



***Bird Report  
2020***

## **Introduction**

This report includes entries for all of the 177 free-flying bird species seen during 2020 in The Swannery recording area. This consists of The Swannery grounds and adjoining withy-beds, reed-beds and flood-meadows and that part of the West Fleet, Chesil Bank and adjoining farmland that can be easily viewed from the Swannery. It does not include the seaward side of Abbotsbury Beach and therefore all the seabirds included were recorded on or over The Fleet from The Swannery.

Unless otherwise credited, the sightings were made by The Swannery staff namely Kevin Butler, Sam Cridland, Rachel Dunn, Steve Groves, Joe Stockwell, Charlie Wheeler and Jonny White, along with the WeBS counters (see below). The records are believed to be 100% certain, although some of the records of official British or Dorset rarities may not yet to be ratified by the relevant authorities.

The British (English) vernacular, international English and scientific bird names, taxonomic treatments and the systematic list order used in this report all follow the British Ornithologists' Union's official list of birds of Great Britain. Some distinctive subspecies are also included under the relevant species accounts. The English names given for subspecies are largely based upon 'Birding World – A Checklist of Bird Forms in Britain and Ireland'.

A 'count table' is included in the entries of most of the commoner wetland species and a few others. In these tables the monthly 'maxima' are the highest day counts for each month. Bird-days are the total of the maximum daily counts during a month or other period. A dash (-) in the tables indicates no data is available for that month. The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts carried out at The Swannery are part of the WeBS counts for the entire Fleet and are not treated as separate counts other than for the purpose of this report. Also, they are not necessarily the peak counts for each month but are used when no other counts are available. Alan Barrett, Steve Groves and Nick Urch were the counters for the section of The Fleet that includes The Swannery recording area during 2020.

## Species accounts

### Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

*An introduced casual visitor from release sites nearby.*

**All records:** Singles were seen on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April; 6<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> November.

### Pheasant (Common Pheasant) *Phasianus colchicus*

*An introduced common breeding resident with regular influxes due to releases nearby.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** Several broods were seen.

### Brent Goose (Brant Goose) *Branta bernicla*

*Three distinct forms occurred...*

#### 'Russian Brant' ('Dark-bellied Brent Goose') *Branta bernicla bernicla*

*A common passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**All records...**

**Winter/spring:** Five on the 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Autumn/winter:** Singles on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October; a flock of over eighty on the 17<sup>th</sup> November.

#### 'Atlantic Brant' ('Pale-bellied Brent Goose') *Branta bernicla horota*

*A scarce passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**All records...** One on the 12<sup>th</sup> October; two on the 28<sup>th</sup> October.

#### 'Pacific Brant' ('Black Brant') *Branta bernicla nigricans*

*A County Rarity. No previous Swannery records.*

**All records...** One on the 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

*A common naturalised breeding resident, moult migrant & winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year with a pronounced influx during the moulting period.

**Breeding:** Several pairs attempted to nest but only two were successful.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
110	125	56	-	60	825	850	123	450	320	100	200

### Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

*A regular visitor of both natural & naturalised origin.*

**All records...**

**Spring:** Three flew east on the 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Summer:** One lingered from the 4<sup>th</sup> June to the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

**Autumn/winter:** Thirteen were present briefly on the 10<sup>th</sup> December and eleven on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. Both latter flocks were presumed to be part of the wintering flock of unknown origin that regularly occur at nearby Rodden Hive.

### Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

*A regular visitor, mostly of reintroduced stock but a few spring migrants probably of natural origin.*

**All records...**

**Spring:** In March nine flew east on the 6<sup>th</sup>; two flew north on the 16<sup>th</sup> and one was present on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer:** At least one individual was seen regularly from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> June.

**Autumn/winter:** One was present on the 16<sup>th</sup> October.

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### Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

A near naturalised non-native introduction that is now an annual visitor. Has bred.

**Summary:** Between one and three were present regularly from at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> January to the 5<sup>th</sup> May but there were no subsequent records until one arrived on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. The latter remained to at least the 29<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Monthly maxima / WeBS counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

### Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

A common breeding resident, moult migrant & winter visitor.

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** One hundred and six pairs nested or at least attempted to do so and around one hundred and seventy cygnets fledged.

#### WeBS counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
700	750	650	-	620	735	690	742	690	705	600	420

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

A County Rarity. A scarce passage migrant & winter visitor to the Swannery.

**All records:** The resident bird (of now presumed captive origin) was present throughout the year. In addition, two (presumed wild birds) arrived on the 28<sup>th</sup> September and another on the 12<sup>th</sup> October. All three then remained (with the resident bird) until the end of the year.

### Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

A scarce but increasing naturalised visitor.

**All records...**

**Winter/spring:** Twenty-two flew west, then east on the 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**Autumn/winter:** In November nine arrived on the 5<sup>th</sup>, six were seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>, five on the 7<sup>th</sup>, one on the 8<sup>th</sup> and two on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Shelduck (Common Shelduck) *Tadorna tadorna*

A common breeding resident, passage migrant & winter visitor.

**Summary:** Present throughout much the year.

**Breeding:** Several broods were present.

#### Monthly maxima / WeBS counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	34	64	-	50	42	35	20	7	6	30	40

### Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A scarce visitor originating from either captive collections or naturalised populations in Europe.

**All records:** One (a female/'first-calendar-year') was present on the 15<sup>th</sup> September.

### Garganey *Anas querquedula*

An uncommon passage migrant.

**All records:** A drake was present on the 5<sup>th</sup> May and a pair were present on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

### Shoveler (Northern Shoveler) *Anas clypeata*

A common passage migrant & winter visitor that occasionally summers and has bred.

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** At least one pair were present in late spring/early summer but there was no further evidence of nesting.

#### Monthly maxima / WeBS counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
120	20	10	20	2	2	8	20	80	100	120	130

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### **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

*A regular passage migrant & winter visitor that occasionally summers and has bred.*

**Summary:** Present through much of the year.

**Breeding:** At least one pair were present in late spring/early summer but there was no further evidence of nesting.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	0	2	6	9	4	5	3	2	4	6	3

### **Wigeon (Eurasian Wigeon)** *Anas penelope*

*A common passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present all year due to the presence of an exceedingly rare over-summering individual.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
130	24	14	5	2	1	1	7	250	300	300	50

### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant & winter visitor, usually some 'feral' birds present.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** No accurate data is available but numerous during the nesting period and many nests and unfledged young were seen.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
350	153	110	-	100	172	245	480	300	480	400	225

### **Pintail (Northern Pintail)** *Anas acuta*

*A common passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present through much of the year due to the presence of an exceedingly rare over-summering individual.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	1	20	10	1	1	1	2	250	350	200	150

### **Teal (Eurasian Teal)** *Anas crecca*

*A common passage migrant & winter visitor that occasionally summers & has bred.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** Despite a few over-summering there was no further evidence of nesting.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
500	40	80	80	3	8	8	50	350	610	600	450

### **Pochard (Common Pochard)** *Aythya ferina*

*A common passage migrant & winter visitor that occasionally summers.*

**Summary:** Present through much of the year.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
80	80	40	30	18	12	1	16	55	130	250	220

### **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

*A National Rarity. A rare passage migrant & winter visitor to the Swannery (last recorded in 2009).*

**All records:** A 'first-calendar-year' arrived on the 7<sup>th</sup> December but was not present the following day. It reappeared on the 10<sup>th</sup> however and was then seen virtually daily to the 31<sup>st</sup>.

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### Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

A common passage migrant & winter visitor that now regularly summers and has bred.

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** One pair nested.

#### Monthly maxima / WeBS counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
70	130	80	80	20	33	46	8	80	200	250	150

### Scaup (Greater Scaup) *Aythya marila*

A regular passage migrant & winter visitor.

**All records...**

**Winter/spring:** Unusually the only record was of three on the 10<sup>th</sup> January.

**Autumn/winter:** The first two of the autumn arrived on the 24<sup>th</sup> October ('first-calendar-year' drakes) and these were joined by an adult duck on the 29<sup>th</sup> October. All three were then seen regularly (although not necessarily all on the same dates) to the 30<sup>th</sup> November. An adult drake was present alone on the 1<sup>st</sup> December but there were no further sightings until all four were present on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. Between one and three were then seen sporadically until the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

#### Monthly maxima

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4

### Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

A scarce passage migrant & winter visitor.

**All records:** Three (a 'first-calendar-year' duck and two 'first-calendar-year' drakes) were present briefly on both the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December.

### Goldeneye (Common Goldeneye) *Bucephala clangula*

Formerly common now only a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

**All records:** One that lingered from the 25<sup>th</sup> February to the 18<sup>th</sup> March was the only record!

### Goosander (Common Merganser) *Mergus merganser*

An uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

**All records:** One on the 16<sup>th</sup> January was the only record!

### Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

A common passage migrant and winter visitor.

**Summary...**

**Winter/spring:** Regular from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**Autumn/winter:** The first returning bird was seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October but there were then only sporadic sightings to the end of the year.

#### Monthly maxima / WeBS counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	15	30	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	5

### Swift (Common Swift) *Apus apus*

A common passage migrant and summer visitor.

**Summary:** The first of the year were seen on the 26<sup>th</sup> April and there were then near daily sightings until the 19<sup>th</sup> August. The last of the year seen on the 31<sup>st</sup> August. Numbers though were unimpressive with counts of over ten very few and far between and the only triple figure counts were 100 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and (an impressive by recent standards) 900 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

**Breeding:** None nest within the recording area but individuals from the dwindling colony in the village accounted for most of the regular sightings.

#### Monthly maxima

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
2	10	100	900	50

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### **Cuckoo** (Common Cuckoo) *Cuculus canorus*

*A scarce passage migrant. Formerly a regular breeder & passage migrant.*

**All records:** One seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> May was the only record.

### **Feral Pigeon** (Rock Dove) *Columba livia*

*Status confused by releases but presently a semi-feral flock from the village regularly visit.*

**Summary:** Obvious domestic 'racing' flocks were regularly seen overhead throughout the spring and summer and a mixed flock from the village of around fifty 'AWOL' racing, free-flying ornamentals and some apparent genuine feral birds visited virtually daily.

### **Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

*A common breeding resident and passage migrant.*

**Summary:** The first of the year was noted on the 31<sup>st</sup> March and there were then regular sightings of up to at least five until the 7<sup>th</sup> August. The only subsequent sightings were of four that flew west on the 15<sup>th</sup> October and 20 that flew west on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Breeding:** At least one pair were present in the recording area with several others in nearby woods and farm buildings.

### **Woodpigeon** (Common Wood Pigeon) *Columba palumbus*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Commonly encountered all year.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested.

**Autumn passage:** Overhead passage largely avoided the recording area with notable movements only recorded on the 4<sup>th</sup> November when 2,000 flew west and on the 5<sup>th</sup> when 200 flew west.

### **Turtle Dove** (European Turtle Dove) *Streptopelia turtur*

*A scarce passage migrant.*

**All records:** One on the 11<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Collared Dove** (Eurasian Collared Dove) *Streptopelia decaocto*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Single figures were seen regularly throughout the year.

**Breeding:** One pair possibly nested and others certainly did so nearby.

### **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

*A common passage migrant, winter visitor and an uncommon breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Regularly seen or heard in single figures at least throughout the year.

**Breeding:** At least one pair successfully fledged young.

### **Moorhen** (Common Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present in single figures at least, throughout the year but at least 10 were noted on the 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**Breeding:** Around five pairs nested.

### **Coot** (Eurasian Coot) *Fulica atra*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** A poor year with only two or three nested noted.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
600	225	107	-	20	45	130	335	340	160	410	180

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### Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A common passage migrant and winter visitor.

#### Summary...

**Winter/spring:** Present daily from the 1st January to the 15<sup>th</sup> March but the only subsequent records were of singles on the 24<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Autumn/winter:** The first returning birds were seen on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June and there were then near daily sightings to the end of the year.

#### Monthly maxima / WeBS counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	10	8	1	0	2	3	7	20	25	25	14

### Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

A rare passage migrant and winter visitor last recorded in 2005.

**All records:** Singles were seen regularly from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> January and again from the 10<sup>th</sup> February to the 5<sup>th</sup> March. At least two different individuals were believed to be involved in these sightings.

### Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

A common passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding summer visitor.

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

#### Monthly maxima / WeBS counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	20	20	-	40	30	30	30	34	10	7	10

### Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

An uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

**All records:** One on the 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### Oystercatcher (Eurasian Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus*

A common passage migrant & semi-resident breeder.

**Summary:** Present daily from the 16<sup>th</sup> January to the 17<sup>th</sup> August, with a peak count of 12 on the 5<sup>th</sup> July. The only subsequent sightings were of one on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September; one on the 30<sup>th</sup> November and one on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**Breeding:** Four pairs nested but only two young fledged.

#### Monthly maxima

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	3	8	6	7	8	12	3	1	0	1	1

### Avocet (Pied Avocet) *Recurvirostra avosetta*

An uncommon passage migrant.

**All records:** Three were present on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and two were seen on the 30<sup>th</sup> August.

### Lapwing (Northern Lapwing) *Vanellus vanellus*

A common passage migrant & winter visitor that formerly bred.

#### Summary...

**Winter/spring:** Present virtually daily from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 11<sup>th</sup> March. The only subsequent record was of one seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Autumn/winter:** The first returning bird arrived exceptionally early on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. There were then birds present virtually daily to the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

#### Monthly maxima

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
300	150	50	1	2	3	5	5	5	30	250	500



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### Golden Plover (European Golden Plover) *Pluvialis apricaria*

*A regular passage migrant and winter visitor.*

#### All records...

**Winter/spring:** One on the 10<sup>th</sup> January; 16 over on the 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Autumn/winter:** There was an early single from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> July; followed by singles on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August; 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September; 10<sup>th</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> November. Also in November there were four on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 30 on the 9<sup>th</sup> and one on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

*A regular passage migrant.*

#### All records...

**Spring:** Singles on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Autumn:** Singles on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August, and on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September. The last of the year were two on the 28<sup>th</sup> September.

### Ringed Plover (Common Ringed Plover) *Charadrius hiaticula*

*A common passage migrant that formerly bred.*

#### Summary...

**Spring passage:** Most sightings were between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April but with four (likely to have been of the form *tundrae*) on the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Autumn passage:** The first was noted on the 12<sup>th</sup> July and the last on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

#### Monthly maxima / Bird-days

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Maxima	3	0	4	1	16	3	1
Bird-days	6	0	4	3	32	17	1

### Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

*A regular passage migrant.*

#### All records...

**Spring passage:** One from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> May.

**Autumn passage:** One on the 26<sup>th</sup> June; singles on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July; two on the 5<sup>th</sup> August and one on the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

### Whimbrel (Eurasian Whimbrel) *Numenius phaeopus*

*A common passage migrant.*

#### Summary...

**Spring passage:** The first of the year were seen on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and there were then regular sightings until the 19<sup>th</sup> May.

**Autumn passage:** The first of the 'autumn' was seen on the 9<sup>th</sup> July and there were then regular sightings until the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

#### Monthly maxima / Bird-days

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Maxima	20	8	0	3	3
Bird-days	75	14	0	9	6

### Curlew (Eurasian Curlew) *Numenius arquata*

*A regular passage migrant and winter visitor.*

#### All records...

**Winter/Spring:** One on the 24<sup>th</sup> February; three on the 11<sup>th</sup> March; one on the 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Autumn passage:** One on the 16<sup>th</sup> June; singles on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> July; singles on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August; singles on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September.

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### Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**Summary...**

**Spring passage:** The first of the year was seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> April and the last of the spring on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Autumn passage:** The first of the autumn were seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> July and the last of the year was seen on the 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**Monthly maxima / Bird-days**

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Maxima	70	1	0	2	1	3	3
Bird-days	124	5	0	4	1	9	5

### Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

*A common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Winter/Spring:** The first of the year was seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> March and there were then regular sightings to the 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**Autumn/winter:** The first returning birds were seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and there were then regular sightings to the 8<sup>th</sup> September. The only subsequent sightings were on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Monthly maxima / Bird-days**

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maxima	18	9	0	3	10	9	6	0	3	2
Bird-days	34	81	0	20	66	30	9	0	3	2

### Turnstone (Ruddy Turnstone) *Arenaria interpres*

*A regular passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Spring passage:** The first of the year were seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> May and the last of the spring on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Autumn passage/winter:** The first returning bird was seen on the on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June but there were no subsequent records until the 19<sup>th</sup> July. There then regular records until the 9<sup>th</sup> September but the only subsequent records were on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October and on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**Monthly maxima / Bird-days**

Month	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maxima	3	1	3	7	6	1	0	8
Bird-days	11	1	6	20	15	1	0	9

### Knot (Red Knot) *Calidris canutus*

*A regular passage migrant & scarce winter visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Winter/Spring:** A flock of at least 30 were present briefly on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Spring passage:** There were two on the 18<sup>th</sup> April and singles on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Autumn passage:** The first returning bird was seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> July and there were then regular sightings until the 15<sup>th</sup> September. The only subsequent records were singles on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Monthly maxima / Bird-days**

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maxima	30	2	3	0	1	20	10	1	1	1
Bird-days	30	3	3	0	2	50	48	1	1	1

### Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

*A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**All records:** One (an adult male) on the 27<sup>th</sup> June.

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### **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

*A scarce passage migrant*

**All records:** One on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, three on the 31<sup>st</sup> August and one on the 17<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**Summary...**

**Spring passage:** Four on the 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Autumn passage:** All records were between the 15<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> August, with a peak of six on the 29<sup>th</sup> July (16 bird-days).

### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

*A common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Regularly recorded through much of the year with obvious passage peaks in the spring and autumn.

#### **Monthly maxima / Bird-days**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maxima	0	0	1	7	20	3	40	40	40	9	14	1
Bird-days	0	0	1	19	92	6	209	262	180	26	23	3

### **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

*A scarce passage migrant*

**All records:** Three briefly on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **Woodcock (Eurasian Woodcock)** *Scolopax rusticola*

*A scarce passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**All records:** One on the 7<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

*An uncommon passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**All records:** Singles on the 30<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

### **Snipe (Common Snipe)** *Gallinago gallinago*

*A common passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Winter/spring:** Seen regularly from early January to the last of the spring on the 16<sup>th</sup> April, with a peak count of 103 on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**Autumn/winter:** The first of the 'autumn' was seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> August and there were then regular sightings until the end of the year with a peak count of 30 on the 29<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Grey Phalarope (Red Phalarope)** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

*A scarce storm blown passage migrant.*

**All records:** Singles were seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> October.

## ABBOTSBURY SWANNERY BIRD REPORT 2020

### Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

*A common passage migrant.*

**Summary...**

**Winter/Spring:** The over-wintering bird that arrived in 2019 was seen regularly from early January to at least the 13<sup>th</sup> April when it was joined by the first passage bird. There were then regular sightings until the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Summer:** Singles on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Autumn passage:** The first of the 'autumn' was present on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June and there were then regular multiple sightings until the 11<sup>th</sup> October. There were then only singles (or potentially just one over-wintering bird) noted regularly to the end of the year.

**Monthly maxima / Bird-days**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maxima	1	1	1	3	4	3	12	15	7	2	1	1
Bird-days	4	2	9	23	15	18	171	164	48	15	9	4

### Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

*A regular passage migrant & scarce winter visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Autumn/Winter:** The first of the year was noted on the 14<sup>th</sup> June. There were then regular multiple sightings until the 22<sup>nd</sup> September but there were then only singles (or potentially just one over-wintering bird) noted regularly to the end of the year.

**Monthly maxima / Bird-days**

Month	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maxima	2	7	5	2	1	1	1
Bird-days	13	54	19	23	7	4	4

### Redshank (Common Redshank) *Tringa totanus*

*A common passage migrant & winter visitor. Former breeder.*

**Summary:** Present throughout much of the year.

**Breeding:** There was no evidence of nesting.

**Monthly maxima**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	12	5	5	3	4	8	10	3	2	4	5

### Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

*A scarce passage migrant.*

**All records:** Singles on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August.

### Greenshank (Common Greenshank) *Tringa nebularia*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**Summary...**

**Spring passage:** In April there were six on the 15<sup>th</sup> and one on the 21<sup>st</sup>; whilst in May there were regular sightings from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Autumn passage:** The first returning bird was present on the 8<sup>th</sup> July and there were then regular sightings until the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. In August there were singles on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>; in September there was one from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> and in October there were singles on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Monthly maxima / Bird-days**

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Maxima	6	2	0	2	1	1	1
Bird-days	7	13	0	5	2	4	2

### Kittiwake (Black-legged Kittiwake) *Rissa tridactyla*

*A scarce storm blown passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**All records:** There were rather unseasonal records of one on the 27<sup>th</sup> May and two on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, both in calm clear weather. One on the 25<sup>th</sup> August was less unprecedented, whilst one 23<sup>rd</sup> October and two on the 31<sup>st</sup> October were much more expected.

## ABBOTSBURY SWANNERY BIRD REPORT 2020

### **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

*A common passage migrant, winter visitor & recent regular breeder.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** Up to 20 pairs bred and fledged around 30 young.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
250	100	100	200	80	100	65	120	40	200	250	500

### **Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

*A scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**All records:** Single ('second-calendar-year' birds) were seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

*Now a common passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present throughout much of the year.

**Breeding:** One ('third-calendar-year') pair built a nest but after a few weeks they abandoned it. It would appear though that they had laid at least one fertilised egg as weeks later a large unfledged chick was seen being fed by a pair of Common Terns, which they went on to fledge... The first successful breeding attempt for West Dorset!

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
500	200	50	10	10	40	230	30	3	250	100	500

### **Common Gull (Mew Gull)** *Larus canus*

*A common passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Winter/spring:** Regular from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Summer:** Singles were noted on six dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> May to the 17<sup>th</sup> August.

**Autumn/winter:** The first of the autumn proper was seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> September with regular sightings then to the end of the year.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,000	1,000	800	50	10	1	1	1	1	10	200	1,000

### **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

*A common passage migrant, winter visitor & casual breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** There was no evidence of nesting.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
50	6	10	50	50	4	20	7	100	200	1	10

### **Herring Gull (European Herring Gull)** *Larus argentatus*

*A common passage migrant, winter visitor & non-breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

#### **Monthly maxima / WeBS counts**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
200	170	250	50	20	-	200	200	2	100	100	200

### **Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

*A County Rarity. A rare but increasing passage migrant & winter visitor to the Swannery.*

**All records:** Single 'second-calendar-year' birds (or possibly just one individual) were seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, the 10<sup>th</sup> February and on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March. In addition, a 'first-calendar-year' was seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.

## ABBOTSBURY SWANNERY BIRD REPORT 2020

### Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

*A regular passage migrant.*

#### Summary...

**Winter/spring:** A single 'third-calendar-year' was seen on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, with it or another also present on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Summer:** An adult was seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, whilst the first juvenile ('first-calendar-year') arrived on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. Single first 'calendar-years' were then seen regularly to the 25<sup>th</sup> September but three were together on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, whilst two were seen together on the 27<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> August (23 Bird-days).

**Autumn/winter:** The A 'third-calendar-year' seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> October was the last of the year.

### Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

*Two distinct forms occurred...*

#### 'British Lesser Black-backed Gull' *Larus fuscus graellsii*

*A common passage migrant, winter visitor & uncommon non-breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Small numbers were recorded in virtually every month.

#### Monthly maxima / WeBS counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	11	10	1	0	1	2	5	20	5	2	1

#### 'Continental Lesser Black-backed Gull' *Larus fuscus intermedius*

*An uncommon passage migrant.*

**All records:** At least 20 adults were present on the 5<sup>th</sup> April and at least one on the 10<sup>th</sup> April. It is likely that any immature birds were overlooked.

### Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

*A common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor.*

**Summary:** The first of the year was seen on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March and there were then regular sightings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The only subsequent sightings were of two on the 29<sup>th</sup> September and two on the 12<sup>th</sup> October.

#### Monthly maxima

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
4	50	20	10	5	9	7	2

### Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

*An uncommon passage migrant that formerly bred.*

**Summary:** The first of the year, a single, on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, was followed by a remarkable set of records in July (at least by recent standards) with daily sightings of between one and eleven individuals from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> (91 bird-days). The only subsequent sighting was of one on the 30<sup>th</sup> August.

### Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

*An uncommon passage migrant.*

**All records:** In June there were singles on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and in July there was one on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

*A common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.*

**Summary:** The first of the year were seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> April and the last breeding bird departed on the 20<sup>th</sup> August. There were no subsequent records.

**Breeding:** Around 50 pairs nested and around 90 young fledged.

#### Monthly maxima

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
80	100	90	110	10

### Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**All records:** Singles on the 7<sup>th</sup> June; 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August and the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

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**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

*A scarce storm blown passage migrant.*

**All records:** Singles on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 31<sup>st</sup> October. The first since 2016.

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

*A scarce storm blown passage migrant.*

**All records:** One was found freshly dead on the 24<sup>th</sup> February.

**Fulmar (Northern Fulmar)** *Fulmarus glacialis*

*A casual visitor from the seaward side of Chesil Bank.*

**All records:** Singles over on the 27<sup>th</sup> May; 8<sup>th</sup> June and on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

*A County Rarity. A rare but increasing Swannery visitor, though most are escapes or releases.*

**All records:** In September there were singles on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September, with the latter being the first to ever linger (at least in living memory); whilst in October singles flew over on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. All were presumed to be released birds.

**Gannet (Northern Gannet)** *Morus bassanus*

*A casual visitor from the seaward side of Chesil Bank.*

**All records:** Singles on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June; 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August and on the 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Cormorant (Great Cormorant)** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

*Two relatively distinct forms occurred...*

**'Atlantic Great Cormorant'** *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*

*A common passage migrant, winter visitor and non-breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**'Continental Great Cormorant'** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

*A regular passage migrant, winter visitor and recent breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Seen regularly throughout the year.

**Breeding:** Following the first nesting ever recorded in 2019, five pairs nested fledging around 10 young.

**Monthly maxima / WeBS counts for both forms combined**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	4	10	-	14	10	20	18	24	18	50	20

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

*A County Rarity. A rare but increasing Swannery passage migrant.*

**All records:** One on the 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Spoonbill (Eurasian Spoonbill)** *Platalea leucorodia*

*A scarce passage migrant.*

**All records:** One on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May, three on the 16<sup>th</sup> September.

**Cattle Egret (Western Cattle Egret)** *Bubulcus ibis*

*A former rarity but now a common passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Winter/spring:** The winter roost continued to be occupied nightly to the end of April with the last bird noted on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Autumn/winter:** The first returning bird was seen on the 15<sup>th</sup> July with then near daily sightings and increasing numbers in the roost to the end of the year.

**Monthly maxima**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	33	16	2	0	0	8	4	10	19	22	27

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### Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

*A common resident that formerly bred.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** There was no evidence of nesting.

#### *Monthly maxima / WeBS counts*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	3	2	2	5	5	3	4	5	3	3	3

### Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

*A County Rarity. Only two previous Swannery records.*

**All records:** One flew west on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.

### Great White Egret (Great Egret) *Ardea alba*

*A former rarity but now a regular passage migrant & winter visitor.*

**All records...**

**Winter/spring:** Two that arrived in 2019 continued to over-winter in the area with at least one, sometimes both, being seen regularly to the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Autumn/winter:** Two were present on the 21<sup>st</sup> July; one on the 12<sup>th</sup> August; three on the 14<sup>th</sup> September; four on the 16<sup>th</sup> September; and singles on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October. In November one was seen regularly from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> and then again on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

*A common resident and passage migrant that has bred.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** There was no evidence of nesting.

#### *Monthly maxima / WeBS counts*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	32	10	-	5	16	5	51	12	10	5	10

### Osprey (Western Osprey) *Pandion haliaetus*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**Summary...**

**Spring passage:** Singles on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**Autumn passage:** The first returning bird was seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> July but there were no more sightings until the 14<sup>th</sup> August, with then near daily sightings of at least one, sometimes two, to the last sighting of the year on the 15<sup>th</sup> September (29 bird-days).

### Sparrowhawk (Eurasian Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter nisus*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** One or two were regularly encountered throughout much of the year.

**Breeding:** At least one pair presumably nested in the area.

### Marsh Harrier (Western Marsh Harrier) *Circus aeruginosus*

*A regular passage migrant & winter visitor that has attempted to breed.*

**Summary:** There were regular sightings of singles and occasional sightings of two together throughout much of the year. A noteworthy three were seen together on the 27<sup>th</sup> February.

### Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

*Formerly a scarce natural passage migrant but reintroduced birds are now regular visitors.*

**Summary:** There were fairly regular sightings from the 22<sup>nd</sup> March to the 16<sup>th</sup> October, with a remarkable count of at least 50 on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

#### *Monthly maxima / Bird-days*

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Maxima	3	2	50	1	1	0	2	3
Bird-days	4	3	62	2	1	0	2	3



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### **Buzzard** (Common Buzzard) *Buteo buteo*

*A common breeding resident and passage migrant.*

**Summary:** Single figures at least were present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** Up to two pairs nested in the recording area and also several pairs nested nearby.

### **Barn Owl** (Western Barn Owl) *Tyto alba*

*A common breeding resident*

**Summary:** One or two at least were seen (or at least heard) regularly throughout the year.

**Breeding:** One pair nested and fledged at least two young. At least one other pair nested nearby.

### **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** One or two at least were seen (or at least heard) regularly throughout the year.

**Breeding:** There was no confirmation of nesting this year.

### **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

*Former breeding resident, now a casual visitor.*

**Summary:** Two were seen regularly from the 16<sup>th</sup> March to the 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Breeding:** The above pair occupied the same nesting site as in 2019 (which was the first nesting attempt for several years) but unfortunately, unlike the previous year, they failed to rear any young.

### **Kingfisher** (Common Kingfisher) *Alcedo atthis*

*A regular non-breeding visitor.*

**Summary:**

**Winter/spring:** Singles were seen regularly from early January to the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Autumn/winter:** The first returning bird was seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and there were then regular sightings of singles (but occasionally two or even three together) to the end of the year.

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** One or two at least were seen regularly throughout the year.

**Breeding:** At least one pair nested successfully.

### **Green Woodpecker** (European Green Woodpecker) *Picus viridis*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** One or two were seen regularly throughout the year.

**Breeding:** At least one pair nested successfully either within or extremely near to the recording area.

### **Kestrel** (Common Kestrel) *Falco tinnunculus*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Single figures at least were present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** At least one pair presumably nested in the area.

### **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

*A regular passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**All records...**

**Winter/spring:** Singles were seen on the 26<sup>th</sup> January and the 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**Autumn/winter:** Singles were present on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September and then on six dates between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Hobby** (Eurasian Hobby) *Falco subbuteo*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**All records:** Singles were seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June; 14<sup>th</sup> August and on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September.

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### **Peregrine** (Peregrine Falcon) *Falco peregrinus*

*A common non-breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Singles were seen regularly throughout the year.

### **Jay** (Eurasian Jay) *Garrulus glandarius*

*A casual visitor from nearby woodland & occasional passage migrant.*

**Summary:** Singles were seen (or at least heard) occasionally through much of the year but in November three were seen together on the 5<sup>th</sup> and two on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Magpie** (Eurasian Magpie) *Pica pica*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Small numbers were seen regularly throughout the year.

**Breeding:** At least one pair nested in the near vicinity.

### **Jackdaw** (Western Jackdaw) *Corvus monedula*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Commonly encountered throughout the year. No counts were undertaken and no overhead passage was noted.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested.

### **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Commonly encountered throughout the year. No counts were undertaken.

**Breeding:** Chapel Coppice rookery on the boundary of the recording area continued to be occupied but no count of nesting pairs was carried out.

### **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Commonly encountered in and around the Swannery all year with a peak of over 30 on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested in the vicinity.

### **Raven** (Northern Raven) *Corvus corax*

*A regular visitor from breeding sites nearby.*

**Summary:** Regularly encountered in single figures throughout the year.

### **Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

*A regular visitor that has bred.*

**Summary...**

**Winter/spring:** Single figures were seen regularly from early January to the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Breeding:** Despite a pair nesting for the first time (or at least for the first time in over 30 years) in 2019, there was no further nesting attempt.

**Autumn/winter:** The first returning bird was seen on the 25<sup>th</sup> June and there were then single figures present regularly to the end of the year.

### **Blue Tit** (Eurasian Blue Tit) *Cyanistes caeruleus*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** Several pairs bred.

### **Great Tit** *Parus major*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** Several pairs bred.

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### **Bearded Tit (Bearded Reedling) *Panurus biarmicus***

*A regular passage migrant & winter visitor that has bred.*

**All records:** A male seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> November was unusually the only record this year.

### **Skylark (Eurasian Skylark) *Alauda arvensis***

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Single figures could be found on the surrounding pasture through much of the year.

**Breeding:** A few pairs nested in the surrounding pasture and possibly on the adjacent Chesil Bank.

**Autumn passage:** Over-head passage was noted regularly from the 10<sup>th</sup> September to the 5<sup>th</sup> November. The best numbers though were during October with double figures most days and several hundred every day from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

*A common passage migrant.*

**Summary...**

**Spring passage:** The first few of the year were seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March but there were no further sightings until the 4<sup>th</sup> April. There were then near daily sightings until the last of the spring on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. The highest count was of at least 50 on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Autumn passage:** The first returning birds were seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> June and there were then regular sightings until the last of the year on the 17<sup>th</sup> September. The highest count was of at least 150 on the 20<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Swallow (Barn Swallow) *Hirundo rustica***

*A common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.*

**Summary:** Present virtually daily from early April to mid-October.

**Spring passage:** The first of the year was seen on the 16<sup>th</sup> March but there were no further sightings until the 5<sup>th</sup> April. Comparatively light passage was then observed regularly, until early May at least, with a peak daily count of only 50 on the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

**Breeding:** Around four pairs nested in the hides within the grounds, with others in nearby farm buildings.

**Autumn passage:** Local breeding birds masked any early movements but there was a marked passage from mid-July through to mid-October. The peak movement occurred on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September when over 1,000 were present. Over 500 were also present on the 21<sup>st</sup> September and again on the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> October. The last of the year were seen on the 27<sup>th</sup> October.

### **House Martin (Common House Martin) *Delichon urbicum***

*A common passage migrant and summer visitor.*

**Summary:** Seen regularly from mid-April to mid-October.

**Spring passage:** The first five of the year were seen on the 16<sup>th</sup> April but there were no further sightings until the 28<sup>th</sup> April when at least 50 were seen (the highest count of the spring). There was then regular by relatively light passage to mid-May.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested in the village and regularly fed over the recording area through the summer months.

**Autumn passage:** Local breeding birds masked any early passage but there was a marked passage from mid-September, with peak daily counts of over 1,000 on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September and over 5,000 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The last of the year were seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti***

*A relatively common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Single figures were encountered throughout the year.

**Breeding:** At least three singing males were present during spring and recently fledged young were seen.

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### **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Small numbers were seen regularly throughout the year.

**Breeding:** None were believed to have nested within the recording area, but they almost certainly did so nearby.

### **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

*A scarce passage migrant.*

**All records:** Singles were either seen and/or heard on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

*A common passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Spring passage:** The first of the year arrived on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April and double figures were then present virtually daily until the 20<sup>th</sup> April, with single figures then noted regularly until the 29<sup>th</sup> April. The only subsequent record was on one on the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Breeding:** There was no evidence of nesting.

**Autumn passage:** The first returning bird was present on the 14<sup>th</sup> July... There were then single figures present to early August, double figures then present regularly to mid-August and then single figures present regularly to the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. None were noted subsequently.

### **Chiffchaff (Common Chiffchaff)** *Phylloscopus collybita*

*A common passage migrant, regular breeding summer visitor and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Commonly encountered throughout much of the year.

**Winter/spring:** One or two successfully overwintered and then from mid-March to mid-April double figures were seen regularly.

**Breeding:** There were around three pairs in the grounds with others in nearby coppices.

**Autumn/winter:** Double figures were regular in September and October, with a peak of at least 100 on the 21<sup>st</sup> September. Single figures were seen regularly throughout November and December.

### **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

*A common passage migrant and regular breeding summer visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Spring passage:** The first of the year was noted on the 8<sup>th</sup> April and single figures were then seen regularly throughout the spring and summer, though it was difficult to ascertain which were on territory and which were moving through.

**Breeding:** At least two pairs successfully fledged young and there were possibly another one or two singing males holding territory.

**Autumn passage:** Again, the breeding birds and their young largely masked any early movement but minor influxes were noted on the 4<sup>th</sup> August and the 7<sup>th</sup> September at least. The last of the year was noted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **Reed Warbler (Eurasian Reed Warbler)** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

*A common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Spring passage:** The first of the year was heard on the 9<sup>th</sup> April and there were then birds present daily, with several minor influxes noted in mid to late April.

**Breeding:** As usual there were around 30 to 40 nesting pairs and many recently fledged young were seen.

**Autumn passage:** Several minor influxes were noted from early August to early September, with the last bird of the year noted on the unusually early date of the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **Grasshopper Warbler (Common Grasshopper Warbler)** *Locustella naevia*

*A regular passage migrant that has bred.*

**All records:** There were unusually none in the spring but in the autumn, there were singles on the 17<sup>th</sup> August and the 6<sup>th</sup> September.

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### **Blackcap** (Eurasian Blackcap) *Sylvia atricapilla*

*A common passage migrant, regular breeding summer visitor and scarce winter visitor.*

#### **Summary...**

**Spring Passage:** The first of the year was seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. There were then birds present daily with minor influxes noted on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**Breeding:** Several pairs were present.

**Autumn passage:** Minor influxes were noted on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August and on the 15<sup>th</sup> September. The last of the year was seen on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**All records:** One on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, at least two on the 4<sup>th</sup> August and one on the 13<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

*A regular passage migrant, uncommon breeding summer visitor.*

**All records:** Unusually none were seen or heard in the spring and none held territory. So the one seen in the autumn, on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, was the only record!

### **Whitethroat** (Common Whitethroat) *Sylvia communis*

*A common passage migrant and regular breeding summer visitor.*

#### **Summary...**

**Spring passage:** The first of the year was heard on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April but passage was poor with only single figures seen throughout.

**Breeding:** A few pairs nested in the surrounding hedgerows and scrub.

**Autumn passage:** Again unremarkable. The last of the year was seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **Firecrest** (Common Firecrest) *Regulus ignicapilla*

*A regular passage migrant and winter visitor.*

#### **All records:**

An unseasonal bird was seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> June but otherwise, at least one, sometimes two, were seen regularly from the 6<sup>th</sup> September to the end of the year.

### **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year in predominately single figures but with over 30 seen on several dates in October.

**Breeding:** At least one pair nested and recently fledged young were seen.

### **Wren** (Eurasian Wren) *Troglodytes troglodytes*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested.

### **Nuthatch** (Eurasian Nuthatch) *Sitta europaea*

*A regular visitor that has bred.*

**All records:** One on the 16<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Treecreeper** (Eurasian Treecreeper) *Certhia familiaris*

*A common visitor & casual breeder.*

#### **Summary...**

**Winter/spring:** At least one was seen or at least heard regularly from early January to the 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**Summer:** One was heard on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Autumn/winter:** At least one was noted regular from the 2<sup>nd</sup> August to the 15<sup>th</sup> September but there were no subsequent records.

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### **Starling** (Common Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*

*A common passage migrant, winter visitor & scarce summer visitor that formerly bred.*

#### **Summary...**

**Winter/spring:** Over 10,000 were roosting nightly in the reedbeds in January but this number dropped significantly through February and into March. The last of the spring were noted on the 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Autumn/winter:** The first returning bird was seen on the 30<sup>th</sup> May and by mid-June around 100 were seen regularly. By mid-July around 300 were regular and this built up to around 500 roosting regularly in November and December.

### **Blackbird** (Common Blackbird) *Turdus merula*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year with the only obvious influx being of around 20 on the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested.

### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

*A regular passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**All records:** Around 200 flew west on the 19<sup>th</sup> November but the only other record was of one heard on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

*A regular passage migrant and winter visitor.*

#### **All records...**

**Winter/spring:** One heard on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April was the only record.

**Autumn/winter:** One on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November; at least 10 on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November; one on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December and at least two on the 21<sup>st</sup> December.

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Single figures were noted throughout the year with no obvious influxes apparent.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested.

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

*A common visitor & casual breeder.*

**Summary:** Single figures were seen sporadically through much of the year but a flock of at least 10 were present on the 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Breeding:** None nested within the recording area but presumably did so nearby.

### **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

*A regular passage migrant and former breeder.*

#### **All records:**

**Spring passage:** Singles on the 28<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Autumn passage:** One on the 4<sup>th</sup> August and singles on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Robin** (European Robin) *Erithacus rubecula*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year with the only obvious influx being of around 20 on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested.

### **Nightingale** (Common Nightingale) *Luscinia megarhynchos*

*A rare passage migrant.*

**All records:** One heard singing (but not seen) on the 16<sup>th</sup> April was the first since April 2013.

### **Pied Flycatcher** (European Pied Flycatcher) *Ficedula hypoleuca*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**All records:** One on the 14<sup>th</sup> August and two on the 18<sup>th</sup> August.

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### **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

*A scarce passage migrant.*

**All records:** One on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Redstart (Common Redstart)** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**All records:** One on the 27<sup>th</sup> August, two on the 30<sup>th</sup> August and singles on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, 11<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**All records:** There were singles seen on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August; at least four were present on the 6<sup>th</sup> September and further singles were seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September.

### **Stonechat (European Stonechat)** *Saxicola rubicola*

*A common passage migrant, winter visitor and uncommon breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Single figures were seen regularly throughout the year but at least ten were seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Breeding:** One pair bred on the periphery of the recording area.

### **Wheatear (Northern Wheatear)** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

*A common passage migrant.*

**Summary...**

**Spring passage:** The first of the year was seen on the 18<sup>th</sup> March and single figures were then seen regularly until the last on the 16<sup>th</sup> May (13 bird-days).

**Autumn passage:** The first of the autumn was seen on the 6<sup>th</sup> August. There were then single figures seen regularly to the last on the 12<sup>th</sup> October but between 10 and 20 were present on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August (77 bird-days).

### **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year. No notable counts.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested on the periphery of the recording area at Grove Lane.

### **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

*A common breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Present throughout the year.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested.

### **Yellow Wagtail (Western Yellow Wagtail)** *Motacilla flava*

*A common passage migrant.*

**Summary:**

**Spring passage:** Singles on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April; two on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and one on the 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Autumn passage:** The first returning bird was seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> July and there were then regular sightings until the last of the year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October (500 bird-days). There were no counts of the usually impressive roost this year but a peak feeding flock of 100 were present on the 15<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

*A regular passage migrant, winter visitor and former breeding resident.*

**Summary...**

**Winter/spring:** One on the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Summer:** One on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June.

**Autumn/winter:** Single figures were seen regularly from the 28<sup>th</sup> July to the end of the year but with high counts of at least 16 on the 6<sup>th</sup> September and 10 on the 10<sup>th</sup> September.

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### **Pied Wagtail (White Wagtail) *Motacilla alba***

*A common passage migrant, winter visitor and breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Regularly encountered throughout the year.

**Winter/spring:** There was a nightly roost of around fifty from January to March.

**Breeding:** At least two pairs nested.

**Autumn/winter:** Nearly daily overhead passage was noted from the 28<sup>th</sup> September to the 5<sup>th</sup> November with counts in excess of 100 on several dates. A nightly roost of at least 50 birds was also present throughout.

### **Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

*A common passage migrant, winter visitor and now uncommon breeding resident.*

**Summary:**

**Winter/spring:** A small flock of around 20 roamed the vicinity from January to March but there was no noteworthy passage.

**Breeding:** Two or three pairs bred on the periphery of the recording area.

**Autumn/winter:** Nearly daily overhead passage was noted from early September to the end of October with counts in excess of 500 on several dates. A flock of around 20 again roamed the vicinity throughout November and December.

### **Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

*A regular passage migrant.*

**All records:** None were reported in the spring but in the autumn singles were seen or at least heard on seven dates between 13<sup>th</sup> August and the 21<sup>st</sup> September, whilst five were present on the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

### **Water Pipit *Anthus petrosus***

*A rare passage migrant.*

**All records:** Singles were seen on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April and two were present on the 9<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Rock Pipit (Eurasian Rock Pipit) *Anthus petrosus***

*A regular passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary...**

**Winter/spring:** At least one bird overwintered and was last seen on the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Autumn/winter:** The first returning bird was seen on the 13<sup>th</sup> September and there were then regular sightings of one or two to the end of the year, although three were noted on the 15<sup>th</sup> October and four on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Chaffinch (Common Chaffinch) *Fringilla coelebs***

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present all year with no noteworthy passage or influxes.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested.

### **Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

*A regular passage migrant.*

**All records:** Three on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October; singles on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Bullfinch (Eurasian Bullfinch) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

*An uncommon breeding resident.*

**Summary:** Single figures were seen or at least heard throughout much of the year.

**Breeding:** There was no evidence of nesting within the recording area.

### **Greenfinch (European Greenfinch) *Chloris chloris***

*A now uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Single figures were seen regularly through much of the year with no counts exceeding five (a flock of 50 regularly wintered until fairly recently).

**Breeding:** One pair nested on the periphery of the recording area.



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### **Linnet (Common Linnet)** *Carduelis cannabina*

*A common breeding resident and passage migrant.*

**Summary:** The first of year was noted on the 11<sup>th</sup> March and there were then regular sightings until early December. There was a marked passage from mid-September to early November with 50 plus birds on several dates and a peak count of over 200 on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested in the periphery of the recording area.

### **Lesser Redpoll** *Cardelis cabaret*

*A regular passage migrant.*

**Summary:** There were a good passage this year, with all birds noted between the 11<sup>th</sup> September and the 5<sup>th</sup> November (39 bird-days) and with a peak count of 11 on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

### **Crossbill (Red Crossbill)** *Loxia curvirostra*

*A scarce passage migrant.*

**All records:** Singles were noted flying over on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June and a flock of at least 10 flew west on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Goldfinch (European Goldfinch)** *Carduelis carduelis*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Present all year, with counts of at least 20 commonplace but a flock of 50 roamed the vicinity in December

**Breeding:** Several pairs nested.

### **Siskin (Eurasian Siskin)** *Cardelis spinus*

*A common passage migrant and regular winter visitor.*

**Summary:** The first sighting of the year was not until the 6<sup>th</sup> July when at least three flew over. There were no subsequent records until the 1<sup>st</sup> September but there was then a marked passage to early November that involved several thousand individuals. The highest day counts were of at least 500 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September. The last of the year was noted on the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

*Now an uncommon passage migrant but formerly a common resident breeder.*

**All records:** Singles flew over on the 13<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> October, whilst two flew over on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October and two flew over on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Reed Bunting (Common Reed Bunting)** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

*A common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

**Summary:** Small numbers were present all year with no significant influx or passage noted.

**Breeding:** At least six pairs nested and recently fledged young were seen.