Lytchett Bay
Birds and wildlife 2017

Shaun Robson and Nick Hull

4 seasons – 4 great birds – we'll never forget 2017

Records were received from the Bay on all but 3 days (!) as set out below.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
30	28	31	30	31	30	31	30	30	31	29	31

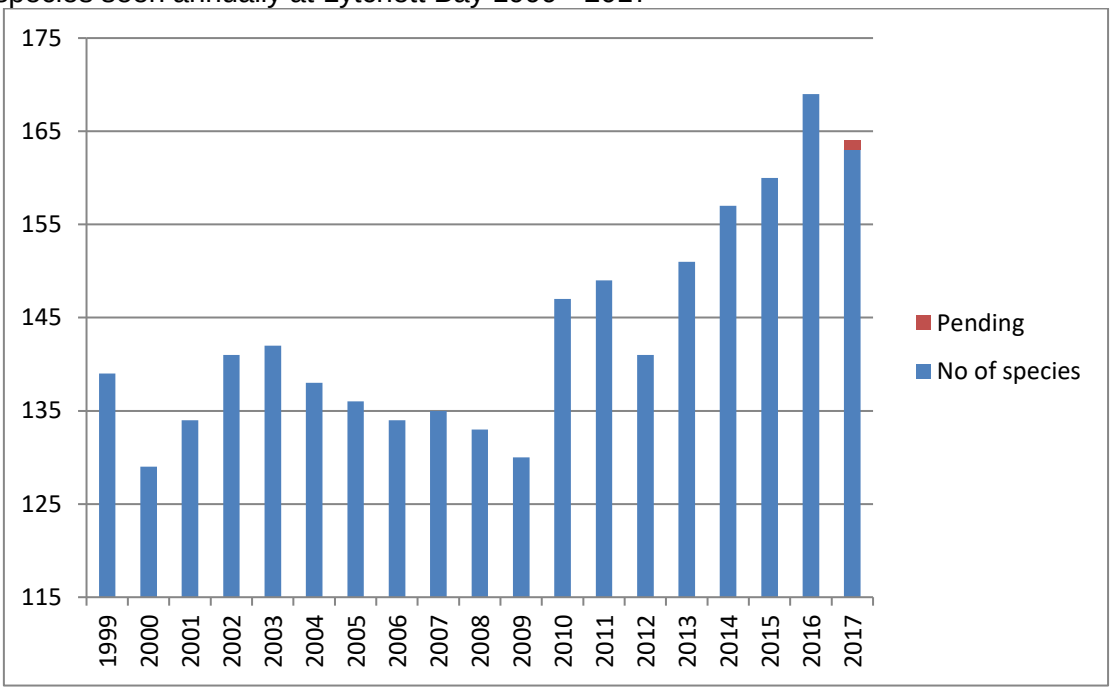
3 new species were added to the site list – Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Hawfinch.

In-addition the Lesser Yellowlegs and Green-winged Teal remained from 2016. There was the 2nd record of Montagu's Harrier, 3rd record of Whooper Swan, 5th – 9th Cattle Egrets, 6th – 7th Yellow-browed Warblers, 6th Honey Buzzard* plus 2 Ring-billed Gulls, a Siberian Chiffchaff and a Marsh Tit.

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

Canada Goose, Mallard, Cormorant, Little Egret, Spoonbill, Merlin, Ringed Plover, Ruff, Little Stint, Green Sandpiper, Common Tern, Meadow Pipit and Bearded Tit.

No of bird species seen annually at Lytchett Bay 1999 - 2017



The Lytchett Bay list is now 226. The first record of Melodious Warbler in 2015 has been accepted by DRP.

Nick Hull has again produced a fine illustrated report of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and insects. See page 48.

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

S.Robson

Phase 1 of the French's Green development at Policeman's Field was virtually complete by the end of the year. This high-quality scheme was well received across the spectrum. The immediate contributions to the overall functioning of the area were the opening of the French's Fields to the public and the provision of a small car park.

This provided new access which included an alternative route between Upton and the Lytchett Fields viewpoints, new tree planting which might attract more birds in the future and most importantly it also helps relieve the increasing pressure for dog walking on the Lytchett Fields site.

Engagement events included a bird ringing demonstration for Dorset Wildlife Trust as part of The Great Heath project and 2 guided walks.

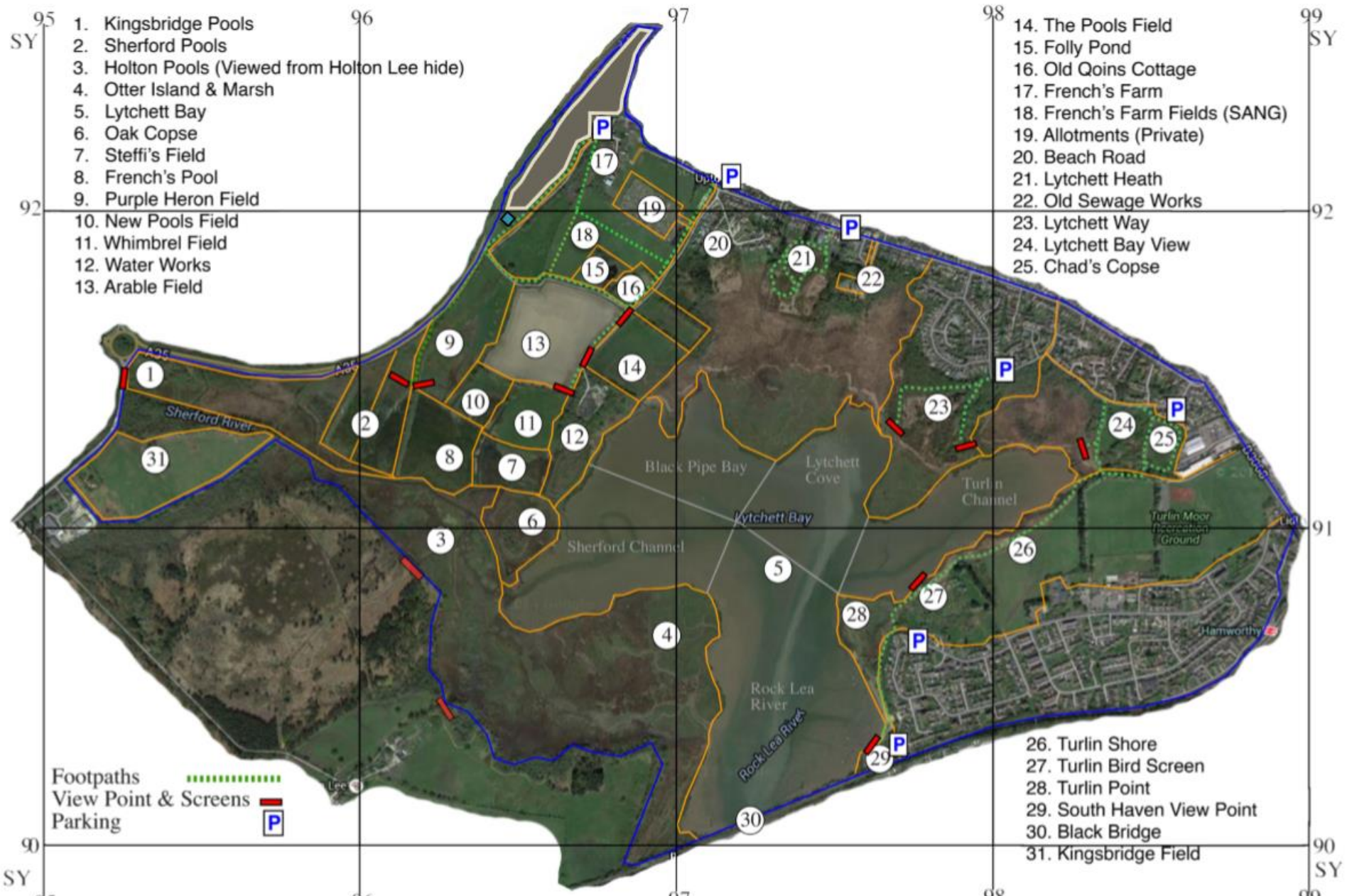
A 3-part wader identification workshop was delivered by the RSPB at Lytchett Fields.

My own changing circumstances created more time for me to support activity at Lytchett Bay and in turn this led to me taking up a voluntary position as the RSPB warden for Lytchett Fields in October. Hopefully the added capacity that I can add to the team's work will enable us to improve the site further in the coming years.

Thank you to everyone - individuals, land owners, conservation organisations and other stakeholders 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 area.

S.Robson



Lytchett Bay Recording Area

Review of the year 2017

January

The **Lesser Yellowlegs** remained on site all month, but the **Green-winged Teal** disappeared after the 15th. **Brent Geese** were in the Bay all month, max 65. **Avocet** peaked at 156. **Spoonbills** were seen on 3 dates. A ringtail **Hen Harrier** took a liking to the Bay and was seen on 6 dates. Wintering **Chiffchaffs** were seen on 4 dates and at least 4 different **Firecrest** were around the area. A **Ruff** put in an appearance on 7th. A brief **Yellow-browed Warbler** was found at Lytchett Heath on 8th. A **Blackcap** on 9th was surprisingly the only record all month. 4 **Egyptian Geese** were fleeting visitors on 15th maintaining the sites current dominance for this species in a Poole Harbour context. **Barn Owl** on 25th. **Dunlin** numbers increased as the month developed reaching 581 on Lytchett Fields by the 31st. 6 **Greenshank** on the fields at the months end was a good winter total and a **Spotted Redshank** spent the month here.

February

The **Lesser Yellowlegs** remained on site all month. The **Green-winged Teal** reappeared on 4-5th only to depart once more. To everyone's surprise it was back again on 28th. **Spoonbills** were again seen on 3 dates. 12 on 12th included a Danish ringed bird. The ringtail **Hen Harrier** continued being recorded on 12 dates. **Great White Egrets** were seen on 7th and 9th but as usual they were brief encounters. Another 2 **Egyptian Geese** on 21st. A **Knot** on 18th was unseasonal. **Mediterranean Gulls** became more regular as the month progressed with 20 seen daily in the second half. Highlight in terms of new birds was the discovery of not 1 but 2 **Ring-billed Gulls** in the pre-roost. The first was seen on both 26th and 27th and remarkably a different individual was found on 28th. This meant that the month ended with 4 American birds seen over the last 2 days.

March

The **Lesser Yellowlegs** remained on site all month and moulted in to startling spangled breeding plumage. Alas it rarely visited the fields and was generally very distant in the Bay. The **Green-winged Teal** was also ever present and had found a female admirer thanks to extensive display. **Tufted Duck** is scarce here so it was good to write on to the year list on 7th. The **Hen Harrier** was recorded on a further 4 dates. Between 33-43 **Coot** were recorded at the Listening Station on 8th - 9th. **Chiffchaff** was recorded daily from 11th. The first **Little Ringed Plover** on 12th was 8 days earlier than the previous 1st date. Another was seen on 24th. **Wheatear** also arrived earlier than ever before, 3 days earlier, 2 on 12th. Encouraging clear skies produced the first **Red Kite** on 13th, with 2 more in similar conditions on 26th. Other waders putting in a seasonally early appearance during the month included **Grey Plover** (20th) and **Bar-tailed Godwit** (25th). First **Sand Martin** on 16th and **Swallow** on 17th, however both remained very scarce. 134 **Meadow Pipits** NE on 26th was notable. **Woodlark** song carried from Holton Lee to the recording area on 27th. The first **Willow Warbler** on 30th. The month ended with increasing numbers of **Black-tailed Godwit**, 324 on last day.

April

The long staying **Lesser Yellowlegs** was not seen after 15th and the **Green-winged Teal** finally left us after the 8th**.** No doubting the highlight of the month, 2 **Cattle Egrets** roosting on the saltings off Lytchett Heath on the 3rd, the first since 2012 and only the 5th record for the Bay. Sadly, their stay was short. Spring passage **Ospreys** on 8th and 26th. **Red Kite** on 12th. 2 **Ruff** arrived on 13th and had increased to 3 by the last week. 24 **Bar-tailed Godwit** on 21st was the biggest settled flock ever at the Bay. **Black-tailed Godwit** spring peak reached an impressive 844 on 12th. 9 **Greenshank** on 21st was a good spring count. **Common Sandpipers** were seen on 8 dates which was a good spring showing. **Little Ringed Plover** on 11 dates**. Whimbrel** passage was very very poor with no double figure day counts**. Cuckoo** was very thin on the ground with one on 21st the only record. A reeling **Grasshopper Warbler** on 16th was the only starring passerine. Migration of this group of species was the poorest for many years.

May

Two more records of short staying **Cattle Egrets**, this time on Lytchett Fields on 12th and in the Bay on 15th, were the highlights of the month. Wader passage lasted until well into the month, but the good variety did not make up for the lack of the scarcer species. **Cuckoo** was recorded on 3 further dates. A **Grasshopper Warbler** held territory between 1st – 22nd. The springs only **Spotted Flycatcher** was seen on 17th but several migrant passerine species went unrecorded.

June

Not many locals would have picked June as the month for an addition to the Bay list, even fewer would have chosen **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** as the new species if forced to pick one. What was presumed to be a returning migrant was present for around 2 hours early on the 15th. Given that no-one had checked the fields the previous day, had it been there longer……? Waders continued to take centre stage. It was difficult to know when birds heading north changed to birds returning back south. **Green Sandpipers** were definitely returning and reappeared on 17th, increasing to 11 by 23rd. Likewise **Little Ringed Plovers** which were first noted on 16th. **Redshank** increased to 55 by the last week**.** **Spoonbills** supplied summer smiles with up to 5 on the fields on at least 9 dates across the month. **Nightjar** was back on territory on the heath from at least 2nd. One of the Poole Harbour summering **Osprey** was seen on 17th. Typically, **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen in the last week, but this species decline here should not be underestimated.

July

A month that always feels good, but its recent track record is underwhelming. 1 species was added to the year list in 16 and none in 15. We must return to 2014 for real gems in the form of *Spotted Crake* and *Aquatic Warbler*. This year continued the recent trend. No new additions. That is not say the birding was not good, it just felt like the needle was stuck. **Green Sandpiper** reached a new record day total with 24 on 19th, **Little Ringed Plover** quickly increased to 10 on 2nd, **Common Sandpiper** up to 8 by 18th and **Greenshank** 10 on 23rd. 8 **Whimbrel** in the Bay on 18th was a notable seasonal total but a single **Spotted Redshank** was probably the wader of the month. That is something we would never thought we'd hear 20 years ago. **Spoonbills** continued peaking at 7 on 17th. Still too early for most passerines but **Sedge Warbler** were moving strongly in the last week, 50+ on 30th. A **Woodlark** at Lytchett Fields on 25th. Well all of that was written before the 31st……Mid p.m. a ringtail Harrier was seen over the Fields. With good fortune it was seen twice more before tea and identified as a Juv **Montagu's Harrier** – the 2nd record for the Bay. Dusk produced a record pre-roost flight of **Jackdaw** over Lytchett Heath – 610 birds.

August

Very much a month for watching waders at RSPB Lytchett Fields. Migration built upon that recorded in July with some notable counts. **Dunlin** built throughout the month reaching an impressive 224 by the last day. Other waders doing well included **Ringed Plover** 33 (31st), **Green Sandpiper** 24 (13th), **Snipe** 27 (9th). **Greenshank** 13 (21st), **Black-tailed Godwit** 118 (20th), **Common Sandpiper** 9 (11th), **Redshank** 152 (25th) were the other peak counts. Our "reliable" scarcer waders were harder to come by. **Little Ringed Plover** became scarce rather early with no more than 1 seen on any date. **Wood Sandpiper** was recorded on 4 dates. **Ruff** appeared on 28th onwards. Overall it felt as if everything was running a bit late. After all the effort at the Fields it was a surprise when the best waders were found in the Bay, 5 **Turnstone** on 14th were only our 8th record. Max 6 **Spoonbill** (9th) continued another great year and cemented their changed status. A **Goosander** on 14th was a surprise. Passerine migration was limited though a ringing session on the 5th coincided with a good fall of **Sedge** (79) and **Willow Warbler** (40). A **Crossbill** over Lytchett Way was only the 2nd record of the year, a **Cuckoo** on 13th was a rare autumn record and 80 **Swifts** on 7th indicated that autumn was on the way.

September

A juvenile **Stilt Sandpiper** found at RSPB Lytchett Fields on 21st was perhaps the rarest bird ever seen at Lytchett Bay. Only the 4th juvenile of the species to be found in Britain and the 4th Dorset record. It is also the 3rd American shorebird recorded at the site this year. Whilst this bird stood head and shoulders over all others, this month was special from start to finish. **Curlew Sandpiper** arrived on 2nd and was recorded daily throughout, max 4 on several dates. **Little Stints** were later to arrive (19th) but then put on daily show, 4 were seen on several dates. **Wood Sandpipers** continued till the 16th, max 2. **Ruff** increased as the month passed, reaching 8 by the end. Common waders continued to break records. 49 **Ringed Plover** (8th) was an all-time record count, 336 **Dunlin** (9th) was record autumn count for the Fields. Given this number of waders, of all shapes and sizes, the dire status of **Spotted Redshank** is all the more puzzling. In what is destined to become the worst year on record there was 2 records of 3 birds. Other highlights were another fly by **Great White Egret** (6th), **Osprey** on 5 dates, 40 **Yellow Wagtails** on several dates mid-month and a **Yellow-browed Warbler** on 25th.

October

After the excitement of September motivation and effort was at full throttle. Despite rather unhelpful weather conditions and in general a disappointing passerine migration, this month turned out to be one of the best-ever at the Bay. The **Stilt Sandpiper** returned to see us twice (2nd & 7th) and waders continued to entertain. A **Sanderling** on RSPB Lytchett Fields was the 33rd species of wader to be recorded there since 2013, it was also only the 5th site record. A **Wood Sandpiper** on 18th & 19th was a late surprise. **Ruff** reached a new site record of 11 (3rd) and were seen daily. **Little Stints** lingered till 21st (max 4) and **Curlew Sandpipers** till 28th (max 4). A **Turtle Dove** photographed on the 22nd was only the 2nd record since 2003, how many more will there be? 3 **Whooper Swans** (our 3rd record) spent a few hours in Bay on the 5th following north-westerly winds. Two species of passerine were under-going an irruption. Autumn irruptions of **Bearded Tits** are not unusual but the sight of flocks flying high into the sky, totalling at least 40 birds (12th) will not be forgotten. Much more remarkable was a huge influx of **Hawfinches** in to the UK, caused it is thought by a seed crop failure in their favoured forests in Europe. Many hours by various observers at Lytchett Bay View finally added the 3rd new species of the year to the Lytchett Bay list on 26th. Despite periods of cool northerly air flow, it was never strong enough to produce a morning flight at the viewpoint. That is not to say birds were not moving. Recordings at the Listening Station confirmed that they were. The night of 25th produced call totals of 921 **Song Thrush** and 526 **Redwings**! A single **Ring Ouzel** was recorded and was the first record of the year. 2 or 3 **Red Kites** on the 29th was a further reward for the hours of sky watching. 43 **Little Egret** flew to roost over Lytchett Bay View on 30th, a record for the Bay.

November

No doubting the highlight of the month. A long-staying but nonetheless elusive **Hawfinch** present at French's Farm from 18th to 27th, with 2 on 23rd. Searching for these also produced a **Marsh Tit** on 24th. A **Cattle Egret** on 4th was our fifth of the year. **Brambling** has been scarce in recent years so records on 5 dates were noteworthy. 25 **Spoonbill** on 12th was a new record count and the species was seen very frequently throughout the month. Late migrants included **Swallow** on 8th, **Sandwich Tern** on 12th and **Chiffchaff** were well scattered in good numbers throughout. **Ruff** lingered until 26th, winter **Lapwing** and **Dunlin** increased to 341 and 281 respectively. **Black-tailed Godwit** peaked in the Bay at 357 and **Avocet** were daily visitors reaching 73 on 29th. **Brent Geese**, once scarce are now also seen daily, max 36. Winter raptors were well represented by a male **Merlin** which visited regularly and at the months end with an Ad Female **Hen Harrier**. A **Barn Owl** was found feeding over the arable field. Finally, an impressive spectacle, 370 **Cormorants** gorging themselves on a shoal of fish on 14th.

December

Another enthralling year drew to a close with a month of steady quality. 2 **Golden Plover** on 6th and a single **Yellowhammer** on 2 dates were both new for the year. A **Great White Egret** was around Lytchett Fields on the afternoon of 3rd. A (the?) **Hawfinch** returned to French's Farm on 4th. A **Brambling** visited feeders at Sandy Close Pond frequently from 10th. Other notable sightings included a ringtail **Hen Harrier** on 4 dates, Male **Merlin** on 5 dates, 2 **Ruff** on 6th, **Sandwich Tern** on 28th, **Spotted Redshank** from 17th, with on 2 on 31st, **Knot** on 15th and **Bar-tailed Godwit** on 2 dates. More expected but with almost daily sightings: **Spoonbill** (Max 22 on 7th), **Water Pipit** (Max 5), **Bullfinch** (Max 11 at SCP), **Brent Goose** (Max 68) and **Green Sandpiper** (Max 4). **Avocet** is another species in this group (Max 97) but unexpectedly birds visited Lytchett Fields regularly for the first time (Max 24 on 14th).

In a year which has once again seen unacceptable incidents of illegal raptor persecution, particularly Hen harriers, it was thrilling to host this female bird during December 2017 and January 2018. Beautifully captured by Mark Wright.

Bird Ringing 2017

1342 birds were ringed at Lytchett Bay. Efforts were spread around 3 ringing sites. The banks of the Sherford at Lytchett Fields (59 birds / 4 dates), Sandy Close Pond (94 birds / 7 dates) and at Lytchett Heath and reed bed (1189 birds / 24 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 but once again weather systems in the key period were very unhelpful, consequently there was very limited ringing at the traditional site at Lytchett Fields.

Our 2nd target species – Grasshopper Warbler, occurred in record numbers at SRG's other sites at Durlston and Ballard Down. However limited of availability of ringing capacity meant the we largely missed out at Lytchett where a modest 22 were ringed.

Highlights however were many with the control of a Scandinavian Rock Pipit and Reed Bunting both being recovered on the same morning from Norway rivaled some of the best field sightings of the year. A vocal Siberian Chiffchaff was ringed and we will never forget the superb irruption of Bearded Tits and the associated recoveries and re-trap data.

Colour ring reading again proved fruitful with interesting returns from across Europe including Spoonbills, Black-tailed Godwits and Black-headed Gulls.

24,423 birds of 84 species have been ringed since 1983.

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 sites and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.

I'd like to add additional thanks to Ian Ballam for his continued commitment to birding and bird recording 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 in 2018.

Systematic List 2017

5324 specific records, the most ever, 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 – 26) ↘
Uncommon resident. Bred between 2002-2007 and in 2015.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
27	23	n.c.	5	10	7	3	3	3	7	12	12

Whooper Swan:
3rd record. 3 adults lingered in the Bay for a couple of hours on 5th Oct and were well twitched (IB et al).

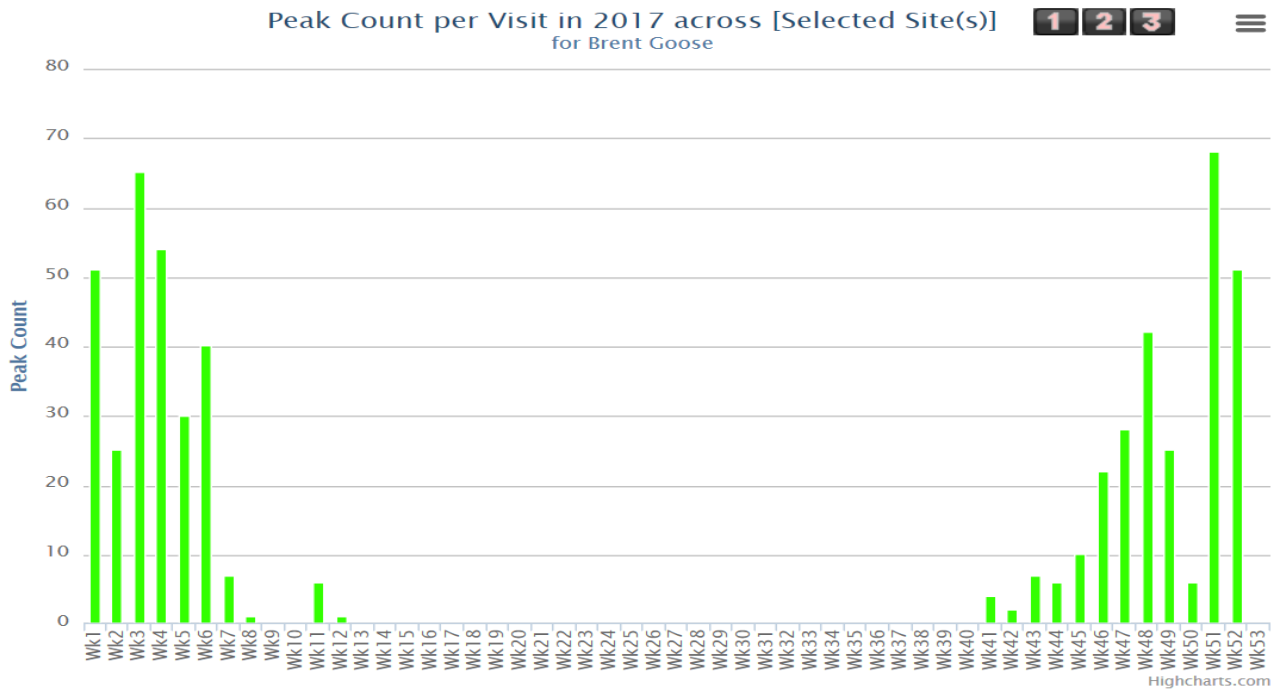
The previous records were in 2010 and 2016.

Greylag Goose: (32 – 18) ↔
Uncommon feral wanderer. Recorded throughout the year on at least 21 dates. Max 29 on 6th Oct.

Canada Goose: (258 – 26) ↗
Increasingly frequent visitor. Breeding was confirmed for the first time. 2 pairs fledged 10 young at Folly Pond and Lytchett Fields. In autumn large numbers visited Lytchett Fields early in the morning. 258 on 16th Oct was a record count for the site.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
8	30	7	15	27	14	39	95	200	258	n.c.	22

Dark-bellied Brent Goose: (88 – 18) ↗
Uncommon winter visitor. A very good year with a flock in both winter periods. Present until 20th Mar and from 10th Oct after which birds were present daily until the year end. Max 68 on 22nd Dec.



Egyptian Goose: (8 – 4)
7th – 11th records. This feral goose seems to be increasing year on year. The first record was in 2011. 4 at Lytchett Fields on 12th Jan, 2e over the Bay on 21st Feb, 3 in the Bay on 8th Apr and 1 on Lytchett Fields on 30th Apr.

Shelduck: (645 – 548 – 26) ⇔
Occasional breeder and winter visitor. 2 pairs bred raising 4 and 13 young. 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
99	90	101	130	135	81	50	16	8	56	47	77

Wigeon: (671 – 26) ⇔
Common winter visitor. With the exception of 3 on 24th Jul, absent from 4th Apr until 6th Sep. Max 616 on 8th Jan.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
616	330	117	3	0	0	3	0	39	182	325	508

Gadwall: (73 – 21) ↗
Increasingly frequent visitor. Most birds in spring and early summer are presumed to be non-breeding individuals. Unlike last year there was no evidence of breeding.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
16	6	23	12	11	16	0	0	4	5	1	5

Teal: (1094 – 26) ↗
Winter visitor and passage migrant. 4 freshly fledged juveniles on 12th Aug suggest that a pair successfully bred somewhere at Lytchett Bay for the first time. Max count of 518 was on 20th Oct.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
300	300	353	169	17	7	15	195	412	518	369	431

Green-winged Teal:
The drake found in Dec 2016 was present until 15th Jan. After a short break it was back briefly on 4th – 5th Feb. It returned again on 28th Feb and remained until 8th Apr by which time it had paired with a, presumed, female Eurasian Teal.

Mallard: (123 – 26) ⇔
Breeds at several sites around the recording area. Very regular on Sandy Close Pond. 123 on 14th Aug was record count for the site, previously 106 in 2012.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
8	4	Br	Br	42	14	48	123	82	18	35	14

Northern Pintail: (21 - 18) ⇔
Scare visitor. Seen on 18 dates, constituting another good year. Seen on 4 dates up to 11th Mar, max 4 on 5th Feb. Then on 14 dates between 11th Sep and year end, max 5 on 19th Sep.

Shoveler: (28 – 25) ⇔
Scarce visitor, which can occur at any time. 18 bird days on 11 dates. Records spread throughout the year. Max 4 on 26th Oct.

Pochard: (24 – 13) ↘
Rare visitor. The first records since 2012. A drake dropped into the wildfowl flock off Lytchett Bay View on 29th Oct. It did not stay long. When a Pochard re-appeared in the flock an hour later we were amazed to see that it was a different bird. One being an adult and the other a 1st W.

Tufted Duck: (20 – 14) ⇔
Scarce visitor. 3 records. Singles on 7th Mar and 25th Sep. 3 on 1st Dec.

[Goldeneye: (12 – 24) ↘**]**
Declining winter visitor. No records, sadly matching 2011, the only other year in the last 26 in which it has failed to make the list.

Red-breasted Merganser: (73 – 26) ⇔
Winter visitor. In contrast to the previous species an excellent year. Recorded on at least 64 dates. Present until 23rd Apr and from 29th Oct. Max 25 on 27th Feb is the first count greater than 20 since 2005.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
11	25	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	15

Goosander: (3 – 7)
Rare visitor. 2 records. Singles on 4th Feb and 14th Aug, the latter a juvenile.

Pheasant: ↘
Common resident. Recent decline has seen records limited to Lytchett Fields.

Little Grebe: (12 - 26) ⇔
Winter visitor. Recorded until 11th Feb and from 30th Aug. Max 9 on 30th Jan.

Great Crested Grebe; (4 - 23) ↗
Increasingly frequent visitor. Recorded on 19 dates, a reduction from 34 the previous year. Recorded across the year, max 3 on 26th Mar.

Cormorant: (370 – 26) ↗
Regular visitor. A series of magnificent feeding flocks in Nov. 370 on 14th Nov (record count surpassing previous best of 203 on 16th Oct 2009), 250 on 19th Nov and 200 on 23rd Nov.

Cattle Egret: (4 – 4)
5th – 9th records. The first since 2012. 2 Lytchett Heath Saltings on 3rd Apr (SR) before flying south, 1 Lytchett Fields on 12th May before flying south (SR), one over Lytchett Bay on 15th May (IML), 1 on Lytchett Fields 9th Sep (PA, MW) and 1 over Lytchett Fields 4th Nov (IB).

Little Egret: (43 – 25) ⇔
Common visitor, seen every day. There were no records from the small evening roost on the boundary that was found in 2016. Instead birds were noted arriving from and leaving toward the roost in the NE area of Poole Harbour. 43 heading there over Lytchett Bay View on 30th Oct was a record count (previously 32 on 29th Dec 2014).

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
8	21	19	20	7	13	19	27	26	43	34	10

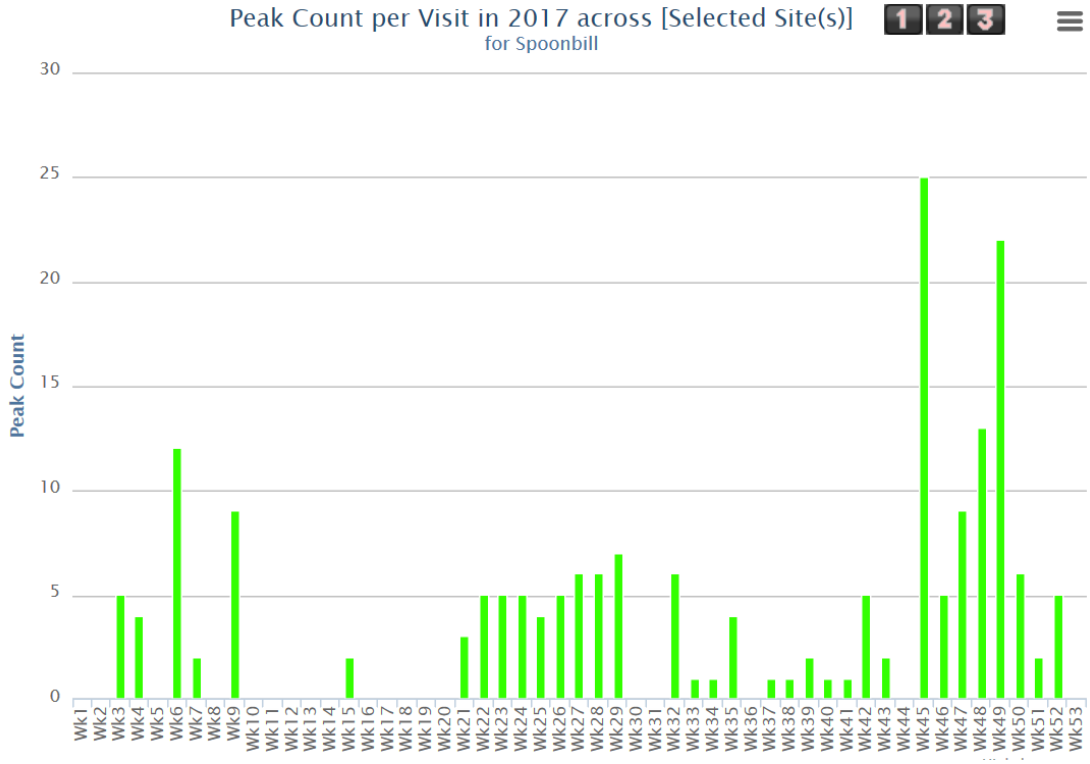
Great White Egret: (1 – 5)
Rare visitor. 4 records, probably fewer than we might have been expecting? All at Lytchett Fields. 1 on 7th Feb (IB), 1 on 9th Feb (per DBC), 1 on 6th Sep (IB) and 1 on 3rd Dec (SR, IML), this bird lingered during the afternoon and was actually twitchable!

Grey Heron: (10 – 26) ⇔
Daily visitor in small numbers. Max 10 on 23rd Sep equaled the site record count on 11th Sep 2002. In latter part of the year up to 3 birds were seen feeding daily in the arable field on rodents.

Spoonbill: (25 – 8) ↗
Increasingly frequent visitor. A record year in every respect. Seen on 85 dates and in every month of the year (previous best 69 in 2015). Max 25 on 12th Nov, a new record (previous 15 in 2013 & 2016)

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
5	12	9	2	3	5	7	6	1	5	25	24



B(AE) + W(AE) *– was present on 26th Jan 2017, 12th Feb and returned on 27th Nov.*

I.Ballam

It was ringed as a pullus at Schiermonnikoog, THE NETHERLANDS on 19th Jul 2006. It had previously been seen at Lytchett Bay in 2013 and 2015. Other than being seen in France once, the bird commutes back and forth between SW England and The Netherlands.

Little Egrets had a record year (I.Ballam). The Arable Field proved attractive to feeding Grey Herons in winter where rodents seemed to be the main food source (I.Ballam) Given the national and local pattern we might have expected more Great White Egrets than the 4 brief visitors (S.Robson). Cattle Egrets were less expected but our herd of Devon Reds failed to induce them to linger for long (S.Robson)

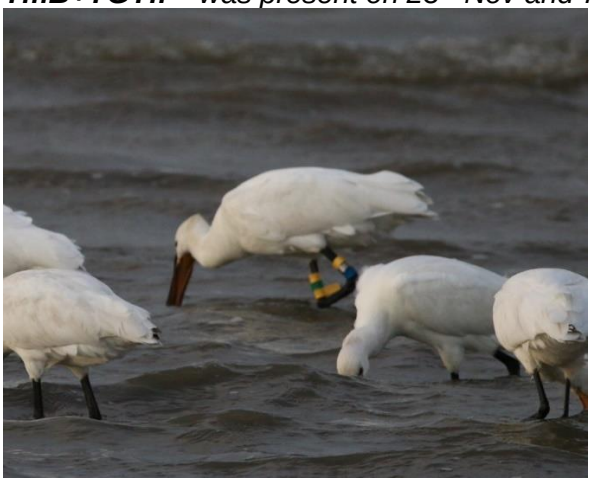
***YfGa/GYL** – was present on 7th Dec 2017. It was with 21 other Spoonbills.*

Frazer H

It was ringed as a pullus at Schiermonnikoog, THE NETHERLANDS on 1st Jul 2014. It had previously been seen at Lytchett Bay in May and Nov 2015. It was seen in France in Sep 2016.

***V027 – Green ring –** was present on 12th Feb 2017.*
It was ringed as a pullus at Vår Holm, Amt, Nibe, Nordjyllands DENMARK, on 28th Jun 2013.

***YmB+YGYfl** – was present on 23rd Nov and 7th Dec 2017.*



Frazer H

It was ringed as a pullus at Onderdijk, Vooroever, THE NETHERLANDS, on 12thMay 2014. Previously this bird has spent a lot of time in Suffolk and Norfolk. This is its first winter visit to Dorset.

Many thanks to Bob Loos and Copenhagen Zoological Museum for this information.

Honey Buzzard:* *6th record. One was seen perched in a tree at Lytchett Fields on 19th Sep (IB).*

Red Kite: (3 – 12) ↗
Scarce migrant, increasingly expected on spring migration. Recorded on 6 dates. 1 on 13th Mar, 2 on 26th Mar, 1 on 12th Apr, 1 on 6th May, 1 on 30th Jun. At least 2, possibly 3, were seen on 29th Oct.

Marsh Harrier: (6 – 25) ↗
Increasingly regular visitor. Noted on 96 dates, sustaining the dramatic increase witnessed in 2015, though the pattern this year was different. The species did not breed in Poole Harbour and this was reflected in our sightings. None were seen between 4th May and 31st Jul. 2 were seen on several dates.

Hen Harrier: (2 – 25) ⇔
Irregular Visitor. Birds were recorded on 28 dates, which is exceptional. It is likely that only two birds were involved. A ringtail was recorded on 22 dates up to 18th Mar. An Ad female was recorded on 6 dates between 24th Nov and the year end.

Montagu's Harrier:
2nd record. A juv was seen briefly in the early afternoon and thankfully lingered to be seen twice more over Lytchett Fields later (IB, GO). The previous record was a spring ringtail on 26th Apr 1995.

Sparrowhawk: (4 – 26) ⇔
Uncommon visitor. Breeding probably occurred again within the recording area. Recorded on at least 82 dates throughout the year. 4 on 29th Oct was the biggest single day count.

Common Buzzard: (15 – 26) ⇔
The commonest raptor of the area. Breeds widely in the vicinity.

Osprey: (4 – 25) ⇔
Annual passage migrant. 2 spring records. 8th & 26th Apr. There was one summer record on 17th Jun. We might have anticipated more records in autumn given the re-introduction scheme in Poole Harbour. However, to the best of our knowledge none of the released birds visited the Bay before departing. Logged on only 8 dates between 20th Jul and 10th Sep. All singles except 2 on first date.

Kestrel: (3 – 26) ⇔
Resident. A pair seen almost daily throughout the year. Local breeding probable, suggested by the presence of 2 juvs in Aug. Most records from Lytchett Fields but later in the year a good number of records from the east of the recording area.

Merlin: (2 – 22) ⇔
Scarce winter visitor. A record year with sightings on 22 dates (typically 3 – 8 dates). Seen on 7 dates up to 4th Mar. Then on 15 dates from 7th Oct, which included a regular male perched in the Bay. Max 2 on 7th Oct.

Hobby; (3 – 24) ⇔
Irregular summer visitor. By recent standards a very poor year. Recorded on just 5 dates between 23rd Jun and 16th Sep. All singles.

Peregrine: (3 – 25) ↗
Uncommon visitor, rare in early summer. Recorded on record 57 dates (similar to 2016). No records between 14th Apr and 22nd Jul. Mostly singles but two recorded on several dates.

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

Moorhen: (18 – 26) ⇔
An uncommon resident. Scattered sightings from across the recording area, including several breeding pairs hatching young. 18 at Lytchett Fields on 13th Mar was a record day count.

Coot: (62 – 15) ↗
Very scarce visitor, though night recording is proving that they are frequent overhead nocturnal migrants! All records refer to nocturnal migrant's sound recorded flying over Nick Hull's listening station at Lytchett Way. Singles on 9th Mar at 23:12, 7th Apr at 23:25 and 25th Oct. However, on the night of 8th Mar between 00:04 and 01:24 there was a remarkable passage of between 33 - 43 birds, based on recordings of 63 calls.

Oystercatcher: (400 – 26) ⇔
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. Increasingly birds are seen on Lytchett Fields, particularly in late spring and summer. The maximum count was on 29th Dec.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
120	97	38	9	6	2	1	n.c.	n.c.	10	120	230

An Osprey photographed on 9th Sep had a blue ring on the left leg. Research suggested that this bird was of Scottish origin (I.Ballam). Red Kites are now an expected feature of spring (S.Robson). Sparrowhawks are uncommon residents, more frequently seen in autumn (A.Groves)

Kestrels enjoyed the habitat created around the arable field (I.Ballam). Peregrines frequently create a spectacle over Lytchett Fields (H.Murray)

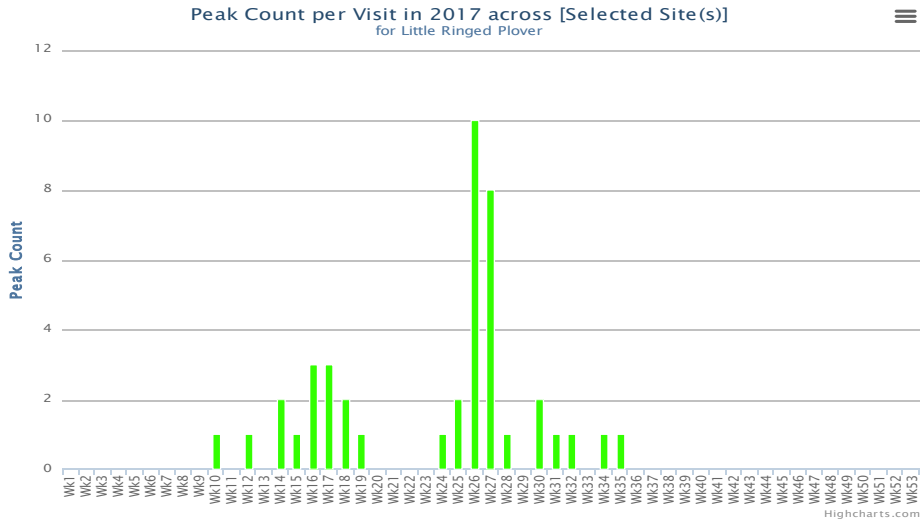
Pied Avocet: (327 – 25) ↗
Increasingly regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Year on year occurrence seems less reliant on cold weather. Present daily until 17th Feb and from 6th Nov. There were no records between 12th May and 8th Oct. The max count was on 15th Jan. Birds visited Lytchett Fields on 4 dates early in the year but then became a daily fixture during Dec. Max 24 on 14th Dec.

Bay monthly max:

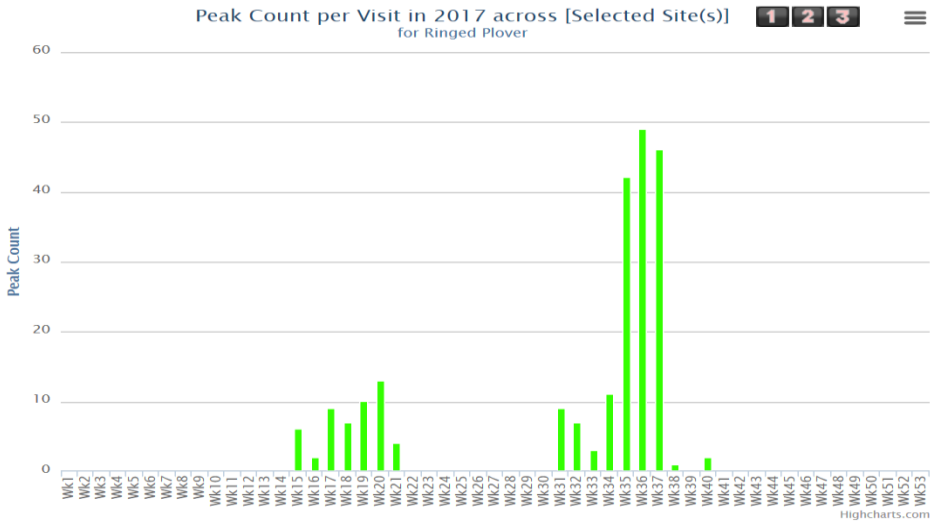
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
156	40	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	25	73	104

Little Ringed Plover: (12 – 15)
Increasingly frequent summer visitor. Birds were recorded on 55 dates (43 in 2016, 67 in 2015, 40 in 2014). The number of bird-days was down on the last couple of years at 109. Peak passage was concentrated between 1st and 6th Jul, peaking with 10 on 2nd. Every record came from Lytchett Fields.

The first record was on 12th Mar (our earliest ever by 8 days) and the last on 1st Sep.



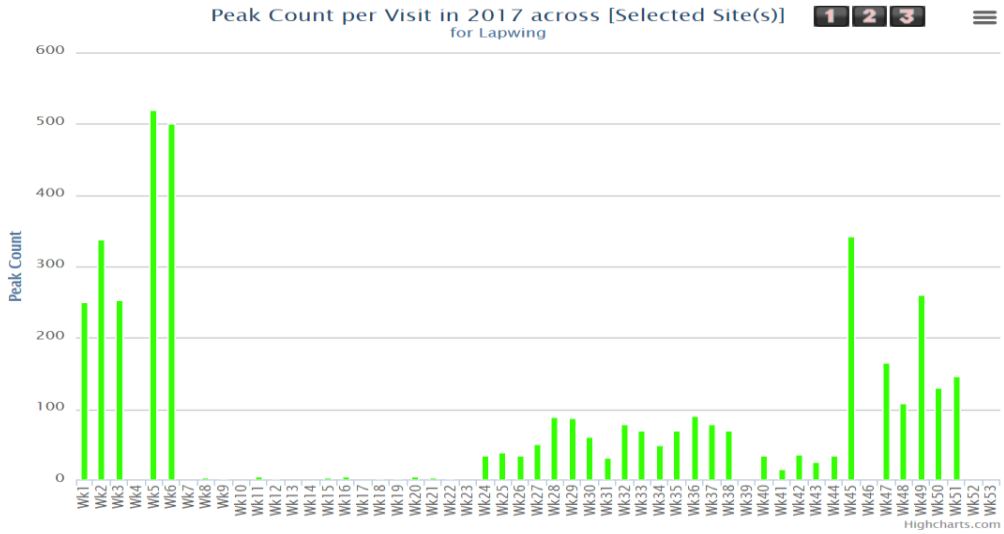
Ringed Plover; (49 – 22) ↑
Passage migrant, previously scarce. Another significant increase in occurrence and the maximum count. There were 718 bird days on 65 dates (315 / 63 in 2016). As can be seen from the graph below, the species only visits the Bay on migration. Spring migration lasted from 10th Apr to 26th May. Unlike 2016, but as 2015, autumn migration was stronger than spring. The first birds were 9 on 5th Aug. Records continued almost daily until 23rd Sep. 49 on 8th Sep was a record for the Bay (previous 35 on 10th May 2016). The last record of the year was 2 on 7th Oct. The huge majority of records came from Lytchett Fields.



Golden Plover: (160 – 15)
Scarce visitor, surprisingly so given that more than 1000 winter a little over 20 miles away! 2 on Lytchett Fields on 6th Dec were the only record.

Grey Plover: (18 – 20)
Scarce visitor. A normal year after the excesses of 2016 with 22 bird days on 14 dates. Most were in May, max 7 on 12th. 1 on 14th – 15th Jun was interesting. The remaining few occurred in the winter periods at the beginning and end of the year.

Lapwing: (3000 – 26) ⇔
Formerly bred, now a non-breeding visitor in smaller numbers. Bred regularly during early 1990's. Last confirmed breeding 1999. Display was again 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 518 was on 2nd Feb.



Red Knot: (34 – 17)
Scarce visitor. A poor year, far fewer records than in recent years. After singles on 18th Feb and 12th Mar there were no records until autumn. Records on 7 dates 23rd Aug to 6th Oct, max 3 on 21st Sep. Finally, 1 on 15th Dec.

Stilt Sandpiper:
First record. A wet and miserable morning on 21st Sept was turned upside down when a juvenile was found on French's Pool (IB, SR et al). The rising tide soon pushed it off but to everyone's delight it landed on the "Approach Pools" next to the viewpoint. The bird was last seen shortly after lunch but returned on both 2nd & 7th Oct. The 2nd for Poole Harbour. See page 44 for the finders account.

The best bird to-date at Lytchett Bay? Who would argue? (Ian Ballam)

Sanderling:

5th record. Having waited 23 years for its debut this species has now appeared in the last 3 annual reports. 1 on Lytchett Fields on 4th Oct (IB) became the 33rd species of wader to be recorded there since 2013.

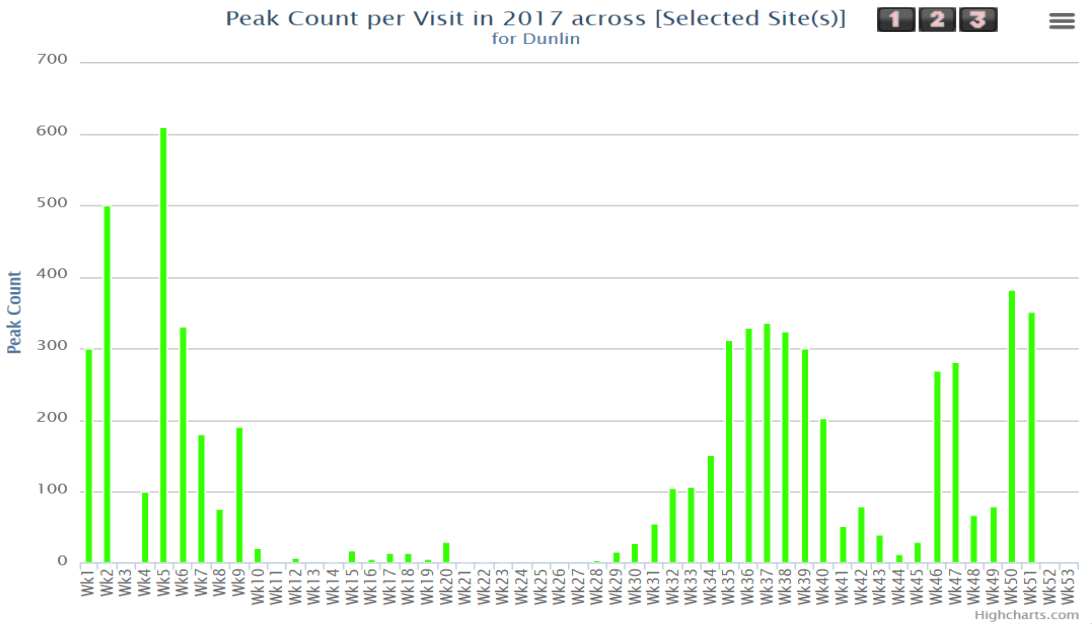
Little Stint: (7 – 11) ↗
Scarce autumn migrant. 54 bird-days over 29 dates represents yet another record year for this species. Concentrated between 19th Sep and 21st Oct, the latest record at the Bay, max 4 on 4 dates. All records came from Lytchett Fields. Turnover of birds continues to be disguised by similar counts over multiple days, however close study shows that the ages and plumage of individuals changes more frequently.

Since the creation of Lytchett Fields this dainty peep has become an annual attraction (I.Ballam)

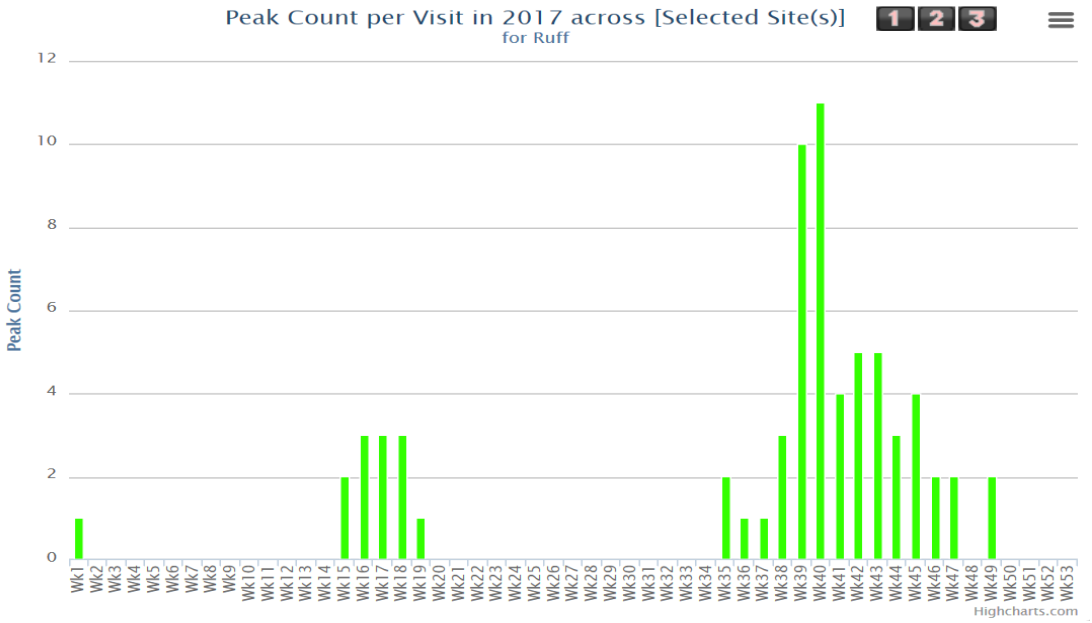
Buff-breasted Sandpiper:
First record. 1 on French's Pool on the unlikely date of 15th June was the 2nd for Poole Harbour (IB, LW). Like the first, at Brownsea Island in 2011, it did not linger long and left as early morning mist cleared and before other observers could reach the site. See page 44 for Ian's finders account.

Curlew Sandpiper: (9 – 11) ↗
Scarce autumn migrant. Another very good year with 100 bird-days, a little down on 2016's 158 but still a massive increase on the historic record. Present between 2nd Sep and 28th Oct. Max 4 on several dates.

Dunlin: (1800 – 1200 – 26) ⇔
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. Large numbers of birds used the fields in the first two months, max 609 on 1st Feb. Spring passage was unremarkable, max 30 on 17th May, but the autumn was the best on record. After a good Aug numbers increased dramatically in Sep when around 300 were seen daily, max 336 on 11th. The year ended with very healthy numbers feeding on the fields in Dec, max 382 on 15th. The only gap in occurrence was between 11th Jun and 12th Jul.



Ruff: (11 – 22)
Scarce visitor. A record year, seen on 100 dates, producing 274 bird days, almost double any previous year. 1 on 7th Jan was the only winter record. Spring passage was light but extended between 13th Apr and 12th May. Autumn passage started late, 28th Aug, but was very strong. 11 on 3rd Oct was a record count (previous 9 on 17th Sep 1998). 2 on 6th Dec were the last records of the year.



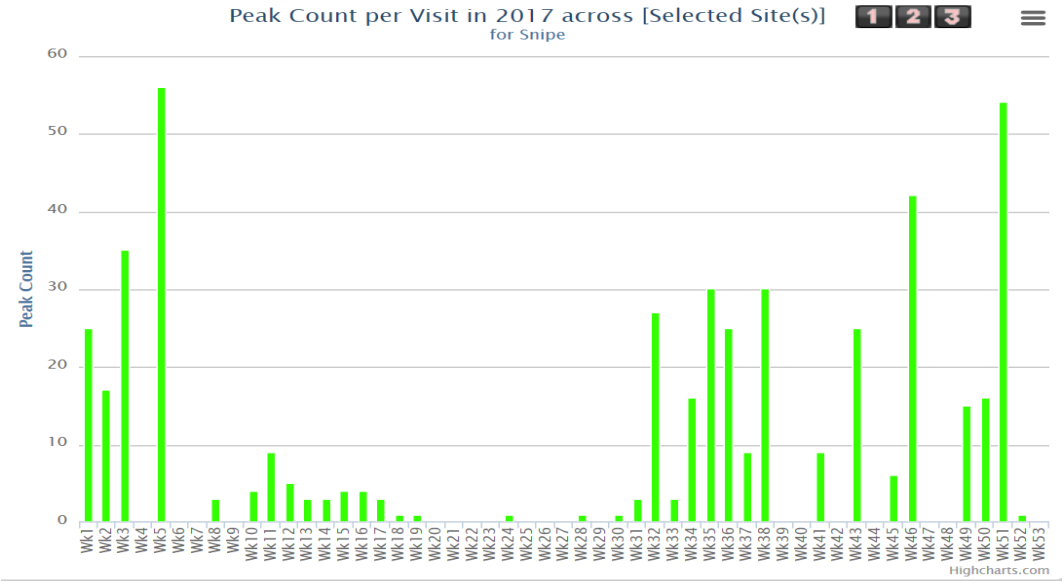
Jack Snipe: (5 - 18) ⇔
Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. This hard to find species was recorded on 11 dates and is presumably present throughout the winter. Recorded until 24th Feb and from 1st Nov. Max 2 on 3 dates. Records predominantly from Lytchett Fields.

Snipe: (160 – 132 – 26) ⇔
Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded until 9th May, returning on the 13th Jul, with one summer record, the first in the last 26 years, on 17th Jun. Numbers of birds present are likely to be significantly under recorded due to the inaccessibility of the site.

The Lesser Yellowlegs continued until April, 3 days short of 7 months by which time it had attained its spangled breeding plumage (I.Ballam). Ruff arrived in record numbers and some birds were remarkably confiding on the approach pools enabling this fine composition detailing the juvenile plumage (A. Groves)

Curlew Sandpipers were also frequent feeders on the approach pools permitting amazing point blank views (I.Ballam). This ablinistic Black-tailed Godwit, affectionately known as "Stork-wit" was a frequent sight during the first part of the year (S.Robson

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. Fewer than 2016, max 56 on 31st Jan.

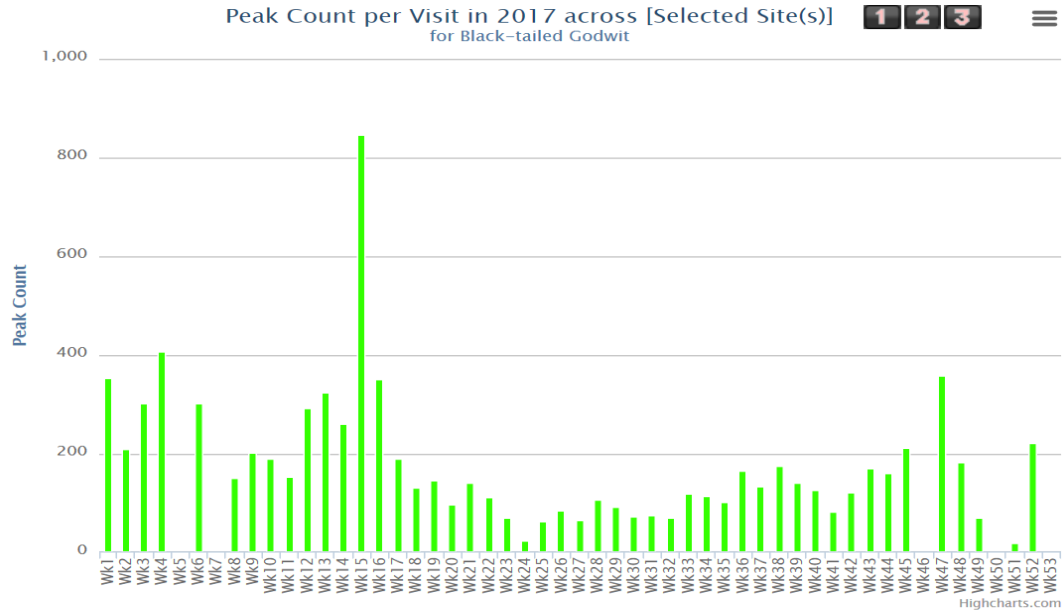


Woodcock: (5 – 16) ⇔
Scarce but under recorded winter visitor. The number of records of this species is largely a reflection of the effort made to see them. Nick Hopper studied Woodcock during early 2014 on behalf of The Birds of Poole Harbour. Following transects at Lytchett Bay the estimated winter population was predicted to be 8 birds (No more than 5 have ever been seen on one visit).

Present until at least 22nd Feb and from 12th Nov. 7 bird days recorded on 4 dates. Max 4 on 22nd Feb. 1 ringed.

Black-tailed Godwit: (1240 – 26) ⇔
Common passage migrant and winter visitor. The species was present throughout the year, but numbers were largely unexceptional.

Birds began to gather and feed at high tide on Lytchett Fields from mid Mar onwards, peaking at 259 on 9th Apr. Numbers remained strong throughout the summer and into autumn but we did not receive the spectacular peaks of 2016. The biggest count of the year was 844 in the Bay on 12th Apr.



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.

LG+RO *was present on 10th Jan 2017.*

I.Ballam

Wow LG+RO is still going strong! It had previously visited the Bay in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2013 and 2015. It was ringed on 27th Jun 2002 at Langhús, Fljót, N Iceland as an Ad female. This makes the bird at least 16 years old and this is the oldest that we have recorded at the Bay. The oldest bird in the Operation Godwit scheme is 22-23yrs old. A nominate Limosa bird was found to be 32 yrs old after metal ringing (P.Potts pers comm).

During its life this bird has also been seen in Portugal, western France, Humberside and Hampshire.

WB+OflL *was present on 16th May 2017, just 3 days later on the 19th it was seen on Tiree, Inner Hebrides making fast progress toward its breeding grounds in Iceland.*

I.Ballam

It had been ringed at Moeze, Charente Maritime, France on 1st Apr 2014. It was at Frodsham, Cheshire in the summer of 2015.

WB+WGfl *was present on 14th Aug 2017.*

It had been ringed on 20th Feb 2015 at Tagus Estuary, Setubal, Portugal. On 30th Apr of the same year it was seen back in E Iceland.

***NW+OfL** was present on 10th Jan, 26th Aug, 18th Sep & 26th Sep 2017.*

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, Jul & Aug 2016.

***RNW+YRY** was present in Feb, Mar, Aug, Sep, Oct and Nov 2017.*

S.Robson

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 and frequently in 2016.

***YG+OR(Z)** was present on 20th Mar, 25th Mar and 12th Nov 2017.*

S.Robson

It had been ringed on 8th May 2016 at Gunnersholt, S. Iceland. It had previously been seen at the Bay between 17th – 26th Aug 2016.

B//R+RN *was present on 21st Jan 2017.*

I.Ballam – taken at Holes Bay in Jan 2017

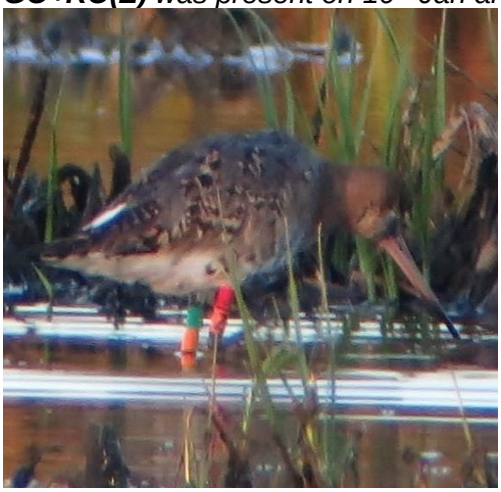
It had been ringed on 15th Oct 2013 as 1stW at Farlington Marshes, Hampshire and had spent its 1st winter in West Sussex. It had previously been seen at The Bay on at least 6 dates between 19th May and 1st Aug 2014 and 28th Apr 2015.

LNL+YRY *was present on 19th and 26th Oct 2017.*

I.Ballam

It had been ringed on 10th Nov 2013 at Axe Estuary, Seaton, Devon. It had previously been seen at the Bay on 28th May, 9th Jun and 22nd Jun 2014 and 3rd Mar 2015. It has also been seen at Arne NR.

GO+RO(Z) *was present on 10th Jan and 15th Dec.*



S.Robson

It had been ringed as an Ad F on 20th Jun 2013 at Flói, Árnessýsla, S Iceland and was back there in May 2016. It had previously been seen at the Bay on 30th Jul 2014, between 22nd Dec 2014 and the 3rd Mar 2015. It seems to be spending this winter in the Avon Valley on the Hants/Dorset border. In Mar 2016 it was in the Netherlands.

GR+RO(Z) *was present on 10th & 21st Jan and 10th Apr.*

S.Robson

It had been ringed on 9th Jul 2012 at Friðland, Árnessýsla, S Iceland. It was seen in Iceland in summer 2013 and at Swineham in 2012. It had previously been seen at the Bay on 21st Dec 2014 and in Jan, Feb, Mar and Jul 2015.

WNY+YRY *was present on 23rd Mar 2017.*

It had been ringed as an Ad male on 18th Jan 2015 at Axe Estuary, Devon. It has also been at Titchfield Haven, Hants. It had previously been seen at the Bay on 5 dates between 14th May and 29th Aug and presumably spent the summer here.

RGW+RNR *was present on 10th Jan and 5th Feb 2017*

I.Ballam

It was ringed on 13th Sep 2013 at Harty, The Swale, Kent, SE England. It has also been seen in Essex and Suffolk.

***RGL+RNR** was present on 28th Nov 2017.*

I.Ballam

It was ringed on 29th Sep 2012 at Harty, The Swale, Kent, SE England. In Mar 2017 it was in Gwent, Wales.

***GOR+YNY** was present on 20th May, 23rd Jul and 21st Sep 2017*

It was ringed at Brownsea Island on 8th Sep 2013. It was in W Iceland in Apr 2015 and W France in Feb 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

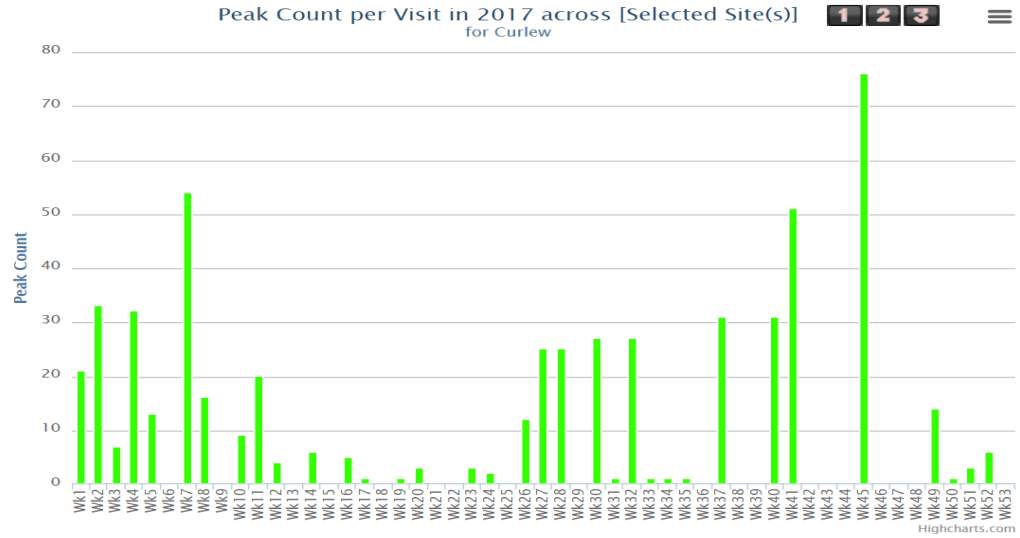
Many thanks to Pete Potts and the Farlington Ringing Group, Böðvar and the Iceland Wader Group and Vincent Lelong for supplying this information.

Bar-tailed Godwit: (110 – 22) ⇔
Scare visitor. A good year with 38 bird days on 11 dates across 6 months, max 24 on 21st Apr was the largest settled flock at the Bay. Many were in stunning breeding dress.

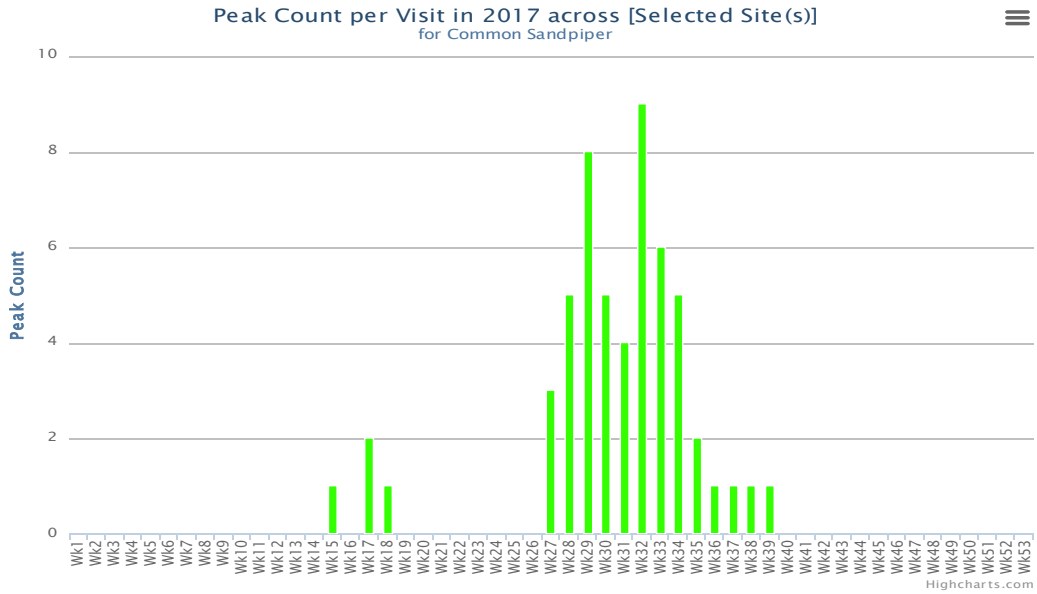
Whimbrel: (157 – 26) ⇔
Passage migrant, most numerous in Spring. Spring passage from 8th Apr until 21st May, though numbers this year were very poor. Only 91 bird-days, max 14 on 13th May. Autumn passage was relatively good and occurred between 9th Jul and 27th Aug. 47 bird-days, max 8 on 18th Jul.

Curlew: (116 – 26) ⇔
Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Present throughout the year, most common in early autumn and winter. Max 76 on 12th Nov. Frequently seen on The Pool and in the stubble field during high tide in winter, max 43 on 12th Jan.

Blank weeks within the period of occurrence are an indication that counts were not made, not that birds were not present.



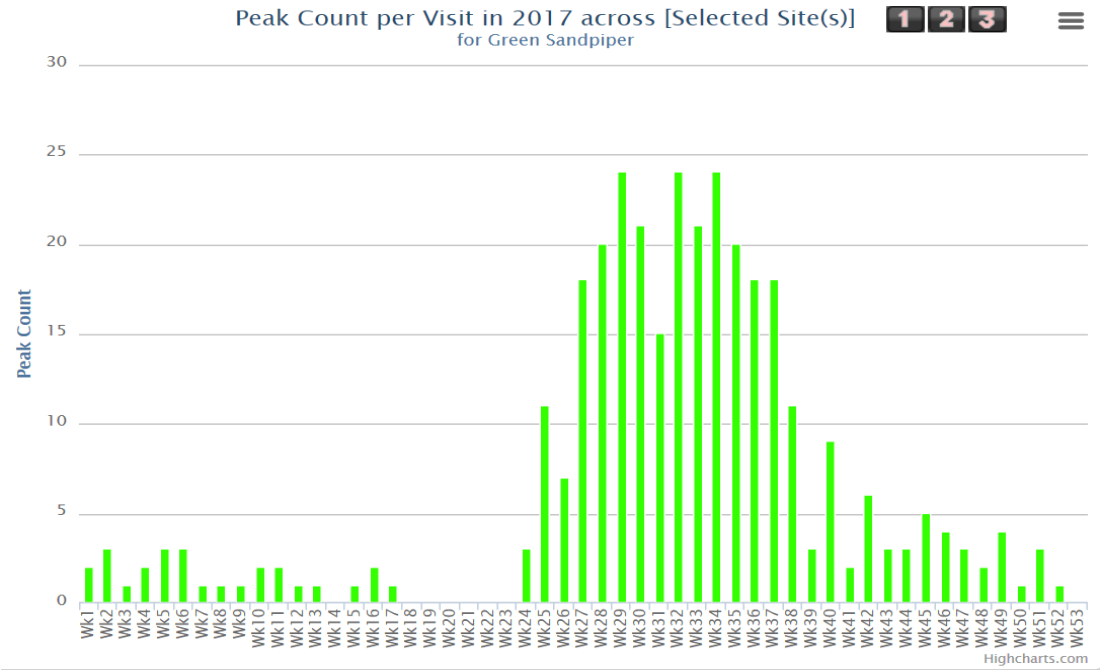
Common Sandpiper: (14 – 26) ⇔
Uncommon passage migrant. 13 bird days in spring between 12th Apr and 2nd May. Autumn passage was between on 5th Jul to 27th Sep. Max on 9 on 11th Aug.



In total there were 205 bird days in autumn almost identical to 2016.

Green Sandpiper: (24 – 26) ↗
Common non-breeding visitor. Lytchett Fields and western most part of the Bay are the favoured sites. Present until 28th Apr and from 17th Jun. After which birds were seen on most visits until the year end. A record 24 birds were present on 3 dates in Jul and Aug (previous best 22 on 5th Aug 2016). Numbers remained very high until mid-Sep.

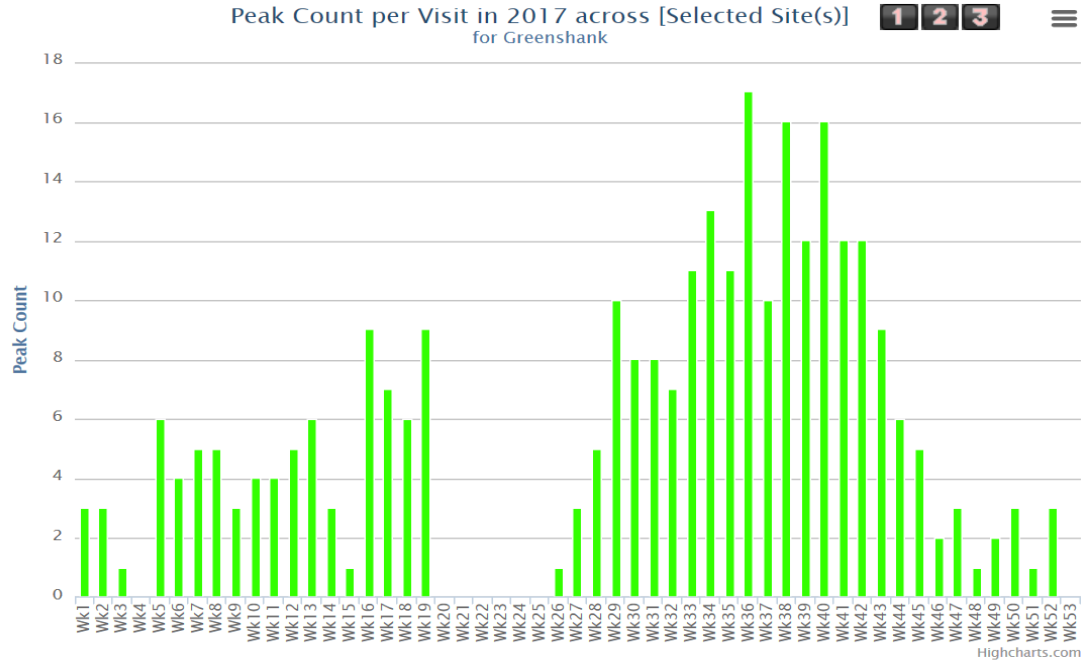
Birds used the new balancing pond on Watery Lane on several dates during the latter part of the year, max 2 on several dates.



Spotted Redshank: (68 – 42 – 26) ⇔
Rare passage migrant and scarce winter visitor. Recorded on only 33 dates. Like 2016 had it not been for a single bird which visited frequently between 1st Jan – 12th Feb this year's total would have been the worst on record. The only passage migrants were 1 on 10th May, 1 on 22nd Jul, 2 on 9th Sep and 1 on 25th Sep! 1 visited frequently between 17th Dec and the 31st. 2 were present on the last date.

Greenshank: (49 – 27 – 26) ⇔
Common non-breeding visitor. This species is almost a daily ever present. The last bird of spring was on 14th May and the first of autumn was 1st Jul. Max 16 on 19th Sep and 3rd Oct.

Lytchett Fields was far and away the most used habitat.



GB+RN - *was present on from the beginning of the year until 11th Apr 2017. It returned for its 3rd season on 5th Jul 2017 and was seen frequently 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. It had previously visited the Bay on at least 4th – 12th Apr 2016. Returning on 18th Jul 2016 and seen subsequently on at least 17 dates until the year end.

Thanks to Raymond Duncan for this information.

Lesser Yellowlegs:
One record. Our American visitor that arrived on 18th Sep 2016 stayed until 15th Apr. Given our experience with the colour-ringed Greenshank above we had convinced ourselves that it might even return in the autumn….alas it was not to be.

Wood Sandpiper: (5 – 14)
Scarce migrant. Another good year for a species that was once considered a rare migrant in the whole of Poole Harbour. There were no spring records for the first time since 2013.

Return passage commenced on 5th Aug and there were 21 bird-days on 18 dates until the 16th Sep. Max 2 on 3 dates. Finally, a late bird on 18th - 19th Oct, the latest record at the Bay by almost 4 weeks.

Redshank: (608 – 436 – 26) ⇔
Common winter visitor with small breeding population on salt marsh. A pair were present occasionally during the breeding season on Lytchett Fields but breeding did not occur.

Lytchett Fields was used extensively at high tide particularly between Jul and Nov but The Pool was used far less frequently than in recent years.

Monthly max (all sites):

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
120	45	161	50	6	55	159	152	185	173	149	104

Turnstone: (9 – 7)
8th record, all of which have occurred since 1995, 7 since 2011.

5 in the Bay on 14th Aug (IB).

Black-headed Gull: (12000 – 7000 – 26) ⇔
A very common visitor. Max count was 2000 on 19th Feb. The first juvenile was noted on 22nd Jun.

There were 3 excellent ringing recoveries this year.

T5HC (Yellow ring) *was present on 7th Jul 2017.*

It had been ringed as an adult on 27th May 2017 at Zalew Mietkowski, Dolnośląskie, POLAND. A journey of 1305km in 41 days.

T58 (White ring) *was present on 30th Sep 2017.*

It had been ringed 2387 days earlier on 19th Mar 2011 at Svanemøllebugten, København, DENMARK. A movement of 1120km.

ES07286 *was ringed at Lytchett Bay as a juv on 22nd Jul 2005. Almost 12 years later on 7th May 2017 it was at Blashford GP, Hampshire where the ring was read in the field.*

Common Gull: (3000 – 26) ⇔
A common winter visitor and passage migrant, especially in spring. Present until 15th Apr. The first returning bird was on 22nd Jul. No specific counts submitted.

Ring-billed Gull: (2 – 9)
10th and 11th records, first since 2009. An adult was found in the Bay on 26th Feb (SR et al) and was seen and photographed by other observers the following day. To our astonishment a different adult, still heavily in winter plumage, was present on 28th Feb (NHo, SR).

Mediterranean Gull: (139 – 25) ⇔
Spring and early summer visitor, occasional at other times. The recent rapid increase has stabilised and sightings became rather few after the end of March. Single juveniles were seen in Jul and Aug.

Monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	40	43	2	7	3	5	6	1	1	1	1

A bird with a Belgian ring was found dead on 19th Oct. Details awaited.

Lesser Black backed Gull: (2128 – 26) ⇔
Abundant autumn and common spring passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Rarely counted.

Herring Gull: (2500 – 26) ↗
Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Rarely counted.

Yellow legged Gull: (65 – 25) ↘
Frequent visitor, peaking in summer. A better year than 2016 with 76 bird-days on 43 dates. Max 12 on 21st Aug.

Bay monthly max:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	0	1	0	1	2	12	4	3	1	2

Great Black backed Gull: (151 – 26) ⇔
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 daily but only in single figures.

Sandwich Tern: (6 – 26) ⇔
Uncommon summer visitor. Recorded on 26 dates. The first was on 4th Apr and continued until 12th Oct. There were two further records on 12th Nov and 28th Dec. Winter records are increasing, there have now been 4. Max 4 on 2 dates. Birds visited Lytchett Fields on 4 dates.

Common Tern: (25 – 26) ⇔
Uncommon summer visitor. A remarkable year reflecting the species good breeding season on Brownsea.

57 bird-days on 37 dates between 29th May and 18th Aug. Max 8 on 31st Jul, was a record (previously 34 in 2002).

For the first-time birds were regularly seen feeding over Lytchett Fields.

Stock Dove: (72 – 26) ⇔
Uncommon Resident. Frequently seen and widely scattered records. Max 19 in the arable field on 30th Mar.

Woodpigeon: (17,785 – 26) ↑
Common resident and autumn migrant. 4 flights were witnessed – 2664nw on 28th Oct, 3965nw on 30th, 1100nw on 5th Nov and 4510nw on 6th Nov. 1 ringed.

Collared Dove: (15 – 26) ⇔
Uncommon resident. Recorded across the site. Max 10 at Turlin Moor on 8th Oct.

Turtle Dove: (2 – 11)
Previously scarce migrant, now rare visitor due to tragic decline in west European population. 1 was on wires over the Pool on late date of 22nd Oct (R I-H, S I-H). Only the third record this century.

Cuckoo: (2 – 25) ↘
Scarce visitor in spring. 4 spring records (same as 2016) between 21st Apr – 23rd May. A rare autumn record on 13th Aug. All records from Lytchett Fields.

Barn Owl: (2 – 17)
Bred at French's Farm until 2009. Shortly after this the nest box was removed. Since then the species has been very scarce. Recorded on only two dates, presumably present on many more – the birds at Lytchett seem to be strictly nocturnal? 1 on 25th Jan and 1 on 12th Nov.

Tawny Owl: (2 – 26) ↘
Uncommon resident. Recorded occasionally across the recording area throughout the year.

Nightjar: (3 – 17) ⇔
Irregular breeder. Present at Lytchett Heath during the breeding season from at least 4th Jun intermittently to late Aug. A juvenile was ringed at the end of Jul.

Swift: (113 – 26) ⇔
Passage migrant and occasional local breeder. First seen on 3rd May and noted for the last time on 9th Aug. Max 80 on 7th Aug.

Kingfisher: (4 – 26) ⇔
Passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor. Bred in 2000. Recorded on 4 dates throughout Apr suggesting that breeding may have occurred on the Sherford. Max 3 on 23rd Aug. Only 2 ringed, reflecting the shift in activity from the Sherford to Lytchett Heath.

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. 4 ringed.

Woodlark: (15 – 16) ⇔
Irregular visitor. This species is always scarce when we do not have very cold weather. 2 records.

A singing bird at Holton Lee was heard from Lytchett Fields on 27th Mar and 1 was at Lytchett Fields on 25th Jul.

Skylark: (781 - 26) ↗
Scarce breeder and passage migrant. 2 territories established and held throughout the spring. Autumn passage began on 26th Sep and birds regularly stopped over in the arable field. Best days were 34 on 17th Oct and 44 on 25th Oct. Up to 12 used the arable field daily during Dec.

Sand Martin: (5000 – 26) ↘
Common passage migrant. Recorded from 16th Mar until 19th Sep. Double figure counts were few, the days of four figure roosts in July are becoming a very distant memory. 5 ringed.

Swallow: (1000 – 800 – 26) ⇔
Common passage migrant, breeds at French's Farm. Recorded from 17th Mar until 8th Nov. The maximum count in both spring and autumn was an underwhelming 100. 2 ringed.

House Martin: (1800 – 26) ↘
Common passage migrant, breeding colony on edge of recording area at Watery Lane. Present from 14th Apr to 7th Oct. "100's" moving NW into the wind on 16th Sep.

18 nests were the most since 2001.

No of House Martin nests at the Watery Lane colony 2004 – 2017. No of nest collapsed or destroyed in brackets.

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
15 (4)	15 (5)	16 (6)	14 (5)	13 (8)	15 (5)	8 (7)	13 (4)	2 (0)	4 (1)	?	7 (3)	10 (4)	18 (?)

Tree Pipit: (17 – 22) ⇔
Scarce passage migrant. 21 bird days between 10th and 31st Aug. Max 6 on first date. Records spread between Lytchett Heath and Lytchett Fields, where several grounded birds were grounded. 2 ringed.

Meadow Pipit: (300 - 210 – 26) ⇔
Occasional breeder and common passage migrant. No records between Apr and 6th Sep. Spring migration peaked with 134 on 26th Mar. Autumn passage was strong, max 210 on 2nd Oct (The biggest day count in the last 26 years, previously 200 on 6th Oct 2016). 28 ringed.

Rock Pipit: *Scandinavian Rock Pipit*? (50 – 26) ⇔
Common winter visitor. Recorded until 13th Mar and from 26th Oct. Common on saltings throughout the winter, max 15 at Lytchett Way on 12th Nov. 1 ringed.

It has been considered for some years that all birds of this species occurring at the Bay were of Scandinavian origin. In Feb these start to show breeding plumage and can be differentiated from nominate British birds. 1 on The Pool on 13th Mar.

In autumn and winter the huge majority of these birds are indistinguishable from British Rock Pipits on plumage. In 2017 we took another big step toward confirming our hypothesis. On the 16th Nov a bird bearing a Norwegian ring was trapped at Lytchett Heath saltings. It was subsequently seen at the water works and Lytchett Fields later in the month. Undoubtedly one of the most exciting events of the year.

EL01085 (with green ring bearing white inscription JXS) ringed at Maletangen, Fraena, More og Romsdal, NORWAY on 29th Sep 2017 was controlled at Lytchett Bay on 30th Nov 2017. A movement of 1466km in 52 days.

A.Taylor

We have now had two controls of Rock Pipits ringed elsewhere, both were ringed abroad! The second was ringed in Oct 2015 in Belgium.

Water Pipit: (20 – 20)
Scarce winter visitor. It seems that the habitat created at Lytchett Fields is to this species liking. A good year with records on 53 dates. Present until 28th Mar, max 3 on 26th Jan and from 27th Oct, max 5 on several dates. 2 ringed.

Yellow Wagtail: (150 – 26) ⇔
Uncommon passage migrant. 6 bird-days between 14th Apr and 13th May in spring. Autumn migration started on 4th Aug and like many sites in Dorset, it was excellent. 368 bird-days to 28th Sep. Max 40 on 10th Sep.

Grey Wagtail: (15 – 26) ⇔
Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Frequently recorded throughout the year. June was the only month with no records.

Pied Wagtail: (500 – 26) ⇔
Recorded throughout the year, common in autumn. Bred successfully. Birds roost at various points around the Bay during peak migration in October. Unusually roosting was also noted in spring, max 130 on 22nd Mar. 26 ringed.

White Wagtail: Scarce migrant. Very few reported this year. 1 on 5th Apr, 2 on 15th Apr and 1 on 6th Aug.

Wren: ⇔
Common resident. 25 ringed.

Dunnock: ⇔
Common resident. 9 ringed.

Robin: ⇔
Common resident. Some indication of the status of this species is given by the fact that 15 were singing along a 400m length of Slough Lane on 8th Jan. 17 ringed.

Common Redstart: (2 – 19) ⇔
Scarce autumn migrant. A poor year with only 2 records.

One on 27th Aug at Lytchett Fields and another ringed on 9th Sep at Lytchett Heath.

Whinchat: (11 – 24) ⇔
Scarce passage migrant. Like several other passerines, a forgettable year. 6 bird-days between 23rd Aug and 6th Oct. All singles.

Stonechat: (23 – 26) ⇔
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 13th Mar and from 15th Jul till the year end, with 2 single records in the late spring/early summer. Max 7 on several dates in autumn. 2 ringed.

Northern Wheatear: (39 – 26) ⇔
Uncommon passage migrant. Almost every record of this species occurs in the north west of the recording area.

2 on 12th Mar were the earliest ever (previously 15th Mar 2008) leading the way for 15 bird-days in spring until 6th May. Max 4 on 21st Aug.

Autumn migrants are always scarcer than in spring. Only 8 bird-days between 28th Jul and 12th Oct. Max 2.

Ring Ouzel: (3 – 9)
Scarce migrant. The only record this year came from the Listening Station at 00:27 on 26th Oct.

Blackbird: (45 – 26) ⇔
Common Resident. 15 were feeding on fallen apples at Turlin Moor on 9th Dec. Some indication of migration was provided by The Listening Station when 23 were recorded on 27th Oct. 28 ringed.

Two Blackbirds ringed in 2015 and 2016 at Lytchett Bay were both recovered locally when they were found dead in the local area. This matches our understanding that the majority of Blackbirds are residents of the local area.

Fieldfare: (559 – 26) ↗
Uncommon winter visitor. Typically scarce in the first winter period, with only 7 records up to 13th Mar. First returning birds were seen on 30th Oct. There were few flights and most records came from Lytchett Bay View. Max 38 on 13th Nov.

Song Thrush: (1256 – 26) ⇔
Breeding resident and passage migrant. No perceived change from 12 territories identified in 2016. 6 ringed.

In autumn the Listening Station recorded a large movement on 25th/26th Oct with 921 nocturnal calls. There were no diurnal flights.

Redwing: (1000 – 514 – 26) ⇔
Winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded until 4th Apr. 150 were at French's Farm on 27th Jan. 114 were recorded at the Holton Lee Listening Station on 10th Mar.

First of the autumn was on 9th Oct. Diurnal migration was poor but recordings at the Lytchett Way Listening Station were strong with 526 calls over on 25th/26th Oct and 208 calls on 27th/28th Oct.

72 scattered between Lytchett Heath and Lytchett Fields was the biggest count at the end of the year. 34 ringed.

Mistle Thrush: (60 - 20 – 26) ⇔
Uncommon resident. Recorded frequently but no records between 4th Mar and 21st Aug suggests that none bred in the area this year. No significant counts.

Cetti's Warbler: (11 males – 25) ⇔
Breeding resident. At least 9 territories, same as 2016. Present at Sandy Close Pond occasionally in both winter periods. 12 ringed.

Grasshopper Warbler: (18 – 19) ⇔
Passage migrant, predominantly in autumn. Under recorded. Bred in 1986.

The best spring in the period since 1992. Reeling birds were at the Water Works on 16th Apr (earliest record, previously 19th Apr 2015) and 2 different birds at Lytchett Fields on 1st and 2nd May. One then held territory between 6th – 22nd May at the Water Works, though there was no indication of breeding taking place.

26 bird-days between 1st Aug and 16th Sep. Max 7 on 28th Aug. 22 ringed, all one-day birds.

Sedge Warbler: (219 – 26) ⇔
Passage migrant. Spring passage was poor with only 8 birds between 17th – 29th Apr. Autumn passage commenced on 14th Jul and continued to 26th Sep. Max 79 on 5th Aug. 325 ringed.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
			2			50	79	49			
			8			130	327	67			

***D464935** – A 1stW bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 12th Aug 2015 was re-trapped on 9th and 30th Jul 2017 at Seaside Dyke, Errol, Perth and Kinross, Scotland. A N movement of 633km. It had also been re-trapped there on 18th Jun 2016 suggesting that this the location where it breeds.*

***Z408659** – A 1stW bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 5th Sep 2015 was re-trapped 336 days later on 6th Aug 2016 at Mars-Ouest, Saint-Philbert-de-Grand-Lieu, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE. A S movement of 403km.*

***FRP7673248** – A 1stW bird ringed at Finistere, Treogat, Trunval, FRANCE on 26th Jul 2016 was controlled 389 days later on 19th Aug 2017 at Lytchett Bay. A NNE movement of 352km.*

***S191893** – A 1stW bird ringed at Kilpaison Marsh, Rhoscrowther, Pembrokeshire, Wales on 30th Aug was controlled 3 days later on 2nd Sep at Lytchett Bay. A ESE movement of 234km.*

***S047498** – A 1stW bird ringed at Stanford Res, Northants, England on 2nd Sep 2017 was controlled 7 days later on 9th Sep 2017 at Lytchett Bay. A SSW movement of 198km.*

***S391041** – A 1stW bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 23rd Aug 2017 was re-trapped 2 days later on 25th Aug at Sandouville, Seine-Maritime, FRANCE. A SE movement of 218km.*

Reed Warbler: (84 males – 26) ⇔
Common summer visitor. Present between 6th Apr (earliest date, previously 9th Apr 2011) and 9th Oct. No survey undertaken but status unchanged at c80 singing males. 140 ringed.

***S397030** – A juv bird ringed at Holme Pierpont, Nottinghamshire on 28th Aug 2016 was controlled 342 days later on 5th Aug 2017 at Lytchett Bay. A SSW movement of 256km.*

Blackcap: (25 – 26) ↗
Passage migrant, summer visitor and scarce winter visitor. No survey undertaken but no change perceived since 13 territories were located in 2016.

Scarce at Sandy Close Pond with only 4 records in the first winter period. 1 at Turlin Moor on 9th Mar.

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 27th Mar when records became very regular. 10 on 25th Apr at Lytchett Fields was the single biggest site count. Autumn migration was poor.

Interestingly 6 were trapped on 2nd Dec suggesting an arrival from the continent?

37 ringed.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	1	1	10	b	b	b	7	8	2	1	6
w	w	w	41	b	b	b	49	30	8	2	11

Garden Warbler: (5 – 24) ⇔
Scarce passage migrant. A poor year. 1 in spring on 25th Apr. 8 bird-days in autumn between 1st – 25th Aug. Max 3 on 5th. 6 ringed.

Lesser Whitethroat: (3 – 21) ⇔
Scarce passage migrant, which occasionally breeds or holds territory. The worst year since 2012, when there were no records.

Birds held territory in 2015 and 2016 but this year there was no repeat. 1 on 29th Apr was the only spring record.

1 on 27th Aug at Lytchett Fields was the only record in autumn.

Whitethroat: (18 – 24) ⇔
Uncommon passage migrant. Bred in 2013. 13 bird-days in spring between 21st Apr and 22nd May. Max 3 on 25th. In autumn, 32 bird days between 9th Jul and 22nd Sep. Max 6 on 26th Aug. 3 ringed.

Dartford Warbler: (2 pairs – 24) ⇔
Breeding resident. Resident at Lytchett Heath throughout the year where at least 1 pair was present raising least 1 brood. 2 ringed.

Yellow-browed Warbler: (1 – 5)
6th & 7th records. 1 was at Lytchett Heath on 8th Jan (M Co, N Ho, PM, MR). The autumn of 2017 was much quieter for this species in Dorset but one was at the Water Works on 25th Sep (IB), our earliest date.

Willow Warbler: (60 – 26) ⇔
Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. This species had been lost as a local breeder.

The first record was on 30th Mar. Autumn migration started on 20th Jul and lasted until a late bird on 12th Oct. Max 47 on 5th Aug. 82 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	8	1		4	47	4	1		
		1	43	2		10	220	31	1		

Chiffchaff: (142 – 26) ↗
Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Another species which is doing well at The Bay. 9 – 11 territories across recording area.

Very strong passage during March, spring max 15 on 8th Apr. Autumn migration was good, max 39 on 16th Sep. 129 ringed.

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

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2	1	10	15	b	b	b	15	39	14	7	8
5	1	66	b	b	b	b	110	162	64	50	20

JYX573 *– A 1stW bird ringed at Clouds Hill, Dorset on 31st Aug 2017 was controlled 2 days later on 2nd Sep 2017 at Lytchett Bay. A ENE movement of 40km.*

EBA655 *– An un aged bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 9th Oct 2017 was re-trapped the following day on 10th Oct 2017 at Icklesham, East Sussex. A E movement of 192km.*

EBA603 *– A 1stW bird ringed at Lytchett Bay on 16th Sep 2017 was re-trapped 10 days later on 26th Sep 2017 at Portland Bill, Dorset. A SW movement of 38km.*

HLN969 *– A bird ringed at Fleets Corner, Poole on 17th Feb 2017 and re-trapped there on 4 further dates to 12th Mar 2017 was controlled the following winter on 2nd Dec 2017 at Lytchett Bay. An interesting recapture of a returning wintering bird to the Poole Harbour area.*

Siberian Chiffchaff – one was ringed at Lytchett Heath on 19th Nov (SR, AMT)

Goldcrest: (27 – 26) ⇔
Passage migrant, which occasionally breeds. There were no records this year between 29th Mar and 20th Aug. Autumn migration was poor. 37 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	1	1	b	b	b		1	1	10	11	3
29	9	10	b	b	b		1	2	56	49	32

Firecrest: (4 – 14) ⇔
Scarce visitor, increasing.

In the first part of the year, 2 were around Slough Lane and 2 were at Lytchett Heath. Given the well spread records it is safe to assume that they present throughout the early winter until 1st Mar. Autumn migration was sparse. 1 on 9th Sep, 1 on 15th Oct, 4 on 3rd Nov, 1 on 19th Nov. One was around Lytchett Bay View and Lytchett Way in Dec. 5 ringed.

Spotted Flycatcher: (8 – 6 – 26) ↘
Passage migrant, previously bred. An average year. In spring one was at Sandy Close Pond on 17th May. 19 bird-days in autumn between 20th Aug an 5th Sep, max 4 on 2 dates.

Pied Flycatcher: (1 – 11)
Rare visitor. Remarkably one was sound recorded at the Listening Station on 25th Aug.

Bearded Tit: (40 – 26) ⇔
Scarce breeder and scarce passage migrant. At least 1 pair bred, possibly 2. The autumn provided a significant irruption and the species was recorded frequently from 14th Sep in many parts of the recording area. On 12th Oct at least 40 were present (record count) in the Lytchett Heath reedbed and parties were seen and heard departing high to the west, a wonderful experience.

Ringing gave an indication of the movement (both east and west along the south coast) and included some interesting re-traps. 52 new birds were ringed, with a max of 24 on 9th Oct.

The following recoveries occurred

Z187827 - was ringed at Lytchett Bay as a female on 13th Dec 2014 and was recaptured on 2nd Dec 2017. It had not been recorded between these two dates, is it a returning migrant rather than a local bird?

Z408777 - was ringed at Lytchett Bay as a male on 17th Oct 2015 and was recaptured on 9th Oct 2017. It had not been recorded between these two dates, is it a returning migrant rather than a local bird?

D464686 - was ringed at Lytchett Bay as a juvenile female on 7th Aug 2015 and was recaptured on 15th Nov 2017. It had been captured on one other occasion, 14th Oct 2015.

Z187103 - was ringed as a juvenile female on 13th Aug 2016 and was recaptured on 9th Oct 2017.

Z807461 - was ringed as a juvenile on 3rd Sep 2016 and was recaptured and sexed as a female on 8th Oct 2017.

Z187840 – was ringed as an unaged male on 13th Dec 2013 at Lytchett Bay and was re-trapped at Farlington Marshes, Hampshire 876 days later on 7th May 2017. A E movement of 73km.

Z837964 (also colour ringed) - was ringed as a juvenile female at Radipole Lake, Dorset on 25th July. 75 days later on 8th Oct 2017 it was controlled at Lytchett Bay. A E movement of 33km.

Z772198 - was ringed as a nestling at Farlington Marshes, Hampshire on 2nd Apr 2017. 227 days later on 15th Nov 2017 it was controlled at Lytchett Bay. A W movement of 73km.

Long tailed Tit: ↗
Common resident. Regularly recorded from most sites at the Bay. 22 ringed.

Coal Tit: ↗
Uncommon resident, increasing. Recorded from most sites across the calendar. 3 ringed.

Blue Tit: ⇔
Common resident. 95 ringed.

Great Tit: ⇔
Common resident. 21 ringed.

Marsh Tit: (1 – 4)
4th record in the period since 1992. One was at French's Farm on 24th Nov (GO) was found during one of the many Hawfinch searches.

Nuthatch: ⇔
Uncommon. Seen occasionally throughout the year from sites stretching from French's Farm to Lytchett Bay View including Sandy Close Pond. One at Turlin Moor LNR on 29TH May was particularly unusual.

Treecreeper: ⇔
Uncommon. Recorded occasionally throughout the year, may have bred at Lytchett Way. Seen at Sandy Close Pond twice.

Jay: (12 – 26) ⇔
Resident. Regularly seen throughout the year but most often in autumn.

Magpie: ⇔
Common Resident.

Jackdaw: (610 – 26) ⇔
Resident. Recorded throughout the year. 610 flew over the area toward roost on the evening of 31st Jul. Almost double the previous record count, 346 on 13th Dec 2015.

Rook: (185 – 26) ↗
Breeds on edge of recording area. 20 nests at the Watery Lane colony. The same as 2014. (17 in 2016, 23 in 2015 & 2014, 25 in 2013, 22 in 2012, 20 in 2011, 16 in 2010).

Our understanding of the Bearded Tit irruption was enhanced by ringing, this female was the 50th bird ringed in 2017 (S.Robson). Yellow Wagtail migration was strong (I.Ballam)

Chiffchaffs were very visible durning December, the breeding location of these birds remains a mystery (C.Slade). Brambling have been scarce in recent winters so a long staying female at Sandy Close Pond was welcome (S.Robson

Carrion Crow: (100 – 26) ⇔
Common Resident. Breeds widely across the area. 60 were in the freshly ploughed arable field on 2nd Apr and 79 were feeding on the mud at low tide on 14th Nov.

Raven: (7 – 23) ↗
Increasingly regular visitor. Now recorded on an almost a daily basis throughout the year, may have bred at Turlin Moor where 7 were present in Jul.

Starling: (35000 – 5600 – 26) ⇔
Common resident**.** 1000nw in 15 minutes on morning of 22nd Nov may have been migrants? Alternatively they have been emerging from a local roost. 1000se on 15th Dec were definitely heading to roost.

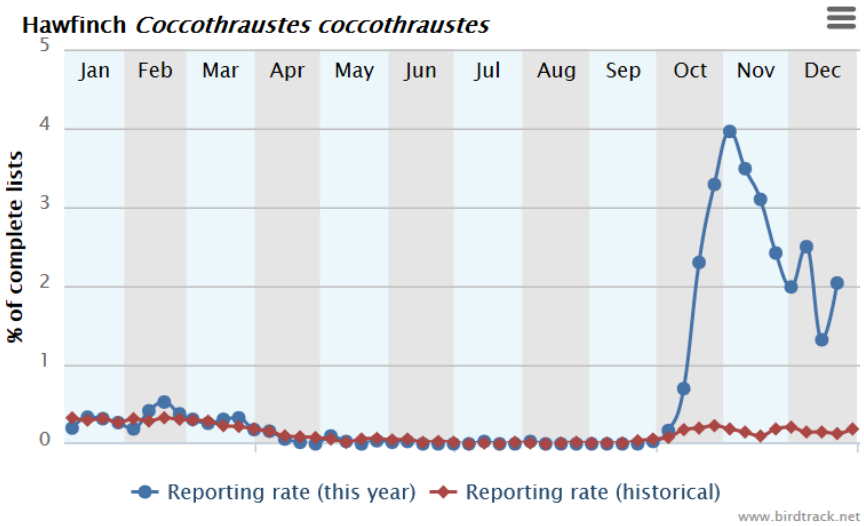
House Sparrow: (101++ – 26) ⇔
Resident. Usually recorded around the urban fringe, seems to be doing well in many areas around the Bay. The bamboo roost at Sandy Close Pond held 101 birds on 11th Dec. 150m away a roost in a dense conifer hedge held a similar number of birds based on the audible chirping of the birds prior to dusk. A 3rd roost 300m from these roosts was smaller. At least 3 other roosts are known. 11 ringed.

Chaffinch: (450 – 26) ⇔
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Max 40 in the arable field 18th Nov. Regular at Sandy Close feeders in both periods, max 20 on 23rd Jan. 2 ringed.

Brambling: (10 - 22)
Scarce winter visitor, which is having a lean spell at the Bay. A much better year, largely thanks to a long staying female at Sandy Close Pond. The first of the year was seen and sound recorded over Lytchett Bay View on 28th Oct. Further overhead migrants were recorded on 15th and 17th Nov. A female arrived at Sandy Close Pond feeders on 25th - 26th Nov, it returned on 10th Dec and was seen until the year end. Finally, one at the arable field on 2nd Dec.

Hawfinch:
First and second records. An unprecedented influx occurred into southern Britain from mid-Oct. Our immediate presumption was that our best chance of finding one at Lytchett Bay was to pick up a migrant on vis-mig. Unfortunately the local weather conditions were far from favourable and days passed without success…..Thankfully the team persisted and on 26th Oct one went west over Lytchett Bay View (JH,NH). Many hours of effort followed without a repeat but as the scale of the influx grew hope remained. Our focus shifted to looking for settled birds in Ash and Field Maple trees. This was rewarded when one was found at French's Farm Fields with Greenfinches on 18th Nov (SR et al). Whilst never easy to see, sightings continued here until 4th Dec, with 2 on 23rd Nov (KEL). See page 46 for Jackie's finders account.

The graph below from Birdtrack shows the scale of the national influx compared to the historic norm.



Greenfinch: (60 – 26) ⇔
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. Much scarcer at Sandy Close Pond than in previous years. Turlin Moor, max 15 and French's Farm, max 12 are the strongholds of this species. 5 ringed.

Goldfinch: (120 – 26) ↗
Common breeding resident and passage migrant. Max counts included 50 in the stubble field in summer and 55 at Lytchett Bay View in Nov. 19 ringed.

Siskin: (280 – 23) ⇔
Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor. Another poor year. Recorded very occasionally throughout the year – 36 bird days on 16 dates. Max 10 on 9th Oct.

Linnet: (250 – 26) ⇔
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. A flock used the stubble field in Mar, max 70 on 15th. Autumn migration peaked with 40 on 23rd Oct. 3 ringed.

Lesser Redpoll: (40 – 21) ⇔
Scarce passage migrant. 1 on 11th Apr was the only bird prior to Oct. There were 18 bird-days on 10 dates between 5th Oct and 19th Nov.

Bullfinch: (20 – 26) ↗
Uncommon but increasing. In keeping with recent years, widely recorded across the area throughout the year, noted in every month, particularly visible in the latter part of the year. Records from across the recording area in Dec suggested that 20+ birds were in the area (a record number) including a max 11 at Sandy Close Pond. 10 ringed

Red Crossbill: (21 – 11)
Scarce passage migrant. 8 over Lytchett Fields on 3rd Jan and 1 over Lytchett Way on 11th Aug.

Yellowhammer: (13 - 16)
Extinct breeding species. Very scarce passage migrant. Two records presumably referring to the same bird on 4th and 8th Dec in the stubble field.

Reed Bunting: (110 – 26) ⇔
Breeding resident. No breeding survey but no reason to suspect any change from 2011 when 23 singing males were present. Birds used the stubble field in both periods. 101 ringed.

The following bird was another one of ringing highlights of 2017. Prior to this our most distant movement for the species was 40km. To add extra spice this bird and the Norwegian Rock Pipit were controlled in the same ringing session!

***6E78963** – An unaged female bird was ringed at Syre, Karmoy, Rogland, NORWAY on 14th Sep 2016. 415 days later on 15th Nov it was controlled at Lytchett Bay. A SSW movement of 1143km.*

***S391322** – A 1stW female bird was ringed at Lytchett Bay on 12th Oct 2017. 19 days later on 31st Oct 2017 it was re-trapped at Tidmoor, The Fleet, Dorset. A W movement of 37km.*

Records received from: I.H.Alexander, P. Ashley (PA) I.Ballam (IB), D.Bandfield, C.Chapleo, M.Constantine, Mo Constantine, T.Elborn, R.Farrington, M.Fitzgerald, R.Gifford, P.Harvey, N.Hoare, N.Hopper, J.Hull (JH), N.Hull (NHu), R. Isherwood-Harris (R I-H), S. Isherwood-Harris (S I-H), K.E.Lane (KEL), M.Lawson, S.Levy, I.M.Lewis (IML), P Morton, H. Murray, S.Neal, G.Owen (GO), S.Robson (SR), K. Rylands, M.Smith, A.Taylor, N.Urch, S.Walls, R.Webb, G.White, M.Wood (MW), L.Woodford (LW), C. White (CW) . With additional information from Bird Track, Holton Lee log, Rare Bird Alert and the Dorset Bird Club. Apologies for any omissions.

Appendix 1 – Finders accounts

Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a new bird for Lytchett Bay – Ian Ballam

I arrived at RSPB Lytchett Fields very early on 15th June. It was rather misty and visibility was limited. I originally picked up the bird on far side of French's Pools by the island (100mtrs away), in early morning mist. I knew immediately it was unusual due to it being smallish with an upright stance. It was near a Grey Plover and was almost half the size. I needed to move to get better views and hope that the mist would continue to burn off. As I was walking round to Whimbrel Field, where the bird would hopefully be closer and the sun would be behind me, I was running through my mind what the bird could be. My 1st thought was a Buff-breast or maybe something like a Pec Sand. I texted Paul Morton to say I had an interesting bird but I needed better views but BB Sand was favourite.

I arrived in Whimbrel Field and was met by the bird flying around the field, it showed light coloured underparts with a chequered brown back without wing bars. The bird landed only about 60m away. It was buff coloured on the breast and below becoming white on the under-tail. It was darker around the neck and shoulder and buff coloured across the head, it also showed a white ring around the eye. It had a short black beak. The back was light brown with the centres of the feather darker giving a scaly appearance. The bird showed a fairly long primary projection and had bright yellow legs which were fairly long compared to size of its body. The bird was feeding happily picking at the surface of the field, it resembled a small Ruff. At this stage I took some pics and sent them to Paul, questioning it as a Buff-breast, he replied YES.

In total I viewed the bird for about 30 minutes but had to leave to do the school run. Liz Woodford watched the bird from 7:30am until 8am. Between Liz leaving and the next visitor arriving at 8:10am the bird disappeared and did not return.

Eds note: The question of whether the bird might have been present on 14th will remain unresolved. SR was abroad and IB was unable to check the Fields on this date. However, a subsequent submission to the BoPH website included a photograph of the Grey Plover (with which the Buff-breast was associating on the 15th) taken on the 14th. Given that a June occurrence of this species is exceptional, might both birds have arrived together?

Another wonderful find for IB at RSPB Lytchett Fields. How many years might we wait for a repeat? (Ian Ballam)

Stilt Sandpiper, a new bird for Lytchett Bay – Shaun Robson

IB and I had been working our patch of RSPB Lytchett Fields very hard. Despite large numbers of common waders, we had not turned up a goodie in recent months. This was particularly galling as Dorset was having its best-ever autumn for rare shorebirds.

On the morning of the 21st September we were due to do one of our bi-weekly high tide counts for the RSPB. Rain was forecast for late morning but had already begun to fall as we prepared for the count.

We started our preliminary scans of French's Pool at around 09:00. Within moments IB said that he had a juv Curlew Sand at the very back of the field, approx. 200m away. I had not seen one for a couple of days so asked for directions to get onto it. Locking my scope on to the bird I immediately realised that the jizz was wrong and said to Ian that it did not look like a Curlew Sand. The legs were too long. The bird was playing hard to get, walking in and out of clumps of rushes. We continued to watch at 60x in the rain, the viewing conditions were far from ideal! The bird was clearly a juv with neatly scaled upperparts. However, the dark feather centres were much stronger than Curlew Sand. I ran through the possibilities and quickly concluded that the bird must be a Stilt Sand, but the legs appeared dark? We kept watching and IB commented that the bill looked largely straight and too long for Curlew Sand. We were getting excited. Eventually the bird walked immediately in front of some dark vegetation and I could ascertain that the legs were indeed pale. We had our own Stilt Sand! The news was released and Nick and Jacqui Hull soon joined us.

After about 30 mins with the tide coming in the bird was pushed off the area where it fed. The long trailing legs beyond the tail could be seen as it flew over our heads. For a moment it looked like it might fly off but amazingly it turned and dropped onto the pool 10m from us!! IB and NH were able to get some record shots. Other observers arrived. Only the 2nd Poole Harbour record.

The bird looked larger than Dunlin but in reality the body was only a little bigger. The main difference in the perception of size being due to its slender shape and exceptionally long yellowish legs. The bill was largely straight with slight downward curvature toward the tip. It was black in colour. The head was proportionately small. The face had dark lores and a strong supercilium that extended well past the eye. This created a dark capped effect to the crown. The upperpart feathers were neatly fringed white with variable but extensive dark centres especially to the scapulars, coverts and tertials. The underparts were white. The only exceptions being the brownish wash to the breast with heavier markings on the breast sides. The rear flanks and under-tail coverts were neatly streaked greyish-brown. The wing tips extended to the tail tip but not beyond. Of all of the alternative WP waders the bird superficially looked closest to a juv Curlew Sand but leg length and colour, bill shape and length, breast markings, upperpart feather detail all differentiated this bird from that species.

Post script:
Thought immediately turned to whether this was the same individual that was found at Lodmoor and was present from 11th - 15th September 2017. Having examined photos of both birds I cannot see any diagnostic difference between them. It has been said that the tone of the two birds was different, however the light conditions and weather conditions, let alone the rain falling when the photos were taken make this a difficult comparison in my view. Given that this is only Britain's 4th juv Stilt Sand, thoughts that a single county might have 2 within a week of each other would seem exceptional and consequently require conclusive evidence? I will leave others to make judgement on this matter.

The bird left Lytchett Fields on the high tide shortly after lunch on 21st. I then relocated the bird back on the fields on morning of the 2nd Oct. By now the bird had started to moult some scapulars and adult type grey winter feathers were appearing. Again the bird left in the mid-afternoon. On the morning of 7th Oct IB called the bird flying into the fields around 10am and we were able to watch it for 2 hours. The moult had progressed to an even greater extent. The bird flew off late morning.

In between times the bird was seen at RSPB Arne in the Middlebere Channel. RBA's first report here was on 24th Sep. Reports then continued almost daily until 2nd Nov. After a gap of 3 weeks the bird was relocated at Brownsea Lagoon on 24th Nov where it remained until xxxx. Early in 2018 the bird was relocated at Coward's Marsh.

The rain lashed down but we were all smiling. Ian Ballam

Hawfinch, a new bird for Lytchett Bay – Jackie Hull

Nick and I arrived at Lytchett Bay View at 7.50 on 26th October in anticipation of some visual migration. While we waited for something to happen we looked over the bay and did a count of the birds around the bay. With good counts of Wigeon, Teal, several Curlew and a few Redshank. This was set against the squeals of four Water Rails and two singing Cetti's Warblers. A Greenshank made an appearance and a Raven "cronked" overhead.

As we noticed a movement of Blackbirds we moved back to our favoured spot for "vis mig". At first we had a few finches but due to the poor light and with no calls we couldn't specify the species. These were followed by a flock of 15, then 6, thrushes, mostly Song Thrush. A flock of 29 Starlings flew east to west, then a flock of 54.

However, it was the small flock of five Starlings that really perked us up as another bird was mixed in with them. An obvious chunky finch with a very obvious short tail, heavy bill and broad wing bar as it flew past us in the direction of our bungalow. Nick immediately realised it was a Hawfinch. It first looked as if it was flying with the Starlings but by the time is was level with us the Starlings had overhauled it and it split from them and continued west alone.

We could hardly contain ourselves a patch first, we both quickly tweeted/texted the news out in the hope Ian was at the fields and it would pass him too. Also to let Shaun know that the Hawfinch irruption had made it to Lytchett Bay.

Appendix 2 – Bird ringing at Lytchett Bay 2017

	Full grown	Retraps/ Pulli	Recoveries	Total
Woodcock	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Woodpigeon	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Nightjar	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Kingfisher	**2**	**0**	**1**	**3**
Great Spotted Woodpecker	**4**	**0**	**1**	**5**
Sand Martin	**5**	**0**	**0**	**5**
Swallow	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**
Tree Pipit	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**
Meadow Pipit	**28**	**0**	**0**	**28**
Rock Pipit	**1**	**0**	**1**	**2**
Water Pipit	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**
Pied/White Wagtail	**26**	**0**	**0**	**26**
Wren	**25**	**0**	**8**	**33**
Dunnock	**9**	**1**	**2**	**12**
Robin	**17**	**0**	**6**	**23**
Redstart	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Stonechat	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**
Blackbird	**28**	**0**	**1**	**29**
Song Thrush	**6**	**0**	**2**	**8**
Redwing	**34**	**0**	**0**	**34**
Cetti's Warbler	**12**	**0**	**9**	**21**
Grasshopper Warbler	**22**	**0**	**0**	**22**
Sedge Warbler	**325**	**0**	**3**	**328**
Reed Warbler	**140**	**0**	**4**	**144**
Dartford Warbler	**2**	**0**	**1**	**3**
Whitethroat	**3**	**0**	**0**	**3**
Garden Warbler	**6**	**0**	**0**	**6**
Blackcap	**37**	**0**	**0**	**37**
Chiffchaff	**129**	**0**	**9**	**138**
Willow Warbler	**82**	**0**	**0**	**82**
Goldcrest	**37**	**0**	**20**	**57**
Firecrest	**5**	**0**	**1**	**6**
Bearded Tit	**52**	**0**	**29**	**81**
Long-tailed Tit	**22**	**0**	**16**	**38**
Coal Tit	**3**	**0**	**0**	**3**
Blue Tit	**95**	**0**	**47**	**142**
Great Tit	**21**	**0**	**7**	**28**
House Sparrow	**11**	**0**	**2**	**13**
Chaffinch	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**
Greenfinch	**5**	**0**	**0**	**5**
Goldfinch	**19**	**0**	**1**	**20**
Linnet	**3**	**0**	**0**	**3**
Lesser Redpoll	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Bullfinch	**10**	**0**	**1**	**11**
Reed Bunting	**101**	**0**	**17**	**118**
Annual Total:	**1342**	**1**	**189**	**1532**

Lytchett Bay

Non-Avian Wildlife Report

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 650 non-avian species, by far the largest group being moths with 462.

Over the past year, Jackie and I, in an aim to increase our knowledge to help enlarge the patch wildlife list attended courses on identification of a number of insect groups and we have managed to enlarge the 2017 list by 70 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. I would also like to thank the following people for their help in verifying and help with identification of various insect groups. Tony Allen (Beetles); Stewart Roberts BWARS (Bees & Wasps); Jez Martin (Spiders); Paul Harris and Sean Foote (Moths).

This year we had the results of a botanical survey carried out in the Arable field by RSPB and it was found that there were a number of interesting arable plants making the field nationally important. Jackie Hull, David Blakeley, Fran Aldous, and Alison Harker have continued adding to the areas botanical list by making two exploratory visits, one to the Purple Heron Field and another to Chad Copse Border Drive area. Hopefully this will continue in the future and we will eventually have a better knowledge of the botanical value of the whole of the Lytchett Bay area.

Request

Many people now visit RSPB Lytchett Fields, Lytchett Heath, Lytchett Bay View and Chad Copse area, I'm sure many of you have interests in more than just the birdlife and record Dragonflies, butterflies etc. It would be great if you would spend a couple of minutes to e-mail me your sightings at **nickh4142@gmail.com** as this will greatly improve our knowledge of the patch and what it has, but most importantly it will help in its future conservation.

Thank you.

Mammals

Sixteen species of mammal have been recorded on the Lytchett patch but no new species have been added during 2017. Five species haven't been recorded during 2017 they are Badger, Weasel, Bank Vole, Common Shrew and Serotine Bat. One very nice record this year was that of Roe Deer as none had been recorded after a poaching incident in 2016, we have had regular sightings since 27 March this year.

Buck, Roe Deer

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Sika Deer	Cervus nippon	1st Jan
Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	27th Mar
Fox	Vulpes vulpes	28th Feb
Otter	Lutra lutra	3rd May
Stoat	Mustela erminea	17th Mar
Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	03rd Apr
Water Vole	Arvicola amphibius	April
Wood Mouse	Apodemus sylvaticus	29th Mar
Grey Squirrel	Sciurus carolinensis	17th Feb
Common Pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Recorded
Mole	Talpa europaea	1st Jan
Common Seal	Phoca vitulina	11th July
Brown Rat	Rattus norvegicus	Recorded

Amphibians & Reptiles

Nine species have been recorded in 2017 the only addition was a much overdue record of Common Toad, a species that has eluded being recorded. It appears we've been looking in the wrong places as all three records have been under old sheds and found when they were being removed or replaced.

Also very nice was recording Sand Lizard for the first time since 2014 proving they are still on our remnant areas of heathland though it appears our Adder population has reduced severely, hopefully this isn't an on-going trend.

Sand Lizard

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Common Frog	Rana temporaria	17th Feb
Common Toad	Bufo bufo	Date Unknown
Common Lizard	Lacerta vivipara	18th Apr
Sand Lizard	Lacerta agilis	18th Apr
Slow Worm	Anguis fragilis	30th May
Palemate Newt	Lissotriton helveticus	17th Feb
Smooth Newt	Lissotriton vulgaris	31st Mar
Grass Snake	Natrix natrix	30th Mar
Adder	Vipera berus	18th Apr
Common Frog	Rana temporaria	17th Feb
Common Lizard	Lacerta vivipara	18th Apr

Dragonflies & Damselflies

To date twenty species of Odonata have been recorded within the area only two species were not reported in 2017, Common Hawker and Scarce Chaser. All other species seem to be doing well and this year Black Darter, a species that we have only recorded once or twice each year, seems to have had a good season and benefited by the wild flowers in the Arable Field where they were recorded on most visits during the season.

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Beautiful Demoiselle	Calopteryx virgo	16th May
Large Red Damselfly	Pyrrhosoma nymphula	18th Apr
Azure Damselfly	Coenagrion puella	23rd May
Common Blue Damselfly	Enallagma cyathigerum	7th Aug
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Ischnura elegans	6th July
Hairy Dragonfly	Brachytron pratense	25th May
Common Hawker	Aeshna juncea	Not recorded
Migrant Hawker	Aeshna mixta	31st Jul
Southern Hawker	Aeshna cyanea	31st Jul
Golden-ringed Dragonfly	Cordulegaster boltonii	26th June
Common Darter	Sympetrum striolatum	13th Aug
Black Darter	Sympetrum danae	1st Aug
Ruddy Darter	Sympetrum sanguineum	14th Aug
Brown Hawker	Aeshna grandis	16th July
Broad-bodied Chaser	Libellula depressa	26th May
Four-Spotted Chaser	Libellula quadrimaculats	30th May
Scarce Chaser	Libellula fulva	Not recorded
Black-tailed Skimmer	Orthetrum coerulescens	30th May
Keeled Skimmer	Orthetrum cancellatum	30th May
Emperor Dragonfly	Anax imperator	4th Aug

Lepidoptera
Butterflies & Moths

As the Lytchett Bay recording area has a good variety of different habitats we have a good variety of species. Twenty-five species of Butterfly have been recorded and unsurprisingly the only species not found this year was the 'helice' form of Clouded Yellow. Amazingly we recorded the second record of Grayling for the patch which again was found in our garden on our Buddleia.

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Essex Skipper	Thymelicus lineola	1st Aug
Small Skipper	Thymelicus sylvestris	17th July
Large Skipper	Ochlodes venata	Recorded
Clouded Yellow	Colias croceus	10th Aug
Clouded Yellow ssp. *helice*	Colias croceus helice	Not recorded
Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni	10th Mar
Large White	Pieris brassicae	1st may
Small White	Pieris rapae	7th Apr
Green-viened White	Pieris napi	10th May
Grayling	Hipparchia semele	16th July
Marbled White	Melanargia galathea	3rd July
Orange Tip	Anthocharis cardamines	5th Apr
Purple Hairstreak	Quercusia quercus	1st July
Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas	23rd May
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus	15th July
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	13th Apr
Painted Lady	Cynthia cardui	27th Mar
Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	27th Mar
Peacock	Inachis io	26th Mar
Comma	Polygonia c-album	27th Mar
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	1st Apr
Gatekeeper	Pyronia tithonus	26th June
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	17th Jun

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Ringlet	Aphantopus hyperantus	17th Jun
Painted Lady	Cynthia cardui	27th Mar
Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	27th Mar
Peacock	Inachis io	26th Mar
Comma	Polygonia c-album	27th Mar
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	1st Apr
Gatekeeper	Pyronia tithonus	26th June
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	17th Jun
Ringlet	Aphantopus hyperantus	17th Jun

Common Blue

Grayling

Moths

In 2017 I had the moth trapped out on 31 occasions and caught 1,416 moths of 284 species. This brings the total number of species recorded on the Lytchett Bay recording area to 464 species since 2012.

In 2017 we added 63 species not recorded before, four of these couldn't be put to species without genitalia examination which is something I'm not comfortable with unless I find them deceased in the trap already. One species caught this year, though Poole Harbour is one of very few sites for the species in the UK where its recorded, but new to the Lytchett patch was Flame Wainscot a nationally important species. Time will tell if this species just wandered from Arne or Brownsea Island or moved down the Sherford River from Moreton Bog and now breeding in the reedbeds of Lytchett Bay.

A number of species in the list have ‘agg’ written next to the name, this means for a definitive identification the species requires to be dissected to determine the species. Those species which have ‘agg’ next to them to indicate the most likely of the species I’ve named first.

As the moth list is quite large and would cover around ten further pages, I’ve only included below the rare and new species recorded in 2017. If anyone is interested in a copy of the complete Lytchett list please e-mail me at nickh4142@gmail.com to request a copy.

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

Species	Scientific Name	Code
Korscheltellus lupulina	Common Swift	3.002
Roeslerstammia erxlebella		13.002
Caloptilia semifascia		15.012
Phyllonorycter messaniella		15.040
Yponomeuta malinellus	Apple Ermine	16.003
Yponomeuta irrorella		16.006
Argyresthia cupressella	Cypress Tip Moth	20.007
Argyresthia goedartella		20.012
Agonopterix arenella		32.017
Cosmopterix scribaiella		34.008
Bryotropha senectella		35.046
Gelechia sororculella		35.101
Caryocolum junctella		35.138
Coleophora solitariella		37.100
Batrachedra praeangusta		36.001
Coleophora alnifoliae		37.010

Species	Scientific Name	Code
Amblyptilia acanthadactyla	Beautiful Plume	45.010
Amblyptilia punctidactyla	Brindled Plume	45.011
Spatalistis bifasciana		49.058
Acleris forsskaleana		49.062
Acleris aspersana		49.078
Phalonidia manniana		49.101
Celypha lacunana		49.166
Endothenia oblongana		49.187
Epinotia ramella		49.249
Notocelia cynosbatella		49.292
Dichrorampha acuminatana		49.313
Selania leplastriana		49.346
Grapholita compositella		49.347
Grapholita janthinana		49.359
Aphomia sociella	Bee Moth	62.001
Synaphe punctalis**		62.070
Hypsopygia costalis	Gold Triangle	62.075
Eudonia delunella**		63.070
Calamotropha paludella**		63.079
Chrysoteuchia culmella		63.080
Anania crocealis		63.022
Scoparia ambigualis		63.064
Agriphila selasella		63.092
Catoptria falsella		63.102
Acentria ephemerella	Water Veneer	63.115
Idaea subsericeata	Satin Wave	70.009
Idaea sylvestraria	Dotted Border Wave	70.010
Scopula ternata **	Smoky Wave **	70.026
Eupithecia virgaureata	Golden-rod Pug	70.161
Colotois pennaria	Feathered Thorn	70.244
Dingy Mocha **	Cyclophora pendularia **	70.030
Ptilodon capucina	Coxcomb Prominent	71.021
Eilema caniola	Hoary Footman	72.047
Amphipyra tragopoginis	Mouse Moth	73.064
Helicoverpa armigera	Scarce Bordered Straw	73.076
Nonagria typhae	Bulrush Wainscot	73.136
Oligia fasciuncula	Middle-barred Minor	73.176
Agrochola lychnidis	Beaded Chestnut	73.186
Agrochola lota	Red-line Quaker	73.189
Agrochola macilenta	Yellow-line Quaker	73.190

Conistra vaccinii	Chestnut	73.194
Parastichtis suspecta	Suspected	73.221
Griposia aprilina	Merveille du Jour	73.224
Dryobotodes eremita	Brindled Green	73.225
Senta flammea	Flame Wainscot***	73.305
Diarsia brunnea	Purple Clay	73.332
Meganola albula	Kent Black Arches	74.002
Epirrita dilutata agg.	November moth agg.	1795x
Phycitodes maritima/saxicola	Phycitodes maritima/saxicola agg.	1485x
Acleris ferrugana/notana	Acleris ferrugana/notana agg.	1044x
Zygaena trifolii/lonicerae	Five-spot Burnet / Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet agg.	0170x

Other Insect Species Recorded

The following categories are those that for me are the most difficult to identify, but I have now completed a number of courses on how to go about identifying some of these groups. Though the learning curve still feels rather steep it's been a very enjoyable process. Though help by a number of experts has been essential and been invaluable. It has enabled me to add a total of sixty nine species that haven't been recorded before, all undoubtedly common species in the area.

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

Over the 2017 season I've been able to enlarge the Bee species from seven species to thirteen most have been caught either in my garden or conservatory. There has been another four species which are not listed as they couldn't be identified with certainty to species level hopefully I'll be able to add these next year.

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Honey Bee	Apis mellifera	17th Feb
White-tailed Bumble Bee	Bombus lucorum	20th Feb
Early Bumble Bee	Bombus pratorum	26th Mar
Buff-tailed Bumble Bee	Bombus terrestris	2nd Mar
Common Carder Bee	Bombus pascuorum	26th Mar

Common Wool Carder Bee	Anthidium manicatum	26th June
Red Mason Bee	Osmia bicornis	5th Apr
Slender Mining Bee	Lasioglossum calceatum	26th June
Bee sp.	Andrena labiata	26th June
Bee sp.	Andrena flavipes	26th June
Solitary Bee	Colletes daviesanus	26th June
Leafcutter Bee	Megachile centuncularis	24th June

Wasps

Seventeen species of wasp have been recorded but only seven species were recorded this year and two Ichneumon wasp were recorded for the first time.

I was also able to add another sub-family to this group this year, that of the Gall Wasp/fly and Jackie and I managed to identify eight species, all but one was found on trees and shrubs around Chad Copse.

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Common Wasp	Vespula vulgaris	26th Mar
Norwegian Wasp	Dolichovespula norwegica	13th Aug
Sand Tailed Digger Wasp	Cerceris arenaria	2nd July
Black Ant	Lasius nigra	3rd Mar
Red Ant	Myrmica rubra	27th Mar
Ichneumon	Amblyteles armatorius	26th June

Ichneumon	Ichneumon xanthorius	7th Apr
Ichneumon	Netelia virigata	1st Sept
Knopper Gall	Andricus quercuscalicis	7th Aug
Marble Gall	Andricus kollari	7th Aug
Silk Button Spangle Gall	Neuroterus numismalis	7th Aug
Common Spangle Gall	Neuroterus quarcusbaccarum	7th Aug
Cherry Gall	Cynips quercusfolii	7th Aug
Robins Pincushion	Diplolepis rosae	7th Aug
Artichoke Gall Wasp	Andricus foecundatrix	7th Aug
Gall Midge	Iteomyia major	1st July

Orthoptera & allies

Grasshoppers, Crickets, Stick-insects & Cockroaches

In Britain and Ireland there are 37 native species, the group is enlarged by a number of naturalised and doubtful native species which includes stick-insects and larger Cockroaches. After taking a course on Orthoptera identification I managed to key out to confirm two more species previously not recorded, bringing the patch list to nine species of grasshopper and cricket. Only one species wasn't recorded, possibly just overlooked this year, that was Speckled Bush Cricket.

Species	Scientific Name	First Date Seen
Dark Bush Cricket	Pholidoptera griseoaptera	1st Aug
Mottled Cricket	Myrmeleotettix maculatus	13th Aug
Speckled Bush Cricket	Leptophyes punctatissima	Not recorded
Roesel's Bush Cricket	Metrioptera roeselii	Recorded
Long-winged Cone-head	Conocephalus discolor	17th July
Short-winged Cone-head	Conocephalus dorsalis	16th July
Lesser Marsh Grasshopper,	Chorthippus albomarginatus	12th Aug
Woodland Grasshopper	Omocestus rufipes	16th July
Field Grasshopper	Chorhippus brunneus	26th June

Field Grasshopper

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper

Arachnids
Spiders, Ticks & Scorpions

Of the 650 species of spider in the UK we have recorded just 15, these have been mainly the larger more obvious species, so we have a long way to go in the recording of this group. I have only added three species to the list this year, one of them being Harvestman.

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Crab Spider	Misumena vatia	27th Mar
Zebra Spider	Salticus scenicus	7th Apr
House Spider	Achaearanea tepidariorum	15th Apr
Garden Spider	Araneus diadematus	26th Mar
Nursery Web Spider	Pisaura mirabilis	Recorded
Labyrinth Spider	Agelena labyrinthica	25th May
Wasp Spider	Argiope bruennichi	7th Aug
False Widow Spider	Steatoda nobilis	5th Apr
Raft Spider	Dolomedes fimbriatus	6th Sep
Wolf spider sp.	Lycosidae sp.	Recorded
Money Spider	Lepthyphantes sp.	20th Feb
Spider sp.	Zygiella x-notata	28th May
Candy-striped Spider agg.	Enoplognatha ovata or latimana	20th July
Harvestman	Leiobunum rtundum	12th Aug

Nurseryweb Spider

Candy-striped Spider

Diptera
Flies & Relatives

As with the other groups without anyone that is an expert in the field to identify these species we have continued to record what we can. I attended a identification course on how to id Hoverflies and that has enabled me to key out a number of species and add to the growing patch list. 62 species have so far been identified and I've added 28 species to the growing list in 2017.

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
House Fly	Musca domesticus	17th Apr
Square-spot Deerfly	Chrysops viduatus	6th July
Bright Horsefly	Hybomitra distinguenda	24th June
Large Marsh Horsefly	Tabanus autumnalis	25th July
Flesh Fly sp.	Sarcophaga-sp.	18th Apr
Greenbottle	Lucillia sericata	18th Apr
Blow Fly (Greenbottle)	Lucilia caesar	24th June
Mosquitoe	Culex pipiens	17th Feb
Crane Fly sp.	Tipula fulvipennis	1st Aug
Common Crane Fly	Tipula oleracea	15th Apr

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Giant Crane Fly	Tipula Maxima	10th May
Crane Fly sp.	Nephrotoma flavipalpis	Recorded
St. Mark's Fly	Bibio marci	21st Apr
Flecked Snout (soldierfly sp.)	Nemotelus notatus	25th June
Bee-fly	Bombylius major	26th Mar
Moth-fly sp.	Psychodidae sp. (Black)	17th Apr
Drone Fly (Hover Fly)	Eristalis tenax	22nd Mar
Hover-fly	Eristalis pertinax	Recorded
Hover-fly	Eristalis arbustorum	2nd Sep
Hover-fly	Eristalis nemorum	12th Aug
Hoverfly	Volucella inanis	6th July
Large Hover-fly	Volucella zonaria	12th Aug
Hover-fly	Volucella pellucens	23rd June
Pied Hoverfly	Scaeva pyrastri	8th July
Hoverfly - sp	Eupeodes corollae	8th July
Hoverfly	Eupeodes sp. pos E. luniger	12th Aug
Marmalade Fly (Hover Fly)	Episyrphus balteatus	14th Apr
Hoverfly sp.	Syrphus sp. pos S. virtripennis	12th Aug
Hoverfly - sp.	Merodon equestris	10th May
Hoverfly - sp.	Merodon equestris bulborum	10th May
Hoverfly - sp	Sphaerophoria scripta	26th June

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Hoverfly-sp	Eristalinus sepulchralis	26th June
Hover-fly sp.	Myathropa florea	2nd Sept
Fly sp.	Myopa testacea	16th Apr
Fly sp.	Rivellia syngenesiae	10th May
Flecked Snout	Neemotelus notatus	24th June
Marsh Snipefly	Rhagio tringarius	24th June
Little Snipefly	Chrysopilus asiliformis	24th June
Broad Centurian	Chloromyia formosa	24th June
Hoverfly sp.	Syrphus sp. pos S. virtripennis	12th Aug
Hoverfly - sp.	Merodon equestris	10th May
Hoverfly - sp.	Merodon equestris bulborum	10th May
Hoverfly - sp	Sphaerophoria scripta	26th June
Hoverfly-sp	Eristalinus sepulchralis	26th June
Hover-fly sp.	Myathropa florea	2nd Sept
Fly sp.	Myopa testacea	16th Apr
Fly sp.	Rivellia syngenesiae	10th May
Flecked Snout	Neemotelus notatus	24th June
Marsh Snipefly	Rhagio tringarius	24th June
Little Snipefly	Chrysopilus asiliformis	24th June
Broad Centurian	Chloromyia formosa	24th June
Sawfly sp.	Tenthredo pos T. arcuata	12th Aug
Bramble Sawfly	Arge cyanocrocea	17th July
Large Rose Sawfly	Arge pagana	25th May
Caddis Fly - Mottle Sedge	Glyphotaelius pellucidus	23rd May
Caddis Fly	Leptocerus tineiformis	8th July
Grouse Wing (Caddis sp.)	Mystacides longicornis	25th May
Hornet Robberfly	Asilus crabroniformis	17th Aug
Robber Fly	Dysmachus trigonus	3rd July
Kite-tailed Robberfly	Machimus atricapillus	16th Aug
Parasitic Fly	Eriothrix-rufomaculata	8th July
Lacewing	Wesmaelius nervosus	3rd July

Coleoptera
Beetles, Ladybirds & Bugs

We have brought the beetle and bug list up to 56 species but only 28 species were recorded this year of these 20 were recorded for the first time.

A number of the large beetles such as The Sexton, Carrion and Dung beetles recorded are usually found in my moth trap and they often have small mites roaming over them. I thought these were parasitic on the beetle but after doing some research found the following explanation.

Sexton Beetle

The Burying Beetle often transport small mites, these mites use the Burying Beetle to travel from location to location, a phenomenon known as phoresy, in order to take advantage of flight to access a new food source. Burying Beetles will bury small dead creatures like birds or mice and lay eggs on the carcass, the young feed on the rotting flesh. The mites feed on fly eggs and maggots, so phoresy is mutually advantageous to the mites and the Burying Beetles. The mites get a food source and the Burying Beetle benefits because more rotting flesh is available to its progeny.

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
Stag Beetle	Lucanus cervus	2nd June
Beetle sp.	Silpha atrata	29th Mar
Pollen Beetle sp.	Meligethes viridescens / M. aeneus	24th June
Beetle sp.	Aphodius granarius	2nd Aug
Great Diving Beetle	Dytiscus marginalis	Recorded
Golden-Bloomed Grey Longhorn Beetle	Agapanthia villosoviridescens	23rd June
Shore Sexton Beetle	Necrodes littoralis	25th May
Common Cockchafer	Melolontha melolontha	8th July
Marsh Beetle	Cytilus sericeus	7th May
Soldier Beetle	Cantharis nigricans	8th May
Soldier Beetle	Rhagonycha Limbata	1st July

Species	Scientific Name	First Date
7-Spot Ladybird	Coccinella 7-punctata	21st Apr
11-spot Ladybird	Coccinella 11-punctata	7th Apr
14-spot Ladybird	Propylea-14-punctata	28th July
Cream-spot Ladybird	Calvia quattuordecimguttata	25th May
Harlequin Ladybird	Harmonia axyridis	25th May
Weevil	Curculio venosus	1st Aug
Leafhopper	Zygina flammigera	1st Aug
Leafhopper	Iassus lanio	3rd July
Leafhopper	Idiocerus decimusquartus	3rd July
Common Malachite Beetle	Malachius bipustulatus	25th June

Dock Leatherbug

Hairy Sheildbug

Botany

This is a massive subject but as mentioned above a start has been made by the RSPB and with the help of more knowledgable friends we have begun compiling a list of the botanical biodiversity of the Lytchett Patch. This is a rather long list as it's the first year as part of this report so all plants have been included. In future it will only contain newly identified species in the particular year involved.

Species	Scientific Name	Location

Cow Parsley	Anthriscus sylvestris	Purple Heron Field
Green Alkanet	Pentaglottis sempervirens	Purple Heron Field
Lesser Spearwort	Ranunculus flammula	Purple Heron Field
Lesser Celandine	Ficaria verna	Purple Heron Field
Common or Stinging Nettle	Urtica dioica	Purple Heron Field
Red Campion	Silene dioica	Purple Heron Field
Greater Stitchwort	Stellaria holostea	Purple Heron Field
Common Bog Stitchwort ?	Stellaria alpine	Purple Heron Field
Common Chickweed	Stellaria media	Purple Heron Field
Broad-leaved Dock	Rumex obtusifolius	Purple Heron Field
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	Purple Heron Field
Meadowsweet	Filipendula ulmaria	Purple Heron Field
Silverweed	Potentilla anserina	Purple Heron Field
Tufted Vetch	Vicia sylvatica	Purple Heron Field
Rosebay	Chamerion augustifolium	Purple Heron Field
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium	Purple Heron Field
Bluebell	Hyacinthoides non-scriptus	Purple Heron Field
Hemlock Water Dropwort	Oenanthe crocata	Purple Heron Field
Cleavers	Galium aparine	Purple Heron Field
Marsh Bedstraw	Galium palustre	Purple Heron Field

Species	Scientific Name	Location
Herb Robert	Geranium robertianum	Purple Heron Field

Yellow Archangel	Lamiastrum galeobdolon sap argentatum	Purple Heron Field
Wood Forget-me-not	Myosotis sylvatica	Purple Heron Field
Herb Bennett	Geum urban	Purple Heron Field
Foxglove	Digitalis purpurea	Purple Heron Field
Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata	Purple Heron Field
Red dead nettle	Lamium purpureum	Purple Heron Field
White dead nettle	Lamium album	Purple Heron Field
Yellow Archangel	Lamiastrum galeobdolon sap argentatum	Purple Heron Field
Ground Ivy	Glechoma hederacea	Purple Heron Field
Meadow Buttercup	Ranunculus acris	Purple Heron Field
Hairy Buttercup	Ranunculus sardous	Purple Heron Field
Greater Spearwort	Ranunculus lingua	Purple Heron Field
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens	Purple Heron Field
Lesser Periwinkle	Vinca minor (escape?)	Purple Heron Field
Germander Speedwell	Veronica chamaedrys	Purple Heron Field
Ivy-leaved Speedwell	Veronica hederifolia	Purple Heron Field
Marsh Yellow-cress?	Rorippa paulustris	Purple Heron Field
Ladie's Smock	Cardamine pratentis	Purple Heron Field
Water Mint	Mentha aquatica	Purple Heron Field
Shepherd's Purse	Capsella bursa-pastoris	Purple Heron Field
Dwarf Thistle	Cirsium acaule	Purple Heron Field
Creeping Jenny	Lysimachia nummularia	Purple Heron Field
Yellow Flag	Iris pseudacorus	Purple Heron Field
Common Comfrey	Symphytum officinale	Purple Heron Field
Hedge Woundwort	Stachys sylvatica	Purple Heron Field

Species	Scientific Name	Location
Fat Hen	Chenopodium album	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Wood Dock	Rumex sanguineus	Lytchett View/Chad Copse

Common Sorrel	Rumex acetosa	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Common Bistort	Persicaria bistorta	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Creeping Cinquefoil	Potentilla reptans	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Birds Foot Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Meadow Vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Smooth Tare	Vicia tetrasperma	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Tufted Vetch	Vicia sylvatica	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Black Medick	Medicago lupulina	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
White Clover	Trifolium repens	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Grass Vetchling	Lathyrus aphaca	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Rosebay	Chamerion augustifolium	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Hoary Willowherb	Epilobium parviflorum	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Enchanter's Nightshade	Circaea lutetiana	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Dandelion	Leontodon taraxacum	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Sherpherd's Purse	Capella burse-pastoris	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Greater Plantain	Plantar major	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Dogrose	Rosa canina	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Red Bartsia	Odontites vernus	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Ragwort	Jacobaea vulgaris	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Marsh Thistle	Cirsium palustre	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Black Knapweed	Centaurea nigra	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Perforate St. Johns Wort	Hypericum perforatum	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Mayweed	Anthems cutula	Lytchett View/Chad Copse

Species	Scientific Name	Location
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Crested Dog's Tail	Cynosures cristatus	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Mare's Tail	Hippuris vulgaris	Lytchett View/Chad Copse

Betony	Stachys officinalis	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Wooly Thistle	Cirisium eriophorum	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Meadow Cranesbill	Geranium pratense	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Herb Robert	Geranium robertianum	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Woody Nightshade	Solanum dulcamara	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Creeping Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Lords and Ladies	Arum maculatum	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Wild Parsnip	Pastinaca sativa	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Cut-leaved Cranesbill	Geranium dissectum	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Marsh Ragwort	Jacobaea aquatica	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Hazel	Corylus avellana	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
English Oak	Quercus robur	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Hawthorn	Crataegus	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Ivy	Hedera helix	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Holly	Ilex aquifolium	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Gorse	Ulex europaeus	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Yorkshire Fog	Holcus lanatus	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Common Rush	Juncus effusus	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Purple Moor Grass	Molina caerulea	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Jointed Rush	Juncus articulatus	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Pendulous Sedge	Carex pendula	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
False Fox Sedge?	Carex otrubae	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Hazel	Corylus avellana	Lytchett View/Chad Copse

Species	Scientific Name	Location
Pedunculate Oak aka English Oak	Quercus robur	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Common Reed	Phragmites australis	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Reedmace	Typha latifolia	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Ivy	Hedera helix	Lytchett View/Chad Copse

Holly	Ilex aquifolium	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Goat Willow	Salix caprea	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Grey Willow	Salix cinerea	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Sweet Chestnut	Castanea sativa	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Hard Rush	Juncus inflexus	Lytchett View/Chad Copse
Three-cornered Garlic	Allium ursinum	Purple Heron Field
Garlic Mustard	Alliaria petiolata	Purple Heron Field
Lords and Ladies	Arum maculatum	Purple Heron Field

The Arable field has some very important and fairly scarce arable plants, Corn Marigold, Small Flowering Catchfly, Corn Spurrey and Weasel's Snout are four that standout above the rest which makes the field a very important arable habitat.

Species	Scientific Name	Location
Corn Marigold (7)	Glebionis segetum	Arable Field
Scarlet Pimpernel	Anagallis arvensis	Arable Field
Common Field-speedwell	Veronica persica	Arable Field
Field pansy	Viola arvensis	Arable Field
Black-bindweed	Fallopian convolvulus	Arable Field
Charlock	Sinapis arvensis	Arable Field
Shaggy Soldier	Galinsoga quadriradiata	Arable Field
Fool's Parsley	Aethusa cynapium	Arable Field

Species	Scientific Name	Location
Groundsel	Senecio vulgaris	Arable Field
Canadian Fleabane	Conyza canadensis	Arable Field
Chichory	Cichorium intybus	Arable Field
Shepherd's Purse	Capella bursa-pastoris	Arable Field
Lesser Quaking Grass (5)	Briza minor	Arable Field
Great Plantain	Plantar major	Arable Field

Common Poppy	Papaver rhoeas	Arable Field
Marsh Cudweed	Gnaphalium uliginosum	Arable Field
Common Fumitory	Fumaria officinalis	Arable Field
Scentless Mayweed	Tripleurospermum inodorum	Arable Field
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens	Arable Field
White Clover	Trifolium repens	Arable Field
Nipplewort	Lapsana communis	Arable Field
Knotgrass (agg)	Polygonum sp.	Arable Field
Red Dead-nettle	Lamium purpureum	Arable Field
Common Chickweed	Stellar media	Arable Field
Creeping Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Arable Field
Hedge Mustard	Sisymbrium officinale	Arable Field
Fat-hen	Chenopodium album	Arable Field
Sheep's Sorrel	Rumex acetosella	Arable Field
Wood Dock	Rumex sanguineus	Arable Field
Prickly Sow-thistle	Sonchus asper	Arable Field
Apple-of-Peru	Nicandra physalodes	Arable Field
Tufted Vetch	Vicia cracca	Arable Field
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense	Arable Field
Field Woundwort (6)	Stachys arvensis	Arable Field
Ragwort	Jacobaea vulgaris	Arable Field
Common Stork's-bill (1)	Europium cicutarium	Arable Field

Small-flowered Catchfly

Weasel's Snout

Species	Scientific Name	Location
Broad-leaved Dock	Rumex obtusifolius	Arable Field
Many-seeded Goosefoot (2)	Lipandra polysperma	Arable Field
Small Bugloss (1)	Anchusa arvensis	Arable Field
Black Nightshade	Solanum nigrum	Arable Field
Ribwort Plantain	Plantar lanceolata	Arable Field
Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Geranium molle	Arable Field
Common Nettle	Utica dioica	Arable Field
Small-flowered Catchfly (8)	Silene gallica	Arable Field
Burdock spp	Arctium spp.	Arable Field
Small-flowered Crane's-bill (2)	Geranium pusillum	Arable Field

Species	Scientific Name	Location
Common Vetch	Vicia sativa	Arable Field
Dandelion agg	Leontodon spp.	Arable Field
Corn Spurrey (7)	Spergula arvensis	Arable Field
Weasel's Snout (7)	Misopates orontium	Arable Field
Cleavers	Galium aparine	Arable Field
Black Medick	Medicago lupulina	Arable Field
Redshank	Persicaria maculosa	Arable Field
Purple Loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	Arable Field
Sharp-leaved Fluellen (2)	Kickxia elatine	Arable Field
Smooth Sow-thistle	Sonchus oleraceus	Arable Field
Mugwort	Artemisia vulgaris	Arable Field
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium	Arable Field
Spear Thistle	Cirsium vulgare	Arable Field
Rape	Brassica napus	Arable Field
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	Arable Field

Corn Marigold

Corn Spurrey

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