



### Saturday July 18th

**Weather: mostly warm and sunny but with a fresh westerly breeze, cloudy in the afternoon**

#### Portland Bill, 0900

A few distant Gannets were seen but just a single guillemot was left from the breeding colony. The only other birds seen were one or two shags, a rock pipit and a pair of ravens. We had not expected to see any butterflies here so the grayling that appeared amongst the bare rocks was definitely a bonus.

#### Admiralty Slopes, 1000

Walking north from the Bill we found a juvenile kestrel and a number of skylarks and meadow pipits. The butterflies were now starting to wake up with meadow browns, gatekeepers and marbled whites everywhere. Soon we started to pick out the more difficult species and it was not long before we found a few lulworth skippers amongst the more common small skippers. For me though the best sighting here was the brief view we had of a lovely small copper, a species that has not been easy to see in recent years. Wild flowers were much in evidence here and were the subject of much discussion, especially the white umbellifer which started out as a pignut, turned into a corky-fruited water dropwort and then finally settled into a burnet saxifrage!

*I am now able to confirm this identification after checking a definite corky-fruited water dropwort at Radipole Lake, which clearly had larger and more fleshy leaves all of which were thread-like, without any of the characteristic basal leaves that burnet saxifrage has.*



Portland Bird Observatory, 1030

On the Observatory patio we were very fortunate to be present when a young whitethroat was caught in the mist-nets and shown to us by ringer Peter Morgan. The warden Martin Cade then helped us to be able to sort through the night's moth catch which today included a couple of very striking garden tigers and a beautiful swallowtail moth.

See *Martin's tweet* at <https://twitter.com/PortlandBirdObs/status/622392708913610752>

Southwell, 1100

Better views of lulworth skippers were had here along with the first ringlets and chalkhill blues of the day. The resident peregrine gave us a brief view as it dashed in to the cliff and sat glaring out to sea, unfortunately mostly hidden by vegetation. A common lizard was seen by one member of the group before a short diversion into a neighbouring quarry produced a couple of young wall lizards.

Ferrybridge, 1330

Close views were had here of a number of Dunlins and ringed plovers with more distant views of at least 20 little terns and a single sandwich tern. The usual flock of gulls on the mudflats were mostly Mediterranean gulls, about 30 in total.



Admiralty Quarries, 1430

Huge numbers of pyramidal orchids were seen here as we searched for a late silver studded blue. Eventually our hard work did pay off when we obtained close views of a confiding but fairly tatty male.

Tout Quarry, 1600

With the weather rapidly deteriorating we made one final attempt at a decent view of a grayling. In pretty cold and breezy conditions we were very lucky to find several of them, along with some scarlet tigers and a number of new micro moths including a splendid little *Cynaeda dentalis*, a Portland speciality. The hoverfly we found here turned out to be *Sericomyia silentis*.

## **Sunday July 19th**

**Weather: unexpectedly warm and sunny most of the day**

Maiden Castle, 0930

A quick stop here to see the corn buntings, which duly obliged us with close views of several singing males. A whitethroat was also seen briefly.

Moreton Forest, 1030

In beautifully warm weather we walked along a forest track to where a group of marsh helleborines were flowering. Lots of other interesting plants were seen as well including the introduced pirri-pirri bur. Birds were very quiet in the heat but we did see a tree-creeper and several coal tits. A single crossbill was heard distantly.

Tadnoll Heath, 1130

The dartford warblers were not showing themselves here today but we did see a couple of stonechats as well as the only silver-washed fritillary and golden-ringed dragonflies of the day.



Stoborough Heath, 1230

Another no-show for the dartford warblers but instead we had better views of stonechats and graylings. A green moth in the heather was later identified as a grass emerald.



Arne RSPB Reserve, 1330

Our lunch stop added a few common birds to the list as well as a few less welcome horse-flies.

Badbury Rings, 1500

Probably the highlight of the weekend with more views of corn buntings and a host of butterflies including dark green fritillaries and essex skippers. The earth-works here were covered with an incredible diversity of wild flowers but sadly most of the orchids had died back. We did see lots of pyramidal orchids though and plenty of dead spikes of common spotted orchids.



Looking forward to our next trip out together,

Bob

**Birds:**

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Fulmar                   | Portland Bill       |
| Gannet                   | Portland Bill       |
| Shag                     | Portland Bill       |
| Cormorant                | Portland Bill       |
| Little Egret             | Ferrybridge         |
| Grey Heron               | Weymouth            |
| Mute Swan                | Radipole            |
| Canada Goose             | Radipole            |
| Mallard                  | Radipole            |
| Sparrowhawk              | Weymouth            |
| Kestrel                  | Portland            |
| Peregrine                | Portland            |
| Buzzard                  | Portland, Tadnoll   |
| Guillemot                | Portland Bill       |
| Coot                     | Radipole            |
| Oystercatcher            | Ferrybridge         |
| Dunlin                   | Ferrybridge         |
| Ringed Plover            | Ferrybridge         |
| Mediterranean Gull       | Ferrybridge         |
| Black-headed Gull        | Ferrybridge         |
| Herring Gull             | Portland            |
| Great Black-backed Gull  | Portland            |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | Portland            |
| Little Tern              | Ferrybridge         |
| Sandwich Tern            | Ferrybridge         |
| Stock Dove               | Portland            |
| Wood Pigeon              | various sites       |
| Feral Pigeon             | various sites       |
| Green Woodpecker         | Tadnoll (heard)     |
| Skylark                  | Portland Bill       |
| Rock Pipit               | Portland Bill       |
| Meadow Pipit             | Portland Bill       |
| Pied Wagtail             | Heights Hotel       |
| Swift                    | Stoborough          |
| Swallow                  | various sites       |
| House Martin             | Portland            |
| Wren                     | Portland            |
| Dunnock                  | Portland            |
| Stonechat                | Tadnoll, Stoborough |
| Robin                    | Portland (heard)    |
| Blackbird                | Portland            |
| Mistle Thrush            | Tadnoll             |
| Blackcap                 | Arne (heard)        |

|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Whitethroat   | Portland, Maiden Castle      |
| Chiffchaff    | Arne                         |
| Tree-creeper  | Moreton                      |
| Coal Tit      | Moreton                      |
| Blue Tit      | Arne                         |
| Great Tit     | Portland                     |
| Raven         | Portland                     |
| Magpie        | various sites                |
| Jackdaw       | various sites                |
| Rook          | Maiden Castle, Badbury Rings |
| Carrion Crow  | various sites                |
| Starling      | Ferrybridge                  |
| House Sparrow | Portland                     |
| Goldfinch     | Portland                     |
| Chaffinch     | Badbury Rings (heard)        |
| Greenfinch    | Portland                     |
| Linnet        | Portland                     |
| Crossbill     | Moreton (heard)              |
| Yellowhammer  | Badbury Rings (heard)        |
| Corn Bunting  | Maiden Castle, Badbury Rings |

**Reptiles:**

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Wall Lizard   | Portland |
| Common Lizard | Portland |
| Slow-worm     | Portland |

**Mammals:**

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Bunny    | Portland   |
| Roe Deer | Dorchester |

**Insects:**

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Small White              | Portland      |
| Large White              | Portland      |
| Grayling                 | Portland      |
| Marbled White            | Portland      |
| Meadow Brown             | Portland      |
| Gatekeeper               | Portland      |
| Small Heath              | Portland      |
| Speckled Wood            | Portland      |
| Ringlet                  | Portland      |
| Small Tortoiseshell      | Portland      |
| Red Admiral              | Portland      |
| Painted Lady             | Portland      |
| Silver-washed Fritillary | Tadnoll       |
| Dark Green Fritillary    | Badbury Rings |
| Small Copper             | Portland      |
| Common Blue              | Portland      |
| Chalkhill Blue           | Portland      |
| Silver-studded Blue      | Portland      |

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Large Skipper            | Portland            |
| Small Skipper            | Portland            |
| Lulworth Skipper         | Portland            |
| Essex Skipper            | Badbury Rings       |
| Common Blue Damselfly    | Portland            |
| Emperor                  | Portland            |
| Broad-bodied Chaser      | Portland            |
| Brown Hawker             | Arne                |
| Golden-ringed Dragonfly  | Tadnoll             |
| Bordered Sallow          | PBO moth trap       |
| Bright-line Brown-eye    | PBO moth trap       |
| Brown-line Bright-eye    | PBO moth trap       |
| Brown-tail               | PBO moth trap       |
| Brussels Lace            | PBO moth trap       |
| Buff Ermine              | PBO moth trap       |
| Buff-tip                 | Arne Ladies Toilets |
| Cabbage                  | PBO moth trap       |
| Cinnabar                 | Portland            |
| Clay                     | PBO moth trap       |
| Common Footman           | PBO moth trap       |
| <i>Cynaeda dentalis</i>  | Tout Quarry         |
| Dark Arches              | PBO moth trap       |
| Dark Swordgrass          | PBO moth trap       |
| Drinker                  | PBO moth trap       |
| Garden Tiger             | PBO moth trap       |
| Grass Emerald            | Stoborough Heath    |
| Lackey                   | PBO moth trap       |
| Large Yellow Underwing   | PBO moth trap       |
| Light Arches             | PBO moth trap       |
| Nutmeg                   | PBO moth trap       |
| Riband Wave              | PBO moth trap       |
| Rosy Minor               | PBO moth trap       |
| Rustic                   | PBO moth trap       |
| Scalloped Oak            | PBO moth trap       |
| Scarlet Tiger            | Portland            |
| Shark                    | PBO moth trap       |
| Shoulder-stripe Wainscot | PBO moth trap       |
| Shuttle-shaped Dart      | PBO moth trap       |
| Six-spot Burnet          | Badbury Rings       |
| Swallowtail              | PBO moth trap       |
| Thistle Ermine           | PBO moth trap       |
| White Plume Moth         | Tout Quarry         |
| Short-winged Conehead    | Portland            |
| Meadow Grasshopper       | Portland            |
| Soldier Beetle           | Portland            |
| Thick-kneed Beetle       | Portland            |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Minotaur Beetle                        | Stoborough |
| Hoverfly – <i>Sericomyia silentis</i>  | Portland   |
| Hoverfly – <i>Episyrphus balteatus</i> | Portland   |
| Horsefly – <i>Tabanus bromius</i>      | Arne       |
| Horsefly – <i>Chrysops relictus</i>    | Stoborough |

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Barrel Jellyfish | Ferrybridge |
|------------------|-------------|

**Plants:**

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Scots Pine            | Moreton       |
| Corsican Pine         | Moreton       |
| Lawson's Cypress      | Moreton       |
| Wayfaring Tree        | Portland      |
| Sea Beet              | Portland      |
| Sea Bindweed          | Ferrybridge   |
| Sea Purslane          | Ferrybridge   |
| Shrubby Seablite      | Ferrybridge   |
| Viper's Bugloss       | Portland      |
| Crosswort             | Badbury Rings |
| Lady's Bedstraw       | Portland      |
| Hedge Bedstraw        | Portland      |
| Squinancywort         | Badbury Rings |
| Ivy Broomrape         | Portland      |
| Buddleia              | Portland      |
| Wild Mignonette       | Badbury Rings |
| Clematis              | Portland      |
| Common Mallow         | Portland      |
| Tree Mallow           | Portland      |
| Burnet Saxifrage      | Portland      |
| Rock Samphire         | Portland      |
| Wild Carrot           | Portland      |
| Wild Parsnip          | Portland      |
| Herb Robert           | Portland      |
| White Stonecrop       | Portland      |
| Rock Stonecrop        | Portland      |
| Common Ragwort        | Portland      |
| Sea Mayweed           | Portland      |
| Bristly Ox-tongue     | Portland      |
| Perennial Sow-thistle | Portland      |
| Black Knapweed        | Portland      |
| Greater Knapweed      | Portland      |
| Stemless Thistle      | Portland      |
| Creeping Thistle      | Portland      |
| Spear Thistle         | Portland      |
| Marsh Thistle         | Moreton       |
| Creeping Thistle      | Portland      |
| Fleabane              | Portland      |
| Hemp Agrimony         | Portland      |
| Autumn Hawkbit        | Portland      |



|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Leafy Hawkweed           | Moreton       |
| Carline Thistle          | Portland      |
| Golden Samphire          | Portland      |
| Pirri-pirri Bur          | Moreton       |
| Broad-leaved Eyebright   | Portland      |
| Red Bartsia              | Portland      |
| Yellow Rattle            | Portland      |
| Common Centaury          | Portland      |
| Yellow-wort              | Portland      |
| Pyrenean Cranesbill      | Portland      |
| Field Poppy              | Portland      |
| Opium Poppy              | Portland      |
| Self-heal                | Portland      |
| Wild Basil               | Badbury Rings |
| Marjoram                 | Portland      |
| Thyme                    | Portland      |
| Wood Sage                | Portland      |
| Wild Privet              | Portland      |
| Marsh Samphire           | Ferrybridge   |
| Pyramidal Orchid         | Portland      |
| Common Spotted Orchid    | Badbury Rings |
| Marsh Helleborine        | Moreton       |
| Birdsfoot Trefoil        | Portland      |
| Everlasting Pea          | Portland      |
| Kidney Vetch             | Portland      |
| Horseshoe Vetch          | Portland      |
| Restharrow               | Portland      |
| Meadow Vetchling         | Portland      |
| Woody Nightshade         | Portland      |
| Ladies Mantle            | Portland      |
| Agrimony                 | Portland      |
| Bramble                  | Portland      |
| Burnet Rose              | Portland      |
| Creeping Cinquefoil      | Portland      |
| Thrift                   | Portland      |
| Harebell                 | Badbury Rings |
| Wood Spurge              | Portland      |
| Perforate St John's Wort | Moreton       |
| Small Scabious           | Portland      |
| Field Scabious           | Portland      |
| Devilsbit Scabious       | Badbury Rings |
| Teasel                   | Portland      |
| Red Valerian             | Portland      |
| Sallow                   | Portland      |
| Bell Heather             | Moreton       |
| Cross-leaved Heath       | Moreton       |
| Ling                     | Moreton       |
| False Brome              | Portland      |