

Saturday October 8th

Weather: Cold north-westerly breeze in the morning, gradually improving during the day

Portland Bill, 0730

The Bill was teeming with birds this morning, mostly Pied Wagtails and Linnets but with a few Meadow Pipits and Wheatears as well. The sea was even more densely populated, the highlight being a distant Arctic Skua amongst the hundreds of Gannets fishing offshore.

Church Ope – Grove Point, 1000

Walking along the disused railway line under the Eastcliffs we were constantly looking up to see the Siskins that were flying overhead. Some Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs were found in a group of sycamores. Nearby were some very rare plants: Sea Spleenwort and Maidenhair Ferns. 2 or 3 Peregrines were seen cruising around annoying the gulls, and at one time having a pitched battle with a pair of Ravens. A distant Merlin put in an all-too-brief appearance and consequently was only seen by a couple of us.

Ferrybridge, 1300

Our lunch was consumed whilst watching a host of waders including dozens of Ringed Plovers and Dunlins along with singles of Sanderling, Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit. Over the distant Fleet lagoon a group of Dark-bellied Brent Geese and 4 Sandwich Terns flew past.

Lodmoor, 1400

Unusually quiet here with just one Black-tailed Godwit and a Common Sandpiper to add to our list of waders. A Cetti's Warbler was glimpsed in a bush and the only Wigeon seen on the weekend were flying overhead.

Radipole, 1600

It is difficult to say how many Mediterranean Gulls were here this afternoon – I stopped counting at 100! Snipe and Black-tailed Godwits were feeding near the car park and the long-staying Hooded Merganser was with its Tufted Duck friends nearby. The North Hide added Stonechat and Kingfisher to the list, with another Kingfisher seen on the way back to the bus.

Sunday October 9th

Weather: a cold, windy morning on Portland but much warmer in the afternoon

Brownsea Island, 1100

As usual the lagoon was full of birds with 100's of Avocets and Black-tailed Godwits and a number of new waders for the weekend including Knot, Spotted Redshank and Greenshank. A flock of 14 Spoonbills was quite impressive but consisted of only 50% of the birds in Poole Harbour this weekend! A trip to Brownsea is never complete without a squirrel or two and we managed 3 sightings all from the boardwalk on the way to the hide.

Arne, 1500

A couple of Raft Spiders and a huge Emperor dragonfly were our first sightings here but we soon added Yellow-legged Gull to the list as well. More unexpected was the gorgeous Greenland Wheatear up on Coombe Heath. Several Sika Deer including 2 very impressive stags were a fine conclusion to a very pleasing weekend. Here's looking forward to the next time...

Bob Ford, October 9th 2011



Middlebere Lake and Corfe Castle

Birds: 98 species

<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Grebe	Radipole	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-headed Gull	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Crested Grebe	Radipole	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Gull	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gannet	Portland Bill	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesser Black-backed Gull	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cormorant	various sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	Herring Gull	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shag	Portland Bill, Poole Harbour	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow-legged Gull	Arne
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spoonbill	Arne, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Black-backed Gull	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Egret	Arne, Brownsea, Radipole	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandwich Tern	Ferrybridge, Brownsea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grey Heron	Lodmoor, Radipole, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Tern	Brownsea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mute Swan	Lodmoor, Radipole, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guillemot	Portland Bill
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	Ferrybridge, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Razorbill	Portland Bill
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canada Goose	Lodmoor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feral Pigeon	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelduck	Arne, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collared Dove	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wigeon	Lodmoor, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wood Pigeon	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gadwall	Lodmoor, Radipole	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kingfisher	Radipole, Brownsea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teal	Lodmoor, Radipole, Arne, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Green Woodpecker	Lodmoor (heard)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mallard	Lodmoor, Radipole, Arne, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skylark	Portland
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shoveler	Lodmoor, Radipole, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Swallow	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tufted Duck	Radipole	<input type="checkbox"/>	House Martin	Portland
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pochard	Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meadow Pipit	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hooded Merganser	Radipole	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock Pipit	Portland
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Scoter	Portland Bill	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pied Wagtail	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sparrowhawk	various sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wren	Arne
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kestrel	various sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dunnock	Portland
<input type="checkbox"/>	Peregrine	Portland, Poole	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robin	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Merlin	Portland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stonechat	Radipole, Arne
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buzzard	Portland, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheatear	Portland, Arne
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Rail	Brownsea (heard)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blackbird	Radipole
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moorhen	Lodmoor, Radipole, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blackcap	Portland
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coot	Lodmoor, Radipole	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chiffchaff	Portland
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oystercatcher	Arne, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cetti's Warbler	Lodmoor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Avocet	Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Goldcrest	Portland, Arne (heard)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Knot	Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coal Tit	Arne (heard)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sanderling	Ferrybridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Tit	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dunlin	Ferrybridge, Lodmoor, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Great Tit	various sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Redshank	Ferrybridge, Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long-tailed Tit	Arne (heard)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenshank	Brownsea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Magpie	various sites

- Spotted Redshank
- Common Sandpiper
- Green Sandpiper
- Snipe
- Curlew
- Black-tailed Godwit
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Lapwing
- Grey Plover
- Ringed Plover
- Turnstone
- Arctic Skua
- Mediterranean Gull

- Brownsea
- Lodmoor
- Radipole (heard)
- Radipole
- Arne, Brownsea
- Arne, Brownsea, Lodmoor, Radipole
- Ferrybridge, Brownsea
- Lodmoor, Brownsea
- Arne, Brownsea
- Ferrybridge
- Ferrybridge, Brownsea
- Portland Bill
- various sites

- Jay
- Jackdaw
- Rook
- Raven
- Carrion Crow
- Starling
- House Sparrow
- Chaffinch
- Greenfinch
- Goldfinch
- Linnet
- Siskin
- Redpoll

- Arne
- various sites
- various sites
- Portland
- various sites
- various sites
- various sites
- various sites
- Radipole
- various sites
- Portland
- Portland
- Arne

Mammals

- Red Squirrel
- Grey Squirrel
- Brown Rat

- Brownsea
- Portland
- Radipole

- Bunny
- Sika Deer

- various sites
- Arne

Invertebrates

- Raft Spider
- Red Admiral
- Speckled Wood

- Arne
- various sites
- Portland

- Migrant Hawker
- Emperor
- Common Darter

- Radipole
- Arne
- Arne

Selected Plants

- Sea Spleenwort
- Sea Buckthorn

- Maidenhair Fern
- Stinking Iris



Mediterranean Gull, Brownsea



Greenland Wheatear, Arne



Sika stag, Arne