinis | | 35.047 | | | | | 1 |
| Scrobipalpa costella | | 35.123 | | | | | 1 |
| Teleiodes luculella | | 35.143 | | | | | 2 |
| Agdistis bennetii | Saltmarsh Plume | 45.001 | | | | | 1 |
| Platyptilia calodactyla | Goldenrod Plume | 45.005 | | | | | 1 |
| Archips xylosteana | Variegated Golden Tortrix | 49.015 | | | | | 1 |
| Clepsis spectrana | Cyclamen Tortrix | 49.037 | | | | | 1 |
| Acleris schalleriana | | 49.073 | | | | | 1 |
| Acleris shepherdana | | 49.079 | | | | | 1 |
| Hedya salicella | | 49.155 | | | | | 1 |
| Gypsonoma sociana | | 49.281 | | | | | 1 |
| Notocelia uddmanniana | Bramble Shoot Moth | 49.294 | | | | | 2 |
| Cydia pomonella | Codling Moth | 49.338 | | | | | 1 |
| Pammene fasciana | | 49.367 | | | | | 1 |
| Zeuzera pyrina | Leopard Moth | 50.002 | | | | | 1 |
| Nephopterix angustella* | | 62.032* | | | | | 1* |
| Sitochroa verticalis | | 63.015 | | | | | 1 |
| Anania coronata | | 63.018 | | | | | 6 |
| Evergestis pallidata | | 63.060 | | | | | 1 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eudonia lacustrata | | 63.067 | | | | | 4 |
| Donacaula forficella | | 63.121 | | | | | 1 |
| Saturnia pavonia | Emeror Moth | 68.001 | | | | | 1 |
| Cyclophora pendularia* | Dingy Mocha*** | 70.030*** | | | | | 2*** |
| Plemyria rubiginata | Blue-bordered Carpet | 70.084 | | | | | 1 |
| Dysstroma truncata | Common Marbled Carpet | 70.097 | | | | | 1 |
| Hydria undulata | Scallop Shell | 70.121 | | | | | 2 |
| Eupithecia distinctaria | Thyme Pug | 70.172 | | | | | 1 |
| Eupithecia exiguata | Mottled Pug | 70.184 | | | | | 4 |
| Euclidia glyphica | Burnet Companion | 72.083 | | | | | 1 |
| Deltote pygarga | Marbled White Spot | 73.024 | | | | | 1 |
| Subacronicta megacephala | Poplar Grey | 73.046 | | | | | 1 |
| Caradrina clavipalpis | Pale Mottled Willow | 73.095 | | | | | 2 |
| Rhizedra lutosa | Large Wainscot | 73.134 | | | | | 1 |
| Lenisa geminipuncta | Twin-spotted Wainscot | 73.139 | | | | | 3 |
| Globia sparganii | Webb's Wainscot | 73.151 | | | | | 2 |
| Mesapamea didyma | Lesser Common Rustic | 73.170 | | | | | 2 |
| Polia nebulosa | Grey Arches | 73.261 | | | | | 1 |
| Lacanobia w-latinum | Light Brocade | 73.263 | | | | | 1 |
| Nola confusalis | Least Black Arches | 74.004 | | | | | 1 |

Dingy Moch Cyclophora pendularia © Nick Hull & Emperor Moth Caterpillar © Paul Morton

Common Marbled Carpet Dysstroma truncate © Nick Hull

**Other Insect Species Recorded**

The following categories are those that have been the most difficult for us to identify because they are new genera and a steep learning curve but for me but it has been very enjoyable. We have added a total of twenty-five species that haven't been recorded before, all undoubtedly common species all of which are highlighted in red in the lists below.

**Hymenoptera – Aculeates - Bees, Wasps & Ants**

Aculeates are part of the vast order Hymenoptera, The defining feature of all aculeates is that the egg-laying ovipositor is modified to form a sting. The majority of species hide their larva and their food provisions in safe retreats. In Britain there are around 590 species of aculeates, these include ants, bees and wasps. Aculeates life histories are many and varied.

## Bees

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Dates first recorded |
|---|---|---|
| Honey Bee | *Apis mellifera* | April |
| Bumble Bee | *Bombus lucorum* | 13th Aug |
| Bumble Bee | *Bombus pratorum* | No reports received |
| Buff-tailed Bumble Bee | *Bombus terrestris* | 4th Mar |
| Carder Bee | *Bombus pascuorum* | 13th Aug |
| Common Wool Carder Bee | *Anthidium manicatum* | 13th Aug |
| Mason Bee | *Osmis rufa* | 26th Mar |

**Wasps**

Unfortunately due to decease of my damson plum tree which came to an end of its life, we haven't recorded as many *Vespula* wasp species in 2016. Two more species of parasitic wasp have been to our list one Perithous scurra predates on solitary bees and Anoplius nigerrimus on spiders both found in my garden. This I think shows that by not having a manicured garden and allowing grasses and what others

call weeds to grow, it attracts a variety of insect species and the species that predate on them.

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Dates first recorded |
|---|---|---|
| Hornet | *Vespa crabro* | Recorded |
| Common Wasp | *Vespula vulgaris* | 12th July |
| Red Wasp | *Vespula rufa* | Not Recorded |
| German Wasp | *Vespula germanica* | 1st August |
| Norwegian Wasp | *Dolichovespula norwegica* | Not Recorded |
| Digger Wasp sp. | *Cerceris arenaria* | 1st August |
| Digger Wasp sp. | *Astata boops* | 10th July |
| Wasp (small wasp sp.) | *Ancistrocerus parietinus* | 28th April |
| Black Ant | *Lasius nigra* | Recorded common |
| Red Ant | *Myrmica rubra* | Recorded common |
| Ichneumon | *Amblyteles armatorius* | Recorded regularly seen |
| Ichneumon | *Ophion luteus* | Recorded often found in my moth traps |
| Ichneumon | *Ichneumon stramentarius* | Recently identified from 2014 |
| Ichneumon | *Netelia testaceus* | Recorded occasionally seen |
| Ichneumon | *Alomya semiflava* | 10th July recorded once |
| Parasitic Wasp | Perithous scurra | 1st Sept, first record - 41 Lytchett Way |
| Spider hunting Wasp | Anoplius nigerrimus | 13th Aug – 1st Sept - first record - 41 Lytchett Way |

**Orthoptera**
**Grasshopper & Crickets**

The group has given us, me, difficulty with identification due to lack of experience with the group but hopefully 2017 will be a little different, as I've enrolled on an Orthotera identification course. This hopefully will help me get to grips with the identification of the group.

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Dates first recorded |
|---|---|---|
| Dark Bush Cricket | *Pholidoptera griseoaptera* | No reports received |
| Roesel's Bush Cricket | *Metrioptera roeselii* | 7th July Purple Heron Field. |
| Long-winged Cone-head | *Conocephalus discolor* | Recorded |
| Short-winged Cone-head | *Conocephalus dorsalis* | Recorded |
| Speckled Bush Cricket | *Leptophyes punctatissima* | 30th July 41 Lytchett Way. |
| Mottled Grasshopper | *Myrmeleotettix maculatus* | No reports received |
| Field Grasshopper | *Gryllus pennsylvanicus* | 6th July 41 Lytchett Way |

**Diptera**
**Flies & Relatives**
Flies are very much a specialist subject so it's not surprising that we have only been able to add ten species in 2016 but as with the other groups we will continue attempting to identify any we come across that takes our eye.

A species that I have seen before but had no idea of its identification was *Sicus ferrugineus* found between May and September. Their larvae are endoparasites of bumble bees and they pupate and overwinter in their victims.

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Dates first recorded |
|---|---|---|
| House Fly | *Musca domesticus* | June |
| Large Marsh Horsefly | *Tabanus autumnalis* | 2nd Aug |
| Bright Horsefly | *Hybomitra distinguenda* | 7th Aug - 41 Lytchett Way |
| Fly sp. | *Eristalis pertinax* | 20th April 41 Lytchett Way |
| Flesh Fly sp. | *Sarcophaga-sp.* | Slough Lane |
| Face Fly | *Musca autumnalis* | 13th Aug – Footpath 12 |
| Blue Bottle | *Calliphora vomitoria* | Recorded |
| Green Bottle | *Lucillia sericata* | Recorded |
| Mosquitoe | *Culex pipiens* | Recorded |
| Common Crane Fly | *Tipula oleracea* | Recorded |
| Crane Fly | *Tipula Maxima* | Recorded |
| Tiger Crane Fly | *Nephrotoma flavescens* | Not recorded in 2016 |
| Crane Fly sp. | *Nephrotoma flavipalpis* | 11th August – 41 Lytchett Way |
| Bee-fly | *Bombylius major* | No reports in 2016 |
| Moth-fly sp. | *Psychodidae sp.* | 11th August – 41 Lytchett Ways |
| Marsh Snipe Fly | *Rhagio scolopaceus* | 30th June |
| Drone Fly (Hover Fly) | *Eristalis tenax* | Recorded – 41 Lytchett Way |
| Large Hover-fly | *Volucella zonaria* | No reports in 2016 |
| Hover-fly sp. | *Volucella bombylans* | Recorded 41 Lytchett Way |
| Hover Fly (Sun-fly) | *Helophilus pendulus* | 30th June |
| Marmalade Hover Fly | *Episyrphus balteatus* | Recorded July |
| Pied Hover Fly | *Scaeva-pyra* | Recorded July |
| Hover Fly sp. | *Eupeodes-bucculatu* | No reports received in 2016 |
| Hover Fly sp. | *Chrysotoxum bicinctum* | Recorded August |
| Hover-fly sp. | *Sericomyia lappone* | 6th June – 41 Lytchett Way |
| Hoverfly - sp. | *Merodon equestris* | June – 41 Lytchett Way |
| Thick-headed Fly sp. | *Sicus ferruginous* | 4th July – Arable Field |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Scorpian Fly | *Panorpa communis* | 27th July - Arable Field |
| Broad Centurian | *Chloromyia formosa* | 9th June - Arable Field |
| Sawfly sp. | *Tenthredo acrobat* | Not reported in 2016 |
| Large Rose Sawfly | *Arge pagana* | Not reported in 2016 |
| Soldier Fly sp. | *Oxycera pulchella* | Not reported in 2016 |
| Flecked Snout (soldierfly sp.) | *Nemotelus notatus* | 11th Aug |

Sicus ferrugineus pair together © Nick Hull right hand photograph © Ian Ballam

Broad Centurian *Chloromyia Formosa* © Ian Ballam

Moth-fly *Psychodidae sp.* © Nick Hull

**Arachnids**
**Spiders, Ticks & Scorpions**

Spider identification is much trickier than it seems and we have only added three species to the patch list this year False Widow, Raft and a species of Wolf Spider which requires more than a photograph to identify it closer than just genus. Wasp Spiders seem to be doing very well and this year has seen an increase in reports from the Fields area which is great news as it's such a stunning species.

Money Spider is a commonly used name which can apply to any of around 250 species of tiny spiders in the UK. In fact Money Spiders make up about a third of all the spiders found in the UK and most Money Spiders are less than 3mm long.

In most cases they have grey or black bodies, although some do have distinctive markings. Identifying individual species usually requires close examination with a microscope, but a few can be identified with a hand lens.

These are the spiders which often land on your clothes in summer (said to bring fortune and good luck) because they travel through the air on strands of silk, picked up by the wind.

One species of Money Spider, *Lepthyphantes tenuis*, is believed to be the commonest spider in the UK. At between 2 and 3mm long it's usually found in low growing vegetation and leaf litter.

Money Spiders usually make a small sheet web and then position themselves underneath the web.

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Dates first recorded |
|---|---|---|
| Crab Spider | *Misumena vatia* | 3rd May |
| Zebra Spider | *Salticus scenicus* | Recorded April |
| House Spider | *Achaearanea tepidariorum* | Recorded common |
| Garden Spider | *Araneus diadematus* | Recorded common |
| Nursery Web Spider | *Pisaura mirabilis* | 28th July |
| Labyrinth Spider | *Agelena labyrinthica* | Recorded common |

Wasp Spider © Tony & Ann Taylor

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wasp Spider | *Argiope bruennichi* | 28th July |
| Daddy Longlegs Spider | *Pholcus phalangioides* | Recorded common |
| Money Spider | *Lepthyphantes sp. Pos- tenuis* | Recorded common |
| False Widow Spider | *Steatoda nobilis* | 1st Aug female 41 Lytchett Way |
| Raft Spider | *Dolomedes fimbriatus* | 25th Jun Field off Slough Lane |
| Wolf spider sp. | *Lycosidae sp.* | 25th Jun Field off Slough Lane |

Nursery Web Spider - Ian Ballam

Raft Spider © Ian Ballam

### Beetles & Bugs

Six species of beetle and two species of bug have been added though a ninth that of Stag Beetle hasn't been confirmed. Hopefully in 2017 a friend of mine which is a bit of an expert in identification and finding beetles is going to accompany me on a couple of visits, to see if we can add a few more species to this list.

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Dates first recorded |
|---|---|---|
| Great Diving Beetle | *Dytiscus marginalis* | Not recorded |
| Wirlygig Beetle | *Gyrinus natator* | First recorded in May |
| Black-clouded Longhorn Beetle | *Leiopus nebulosus* | Not recorded 2016 |
| Longhorn Beetle | *Strangalia maculata* | Recorded in June |
| Soldier Beetle | *Rhagonycha fulva* | 25th June |
| Bloody-nosed Beetle | *Timarcha tenebricosa* | Recorded |
| Cardinal Beetle | *Pyrochroa coccinea* | Recorded |
| Beetle | *Zabrus tenebriodes* | Not Recorded |
| Rove Beetle sp. | *Paederus riparius* | 13th April - 1st record Lytchett Fields |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thick-thighed Flower Beetle | *Oedemera nobilis* | Recorded |
| Red and Black Froghopper | *Cercopis vulnerata* | 6th June near Black Pipe |
| Common Froghopper | *Philaenus spumarius* | 24th Sept – 41 Lytchett Way |
| Red-headed Cardinal Beetle | *Pyrochroa serraticornis* | 6th June – Footpath 12 |
| Stag Beetle | *Lucanus cervus* | 13th Jun – Slough Lane Unconfirmed |
| Beetle sp. | *Malthales marginatus* | 8th July – 41 Lytchett Way |
| Sexton Beetle | *Nicrophorus investigator* | 3 Records |
| Black Sexton Beetle | *Nicrophorus humator* | 1st Record |

Welsh Chafer *Hoplia philanthus* & Red-headed Cardinal Beetle *Pyrochroa serraticornis*
© Ian Ballam

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Common Cockchafer | *Melolontha melolontha* | 7th May |
| Welsh Chafer | *Hoplia philanthus* | 4th July |
| Mint Leaf Beetle | *Chrysolina herbacea* | Recorded |
| Rose Chafer | *Cetonia aurata* | 27th June |
| Denticulate-leatherbug | *Coriomeris denticulatus* | Not recorded |
| Shield Bug | *Nezara viridula* | Not Recorded |
| Hawthorn Shield Bug | *Acanthosoma haemorrrhoidale* | Not Recorded |
| Red-legged Shield Bug (was Forest) | *Pentatoma rufipes* | Recorded |
| Shield Bug | *Coreus marginatus* | Not Recorded |
| Lucerne Bug | *Adelphocoris-lineolatus* | 26th August 41 Lytchett Way |
| Mirid Bug | *Grypocoris stysi* | Not Recorded |
| Mirid Bug | *Stenotus binotatus* | Not Recorded |
| Pond Skater | *Gerris lacustris* | Recorded from May on |
| Water Boatman | *Corixa punctata* | Recorded April on |
| 2-spot Ladybird | *Adalia bipu* | Recorded |
| 7-Spot Ladybird | *Coccinella 7-punctata* | Not Recorded |
| Orange Ladybird | *Halyzia 16-guttata* | 1st record 30th July 41 Lytchett Way |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 22-spot Ladybird | *Psyllobora 22-punctata* | Not Recorded |
| Harlequin Ladybird | *Harmonia axyridis* | 12th August on Common |
| Nut Weevil | *Curculio nucum* | Not Recorded |
| Weevil sp. | *Otiorhynchus clavipes* | Not Recorded |

Lucerne-Bug Adelphocoris-lineolatus © Nick Hull, Red-and-black Froghopper Cercopis vulnerata © Ian Ballam and Rove Beetle *Paederus riparius* © Ian Ballam