



Tuesday September 30th

Weather: a warm day but mostly overcast with some sunny intervals, wind light south-westerly

New Ground, 0700

An early walk around the hotel revealed that the day's migration was already underway with lots of wagtails, pipits and finches flying in from the mainland. Good views were had of a raven and a sparrowhawk but the highlight was when a merlin appeared following the pipits south.

Portland Bill, 0900

A quick look at the sea revealed just two distant gannets and a few shags closer in. Overhead plenty of migration was going on with flocks of wagtails, swallows and meadow pipits streaming south. Several wheatears were grounded amongst the rocks and of course the resident rock pipits were much in evidence too. Out on the Admiralty Slopes near the Westcliffs several clouded yellows were out in the warm sunshine. Reaching the bird observatory we had good views of goldcrest and even better views of a chiffchaff when one was shown to us after being caught in the mist-nets for ringing. Walking back along the Eastcliffs more wheatears and pipits were seen in the hut fields.

Portland Castle, 1200

We called in to the south western corner of Portland Harbour where a black guillemot had been present for several weeks. Unfortunately it was nowhere to be seen and we had to be content with the best view yet of a very smart rock pipit.

Ferrybridge, 1300

The usual waders were here, mostly dunlins and ringed plovers, along with several Mediterranean gulls and two sandwich terns.

Radipole RSPB Reserve, 1500

A excellent finish to an outstanding day with many great birds seen including water rail, hobby, green sandpiper and kingfisher. The supporting cast of snipe, black-tailed godwit, buzzard and little grebe were also very much appreciated. Dragonflies were everywhere, mostly migrant hawkers with a few common darters – although there were a few less after the hooby had finished with them!



For a video of this hobby, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbWr0AKKj20>

Wednesday October 1st

Weather: very similar weather to yesterday but with better visibility

Inmosthay Quarry, 0700

The quarry next to the hotel held a few chiffchaffs this morning and a couple of stock doves were seen flying over.

Admiralty Quarries, 0900

Parking next to the High Angle Battery we walked up the bank overlooking the site to investigate a possible sighting of a whinchat. This turned out to be just a wheatear but in looking for it we also saw a pair of stonechats and a whitethroat. Moving on to Withies Croft Quarry we paused to look at the stone-crushing operations when a hooded crow appeared with some carrion crows at the top of the quarry. It soon flew out of view but we caught up with it again at the other side of the quarry. While we were watching it a party of five ravens flew over and a weasel ran across the path in front of us. Next stop was the viewpoint looking out over the East Weares where we saw a pair of peregrines and a buzzard.

Portland Castle, 1300

After coffee at the Jailhouse Cafe we had another look for the black guillemot, which had returned from its jounries and gave us excellent views through the telescopes. We celebrated with a very pleasant lunch-stop at Ferrybridge.

Lodmoor RSPB Reserve, 1500

Our final stop added quite a few new birds to the list including lapwing, shelduck and common sandpiper. Another kingfisher was seen in flight and we had better views of snipe and black-tailed godwit. One of the most surprising sights of the weekend was just as we were leaving and found a moorhen perched high in a willow tree right next to the path.

Make sure you come back soon!

Bob

Birds: 80 species

Little Grebe	Radipole, Lodmoor
Gannet	Portland Bill
Cormorant	Portland Harbour
Shag	Portland Bill
Little Egret	Radipole, Lodmoor
Grey Heron	Radipole, Lodmoor
Mute Swan	Radipole, Lodmoor
Canada Goose	Radipole, Lodmoor
Shelduck	Lodmoor
Shoveler	Radipole, Lodmoor
Teal	Radipole, Lodmoor
Mallard	Radipole, Lodmoor
Gadwall	Radipole, Lodmoor
Tufted Duck	Radipole
Pochard	Radipole
Merlin	Heights Hotel
Peregrine	East Weares
Hobby	Radipole
Kestrel	Various sites
Sparrowhawk	Portland
Buzzard	Portland, Radipole
Water Rail	Radipole
Moorhen	Radipole, Lodmoor
Coot	Radipole, Lodmoor
Turnstone	Ferrybridge
Oystercatcher	Portland Bill
Lapwing	Lodmoor
Ringed Plover	Ferrybridge
Dunlin	Ferrybridge
Redshank	Ferrybridge
Black-tailed Godwit	Radipole, Lodmoor
Snipe	Radipole, Lodmoor
Common Sandpiper	Lodmoor
Green Sandpiper	Radipole
Black-tailed Godwit	Lodmoor
Black-headed Gull	various sites
Mediterranean Gull	Ferrybridge, Radipole

Herring Gull	various sites
Great Black-backed Gull	various sites
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Ferrybridge
Sandwich Tern	Portland Harbour
Black Guillemot	Portland Harbour
Wood Pigeon	various sites
Feral Pigeon	various sites
Stock Dove	Portland
Collared Dove	Portland, Lodmoor
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Portland (heard)
Skylark	Portland Bill
Swallow	various sites
Kingfisher	Radipole, Lodmoor
Rock Pipit	Portland Bill
Meadow Pipit	various sites
Pied Wagtail	various sites
Yellow Wagtail	Portland Bill
Wren	various sites
Dunnock	various sites
Robin	various sites
Stonechat	Portland, Lodmoor
Wheatear	Portland, Lodmoor
Blackbird	various sites
Bearded Tit	Radipole (heard)
Blue Tit	various sites
Great Tit	various sites
Long-tailed Tit	Radipole, Lodmoor
Cetti's Warbler	Radipole
Whitethroat	Portland
Chiffchaff	various sites
Willow Warbler	Portland Bill
Goldcrest	Portland Bill
Great Tit	various sites
Long-tailed Tit	Fleet
Raven	various sites
Magpie	various sites
Jackdaw	various sites
Rook	Ferrybridge
Carrion Crow	various sites
Hooded Crow	Withies Croft
Starling	various sites
House Sparrow	various sites
Goldfinch	Portland
Linnet	Portland
Chaffinch	Portland
Greenfinch	Lodmoor

Mammals:

Weasel	Portland
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Insects:

Red Admiral	various sites
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Clouded Yellow	Portland Bill
Small Heath	Portland Bill
Speckled Wood	Radipole, Lodmoor
Fox Moth	Portland
Migrant Hawker	Radipole
Common Darter	Radipole, Lodmoor

Plants – a selection:

Viper's Bugloss	Portland
Carrot	Portland
Black Knapweed	Portland
Hemp Agrimony	Radipole
Red Bartsia	Portland
Water Mint	Radipole
Marsh Samphire	Ferrybridge
Restharrow	Portland
Burnet Rose	Portland
Thrift	Portland
Perforate St John's Wort	Radipole
Teasel	Portland
Sea Purslane	Ferrybridge
Shrubby Seablite	Ferrybridge
Rock Samphire	Portland
Golden Samphire	Portland
Golden-rod	Portland
Stitchwort	Radipole
Gypsywort	Radipole
Yarrow	Portland
Fleabane	Radipole
Sea Aster	Radipole
Melilot	Radipole