

Saturday June 21st

Weather: warm and sunny in a pleasant light breeze



Portland Bill 0900

In the unusually calm conditions the bass fishermen were very close inshore this morning, with plenty of guillemots and razorbills amongst them and the occasional gannet flying past. Nearby in the Bill Quarry we had good views of rock pipit and linnet with a couple of stonechats found a bit further on. The first butterflies were seen on the walk out to the Westcliffs, mostly meadow browns and small heaths with several large skippers, common blues and marbled whites. Two species of day-flying moth were also seen: six-spot burnet and cinnabar. The highlight was though waiting for us below the cliffs were there were dozens of jellyfish including three huge barrel jellyfish. Walking back we found a pair of ravens looking very much as if they were still feeding young on the cliffs.

Merchants Railway, 1100

A walk round the northern end of the island produced many more marbled whites along with lots of ringlets and our first beetle species, the summer chafer. A huge caterpillar on the path turned out to be that of an oak eggar moth. A sparrowhawk circling overhead was a very welcome sight.

High Angle Battery, 1200

Next we visited one of the highest points on the island where a Victorian gun emplacement provides shelter for an amazing variety of butterflies. We had only just left the vehicle when a superb male silver-studded blue was found, with plenty of common blues nearby for comparison.

Dingy skippers were quite numerous here and a very co-operative hummingbird hawk-moth gave us excellent views, once I was persuaded that it wasn't a beetle! Several very attractive pyramidal orchids were seen here as well.



Ferrybridge, 1400

Distant views of little terns were pretty much all that we enjoyed here, apart from our lunches of course.

Radipole RSPB Reserve, 1500

A very successful afternoon here with brief views of difficult species such as Cetti's warblers and bearded tits. Insects were represented mostly by moths and dragonflies, with scarlet tiger moths and five-spot burnets alongside several black-tailed skimmers. The North Hide gave us an excellent view of the female marsh harrier and a black-tailed skimmer which was filmed munching through a nice fat hoverfly. Nearby a lesser whitethroat was heard singing very close to us but it never showed itself properly. A good variety of flowers were seen here as well including four species of orchid.

Sunday June 22nd

Weather: warm and sunny again

Portland Bill 0900

Re-visiting the Westcliffs to have another look at the jellyfish we added Mediterranean gull to the list with a fine adult sat offshore.

Eastcliffs, 1030

We were pleased to see the male peregrine here but even more pleased when we realised that it had a youngster tucked up next to him. No new butterflies here but we did see a wall lizard briefly as well as the only fulmar of the weekend.

Broadcroft Quarry, 1200

Lots of butterflies here with a very early grayling and an unusually bright female common blue the highlights.

Admiralty Quarries, 1300

A new bird for the hotel list here when we found the hooded crow that had been seen on and off over the last few days.



Ferrybridge, 1400

Another very pleasant lunch undisturbed by wildlife of any sort!

Lodmoor RSPB Reserve, 1500

A very successful afternoon here with a good selection of waders and an arctic tern amongst the colony of common terns. Insects were abundant as well including a comma and a magpie moth. A kingfisher did its usual fly-past followed by a rapid disappearance.

Looking forward to our next one out together,

Bob Ford, June 22nd 2014

Birds: 73 species

Little Grebe	Radipole (heard)
Fulmar	Portland Eastcliffs
Gannet	Portland Bill
Cormorant	Portland Bill
Shag	Portland Bill
Little Egret	Radipole, Lodmoor
Grey Heron	Radipole, Lodmoor
Mute Swan	Radipole, Lodmoor
Canada Goose	Radipole, Lodmoor
Shelduck	Radipole, Lodmoor
Shoveler	Radipole, Lodmoor
Mallard	Radipole, Lodmoor
Gadwall	Radipole, Lodmoor
Tufted Duck	Radipole, Lodmoor
Sparrowhawk	Portland
Kestrel	Portland
Peregrine	Portland
Marsh Harrier	Radipole
Water Rail	Radipole (heard)
Moorhen	Radipole, Lodmoor
Coot	Radipole, Lodmoor
Oystercatcher	Lodmoor
Redshank	Lodmoor
Greenshank	Lodmoor
Lapwing	Lodmoor
Mediterranean Gull	Portland, Lodmoor
Herring Gull	various sites
Great Black-backed Gull	various sites
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Radipole
Kittiwake	Portland Bill
Arctic Tern	Lodmoor
Common Tern	Radipole, Lodmoor
Little Tern	Ferrybridge
Guillemot	Portland Bill
Razorbill	Portland Bill
Stock Dove	Portland Bill
Wood Pigeon	various sites
Feral Pigeon	various sites
Skylark	Portland Bill
Rock Pipit	Portland Bill
Meadow Pipit	Portland Bill
Pied Wagtail	Portland Bill
Swift	various sites
Swallow	various sites
House Martin	Radipole
Sand Martin	Portland

Wren	various sites
Duncock	Radipole
Robin	Portland
Stonechat	Portland
Blackbird	various sites
Cetti's Warbler	Radipole
Reed Warbler	Radipole, Lodmoor
Whitethroat	Radipole, Lodmoor
Lesser Whitethroat	Radipole
Chiffchaff	Radipole, Lodmoor
Bearded Tit	Radipole
Blue Tit	Radipole
Great Tit	Radipole
Raven	Portland
Magpie	various sites
Jackdaw	various sites
Rook	Ferrybridge
Carrion Crow	various sites
Hooded Crow	Portland
Starling	various sites
House Sparrow	various sites
Goldfinch	various sites
Greenfinch	various sites
Linnet	various sites
Chaffinch	Portland

Mammals:

Rabbit	Portland
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Reptiles:

Wall Lizard	Portland
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Fish:

Carp	Radipole
Roach	Radipole

Marine:

Compass Jellyfish	Portland
Common Jellyfish	Portland
Barrel Jellyfish	Portland

Insects:

Small White	Portland
Green-veined White	Portland
Large White	Portland
Grayling	Portland
Marbled White	Portland
Meadow Brown	Portland

Small Heath	Portland
Speckled Wood	Portland
Ringlet	Portland
Small Tortoiseshell	various sites
Peacock	Portland
Red Admiral	various sites
Comma	Lodmoor
Small Blue	Portland
Silver-studded Blue	Portland
Common Blue	Portland
Large Skipper	Portland
Small Skipper	Portland
Dingy Skipper	Portland

Lackey Moth	Lodmoor
Oak Eggar	Portland
Mother Shipton	Portland
Five-spot Burnet	Radipole
Six-spot Burnet	Portland
Cinnabar	Portland
Scarlet Tiger	Radipole
Hummingbird Hawk	Portland

Common Blue Damselfly	Lodmoor
Broad-bodied Chaser	Lodmoor
Black-tailed Skimmer	Radipole

Plants – a selection:

Water Forgetmenot	Radipole
Ivy Broomrape	Portland
False Brome	Portland
Tor Grass	Portland
Common Milkwort	Portland
Wild Privet	Portland
Bee Orchid	Radipole
Common Spotted Orchid	Radipole
Pyramidal Orchid	Portland
Southern Marsh Orchid	Radipole
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Portland
Hop Trefoil	Portland
Horseshoe Vetch	Portland
Kidney Vetch	Portland
Rough Clover	Portland
Yellow Vetchling	Portland
Common Rock-rose	Portland
Red Valerian	Portland

