



Saturday April 20th

Weather: warm sunshine all day in a light north-easterly breeze

Portland Bill, 0900

In the most beautiful Spring weather we started our weekend at the Bill seeing mostly seabirds with a singing Wheatear and a few Rock Pipits on the land. The seabirds were largely Razorbills and Guillemots on the sea with Fulmars and Gannets flying past. The highlight was either the Puffin that floated past with the Guillemots or the Bottle-nosed Dolphin just offshore.

Portland Castle, 1100

Switching to landbirds we searched the trees around the Castle and came up trumps with a beautiful singing Wood Warbler, accompanied by a much less co-operative Spotted Flycatcher.

Ferrybridge, 1200

We had just decided that the only waders here were a couple of Oystercatchers when the message came through that there was an Iceland Gull at Radipole.

Radipole RSPB Reserve, 1230

The gull in question was quickly found and happily accepted as an Iceland Gull, although the bill didn't look quite right. Later we heard that it was most likely a leucistic Herring Gull and the photo that Cliff Smith put up on twitter showed that the bill was indeed much too large for an Iceland Gull. There was certainly no doubt over the Ring-necked Duck though as it gave excellent views right in front of the Visitor Centre.



Cliff Smith's photo from twitter



The Lesser Yellowlegs at Lodmoor

Lodmoor RSPB Reserve, 1400

An unforgettable bird-watching session here starting at the West Scrape with Greenshank and Lesser Yellowlegs with the latter seen at very close quarters. Nearby was a flock of 50 Black-tailed Godwits including several fine summer-plumaged birds. The South Viewpoint showed us a male Marsh Harrier and a couple of Snipe, all in very good light indeed.

Sunday April 21st

Weather: much the same as yesterday only not quite so warm

Portland Bill, 0900

Following-up a report of a Hoopoe at the Bill we started our second day's birdwatching with a short walk along the Westcliffs. The Hoopoe was nowhere to be seen but we did enjoy another chance to watch the Razorbills and Guillemots on the sea below us. A surprising addition to the weekend list was Barrel Jellyfish, a number of which were floating. Past in the current.. email

Cheyne Point, 1030

A brief stop here to look for Peregrines added Wall Brown to the butterfly list but little else.

HMP Verne, 1100

With the Jailhouse café closed we still enjoyed the views of the Port and a very smart male Kestrel.

Ferrybridge, 1130

Distant views of Bar-tailed Godwits and Ringed Plovers were all that was to be had here, apart from the cake of course.

Abbotsbury Swannery, 1300

This would have been a pleasant enough spot for lunch even if there weren't 20 Cattle Egrets in the next field! This was followed by the clear highlight of the day as we spent a very pleasant couple of hours walking round the Swannery. Arctic Tern was the best addition to the bird list but the chance to see so many nesting swans was probably even more memorable.



Looking forward to the next time,

Bob

The weekend list:

Birds:

Great Crested Grebe	Abbotsbury
Fulmar	Portland Bill
Gannet	Portland Bill
Cormorant	Portland Bill, Radipole
Shag	Portland Bill
Little Egret	Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Cattle Egret	Abbotsbury
Grey Heron	Radipole
Mute Swan	Radipole, Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Black Swan	Abbotsbury
Canada Goose	Radipole, Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Shelduck	Radipole, Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Teal	Radipole, Lodmoor
Mallard	Radipole, Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Shoveler	Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Gadwall	Radipole, Lodmoor
Tufted Duck	Radipole, Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Ring-necked Duck	Radipole
Pochard	Radipole, Abbotsbury
Kestrel	Portland
Peregrine	Portland Bill
Buzzard	Radipole, Abbotsbury
Marsh Harrier	Radipole, Lodmoor
Pheasant	Abbotsbury
Coot	Radipole, Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Moorhen	Radipole, Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Oystercatcher	Ferrybridge, Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Ringed Plover	Ferrybridge
Snipe	Lodmoor
Black-tailed Godwit	Radipole, Lodmoor
Bar-tailed Godwit	Ferrybridge
Dunlin	Lodmoor
Lesser Yellowlegs	Lodmoor
Greenshank	Lodmoor
Black-headed Gull	Radipole, Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Mediterranean Gull	Lodmoor, Abbotsbury
Herring Gull	Ferrybridge etc
Great Black-backed Gull	Portland Bill, Radipole
Common Gull	Lodmoor
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Radipole
Sandwich Tern	Ferrybridge, Abbotsbury
Common Tern	Abbotsbury
Arctic Tern	Abbotsbury
Puffin	Portland Bill
Guillemot	Portland Bill
Razorbill	Portland Bill
Great-spotted Woodpecker	Abbotsbury
Wood Pigeon	Portland etc

Collared Dove	Lodmoor
Feral Pigeon	Radipole
Stock Dove	Radipole
Skylark	Portland Bill, Ferrybridge
Swallow	Portland Bill
House Martin	Radipole
Rock Pipit	Portland Bill
Meadow Pipit	Portland Bill, Ferrybridge
Pied Wagtail	Ferrybridge
Wren	Portland, Radipole
Duncock	Radipole
Robin	Portland etc
Blackbird	Portland etc
Wheatear	Portland Bill
Cetti's Warbler	Radipole, Abbotsbury
Blackcap (heard)	Portland Castle, Lodmoor
Reed Warbler	Abbotsbury
Chiffchaff	Portland Castle
Willow Warbler	Portland Bill, Portland Castle
Wood Warbler	Portland Castle
Spotted Flycatcher	Portland Castle
Blue Tit	Portland Castle
Great Tit	Abbotsbury
Magpie	Portland etc
Jackdaw	Portland etc
Rook	Abbotsbury
Carrion Crow	Portland etc
Raven	Portland Bill
Starling	Portland etc
Goldfinch	Portland Castle
Linnet	Portland Bill
Chaffinch	Portland Castle, Abbotsbury
Greenfinch	Lodmoor
House Sparrow	Portland Bill
Reed Bunting	Radipole

Mammals:

Brown Rat	Radipole
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	Portland Bill

Insects:

Brimstone	Radipole
Small White	Lodmoor
Orange-tip	Lodmoor
Peacock	Radipole
Holly Blue	Lodmoor
Speckled Wood	Lodmoor
Wall Brown	Cheyne

Also:

Barrel Jellyfish	Portland Bill
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