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Foreword: By Dr.Klauss von Schumacher PMT - head of Nazi institute of 4th reich. (like 3rd reich but more hip)

I am rememberink ein first visit to Pegzvell bay just before the cruel demise of mein Fuhrer (June 1941 undercover mission) – Ah I am thinking, it is muddy and unkempt with poor signposting unt silly Ingländers here and there beink silly with many dogs unt eine Kiteborden!! But how is this I am saying to mein loving wife Ingrid?? I love mein wife Ingrid but she is understanding little the mind of unt birdwatchink maestro such as I. "Perhaps silly Ingländers think the dog unt the kiteborden are attractive to the bird?" she is saying unt reply!! I am not being asking her any of the serious question again I am thinking. Anyhowbeink I am of the digress. Mein purpose is being to shout praise to mein new Fuhrer - Phil with the word in the written.

On a spying mission for superior Deutsche car mechanics BMW in 1995 I was seeing this muscle-bound Adonis looking with the telescope over smelly stinking mudflatten – and after a stealthy approach I was talking with the author because I was wanting to moan about the lack of the signpost, dog poopen unt Panzer tank defensen if hovercraft was chasing birds away. I am no longer being unt Nazi spy. I was losing my jackbooten unt mudflat on previous mission unt eine area unt was of the wondering if the author had seen any evidence of the problem? Bad signposten had seen Ingrid and I wandering out onto mudflatten where the "jackboot incident" was occurring. Mein wife Ingrid had slipped due to mud on her stillhettoes and had landed on her poopenfritter causing much pain and a long hospital bill. In Farterland eine signpost would be many seeing off both the jackboot losing unt Ingrids sore poopenfritter. Farterland run like clockwork I am saying to mein author unt new Fuhrer not like pig stinking Ingländer land with your British Rail unt bad working schedule with the lazy British layabout. Mein author was in full agreement – he also was in the agreement with Herr Michael Schumacher king of F1 kicking useless Ingländer butt unt a long and full friendship was to form from this meeting of the 2 greatest Ornithologists unt Europe unt eine universen!

Fuhrer Phil unt great man – perhaps even greater than Fuhrer Adolf – who although a fantastichen sea-watcher unt military madman - knew absolutely nothing about the Gull or the Moth compared with unt author. I much remember with affection back in 1939 saying to Adolf ... do you fancy going to unt woods for some mothtrapping on Saturday night? He was making some excuse unt let me down at the last minute. It turned out that whilst I spent an exciting night mothing in the Bavarian woods mein Fuhrer Adolf preferred to go off and invade Poland instead. Fuhrer Phil would have been out looking at the moth instead I would wager a million Deutschemark? Mind you Adolf was a snappy dresser unt could waltz with the best of them. His goosestepping was the best in the whole of the Farterland by far! On the birdwatching front Fuhrer Phil had the edge in my opinion. Fuhrer Phil helped me to see the light with football unt music with intelligence – I see his thought about senior Benitez tactics in gloriousness!! He is greater that King Franz unt Kaiser unt Bayern Munchen by a long street with knowledge and genius far surpassing the Kaiser unt Willy Wotsisface put together!! He is also of the agreeing with all Deutsche men – no way did that ball cross ein line unt 1966!!! No vay hoseal!

I have been reading with avidness unt Pigsvell reporten for unt last years or more. I am finding it to be both imformative unt of interest to Deutsche type. I am asking Herr Phil – "are you beink unt ein pure Aryan master race?" I am thinking he must be as he is a master in the form of Herr Beethoven only with the bins instead of the piano. Herr Phil unt sayink back to me he is unt Thanetite master race and I am not knowing about this form of master being?? I am being much confused. I am saying in return – "where is your Valhalla?" Herr Phil unt saying – " I aint sure mate ... is it the other side of Broadstairs?" I vill be checking out this Broadstairs in future. Herr Wagner has nothing of Broadstairs in the Ring Cycle?? Perhaps I listen to the full 32 CD "Wagner Live at Leeds" version with more of how you silly Ingländers are saying more properly?? Is that it? Yah?? I am saying to my wife Ingrid ... did Wagner say of this Broadstairs in his music? She is saying ... nein nein nein!! Or was that when she

set alight to Kitchen and wanted me to telephone the fire service? Anyhowbeing – she is great Wagnerian Operatic Soprano unt is knowing much about the great man. Actually is funny story ... she is not knowing about great operatic prowess until I am dropping German breeze block unt Ingrid's foot!! While she wail like a banshee her high C broke all windows down street which was bringing attention to great Wagnerian maestro Herr Hans von Kreuzschlitzschraubenzieher at flat 29b Feinhetstrasse 14 kilometres east of Munchen famous for playing entire Bethoven catalogue unt a U boat on a mouth organ whilst sinking many Inglander ships using English Channel for the transport of what he believed at the time to be Inglander svinehunt spies!!! Unt this is not being during 1039-45 conflict ... oh nein nein nein ... this is beink unt July 1987!!! Howeverbeing ... he was carted of to unt nuthouse unt Dusseldorf where he was being rehabilitated unt only 22 years!! Anyhowbeink ... when he was being released he was using Ingrid as star turn unt famous Deutsch Opera "Stinking Inglander pigswine" – so perhaps rehabilitation was not being 100%?? Anyhowbeing Ingrid is big operatic star unt all Bavaria unt beyond. I love mein Ingrid. She is pure unt cooks a good sauerkraut unt chips. What a Fraulein!!!

Read ... enjoy!! Or you will be shot at dawn.

Dr.Klauss von Schumacher.

Introduction: 2004 ... it's gone already? What happened?

Decisions, decisions ... what to do? It's time to start writing tripe again and I'm full out of ideas?? I mean there's only so much drivel one brain can come up with in a human's lifetime eh? I've tried the serious approach – too boring? Well I didn't actually try it personally but I have in my possession a rather boring 1986 Foreness bird report penned by that illustrious lister come smart alec know it all – Francois Solly – nuff said! I've tried the semi-serious approach – semi boring?? There's no way I'm going to start just putting bird news into these rags – and that's final! What's happened this past year? SBBO headquarters is now a Dullard free zone. Shame that as he used to make me laugh. He also used to ring me with news ... thanks Dullard. He also used to keep us entertained on nights out mothing - and watching him trying to put his boots on proved a hilarious exercise ... "Which boot left??" he would mutter before falling flat on his face in a tangle of telescopes, binoculars and shoelaces. I suppose I will have to find someone else to be the butt of the gags? This might be a hard job as Dullard is certainly a hard act to follow in the stupidity stakes. Shame that. I used to enjoy taking the mickey out of King Dullard of Dullardsville. Oh well such is life? Liverpool FC have at last started playing proper football thanks to Senoir Benitez, Schuey continues to break all the records in F1 and of course there's the Trey Gunn leaving King Crimson debacle. Agrrr! All these things are of massive importance to me for some reason? Oh yeah what about Gadgets new bike – there's a books worth of material there. Nah – its old hat? Even if the image of an OAP midget riding an electric bike around like a boisterous 14-year-old maniac does strike me as slightly humorous? He can't ride a proper bike y'see, as his legs don't reach all the way down to the pedals. I offered to buy a little clip on breadbasket to fit on the handlebars of my bike – in which I could transport the little chap about – but he turned me down flat. The old codgers are 1 year older – all ancient and wrinkly and constantly talking about the war (WW1 that is) – mind you adding 1 year onto their mammoth ages is parallel to me aging about half an hour! Johnny (the ancient) Websper doesn't really age visibly that much in recent years ... he just grows another chin. John Hollyer gets more eccentric by the minute and ole' Laslett thinks he's a horse he is so crackers. We just humour the old chap – tossing him the odd sugar lump now and again. He rang me up in early May – "Here Phil" he said – "you be giving us a ring if there be a Broad-Billed Sandparper darn at Pegswell wint ya?" I told you he was mad didn't I – a Broad-Billed Sandpiper at Pegswell?? More chance of a flying Pig eating a Hippopotamus sandwich or Pete Forrest growing proper hair! I say he said to me on the phone – more like shouted it down the phone at me! He doesn't understand technology too well does old Laslett ... he still hasn't cottoned on that what you say on the phone actually travels over the airways. Nope " Eee wont eeer me if I don't be shouting ... its moiles butwiin Pegswell and Birchington" he thinks. "Oh yeah – thanks fer the boird repart" referring to a copy of the 2003 Pegswell report Johnny Websper printed him out ... "Oi larf so much – me teef comes art un landed in the compost heap at end uf the garden – it still be leavin a bit of a tang in me marf" he went on to say. Not that I see enough of him nowadays - but I think it's well overdue that Giblet joins the old codgers brigade. Mind you the old brains still sharp as a razorblade – so perhaps well put it off for another year or so? Where does he get those woolly hats and why does he still wear them in August? I heard a whisper he bought Beni (from Crossroads) entire wardrobe lock stock and barrel ... mind you it was just a whisper, malicious or otherwise I do find it credible? Hang on ... didn't Beni wear a pair of old Wellies and a badly knitted jumper??? It must be true then – too much of a coincidence otherwise? I'm sure I heard him say on one occasion "Dunt that be a Kentish Ploover miss Diane?" No come to think of it that was old Laslett talking to Dylan. Young Craig made a comeback in the spring – didn't last long of course. He broke his ankle in December 03 ... slipped on some ice he said. Oh where did this happen? I asked ... "Oh coming out of the boozer" he said. Nothing to do with being the worse for wear alcohol wise I suppose?? Oh no – of course not – absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with it ... perish the thought ...

pure coincidence ... it could have happened anywhere! Didn't though did it? It happened coming out of the boozier? Draw your own conclusions people. Then there's the Norfolk incident this winter. Old Gadget had to mother him apparently ... but that's another story and one I will save for another occasion. Then there's the fantastic Glaucous Gull twitch gotta be worth a mention that one? I sent the hairy twitcher (no not Dylan ... Francis!) a text in December as there was a young Glaucous Gull loitering out on Shellness Point. He arrived in minutes (panting and sweating profusely) ticked off the Gull with a millisecond glimpse through my telescope before announcing "Oh ... um er ... of course I was on my down anyway ... nothing to do with the Glauc text of course." and I like a gullible twit fell for it. Anyway it later emerged that around the time I sent the text to him Francis had been spotted in a local supermarket buying some groceries when after a quick glimpse of his phone he shoved away his shopping trolley – flattening a small child in the process – before charging out of the shop, barging old grannies out of the way in complete abandon before lighting up his back tyres in the car park and he was last seen charging towards Pegwell shouting and screaming out of his car window ... "GET OUT OF THE WAY!!" in typical twitcher fashion! Why oh why doesn't he come out of the twitcher closet? Admit it man – you're a flippin twitcher!!!

Ed.

Dyl and Little Den's adventure day out at ... *Foreness*.

It was a lovely sunny October day in Dumptidge – home of Dyl and Den – the Dumptidge Men.

"Blibablobalob" – said tiny Den to his best friend in the whole wide world of Dumptidge, the fierce beer swilling Dyl – inviting him on a day out birdwatching in his sparkling new shiny black Noddymobile. Dyl – replied gruffly "Blob" – a reluctant yes in Dumptidge speak – so off they went heading towards horizons new and exciting. Den had packed himself a nice picnic – Ham sandwiches, cakes, chocolate biscuits and some nice cool refreshing lemonade. Dyl had no food whatsoever, just a huge rucksack full of Stella Artois plus a few "cans" of lesser ale as backup – just in case of emergencies. Den remembered only too well the last time they had run out of beer – on a trip to Stodmarsh – Dyl – irate by the shortage of Lager had cornered little Den – brutally pushed him on to the muddy path before administering a rough half nelson on the poor short-legged little chap – then said nasty things to him all the way home to Dumptidge. Den didn't like Dyl when he was out of booze and in these nasty moods. Anyway – they decided to go to Foreness – a legendary place – where rare birds were common but never ever reported. The locals were reputed to be a nasty, horrid, Hairy and secretive bunch and they were going to try at all costs to avoid them.

They arrived about two hours after leaving Dumptidge – an arduous two-mile trek – flat out at one mile an hour in the Noddy car. Along the way Den had made the mistake of muttering under his breathe – "blibby blobby blibalot?" asking Dyl why all the other road users were shaking their fists and shouting abuse at the Noddymobile? Dyl – by now half cut after his fourteenth can of Stella just stared at him menacingly through his blood-shot eyes – which frightened little Den into not interrupting Dyl during precious beer drinking time throughout the duration of the drive. Anyway eventually they arrived and decided to start off in "Dead Mans Gulch" – an area famed for its attraction to eastern "Sibes." Dead on cue a piercing call emanated from the thicket of Holme Oaks and Sycamore Trees that surround the old overgrown paddock. "Blibbyzz?" said Dyl in a slurred tone – instantly recognising the Yellow-Browed Warblers call but disorientated somewhat as to its whereabouts in his alcoholic daze even though the bird was in the trees only ten feet to the left of where they were standing. It called again – then again and again – but Dyl refused to investigate further until he had fully drained the can he was halfway through finishing. It was then a screech of bicycle brakes mixed with insane bicycle bell ringing cut the silence – and a strange hairy, shadowy figure came briefly into view. His bird radar had been alerted to the "sibes" call some half-mile away at North Foreland and within seconds he had "ticked the Yellow-Brow" and disappeared. It all happened in the blink of an eye – leaving Dyl and Den mystified as to exactly what had just occurred? "Flibbyblibalob?" said Den ... "whatablibbyblobalob?" slurred Dyl ... cracking open another can. As for the Yellow-Brow – unfortunately it was never ever seen or heard ever again.

After "The Gulch" – they walked the quarter mile down Convent Road before turning left into an area known as "behind the school." On the way a birdwatcher staggered out of the bushes – almost tripping over in front of a speeding car. Being totally unaware that he had nearly been run over (and killed for sure) the smartly dressed man approached Dyl and Den and in the short conversation that ensued it appeared he was completely lost and hadn't been able to find his car for many hours. He went on to describe the make and colour of his car – which was exactly the same as a car parked in full view only 20 yards away in the School entrance. Little Den pointed it out to him – but the stranger – after thanking Den for his help, ended up walking off in the complete opposite direction! Dyl and Den looked perplexed at each other – as he wandered off into the distance muttering "Where Car – where car??"

Dyl – half cut and completely out of breathe by then collapsed underneath a large Ash tree. Little Den tried his best to drag him out of his inebriated slumber – but Dyls constant growling and verbal abuse forced little Den into continuing his walk alone. He had never been very far on his own before so was starting to feel more than a little scared. The rough grass on the edge of the golf course appeared like a thick area of rain forest with every noise bringing panic to one as tiny as little Den. It was at this point another local birdwatcher approached wearing yellow plastic camouflage gear - asking Den ... "what ya seen mate?" Little Den was surprised how friendly this chap was – and told this happy chappy about the near miss at the Gulch and the whole story about the lost birder and the mysterious Yellow-Browed birder. It turned out that the local birder was none other than Simon ... a nice friendly chap who liked to sing James Bond film theme tunes in his spare time. Simon explained that the mystery birder from earlier was a man who had turned up in the area in the early 1980s. His name was Francis – and was known to have a strange inbuilt device surgically fitted into his brain, which tuned into any rarity that turned up in the area. It had cost £60,000 Thanet pounds to fit and had a radius of 5 miles or more. The only problem with the device had occurred when he started picking up radio signals from Ships passing offshore – though a little fine-tuning had virtually eradicated this annoying interference that occasionally affected his endless listing. The surgery for such a device was not only costly but also very very dangerous – with 99% of all recipients dropping dead within a few days of being fitted with it. Francis thought the risk low enough to keep his huge Foreness list up to scratch – Simon went on to tell little Den. Den had noticed that on the end of Simons long pointed nose – the continual dripping of dew drops. At one point Den was worried that they had better start to move off as these had formed a knee-deep (2 inch) puddle at little Dens feet. Anyway - as they crossed the Golf Course deep in endless chatter about Rooks and Grey Herons – a loud and continuous scream went up from the clifftop in the distance ... Den frightened out of his wits sought sanctuary in the hole on the 12th green! Aghhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhheeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee The screaming continued – on and on like a nightmare ... shaking like a leaf Den emerged from the 12th hole and after being pulled out he asked what on earth the terrifying noise was? "Don't worry ickle lickle Den – its only screaming Lord Kevin (retired) letting off a bit of steam on his way to work" – explained Simon. Although completely insane - Simon went on to reassure little Den that screaming Lord Kevin was completely harmless. "Wotablibbyracket?" said Dyl – suddenly staggering into view and moaning about being woken up by noisy Kevin's ear splitting screaming. After a quick tiddle in the bushes – Simon told Dyl – by now furious about missing the earlier Yellow-Brow – not to worry about it as there were 3 more Yellow-Brows in another area known as "The Park" only half a mile yonder. There were also 2 Red-breasted Flycatchers there and a Raddes Warbler so it was well worth a visit. The problem was that on the way there Dyl caught a whiff of Ale and stale fagash on the wind – so hurriedly made his way towards "The Captain Digby" and no one saw him again that day. Simon said farewell to little Den – who made his way towards "The Park" – his little legs going like a piston engine such was his excitement!

In "The Park" – the air was full of horrid screeching Parakeets – every inch of grass covered by dog-walkers and what they inevitably leave behind – kids shouted endlessly etc etc. A nightmare scenario for a confused little Den – it being his first visit from the far away land of Dumptidge. He eventually came across a northern chap who told Den "He were looking for Sprossers." Den – not understanding a word of it tried his best to get away from him. "Eh lad" – said the northern type – "int paddock onth other side oft Foreland there be 8,000 Grey Wagtails feeding ont ground!" Den understood only two words of this last sentence – Grey and Wagtail. "Blogadigadog?" said Den ... enquiring as to what on earth was going on with these Grey Wagtails? "Eh up – say again willya? Said the northern type ... "Blibaploplob?" replied Den – without a single word being understood by either of them. This went on for about ten minutes until they both decided to give up and go their separate ways. It was now mid afternoon – and Den decided to have a sit down on a park bench and have a sandwich and a glass of Lemonade – when the northern type came rushing up to him – "Ere lad – there be a Sprosser over inth that there boosh wit 6 Red-Backed Shrikes sitting on it." The same remonstrating started up as earlier – this attracted a passing dog walker who luckily for this little tale had moved down from the north to Dumptidge many years back and could speak both northern and the strange Dumptidge dialect used by little Den. He – acting as a translator – informed Den as to the whereabouts of the Sprosser – but on looking in the right area for fully thirty minutes – little Den had seen naff all? Confused - he decided to approach northern type once more to ask for further details. " Eh up lad – dysee Sprosser ... a beauty eh? I see's Sprosser every year inth same bush – once I see's a dozen of em wit a couple of Bimaculated Larks thrown inth for good measure like." With the "translator" now well and truly gone – and luckily as it turned out – little Den didn't catch a single word of the nonsense northern man was trying his best to impress the gullible midget with. So with a quick "blib-blobadob" Den wished him well and moved on – without a sniff of a Yellow Brow, Flycatcher or Radde's during the whole ordeal in the park.

A stiff northeasterly breeze had picked up – turning little Dens mind towards having a look at the sea. By now his confidence had picked up no end – and though he hadn't seen any of the more unusual birds that reside on a daily basis at Foreness during the migration period – he was starting to "get a feel" for the area. The locals as it turned out – were not such a bad bunch, as was banded around by all the paranoid Twitchers he had spoken to over the years – in fact he had found them all quite helpful! So with this new-found vigour he made his way down onto the legendary Foreness point – hoping for a rare seabird or two. He saw in the distance the hairy bloke from

present on April 29th with a pair of adults still showing regularly throughout the June to September period. The peak during October was a mere 3 birds - with up to 15 birds seen offshore during November/December.

Red-Necked Grebe

One flew south off Ramsgate Harbour on October 27th.

Slavonian Grebe

One was seen offshore on December 23rd (PM) then December 25th. (FS)

Little Grebe

In the early winter period up to 3 birds were seen on the flooded Garage pools – plus the odd one offshore or in the river. Also there was one on the reservoir of Little Cliffsend Farm on April 19th.

Singles on the garage pools on November 23rd and December 7th with 2-3 in the bay late in the month.

Fulmar

13 occupied "holes" were counted in the western under cliff during late June. The local population seemingly unaffected by the winter's reports of dead/diseased Fulmars. Regularly seen during sea watches from November onwards.

Manx Shearwater

2 flew south past Ramsgate Harbour on September 30th. In October – 2 single birds were seen in the Bay with 1 north on October 9th (AL and Dullard) and another flew south on October 11th. (BC) Another bird flew south past the Harbour on October 27th.

Petrel species

Petrels sp's. were seen from the east pier area of Ramsgate Harbour on October 12th (DW) and 27th. (PM) Both were presumably Leach's?

Gannet

Good numbers were present offshore between late June and August with 50 - 100+ reasonably regular during that period. A peak count of 313 birds flying south was recorded on August 12th with various other smaller movements. Also 160 birds flew south on August 27th plus some decent numbers of migrants were noted during October with: 509 south on 9th, 160 south on 21st and 840 south on 27th.

Monthly numbers of birds passing offshore:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
STH	64	-	-	50	4	109	71	870	82	1540	20	3
NTH	6	-	-	1	46	-	32	13	12	10	0	0

Cormorant Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
6	13	14	12	22	36	47	50	38	32	15	23

Shag

After an influx of birds in February up to 4 birds (1 adult and 3 1st winters) were seen in Ramsgate Harbour – with another 1st winter-feeding off Pegwell on February 13th. Unseasonable birds were seen on two dates during spring – an adult flew north on April 30th and a 1st summer was feeding offshore on June 1st with presumably the same bird present in Ramsgate Harbour over a week later?

During the autumn/late winter period 1 was present offshore on November 8th plus a few records during the month from Ramsgate Harbour. 2 1st winters were in the outer Harbour plus an adult flew south on November 19th. An adult in the Harbour on December 6th with 2 birds - again in the Harbour during the second half of December.

Little Egret

Egrets are present virtually daily these days – even during the winter months.

Monthly peak day counts were as follows:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
5	3+	4+	4	8	12	59	53	41	36	21	3

Spring migration noted on a couple of dates – 8 birds on May 13th and 3 flew strongly n/west on May 17th. A few reasonable influxes from mid July – with a peak count of 59 birds on July 21st. There were also 53 present on August 17th and 51 on the following day. There was a report during late July of approximately 100 or so birds during a first light session.

Spoonbill

One was present on March 29th (PM) and one flew s/west on April 19th. (PM) Another bird was present on July 19th, (PFt.) then a Juvenile was present most days between August 22nd and October 8th (FS etc.) Other single birds were present whilst the long staying juvenile was present on September 6th (PM) and 21st. (JV)

Purple Heron

An adult flew north towards Ramsgate on April 22nd. (PM) A juvenile flew south upriver on October 15th. (BC)

Grey Heron Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3	3	2	5	9	8	8	6	10	12	5	3

White Stork

One spent about 15 minutes in the area on April 8th (PM,TJ etc) and another flew between Pegwell and Ramsgate on May 14th, (PM) with probably the same bird seen flying north behind the bird hide on the following day. (Via K.B.News)

Mute Swan

2 east on April 10th, 8 on April 26th, 3 south on May 2nd, 1 west on May 13th, 2 north on May 30th, 1 present on June 26th, 1 on November 17th then December: 1 on 1st and 1 between 12th and 15th.

Whooper Swan

4 flew west on December 25th. (FS)

Taiga Bean Goose

1 flew in and out of the Bay (eventually off south) on December 1st. (DW)

Tundra Bean Goose

4 flew north on December 3rd. (PM,etc) 3 were found in amongst the Pink-Foot flock at Ebbsfleet on December 15th (Dullard, PM) and were seen flying over Pegwell on December 18th and 20th.

Pink-Footed Goose

1 present on September 26th and 5 flew west on September 27th. Another 7 flew west on October 3rd. Half a mile outside the area 39 were seen feeding in the fields off the roadside at Ebbsfleet from December 12th onwards (IH etc) and were seen flying over Pegwell on December 18th and 20th.

White-fronted Goose

Both in Pegwell - groups of 10 birds were seen on January 3rd and 5 flew n/west on December 5th. A flock of 9 flew south past the harbour on December 9th. Outside the area 2 were seen hanging around with the Geese flock at Ebbsfleet from December 13 onwards and were seen flying over Pegwell on December 18th and 20th.

Greylag Goose

5 s/east on April 15th, 2 on April 24th and 25th, 3 south on May 12th, 5 north and 4 south on May 13th, 7 west on May 17th, 4 s/west on June 22nd, 1 on November 22nd. December: 2 south on 3rd and 2 were present on 10th.

Canada Goose

Always irregular at Peggers – with 1 on April 7th being fairly typical for the area.

Brent Goose

A poor early winter/spring season for Brent's with peaks present of only: 78 on March 6th, 50 on March 16th and 55 on April 2nd. Very little vismig was seen at all during spring either. A single bird was present between May 27th and June 3rd.

An extremely early group of 5 birds flew south on August 18th. They were seen regularly from September 25th right through until the end of the year. A few small movements were seen mainly during October with a big amount of 1306 south and 61 north on October 9th. Also during October there were: 35 south on the 1st, 83 south and 65 north on 10th, 30 south on 12th and 34 south on 27th. Into November: 96 north and 35 south on 2nd the highest amount during the month.

Monthly peak counts of birds present were as follows:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
21	25	78	55	1	1	0	0	35	42	86	12

Bar-headed Goose

3 flew north on May 3rd. (PFt)

Shelduck

Only 2 broods this year - 6 and 3 young birds.

Peak monthly counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
118	119	64	57	58	84	31	15	86	72	64	143

Mallard Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
270	170	55	7	6	4	16	93	130	135	255	360

Gadwall Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
7	12	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	4	21	8

Pintail

18 arrived on January 12th; a flock of 25 flew south on October 27th, 16 on November 2nd and 21 on December 3rd.

Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
18	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	9	16	3

Shoveler

Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
29	36	29	2	0	0	0	22	4	16	15	3

Wigeon

1000+ were regular during January when numbers peaked at 1770 on 7th and 1620 on 9th.

Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1770	650	340	3	0	0	0	17	83	325	820	1180

Garganey

2 were seen on August 10th and another one on September 3rd.

Teal

Peaks were: 80 on January 7th, 102 on January 21st, 89 on September 6th, 274 on October 1st and 113 on November 8th.

Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
102	16	58	4	2	2	17	65	89	274	113	80+

Garganey

2 were seen on August 10th and another one on September 3rd.

Pochard

Always scarce these days - with only 1 on January 30th and 6 on March 29th. Further singles were seen on September 27th and December 3rd.

Tufted Duck

4 on March 29th, 2 south on May 15th, 1 west on August 10th and 2 flew west on November 24th.

Scaup

2 drakes were offshore on December 11th. (FS)

Eider

Migrants were extremely scarce once again – 2 south on December 9th and 10th, 7 south on December 19th and 1 south on December 20th were the only records. 13 were present offshore on December 2nd.

Monthly offshore peaks:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	13

Common Scoter

2 south on Jan 22nd, 15 on Feb 8th, 3 north on Feb 14th, 2 north on Feb 23rd, 190 north on March 9th, 2 south on May 13th, 2 south June 1st, 1 present on July 21st, 1 north on July 22nd, August: 140 south on 10th, 18 south on 11th, 75 south on 12th, 1 north on 13th and 2 south on 14th. September: 2 south on 27th and 133 south on 30th. October: 1 south on 4th, 161 south on 9th, 18 south on 10th, 1 south on 27th, 35 south on 28th, 20 north on 31st. November: 50 south on 7th, 52 north on 8th, 14 north and 5 south on 10th, 4 south on 12th, 4 south on 13th, 3 south on 15th, 12 south on 24th and 8 south on 29th. December: 16 south on 6th and 56 south and 2 north on 9th.

Velvet Scoter

2 south on October 9th and 1 south in Pegwell on October 23rd. 2 flew north past the harbour on December 9th.

Long-Tailed Duck

A drake flew south off Ramsgate Harbour on November 13th. (PM)

Goldeneye

4 were present offshore on November 7th and 1 on December 9th.

Red-breasted Merganser

No early winter records at all! A group of 9 were offshore on April 2nd and 1 flew north offshore on April 10th. Other birds were October: 1 south on 8th and 1 present on 13th. November: 1 present on 7th, 4 south on 9th, 1 north on 11th and 1 south on 16th.

Red Kite

1 west on April 23rd, (PM) and 1 south on May 31st. (KBN)

Osprey

1 north on May 9th, (CS) 1 north on May 13th, (PM) 1 s/east on August 13th. A late bird flew west on October 15th. (PM)

Marsh Harrier

Normally scarce in the winter – so it was pleasing to see the occasional bird in the early winter months. At least 3 different birds were seen during Jan/Feb – with birds sometimes roosting across the river - in the 100-acre Field. Spring migrants (mid March – June) turned up only 9 single birds a very poor showing! I'm tempted to say a "cack" spring migration but old hairy might start picking me up on my use or misuse of English?

1 west on July 9th then singles on 7 dates in August. Into September: 3 present and 1 south on 10th, 1 on 12th and 1 south on 17th. October: None. November: 1 on 9th. December: 1 south on 1st and 1 on 10th.

Hen Harrier

Regularly seen during January - though irregular by day during February and March. Numbers peaked with 4 birds on Feb. the 9th, with up to 3 birds coming into the evening roost. Seen on 2 dates during April: 3 present on 9th and 2 migrant birds (west and north) on the 15th.

Very late turning up in the autumn with the first record not seen until October 14th. November: single ringtails on 6 dates with 2 on 24th and only 1 sighting of a male bird during the month. (JV) Still scarce in December with only 12 singles seen during the whole month.

Montagu's Harrier

A ringtail was present briefly before flying off on 17th. (PC)

Common Buzzard

Spring migration was first noted on March 11th when a group of 4 birds were seen flying s/west over Ramsgate. (DW) After this 1 s/west on March 15th, 5 on 16th, 20 birds - mainly south on 17th, 1 on 21st, 4 on 22nd, 1 south on April 8th, 2 west and 1 south on April 14th and 1 circling on April 20th. Whether or not there was some duplication on March 17th – I cannot be sure? I would say probably not? Buzzards rarely loiter in the area for over 10 minutes it seems.

Autumn birds: Disappointing with only 1 west on September 16th and 1 seen circling on September 26th.

Honey Buzzard

One flew west (after loitering for 5-10 minutes) on June 3rd (PM) and another went south on September 10th. (PM)

Sparrowhawk

Regular during both winter periods in small numbers – ie 1 – 5 birds with the odd few pairs breeding around the periphery of the area. Spring migrants between Mid March to the end of May turned up a total of: 13 south and 33 north though many were probably unrecorded. The best movement was witnessed on April 14th when in excess of 10 birds flew north in approx. an hours raptor watching.

Autumn movements: 1 – 4 migrants on numerous dates between late August and November with 8 south and west on October 15th the best day.

Kestrel

Common and largely ignored. A melanistic bird was seen on October 2nd. (PM, IH and CS) Had me going I can tell you!

Hobby

Spring total: 15 birds between April 29th and May 30th. Peak was 4 on May 17th. Summer/autumn birds were recorded on 26 dates between June 9th and October 9th with 2 birds seen on 4 dates. An extremely late bird was seen flying east on October 27th. Well be seeing them in the winter at this rate!

Peregrine Falcon

Regular during all months of the year – with a pair using the Richborough cooling towers/Chimneys for roosting and feeding as has been the case for a number of years now. Other birds were seen on odd occasions with 4 birds present on November 22nd.

Merlin

Continuing to be rather scarce these days. 8 singles only were seen during the whole of Jan/Feb with 2 on February 16th and amazingly none were seen whatsoever during the whole of March! April birds: (all singles) on 4th, 1 north 22nd, 26th and 30th and 1 on May 14th.

Returning birds from July 12th with birds being extremely scarce before late November after which 1 – 3 were seen reasonably regularly until the end of the year. Singles were seen on only 2 dates during September with only 5 singles seen during the whole of October. Into November 2+ birds were present during the last week of the month, which included a male bird that was seen on a number of occasions until early December. At least 3 birds were present on December 6th.

Grey Partridge

3+ pairs were regularly seen in the area during the spring with a maximum of 5+ pairs present on May 11th. Perhaps as many as 5 or 6 pairs bred in the (whole) area this year. 10 – 20+ were seen on the north fields during the autumn months.

Pheasant

Common – occasional breeder etc. A tad dull?

Water Rail

Commonly heard in the salt marsh during the autumn/winter period. 3 were heard calling on the Country Park during early December. (PFt)

Moorhen

Singles were seen on the reservoir and the Garage Pools during May. A pair bred on the Little Cliffsend Farm reservoir having two successful broods. 5 birds were in the reservoir on October 18th and 7 were flushed from the adjoining stubble field on October 27th.

Crane

3 birds flew in and landed in the salt marsh on the afternoons of September 29th and 30th. (Frank, JV etc) On the following day, two single birds came in separately before flying off and landing across the river at Sandwich where they stayed for a few days.

Oystercatcher Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1470	860	610	184	145	141	610	1140	1020	1110	1040	1060
16 th	27 th	2 nd	1 st	29 th	26 th	28 th	23 rd	15 th	1 st	12 th	18 th

Avocet

January: 1 on 3rd. March: 6 on 18th, 1 on 21st/22nd, April: 3 on 2nd, 1 on 7th, 1 on 14th, May: singles on 2nd and 15th, 5 on 26th, June: 1 on 30th, July: 2 on 18th, August: 2 on 17th, September 1 on 7th, 2 on 8th and 3 on 30th. October: 3 on 8th. November: 14 on 24th. December: 2 on 11th, 31 on 13th, 8 on 14th and 2 on 19th.

Little-Ringed Plover

The first one flew in and landed on the mud on March 17th – no more until July – when there were singles on 14th, 24th and 26th. Into August: 1 on 6th and 3 on 24th.

Ringed Plover Peak Month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
9	11	11	27	96	72	8	640	325	166	94	64
7 th	25 th	18 th	28 th	11 th	2 nd	12 th	25 th	21 st	8 th	9 th	30 th

Kentish Plover

In spring - single male birds were present on April 16th, 28th and May 3rd. A Female/Juv type was also seen on July 12th, a male on August 5th - plus 1 – 3 were present from August 9th to 14th then another male bird turned up on August 22nd. (all PM, FS etc)

Grey Plover

Above the normal average numbers were present during the early winter period.

Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
485	525	286	24	35	3	3	54	86	260	333	360
25 th	8 th	10 th	29 th	13 th	1 st /2 nd	28 th /31 st	14 th	28 th	27 th	17 th	18 th

Golden Plover Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
7600	4610	1630	32	0	0	1	52	510	2570	6450	6500
9 th	15 th	13 th	1 st	0	0	27 th	15 th	28 th	30 th	22 nd	2 nd

Lapwing Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
13000	6650	1080	2	2	9	2	8	160	3500	9100	15000
9 th	8 th	10 th	15 th	-	30 th	8 th	27 th	26 th	31 st	27 th	30 th

Knot

A poor spring migration. Only a handful of birds were seen between the end of April – May migration period. Double figure counts being recorded on only 7 dates!

Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
450	430	320	31	24	5	4	131	23	65	260	260
25 th	10 th	13 th	3 rd	2 nd	2 nd	22 nd	10 th	26 th	11 th	2 nd	23 rd

Sanderling Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
80	31	107	41	138	4	43	210	92	51	91	63
9 th	22 nd	31 st	1 st	21 st	23 rd	30 th	10 th	7 th	30 th	27 th	30 th

Purple Sandpiper

Up to two birds were present on the West Cliff rocks/beach during January and February. 3 flew south past the Harbour on December 8th and 1 was seen off the west cliff on December 22nd.

Turnstone

Migrants were seen on the mudflat mainly during April and May. The peak was 37 on April 26th.

High tide roost counts are taken on a monthly basis from the Cliffsend rocks/beach: Peak counts were:

January: 152. February: 188. March: 100. April: 68. May: 32. June/July/August: No counts. September: 50.

October: 116. November: 245. December: c150.

Dunlin Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1840	2240	1110	270	260	2	5	1420	1060	850	1290	1190
16 th	12 th	1 st	30 th	4 th	1 st	27 th	29 th	30 th	2 nd	8 th	30 th

Curlew Sandpiper

In spring: singles on April 28th and another on May 28th. Autumn birds from July 24th (1 bird) also: 4 on July 30th and 1 on 31st. August: 17 dates with peaks of 157 adult birds on the 10th, 26th on 13th and 26 on the 23rd.

September: 17 dates with peaks of 8 on 22nd and 23 on 30th. October: Scarce with 1 on 1st, 7 on 2nd, singles on 3rd and 5th then 3 on 21st.

Little Stint

One on May 3rd was the only spring record. Into autumn: August – 1 on 4th, 2 on 9th, 11 on 10th, 3 on 11th, 1 on 12th, 1 on 14th, 1 on 15th, 4 on 24th and 2 on 25th. September: 3 on 1st, 1 on 3rd, 2 on 6th, 4 on 7th, 1 on 13th, 1 on 14th, 3 on 19th, 1 on 20th, 2 on 21st then singles on 26th, 28th and 30th. October: 1 on 3rd, 1 on 4th, 2 on 5th, 1 on 6th and 1 on 19th.

Temmincks Stint

1 flew west on May 2nd. Another was present briefly on August 9th before flying off north.

Wood Sandpiper

During August: 1 on 4th, an incredible 82 were present during the big wader fall on the 10th then 1 on 11th, 2 on 13th and 1 on 14th.

Green Sandpiper

April: 5 on 22nd and 3 on 27th. July: 2 on 23rd, 1 on 30th and 3 on 31st. August: 1 on 4th, 22 on 10th, 6 on 11th, 2 on 12th, 2 on 13th, 1 on 26th and 2 on 27th. September: 2 on 3rd, and 1 on 16th.

Common Sandpiper

Seen on 12 dates between April 17th and May 16th with 6 birds on April 30th the only noteworthy number.

Returning birds were noted from July 12th with the last record on September 7th. Peaks were: 11 on July 24th then during August: 16 on 5th, 13 on 10th and 34 on 11th.

Pectoral Sandpiper

An adult was present for a couple of hours on the evening of July 27th. (PM, PFT and FS) The first definite record since one turned up on September 1999 and only about the 4th or 5th site record?

Redshank

Fantastic numbers were present during the early part of August with perhaps as many as 1000 birds present.

Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
245	230	140	166	35	32	252	960	560	300	180	80
25 th	on 8 th	17 th	5 th	1 st	22 nd	18 th	10 th	28 th	1 st	20 th	14 th

Spotted Redshank

At least 1 bird overwintered (Jan – March) and a single migrant was seen on April 23rd. Into the autumn – 1 on August 6th and 18 on August 10th and 1 on September 10th. The overwintering birds were present from October 14th when 3 birds were seen - with 1 – 2 birds were seen on the odd occasion until the end of the year.

Greenshank

A scarce winter visitor – one seen on the mudflat on Feb. 20th constitutes a good record for the area. (JV)

Spring: Regular from April 16th when 3 birds were seen. The peak counts were: 6 on April 26th, 8 on May 1st and 6 on May 13th. A few birds were still present into the first week of June.

Into the autumn the peak counts were: 11 on July 24th, 30 on August 3rd, 14 on August 6th, 14 on 9th, 235 on August 10th, 15 on August 14th and 14 on August 16th. Birds were seen most days during the July – October period with 2 birds hanging on into November. The last record was on November 10th.

Black-tailed Godwit

Migrant birds on: May: 1 on 4th and 3 on 10th. June: 10 on 5th. July: 1 on 1st, 2 on 9th, 4 on 11th and 1 on 18th. August: 1 on 4th, 2 on 11th, 3 on 12th, 5 on 13th, 22 on 14th, 6 on 14th, 1 on 17th, 8 on 20th, 12 on 21st, 1 on 24th, 23 on 25th and 16 on 26th. September: 2 on 3rd, 1 on 8th and 10th, 5 on 26th and 8 on 30th. October onwards: Birds were fairly regular – generally 5+ birds kicking about building up to a peak of 14 birds during the late winter period. Peak monthly counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
7	13	9	0	3	10	4	23	8	5	11	14

Bar-tailed Godwit

Spring migrants regular throughout the normal late April/May period – though numbers were disappointing.

High counts being: 62 on April 27th, 72 on April 28th, 116 on April 30th and 71 on May 13th.

Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
263	286	175	116	71	2	10	485	53	82	188	245
30 th	12 th	13 th	30 th	13 th	2 nd /9 th	26 th	10 th	28 th	31 st	24 th	14 th

Curlew Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
337	270	281	120	51	138	653	470	560	420	286	182
30 th	10 th	17 th	9 th	17 th	26 th	27 th	10 th	10 th	8 th	4 th	6 th

Whimbrel

Seen most days between April 17th and the first week of June. Double figures were recorded on 7 dates with peaks of 22 on April 29th, 26 on May 2nd and 18 on May 10th. 1 bird over summered and was seen regularly during the whole of June.

The main part of the autumn migration noted throughout the whole of July until mid September. Double figure counts were recorded on 13 dates during the period with peaks of: 15 on July 8th, 22 on July 23rd then into August – 16 on 4th and 92 on 10th. After mid September the only records were of singles on September 29th and October 14th.

Woodcock

Singles on Jan 28th and March 29th then October 12th, November 12th and in December 2 on 20th and 1 on 25th.

Snipe Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
80	77	24	5	11	0	0	9	16	15	40	70
9 th	8 th	22 nd	8 th	1 st	-	-	21 st	30 th	19 th	23 rd	27 th

Jack Snipe

Early winter numbers not known with any certainty due to extreme laziness and partial indifference! There were 2 around the Garage pools during January plus the Beer monster (DW) flushed one from the salt marsh around the Hoverpad on Feb 10th. Otherwise ignored during the period. One was seen to fly out of the salt marsh on a rising tide on April 5th.

Autumn/late winter. Again under recorded. October: 1 on 20th. November: 1 in flight on 24th with 3 in the area during late December.

Ruff

Odd small groups were seen in amongst the Golden Plover flocks during the winter months with a peak of 7 on 10th during Jan. (when birds were seen on 6 dates) and an isolated count of 14 birds present on Feb. 15th.

Migrants were incredible scarce in the autumn with singles on September 20th and 30th the only records. Seen on 2 dates during December – 3 on 24th and 1 on 31st.

Arctic Skua

1 flew north on May 4th and at least 3 were seen again flying north on May 13th. Autumnal birds from July 25th with others on – August: 1 on 5th, 3 south on 6th, 2 on 7th, 3 on 10th, 5 south on 12th, 11 south and 1 north on 13th, 4 south and 2 north on 14th, 2 on 18th, 2 on 20th, 2 on 26th and 6 south on 27th. September: 1 north on 18th, 2 north on 26th, 2 north on 28th and 2 south on 30th. October: 1 south on 3rd, 1 north and 1 south on 4th, 5 south on 9th, 7 south and 1 north on 10th, 1 north on 19th and 2 south on 27th.

Long-Tailed Skua

A tail-less adult flew into Pegwell past Ramsgate Harbour on September 30th (PM) then a juvenile flew south – again past the Harbour on October 9th. (PM) Only the second and third area records respectively.

Pomarine Skua

An adult flew north through the Bay on May 13th. (PM) 2 other probable “Poms” were seen during the same watch. About a week prior I even saw one flying about over the houses across the road from me at first light! The local Gulls were going potty. An adult bird was kicking around in the Bay prior to flying off south on the evening of October 3rd.

Great Skua

3 were seen during August – 1 north on 10th and singles flying south on 13th and 27th. Another flew south on September 13th. Quite a few in October with – 21 south on 9th, 6 south on 10th and 2 south on 27th.

Black-headed Gull peak counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2300	9510	1100	170	360	180	16310	12500	3000	9200	5000	2000

Common Gull peak counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
4920*	1125	920	55	5	1	120	560	250	2730	1060	1340

*The 4920 birds present on Jan. 9th the most (I think?) I have ever seen in the area? It's a very high count anyway.

Ring-Billed Gull

A rather splendid adult bird flew in and landed on the mud on October 2nd. (PM) It showed well for ten minutes before getting lost in amongst the 1000's of Gulls in for the evening roost on a dropping evening tide – never to be seen again.

Mediterranean Gull

Irregular as is the norm. Jan: singles on 5 dates. Feb: 2 dates. March: 0. April: 2 singles and 2 pairs. May: a single and a pair during. June: singles on 23rd and 30th, July: 10 dates – including 4 on 28th and 6 on 29th. August: 2 on the 3rd and 6 other singles. September: singles on 3rd and 6th. October: 3 on 2nd, 1 on 3rd, 1 on 21st and 2 on 22nd. November: 3 singles and a pair. December: 1 on 5th.

Herring Gull peak counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3730	1020	1000	730	806	680	1340	1000	1000	1650	2250	2440

Yellow-legged Gull {Larus Michahellis}

In the early winter only regular during January with: 2 on 2 dates plus 3 on the 7th, 6 on 15th, 5+ on 16th and 3 on the 30th. After this they were far scarcer than normal – being seen on only 2 dates during February and 2 dates in March.

2 were on the mudflat on July 23rd, 1 on August 10th, 1 on September 8th and 2 on September 16th. 1 – 2 were seen on 7 dates during October and they were seen on 4 dates during November with 3 on the 24th. During December birds were seen on 8 dates with 3 on the 23rd.

Caspian Gull {Larus Cachinnans}

An influx of birds in the early winter period made the period one of the easiest times to find a Pegwell “Casper.” During January – at least 3 birds were present on the 7th, then further singles on the 13th and 15th and 3 more on the 16th. After this there was another on Feb. 12th.

An adult was present on August 25th and a 1st winter on September 16th. November: 2 1st winters on 4th. December: an adult on December 13th, a 2nd winter on 14th and 2 adults on the 23rd.

Lesser Black-backed Gull peak counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
36	59	77	105	133	15	36	113	151	35	93	43

Great Black-backed Gull peak counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
788	175	36	64	139	136	75	290	346	1190	540	610

Little Gull

2 flew south on Jan. 7th and a 1st winter was present on Feb. 8th. 1st summers on May 4th, 11th with 2 on 13th. After this – July: singles on 8th and 21st. August: singles on 12th, 15th and 17th. September: 1 on 28th and 11 south on 30th. October: 9 south on 9th, 5 south on 10th, 1 present on 14th, 2 present on 22nd, 1 south on 27th and 4 south on 28th. November: 17 north on 10th, 4 north on 11th then 2 north and 2 south on 29th.

Kittiwake

A few movements were noted during January with 300 nth on the 1st, 40 nth on 10th and 50 nth on the 28th. Then - during seawatches off Ramsgate Harbour during October to December: In October: 530 flew south on 9th, 101 south on 10th and 82 south on 27th. November: 59 south on 19th. December: 50+ south on 19th.

Sabines Gull

A juvenile flew in and landed on the sea in front of the east pier off Ramsgate Harbour. (PM) The same bird was seen flying past Sandwich on the same day.

Glaucous Gull

A first winter bird was present on Feb. 8th (Pfy) and a 1st/2nd winter was present on December 12th. (PM/FS)

Iceland Gull

An adult bird was seen offshore on Feb. 12th. (PM)

Sandwich Tern

The wintering Sani' was once again present for its 12th/13th consecutive winter – assuming it to be the same bird?

Spring migrants from March 13th. Between then and the end of May there were 100+ present on 14 dates with peaks of: 270 on April 3rd, 230 on 18th, 210 on 21st, 185 on 27th, 317 on 29th, 520 on May 4th (270 of which flew south) and 325 on 5th. 100+ birds passed north offshore on May 13th. Decent numbers still present throughout June with 100+ birds on quite a few dates.

Returning birds from late June – with the first family parties seen in the third week of June. Numbers continuing to build until July/August - high counts were: July – 520 on 14th, 550 on 15th, 622 on 16th, 620 on 17th, 680 on 18th, 880 on 23rd, 980 on 24th, 720 on 25th, 570 on 26th, 685 on 27th, 590 on 31st – then August: 750 on 4th, 640 on 5th and 630 on 18th. 200+ birds were recorded daily between July 5th and August 23rd. Into September – peaks of 200 on 1st and 200 on 3rd. October: seen every day till 10th – then 1 on 21st and 2 on 22nd though these may have included the wintering bird? He/she was definitely back in November anyway and was regular thereafter.

Little Tern

Regular between April 25th and May 30th. Peaks were 19 on April 29th, 41 on May 2nd, 17 on May 4th and 13 on May 11th.

A few late June records this year with 1 on 28th and 3 on 29th. July: Most days from the 21st with 15 on 27th. August: 19 dates during the month with peaks of 21 on 3rd, 31 on 9th, 46 on 10th, 25 on 12th, 14 on 15th, 49 on 23rd and 50 on 29th. September: 6 on 1st and 2 on 7th were the only records. October: 2 on 2nd.

Common Tern

Regular from April 3rd to May 27th – though numbers were as is usual at Peggys disappointing. The high counts were – during April: 20 on 18th, 57 north on 29th, May: 32 on 4th, 140+ on 9th, 20 on 12th and 40 on 13th.

During the autumn – they started arriving from June 26th and were recorded almost daily from then until the second week of September. High counts were: 60 on July 28th then during August: 200 on 10th, 390 on 11th, 190 on 12th, 100 on 13th, 108 on 14th, 80 on 15th, 60 on 16th, 510 on 18th, 190 on 19th, an exceptional 1390 on 20th (1000+ south) 60 on 21st and 125 on 23rd. September: 120 on 3rd with 20 – 30 on quite a few other dates. October: 2 on 1st, 20 on 2nd, 150 on 3rd, 3 on 4th, 2 on 5th, 1 on 8th, 20 south on 9th, 1 on 17th and 1 on 20th.

Arctic Tern

In April singles on 5th and 26th and in May 1 on 4th, 78 on 9th and 3 on 13th. Hugely irregular during spring migration locally – the 78 birds on May 9th were most unexpected and highly unusual in such large numbers.

Autumn birds were as is usual irregular. They were in July: 1 on 20th, 3 on 24th, 2 on 28th and August: 1 on 3rd, 7 on 10th, 3 on 11th, 1 on 13th and 3 on 26th. September: 4 south on 30th. October: 2 on 2nd, 9 on 3rd and 9 south on 8th. No doubt quite a few were overlooked amongst the Common Tern movements during August? So what!

Roseate Tern

2 flew north on May 13th. A good run of birds were seen between June 29th and July 5th with: 2+ on June 29th, 1 on June 30th, 4 east on July 1st, 1 on 2nd, 1 on 3rd and another on the 5th. All were thought to be different birds except for the ones that were the same... you cant argue with that can you? After this – 2 were seen on July 14th, a single on July 24th then a reasonable run of August records with singles on 5th and 9th plus 3 on 10th and 2 on the 20th.

Black Tern

1 flew north on May 13th. Autumn birds started with 2 on July 27th before good numbers started to show during August. There were: 9 on 9th, 150 on 10th, 10 on 11th, 15 on 12th, 1 on 13th, 2 on 14th, 15 on 15th, 5 on 16th, 1 on 17th, 6 on 18th, 5 on 19th, 1 on 20th, 1 on 23rd, 2 on 25th, 4 on 26th, 15 on 27th and 1 on 29th. A late bird flew south on October 3rd.

Auk Species

Regular offshore during the winter months though most go unrecorded. 800 flew south on January 1st, 250 south on January 10th with 41 south on 22nd and 40 south on 28th. Very few records during the first winter period (mainly because of lack of coverage) with 10 south on February 10th and 1 north on May 13th the only ones I could be bothered to take any notice of.

Late winter movements: 832 flew south on December 9th and 138 flew south on December 19th.

Guillemot

See Auk species – c.99% of them are Guillemots.

Razorbill

10+ flew past the harbour on December 9th and a few others were seen in amongst the Auk movements.

Puffin

1 flew south past Ramsgate Harbour on October 4th. (PM)

Little Auk

1 flew north past the Harbour on November 19th. (PM)

Stock Dove

Not that I took much notice of any "Pigeons" (of course) but I did note – c50 on February 13th and c80 on March 25th. Quite a few pairs breed around the back of the hover port and on the west cliff.

Wood Pigeon

Once again I did my level best to ignore them as much as was humanly possible but I did count 440 were on the north fields on March 25th ... unfortunately.

Turtle Dove

First sighting was 2 on April 17th with a regular trickle thereafter. A late one flew west on October 8th.

Collared Dove

Perhaps on the increase locally? Lots of them were present in the fields during the August – September period. Into 3 figures on occasion ... I would guess?

Cuckoo

From April 15th to ... Oh I dunno I got bored with them by June? Late records of: 1 on August 1st with 2 on 3rd.

Long-Eared Owl

I was seen in Stonelees on February 8th. (Pft)

Short-eared Owl

Extremely scarce during the early winter period with single birds seen on only 6 occasions between Jan and the end of March. 1 or 2 were seen coming in off the sea on May 13th.

Autumn: Migrants north on September 7th and October 15th. Scarce during the winter- with singles on November 20th then December 10th and 18th. Appalling.

Little Owl

Probably under recorded as no-ones been moth trapping in Stonelees (where we normally hear them) this year though Dylan heard one at some time of the year ... dunno when?

Nightjar

An unexpected bird was flushed on the Country Park on October 15th - both out of habitat and very late in the year. (Pft) Perhaps only the second Pegwell record? I can only find one other?

Swift

Regular from April 19th with peak movements of 120 s/west and 40 north on May 1st, 115 west on May 2nd, 400 west on May 7th, 270 north on May 13th, 200 west on May 15th and 336 north on May 21st.

I kept a close eye on Swifts during the summer/autumn period for some reason?? Sad eh? Every year I see huge numbers over Ramsgate (many thousands) something I have never seen over Pegwell other than when I look towards the Town of course! Peaks were in July: 750 west on 1st, 1000 lingering on 24th, 3950 west on 27th and in August: 1500 west on 26th and 635 south and west on 27th. As I write I wonder how I managed to count 3950 birds on July 27th? A bit of a weird count? I assume all the estimates I wrote down in my notepad added up to that number ... but why didn't I just round it off to c4000 eh?? Anyway – Swifts showed regularly right up to the second week of September after which the only records were: September: 1 on 16th, 2 south on 18th, 1 west on 20th, 3 west on 21st, 9 south on 22nd, 4 west on 23rd and 3 on 26th. October: 1 south on 4th.

Pallid Swift

One in-off on October 21st – which eventually flew off N/east. (PM) The second Pegwell record after a sighting on July 14th 1998. A Swift species which flew over the Hoverport on November 4th (BC) was probably the Pallid Swift seen flying towards Pegwell from North Foreland (FS) that same morning? I had left about 1 minute prior to it going over unfortunately.

Hoopoe

1 was seen in Stonelees on October 28th. (Frank)

Kingfisher

Seen in Ramsgate Harbour January – February and October – December. (1-2 birds) A few summer/Autumn birds seen from the reserve or more commonly on the Hoverport seawall where there were 2 present for over a week during mid October with 4 there on September 21st plus another one seen upriver on the same day. Numerous other ones and two's seen there during autumn/winter.

Bee-eater

One seen on two occasions on May 23rd was last seen flying north over the Hover Port towards Ramsgate west cliff. (PM) Annoying views, as it had flown overhead and past me (south) on the first view then very high and silhouetted on the second. I heard it well ... scant consolation in retrospect.

Ring-necked Parakeet

Continuing their assault on the area – as Thanet is shoulder to shoulder with them these days. Seen with increasing regularity in recent years - flying south over the Country Park (1 – 10 birds) with 20 – 30+ birds regularly seen flying off to roost in Ramsgate from Cliffsend.

Green Woodpecker

Regular at all times of the year. Up to 1 - 4+ birds.

Great-spotted Woodpecker

Present year round in small numbers with extremely good numbers of migrant/wanderers seen during the autumn months this year. 9 were seen on October 1st – 3 present and another 6 west over the chine.

Wryneck

A good year for Wrynecks started with a rare spring arrival on the Country Park on May 4th (PM) then a few others at more usual times of the year with: 1 on the Hover Port on August 26th (PM) then 2 on the cliff top on September 8th – one staying until the 10th at least. (FS,PM,BC) A fourth bird showed on the Hoverport on September 15th and 16th. (PM) Yet another bird appeared on the cliff top on September 17th. (PM)

Short-Toed Lark

One flew west on November 3rd. (PM) A new bird for the area.

Skylark

A few breeding pairs in the area (no change) plus spring movements of ... well zilch according to my records! I didn't make any note of any movement whatsoever!

Autumn. Slightly better. September: 53 west on 29th. October: 60 west on 11th, 80 west on 12th, 57 west on 15th, and 57 west on 18th. 100+ were present on October 12th and 300+ were present on October 20th. 50+ birds were still present into December.

Woodlark

1 flew west inland on March 22nd. (PM) In the autumn – one flew s/west on October 27th (PM) and another south on November 11th. (PM)

Shore Lark

1 on the Hover pad on October 10th (Frank) and 3 were present in Pegwell on October 13th and 14th. (PM + BC) Another flew west on November 2nd. (PM) A few were seen across on Shellness during November with 5 on 7th and 8th and 11 on the 10th, (all PM) which included a flock of 10 birds. Another bird was kicked off the greens on the west cliff – eventually flying off west on November 2nd. (PM) A better than average autumn.

Sand Martin

Spring: from March 29th with a rather decent 181 birds through on 22 dates until June 2nd. Most of the activity was recorded on April 22nd when 92 birds were seen flying west. The next highest count was a rather more normal 9 birds on a few dates.

Autumn peak movements were in July: 170 west on 9th, 2700 west on 16th, August 68 south on 27th, September 110 west on 10th and 150 west on 19th. The last bird was seen on October 2nd.

Swallow

Spring: Regular between April 2nd and May 27th. 50+ counts were recorded on 6 dates with peaks of 164 birds west on April 22nd and 390 north on May 13th.

Autumn: The first adults on their way south were noted during the last week of June, which is early for Pegwell. Peak movements were: July – 331 west on 27th, August: 350 north on 1st, 760 west on 3rd, September: 2000 west on 10th, 15,000 west on 19th, 8420 west on 28th, 730 west on 29th and 20,000 north and west on 30th. October: 550 west on 1st, 800 present on 2nd, 800 west on 5th and 710 west on 14th.

Red-Rumped Swallow

One flew north on May 16th. (PM)

House Martin

Another poor spring passage (were getting used to it nowadays) with birds recorded passing through on only 18 dates between April 14th and May 26th. Peaks were: 14 north on April 22nd, 13 west on May 2nd, 25 north on May 10th, 16 north on May 13th and 20 north on May 24th.

Autumn numbers far better with an enormous movement on September 24th with numbers easily exceeding 100,000 birds. The birds were noted moving through Pegwell from the south – heading west inland and were seen separately (by Dylan) pouring through from the north of Ramsgate heading into Pegwell. An amazing spectacle. Other decent movements were: September – 500 west on 10th, 1000 west on 26th, 2380 west on 29th, 750 west on 30th, October: 4900 west on 1st, 1500 present on 2nd and 800 west on 15th. Numbers dwindled after October 17th - with the last record of 1 bird flying east on November 1st.

Rock Pipit

Common and reasonably numerous during the winter months – though difficult to count due to their liking for hiding in the salt marsh. I would estimate there were at least 50 - 60+ birds present in the early winter period? A Hen Harrier flushed approx. 40 on March 1st.

Autumn/late winter: 5 – 10+ most days plus a peak of 50+ were present on November 17th. 20+ came in to roost on December 4th.

Meadow Pipit

A poor spring migration with 20+ migrants seen flying north on a couple of dates during March and a very lowly peak of 33 west on April 17th. Up to 30+ birds were regularly present during this period and 4-5 displaying males showed over the salt marsh area.

Autumn. Peak migrants: September – 150 north and 20 south on 10th, 120 west on 13th, 89 west on 16th, 100 present on 21st, 138 west on 28th, October - 80 west on 9th and 90 present on 30th. 125 flew south to roost on December 4th.

Tree Pipit

April: 4 south and 1 north on 15th, 1 south and 2 west on 17th, 1 present and 2 west on 22nd, 2 south on 26th, May: 2 on 1st and 1 north on 12th.

Autumn: August: 1 on 21st, September: 2 on 7th, 4 on 8th, 2 on 9th, 1 south on 10th, 1 west on 15th, 1 west on 26th, 1 south on 28th, 2 west on 30th, October: 2 west on 1st.

Richard's Pipit

A very late record when 1 flew west over the bird hide on December 3rd. (Pft,PM etc)

Pied Wagtail

Early winter peak counts were 15+ on Feb 15th and 15 on March 31st. Very little spring passage once again. 35 flew south to roost on the evening of December 4th.

White Wagtail

Recorded on only 9 dates (total = 18 birds) during the spring migration with a peak of 6 birds present on April 1st. 3 were seen on both March 16th and 31st. Occasional birds were seen during the autumn period.

Grey Wagtail

1 – 2 birds wintered around the west cliff area. An appalling number of spring migrants: 1 north and 1 south on March 16th, 3 present on March 17th and 1 south on March 31st the only records!

Autumn: 13 flew north, 22 west and 9 south between Late July and mid November. The peak during this period was a measly 4 on October 8th. 1- 3 were seen flying off to roost in the evening Pipit/Pied Wagtail roost during December.

Yellow Wagtail

Spring: April 9th to May the wotsit – with peaks of 14 north and west on April 22nd and 30+ present on May 1st. A few pairs normally stay on to breed but I can't say I noticed any this year from memory?

Birds back on the move from the second week of July. The total of autumnal migrants were: 79 west, 29 north and 142 south with peaks of 20 south on August 7th, 51 south on August 11th and 25 west on August 26th. The last bird of autumn was seen on September 30th.

Grey-headed Wagtail

A male bird was spotted in the stubble field of the farm on May 1st. (PM)

Wren

Ignored. Big Terry still likes them.

Waxwing

One flew west on October 31st. (PM)

Dunnock

Reasonably boring. 100+ were present on October 30th.

Robin

See Dunnock. Have you deduced just how bored I get with writing this rubbish out by this stage of the report? 200+ migrants appeared on October 30th. Blah ... yawn etc.

Nightingale

The first birds were not heard until April 13th. At least 3 resident birds (possibly 4?) plus migrants heard near Little Cliffsend farm on April 21st and on the Hoverport on April 23rd. Another bird was heard just outside the area too (Lord of the Manor) so all in all a definite increase in numbers locally. 1 was in Stone Lees on August 11th.

Redstart

Spring birds were seen on April 17th and 22nd. A tad more regular during autumn with: August – singles on 10th and 27th. September: 14 on 7th, 4 on 8th, 2 on 9th, 5 on 10th, 1 on 12th, 1 on 14th, 2 on 16th, 1 on 17th, 1 on 18th, 1 on 29th, October: 1 on 1st and 2 on 11th.

Black Redstart

Spring migrants on March 16th, 27th then 3 on 31st. Then September: 1 on 20th. October: 1 on 1st, 2 on 11th and 1 on 30th. November: 1 on 5th and 2 on 10th.

Wheatear

The best spring numbers for a while with 141 birds on 22 dates between March 29th and May 13th. Peak counts were: April – 24 on 18th, 13 on 22nd, 13 on 28th, 17 on 29th, 19 on 30th and 18 on May 1st.

A good autumn, which included a big fall (for here anyway) on September 7th of at least 140 birds. Overall totals between August 5th and November 2nd were 349 birds on 37 dates. The best days - all during September were 140 on 7th, 43 on 8th, 36 on 9th and 36 on 10th.

Whinchat

Spring: Always scarce with - 2 on May 1st and 1 on May 5th. Autumn: 170 birds were noted on 20 dates between August 10th and September 23rd. Peaks were – September: 19 on 6th, 38 on 7th, 15 on 8th, 18 on 9th, 14 on 10th, 10 on 13th and 13 on 14th.

Stonechat

Monthly peak counts were as follows:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY		AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	1	2	1	0		-	1	6	6	

Redwing

Poorly recorded during the winter months – though generally speaking numbers are so poor as to be deemed insignificant most years. Spring migrant records were scarce – the most I saw was only 4 west on April 17th.

Returning birds from September 28th. A few autumn movements recorded: 38 west on September 30th then during October: 60 west on 9th, 920 west on 10th, 120 west and 30 present on 11th, 70 present on 13th, 52 west on 15th, 150 present on 20th and 71 west on 31st.

Song Thrush

I cant be asked to keep Thrush counts other than those seen on vismig – the most I saw this autumn were 100+ on October 18th and c60 on October 20th. That's it!

Mistle Thrush

Again ignored in the main. 10 probable migrants were present on October 6th and 12 flew west on October 15th. Present all year round in small numbers with 2 – 4 pairs breeding?

Fieldfare

Always a tad thin on the ground during winter - 300+ in Stonelees on Feb 8th the exception rather than the rule around here unfortunately. The only other early winter record I have is a single on Jan 7th in the Car Park! The spring was absolutely awful with only one seen – on March 29th. Less common than Ring Ouzel this spring!

Autumn birds from October 9th with 30 west on 11th, 50 west and 12 present on 11th, 40 on 12th, 42 west on 15th, and 45 west on 31st. Migrants were seen on 7 dates during November with 27 east and 14 west on the 2nd the best day. Scarce thereafter.

Ring Ouzel

A reasonable spring with single birds seen on 6 dates between April 16th and May 1st plus 6 on April 17th and 2 on the 21st.

Autumn: September – 1 on 13th, October: singles on 9th, 10th, 11th, 15th, 3+ on 18th, 4 on 19th, 6 on 20th, 1 on 24th, 1 on 27th and 1 on 31st.

Blackbird

Under recorded though I did count 200 on October 21st, 250 on October 20th and an estimate of 3-400+ birds present on November 10th.

Garden Warbler

Continuing to be scarce these days. Singles on April 27th, 28th, 2 on 29th and 3 on May 2nd the only spring migrants I heard about. There was also one singing on the Country Park on June 22nd.

The only autumn birds I saw were: singles on September 7th and 17th with 2 on 29th then 1 on October 4th!

Blackcap

I assume South Africans refer to them as "Blik-Kips"? One was seen in Stonelees on January 12th. The first spring migrant was seen on April 2nd with quite a few birds staying on to breed. The peaks were: 21 on April 17th and 19 on April 21st.

Autumn: Regular August – late October. Most of the Blackcap action came in September and October (obviously!) with 20+ birds recorded on quite a few dates. There were 70 in the area on September 29th and 47 on October 15th.

Lesser Whitethroat

Spring: From April 21st with peaks of 10 singing males on April 28th and 13 on May 2nd. As with most of the warblers passing through during the autumn Lesser Wobblerythroats are very under recorded. In August I recorded 15 on 13th and 25 on 16th – the September peak was 12 on 29th and the October peak was so low it's hardly worth writing it down at all. The last record was one on October 15th.

Whitethroat

Spring: From April 14th with 50 seen/heard by the 22nd. Nothing else to say really!

Largely ignored during the post breeding/autumn period though I did take counts of 100+ mixed adult/fledglings were seen around the Country Park on June 29th and 150+ on July 30th. The autumn peak was – 120 on August 10th with 30 – 40+ regular around the area until September. The last one was seen on October 9th.

Dartford Warbler

A groaty thing was seen on the cliff top on October 15th. (PM)

Cetti's Warbler

A singing bird was heard over the road from the cycle path on May 22nd (PFt) and stayed until the end of the month at least, was both seen and heard in the ditch near Stonelees on May 30th. Probably 2 (young birds?) were heard using the contact call in Stonelees in mid-July. (PFt.) One was heard singing on the Hoverport on September 29th and 30th. (PM)

Sedge Warbler

Spring: 1st arrival was on April 4th - though birds were not seen with any regularity until mid-month! Even then very few compared with normal years. About a dozen singing males were heard on April 26th.

Autumn: Again a poor showing. 30 birds were present on August 9th and the last bird was seen on October 1st.

Reed Warbler

Spring: From April 24th with very few bird passing through. A peak of 7 singing males were heard on May 13th between Stoneless and the Hover port reed bed.

Autumn: Under-recorded with a peak count of 20 birds present on August 10th. I must have been bored on that day as I had 120 Whitethroats, 25 Willow wobblers, 20 Sedge Wobblers and 6 Lesser Wobblethroats in my records! It's normally a dull day at Peggers when you're checking the bushes during August. Anyway - the last Reed Warbler was seen on September 29th.

Willow Warbler

Spring: From April 2nd with about half a dozen pairs staying on to breed. 22 were present on April 23rd.

Autumn: Yet another very poor showing. 25 on August 10th and 15 the following day were the only double figure counts I have! Just about sums it up I think? Last record was on September 13th.

Chiffchaff

Spring: Birds started turning up on March 15th with 12 heard singing on March 29th, 11 on April 2nd and 15 on April 5th. A few pairs stay on to breed.

Autumn: Most of the migrants between Early September and late October. Peaks were: September – 40 on 16th, 50 on 26th, 48 on 28th, 150 on 29th, 50 on 30th, October – 150 on 1st, 45 on 4th, 60 on 8th and 40 on 11th. Migrants were regular up until the first week of November in small numbers. 2 – 3 still present in late winter.

Dusky Warbler

One turned up in the Hoverport scrub on November 1st (PM etc) that was joined by another in the same area on November 3rd (DW etc) with both birds probably still present until the 4th. Only the 4th and 5th area records after 1 on November 14th 2001 and 2 together on November 10th – 13th 2003.

Yellow-Browed Warbler

One was in the sunken garden on October 6th (FS) and another on the west cliff/Park on October 8th. (PM)

Pallas' Warbler

Pallas' are surprisingly scarce at Pegwell. This bird - in the park (on the west cliff) on November 13th (PM/FS) the first record since Beadle's enigmatic bird he fluked in the sunken garden in October 1999 and perhaps only the second area record? Amazing given we are situated smack in the middle of two of the best Pallas' areas in the country. Lets face it Yellow-Brows turn up reasonably regularly even at this dump. Mind you Yellow-brows are far more vocal I suppose – which probably makes them easier to find?

Goldcrest

In the early winter at least 2 birds were present. 5 on March 21st plus a few scattered records of 1 – 5 birds during April.

Autumn: Regular between the last week of September and mid November. Peak counts were: 43 on September 29th then October: 30 on 5th, 40 on 8th, 30 on 9th, 70 on 11th, 30 on 12th, 32 on 16th and 30 on 28th – with 10 – 20 regular during this period up until November 16th. A few birds were still present into December.

Firecrest

Spring: 1 on March 27th – then during April: 1 on 1st, 2 on 2nd, 1 on 9th, 1 on 19th, 1 on 23rd and 1 on 28th.

Autumn: September: 1 on 6th, 1 on 28th, 2 on 29th and 1 on 30th. October: 1 on 9th, 8 on 11th, 3 on 12th, 3 on 15th, 1 on 16th, 4 on 17th, 2 on 18th, 4 on 19th, 1 on 30th and 7 on 31st. November: 1 on 4th, 2 on 10th and 12th then 1 on 13th. Disappointing - given the amounts that were turning up elsewhere in the autumn.

Bearded Tit

1 flew north on October 16th and there were 2 in the Hover port reed bed on November 6th. (JV, DF)

Great Tit

Not properly recorded ... well not by me anyway.

Blue Tit

Good numbers were present in the autumn with many potential migrants seen mainly during September. Perhaps a 100 or so were present on September 29th?

Coal Tit

Scarce this year with only two records – one on April 9th and another in the car park on either October 28th or 29th? (PFI)

Long-tailed Tit

Common – with a few pairs breeding. 20 – 30 birds present during the post breeding period.

Magpie

30 – 40+ birds were present on March 15th including a group of 15 together on the short grass near the Viking Ship. Don't moan – you're lucky to get that much info!

Jay

Ever present in small numbers (1 – 4) with peak numbers present during October when a few migrants were noted passing through in ones and twos. 12 were present on October 18th and 4 flew west on November 3rd.

Jackdaw

15 west on May 2nd, 10 west on October 27th, 30 west on October 30th, 12 west on November 3rd and 10 west on November 4th. Otherwise seen only occasionally in small numbers.

Rook

The occasional migrant was seen plus the odd wanderer straying into Peggys territory from the nearby Rookery. C.40 flew over on December 4th.

Carrion Crow

A bit of movement noted in May with 50 west on 2nd and 25 north on 13th. 50 – 100+ birds are generally present.

Starling

850 post roost birds flew south on June 28th. In the winter vast numbers are seen heading north into Ramsgate at pre-roost. 10 – 20,000+ regular with perhaps ten times plus that number on the evening of January 9th? (PM, CS) I wrote down an estimated 250,000 birds gauged by the size of a flock of 20,000 birds I

Starling cont:

counted that settled on the mud prior to the big build up on that evening. Poor numbers in the autumn/late winter period.

Purple Glossy Starling

One flew south over the bird hide on May 17th. (Rather expertly spotted by young Craig during a fruitless afternoons raptor watch with yours truly) The same bird was rather bizarrely seen flying in off the sea the day previous at Foreness by F.Solly. Even more bizarre was that over a week later after being seen (by us) flying off strongly towards Richborough – it turned up back at Foreness?? Don't make sense that to meself??? Was there more than one about? Answers on a postcard to F.Solly etc.

House Sparrow

Largely overlooked, though numbers would appear to be reasonably stable in the area. 60 were in the Car park on February 11th and 150 – 200 were present during the post breeding period.

Tree Sparrow

Very few in the spring and a poorish autumn migration. 2 flew s/west on March 22nd and 2 west on April 17th. In the autumn – September: 1 present on 28th and 2 west on 29th. October: 8 west on 1st, 1 west on 6th, 12 west on 8th, 9 west and 11 present on 15th, 5 west on 16th, 2 west on 17th, 20 south on 27th and 5 west on 31st.

Chaffinch

The spring migration was virtually non-existent save the 316 that flew west on April 3rd. Very poor in the autumn too with very little vismig noted. Peak counts were: (all in October) 39 west on 15th, 45 west on 16th and 76 west on 31st - though good numbers were present during early November – perhaps 100 birds?

Brambling

April: 1 south and 1 north on 3rd, 12 on 14th then singles on 15th and 16th. Then October: 6 west and 2 present on 9th, 2 west on 10th, 1 west on 11th, 1 south on 13th and 9 west on 31st. November: 2 west on 1st, 4 west and 1 present on 2nd, 20 west on 4th and 6 east on 5th.

Linnet

Most of the spring migration was crammed into April when a total of 869 birds flew west and 483 north. The peaks were – April: 150 west on 14th, 100 west on 16th, 130 west on 19th, 422 west on 22nd and 381 north on 23rd.

Then September: 150 west on 13th, 50 west on 16th and 27th, 79 west on 29th and 40 west on 30th. October: 36 west on 6th, 47 west on 8th and 31 west on 31st.

40 birds were present during November and December.

Twite

Early winter numbers (Jan. to early March) reasonably stable with 20+ to 31 birds using the Shellness/Salt Marsh area with regular sorties across the river – flying n/west over the Country Park. (To drink perhaps?)

Autumn/late winter: 1 on October 14th then 10 – 35 birds were regular between October 28th and the first week of December. Peaks were: 58 on November 21st and 60+ in three separate flocks on November 24th.

Redpoll

Awful! April: 2 west on 14th, 2 south on 15th, 1 south on 22nd with 2 present between 15th and 21st. Double awful in the autumn with – September: 1 west on 13th, 2 west on 23rd and 29th. October: 11 west on 8th, 12 west on 15th, 2 west on 16th, 2 west on 18th and 4 north on 28th. November 11 west on 8th, 12 west on 15th, 2 west on 16th, 2 west on 18th and 4 west on 28th.

Siskin

Flyby's on 4 dates in April with 56 north on 5th the only noteworthy count. The autumn must have been the worst ever for Siskins locally? 14 west on September 30th then in October: 2 north on 15th, 1 west on 17th, 8 west on 18th and 4 west on 19th. In November – 2 north on 15th, 1 west on 17th, 8 west on 18th and 4 west on 19th.

Serin

1 flew south on April 16th (CS) then there were 2 on April 26th, one west and another north (CS & PM) and 1 flew north on August 13th. (PM)

Goldfinch

Movements of 100+ birds on only 2 dates with 150 west on May 13th and 140 west on October 19th the spring/autumn peak counts respectively.

Greenfinch

Decent movements were few and far between. 86 west on April 19th, 36 west on September 29th, 40 west on October 11th and 66 west on October 31st the peak counts recorded.

Bullfinch

Perhaps 2 pairs bred this year – with a regular group in the general Stonelees area plus a regular male seen hanging around the back of the hide during May and June.

Crossbill

2 flew north on June 22nd, 2 east on August 25th and 8 present then west on August 27th.

Reed Bunting

No proper early winter counts were taken – though there are generally a few dozen plus knocking about at this time of the year. 2+ pairs bred around the Country Park area plus at least 1 pair were present to the north of the reserve.

In the autumn little bits of visible migration were noted in late September and October. 24 flew west on September 28th with the next highest count being another 20 west on October 8th. A few other double figure counts were noted during this period.

Lapland Bunting

A decent autumn with: 2 west on October 8th and 1 was flushed out of the salt marsh during a Jack Snipe stomp on October 20th. Then during November – 1 flew west on the 4th and a group of 4 went west on the 11th. 2 flew n/west over the hide on December 25th. (TH)

Snow Bunting

The over wintering flock (at Sandwich bay beach) were seen on only 4 occasions: (across on Shellness point) with 46 birds on Jan 3rd, 27 on Jan 7th, 22 on Feb 8th and 7 on Feb 23rd. There were 2 other singletons seen within the recording area during the period when 1 flew north over the Harbour on March 5th and 1 in the Ferry Port car park from March 9th to 16th at least. (both DW)

1+ on the beach at Shellness on November 2nd started off a decent period for Snow Bunts. 3 flew south over the Hoverpad on the 5th (DW etc) plus good numbers were present across on Shellness during the second and third weeks of November with as many as 100+ birds showing on the 20th. Also 24 birds were seen on the 8th, 30+ on 16th, 47 on 17th and 40 on 21st. In December 3 were seen on Shellness on the 19th and 1 flew over the salt marsh on the 23rd.

Yellowhammer

Scarce. Singles on February 8th, May 1st, May 3rd, 1 west on October 8th and 2 present on October 18th the only records of a bird that was once a regular autumn/winter visitor to the area. Slim Splodge tried to claim one on his third visit to the area. C'mon Slim – you'll have to work harder than that nowadays for a Pegwell Yellowhammer.

Corn Bunting

Corn Buntings were seen fairly regularly on the Country Park in the early winter period – though in small numbers. Monthly peaks were: 16 on Jan 13th, 4 on Feb 14th and 7 on March 10th. The days of reasonable sized flocks of Cornies coming in to roost seem well and truly gone nowadays?

Returning birds were regular around the Country Park after October 30th with 1 – 5 birds present on most days. 24 were seen there on December 11

PEGWELL BAY COUNTRY PARK, STONELEES, ETC - COMMON BIRD CENSUS

All Stonelees/Country Park census supplied by Peter Forrest.

SUMMARY OF BREEDING SPECIES RESULTS; 2004

Species	Country Park	Stonelees	Other areas
Fulmar			10+
Grey Partridge	2		2+
Pheasant	3		
Moorhen		1	2
Stock Dove		1	10+
Wood Pigeon	5	5	5+
Turtle Dove	4	3	1 - 2
Collared Dove	1		3+
Cuckoo	1	1	
Skylark	1		2 – 3+
Nightingale	2	2	
Robin	8	6	-
Blackbird	10	7	-
Song Thrush	5	3	-
Mistle Thrush	1	1	1 – 2
Duncock	12	5	-
Wren	11	7	-
Yellow Wagtail			Probable?
Cetti's Warbler	1		
Reed Warbler	2	3	3
Sedge Warbler	13	2	2 – 3+
Whitethroat	23	7	5 – 6+
Lesser Whitethroat	3	1	2 – 3
Blackcap	7	5	4 – 6
Willow Warbler	1	4	
Chiffchaff	3	1	2 – 3
Blue Tit	1	4	4 – 6+
Great Tit	2	3	2 – 3+
Long-Tailed Tit	1	1	2+
Green Woodpecker		1	
Great Spotted Woodpecker		1	
Carrion Crow		1	
Kestrel			1
Magpie	2	1	
Jay		1	1
House Sparrow	1	2	
Goldfinch	5	2	A few
Greenfinch	3	4	A few
Chaffinch	2	3	
Linnet	15	No record	A few
Bullfinch		1	
Reed Bunting	1		1+
Starling		1	

**Extra-added Rubbish**

I came across an old newspaper report the other day. The Thanet Post of January 14th 1874 has a report of a Colonel Marmajuke Hamley-Wordsworth who shot a Great Bustard in fields adjoining Pegwell Bay in Thanet. The article had an adjoining - badly focused and grainy photograph – and lo and behold there in the background of the shot was one Johnny Websper – bins aloft etc and looking roughly the same as he does down to this day. Just how old IS the old fogey?? Lets face it – he is Johnny the ANCIENT after all! He forgot himself one day when asked where he fought during the war – we meant the second world war and he comes out with how he got on with his longbow at Agincourt! And I thought he was joking ... I'll have to have a rethink.

Continuing the OAP theme - I know its unfashionable but I love the tales the old fogys come out with from time to time. They are a constant source of amusement to me. My favourite time is when you're within earshot of a few of em having one of their conversations. Something along these lines:

The scene – Pegwell bird hide. In attendance – Johnny Hollyer, Pete (Gap toothed Yoke!) Laslett and John Websper ... oh and yours truly of course.

Johnny Websper: "Did you see that Spotted Crake the other evening out at Grove Pete?"

Pete Laslett: "Wot yer saying John – the Crake at Grove?"

Johnny W: "Yeah ... the Crake at Grove you deaf old twit!"

Pete L: "Tha Crake at Grove y'say??"

Johnny W: "YEP – THE CRAKE AT GROVE. You went to see it on Thursday evening."

Pete L: "Fursdee evinin ... dun't remember Fursdee evinin?"

Johnny W: "You phoned me on Thursday afternoon – I remember it distinctly because I was half way through getting my wig removed by the wife (for maintenance reasons it turned out. Ed) and when the phone rang she dropped it in my commode and it aint bin right since!"

Pete L: "Are you be saying ta me .. Oi rang you on Fursdee afternoon to tell you I were goin darn Grove ta see a Crake n' the missis drapped yer wig darn the commode ... is that wot yer be sayin ta me John?"

Johnny W: "Yep that is exactly what I am trying my best to convey to you!"

Pete L: "Dunt remember that John ... wus it me or wus it sum other bloke named Pete?" (cont overleaf)

Johnny W: "Look it WAS YOU! Who else would ring me with a silly country accent like you've somehow acquired? You phoned me and said you were going down to Grove to twitch a Spotted Crake and would I like to come with you and John Hollyer to see it that evening. I told you although I enjoy a good twitch I couldn't make it as it's my annual wig cleaning night – you said Okay but you were going to go anyway."

Pete L: "Fursdee evinin ya say ... wot day were Fursdee?"

Johnny W: "Two flippin days ago!!"

Pete L: "Hang orn John oirl ask Jahrny Hollyer. Yar sayin eee went with me?"

John Hollyer (age 92 from Worth near Deal) was slumped in one corner of the hide – asleep whilst wearing one of his customary silly hats with matching cravate. Half an hour later after much slapping, shouting and hollering Pete had somehow got the old boy back into the land of the living.

Pete L: "Jahrn ... o Jahrn ... are ya with us? (He held up three fingers) How many fingers do I be oldin up Jahrn?"

John Hollyer: "Might I say ... ooh three fingers old bean."

Pete L: Spot orn old boy – three it is – yar are bein with us. Now listen careful like ... do ya be knowing abart this Crake darn at Grove on Fursdee evinin? Old Jahrn ere rekons we were goin ta see this Crake at Grove y'see an I phoned Jahrn n' is missis drapped his wig in his portable tarlet n' eet aint bin right since – d'ya get wot ees on abart cus ta be quite hunest with ya – oi aint gut a clooo wut ees un abart?"

John H: "My dearest Pete you silly old button you – we did indeed go to Grove on the said evening to see the Crake and jolly good it was too. I drank half a bottle of Champers prior to arrival and what a riveting good evenings birding we had – absolutely top hole! To celebrate after getting back to Worth I polished off the other half of the champers washed down with a 1962 Chablis – wonderful absolutely wonderful! Don't you remember old bean? It was only the day before yesterday"

Pete L: "Nope dunt remember a fing ... were you there an' was I definitely with you?"

John H: "Oh yes – oh yes indeed. You picked me up about 6.00pm and we arrived at our destination at approximately 1900 hours give or take the odd digit. That long-haired twitcher from Dumpton was there you know um er ... Diane Wrathall and he showed you the Crake through his telescope. You said it was the most lovely bird you've ever seen – we left at um er ... 2000 hours and took the country route as I remember ... I think it was via

Berkshire or somewhere similar ... um er er ... you ran over that small child – crashed through a hedge ... we saw Jimmy Saville thumbing a lift on the M25 ... That Jumbo Jet crashed in the layby when we were sipping coffee, killing everyone on board and we were interviewed live on the BBC1 news – crikey man cant ya remember?”

Pete L: “Was this on Fursdeee ... I normally watch the telly on Fursdee’s?”

John H: “Yep ... Thursday - stake me life on it. Yep Thursday it was.”

Pete L: “Nope ... though I’m sure I’ve seen that Jimmy Saville somewhere lately? So your sayin on Furdeee I phoned Jahrnny abart the Crake, went to Grove with you, saw the Crake an on the way home ran over a small child, carashed through anedge, saw Jimmy Saville thumbing a lift orn the soid arv the M25 then warched a Jumbo Jet com darn n’ wus intervied live fer the BBC1 news? Orn Fursdeee????”

John H: “That is precisely what I am saying old bean.”

Pete L: “Wot on Fursdee???? Oi normally watch the telly on fursdee ... Etc etc....”

NB: Both the Johns tried in vain for the rest of the session to jog old Lasletts memory. Sadly without result.

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Contributers initials:

AL = Andy Lawson

TH = The Hair

CS = Craig Sammels

Dullard = Dullard (Marc Read)

DW = Dylan Wrathall ... his real names Paul
apparently?

DF = David Feast

Frank = Frank

FS = Francis Solly

I H = Ian Harding

BC = Barry Child

CH = Charlie Twitpants

JV = John Veal

KBN = Kent Bird News c/o Ian Harding.

PC = Phil Charlton

PFt =Pete Forrest

Pfy = Pete Findley

PM = Phil Milton

TH = Slim Splodge

TJ = Tony Jolly

Other helpers/reporters of bird stuff included: Martin Sutherland, Barry Matlock, Andy Lawson, Slim Splodge (Timothy Hodge), Kevin flatnose Thornton, Dave Gilbert, Dave Gilshnan, Dave Beadle, Johnny Websper, Martyn Wilson, Mad Iris Child, Eric Cantona, Joshua, Bridie and Oliver Milton (who enjoyed the seals) plus others who I’ve probably forgotten to mention ... sorry.

e-mail Pegwell news: To Phil at - MSCHUPJM@YAHOO.COM

And to end – I found a letter in the computer I sent to jolly old Johnny Hollyer back in July and I thought it kind of summed up my relationship with the old wrinkelies. It made me laugh when I read it back so I thought I would include it. Worth a giggle perhaps? I don’t know how they put up with me? Got no choice I suppose?

Phil Milton
75 Saint Johns Avenue
Ramsgate
Kent.

CT 12 6JE

July 2nd 04

Ello` Monsier Hollyer,

I've just send that dribbling wreck and part time Yokel has-been – Peter Laslett (Ooooooooh Arrrrrrrrrr) a text about a few Roseates which have started to pass through Pegwell this week and thoughts turned to you for some strange and extremely bizarre reason. “I must see my shrink” was my first thought ... but then I thought ... NO., strike whilst the irons hot – write to the rotund Benny Hill look-alike and see how he is?

This past few days there has been a bit of Roseate passage y' see and it might be worth doing a tide or two if you can get your zimmers warmed up? Not that you can see that far out with your failing eyesight but if nothing else it'll give me a laugh. There has been a bit of Tern passage this past week – with up to 230 sani's the odd common/Little and as I say a few Roseates mixed in. We had at least 2 on Tuesday, a single on Wednesday and Franny “the Hair” Solly had another 4 on the outgoing tide yesterday. (Thursday) That said the 4 flew off strongly east out to sea – so you are never guaranteed to get them. In fact we did the tide in that same morning and saw naff all. *Cont overleaf:*

Spring was a weird one this year eh? I must say from April onwards I quite enjoyed it. I have included a spring write up that I posted up on the Planetthanet website. I know your so old you can't understand the concept of the word “website” – lets just say it's a modern invention that allows news/letters/other nonsense to be passed out over the airways. Sorry if this is too confusing for you? I will endeavour to keep it simple from now on. Were you aware that Queen Victoria passed away many, many years ago?? You know – Queen Victoria ... the lady with her face on those stamps you used to buy? Excuse my bludgeoning sarcasm.

So how did the old exhibition go? Did you make any wonga out of it? Don't worry even greats like Van Gogh died in abject poverty – so you're not alone if no one took any notice. Didn't he die of Syphilis? See you're one up on him already! No come to think of it – he shot himself. He did have syphilis though. The moral of this paragraph is twofold: A: Don't contract Syphilis. And B: Don't shoot yourself. Both are extremely bad for your health. Another bad thing to do is – jumping off high buildings ... very painful. I hope you find this well-meaning advice helpful?

Do you get out much these days? I haven't seen you at Pegwell in what seems an eternity? Mind you I can't blame you – Pegwell is the pits of the earth at times. Those flippin Kite- Boarders are driving me up the wall lately. The council in their wisdom have given them permis sion to go out off the west cliff end of the mud. Amazing. Also the hides been wrecked yet again. I went down this week to find the local vandals have smashed the place up – even breaking a big hole in the roof. It's ever cheerful at Pegwell these days. What a wind up!

Anyway – hope you're well and might see you this autumn perhaps??

Phil

Goodbye peeps. See ya in 2005.

