



**Saturday September 20th**

Weather: foggy at first, then warm but mostly overcast, wind light easterly

Portland Bill 0900

A quick look at the sea revealed a few gannets and shags offshore, but the real interest was on land, where there were plenty of grounded migrants including wheatears, meadow pipits and Chiffchaffs. The observatory quarry little owl was at it's usual perch and also in the quarry were several blackcaps and a whitethroat. Reaching the observatory itself we were told about a wryneck which was showing well on a track nearby. We were soon able to confirm this and obtained excellent views of this beautiful bird. Back at the observatory Dr Peter Morgan showed us an excellent trio of birds on the hand - chiffchaff, willow warbler and spotted flycatcher.



Portland Castle, 1200

On another tip-off from the bird observatory we called in to the south western corner of Portland Harbour where a black guillemot had been seen earlier. Luckily it was still there and happy to sit still for us while we watched it through the telescopes. We normally have to wait until the depths of winter to see this species so this September sighting was remarkable.

Ferrybridge 1300

The usual waders were here but we were particularly pleased to see a little stint with them. In the distance were a few Mediterranean gulls and a sandwich tern.

Lodmoor RSPB Reserve, 1400

The highlight here was the spoonbill which flew in but the ruff was also an unexpected surprise. The supporting cast of common sandpiper, black-tailed godwit and water rail were also very much enjoyed.

RSPB Radipole 1500

A quiet finish to an outstanding day with just a few additions to the list including tufted duck and Cetti's warbler, the latter mostly heard rather than seen.

### **Sunday September 21st**

Weather: clear and sunny all day with a cool north easterly breeze

Easton 0900

A walk around the quarries on the north-west corner of the island took in first Jordan, then Inmosthay Quarry as well as the disused railway line running under Reforne. We searched all the sycamores for migrants and found plenty of chiffchaffs but no rarities. A large female hummingbird hawk-moth was a surprise find on the path leading in to Inmosthay.



Pennsylvania Castle, 1100

More sycamore-searching on the walk down to Church Ope Cove produced spotted flycatchers as well as plenty of chiffchaffs and a few long-tailed tits. A wall lizard was seen in the ruins of St Anne's Church and a grey squirrel was nearby. Keeping with the woodland theme, a great spotted woodpecker was seen flying overhead.

## Topfields, 1200

Parking at the edge of Southwell village we walked through the centre track of the area just north of Portland Bill known as Topfields. The wheatears and chiffchaffs were not unexpected but we were surprised by the smart male redstart that was sat on a bramble at the side of one of the fields. A sparrowhawk was seen on several occasions and we lost count of how many kestrels there were – at least eight.

## Ferrybridge, 1300

This time two little stints were found along with a knot and a sanderling. Hundreds of house martins and swallows continued to stream overhead, as they had been doing all morning.

## Rodden Hive, 1400

Our final visit was to the western end of the Fleet, near the beautiful village of Langton Herring. Walking through the fields we disturbed a green woodpecker and stumbled upon a flock of long-tailed tits. Reaching the Fleet we searched through the enormous flock of coots and found great crested grebes, little grebes and wigeon. Overhead a pair of buzzards soared over the hillside and a flock of skylarks flew north. Then, completely unexpectedly, a pair of black-necked grebes were found amongst the coots. As with yesterday's black guillemot, this species does not normally appear until much later in the year. As exciting as this was, the highlight was still probably on the way back when we found ourselves surrounded by a flock of long-tailed tits, blue tits and chiffchaffs, literally flying around our heads with scores of house martins and swallows swooping low over us as well.

Altogether a very pleasant weekend!

## Bob

### **Birds: 86 species**

Great Crested Grebe	Radipole, Fleet
Black-necked Grebe	Fleet
Little Grebe	Fleet
Gannet	Portland Bill
Cormorant	Portland Harbour, Fleet
Shag	Portland Bill
Spoonbill	Lodmoor
Little Egret	Lodmoor, Radipole, Fleet
Grey Heron	Lodmoor, Radipole
Canada Goose	Lodmoor, Radipole
Shelduck	Lodmoor
Shoveler	Lodmoor, Radipole
Wigeon	Fleet
Teal	Radipole, Fleet
Mallard	Radipole, Lodmoor, Fleet
Gadwall	Radipole, Lodmoor
Tufted Duck	Radipole
Peregrine	Heights Hotel
Kestrel	Various sites
Sparrowhawk	Portland
Buzzard	Portland, Fleet
Pheasant	Fleet
Water Rail	Lodmoor
Moorhen	Radipole
Coot	Radipole, Fleet
Turnstone	Ferrybridge
Oystercatcher	Ferrybridge
Lapwing	Lodmoor

Ringed Plover	Ferrybridge
Dunlin	Ferrybridge
Little Stint	Ferrybridge
Sanderling	Ferrybridge
Knot	Ferrybridge
Ruff	Lodmoor
Bar-tailed Godwit	Ferrybridge
Black-tailed Godwit	Lodmoor
Snipe	Lodmoor
Common Sandpiper	Lodmoor
Black-headed Gull	various sites
Mediterranean Gull	Ferrybridge, Radipole, Lodmoor
Herring Gull	various sites
Great Black-backed Gull	various sites
Sandwich Tern	Portland Harbour
Black Guillemot	Portland Harbour
Wood Pigeon	various sites
Feral Pigeon	various sites
Stock Dove	Portland
Collared Dove	Fleet
Little Owl	Portland
Kingfisher	Fleet
Green Woodpecker	Fleet
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Portland
Wryneck	Portland
Skylark	Fleet
Swallow	various sites
House Martin	various sites
Rock Pipit	Portland Bill
Meadow Pipit	Portland Bill
Pied Wagtail	various sites
Grey Wagtail	Fleet
Wren	various sites
Dunnock	various sites
Robin	various sites
Redstart	Portland
Wheatear	Portland
Blackbird	various sites
Song Thrush	Lodmoor
Blue Tit	various sites
Great Tit	various sites
Long-tailed Tit	Fleet
Cetti's Warbler	Radipole
Whitethroat	Portland Bill
Blackcap	Portland Bill, Fleet
Chiffchaff	various sites
Willow Warbler	Portland Bill
Spotted Flycatcher	Portland, Fleet
Raven	various sites
Magpie	various sites
Jackdaw	various sites
Rook	Fleet
Carrion Crow	various sites
Starling	various sites
House Sparrow	various sites
Goldfinch	Portland
Linnet	Portland
Bullfinch	Radipole

**Mammals:**

Rabbit	Fleet
Brown Rat	Portland Bill
Grey Squirrel	Portland

**Insects:**

Red Admiral	various sites
Comma	Lodmoor
Large White	Fleet
Clouded Yellow	Portland, Fleet
Common Blue	Ferrybridge, Fleet
Speckled Wood	Lodmoor
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	Portland
Migrant Hawker	Radipole
Common Darter	Radipole