

It's the Pegwell Bay bird report for 2005

Always first with the 'BIG' news!

(I would like to apologise in advance for being silly, muscular, egotistical, Handsome and brilliant to boot. No come to think of it... stuff the lot of ya!)

Featuring up to the minute news on old favourites such as the Coot and more 'codger' news, Sport, fast cars plus the odd bird!! Yep... Fast cars.
Also in this year's bonanza edition:

Gadget's court case... page 25

**Topics for discussion: Dylan's 50. "Is that all? He looks far older to me says a befuddled bar owner?" Read more on page 79.

Also for Dylan fans: We've discovered the shop where Thanet's version of Robbie Savage buys those silly hair extensions. Find out all the latest Dylan news on page 17!!!

Slim's reintegration to Minnis Bay.

The old codgers: A humble apology (of sorts) by the author. Page 2.

The 8th anniversary bash: see page 5.

Johnny Websper loses a leg...off his Turkey. With added 'Ooh Arrr' on the side (not included)

Exclusive - Pete's Penduline!! Positively preposterous!!

Michael Shrewmacher seen locally: more on page 6.

The *BIG* Discussion: The BUGATTI VEYRON... whoosh! Quicker than Solly going on a twitch?? Give you're views...fill in the form on page 1176 and have you're say!

Also - Silly name of the year award. £2.38 prize money!

Only £67.48p!

Pegwell Bird report, page 1: Intro time!!

Its silly introduction time unfortunately readers. If you're into birds it'll pay to skip the next few pages. I would if I was you and I wrote it. Here goes:

I cant believe its not butter?? Nope that's not it...I can't believe 2005 already gone... that's the kiddy I was after!! Whoosh and it was over. 2005 will be remembered as a transitional year for me. No not transitional... rubbish!! Its been a real stinker saved only by Dylan passing 50 years of age, memories of Vultures and Eagles in the south of France, Muse, the French flying Badger incident and Tim's now famous silly comment whilst musing over the lack of birds at Pegwell this spring: " Well – what a lot of people don't realise is that rare birds are just that... *rare!*" I kid you not. Wise words mate – wise words indeed. All the more bizarre as Tim is considered to be extremely intelligent ... well by Pegwell standards anyway. He both knows and uses words with more than two syllables!! Most are so obscure that you cant understand what he's on about but surely it's the effort that counts more than the content anyway?? Surely?? Inpertrubably so young twiffel-noffer as Tim would say. (or something as ununderstandable as that anyway?)

Though the cricket during the summer was fantastic (the best ever?) far and away the event of 2005 in this household was Liverpool's stupendous 5th European cup triumph!! Hoorah!! What a night? Raffa the gaffer did us well even if he spent £7 million squid on a forward who can't play football. "He's big – He's red, his feet stick out of bed... Peter Crouch – Peter Crouch" etc and so on. I love Liverpool Football club. So should you. What's this with the French flying Badger incident I hear you cry?? A flying Badger? In France?? Its true I tell you. I saw it with my own three eyes. I would go as far to say they are common in certain parts of France but the French have kept it under their berets for many many years. They are both nocturnal, eat la plume de ma taunt and associate with Roe Deer on which they will predate in years of low la plume de ma taunt. This brings me nicely to the main theme of this venture of words – namely one Kevin Thornton.

Thornton – and where is he?

Now Kev (Thornton) is seemingly a rather jolly, easy going lad but showed his true colours when he felt the need to depart Kent for a life of luxury and debauchery (no doubt?) in a far off land known as Sussex, leaving both the Ob's and those of a deranged persuasion very much in the lurch! He used to frequent Sandwich Bay Lunatic and Flat nosed Bird Observatory but then felt the need for warmer more temperate climes with less hassle plus bigger sandwiches and coffee with better sugar. The fact that somehow escaped his eminences snooty nosed upper class attention was that Sussex is neither in Kent, Thanet or Ramsgate which is confusing to some of us local types! All right I'm all out of other places names so this will have to suffice for now. The point being that during all this time he was in the area, he made absolutely no effort to make acquaintance with my good buddies namely Klaus von-Schumacher, Shin Hi (a Japanese ex clown midget I befriended at a wine tasting conference in Eastbourne, who is both obsessed with 1970's Liverpool footballers and remote control gadgetry) and took very little notice of my nemesis – The Coot who he never ever even clapped eyes on! ('eine Cooten' as Klaus called him during a recent Pegwell trip.) I hate the Coot. He reminds me too much of what I'm going to look like in a few years time. Otherwise he's a good enough egg. Anyway Thornton – just think of what you're missing down here matey boy?? It's all fun fun fun over here in Thanet! Much better than pig stinking

hoity-toity land Sussex anyway. Where is this place Sussex anyway? I assume it's actually in England? Traitor!! Klaus and Shin were gutted when they heard. Satisfied??

CODGERS: The Crimean and Beyond.

I must stop hammering the old codgers? A statement brought on by the fact that I heard on the grapevine that they were out to get me after my near decade solid of codger bashing. I awaited events - waiting to see in what form the dribbely backlash would appear? After about a week I received a letter through the post. The first problem I encountered with the first letter was that, as I cant read hieroglyphs I was forced into passing the incomprehensible item on to the British Museum who kindly informed me that Johnny Websper, the writer of the letter, had indeed written me warning of his past war record. Apparently he thought that his escapades during the charge of the light brigade would frighten me off?? Some hope - even if he was then only survivor*. Then it really kicked off and I started getting hate mail from Pete Laslett. These letters were legible - in his best English (you know a few 'Oooh arrs' and the like but generally readable) but followed a pattern. The best thing was I always knew ahead of time that he'd sent me a letter as every time I heard a thump on the window I would walk downstairs and pick up the stunned pigeon, remove the message off its leg to find out once again the rather tame geriatric threat of being run over by his brothers combine 'arvester if I didn't refrain from taking the mickey out of 'is teef' and silly yokel voice!! Years of poking bits of straw between them had left them about half an inch apart y'see and now the poor old whinging bag of wind is stuck with them as they cant do anything for him at his age as he's got a skull that's so thin with age that on a sunny day you can see right through his head. Any 'tooth surgery' might render the old cranium a tad broke. Like one of those old badly glued together ming vases on the cartoons. You've gotta laugh eh? Then one morning, over a light breakfast the big one arrives through the letterbox. 3 seconds after it hits the doormat, I pick it up - immediately realising it to be from the wombat-man from Worth - head of the all England old ruffians brigade - so with some trepidation I open and then read the letter. It went as follows:

J.Hollyer esq.
Cetti's Warbler Palace,
Worth and so forth...

Hello my good man,

Its' jolly old Johnny Hollyer here and I would like to make a request old bean if I may be so bold? It has come to ones attention that you have been raising many lurid and rather fantastical accusations as to the intrepid group of my good self, Peter laslett and my honoured buddy of many moons - none other than Johnny 'the wig' Websper - with regard to our behaviour whilst out in the field and other worthwhile pursuits. Well might I just say old chum that I'm jolly well furious with you're remarks as to our ages, state of mental health and our inability to walk for 30 metres without the aid of the cutting edge technology known as the Zimmer frame, and if it doesn't jolly well stop as soon as is humanly possible I will fire up the old Model-T and fly down to Ramsgate in a jiffy and jolly well biff you up!! You are both a blagard sir and a scoundrel!! I am especially fired up as this is the third letter I've had to write you - as the other two were so covered in dribble they disintegrated before I could get them into the envelopes! Pass the port will you

dear? Oh - if you've got the claret I'll drink them both. Where was I now?

Yours etc um er... who am I now?? Um er...

(more on next page)

I find the whole 'codger' thing very sad y'know. I was absolutely mortified when I realised how hurt and upset the old boys were. I promise to turn over a new leaf from hereon - and hereby pledge to do my best at 'bigging up' the terrible threesome for the duration of this report and beyond. So may I - in public and in soundness of mind (ha ha) ask the 3 older gentry - Johnny W, Johnny H and saggy-pants Pete Laslett to accept my most humble apologies for any mental inconvenience I may have caused any of you over the past decade or so of my well meant Codger-boshing, that has caused so much misunderstanding, hate and wanton OAP violent thoughts amongst those of a grey-headed persuasion in the local bird-watching community. Peace be to all of you. (Not written by me - so I can carry on now)

I saw me old bestist mate Lockey (Hi Lockey) in the autumn. I hadn't seen him since the last time we met. He's not a birder as such but he does show a bit of interest in things with feathers. He brought his wife 'Dot' along with him (Hi Dot) and she frightened all the people away out of the busy car park so me and Lockey could have a peaceful chat about old times (Carp fishing/Music mainly) and do you know what - he didn't look a day older than the last time I met him some ten years or so ago? No - he looked about 30 years older. The funny thing was 'Dot' looked exactly the same - only much older and uglier - greyer and gnarled, much like a weathered piece of a Victorian butchers bench that's been left out the back of a muddy yard for many years, near a atomic power station that leaks radiation in a run down area where they beat women about the face for 10 hours everyday before sending them down the mines to work until mid-night, scratching coal off the walls with their bare hands. Since they've been off the scene Dot's acquired a new job in a mental hospital in Essex. Yeah... Okay Dot. You work there eh? The way I'm going I might 'work' there soon as well eh? Anyway - as we chatted, the birds sang merrily away - the tree's glistened in the late afternoon September sunshine - and I remembered the time at Fordwich lake back in 1984/5 when Lockey, politely and calmly told a local dog walker - who happened to be walking down the footpath in the opposite direction to us, that if his fully grown, vicious looking, huge, grey Irish Wolfhound that was merrily growling at the pair of us as we waddled past - took one more look at us then he would strangle it! (no idle boast methinks) This thing was the size of a small Donkey and I for one was quaking in me boots! Anyway - I'm sure if the pay was good enough that we could procure the services of the well-heeled dog strangler for use on or around the Country Park? Worth thinking about anyway? If he were the same as he used to be - I'd reckon about 25 pints of English Ale a day would be payment enough? Well 25 would suffice as long as he wasn't thirsty. Happy days. Fishing (where I met Lockey) is quite like birding in many ways but with more fish and less birds. I met the madest man in the world whilst fishing at a lake in Surrey. The geezer was bonkers (even worse than Iris Child!!) and it turned out he was surgeon! We didn't believe him when he first told us (as he was scruffy, unkempt and used to swim around the lake all night!) but one day out of the blue he turned up in a decent looking 'whistle' (suit) and a brand new XJS Jag. He'd make a smashing birder I reckon. Crickey we used to get up to some capers back in the days before I was turned into a decent member of society. Mad days. I fished that lake for 2 years and I never caught a single Carp! There were only about 4 in the whole pit (about 20 acres) and I don't think they liked me very much? Come to think of it we were all bonkers, not just the surgeon.

*Of note regarding Johnny's Websper surviving the most terrifying battle of the whole Crimean War, it came to mind about 'Timmy' the navy Tortoise who was so wrongly banded around as the last survivor of the Crimean war and made the national news on his death in 2004. It can't be that widely known about Johnny 'the ancient' Websper who not only survived the Crimean but also was accused of sedition by the Romans after throwing a dagger at Julius Caesar whilst on a birding trip to Tuscany with John Hollier in 65 CE. He got off on account of Mr Hollyer's Roman citizenship, after He put in a good word for the old timer you understand. Surviving the Crimean...Pah! Johnny's so old he's known in these parts as a living fossil. The Crimean's small potatoes to Johnny.

The Eighth Anniversary Bash

In the anniversary year of this - the eighth Pegwell bird report we decided to have a bash – a sort of get together so as to glorify the huge accomplishment of years of drivel published in the written word without getting sued even once. It was arranged and I'm sure we were all really looking forwards to rubbing shoulders with each other reminiscing over past glories of the written word in the past near decade of Pegwell Bay Bird Reports. Everyone was invited and the whole magnificent event was planned by my good self for many months in great detail. Unfortunately on the big night I was unable to attend due to brain-bugs but everyone else turned up – The Hair, Dylan (Whose 50 now) Slim Splodge, Klaus (minus his beloved Ingrid) Gadget with his revolving phone earpiece and two inch legs, all three codgers etc etc and they had a wail of a time by all accounts. Well mostly anyway? Neither Gadget or Shin Hi could get served at the bar due to a severe lack of height and at one point Klaus – drunk to the point of suicide stopped the party by crying out in a loud voice “Meine Ingrid – meine beloved Ingrid – why are you not being with the going and comings of you're husband Herr Klaus?” At one point distraught with grief at the lack of Ingrid's presence and blue label vodka (No Schnapps was available) he ran at a first floor window and threatened to throw himself out of it if she wouldn't take him back. He even tried suicide by forcing an entire Black Forrest Gateaux into his mouth in one mouthful. Not the best way to finish yourself off but the poor fellow was desperate. He went on and on until Johnny Websper, moved with pity for the wretched distraught Nazi, tried to comfort him – drawing Klaus out with humour which made a rather pensive John Hollyer remark from the back of the hall “steady on old boy – he is the dreaded Hun after all.” At one point Johnny did an impression of a beached whale on steroids by removing his wig and false teeth and rolling around on the floor, making a grunting sound, which made Klaus laugh even in the over emotional state he was in. It later turned out that Ingrid had threatened to leave Klaus and move back to Dusseldorf with her insane Mother as she heard a rumour that Klaus, whilst away on recruiting business had been seen cavorting with the Scottish band leader Charlene McTwattyface from the band 'Sponge.' Klaus – now semi-sober and moved by Johnny Websper's compassion for the drunken German admitted to Johnny that although He had seen Charlene McTwattyface at a party in Glasgow whilst trying to reform the Third Reich in kilts (He's getting desperate) He had at no time shown her any favour whatsoever because of his deep undying love for his beloved Ingrid. (Ahh.. what a lovely tale) Then a cry went up from the back of the hall and a thin legged woman wearing a false beard and a black Fender Telecaster was dragged kicking and screaming towards Klaus. And Guess what? When the false beard was removed it was none other than the Scottish wailer Charlene McTwattyface herself and it was her that had been spreading the rumour about her and Klaus and she had been stalking Klaus for many months. Fancy that? Dylan piped up that he saw this thin spindly figure hiding in the shadows drinking double whiskies and due to her appearance he thought her to be 'the Hair' – but on approach she had slipped up and given the game away before trying to scarper, only to get trapped on her hasty exit by getting wedged between Johnny Hollyer and Pete Laslett vying for pole position whilst trying to get through the door for their 57th trip of the night to the lavatory. Trapped she had fallen to the ground and confessed all. Klaus was quite angry and wanted her to be as he put it 'shot at dawn' but in the end sense prevailed and it was decided to punish her by shutting her in the broom cupboard with Anthony Jolly

for 10 minutes as he bored her to death with old work tales of back in the days when he was a jobbing plasterer. Poor lass? Even though she had almost ruined Klaus and Ingrid's marriage, when I heard about this contravention of UN rule 127a about unreasonable torture of a prisoner I did think this punishment extremely harsh. Apparently Klaus and Ingrid are back together now in eternal matrimonial bliss. Once again – ahhh. Top incident of the evening must have been Dylans drunken ramblings about football. Dylan – breathe hot with ale and boredom cornered Shin Hi stating outspokenly that the finest of all footballers was neither Thierry Henry, Diego Maradonna, Pele or the like – oh no no in Dylan's opinion – an opinion only arrived at after many hours of 50 year old perpetual guzzling of Stella's was none other than Stevenage Boroughs inside left of the infamous 1957 side Charlie Rust!! Shin Hi – incandescent with rage flew (verbally not literally for that would be a ridiculous statement in such a serious account) at Dylan "In my 'umble oprinion misser Dyrran – finest frootballer of all time is Kerry Dargreesh!!" before throwing a well aimed karate chop at Dylan's 50 year old left knee and storming out. He was seen 100 yards down the road by late arrivals saying to everyone in street "Tha Dyrran Wraffal is brig Hrippy sirry iriot.' And I agree with very word. Its all good stuff eh? You wont read classy material like this in any old bird report y'know? They'll catch on in the end. I've always been one step ahead – a bit of a pioneer you might say? A legend some others might say?? Dave Gilbert turned up the night after. I heard that the janitor tried to get it through to him he'd turned up on the wrong night. Apparently he turned up with a half bottle of wine, half a tin of brylcream (the other half was on one quarter of his head) and a tin of pre-war biscuits. Apparently Dave enraged by the thought of missing out completely on the big night tried to club the janitor over the head with one of his Wellingtons before producing the leg off a 1930's Slik tripod from beneath his freshly waxed Barbour Jacket before chasing him off down the road waving the tripod leg about like a deranged pole vaulter.

Coverage. Or the lack of it?

Well it had to happen sometime but I completely lost my patience with birding at Pegwell in 2005 and didn't put in anywhere the same amount of time as I would usually. Pegwell isn't a place to be if you want a bit of peace and quiet these days. That said, Tim or Slimothy Splodge (a recent arrival from 'the north') as he's better known in these parts did a decent stint in the spring and summer but as he hardly saw anything decent he gave up and went back to Minnis. Can't say I blame him. If I could drive I wouldn't watch here like I do (or used to), as there are far too many people about down there nowadays. It's a Country Park come Billy Smarts circus. Much of the early autumn and the late autumn/winter period was extremely poorly covered as was sea watching (which is naff 99% of the time round here anyway) and the late spring and autumn raptor watching, which can if you get it right be half decent. Other than a really good period in October the whole year was a complete blow out. The autumn wader passage was the worst I've ever witnessed, Tern numbers were low and the Hirundine movements, which have been spectacular in recent years, were nothing to shout about either. We didn't even get a Dusky warbler!! The weirdest thing of all was that Pete Forrest found the best bird of the whole year – a Penduline Tit, only the 2nd or 3rd record for the area as far as I'm aware. Don't worry it wont happen again ... not the Penduline... Pete actually finding a decent bird.

I owe old Slim a huge debt of gratitude for this past years musing over bird less mud, sky, bush and grassy knoll for his putting me onto such fantastic names from the blues world such as the legendary 'Bumble-Bee Slim' and his compatriot – non other than 'Harry the hipster Gibson.' Why cant we spawn such fantastically named pop stars nowadays eh? Top of the Pops would be a hoot. And what about Slimothy's recollection of the infamous Bonzo Dog

Doo Dah Bands track - 'Shirt'! What a band. Any band that use lines such as "I want to Rhino on the lino" deserve the highest of all musical accolades if you ask me. Mind you Vivian Stanshall did come up with the funniest one-liner of all time in his film 'Sir Henry at Rawlinsons end' when the drunken lord of the manor came out with the line " If I had all the money I've spent on drink- I'd spend it on drink." Dylan couldn't have put it better himself.

Other highlights this year past included a man on University Challenge whose surname was 'Famous'. Unfortunately we missed the introduction where all the contestants announce their full name and subject. We mused for hours trying to imagine what would be the best first name to call a man with the surname of Famous? I particularly enjoyed 'Bradpittsquite.' As in Mr.Bradpittsquite Famous. Unfortunately we'll never know his real name. Also on a local broadcast on the Meridian news they interviewed a man from our beloved region called Derek Coffee. Derek Coffee?? What an amazing name. The best ever? It's my personal favourite. I didn't even mention the old cricketer - surnamed 'Ironmonger!' Ironmonger turned up on the score sheet of one of Richie Benaud's first test matches during the Ashes series in the summer. Wasn't it sad when old Richie went eh? Terrible. What a great bloke. That reminds me - how on earth didn't Shane Warne get man of the series?? I was dumfounded? Freddy was immense but Warne's performance was treble-immense! Come to that how didn't Kevin Pieterston get his teeth kicked in for being an irritating wally? Off the field I mean? He's fantastic on it... well sometimes when he's got a bat in his hand.

As a cyclist come extreme car enthusiast I freaked at the sight of the new Bugatti Veyron when featured at long last (its been rumoured to be coming out for the past two years) on the best ever TV programme of all time BBC's Top Gear. The stats NEED to be looked into: 1000 BHP, 0-60mph = 2.5 seconds, Top Speed limited to a mere 252 mph for safety reasons. I would imagine it would cruise at 250 mph if you took it out on a long straight German Autobahn with all that power produced by its 8 litre super turbo-charged engine? Mind you you'd run out of fuel every 12 minutes at that speed as it 'only' has a 100-litre fuel tank. Vastly impressive. I thought when I saw Clarkson's rather frightened/excited expression when he first opened up the Ferrari Enzo was just about as good as it was going to get with a road car. This thing makes the Enzo look like a Diesel Ford Mondeo. £840,000? A bit steep perhaps? Ostentatious? Immoral probably. But hey - it cost Volkswagen FIVE MILLION QUID to build each individual car so at less than a million it's a snip eh? What's this doing in a bird report I hear you cry? Tough. The most astounding stat about the car needs to be dwelt upon. If put side by side with the last fastest road car - the McLaren F1 (241mph) and you raced them up to 200 mph you could start the McLaren at 120mph and the Bugatti would still beat it to 200mph from a standing start. Think about it? This is precisely the sort of thing that should be in all bird reports shouldn't it. Shouldn't it??

Mice 'n' stuff

This brings me smoothly along to my next subject. Rodents driving cars after dark in Thanet. Unbelievable? Well I think I've found out just what they're up to - these so called nocturnal, seemingly unintelligent food for the roadside Falcons and Owls. They've got us all fooled. I noticed on a nocturnal vigil of local rodent investigation that all Shrews were left-handed. It's true. I sneaked up on one changing the wheel of his go-kart and he always held the wheel brace with his left hand. I next observed the Short-tailed Vole world darts championship, and you've guessed it - every Vole threw his darts with his left hand. A Vole playing darts I hear you cry?? A Shrew with a Go-kart!!! Well how do you think they got to Lakeside for the darts championship if they can't drive? Do they walk all the way to Surrey? C'mon... use you're heads will ya? They're playing us all. You are all no doubt aware of the

saying "you're never far away from a rat?" Well you're closer than you think if you venture out after dark onto our roads. All those 'so called' joy riders screeching around out estates at breakneck speed when you're trying to get some kip...its Water Voles!! That's why they've seemingly 'disappeared' from our rivers and streams these days – they're all breaking into cars in our towns and villages and giving the local bobbies the run around all night. (more)

Mice cont:

I wrote my local MP telling him of my findings. He hasn't as yet replied but I think he's been gotten at by undercover moles? Paranoid you say?? Paranoid?? Its true I tell you... Trooo. Phew – it's okay. I just saw something move out the corner of my eye as I was writing this and believed it to be a skulking Dormouse. Turned out it was just the TV remote control. I'm sure they've got it in for me. Ever since I phoned up Crimewatch to report that in my opinion the ram-raid of a post office in Dorking may well have been the work of the local Dormice I've felt a weird presence when I'm alone. I'm sure they are tapping into my phone calls? You have to give the Dormouse a wide berth y'know... especially when you've grassed them up to the Rozza's. They are the heavies of the Rodent world – real sheep in wolves clothing. Bin Laden's a Dormouse y'know? Now you're getting it eh? Its all making sense now isn't it? That's why they can't find him.

Imagine a Rodent driving down you're road in a Bugatti Veyron?? Imagine the carnage a budding Michael Shrewmacher could do amongst the school traffic in Thanet?? They've gotta be stopped and soon.

It was whilst at one of these nocturnal vigils I discovered a Badger rave in Stonelees - but that's another story.

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Poetry Corner

I wrote a little poem about a cloud. I named it after seconds of deep thought on the subject 'A Cloud.'

Ahem... I saw a little cloud – coming through the crowd.

Well I told you it was a little one didn't I? Still brilliant though eh? Such depth for six such meagre, seemingly insignificant words. Genius. My best work yet I think you'll agree. This last bit wasn't part of the poem by the way.

.....

Important notice!!

Why is it that nobody remembers the name of Johann Gambolputty de von Ausfern-schplenden-schlitter-crasscrenbon-fried-digger-dingle-dangle-dongle-dungle-burstein-von-knacker-thrasher-apple-banger-horowitz-ticolensic-grander-knotty-spelltinkle-grandlich-grumblemeyer-spelterwasser-kurstlich-himbleisen-bahnwagen-gutenabend-bitte-ein-nurnburger-bratwustle-gernspurten-mitz-weimache-luber-hundsfut-gumberaber-shonedanker-kalbsfleisch-mittler-aucher von Hautkopft of Ulm??

All knowing Slim hadn't even heard about this? M.Python circa 1969.

The Pegwell Bay (etc) Bird Report for 2005

Red-throated Diver/Diver Species

Highest amounts were: 450 north and 20 south on January 2nd, 291 south on January 9th, 196 south on January 10th and 182 south on January 18th.

A couple of April records this year – 1 north on the 7th and 4 north on the 19th.
Returning birds from October 4th. The highest movements were recorded during December with 55 south on the 5th and 51 south on the 14th the peaks.

	JAN	FEB	MAR		OCT	NOV	DEC
South	647	8	14		1	2	134
North	521	2	2		1	-	66

Black-Throated Diver

1 was present offshore in the bay on January 1st (CS) 1 south past the Harbour on January 7th (DB) and another north on December 12th. (PM)

Great Northern Diver

1 turned up in Ramsgate Harbour on January 1st and was last seen on the 2nd. (DW etc)
Another was seen flying south past the Harbour during a bit of Diver movement on January 7th. (DB) In the late winter period one flew north past the Harbour on December 14th (PM) and another was present offshore on December 16th. (PM, TH, FS and DS) The best year for the species I have ever known, are they getting a little commoner perhaps?

Great Crested Grebe

Small movements were noted past the Harbour in January and December – the peak being 11 north on January 9th.

Monthly peaks: Jan: 18. Feb: 4. March: 11. April: 3. May: 3. June: 5. July: 2. Aug: 0. Sept: 1. Oct: 1. Nov: 10. Dec: 12.

Little Grebe

Up to 3 birds were seen in the Bay/river during early January also 1 on February 24th and up 1 - 2 in March. Summer records are generally rare so 1 in the farm reservoir on August 17th was particularly noteworthy.

Up to 3 birds in garage pools during December plus the odd individual was spotted offshore.

Slavonian Grebe

1 flew north on December 17th. (PM)

Fulmar

Regular... that's it. 40 flew north past the Harbour on December 13th.

Sooty Shearwater

1 flew north though the Bay on October 4th. (PM)

Manx Shearwater

1 flew north on April 19th. (PM)

Mediterranean Shearwater

1 flew south past the Harbour on July 28th (PM) was only the third area record.

Gannet

Although regular offshore the only notable movements were: 54 north on May 13th, 97 south on July 29th, 62 south on July 30th, 40 north on August 15th, 91 south on September 30th and 305 south on October 4th.

Monthly counts:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
STH	31	0	0	0	1	-	247	23	92	311	5	10
NTH	1	0	0	0	57	-	3	40	1	-	2	21

Cormorant Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
29	10	24	16	26	29	31	46	25	39	32	20

Shag

Seen with some regularity in or around Ramsgate Harbour with 2 - 3 birds present on and off in the early winter period and up to 5 during the latter period. The peak count of 5 birds was recorded by Dylan (He's 50 y'know) on December 1st.

Little Egret

For the first time since the population explosion locally, 2005 saw the first dip in numbers.

Monthly peak day counts were as follows:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3	2	2	3	2	8	31	30	25	30	6	3

Grey Heron Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
5	5	4	4	5	4	7	4	5	6	4	1

Purple Heron

1 flew southwest on October 14th. (PM) Easily the latest ever date for the site. Just outside the area another was seen flying across Manston towards Pegwell on April 19th.

Mute Swan

Quite uncommon this year with only 5 records. These were: 2 on March 19th, 1 on April 13th, 2 on April 15th, 2 south on April 21st and 1 on May 28th,

Black Swan

1 flew west on April 17th and another was seen on June 20th. The one I saw was a wild vagrant whilst the other, seen by Slim was definitely an escapee.

Brent Goose

550 were present on March 3rd. (JW) and 63 flew north on March 8th. One bird was seen regularly throughout the spring until May 14th. Other unseasonal birds turned up during July with singles present on the 1st and 7th then 3 on the 8th.

Autumn migrants were noted on the move from September 3rd. As the last week of October and first week of November wasn't covered properly I would presume that some of the autumn movements were missed? A little bit of northward movement was noted offshore between October 15th, 16th and 17th with 125 north, 40 north, 45 north then 40 west on the 18th the best of a bad bunch of counts.

Monthly peak counts of birds present were as follows:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
46	23	550	14	1	-	3	-	5	119	62	7

White-fronted Goose

16 flew west on January 23rd. (TH) 3 n/west on February 1st. (PM,TH)

Pink-footed Goose

3 flew south on October 3rd (PM) and a group of 13 went n/west on October 18th. (PM)

Bean Goose

3 flew n/west on February 17th. (TH) I think I saw them as well? I do realise this isn't a very scientific way of recording birds.

Greylag Goose

A flock of 45 flew off east on February 6th, which were probably of Continental origin? There were also 48 present on March 3rd (JW), which is a good number for the area. Otherwise the odd small group were seen on and off throughout the year as is normal.

Canada Goose

3 on April 5th and 1 on April 18th.

Bar-headed Goose

Singles on April 2nd and October 1st. Dunno where they came from??

Ruddy Shelduck

2 flew south over the sea on September 13th. (PM) These would be considered generally to be dodgy but as I saw them they are what we might refer to as 'genuine migrants.'

Shelduck

*21 young ducklings on June 27th and 42 juvenile birds were present on August 18th.

Peak monthly counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
105	51	49	65	48	93	60	19	26	39	41	75

Mallard Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
242	138	25	7	16	70	32	47	59	120	155	260

Gadwall Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	5	3	-	1	1	4	1	-	2	1	4

Pintail Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
16	4	16	3	-	-	-	-	1	16	3	0

Shoveler Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
22	5	5	4	-	-	2	9	2	12	9	3

Wigeon Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
640	137	619	6	2	-	1	2	142	260	555	910

Teal Peak month counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
142	80	40	3	-	-	13	84	79	185	150	50

Pochard

1 on November 19th a 'stunning' record!! Ooooooooooooooh!! Exciting.

Tufted Duck

Notable as there were in fact none! Not a sausage! Naff all! Zilch!

Scaup

Hilarious! Scaup? Wot these days?

Eider

Migrants were scarce. January: 2 south on 2nd and 1 north on 24th.

November: 2 north on 17th and 6 north on 18th. December: singles north on 12th and 17th plus 1 south on the 18th.

Monthly offshore peaks:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3	3	2	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	2	0

Common Scoter

January: 2 south on 9th, 3 north on 14th, 2 present on 18th, 2 north on 24th, 1 on 28th and 46 south on 30th. March: 40 south on 8th. April: 20 north and 14 south on 19th. July: 2 on 1st, 10 south on 2nd, 12 on 13th, 9 south on 26th, 47 south on 28th, 3 south on 29th and 1 south on 31st. August: 10 south on 1st, 1 south on 4th and 24 south on 5th. September: 5 south on 1st, 38 south on 16th, 30 on 17th and 7 south on 30th. October: 4 north and 5 south on 4th, 2 south on 14th and 30 south on 18th. November: 20 south on 17th, 12 south on 18th and 2 south on 19th. December: 28 south and 2 north on 12th, 4 south on 14th and 3 north on 17th.

Velvet Scoter

1 flew south on November 19th. This bird was unanimously voted 'Pegwell Bay Duck of the year for 2005'. It is getting ridiculously hard to see most of the cold weather Ducks these days.

Goldeneye

More none! A whole year without a single Goldeneye.

Smew

2 were seen offshore on January 23rd. (FS) He didn't phone Slim.

Red-breasted Merganser

January: 1 on 3rd, 3 south on 15th, 5 south on 23rd and 1 north on 24th. March: 10 on 27th and 1 on 28th. April: 3 on 1st, singles on 3rd and 5th, 8 on 15th and 1 on 24th. May: 1 on May 30th.

November: 1 on 17th.

Red Kite

Just outside the area 1 flew north over my house on March 28th.

Osprey

1 flew west on April 12th (RH) and another north, eventually west on May 18th. (PFt)

Marsh Harrier

Far more regular these past few years during the winter months with in January: 1 on 1st, 1 – 2 on 19th and 3 on 30th. (SBBO) February: 1 on 7th then in March 1 – 3 birds were seen on a few dates. A few migrants were noted during April and May with 7 singles seen plus 3 migrants on May 8th.

November: a male on 17th then a female type on the 18th.

Hen Harrier

Scarce. January: 4 singles and a pair. Feb: 5 singles. March: 1 on 5th. April: singles on 16th and 24th.

The first returning bird was spotted on August 18th. Singles were seen on September 8th, October 20th, November 17th and 18th then December 7th.

Common Buzzard

March: 1 n/west on 14th, 1 west on 16th, 1 south and 1 west on 18th, 2 north on 19th, 1 s/west on 23rd and 8 s/west on 25th. April: 1 south on 5th, 1 n/west on 11th then two singles north and west on 17th.

In September: 3 flew west and s/west on the 18th.

Honey Buzzard

1 on June 4th (FS) and 1 flew south over the Farm on September 22nd. (PM)

Sparrowhawk

Common, newly established breeding bird and migrant in fluctuating numbers. 1 – 4+ birds were present in both winter periods. Migrantwise – underecorded. Up to 6 were seen passing over in the spring and 10 were seen on September 7th and 24th.

Kestrel

1 – 6 regular all year.

Red-Footed Falcon

A juvenile was seen taking insects over the Country Park on September 18th. (PM) It eventually flew off west.

Hobby

A very poor spring with 1 – 2 birds recorded on 7 dates between May 6th and June 12th. Summer/autumn birds 1 to 3 birds were seen on 17 dates between July the wotsit and September 28th.

Peregrine Falcon

1 – 2 birds were present on and off all year. 3 birds were seen on a few dates plus there were 4 seen on one day in the spring (I'm sure) but I can't have written the date down. I think it was in April as I'm sure Slim 'n' I saw them when we were looking for migrating Boozards?

Merlin

At least 3 birds were present during the early winter period, which included a single male bird. Otherwise scarce and seemingly in decline locally with the occasional bird noted in February, March and April then from September until the end of the year.

Grey Partridge

A least 4 pairs bred. And as many as 40 birds were seen whilst mooching around the farm fields on September 27th. (DW – 50 yrs)

Red-legged Partridge

1 was seen in the top fields on March 15th – the first record in many years. (TH)

Pheasant

14 were indiscriminately flushed on the Country Park by Franny's mutt on September 20th. Otherwise 1 – 5 birds most days.

Water Rail

There were a few heard calling from the salt marsh between September and February plus the odd individual ventured onto the Country park.

Moorhen

Moorhens were seen with some regularity all year in the reservoir of Little Cliffsend Farm where they once again bred. Maximum = 4-6 birds. The occasional bird was noted from the salt marsh around the garage pools.

White Stork

An adult bird flew n/east on May 11th. (PM)

Oystercatcher Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
970	620	710	188	142	105	459	472	940	740	670	580
10 th	25 th	7 th	17 th	1 st	2 nd	30 th	8 th	23 rd	4 th	9 th	5 th

Avocet

February: 1 on 25th. March: singles on 10th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 4 on 19th and 20th, 2 on 27th and 28th and 3 on 30th and 31st. April: 6 on 1st, singles on 2nd and 3rd, 2 on 4th, 4 on 17th and 1 on 19th. May: 2 on 1st, 2 on 4th, 1 on 13th, 3 on 14th and 2 on 30th. June: 2 on 3rd and 15th. July: 1 on 9th. August: 2 on 3rd. October: 3 on 6th. November: 1 on 17th.

Little-Ringed Plover

Spring: 1 flew north on April 25th, 1 north on May 11th. Then in July – 2 on 1st, 1 on 4th, 2 on 8th, 2 on 17th, 1 on 23rd and 1 on 30th.

Ringed Plover

Other autumn migrant counts were: 214 on August 14th, 129 on September 5th and 120 on September 28th.

Peak Month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
50	45	18	13	70	16	18	430	129	38	5	1
3 rd	7 th	9 th	29 th	12 th	14 th	31 st	17 th	5 th	3 rd	8 th	16 th

Kentish Plover

Only 2 birds this year - a male on April 24th (PM) and a juv/female on July 17th. (PM)

Grey Plover

 Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
390	320	260	5	33	5	5	23	86	210	220	190
10 th	1 st	9 th	4 th /31 st	14 th	27 th	27 th	19 th	30 th	20 th	8 th	24 th

Golden Plover

 Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
5600	5320	1740	1	1	-	5	98	500	1430	3640	7000
10 th	2 nd	10 th	5 th	21 st	-	28 th	17 th	18 th	18 th	8 th	16 th

Lapwing

 Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
9300	8000	2500	1	7	6	24	0	350	1390	2540	10,000
31 st	2 nd	9 th		27 th	15 th	18 th		28 th	20 th	8 th	9 th

Knot

 Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
410	330	340	48	33	1	11	19	24	121	265	340
15 th	25 th	8 th	2 nd	21 st	19 th	27 th	14 th	30 th	5 th	23 rd	24 th

Sanderling

 Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
91	84	115	85	68	9	34	22	41	22	80	58
31 st	7 th	9 th	2 nd	14 th	1 st	27 th	5 th	5 th	20 th	8 th	7 th

Purple Sandpiper

On the west cliff rocks during January - 4 on 19th (DW) and 3 on 21st. (TH) 2 were seen on a few dates in the same area during February. Tim saw one in the salt marsh on March 27th. In December - 5 flew past the harbour on the 12th and there was one at cliffsend on the 16th.

Turnstone

High tide roost counts are taken on a monthly basis from the Cliffsend rocks/beach: Peak counts were: January: 170. February: 100. March: 115. April: 100. May: 18. Then September: 60. October: 130. November: 150. December: 140.

Dunlin

 Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1480	1020	1740	92	120	7	155	840	730	530	1170	1120
3 rd	17 th	10 th	3 rd	12 th	16 th	31 st	17 th	1 st	3 rd	17 th	8 th

Curlew Sandpiper

Adults during July: 9 on 10th, 1 on 11th, 1 on 17th, 1 on 19th, 32 on 25th, 11 on 27th, 2 on 29th and 1 on 30th. 10 adults were also seen on August 1st. 2005 was easily the worst year for juvenile Curlew Sands since I've been watching here. Between August 19th and October 3rd they were recorded on only 13 dates with peaks of 11 on August 20th and 15 on September 13th. The next highest count was a mere 5 on September 17th!!

Little Stint

In the spring - 2 on May 27th and 8 on June 2nd. July: 1 on 25th. September: 1 on 23rd and 3 on 28th.

Autumn birds were unbelievably scarce in 2005. In August singles were seen on only 3 dates between the 1st and 14th and in September a staggeringly low 1 on 23rd and 3 on 28th!!

Temminck's Stint

1 on July 29th. (TH)

Wood Sandpiper

1 on July 3rd and 2 on July 28th.

Green Sandpiper

April: 1 on 22nd. July: 7 dates from 9th (3 on 29th) August: 9 dates including 4 on the 9th. September: 1 – 3 birds on 4 dates until the 18th.

Common Sandpiper

Spring: In April: 1 on 13th, 24th and 4 on 29th. May 3 dates until 7th.
Autumn: 26 dates between July 8th and August 19th with a peak count of 11 on July 26th. I find it hard to believe there were no birds present after the last date.

Redshank Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
90	100	130	102	18	25	300	350	230	270	180	190
12 th	9 th	23 rd	15 th	4 th	27 th	21 st	19 th	8 th	6 th	18 th	5 th

Spotted Redshank

Only 1 bird was seen during the early winter period (on various dates) and up to 3 were noted in late winter. Migrants were once again in short supply as is usual these days with singles on April 22nd, July 12th and August 10th, 12th, 14th, 15th and 19th.
In the late winter 3 birds were present on November 19th plus 1 or 2 on a few other dates between late October and December.

Greenshank

Spring migrants from April 22nd. The very low spring peak count was only 4 on April 30th and may 1st. The last bird of the season was seen on June 3rd.

In autumn birds were seen between July 1st and October 3rd in appallingly low numbers. There was only 1 double figure count reported!! Insane. It was 14 on September 4th.

Black-tailed Godwit

Up to 10 birds over-wintered in the early winter period. The only spring migrants noted were 1 on April 7th and 44 n/west on May 3rd. Autumn migrants were scarce with 1- 2 on 8 dates in August and September with 7 on September 9th.

Peak monthly counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
10	8	3	1	44	-	9	2	7	3	4	4

Bar-tailed Godwit Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
243	233	232	33	78	7	11	11	13	23	131	204
14 th	25 th	10 th	23 rd	14 th	12 th	-	15 th	8 th	6 th	23 rd	23 rd

Curlew Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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285	315	359	165	52	152	362	400	440	360	257	190
19 th	17 th	25 th	1 st	1 st	27 th	12 th	18 th	24 th	6 th	23 rd	18 th

Whimbrel

Spring: From April 9th with 22 on 17th, 23 on 21st, 42 on 29th and 25 on 30th. In May: passing through all month with a peak of 12 birds on 2 dates. Also in June: singles on 2nd, 12th, 2 on 19th and 1 on 27th.

In the autumn birds were present everyday during July, August and most of September. The peak counts were in July: 22 on 11th, 26 on 13th, 23 on 14th, 22 on 15th, 33 on 16th, 20 on 17th and 20 on 20th. August: 10 on 1st, 12 on 15th and 10 on 19th being the peak counts. Numbers slowly petered out in September and the last bird of the year was seen on October 4th.

Woodcock

1 on February 18th. March: 2 on 13th and 1 on 30th. November: Separate singles on 18th, 19th and 30th then 1 on December 3rd.

Snipe Peak month counts: (date below)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
45	50	54	1	-	-	3	7	3	12	51	30
4 th	2 nd	12 th	29 th	-	-	23 rd	17 th	18 th	3 rd	8 th	7 th

Jack Snipe

Largely ignored. During January there were singles on the 1st (DW) and 13th. (TH) Then in November there was one on 23rd. (PM)

Ruff

Good numbers were present amongst the Golden Plovers during January and February. 12 on January 3rd, 36 on January 31st then during February 29 on 1st, 16 on 3rd and 18 on 17th with 1 – 8 birds recorded on 11 other dates during the period. The 36 count on January 31st was a new site record. Otherwise in March: 6 on 9th. April: 1 on 29th.

With the autumn being the worst I've ever witnessed for migrating waders, Ruff followed suit and were seen on only 5 dates in mid-August. (all single birds) the only late winter record was 1 on December 9th.

Grey Phalarope

1 flew south past Shellness Point on January 17th. (PM)

Arctic Skua

July: seen offshore on 6 dates from 18th with 4 on 30th and 3 on 31st. 1 was present offshore on August 17th and in September singles were seen on 5 dates. 1 was present between October 1st and 3rd and another flew south offshore on October 3rd.

Pomerine Skua

1 flew south on December 12th. (PM)

Great Skua

1 n/east on July 24th, 1 south on September 1st then 2 south on October 4th.

Black-headed Gull peak counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3500	4200	1800	100	54	198	1570	10000	10,800	-	9400	2500

Common Gull peak counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2300	740	420	28	18	1	40	800	1500	-	2100	1220

Mediterranean Gull

January: 1 on 1st, 1 on 4th, 2 on 17th and 1 on 27th. February: 1 on 17th. March: singles on 12th, 13th and 25th. April: 2 on 20th, 2 on 22nd and 1 on 30th. June: 3 on 1st, 3 on 14th, 3 on

16th, 2 on 19th and 1 on 26th. July: 1 – 3 on 15 dates with 17 birds present on the 28th. August: 1 – 3 on 11 dates. September: singles on 3 dates. October: 1 on 18th. November: 1 – 3 on 4 dates. December: singles on 2 dates.

Mediterranean x Black-headed Gull hybrids

1 was present on July 18th. (PM, Pft) There was also a different individual on the following day too. (PM)

Herring Gull peak counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
4430	980	1100	620	1740	730	740	1340	1350	-	1300	1680

Yellow-legged Gull {Larus Michahellis}

January: 2 on 10th, 1 on 14th, 1 on 15th, 2 on 17th and 1 on 26th. February: 2 on 10th. March: singles on 13th and 28th. April: 1 on 16th and 2 on 18th. May: Non-breeding birds on 7th, 12th and 13th. 1 non-breeder on June 2nd. July: singles on 4 dates. August: singles on only 2 dates. September: 1 on 24th. October: 2 on 14th. November: 1 – 2 on 3 dates. December: singles on 3 dates plus at least 4 different birds on the 8th.

Caspian Gull {Larus Cachinnans}

A 1st year bird was present before flying off north on April 18th. (PM) Also an adult was seen on November 18th (PM) and a 1st winter on December 16th. (PM)

Lesser Black-backed Gull

A decent arrival was witnessed on the high tide of August 4th when 1690 birds appeared. The day previous a bit of southward sea movement was noted when 120+ birds were seen flying into Pegwell past the Hoverport.

Peak counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
74	44	44	53	230	47	17	1690	40	-	22	198

Great Black-backed Gull peak counts were:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
425	9	25	48	72	78	92	180	950	-	220	620

Little Gull

January: 3 south on 9th. May: 1 on 1st. August: 1 juvenile was seen on the 19th with 3 juveniles on the 21st. The only other record was 3 south on November 18th.

Kittiwake

January: 25 south on 7th, 29 south on 9th, 103 south on 10th and 42 north on 24th. May: 29 north on 13th. July: 33 south on 31st. August: singles south on 2 dates. September: 2 dates. October: 0. November: 2 on 18th. December: 3 dates with 20 offshore on the 12th.

Glaucous Gull

A 1st winter bird turned up on December 25th. (PM)

Iceland Gull

Fat chance! I'm just toying with you all! Iceland Gull?? We were lucky to get a Glauc!

Sandwich Tern

The wintering Sani' was once again present for at least its 13th/14th winter consecutive winter – assuming it to be the same bird? Spring migrants started to show from March 22nd with numbers gradually increasing until April when numbers peaked at 434 on 18th then 350 north plus 200 present on 19th. May: regular all month – peaks of 87 on 28th. June: still regular – peak 68 on 3rd and 69 on 27th.

In July: 790 on 25th, 8-900 on 30th (inc 500 birds south) and 740 on 31st. August: Peaks of 680 present on 1st and 3rd plus 500 present on the 5th. Peaks in September were 200 on the 1st and 165 on 8th with birds showing regularly until October 10th.

Little Tern

From April 15th with spring peaks of 10 on April 15th, 16 on May 1st and 28 on May 14th. Into June: 5 dates between 12th and 27th – 9 on 20th.

July: regular, with 16 on 27th, 13 on 29th, 25 on 30th and 15 on 31st. August numbers peaked with 19 on 11th, 22 on 19th and 21st. The last birds were seen on September 13th.

Common Tern

In the spring they were seen From April 6th with peaks of 20 on April 19th and 19 on May 13th.

They were recorded on 2 dates in June before the bulk of activity was noted in July and August. Peaks were: 75 on July 29th, 80 on July 30th, 92 on July 31st and 277 on August 17th. In September: still regular in fluctuating numbers. 144 were seen on the 1st and 340 were present on the 12th. The next highest count was 50 on the 13th. The last record was on October 4th.

Arctic Tern

In April: singles on 18th, 19th and 27th then 4 on May 4th.

In July: 6 dates from 18th – 3 on 2 dates, 4 on 29th and 6 on 30th. August: 6 dates including 3 on 8th and 4 on 17th.

Roseate Tern

In July: 1 on 19th, (PM) 1 on 26th, (TH) and 2 on 30th. (PM) August: 1 on 1st. (FS)

Black Tern

1 north on May 12th (TH) a good record as Black Terns are scarce here during spring. Autumn records from August 1st through until September 8th with a rather lowly peak of 6 birds on August 19th.

Auk Species

January: Peaks of – 20 south on 2nd, 60 south on 7th, 212 south on 9th, 138 south 10th, 110 south on 16th and 690 south on 18th.

December: regular offshore. 66 south on the 12th and 43 south on the 14th.

Guillemot

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

Razorbill

The odd individual was present amongst the auk movements.

Little Auk

2 flew north on November 17th. (PM and JV)

Stock Dove

30 were present on March 22nd. Common breeder along the cliff – otherwise ignored. That's it!

Wood Pigeon

620 on January 6th, 350 south on February 3rd and 500 were present on March 22nd. Otherwise far too boring to take any notice of whatsoever even if there was quite a bit of movement during the late autumn.

Turtle Dove

From April 25th. A light spring passage this year plus a few pairs bred in the area as is usual. A late bird was noted on October 7th.

Collared Dove

5-10+ birds present daily though we only take any notice of the autumn birds, which build up on the stubble fields in the autumn, when 1 - 200+ birds are present with great regularity. There were 300+ there on September 12th.

Cuckoo

Regular in small numbers from April 29th into June. In August a few juveniles started to show up with 1 on the 4th, 2 on 9th and 1 on 16th.

Long-Eared Owl

1 on the Hover port on August 18th, (Frank) 1 in Stone lees on September 3rd, (TH) and another was seen on the Country Park on September 7th. (FS)

Short-eared Owl

Extremely scarce until December with only 3 singles seen all year - on February 6th, March 12th and November 9th. In December up to 3 birds were seen.

Little Owl

1 was seen in Stone Lees in June or July. (PFt)

Swift

Regular from April 25th with birds continuing to pass through into June. The peak spring counts were 400 birds west on May 10th and 1400 flew south on June 17th. There were no big autumn movements – the peaks being 300 present on July 12th, 300 south on July 30th and 300 west on August 3rd. The last record of 2005 was 10 birds west on September 7th.

Kingfisher

Up to 2 birds seen regularly on the Hover port pools between August and October plus 1 – 2 were seen around the Harbour during both winter periods. Other than this only the very occasional singleton was noted on the reserve.

Ring-necked Parakeet

Common at Cliffsend and fairly regular on the Country Park these days with the occasional bird seen in Stonelees. The peak count was 73 birds seen arriving from the north, during the early morning of September 28th. Probably the most I've ever seen in the area?

Green Woodpecker

1 – 2+ birds regular.

Great-spotted Woodpecker

Regular – mainly in Stoneless and on the cliff top with 1 – 2 pairs breeding no doubt? A little bit of migration/dispersal is generally noted in August/September when 5-6 birds can be in the area. 6 birds flew west from the cliff top on September 19th during a session of vismig.

Skylark

A trickle of migrants were noted during late September and October with 30 west, 47 north and 40 present then 100 present on the October 6th, 8th and 14th the best days. Otherwise yawningly ignored.

Woodlark

2 were present on March 14th (TH) and 1 flew west the following day. (PM) In the autumn a flock of 6 flew s/east over the Hoverpad on October 8th. (PM)

Shore Lark

Dylan found one in the harbour on December 19th. (DW 50)

Sand Martin

Spring migrants were seen in small numbers from March 19th until May 22nd though none of the 'movements' exceeded the 7 that flew north on April 19th. 2 were also seen on June 12th.

In the autumn they were seen regularly between July and October 6th. The highest counts were in July: 2150 north on 10th, 650 north on 12th and 110 south on September 1st.

Swallow

Spring migrants from March 24th. They were seen most days throughout April and May with 90 north, 90 north and 100 north on May 4th, 9th and 13th respectively the highest counts.

In the autumn the best movements were: 510 n/west on August 4th then in September 530 south on 5th, 440 west on 14th and 1250 north and west on 19th, 4000 south on the 23rd and 920 east and west on October 6th then 1140 east and north on the 7th.

House Martin

The first birds showed from April 15th. Though regular – the peak count was only 20 birds north on May 10th.

Autumn peak movements were in September: 160 south on 1st, 150 south on 5th, 8250 west on 14th, 1350 north and west on 19th, 1140 s/west on 23rd then in October: 120 east and north on the 8th.

Rock Pipit

Up to 30 birds were in salt marsh in January. 'Littoralis' birds were seen on March 17th and 18th. 30 – 50 birds were present in December. 1-2 pairs breed in the harbour.

Meadow Pipit

In January pre-roost: 85 south on 3rd, 98 south on 6th then 96 south on the 19th. Spring movements were not even worth mentioning.

Autumn: Regular mainly in September and October. The peak counts were in September: 314 west on 14th, 109 west on 19th, 530 south on 21st, 180 south on 28th, October: 66 west on 3rd, 100 present and 65 north on 7th and 100+ present and 50 west on the 15th.

Tree Pipit

Spring migrants on April: 1 south on 11th, 1 west on 17th then further singles north on April 19th, 25th and 29th.

Autumn: 2 present on September 1st, 1 west on September 14th and singles west and north on October 6th.

Richard's Pipit

1 flew west along the cliff top on October 6th. (PM)

Pied Wagtail

In January up to 96 birds (on the 19th) flew south to roost. 183 flew south to roost on November 7th. (TH) Otherwise – 1 – 6+ birds daily.

A little bit of vismig was noted in September and October, which included in October: 52 north on the 6th, 32 north on 7th and 40 north on 15th.

White Wagtail

Stinkingly scarce! In March 2 flew west on the 23rd and that was about it!

Grey Wagtail

During the early winter period up to 3 birds were seen flying south in the Wagtail/Pipit roost with 2+ birds noted in amongst the late winter pre-roost Meadow Pipits and Pied Wagtail flyovers.

In the autumn: flyover migrants throughout the normal September to November period in small numbers. 1 – 4 birds were seen on 20 dates during this period with a peak of 3 north and 7 west on October 7th.

Yellow Wagtail

Spring migrants from April 2nd with further birds throughout the rest of the month into May with a lowly peak of only 8 birds.

In autumn: small movements were noted throughout August and September with the last record on September 30th. The peak counts were: 48 present on August 19th, 15 n/west on August 21st then in September: 70 present on the 1st, 20 on 2nd, 26 on 3rd and 16 on the 4th.

Wren

Common and largely ignored. A bit like Tony Jolly in that regard.

Waxwing

1 in Stonelees on January 17th (PFt) and 1 flew south over the reserve on January 19th. (TH)

Dunnock

Not counted. Did I mention that Dylan's 50?

Robin

He'll be drawing his pension soon. I wonder if he'll still have that long hair?

Nightingale

Only 1 pair bred by all accounts. Another bird was briefly present on the Country Park in late April but didn't linger. The only other record was of a single migrant heard on the old Hover port on May 10th.

Redstart

The only records were singles on September 9th and 30th then 1 on October 7th.

Black Redstart

1 was present below the west cliff on January 9th. In March – 1 on 17th, 2 on 22nd and 3 on 24th and in April singles on the 3rd and 5th.

Only 1 autumn record this year, a single on November 4th.

Wheatear

March: 8 on 17th, 1 on 22nd and 31st. April: 1 – 2 on 5 dates plus 15 on the 25th. May: 1 – 3 on 6 dates.

Autumn: 1 – 5 on 16 dates between August 1st and October 17th. 2 1st winter 'Greenland' Wheatears were on the sea wall on September 30th.

Whinchat

Spring: 1 on May 10th the only record.

Autumn: 1 – 9 on 10 dates between August 19th and October 4th.

Stonechat

Monthly peak counts were as follows:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY		AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2	3						1	2	2	2

Redwing

Seen in small numbers during the early winter period then migrants from March with 94 present on the 19th and 24 west on the 24th the only significant numbers. Also 22 on April 1st.

Autumn birds from September 22nd. Much of the thrush movements went un-recorded this year due to 'Brainitis' – a condition known to occur after many years of continual birding. Basically I needed a rest and missed much of the late October/early November birds. In October I did see: 120 west on the 5th, 100 west on the 14th, 500 south on the 15th, 90 west on the 16th and 120 birds on the 17th.

Song Thrush

Spectacular numbers were on the move during October locally though unfortunately on 1-2 of the good days I got bored and went home too early by the sounds of things. On October 6th there were 200+ birds present plus another 220 west and 30 east. Later in the month 88 flew west on the 8th, 300 south and 100 present on the 15th and 60 west on the 17th. Otherwise unrecorded.

Mistle Thrush

There are about 3-4 breeding pairs plus the only bits of movement I saw in the autumn occurred in October when 3 flew west on the 6th, 9 north and 5 west on the 7th then 3 west on the 11th.

Fieldfare

1-2 were seen on 3 dates during January. In March they were seen on 4 dates with 24 west on the 24th and 6 on April 1st.

October: 1 – 6 flyovers on 5 dates then in November: 500 west on 17th.

Ring Ouzel

Spring: 1 on March 29th then in April: 2 on 1st, 1 on 2nd, 2 on 4th, 1 on 5th, 1 on 14th and 4 on 25th.

Autumn birds in October: 1 on 9th, 2 on 17th, 2 on 20th, 1 on 21st then further singles on November 4th and 17th.

Blackbird

Naff all were recorded. A highly professional and scientific assessment don't you think?

Barred Warbler

1 showed briefly in the cliff top Hawthorns on October 6th. (PM)

Garden Warbler

In the spring a few records after April 29th then a few were seen in August and September, with the last one on September 19th.

Blackcap

Spring migrants from March 25th with a spring peak of 14 on April 11th. Quite a few pairs bred – dunno how many?

Autumn: 20+ migrants were present on odd dates. Too boring to go into.

Lesser Whitethroat

Regular from April 22nd into early October. In August there were 22 on 10th, 25 on 12th and 25 on the 17th counted whilst checking the bushes on the Country Park. The last one was seen on October 7th.

Whitethroat

Common from April 9th to September 4th with 20+ pairs breeding in the area. There were 100 on the Country Park on August 12th.

Sedge Warbler

Very late arriving in the spring with the first record on April 11th and the second record not until the 22nd!! Very poor numbers were present (migrants and breeding birds) for the second consecutive year. In August Tim had 50 on both the 10th and 12th on the Country Park. Numbers certainly in decline locally.

Grasshopper Warbler

Singles on May 9th, August 25th and September 1st.

Reed Warbler

From April 24th until September. No proper counts were taken. Couldn't be asked!

Willow Warbler

A trickle of spring migrants from March 26th and 8 were present on April 11th. About half a dozen pairs bred and the highest autumn count was an awful 5 one day in September! There must have been more than 5 surely? Probably ignored? I blame Tim.

Chiffchaff

January: Up to 2 birds present. Spring migrants from mid-March with up to 10 birds present during this period with a few pairs breeding. Autumn migrants peaked during September/October with 50 birds present on September 19th.

Yellow-Browed Warbler

A fantastic autumn run in October turned up 2 near the chine on the 6th, (PM) 1 in Court-stairs Park on the 7th, (PM) 1 in Stonelees on the 9th and 10th, (PM) 2 on the cliff top on the 15th, (PM) 1 in the sunken garden on the 16th, (Chris) then 3 on the Country Park on the 17th. (PM and Pft)

Pallas' Warbler

2 were found this autumn. The first in the Sunken garden/cliff top on October 15th (PM) then a second bird on the Country Park on October 17th. (PM)

Goldcrest

Migrants' regular in late March/April with 1 – 8 birds seen on a number of dates. Of note: Tim came across an adult feeding young on June 12th.

In autumn: regular during October mainly with peaks of 60 present on the 15th and 70 on the 17th. 15 to 40 birds were seen on various other dates during this period.

Firecrest

Spring migrants in March: 2 on 29th, 3 on 30th, 1 on 31st and 2 on April 1st. Autumn birds on 7 dates between October 6th and November 18th with 2 birds on 2 dates.

Penduline Tit

One was found in the Reed bed near the old Hover port on October 26th (Pft, TH and FS) The third area record after one in the same area well over a decade ago and another reported in Stoneless in the early to mid 90's.

Bearded Tit

1 was seen near Stonelees on October 22nd and 2 were present on October 27th.

Great Tit

No counts. Dylan is over 50 y'know?

Blue Tit

See Great Tit.

Coal Tit

2 on September 30th then a single on October 8th were birds of continental origin.

Spotted Flycatcher

2 on May 10th and 1 on September 3rd the only records I have.

Pied Flycatcher

1 on September 9th. There were a few other records during autumn.

Hoopoe

Tim found one near Saint Augustine's golf course on April 19th. (TH)

Magpie

Ignored.

Jay

1 – 6 birds present with at least 2 pairs breeding in the area.

Jackdaw

Up to 30 birds were present in March. Otherwise occasionally seen in small numbers throughout the year with the best day of migration a rather meagre 21 birds flying north on March 24th.

Rook

A few were seen amongst the other Corvids on the top fields plus up to 20 birds were seen going backwards and forwards between the Rookery over the road and elsewhere.

Carrion Crow

Up to 150 birds were present on the top fields in March increasing to 184 on April 3rd.

Starling

Not much note taken of any Starlings this year. 8000 flew through the area to roost in Ramsgate on January 19th.

House Sparrow

Under-recorded. There are 50 or so birds knocking around the Car park at certain times of the year plus there were 150+ birds in the whole area on September 9th.

Tree Sparrow

17 were present on September 14th and 8 flew north on September 19th. In October: 1 west on 5th, 3 north on 7th and 7 east on the 10th.

Chaffinch

We (or 'I') don't take and awful lot of notice of the local finch's away from the autumn vismig days. That said someone reported 30 birds, present on January 2nd. No spring passage was noticed and the autumn wasn't a lot better which was surprising given the masses of other finch species that were moving this autumn. The best days were all in October with 42 north and 21 west on 6th, 47 west on 8th, 37 west on 9th, 300 east on 15th, 20 west on 16th and 30 west on 17th. There wasn't much vismig coverage after October 20th.

Brambling

1 on April 22nd the only spring bird reported. During October 189 birds passed through the area between the 4th and 17th of the month with 150 birds west on the 15th the only decent movement.

Linnet

Up to 42 birds were noted on the Country Park during the early winter period. In March there were up to 70 birds present plus 40 north on 23rd, 20 north on 24th and 22 north on 30th. Also 30 north on April 9th and 70 were present on April 19th.

Autumn: September – 50 west on 14th, 40 west on 28th and 55 west on 30th. October: 40 west on 3rd, 88 west on 8th, 50 north on 14th and 100 north on 16th.

Twite

During January 20 were seen on almost a daily basis though probably about 50 birds were present? 46 on January 12th and c45 on January 24th being the peak counts. Birds were noted up until March 18th.

In the autumn birds started to show from November 18th with 3 – 4 birds seen regularly until the end of the year. A group of 24 birds showed up on December 25th.

Redpoll

None were seen until late September. Though the autumn was reasonably good for Redpolls with birds seen most days from late September into November, no big movements were seen. The peaks were all in October: 13 south on 3rd, 10 north on 6th, 11 west on 17th and 20 north on 18th.

Siskin

Only seen after mid September. The best autumn for Siskins in many years, with birds seen virtually daily throughout the autumn. The peak counts were: September - 117 north on 16th, 31 west on 19th and 28 north on 21st. October: 89 north on 4th, 46 north and 12 west on 6th, 161 north on 7th and 32 north on 15th.

Goldfinch

March: 12 north on 23rd and 8 south on 24th.

Autumn: Fantastic numbers were seen passing through after late September into October. In September – 70 flew south on the 28th and on the 30th there were 270 present, 140 south and 20 west. In October: 140 north and 27 south on 3rd, 210 were present and 275 north and west on 4th, 170 present and 270 north on 5th, 150 present and 520 north on 6th, 250 present and 1230 north on 7th and 150 north on the 14th.

Greenfinch

Very little notice was taken of Greenfinches away from the autumn migrants. The only count I have is 15 on February 3rd.

Autumn migrant peaks were, in October: 30 west on 4th, 50 north on 6th, 62 west on 7th, 46 west on 8th, 49 west on 10th, 38 west on 11th, 70 east on 15th and 45 west on 16th.

Hawfinch

1 flew north on October 7th. (PM) This bird was only the 4th or 5th area record?

Bullfinch

2 – 5 birds were regularly seen in Stonelees all year plus another family party were seen often, on the Country Park. There wasn't any coverage in the late autumn unfortunately when unprecedented numbers passed through at most of the coastal watch points in late October/November.

Crossbill

A half decent year for Crossbills started with 1 on June 16th. After this 4 west on July 8th, 2 south on July 15th, 1 flew n/east over Stone Lees on August 16th (TH) and 9 flew west along the cliff top on August 19th. (PM) 20 birds were seen on the morning of October 15th (PM) 17 south and 3 north. A single flew east on October 17th.

Reed Bunting

Ever present in small numbers. A few pairs bred. No effort was made to count the darn things though.

Lapland Bunting

In October 3 flew west and another was present in one of the stubble fields on the 3rd and 4th. 3 were flushed out of the salt marsh on October 9th.

Snow Bunting

They were seen virtually everyday during January with 20 – 32 birds seen often across on Shellness point. In February there were 32 on the 2nd and 29 on the 25th. None were seen after February 28th.

The only autumn/late winter record was of 2 birds on December 18th and 19th.

Yellowhammer

1 flew south on March 17th and 2 were on the cliff top on October 11th.

Corn Bunting

Regular - both around the Country Park and 100 acre during the early winter period, with 2 – 38 birds present. In late March a few birds started to turn up around the Farm, which included 22 birds there on the 29th. Also a few records of 1 – 3 birds recorded throughout April until May 21st with a singing male still present on the Farm on July 14th, which may have indicated a breeding pair?

Corn Bunting cont:

Autumn: Regular in small numbers around the Country Park from late September onward with 48 spotted across the river in the 100-acre field on November 18th.

Gadget... a shaven Baboon??

In conclusion: Has anyone noticed Gadget's appearance in the 2005 blockbuster film – 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory?' No-ones mentioned it? He wanted the lead part – but lost out to Johnny Depp at the last minute, when the director noticed he was ideal for 'Bimbo' head of the Oompa Loompa's!! He pulled the part off with ease of course and it's fully expected he will be named for an academy award in 2006 – well he's used to that sort of thing after his 17 year run as 'Grumpy' in the Darby and Joan stage version of Snow White And The 7 Dwarfs at the Cleethorpes pavilion. He's turned these sort of short-pants parts into an art form. Pure genius. I made mention of this to Gadget during a fantastic pint sized interview I had planned for this publication and he told me about other episodes in his fascinating life including the amazing story of how he made it into Thanet many moons ago as a test pilot for Mothercare. Much of what he told me was a figment of his imagination – slightly jazzed up let's say? This made me curious... Hmm (that's the sound of me thinking) I thought, what is he trying to hide with his witterings about being the first undersized man in space - so I did a bit of digging, asking around and suchlike, eventually ending up in the local library where I found this little gem in an old copy of the Thanet Gazette (June 4th 1957) – the bombshell heading read '**ex Baboon Boy denies fraudulent under aged bus pass use**' An excerpt is below;

The defendant one Dennis Sawyer 57 from Dumpton, straining to be seen from the dock due to extremes of shortness not seen in court since the Allan Ladd incident in 1943 – arrived in court unkempt, immodest and extremely overconfident. A witness for the defendant described the defendant, known in the criminal underworld as 'Gadget' as "one hairy son of a gun" – who has to shave his entire body twice a day in an effort not to get recognised as 'Baboon Boy' from his days of the travelling circus which brought him to Thanet from his birthplace in Outer Mongolia, way back in 1951 and subsequently left him here to rot. It was also said that this eventually led to a life of delinquency and crime such as breaking into bungalows, pick pocketing of midgets and baby strangling. At the summing up, the defendant short, unrepentant, and grotesquely disfigured with rage, cried out from the dock telling judge Henry Pickle's of his innocence and even accusing the jury of being 'shortophobic' asking for them to be replaced with tiny people of his own diminutive size. This time wasting request was declined. After being excused from the court the jury returned in a record 43 seconds to announce the defendant 'guilty as charged.' He was asked to re-appear in a month's time for sentencing and bailed for 25 monopoly pounds. A court official revealed that it is expected that Mr Sawyer should receive a fine in the region of 27 guineas or 15 months in a high security children's prison.

Funny he didn't make mention of this to me? During the interview Gadget told me of his disgust about Shin Hi copying his website ideas over in Hong Cong. Apparently Gadget mis-typed the e-mail address by accident and went straight to 'PranitFrannit' and was amazed with how much tiny Shin had plagiarised his beloved invention known to us all as

Planetthanet. He even had a longhaired bloke (with a blonde wig) from Hong Cong who posted lots of boring details about Gull rings on it? He even named himself after the Thanet Gull ring man only he called himself 'Dyrran Woffal' – apparently he's Shin Hi's alcoholic cousin? Apparently the sites an exact replica? Other reporters include a tall miserable bloke with a bike who doesn't like going out known as 'Frill' and a funny looking hairy bloke who looks like a woman? They also have 'free ol' Crodgers' – I dunno who they are meant to be?

Extra added Klaus

I met Klaus one day in the summer. He was extremely angry due to the slowness of the updating of the Sandwich Bay bird news on their website at the time. He just can't understand slovenly updating or sloppiness of any sort come to that bless him. Where he comes from every little thing is done on the second the authorities say it will be done, every time table met with efficiency and aptitude of the highest order. He needs consistency and order in his life and abhors the laid back British attitude so prevalent these days. My advice to him was to stop moaning in my earole and get in touch with head Honcho of all Sandwichey... Herr Kevin Thornton. (ex SBBO wunderkit now on the run in Sussex) He sent him this e-mail:

Goodbye -

I would like you to see my complaint unt the writing as to the being of your Sandvich wibsite not seeing much after unt 17th July 2005. I am readink unt about Common Buzzard for eighth time unt this veek - which is seen in this date and am of the thinking that you Kev Thornton is unt lazy, fat Inglander svinehunt with unt joke sloppy wibsite! You're output is both slow, messy unt not very of the German - where wibsite would be updated unt the second the man is of the hearing of eine bird news. You're silly Inglander 'far too busy' excuse - cut no ice with me baby - unt inefficient grubblestraller with small low hair unt the head unt silly 1970's Radio 1 voice you are having - It remind me of seeing silly bearded fat bloke Dave the Lee Travis or wot is his face beink?? You are knowing – the small one with unt wig unt jungle monkey ... Tony Blackburn ... that is beink him. In Farterland we have unt saying for the Man such as you are – Hinkelturten Slappkareten... which roughly translates unt Inglander as 'A small flatulant slug' which unt German is very funny ha ha joke is beink!! I am of the wet face with tears as I write!! Is silly man hitting your nose broken lately?? I would have him shot if I were being you. I have taken much time to show how German website is working ... yah? So please see easy to follow how to do wibsite birden entry in easy follow stages:

1: Ring-ring ... ring ring

2:(this is being you) "Hi man... Hello from Sandvich bay birden place is speaking... have you some of the very interesting birdnews to report for the Sandvich Bay websiten??"

3:(Man on phone talking) "Yes ... I have very interesting news for your ears with birds!!"

4: (You - saying to Man) "Hey baby ... vot is youre interesting news? Is it good and can you want it to be on Sandvich wibsite man?"

5:(man on phone) "Yes please. I am saying to you there is a black one in the field over there - it has a feather unt a beak with the eye of yellow. Can you say to me now vot this bird is and can you put it on wibsite immediately like diligent, small legged man Inglander midgit - Gadget on Thanetplaneten?"

6: (You) "Yes it is a 'so and so' beink unt it will be put on wibsite with the immediately at once unt jiffy."

(If you are the unsure unt birdnamen ask tall Adonis expert from Pigswill Bay to identify unt birden)

7:(Man on phone)"Thank you for your efficient voicing of unt birden matter. Unt remind me of unt way to do unt farterland - I am both invigorated unt more likely to report birden news unt future. One other thing – are you of the small hair unt an ex discen jocky off radio 1?? If so can I have unt autographen?"

You see how this is being full of the German type efficiency - unt much better than silly Inglander, sloppy, out of daten wibsite unt Sandvich updaten - many of your Inglander days behind the date!! I am available for your advice unt future ... Remember sloppiness is unt shooting offence unt Farterland.

Hello - Klaus V.S.

Then in late spring/summer I had the misfortune to stumble across Pete Forrest on the local BBC1 news – showing off the Lizard Orchids on Sandwich Bay golf course. The item was frustratingly short unfortunately. Then this happened:

Ahem ...

I saw a little face -
familiar to me.
I saw this little face -
whilst watching my TV.
Over near the Gorse...
up on the big golf course..
near a little tree.

From the shuffle of his feet,
t'was obviously Pete -
He said "This little Plant
comes from place distant -
from France, across the sea"
Whilst on his bended knee -
On the news on the BBC...
Right there on my TV!!!

But this to my dismay, t'was all He had to say...
This made me feel insane
and compelled me to complain
to the BBC news-team
to whom I want to scream
Why not shut yer gobs -
and Give Pete F' a job
Presenting on the beeb
A 21st century Jack Hargreaves!!

Or did they cut off Pete?
Or did quick shuffling of feet...
make old Pete shuffle...
away from the cuffule????
As you do well to keep Pete off his toes...
for a minute or two before He goes!

The end. (see you in 2006)

Contributers initials:

BC = Barry Child
CS = Craig Sammels
Dullard = Dullard (Marc Read)

DW = Dylan Wrathall ... age 50.
DF = David Feast

Frank = Frank

FS = Francis Solly (AKA 'The Hair')
IH = Ian Harding
JV = John Veal
KBN = Kent Bird News c/o Ian Harding.

DB = Dave Beadle
AD = Anton Deck (Russian TV presenter)
PC = Phil Charlton
DS = Dennis Sawyer (AKA Gadget)

PFT = Pete Forrest
PM = Phil Milton
TH = Slim Splodge (Tim Hodge)
TJ = Tony Jolly
RH = Bob Hope
JW = John Websper

Other helpers/reporters of bird stuff included: Martin Sutherland, Barry Matlock, Chris – from north Kent, Andy Lawson, Kevin flatnose Thornton, Dave Gilbert, Dave Gilshnan, Mick Schroepfer, Johnny Websper, Martyn Wilson, Mad Iris Child, Eric Cantona, Phil Bieret, Allan Sessions (from Deal), Joshua, Bridie and Oliver Milton plus others who I've probably forgotten to mention as usual... sorry.

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