



*Little owl*

**Saturday May 16th**

**Weather: mostly warm and sunny with a light south-westerly breeze**

Portland Bill, 0930

Gannets were seen here from the moment we got out of the bus. With the gannets were the breeding seabirds namely guillemots and razorbills with a few kittiwakes and fulmars. A single Manx shearwater was seen by one lucky member of the group but the star bird was the summer-plumaged great northern diver which flew past going west, even though it was only in view for a few seconds.

Admiralty Slopes, 1030

Walking north from the Bill we added kestrel and raven to the day's list and very much enjoyed the numerous skylarks and their beautiful singing. A very smart pair of stonechats were found perched on some brambles accompanied by several meadow pipits.

Portland Bird Observatory, 1100

The Observatory Quarry was our first stop where we had excellent views of the resident little owl and a brief view of a wall butterfly. At the Observatory we were very fortunate to be able to go through the warden's moth catch which today included a very rare bordered straw.



*Common Swift*

Southwell, 1200

A visit to our favourite pair of peregrines produced some great flight views of both the male and female birds. The walk down to the cliffs produced no less than seven wall lizards, all very close and several actually posing for photographs! A dinghy skipper and a painted lady were the best of the butterflies seen here.



*Wall Lizard*

Ferrybridge, 1330

Some distant sanderlings and ringed plovers were the only waders here but there were at least 20 little terns along with a single sandwich tern.

Lodmoor RSPB Reserve, 1430

A long list of new birds were added to the day's list here with the "cross-dressing" male marsh harrier being the best. Bar-tailed and black-tailed godwits were here but it was the screaming colony of common terns that I enjoyed the most. Butterflies here included some lovely orange-tips and all three whites.

Radipole RSPB Reserve, 1600

Lots of Cetti's warblers here several of which allowed themselves to be seen. The North Hide produced the second male marsh harrier of the day as well as some calling bearded tits which sadly stayed hidden in the reeds. On the way back a male sparrowhawk was seen bothering the swallows whilst the passing pair of swifts were far too fast to be bothered.

Sunday May 17th  
Weather: pretty much the same



*Durlston Country Park and the Purbeck Hills*



*Green-winged Orchid*



*Early Purple Orchid*

Durlston Country Park, 1030

As expected it was the plant life that dominated our walk around this lovely reserve with three species of orchid being found along with a number of unusual plants including adderstongue fern and chalk milkwort. There were plenty of birds too with whitethroats everywhere and at least one lesser whitethroat heard singing. The insects would have been more in evidence if the wind was a bit lighter but we did see a male common blue and a little green mirid bug. Mammals were represented by a very attractive pair of roe deer.



*Early Spider Orchid*

Furzebrook Heath, 1300

Again the wind put a bit of a damper on proceedings and kept the Dartford warblers well hidden. We did see some very smart stonechats though and noticed several male oak eggar moths flying around. Overhead three buzzards were soaring about dodging the mobbing crows.

Winfrith Heath, 1400

Perhaps the highlight of the day occurred here when no less than three green hairstreaks were found in a short distance along the path. The Dartford warblers, although common here, were hiding very efficiently but we were pleased to see and hear several yellowhammers and two different displaying lapwings. On the way back to the bus a large female peregrine appeared overhead with a very full crop, indicating a recent meal. Hopefully it wasn't one of the lapwings we had just been watching, although they were worryingly quiet at the moment.

Ferrybridge, 1600

We just had time for a quick look at the waders on the shoreline before tackling our cream teas. Dunlin was added to the list before we noticed a pair of large waders in the distance. At first appearing to be knots, as they took off the dark under-wing coverts became obvious proving that they were actually grey plovers.

Looking forward to the next time,

Bob



*Green Hairstreak*

**Birds: 84 species**

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Great Northern Diver | Portland Bill      |
| Great Crested Grebe  | Radipole           |
| Fulmar               | Portland Bill      |
| Manx Shearwater      | Portland Bill      |
| Gannet               | Portland           |
| Cormorant            | Portland, Radipole |
| Shag                 | Portland Bill      |
| Little Egret         | Lodmoor            |
| Grey Heron           | Lodmoor            |
| Mute Swan            | Radipole, Lodmoor  |
| Canada Goose         | Radipole, Lodmoor  |
| Shelduck             | Radipole, Lodmoor  |
| Mallard              | Radipole, Lodmoor  |
| Gadwall              | Radipole           |
| Shoveler             | Lodmoor            |
| Pochard              | Radipole           |
| Tufted Duck          | Radipole, Lodmoor  |
| Kestrel              | various sites      |
| Peregrine            | Portland, Winfrith |

Buzzard	Furzebrook, Winfrith
Sparrowhawk	Radipole
Marsh Harrier	Lodmoor, Radipole
Coot	Radipole, Lodmoor
Moorhen	Radipole, Lodmoor
Sanderling	Ferrybridge
Dunlin	Ferrybridge
Oystercatcher	Lodmoor, Portland
Ringed Plover	Ferrybridge
Grey Plover	Ferrybridge
Lapwing	Winfrith
Bar-tailed Godwit	Ferrybridge, Lodmoor
Black-tailed Godwit	Lodmoor
Whimbrel	Radipole
Kittiwake	Portland Bill
Black-headed Gull	Lodmoor
Herring Gull	various sites
Great Black-backed Gull	various sites
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Radipole, Lodmoor
Sandwich Tern	Ferrybridge
Little Tern	Ferrybridge
Common Tern	Lodmoor
Guillemot	Portland Bill
Razorbill	Portland Bill
Wood Pigeon	various sites
Feral Pigeon	Radipole
Collared Dove	Winfrith
Little Owl	Portland Bill
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Winfrith
Skylark	Portland Bill
Rock Pipit	Portland Bill
Meadow Pipit	Ferrybridge, Portland Bill
Pied Wagtail	Heights Hotel, Ferrybridge
Wren	Portland, Radipole
Dunnock	Portland, Radipole
Robin	Portland, Radipole
Stonechat	Portland Bill, Winfrith, Furzebrook
Blackbird	various sites
Song Thrush	Portland (heard)
Swift	Radipole
Swallow	various sites
House Martin	Radipole
Cetti's Warbler	Radipole, Lodmoor
Reed Warbler	Radipole, Lodmoor
Sedge Warbler	Radipole
Blackcap	Durlston
Whitethroat	Portland Bill, Durlston
Lesser Whitethroat	Durlston
Chiffchaff	various sites
Bearded Tit	Radipole (heard)
Long-tailed Tit	Winfrith
Blue Tit	various sites
Great Tit	various sites
Raven	Portland
Magpie	various sites
Jackdaw	various sites
Rook	Winfrith
Carrion Crow	various sites
Starling	various sites

House Sparrow	various sites
Goldfinch	Portland
Chaffinch	Portland
Greenfinch	Lodmoor
Linnet	various sites
Bullfinch	Durlston
Reed Bunting	Radipole
Yellowhammer	Winfrith

**Mammals:**

Roe Deer	Durlston
Rabbit	Portland
Brown Hare	Winfrith
Grey Seal	Portland Bill

**Reptiles:**

Wall Lizard	Portland
Common Lizard	Winfrith

**Insects:**

Peacock	Lodmoor
Red Admiral	Portland
Painted Lady	Portland
Large White	Portland
Small White	Lodmoor
Green-veined White	Portland
Orange-tip	Lodmoor
Brimstone	Portland
Speckled Wood	Portland
Wall	Portland
Common Blue	Durlston
Holly Blue	Portland, Durlston
Green Hairstreak	Winfrith
Dingy Skipper	Portland

Angle Shades	Portland Bird Observatory
Bordered Straw	Portland Bird Observatory
Bright-line Brown-eye	Portland Bird Observatory
Brimstone	Portland Bird Observatory
Common Swift	Portland Bird Observatory
Flame Shoulder	Portland Bird Observatory
Hebrew Character	Portland Bird Observatory
Light Brown Apple Moth	Portland Bird Observatory
Oak Eggar	Furzebrook
Purple Bar	Portland Bird Observatory
Rustic Shoulder Knot	Portland Bird Observatory
Scarlet Tiger	Portland Bird Observatory
Shuttle-shaped Dart	Portland Bird Observatory
Silver Y	Portland Bird Observatory
White-point	Portland Bird Observatory
Yellow Belle	Portland Bird Observatory

7-spot Ladybird	Portland
Green Tiger Beetle	Winfrith
Mirid Bug	Durlston
Green Shield Bug	Portland

**Plants:**

Marsh Marigold	Radipole
Ladies Smock	Radipole
Hemlock Water Dropwort	Radipole
Spanish Bluebell	Radipole
<i>Eleagnus ebbingei</i>	Radipole
Wormwood	Radipole
Hoary Cress	Portland
Rock Samphire	Portland
Wild Clary	Portland
Pellitory of the Wall	Portland
Adder's Tongue	Durlston
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Durlston
Black Medick	Durlston
Bristly Ox-tongue	Durlston
Bulbous Buttercup	Durlston
Chalk Milkwort	Durlston
Cowslip	Durlston
Crosswort	Durlston
Early Purple Orchid	Durlston
Early Spider Orchid	Durlston
English Bluebell	Durlston
Green-winged Orchid	Durlston
Pale Flax	Durlston
Rough Hawkbit	Durlston
Salad Burnet	Durlston
Woolly Thistle	Durlston
Heath Milkwort	Furzebrook
Tormentil	Furzebrook