

A tall, lanky, birder called Phil,
was feeling mentally ill.
After some time with a shrink,
Said "Phil whatdya think?"
Take some oojamajig pill

Phil, the pills didn't like,
so he jumped on his bike,
and spent a decade on the bay.
But the dog walking blokes,
and twitching type folks,
near frightened poor Phillip away.

Now the dogs didn't bite
but some men with a kite
forced Phil the oojamajig to take.
So he stayed at the bay,
and all he would say
was agrrrrr and get most distressed.

The end of this tale, is not rant or wail,
but to enjoy the bay nonetheless.
It's frustrating it's true...but to give you a clue,
nowt else in Thanet twill impress

Now I dream of the time when ignorance and crime
are things that do not come to mind.
Till then I will stay, counting birds in the bay,
trapping moths and taking those pills.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome all you readers of drivel to the fifth annual Pegwell Bay bird report. Well another year has come and gone were all a year older, Brazil won the world cup and Michael Schumacher won the F1 world championship, which made *me* happy anyway except for the year older bit. But on the birding front...well, when you think about it...was all the time and effort worth it? Do you know I personally made 403 trips in 2001 {this is not a joke, I counted them all earlier} to the afore-mentioned area, in search in the main for a little bit of peace of quiet with perhaps – just perhaps, the odd unusual sighting thrown in. It's not too much to ask surely for all the time spent cycling on a mud stained bike with a buckled back wheel and only one brake, in all weathers – risking life and limb dodging in and out of the juggernauts and boy racers intent on doing a half hour journey in ten minutes flat! Not too much to ask for a little relaxation, a pleasant chat, taking in the sights perusing the plant and insect life on offer. Too much to ask in Thanet though! Now don't think there hasn't been the odd moments of enjoyment dare I say even sheer bliss as something comes along out of the blue and all of modern life's woes are momentarily forgotten. Lets face it there is always something or someone – mostly inadvertently admittedly – who's going to ruin proceedings sooner or later. I start off this years effort in this vein as no doubt many of the people who have gotten their hands on previous editions of this rag will have read through it's pages and may have been given the completely wrong impression as they browsed through the pages of feathered goodies or had a chuckle at my efforts to keep everyone's feet on the ground, mainly by slagging them off I will admit {it's not subtle perhaps - but it works –there are no egos here!} as this can wrongly paint a rather idyllic picture of Thanet being some sort of birding Utopia. Let me make this plain from the very start.... IT'S HELL OUT THERE!!!! Where do I start? Kite-boarders, motor bikes, dog walkers dawn to dusk, kids, vandals, jet-skis, thieves, poofs, twitchers, grown men flying kites, wind surfers, bait diggers, twitchers, low flying noisy airplanes and helicopters, gypsies, northern men sporting pony-tails, twitchers, boats, model aircraft, people with limps, hovercrafts, someone even used the bird hide as a toilet and worst of all...twitchers... {did I already mention them?} etc. have all conspired from time to time in spoiling an otherwise peaceful day. So please take these things on board as you read on, as at times it's no fun I can tell you. Got it ...then we will begin.....

PEGWELL NEWS/THINGS FOR YOUR CONCERNS

One thing that always bugs me about birding in this day and age is the rules – y’know you can’t count that or Charlie so and so wrote an article about the recent 47,000 Canada goose splits. Another one is whether or not a certain bird is wild when in truth unless the damn thing has a ring on it’s leg or some other distinguishing feature, no-one really knows, even though there are lots of people willing to go into print to have their own stab in the dark...then it hit me...why not make up my own rules with my own criteria for the acceptance of any record reliable enough to get into *my report*?

As I wrote in the 2001 report – I am now your self-appointed judge and jury {now where have I heard that before?} so if I don’t like it, it doesn’t make the hallowed pages of that years records. Excellent! It goes further. Next ...what about all the new name changes we’ve all been moaning about? That could easily be sorted out. Lastly I could do what I’ve always wanted to do...wait for it...THE PEGWELL BAY CODE OF CONDUCT {first amendment spring 2002} where I consult myself about the ways that all recorders should behave at all times. This comes in the framework of the Foreness law {circa 1996} where birders could be put on report for not putting the hours in or seeing a specie not on the list of a local and very hairy birder. The difference between the F.L. 1996 and P.B.C.O.C. would be the Pegwell act would be more stringently applied with far more nit picking, ridicule and violence. I was also thinking along the lines of grading the local birders as to their ability {or perhaps inability} as to the identification of the local bird life – but that’s just plain stupid isn’t it!! It’s patently obvious who’s top man around this place and if you don’t agree with me I will boot all your records out. So watch it! Right then - here goes...the first instalment of the P.B.C.O.C.

1. 1. No twitchers, listers, Man. Utd fans, etc. with immediate effect will be tolerated within the boundaries of a line south of Ramsgate, east of the Sandwich road and north of Sandwich Bay. {i.e. the area I live in} Anyone found contravening rule 1 will be dealt with in one of the following ways.

A:CRUELLY RIDICULED. B. VERBALLY ABUSED. C. SPAT UPON. D. STONED TO DEATH.

2. 2. Haircuts can {and will} be expected as I and I alone deem necessary. Anyone not abiding by my ruling will be deemed a threat to the overall harmony of Pegwell society and will be treated as those in contravention of rule 1, with similar harsh but fair penalties. It seems reasonable to expect a decent level of personal appearance that has been lacking amongst certain members of the local birding fraternity in recent years. Please note Peter Forest is exempt from rule 2 for obvious reasons and is therefore an example to all those of unhealthy grooming habits.
- 2a No tattoos.
3. 3. Foreign and East Anglian holidays will be under ban and will apply to all recorders during the periods of peak migration - April to June and August to November. All trips to Dungeness are hereby outlawed even outside the period already mentioned as the committee feels it is too easy to see birds – rare or otherwise at this location.
4. 4. Those of grey-headedness {i.e. our senior citizens} must be treated with the utmost respect by all members barring my good self. Please note: laughing at my fantastic gags about these poor unfortunate creatures is not only allowed within the boundaries of rule 4 but is encouraged at all times.
5. 5. There is as yet no rule 5.
6. 6. Rule 6 deals solely with the use of the northeast corner of the bird hide. It will hereby be deemed “TOP MANS SPOT” and will be expected to be kept clean by all members {perhaps a cleaning rotor could be organised?} and free for my personal use at all times of inclement weather. David “Giblet” Gilbert is not exempt from rule 6.

7. 7. Rule 7 deals with total acceptance of my rules regarding bird records. There will be a new and incredibly fantastic new committee set up for the acceptance of records and the splitting of new species, which will cut out the entire long drawn out debate so prevalent nowadays in so many other lesser recording societies. As hinted at in T.PR. 2001 – I will hereby take on the aforementioned mantle of president, tea-lady, chairman, secretary and autocratic recording committee which has the advantage of eliminating the common problems within other committees such as differing opinions within the body which causes a loss of direction, much bad feelings, personal goals, ill feeling towards other members and plain biased opinions. These will all be a thing of the past. This rule will be contravened by any member openly or otherwise voicing an opposite opinion to the outcome of any final decision taken by my good self and will not be tolerated. Even a facial expression I am not happy about will be dealt with by immediate expulsion from the group for the overall harmony and unity within it.
8. 8. Anyone who upsets any member of the P.B. records committee is in big trouble.
9. 9. That my outspoken opinions {i.e. on football, formula 1, music etc} which due to my lofty position I am at liberty to divulge at any time I want, I thought a rule applying to the avoidance of dissention within the ranks would be a good idea. This will be that no member is at anytime to voice opinions that I may find offensive, disagreeable or even go into a diplomatic silence. I warn you now if I pick up even the slightest hint of disagreement I will come down on you like a ton of bricks. If all members agree with me all the time things will go swingingly. Taboo subjects include Manchester flippin United, Juan Pablo Montoya, McLaren Mercedes etc. and all Pop Music!!!

NB: These rules are available in larger print for the O.A.P. at no extra cost.

Well this brings me along nicely to the second matter of concern – new names, which I would appreciate if all recorders could learn a.s.a.p, and from then on use at all times. Forget your Jaegers, Loons, Longspurs, Little Plovers, Common flaming Whitethroats, Red Knot and lesser-spotted common short-billed Wrens or whatever’s being hatched by the powers that be out there, the following names will try to capture the very essence of every specie in a very British and easy to understand way. By way of example and to prove a point: hypothetically speaking lets say someone notices a rare diver flying into the bay...the shout goes up...”huge fat loon” your not going to look out to sea for the bird are you...no my first reaction would be to glance straight down the path in expectation of seeing John Hollyer! See just how misleading these ill thought out new names could be to those of us brought up on the old ones. Please note that at the time of writing all records for 2002 will use the old tried and tested names so you’ve got a whole year to learn the new Pegwell ones. A certain amount of leniency will be applied to this rule for the older gentlemen only as I do understand how quickly things move in the modern world for those elder statesmen out there. Only recently I had to chuckle as I overheard Barry Childs trying to explain to Peter Laslett just what the remote control of the television was for. Apparently for seventeen years Pete’s been using it as a missile when he wants to change the channel on his T.V. He didn’t know if you point it at the TV and push the buttons on it, it changes to the desired channel! Mind you such ignorance has paid dividends, as he became News Of The World darts champion the year after his 12 inch 1947 black and white exploded during Ken Barlows third wedding back in 1985! Life is tough for those long in the tooth you know. Most haven’t even got teeth – come to that.

Here are a few to be going on with:

- 1: WHITETHROAT = ITCHY-THROATED WARBLER
- 2: LESSER WHITETHROAT = LESSER WOBBLEYTHROAT
- 3: SWIFT = SWEEEEEFT. IE “THERE GOES A SWEEEEEFT”
- 4: RING-NECKED PARAKEET = FLIPPIN NOISEY GREEN THINGS
- 5: BARRED WARBLER = NOT BARRED WARBLER
- 6: BLACK TERN = BLACK-WINGED BLACK TERN
- 7: ALL PIGEON/DOVE SPECIES = PIJEENS OR PEREGRINEFODDER.
- 8: ALL GULL SPECIES WILL NOW BE KNOWN AS BEAUTIES – IE: LESSER BLACK-BACKED BEAUTY
- 9: BLACK REDSTART = BLOCK RIDSTART.
- 10: SOOTY SHEARWATER = SUITEE SHEARWATER {IH}
- 11: CURLEW SANDPIPER = CURLEY SANDPIPER

EIN SPLITANUS

Last but not least we come to the matter of splits. No Pegwell bird splits will need the normal 400 years of dodgy research into D.N.A., interbreeding or suchlike. No indeed the new simplified splitting system will incorporate the revolutionary new concept of using such things as commonsense and a touch of complete pig-headedness which will add literally thousands of armchair ticks - both revitalising and adding a totally new and radical edge to birding in areas such as Thanet where you haven't got a hope in hell of seeing anything new if you've been birding the area for more than a couple of years or so. Take for example your humble Blackcap. Only an idiot would say that in the British Isles there is more than one specie of Blackcap...true? Well surely it's not exactly rocket science to work out that a bird that doesn't have a *black-cap* cannot therefore be called a *blackcap* and be of the same species as one with a *brown-cap*? You can now clearly see that the misidentification of the alleged female/juvenile Blackcap was clearly all along a male Browncap...it's so obvious! There you go an armchair tick most of you plebs out there didn't even know existed! You can now put Browncap {*Sylvia Silentus*} down as a bona-fide new specie and there are lots more out there to discover. I am currently deep in the research of the following untrustworthy and subsequently unproven scientific misnomers, which are as follows: All female and juvenile birds of all creeds and species including the apparent and easily cast off aberrant things. We've all seen those pied Blackbirds and leucistic/albino things that crop up from time to time. Well if my suspicions are indeed correct in the following months they will start to be recognised as new species of birds. Other things in the pipeline are insects {or as I call them - small birds} and the very large hairy flightless bird family commonly known as cattle. Watch this space. I think it may also be possible to prove in time that the seeds of many plants may well indeed be bird eggs of yet to be recognised birds which have over the years perfected the art of camouflage. I have no proof of this {yet} it's just a hunch based on in a moment of total objectivity into my studies of the bird mimicking plant the Nightjar which in time I hope to prove could in fact be a type of potato plant fed up with the munchings of the Deaths-head Hawk-moth caterpillars hence the moths decline in recent years, which I might add no-one in their right mind could possibly argue with. It could in fact prove to be rather ironic if in time it turned out the potato plant was all along a disguised bird, the moth a plant and the bird another plant trying to avoid detection by the moth which all along proved to be a predatory bird???? Or is this just too simplistic a theory? Only time will tell. Other things in the pipeline are one-legged sleeping curlews and road kills which could be a whole new family of camouflaged birds known as sleepers which prey on any bird or indeed mammal attracted to carrion. Controversial???? Well maybe...but who cares if it increases that all-important list! Well be the envy of the birding world...perhaps we could start a new club...and call it "KENT 1000 CLUB" or perhaps "MILTONS MILLENNIUM MEMBERS MOB" the MMMM...ah just think of it? A club with my name on it...the stuff of dreams! Don't let me take the credit as the first person to think along these lines...oh no! Back in the eighties there was the north Thanet association known as frannys, fantastic, Foreness finders or the four effs as they were better known. This flipping floundered as Francis found four freezing ferrets fastened to a fence on the farm...or the ten effs incident as it became known. Well the culprit was never caught and unfortunately the group couldn't withstand the immense pressure of the situation. Sadly the FFFF is no more and all because of the FFFFFFFF.

Getting back to what has actually been going on at Pegwell on the bird front you may notice I've put the initials of the viewers after the bird. Don't ask me how I thought this up...it's just amazing isn't it...lets just say it came to me in a vision - a crazy vision!! Also as well as the contributors of the records I would like to thank the following for helping me in the wee small hours in the morning I sat up writing this tripe are as follows, King Crimson {mainly The construKction of Light} Mozart {Violin Concerto no 1, Requiem and 1 of the piano concertos} various Radiohead {some amazing some awful} the amazing Yngwie J. Malmsteen heavy rock guitar player extraordinaire, Ludwig Van Beethoven {anything it's all good} Goreckis third symphony {which always brightens my spirits} Miles Davis and last but not least John Coltranes masterblastings. I make note of this as not only am I a tremendous birder {almost perfect} moth expert and father of four but my musical taste is both diverse and impeccable! I just thought you would like to know. Anyway er...where was I??? Oh yes...birds - the report. Oh do I have to? Lets start in the spring! The spring of 2002 was on the whole lousy and during bouts of depression on the birdless vismig spot on the cliff top I lost the will to live and had to stop going there in case it got the better of me and I threw myself off! What I'm trying to say is that in truth lots of my whinging in the report about various things to do with the visible migration or the lack of it is largely unfounded as the coverage of it was very, very poor. Continued overleaf:

That said you do get an idea of what's going on if your out most days, and from what I saw it seemed like a complete waste of time setting out to do some spring vismig and what was done was largely on speck. After what I said last year about boring raptor watching the raptor coverage was very good in spring 2002 up to mid May or thereabouts, but it's still boring I suppose? I do it more for the records than the excitement nowadays. The watching of the skies is an expanding industry these days with all the soaring birds were getting and it makes me wonder just how far away a really rare raptor or suchlike is? Hopefully it's not too far away. After the spring the summer came dead on cue followed closely by autumn and lastly the winter, which as normal was colder than the summer. One other thing - I've largely given up on the sea watching as I got fed up with getting hit by waves on the harbour wall and all the strange looks I was getting from various by passers in my rather un-deluxe {a new word but strangely apt} cave on the western under cliff. It's cold, damp; smells of urine and the kids have covered it in graffiti so I hate to think what goes on in it when I'm not there. That said I saw Leachs and Storm Petrel from it in the winter of 2000 so it's not always been too bad I suppose? I also had an immature Pomerine Skua fly in and land about 40 yards offshore...hang on I think I will do some more sea watches! Only in south - easterly winds from now on though. Sorry I digress. And back to the birdies - as is the norm at Pegwell the waders, gulls and tern coverage was superb - with every single bird lovingly recorded with the occasional rarity expertly identified...ah what a place Pegwell is? Surely though, the highlight of the year was witnessed by a lucky few in May. The cry went up from our resident alcoholic Dylan Mothballs {or something like that} the sort of cry uttered by a man who could scarcely believe his own eyes! When at last he had been calmed down with a mixture of brandy and cheap wine, our gaze was directed northwards along the main path towards the rarity the likes of which had not been seen in these parts for many years...but what was it? As it came closer into view we all witnessed the haggard appearance of a creature resembling a stig of the dump type character carrying a home made telescope cleverly sculptured from an oversized Andrex toilet tissue cardboard tube painted metallic purple containing nothing more inside it than a ladies compact mirror to gather what light was available from the plastic 2 times magnifier obtained from a lucky bag back in 1942 and glued on at a strange, back-breaking angle. This was slung rather un-majestically over his shoulder and seemed to be slowing down his rather arduous progression along the path towards the hide where we awaited with bated breathe! Surely it couldn't be...surely not? As it - or by now - *he* drew closer the ageing appearance and inside out Charlton Athletic shirt confirmed our suspicions...it was indeed Dave Gilbert. It was also by then apparent that he was wearing a mud sodden carpet slipper on one foot and a worn out black Wellington on the other which had somehow become twisted so that his foot was in the part the leg should have been in, with the foot part dragging along upside down behind him! He arrived sweating and panting and plonked his scope on the floor - which immediately disintegrated, and asked us where Pegwell Bay was. After telling him he had found his destination and the people he was asking had known him for many years - much chitchat was enjoyed by all - such as old times, pre war football and where the best shops were for the purchasing of blue woollen hats! We all made our excuses and left when his repertoire of jokes from the Beano and George Formby films started though. Still it was nice to see the old boy ...I suppose??? Prior to the awful jokes anyway! Other rarities seen in 2002 were the Beadles; David, Katie and their small child Jeremy {DG}...or is it James???? Little Craig Sammels {not that often though} and Johnny Websper who - still paranoid about my drawing attention to his immense age now sports a goatee, pony-tail and wears a torn sex pistols t-shirt and designer sunglasses even in the rain. Ridiculous eh! Mind you I think he got the idea about the glasses from F.Solly? Still drives around in a model T Ford though - only now he constantly tries to appear hip by bragging about the twin carbs he fitted which push the engine up to a neck straining 17-horse power. He reckons it pulls around three gee at the lord of the manor roundabout if he takes it in second gear! This is as about as believable as Terrance Preston trying to claim he's suffering from anorexia! Now stop it Johnny - we all know you're a 97-year-old has-been so why not accept it yourself eh and do us all a favour. While I'm at it I never believed it when you tried to make me think you'd been dating Anna Kournikova either. Now where on earth was I...

The more I watch this place the more I enjoy some of the things I used to take very much for granted such as the hirundines - especially in the spring - the first thrush arrivals in the autumn, the humble Kestrel hanging majestically in the wind - hang on I'm getting a bit sentimental about the old muddy dog toilet, we cant have that...it might attract twitchers...yuk!!! Did I mention I'm not too keen on twitchers?

NEW FOR 2002/3...ASK JOLLY!!!!

Now one of the most asked questions during 2002 was "WHERE'S TONY?" Now for the uninitiated of you out there the question referred to one Anthony, Claudius, Eamon,- Andrews Jolly possibly the most multi-talented of all the resident Pegwellers as he is an ace plasterer, fencer, vet, 4 wheel-drive expert, carpenter, etc,etc. and he can cut an acre of long grass and scrub to the length of a snooker table cloth in minutes! Anyway Tony was not seen on the reserve from the end of May to late August and was the subject of much debate on the bay - where the quality of conversation isn't actually of a very intellectual content, lets say. As I mentioned he was back with us in August and it turned out he had in the very short period of time he'd been away, qualified as a top-notch vet and cattle expert. Might I point out he was wearing a cowboy's outfit {with spurs} and in his holsters a pair of gold-plated trowels! "Howdy partners," he kept repeating over and over again - like an old and extremely irritating Parrot. It was at this point I first noticed how popular the fog horned laughter freak was {remember absence makes the heart grow fonder?} also how many people had things they wanted to ask him. So I decided for the next report at least to get all you punters out there to send in your questions {to me} and I will make it my responsibility to ask the Slade-like master birder come jack of all trades your most poignant questions and print them in the following issues of this rag. I took the liberty of setting up a Tony forum where a few of us put a few things to the ageing has-been. The highlights of this riveting evening were as follows;

Question 1: What's your favourite British bird? {from J.Websper, age 97, Margate}

TONY; "well I'd say it as t'be the Robin...they're great. I've even sin-em in me garden. Ha ha ha!"

Question 2: Is it true that Noddy Holder is your younger brother? {C.Sammels age 9, Ramsgate}

TONY; "yeah it's true but I wanted t'keep it quiet but that xxxxxx Phil xxxxxxxx Milton spilt the beans and I'm not talking about Heinz beans...HA...HA...HA...HA" etc...{for half an hour}

Question 3: Please Tony could you please tell me what the tertial pattern of the juvenile/1st winter Curlew Sandpiper is like as it's not illustrated in my Observers Book Of Birds? {F.Solly}

TONY; "Wots a Curlew Tertialpiper??"

Question 4: Does Peter Forest shave his head and if he does {as I suspect} could you get me any photographic evidence? {Philip Xavier Charltoni, 79 Ramsgate.}

TONY: "well I suspect ee does but as ee's me governor I'd better keep me feelins t'meself."

Question 4: Who's the ugliest birder you've ever met? {P.Milton, age 21, Ramsgate.}

TONY; "Well that's flammin easy... Tattooed Tony... I can remember ya telling me that you reckon ee used to be a garden gnome in his early days but e'got the elbow for smellin too bad {I think he was referring to T.T.'s flatulence?} an bein too flammin ugly...ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha real ugly like..ha...ha...ha...ha...ha...ha...ha...ha...ha...ha...HA...HA...HA...HA...ugly...you bet ee'is...HA...HA...HA...HA...HA...really flippin ugly...HA...HA...HA...HA...{editors note: this hysteria lasted at full volume-for a full hour or so!!}

Question 5: I say Toony...hic...what do you...er...hic...what do you...er...oh what was it now??

I did have a question...but it's gone... {D.Wrathall, age 57, Ramsgate}

TONY; I fink you've ad one too many mate....eh...HA HA HA...whatd'yer reckon lads...one too many eh...HA HA HA HA HA HAperhaps even two too many eh...d'ya get it...HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA etc.

Question 6: If one didn't work at Pegwell what would one like to do next with ones career? {B.Child, age 81, the posh end of Sandwich}

TONY: "well that's another flammin easy one...a pig farmer! Id give em all names, build em little houses n'paint their names on em! Then I would feed em, n'cleanem'art - takin great care not t'wakem up if they were sleepin an I could tell em stories and keepem company if they were feelin a bit low" etc etc etc {he waffled on into the small hours - so we left him there talking happily away to himself}

Well there you have it - a fascinating insight into the mind of one of the local heroes. So send in your questions on a postcard and I will do my best to get them into the next issue. {The Ed}

THE PEGWELL BAY BIRD REPORT FOR 2002
WORKING TITLE = DOCUMENT X
SUBTEXT = A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A NUMBER OF GROWN MEN WITH NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN
PONTIFICATE ON A POPULAR MUDDY SPOT???

DIVER SPECIES/RED-THROATED DIVER

In the early part of the year noted passing by offshore on only ten dates, though coverage wasn't as good as in past years. The most noteworthy days during this period were 70 south on January 2nd then 43 south and 6 north on January 17th.

In the late winter period peaks of 33 south on November 29th and 104 north on December 28th. Very regular offshore during November and December with 1 to 4 birds present more often than not.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
SOUTH	142	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	62
NORTH	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	115

Please note: I almost managed to get the above numbers to line up. This is my best effort, as you will no doubt notice as you read on. Thank you.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER

A rare summer plumaged bird, seen flying north on May 11th {PL+PM} and 1 south on November 21st. {PM}

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Peak monthly day counts as follows; JAN: 33. FEB: 18. MAR: 12. APR: 2. MAY: 0. JUN: 0. JLY: 1. AUG: 2. SEPT: 0. OCT: 2. NOV: 7. DEC: 132 on 25th.

LITTLE GREBE

A pair took up residence on the garage pools March 19th to 25th at least with the odd single bird reported on the same pools in early spring. After this singles in the main bay on September 10th, November 17th and then a pair, again on the garage pools on December 12th.

FULMAR

14 pairs in the breeding season on the western under cliff with a peak count of blah,blah etc.

SOOTY SHEARWATER

1 south {from the bird hide!} on September 9th {PM} and 1 north past Ramsgate Harbour, on September 15th. {PM}

GANNET

Reasonably regular offshore, during most months of the year - either present or passing through. Peak numbers were seen as follows; 100+ present on May 6th, 30 south on July 3rd, 25 present on July 18th, blah, blah, blah.... etc.

CORMORANT p. carbo

Peak monthly day counts as follows; JAN: 16 on 26th. FEB: 8 on 6th. MAR: 16 on 11th. APR: 17 on 12th. MAY: 19 on 11th. JUN: 8 on 10th. JLY: 20 on 23rd. AUG: 47 on 10th. SEPT: 31 on 20th. OCT: 24 on 20th. NOV: 25 on 17th. DEC: 12 on 3rd.

Reasonable numbers of continental "Sinensis" types were recorded mainly in February and March.

SHAG

Single birds present on February 5th, March 15th and October 18th.

LITTLE EGRET

In the early winter period 1 to 3 birds present on a regular basis with numbers increasing from the end of March to the end of May with 5 to 6 birds regular and an isolated group of 13 birds on April 27th easily a spring record for the area.

A family party including two juveniles were present on July 2nd. The autumn influx started to get going during July, with double figure counts daily from mid-month and 20+ counts regular from the 22nd of the month onwards. July numbers peaked with 32 present on the 26th {a new site record} 34 on the 30th {yet another site record} and 30 present on the 31st. Also during this period up to 30+ birds were present on the flooded garage pools, quite a spectacle eh! Into August and birds still present every day in reasonable numbers with 20+ birds on 4 dates, 30+ on 3 dates plus 42 present on the 21st{yet another site record, also 40 birds roosted on the Sampha that evening - P. FY.} The 30+ counts in August were: 31 on 27th, 30 on 28th and 32 on 29th. Slightly lower numbers present in September with 20+ present on 10 dates with a peak of 27 present on the 19th gradually dropping down to 4 or 5 birds by the end of October. Of note: c.20 egrets seen on the Sandwich Bay boat trip along the river between Sandwich and Pegwell on October 28th. {GM/DW} Also a dwarf Great-White Egret on er..um...I cant remember? {Phew now no one can say I didn't put it in...hopefully no one will read this bit?}

GREY HERON

Peak monthly day counts as follows; JAN: 5. FEB: 5. MAR: 3. APR: 4. MAY: 6. JUN: 4. JLY: 8. AUG: 9. SEPT: 5. OCT: 5. NOV: 4. DEC: 4.

PURPLE HERON

One was seen flying south {an adult?} towards Sandwich on April 24th {PM} which judging by the reaction of the gulls had probably flown in off the sea?

SPOONBILL

An adult bird was present for ten minutes, before flying off north - on April 16th. {C.S + P.M.} Then another adult bird was present on the mudflat on June 17th. {PFT} A third adult was seen on July 21st, 23rd and 24th {but not on the 22nd?} and gave really close range views as it spent most of its stay on the garage pools. {FS, CS, DW, PM, PFT etc.} Then - a juvenile bird, present for a few hours on September 20th. {PM, DG, PFY + DW} and last but not least - another juvenile bird present on October 29th. {DW,GM etc.} We don't normally see as many Spoonbills as we have in this past few years.

MUTE SWAN

Did you know that the male swan weighs the same as seven cans of Heinz baked beans? It's amazing isn't it? We were discussing this and I guessed 6 cans, Francis guessed 2 cans and poor old Peter Laslett didn't know what a swan was {or what day it was for that matter} and guessed the fully grown adult male swan probably weighed in as approximately the same as 4 sacks of gravel, 7 bananas and a half grown corgi dog - though he did admit it was a complete shot in the dark! The things we get talking about eh...wacky - but a darned sight more interesting than the birding most days! Other topics of discussion have been; sandwiches, the rise and subsequent fall in the share prices of Asda and the plutonium particles Tony Jolly found in a packet of Walkers cheese and onion crisps! He said he still eat the crisps but now apparently his teeth glow in the dark. You don't get this level of intellectual chitchat just anyplace - do you? I can't be bothered to write anything about swans this year other than they are large and white, occur now and then and my fishing umbrella got a direct hit in the 1980s by a flyovers faeces which made a real mess. They don't tell you this sort of stuff in other reports, do they? If I were ever in the position to write the text for a new field-guide {perish the thought} the opening line about Mute Swan would have to be "run away if the blighters are heading in your direction!" I would probably just leave the text at that and move on to the next specie! It's all you'd need to know!

BEAN GOOSE

A flock {is it a flock or perhaps a can?} of 7 seen flying northwest on January 24th. {F.S.} Not that I was present at the time but I still maintain they were probably Brents or Cormorants???? I've recorded them as submitted only to keep the peace.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

A flock of 16 flew northwest on December 28th.

GREYLAG GOOSE

It's always a good day if you spot a Pegwell Greylag. This is not a joke, on March 23rd 2001 Barry Childs and I were watching an unusually early Osprey flying off into the distance which I stopped looking at when a single Greylag flew past it heading in the opposite direction! Whether this is testament to the rarity of Greylags in the area or to my state of mind these days I am quite unsure of as I write? Anyway in 2002 there were; 12 north on January 2nd, 7 west in off the sea on February 17th, 4 on March 6th, 4 north on April 18th and 4 on May 6th then 8 on December 25th - 28th.... wonderful!!

CANADA GOOSE

5 flew east on April 17th, 2 present on April 23rd and 1 present on May 12th.

BARNACLE GOOSE

A group of 7 birds flew south on December 7th.

BRENT GOOSE b. bernicla

Early winter numbers typically low with 6 to 20 birds present on most days January to March. The spring migration was very poor with peaks of only 63 on March 15th and 40 on March 26th. The occasional bird was present in the area until late April plus 4 on May 10th with 3 present on the following day.

Autumn birds were present from September 3rd and were seen in good numbers from mid month onwards. There was a good movement of 500+ birds north on September 22nd followed by 236 north on September 27th with regular though smaller amounts of birds moving offshore or were present throughout October. Peak October counts were 275 flying north on the 6th, 111 present on the 7th, 80 present on 8th and 85 present on the 9th. There were various scattered records throughout November and December with up to 45 present on November 25th then in December 61 on 3rd and 95 on 28th.

PALE-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE B.HROTA

A good showing in the early part of the year with 3 on February 12th, 1 on March 3rd to the 5th, 2 present most days between March 9th and the 23rd {Everyone – with the possible exception of Pete?} and an amazing flock of 22 present on March 26th. {BC}

BLACK BRANT B. NIGRICANS

An adult bird was present on November 20th - the third Pegwell record after singles in 1995 and March 2001. {PM, BC + FS}

SHELDUCK peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
132	98	67	71	58	74	36	37	67	58	58	115

There were also two broods of young present from late June consisting of 5 and 14 birds.

MALLARD peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
630	192	42	14	8	9	17	276	204	257	260	271

GADWALL peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR		AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
17	16	0		6	12	7	11	8
on 1 st & 12 th	on 15 th			on 56 th	on 27 th	on 2 dates	on 2 nd	on 30 th

There were also 2 birds present on May 2nd. So what?

PINTAIL peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR		AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
6 on 1 st	0	0		1 on 3 dates	11 on 27 th	7 on 4 th	3 on 3 dates	7 on 26 th

SHOVELER peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
22 on 26 th	10 on 3 rd	8 on 20 th	3 on 16 th	6 on 30 th	12 on 23 rd	11 on 31 st	11 on 22 nd	24 on 25 th

There was also a single bird present on July 26th. Wow ... now that is interesting!

WIGEON peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1214 on 4 th	294 on 5 th	23 on 16 th	3 on 4 th	35 on 28 th	786 on 15 th	439 on 31 st	770 on 27 th	1894 on 8 th *

Early winter numbers peaked during January with 1214 on the 4th, 870 on the 24th and 840 on the 28th. Present in far smaller numbers during February with only one 200+ count and recorded on only three dates during March and then the one date in April.

An early arrival of 750 present and 36 fly-bys on September 15th. October numbers built up to 439 birds by the end of the month and then increased during November and December with 500 to 800+ birds regular on most days. Also worthy of note there were 1290 birds present on December 28th.

*The 1894 birds offshore on December 8th {IHr} the highest count for over 10 years.

TEAL peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
294 on 1 st	44 on 3 rd	3 on 20 th	0	6 on 14 th	107 on 27 th	126 on 27 th	100 on 6 th	60 on 17 th	100 on 8 th

GARGANEY

An adult drake present on the mudflat on March 28th then a record run of records during August with 1 on 17th, 3 on 18th, 4 on 21st, 1 on 23rd and 2 on 29th. There was also a late bird present on October 6th and 7th.

POCHARD

One was present on January 1st and 4 flew north on May 12th the only records.

EIDER

1 on February 15th and up to 2 present on and off between May 2nd and 13th the only records prior to September. A small group were present offshore {off the west cliff} from mid October until the end of the year, containing 6 to 10 birds regularly building up to a peak count of 23 birds present in the group on December 30th. Birds were also recorded flying through the area on a dozen or so dates in ones or twos in the autumn/winter period.

Also: 12 south on October 22nd, 6 south on November 21st and 13 south on November 22nd.

COMMON SCOTER

None recorded until May with 6 present on 6th, 1 present on the 24th and 25th then 2 south on the 26th. After this: 12 south on July 4th, 110 south on July 12th, 5 south on July 30th, 8 north and 15 south on August 6th, 9 south on August 9th, 5 north on September 2nd, 3 south on September 9th, 44 north on September 11th, 3 north on September 14th, 3 north on September 15th, 2 south on October 21st, 1 south on October 27th, 1 present on November 13th, 30 south on November 17th, 3 north on November 21st, 1 south on November 29th and then in December 6 north on the 5th and 110 south on the 6th.

Its flashy month/grid time - with wobbly numbers to boot. Just how do you line these numbers up?

	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	
SOUTH:	2	0	0	127	24	3	3	31	110
NORTH:	0	0	0	0	8	55	0	3	6

VELVET SCOTER

1 flying south on November 21st - the only record.

GOLDENEYE

Surprisingly no early winter records. An out of season female/juv. type present offshore on July 17th, 1 offshore on October 30th, 3 offshore on November 5th, 1 offshore on November 20th and 2 south on November 29th.

GOOSANDER

3 west on March 3rd and 3 present on March 8th were presumed to be the same group? After this one flew north on October 31st.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

2 north on April 12th, 1 present on April 15th and 16th, 5 present offshore on November 4th, 1 north on December 5th and 1 south on December 7th.

BOOTED EAGLE

A pale-phase bird was seen flying in low across the sea and {southwest} across the 100 acre field on December 16th. {PM} Surely a strange time of the year for such a creature {???} it was later reported from Sandwich Bay – later on the same date ... and then again the following day in the Minster/Monkton area. Also - a late report of it, seen flying over Ramsgate on the 16th. {PC}

RED KITE

I seen flying south, towards Sandwich - on February 12th {TP} that I would guess flew over him as it would have taken about an hour to fly around him {he's a big lad!} – then a second bird which flew south over the reserve and lingered in the area for 10 minutes on December 17th. {Many inc: IH, PM & CS}

OSPREY

A record year with a ridiculous nine birds recorded! The dates were: 1 south on March 17th, 1 north on March 31st, 1 east on April 20th, 1 southeast on May 1st and 1 west on May 13th, 1 southwest on August 11th, 1 south on August 13th, 1 west on September 19th and 1 southeast on September 27th.

MARSH HARRIER

An extremely poor spring passage with only 12 birds reported in the area on 8 dates between March 5th and May 31st. {5 north, 3 west and 4 birds present}

After this returning/wandering birds from August - with 1 on 8th, 1 south on 10th, 1 present on 12th, 1 present on 17th, 1 present on 19th, 1 present on 23rd and 2 present on 24th. 1 west on September 10th, 1 present on September 16th and 17th, 1 south on September 19th, 1 north on September 27th and last but not least - 1 present on October 14th.

MONTAGUS HARRIER

1 reported {on bird-net...I think it was a ring-tail?} on May 16th, an adult male, north on May 17th {PM} and a juvenile present on August 7th {BC} then presumably the same bird again for 15 to 20 minutes, before flying off {west} on August 8th {PM+GB}

HEN HARRIER

Present most days, in ones and twos January to early April. There was also a roost of 6 birds on January 1st with spring migrants noted on March 1st {north} and April 18th. {West}

The first returning bird was seen flying southwest on September 5th but they were not seen regularly until the last couple of weeks of October when up to 4 birds {including at least two males} were seen. After this they were about most days in ones to threes throughout November and December to roost.

Autumn migrants noted on only 2 dates with 1 southwest on September 5th and 2 south in off the sea on November 22nd. A third record was not recorded on November 31st.

COMMON BUZZARD

A good spring passage with 23 birds recorded on 12 dates, which were as follows: In March 1 present on the 2nd, 3 south on 17th, 1 south on 18th, 1 seen circling on 19th and 1 north on 29th. Into April 2 north on the 15th, 4 north and 2 south on the 16th, 1 north on the 22nd, 4 on the 23rd, 1 south on the 24th and 1 on 29th. The last spring record was of one north on May 1st.

In the autumn: 1 southwest on September 10th, 2 south on September 27th and 1 south on September 30th.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD

One was seen flying west {on its way to Sheppy by the sound of it?} on October 19th. {PM}

HONEY BUZZARD

One north on May 23rd {PM}, 1 reported flying southwest on July 26th {via bird-line} and 1 south on September 27th. {PM}

SPARROWHAWK

A regular visitor with birds present most days in spring, autumn and winter {1 to 4+} with odd pairs obviously breeding nearby this past few years only. Spring passage {March to May} saw birds regularly passing over mainly in a north or west direction, with peaks during this period of 6 on March 3rd, 4 on April 16th with 2 to 3 migrant birds seen on a regular basis.

In the autumn - regular only after the second week of September, with a peak migrant day of 6 south on September 27th and up to 4+ birds present in the late winter months.

GOSHAWK

One flew south across the salt marsh on March 17th. {F.S.} *See page 24.*

KESTREL

Commonly seen, with 1 to about...ooh...er...6 or even 7 or so present on a daily basis? Somewhere in that region anyway? Hang on...there might have been...er...what was I thinking about now? Kestrels that's it...ooh now then.... how many were there?? I really can't remember?

HOBBY

Only 9 singles reported between April 18th and May 31st, then 2 on June 1st on the spring passage and a disappointing 14 on 13 dates between July 25th and September 18th during the autumn.

PEREGRINE

Though not uncommon {1 to 2+ birds} a bit irregular during certain months this past year, if that makes sense? I think there is a distinction? A pair in the spring was seen displaying and food passing etc, but yet again no breeding took place in the area. Of note there were 3 birds present on March 22nd and 23rd, 4 on April 18th and 3 on May 10th.

MERLIN

Recorded on only 16 dates January to April - which is appalling as in past winters they used to be present most days. During this period there were 2 birds present on January 14th with males recorded on January 13th and February 8th. There were also 2 birds, which turned up on May 11th - a male that flew north and was never seen again and a female, which obviously liked the look of the place, as she was present until the 14th at least. She was known during this period as Marylyn...Marylyn the merlin.

The first autumn bird turned up on September 18th and they were seen on and off in ones and twos until the end of the year.

GREY PARTRIDGE

Small, fat and they make a strange noise when you frighten em...a bit like tattooed Tony in that regard I suppose? 2 pairs present on the cliff top area during the spring. Also a brood of approximately ten, three-inch long balls of fluff on the small beach on July 2nd - one of which ran over the top of one of my shoes! There was also a second family group in the same area during the same period plus groups of 7, 9 and 12 present in the north fields on September 18th.

PHEASANT

Common, very boring...again much like tattooed Tony, and present in the area on most days in small numbers all throughout the year - 1 to 5+ birds.

WATER RAIL

A regular autumn/winter bird, which is mostly only heard calling from the salt marsh. I would guess there were less than what is normal in the early part of the year and probably more in the latter part, but due to their behaviour I cannot be certain? Who cares anyway? I reckon there were seven and three quarters! Prove me wrong! Also one was heard calling from the reed beds near Stonelees in June so perhaps the odd pair does stay on to breed? This to our joint knowledge is the only spring/summer record? First returning birds were 2 on September 26th and were regularly heard and occasionally seen until the end of the year.

MOORHEN

Another good year for Moorhens, so they tell me. Regular on the garage pools in the early winter and spring, the dyke behind Stone Lees, {whatever her name is?} and up to 3 on the water reservoir near the farm in the autumn.

CRANE

The good spring for Pegwell Cranes started when 4 birds flew in off the sea on March 19th {PM, BC, DW + CS} with one of the birds flying immediately back out to sea but the 3 remaining birds loitered in the area for well over half an hour and were last seen flying towards Deal. After this - a single bird south on March 30th {PM} plus another bird was seen circling over Ramsgate from the Country Park on April 15th. {CS, DW + PM}

OYSTERCATCHER peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
987	955	411	273	118	94	433	837	1360	1530*	1390	1550
on 24 th	on 4 th	on 15 th	on 1 st	on 6 th	on 4 th	on 31 st	on 31 st	on 29 th	on 5 th	on 4 th	on 13 th

There were above average numbers present from September until the end of the year.

*The 1530 on October 5th was the largest count recorded since the eighties at least – until the 1550 recorded on December 13th during the S.B.B.O. webs count day. Of note between Sandwich and Pegwell a total of 1989 oystercatchers recorded on that day. {Pfy}

AVOCET

A reasonably poor year for Avocets:

JAN: 1 on 1st. FEBRUARY: 2 on 9th and 19th. MARCH: 1 on 11th, 6 on 9th, 4 on 13th and 12 on 15th. APRIL: 2 on 4th, 3 on 15th, 1 on 21st and 2 on 22nd. MAY: 3 on 16th. JULY: 1 on 14th. AUGUST: 2 on 26th. SEPTEMBER: 2 on 14th, 1 on 15th, 4 on 18th, 3 on 20th, 1 on 24th, 6 on 25th, 3 on 26th and 2 on 27th. OCTOBER: 2 on 7th and 9th, 1 on 10th, 4 on 30th and 3 on 31st. NOVEMBER: singles on 9th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 2 on 26th, 28th. DECEMBER: 18 on 8th then singles on the 9th, 14th, 24th and 27th.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

1 flew west on March 20th and 1 present on May 11th the only records.

RINGED PLOVER peak monthly day counts

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
55	60	17	49	200+	21	12	560	236	192	96	63
on 13 th	on 10 th	on 11 th	on 29 th	on 10 th	on 3 rd	on 2 nd +31 st	on 27 th	on 9 th	on 2 nd	on 11 th	on 27 th

I don't think the regular birds on the hover pad even attempted to breed this year such was the commotion caused by the dog walkers, motorcyclists and nuclear weapons testers etc. out there in the spring?

KENTISH PLOVER

A good spring total with 1 on April 18th {PM} 4 on April 27th {PM+BC} 1 on April 28th {BC} 1 on April 29th {DB} a dodgy one on May 11th {FS} and 1 on May 12th {PM}

Autumn birds started and finished with 1 present on September 3rd.

GREY PLOVER peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
256	316	216	17	76	2	3	30	64	133	132	177
on 17 th	on 3 rd	on 13 th	on 1 st	on 11 th	on 3 rd	on 17 th	on 31 st	on 29 th	on 28 th	on 26 th	on 25 th

GOLDEN PLOVER peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
7640	3658	572	4	0	0	0	36	431	3200	4960	10350
on 26 th	on 6 th	on 3 rd	on 2 nd				on 8 th	on 29 th	on 26 th	on 22 nd	on 25 th

Some spectacular numbers of goldies were seen roosting on the mudflat at the end of the year peaking at 8190 on December 24th and 10,350 birds on December 25th. Both these numbers exceed the highest ever counts for the area.

LAPWING peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
6000	5250	210	2	4	34	73	150	560	1560	5500	11980
on 17 th	on 6 th	on 3 rd	on 23 rd	on 12 th	on 19 th	on 4 th	on 23 rd	on 29 th	on 31 st	on 29 th	on 25 th

KNOT peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
373	412	245	0	189	0	7	25	68	92	162	344
on 28 th	on 3 rd	on 5 th		on 11 th		on 21 st	on 25 th	on 24 th	on 19 th	on 27 th	on 20 th

SANDERLING peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
47	62	87	4	44	0	7	37	115	22	46	60
on 24 th	on 9 th	on 11 th	on 29 th	on 9 th		on 19 th	on 21 st	on 23 rd	on 5 th	on 22 nd	on 8 th

PURPLE SANDPIPER

2 present on the mudflat {again this sounds a bit dodgy to me} on May 11th. {FS} Also there were a few sightings of "Purps" on the rocky areas beneath the western under cliff during the winter months.

TURNSTONE

High tide roost peaks {from Westcliff/beach/Hover pad}: JAN: 136 on 12th. FEB: 192 on 18th. MAR: 84 on 29th. APR: 61 on 5th.

SEPT: 66 on 26th. OCT: 176 on 20th. NOV: 210 on 17th. DEC: 202 on 13th.

Also bits of migration noted in April and May, with peaks of 26 on May 6th and 43 on May 8th.

DUNLIN peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2100	1580	1330	71	150	4	54	1000+	750	1110	1870	2150
on 14 th	on 12 th	on 5 th	on 18 th	on 12 th	on 3 rd	on 25 th	on 19 th	on 7 th	on 30 th	on 26 th	on 28 th

-
CURLEW SANDPIPER

A single spring bird – on May 8th. Please note this was a single bird seen in the spring and not a bird sporting a single spring???

A rather average autumnal passage with birds virtually daily between July 23rd to the end of September with double figures present on 11 dates with peaks of 25 on August 25th and 30 on August 29th. After this odd birds present up until October 14th then a very late record of a single present on November 15th.

LITTLE STINT

A decent run of early winter records with 2 on January 17th and 20th then singles present on January 18th, 19th and 28th, February 9th with the last one on March 30th. Spring passage started with singles on April 19th and 21st, May 4th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 3 on 12th, 13th and 15th.

An exceptionally bad autumn passage with no July records then seen on 18 dates during August and September, mainly in small numbers {1 to 3 birds} with 4 on 3rd and 10 on the 12th of August being the best days. Recorded on 3 dates during October, with the last one on the 19th.

There was also one winter record of 1 present on November 26th.

WOOD SANDPIPER

3 {seen flying off} on August 3rd and 1 present on August 19th.

GREEN SANDPIPER

1 on April 7th then recorded on 10 dates between July 18th and September 8th with 4 birds seen on July 21st and August 4th.

COMMON SANDPIPER

In the spring regular May 5th to 22nd with peaks of 7 on 11th and 6 on the 21st. Again regular during late July and August with birds present on 18 dates with a peak count of 11 on August 3rd. Amazingly scarce after September with only 1 record of 2 birds present on September 19th.

REDSHANK peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
136	160	170	166	55	17	238	426	339	230	301	240
on 28 th	on 3 rd	on 11 th	on 1 st	on 11 th	on 23 rd	on 26 th	on 27 th	on 11 th	on 9 th	on 11 th	on 3 rd

SPOTTED REDSHANK

The regular winter birds present {1 to 3} and seen regularly between January to the first week of February. After this a huge spring passage took place with one, a whole one - on April 17th!!!

Into August 1 on 5th, 2 on 13th, 1 on the 22nd then 2 on September 7th and 1 on September 10th the only autumn passage birds then winter bird's regular from November 6th with up to 4 birds present.

GREENSHANK

Spring migrants noted on 26 dates between April 1st and June 4th with peaks of 8 on May 7th and 11 on May 10th.

Returning birds regular from early July to early November, with peak numbers present during August and September. 20+ birds were recorded on 5 dates during this period with 23 on August 4th and 27 on September 11th being the highest counts. The last one was seen on November 21st.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

1 to 4 birds recorded regularly in the early winter months, last seen on March 5th. A very poor spring passage, though they are never that regular in truth – with 6 present on April 2nd and a single bird on April 12th the only records.

Exceptionally good numbers were present on the mudflat during the late summer/autumn period with birds seen on 5 dates in July {from the 3rd} and 21 dates in August with double figures present on 6 dates peaking at 17 on August 26th, 21 on August 27th and 31 birds present on August 31st. Virtually all these birds being juveniles. Present every day in September and October with double figures recorded on 3 dates during September - peaking at 13 present on the 7th and up to 8 birds were regular {mainly the same birds?} all throughout October, November and December which as far as I am aware is unprecedented for the area?

BAR-TAILED GODWIT peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
273	246	234	100+	327	2	6	17	24	33	144	267
on 19 th	on 9 th	on 3 rd	on 27 th	on 11 th	on 19 th	on 17 th	on 23 rd	on 24 th	on 28 th	on 27 th	on 24 th

The bulk of the spring passage between April 27th and May 10th with 100 on April 27th, 223 on May 9th, 327 on May 11th and 200 on May 12th being the days of peak activity during this period.

The wintering group {as apparently they are site loyal} were in position by the forth week of November.

WHIMBREL

Spring passage started with 1 on April 4th with birds present on most days from the 12th of that month until the end of May. During this period double figure counts were noted on 8 dates with peaks of 15 on April 22nd and 29th, 52 on May 10th and 18 on May 12th. The last spring record was a single present on June 3rd.

Regularly recorded between July and September 26th {most days} with double figure counts on only 6 dates and a peak of 29 present on July 25th. The last records were 2 on October 2nd and a single on October 10th.

CURLEW peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
214	276	296	297	56	115	348	510	424	328	390	411
on 14 th	on 5 th	on 12 th	on 1 st	on 7 th	on 19 th	on 26 th	on 17 th	on 5 th	on 2 nd +24 th	on 11 th	on 28 th

WOODCOCK

Single birds present on January 2nd, November 1st, November 16th then 2 on November 21st.

SNIPE peak monthly day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
72	42	22	0	1	0	0	4	24	8	120	120
on 24 th	on 3 rd	on 5 th		on 6 th			on 2 dates	on 19 th	on 2 dates	on 25 th	on 25 th

JACK SNIPE

One flushed on January 2nd the only early winter record although I can say with some confidence there were more than just one present. Ps; my wellies are still off the road and does anyone out there know where you can buy them in a size 13? I don't care what colour they are as long as they are not bright yellow...mind you surely no-one in their right minds would be seen dead in a pair of bright yellow wellies? Or would they?

This is probably far too much information but I did tape a double layer of polythene bags to a pair of long socks beneath my leaky Wellingtons and stomp out the Stone leas pools and flushed a single "jack" on November 3rd. Hardly the height of technology but I did wrongly think such enterprise might leave me with two dry feet. Wrong again I'm afraid...I still got 2 soggy, stinking mud sodden tootsies! No doubt the wellies saga will go on?

RUFF

Following a single bird present on January 14th a good run of birds present during March with day counts of 1,2,7,8 and 11 birds with 19 present on the 16th then an impressive flock of up to 33 birds present on and off between the 20th to the 28th at least.

Autumn passage birds recorded on 14 dates between July 16th and September 19th with 4 present on August 23rd and 29th and 9 on September 15th.

The only winter record was of 11 birds present on November 15th.

GREY PHALAROPE

1 present in the bay on a high tide {swimming offshore} on January 10th. {BC}

ARCTIC SKUA

No spring records, as is the norm at this place! After this, 1 present {eventually flying south} on July 29th and another south on July 30th. No August records, but there were 3 south on September 2nd, 1 south on September 7th, 1 south on September 16th, 1 north and 3 south on September 18th, 1 present and 2 north on September 22nd and 1 present on October 9th.

POMERINE SKUA

1 north, {past Ramsgate Harbour} on January 28th. {DW}

GREAT SKUA

Singles north on September 15th and October 13th then 1 south on October 28th. 2 distant Skua's seen flying south on December 7th were thought to be Bonxies?

MEDITERRANEAN GULL

I know Meds are well established in southern Britain these days but they seem to be getting rarer at Peggars in recent years for some reason? The following constitutes every report: JAN: zilch! FEB: singles on 2nd and 15th. MARCH: singles on 3rd and 16th plus a huge count of 2 on 21st. APR: naff all! MAY: none. JUNE: more none. JULY: 1 on 2nd, 1 on 10th, 2 on 22nd and 1 on 28th. AUGUST: 1 on 3rd. {1st juvenile} 2 on 19th, 1 on 21st and 2 on 29th. SEPTEMBER: even more none. OCTOBER: 1 on 17th, 1 on 27th and 1 on 31st. NOVEMBER: 2 on 23rd and 1 on 27th. DECEMBER: singles on 1st, 4th and 27th.

BLACK-HEADED GULL peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3600	5600	1250	116	64	120	1760	5000+	2200	1600	3500	2500

-
BONAPARTES GULL

A first winter bird present for approximately 15 minutes on January 19th was a new bird for the area. If I decide to do a description {which I probably wont} and it is then accepted I believe it's only the forth Kent record to date – very nice regardless of all the hassle...I suppose? {PM + PC}

COMMON GULL peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2420	2000	1000	47	17	0	30	385	460	360	1200	1520

KITTIWAKE

JAN: 2 to 7 present on 5 dates with 150 seen passing north on the 28th. FEB: none. MAR: none. APR: 2 north on 27th. MAY: 2 south on 11th. JUNE: none. JULY: 1 to 3 on 4 dates with 30 south on 3rd and 11 south on 7th. AUGUST: none. SEPTEMBER: none. OCTOBER: 4 dates, 12 south on 27th. NOV: 3 dates. DECEMBER: 3 dates including 23 north on the 7th.

SABINES GULL

Two juvenile birds this past year – 1 north on September 14th, {PM} then another present offshore before flying off south on October 11th. {JVDD}

HERRING GULL peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
3260	4240	500	860	1076	127	880	1630	1420	930	1600	1490

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL LARUS MICHAHELLIS

Very good numbers present during January and February with birds noted on 16 dates during this period with 3 on 3 dates, 4 on January 24th and 25th peaking with 7 birds on January 26th. After this present on 5 dates in March {3 on 16th} and 3 singles in April including a late adult {they are usually immature birds after March} on April 19th.

In July 1 on the 14th and 2 on the 26th, 1 on August 30th, 2 on September 7th, 1 on September 28th, 1 on October 8th and 2 on October 13th. Regular during November with a build up of birds in the last ten days of the month with peaks of 5 on 22nd, 9 on 26th and 12+ birds present on the 27th. Though still regular in amongst the large gull flocks after December {1 to 4 birds on 8 dates} the best days were 5 on the 3rd and 8 birds on the 9th.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL THING?

A small very dark mantled adult gull with short legs was present on April 20th. Don't tell me it was a normal michahellis as I am not having it...so save your breath...O.K! Like the outrageous claim of the possibility of a Kamchatca Gull in last years report I am sure this will have a similar effect on the self confessed local Gull expert F. Solly. Old Franny just loves his Larids!!!

CASPIAN GULL LARUS CACHINNANS

An adult bird on January 21st, {D.W.} a first winter on January 26th, {P.M.} a first winter present on September 29th, {PM} an adult present on November 14th, {PM} an adult on November 26th, {PM} 2 adults on November 27th {PM} and a third winter on December 7th.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
52	36	87	52	42	27	47	71	78	256	473	229

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL peak day counts:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
235	154	119	22	38	36	36	214	348	540	1710*	1445

Late autumn/winter counts of Great Black-Backs generally peak at around a thousand or so birds. The 1710 present on November 1st an exceptional number and was possibly a peak count? It certainly is the most we can account for anyway. There were also 283 Lesser Black-Backs scattered in amongst them, which to me anyway was a most impressive sight! I am a bit sad though these days!

LITTLE GULL

Single birds present on February 3rd, March 21st, May 7th, May 9th, May 11th, August 29th, 4 north on September 15th, 16 south on October 13th, 2 south on October 16th, 1 present on November 7th, 1 present on November 20th, 2 south on November 21st, 1 south on November 25th and 1 on December 1st.

ICELAND GULL

A first-winter bird present offshore on January 24th. {F.S.} This continues the dearth of white-winged gulls this past couple of years.

SANDWICH TERN

The long staying wintering bird was present yet again {for its 9th/10th winter} and seen regularly between January and March and again from late October onwards.

Spring migration was noted from March 10th with birds present on a regular basis thereafter. Most of the more intense movement through the area took place between April 18th and May 10th with 100+ birds present on 21 days during this period peaking at 320 present on April 24th, 257 on April 27th, 350 on April 28th, 660 on April 29th, 488 on April 30th, 382 on May 1st plus 5 other 200+ counts. The 660 birds on April 29th was the highest *spring* total I have personally seen {please note this is more than F.Solly} and continues the good numbers of birds passing through in recent years. After this birds present regularly - though in far smaller numbers, throughout the remainder of the spring.

June numbers peaked at 46 on the 28th before numbers started to increase dramatically during July when 200+ birds were recorded on a near daily basis with 300+ on 8 dates, 400+ on 3 dates peaking at 660 present on 23rd, 620 on 26th and 610 birds on 27th. Disappointing numbers passing through in August though there were 760 present on the 3rd after this only 4 other counts over 300 were recorded during the month, which isn't too impressive for Pegwell of late.

Good numbers were noted moving through the area in September during a sustained period of northeasterly winds {whilst sea watching.} These were: 300 north on September 9th, 200 north on September 14th, 235 north on September 15th, 100+ north on September 18th, 90 north on 20th, 80 north on 21st and 320 north on 22nd.

Back on the mudflats and during September 100+ counts recorded on 6 dates peaking at 191 present on the 20th, with birds petering out by the end of the month. The only multiple counts after October {which excludes the wintering thing?} were 2 on 2nd and 8th, 3 on the 20th and an unusually late record of 2 birds on November the 15th.

COMMON TERN/TYPES

Another unexceptional spring passage with birds recorded on 19 dates between April 5th and May 22nd, reaching double figures on only 6 dates with a peak of 85 present on May 10th.

Virtually daily from the start of July to the end of September with 146 on July 26th, 100 on July 28th, 180 on August 12th and 162 on September 9th being the best days. The last record was of two birds present on October 2nd.

ARCTIC TERN

2 on April 28th and 2 on April 30th the only spring records. Probably under-recorded in the autumn with 1 on July 6th, 4 on July 21st, 2 on July 23rd and 24th, 1 on August 5th, 2 on August 9th, 20+ on August 12th, 1 on August 28th, 2 on September 9th and 1 on September 10th.

ROSEATE TERN

No spring birds, then all the birds barring one individual occurring in a really good period during July. The dates were:

In July: 2 on 1st, {FS + PM} at least 4 on 2nd, {FS + PM} 1 on 3rd, {FS + PM} 3 on 6th inc. 1 juv, ** {PM} 1 on 7th {FS} 1 on 23rd, {PM} 1 on 26th, {FS} 1 on 27th, {PM} and 1 on 31st. {PM} Then into August 1 on the 18th. {PM}

**For some reason juvenile Roseates are extremely uncommon in the area, especially so when you consider how regular the adult birds are in the bay. This individual was the first I've ever seen {ooh!} and talking to the other longer serving members of the Pegwell bay birding establishment, I can find no other records of first year birds. It could be that there are no records since the nineteen-eighties at least, which seems a little strange to me as they are reasonably obvious? Of note the birds showing metal rings on both legs that have been regular this past few years originate from Coquet Island, which is off the northeast coast of Britain apparently. I say apparently - as I get a nosebleed if I venture north of the North Foreland. Many thanks to er ... that bloke er, watsisname? IH.. thats it ...for this very useful information. I had better watch what I call him?

LITTLE TERN

A disappointing spring movement with birds passing through between April 21st to the end of May in smallish numbers with 2 day-counts in the 20s and a good count of 56 on May 11th.

Returning birds from July 4th to September 24th reaching double figures on 15 dates with the main bulk of the birds passing through during August. The best days during this period were: 21 on August 8th, 29 on August 12th, 95 on September 9th and 35 on September 22nd.

BLACK TERN

Singles on April 28th and 30th constitutes a good spring total for the area. We had to wait until July as usual for the next ones, with 3 on 28th and singles on 29th and 30th of that month. After this 3 present on August 2nd, 5 on August 3rd, 1 on August 4th, 2 on August 5th, 1 on August 6th, 1 on August 17th, 1 on August 19th and 1 on September 9th.

AUKS

Poorly recorded in the early part of the year with 23 south and 36 north recorded on 6 dates during January and February. Late winter numbers in November, 5 south and December 12 south.

GULEMOT

Regularly seen offshore in small numbers during the winter months.

PUFFIN

1 spotted flying into the bay {southeast} before flying back out to sea about 15 minutes later on January 26th. {PM}

WOOD PIGEON

Pigeons eh...no chance! I do know someone who likes pigeons and its not Terry Preston either? I wonder which longhaired drunkard I could be referring to? No, no I will keep it to myself I think? He's had it a bit rough this year what with the price of beer going up and all. I'll give him a break I think?

STOCK DOVE

See Wood Pigeon.

COLLARED DOVE

See either Wood Pigeon or Stock Dove...take your pick.

TURTLE DOVE

Regular from April 21st to...oh who cares? I must add at this point I did see one on the ridiculously late date of October 16th.

CUCKOO

Present from April 26th with 2 to 4+ birds regularly present afterwards, up to June the 47th at least.

BARN OWL

Singles unless stated: January 2nd, March 5th, April 29th, November 3rd with all but the January 2nd bird were seen across the river on the Sandwich side. Then a very obliging individual was present on the country park/salt marsh area and noted on December 2nd and 3rd and then again on most days throughout December. This from memory is only the 5th record that I have heard of on our side of the river?

SHORT-EARED OWL

In the first part of the year there were 1 to 3+ birds seen regularly across the river in the hundred-acre field area with the odd one seen over the salt marsh or around the country park during this period. There were also 2 birds present in the same area later on in the spring months with some territorial display flight noted on a few dates in May.

1 west on September 11th followed by an influx in mid to late October with up to 5 birds seen across the river in the 100 acre field. Numbers peaked during November when at least six birds were present on the 17th. Another migrant bird was seen flying southwest on October 31st.

LONG-EARED OWL

Singles present unless stated: on February 2nd, April 17th and 21st, May 6th, June 15th then a pair in off the sea on November 29th.

SWIFT

The first spring bird spotted on April 24th with the first double figure arrival 16 on May 1st. After this 72 north on May 11th, 40 north on May 12th, 50 on May 14th and 450 present/passing through on May 25th. Some four figure groups of birds present in June and July with an uncountable number seen over Ramsgate in late June, running into *at least* five figures! The last record was on September 27th.

KINGFISHER

Singles on September 12th and 20th to 21st. Plus 2 regular in the Harbour during October.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET

41 seen flying off to roost on June 15th and 47 in September {GM} the highest counts of 2002, plus one in Stonelees in May worthy of a mention perhaps? No you're right ...I shouldn't have mentioned it. Too late now, it's done! Were stuck with it!

GREEN WOODPECKER

Yep we saw some Green Woodpeckers, up to 4 some days! They were quite green and wood-peckery too.

GREAT-SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Reasonably regular in Stonelees {with up to 4 reported on feeders in the garden opposite} and odd sightings around Little Cliffsend Farm and the west cliff area in ones and twos, plus a nesting hole there which I've not spotted before? Also up to about 8 birds present in early November.

WRYNECK

One present in the Chiltern Lane bushes on October 10th. {PM}

SKYLARK

I couldn't be bothered keeping records of the rather insignificant amounts of skylarks that were either present or passing through the area until the autumn I'm afraid and even then they were still passing by in very disappointing numbers. Though regular during September and October the highest counts I recorded were 60 southeast on October 2nd and 76 south on October 10th. There were also 50+ present in the area in early November.

SAND MARTIN

The first birds seen on March 23rd with passage noticed on 12 other dates in the spring with none reaching double figures. Up to six birds loitering around the normal breeding area in April and May but as far as I know that is all I know about the breeding ones as I couldn't be bothered to keep an eye on them...so as I said that's all I know? They were up to something again though.

Birds seen passing through the area noted from early July with 1150 north and west on July 4th and 3000 birds northwest on July 6th, 1100 north on July 14th, 120 north on July 17th, 270 north on July 18th and 130 birds northwest on July 23rd, 120 north on August 28th, 110 northwest on September 8th and 84 north on September 17th. The last record was 28 northwest on September 27th.

HOUSE MARTIN

From April 7th with spring peaks of 50 north and 100 also north on May 11th and 12th respectively. Returning birds first noticed in the Hirundine movements from September 10th but didn't really get going until later in the month when 2420 birds moved northwest on the 27th with 4100 birds in the same direction on the following day. No large movements after this in fact the only other three-figure count I have is of 120 northwest on September 26th! The last record was of 2 birds on October 27th.

SWALLOW

Spring birds from March 1st with a gradual build up of birds during April and May with peaks of 170 on May 1st, 120 on May 2nd and 550 north on May 11th.

Returning birds seen in small numbers from mid-July building up to a peak during September with 2350 north and west on September 7th, 2100 northwest on September 8th, 8050 northwest on September 27th and 1150 northwest on September 28th.

After November: singles on the 2nd and 12th.

ROCK PIPIT

Sound a bit like one of the poor unfortunate repetitive rock combo Status Quo...or was it Rick Parfitt? Common in the autumn, winter and less so in the spring - on the under cliff area {peak count 17 on October 31st} and in the salt marsh areas - where 30+ were present during the first week of November.

MEADOW PIPIT

A poor spring movement though there were 150 north on March 22nd. In the autumn most of the movement recorded from mid September to mid October with 449 north and west between September 17th and 28th with a peak of 115 north on the 21st plus 100+ present on the 18th during this period. After this 140 present on October 2nd and 130 south on October 8th the best days.

TREE PIPIT

1 north on April 18th, 2 north on May 6th then 3 north on September 17th, 1 present with another north on September 18th, 1 north on September 19th and 1 on October 10th.

PIED WAGTAIL

Up to 60 birds present on the west cliff area during October. Reasonably common in small numbers at most times of the year with an insignificant amount of birds seem moving through in both spring and autumn.

WHITE WAGTAIL

A very poor spring migration with only 9 birds reported on 6 dates between March 12th and April 23rd. This represents the worst numbers in recent years and gives a good impression of how bad the passerine visible migration was in the spring.

GREY WAGTAIL

Single flyovers on March 3rd, 17th, 23rd and 29th the only spring records. 1 over on August 15th then the first proper autumn bird south on September 11th. A good period of movement took place between September 18th to the 28th when 29 birds past through the area on 9 dates {all flying north} with peaks of 7 on the 19th and 21st. Into October 2 north on the 8th, 3 north on 10th, 2 north and 2 south on 16th and 1 south on the 31st. The only other record was of one on December 6th.

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL

1 present {on the north fields} on April 27th and another singing male present nearby on May 2nd that chose not to linger ... can't blame it I suppose?

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-
YELLOW WAGTAIL

A total of only 59 birds seen passing through {mainly north} between April 15th {incredibly late} and May 6th. Though indeed lost for things to write on the subject of yellow wags it's a sad statement isn't it 59 north blah,blah? How boring! There were also a few pairs hanging around the farm fields for breeding. So what...whose interested? I'm sure everyone who flicks through these pages is only scanning for innuendo, slander and suchlike. It's clear to me after five years of writing this sort of garbage that no-ones even slightly interested by the bird records on offer...well am I wrong!!! That's it next year no feathered footage...none!! Happy now! Quick...pass me those pills will you - I'm starting to lose it again!!! You'll be pleased to hear no doubt I tended not to take much notice of the autumn passage. I saw the last 2 flying south on September 27th then there was one present on October 8th.

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL

One present {on the north fields} on April 27th and another singing male nearby on May 2nd that chose not to linger...cant blame it I suppose? Did you notice the deliberate mistake?

WREN

Ah...little Jenny Wren how remarkably loudly you sing.

DUNNOCK

Three figure numbers present in late September and October and Augober the first.

ROBIN

150+ present on September 27th and 100+ present on October 14th.

NIGHTINGALE

Carrying on the recent trend birds were present from April 21st with 3 singing males present in Stone Lees on May 6th with two pairs staying on to breed.

REDSTART

A female present on the Hover-pad on April 29th and a stunning male on May 8th the only spring records then into the autumn singles on September 19th and 22nd.

BLACK REDSTART

The two wintering birds still present into January between the western under cliff and Ramsgate harbour. This was followed by an awful spring with a total of only 4 birds, 3 on March 22nd and 1 on April 3rd!

Autumn records {of singles} on October 21st and November 17th only.

WHEATEAR

A poor spring with birds reported on only 9 dates between March 1st and May 26th. Peak spring count was 10 birds present on April 25th.

In the autumn birds recorded on only 12 dates in ones to threes between September 3rd and October 21st with a peak count of 8 on September 19th.

WHINCHAT

An unusually early male present on April 1st with 2 birds present on the more typical date of April 30th. Returning birds recorded from August onwards with 6 on August 27th, 3 on 29th and 1 on 31st and then singles on September 7th, 11th, 12th, 2 on the 19th and 1 on 21st.

STONECHAT

It just goes to show what you lot out there are taking for granted with these attempted bird reports as no-one even mentioned the Stonechat song I so expertly wrote in the 2001 report! Anyway ...no Stonechat records in January then 1 to 4 present during the first 2 weeks of February then a gap until the last winter record of 4 present on March 3rd.

Autumn birds regular from September 18th with 3 on September 27th, 4 on October 19th, 3 on October 24th and 3 on December 9th the highest counts.

RING OUZEL

Single birds present on March 27th, April 16th with 2 present on April 18th, September 11th, 26th and 2 on October 15th, 2 on October 16th, 1 on October 17th and 1 on November 1st.

BLACKBIRD

Stick counting Blackbirds, though I did record about 120 migrant birds on the day all the song thrushes turned up on October 10th and 200+ on - oh who gives a stuff when?

SONG THRUSH

A melanistic bird present on the country park on October 3rd and an overnight drop of in excess of 250 birds present on October 10th the only things of note.

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MISTLE THRUSH

I know a funny story about a Mistle Thrush. There was this bloke and he...ha..ha...had {please note this is laughter and not a stutter} a ...tee...heee...wooden leg...ha...ha...and he walked into this bird hide where he met a lady with a wooden ha...ha...elbow and one ear...ha...ha...tee.hee...and she said to the man with the wooden ha...ha...leg..."do us a favour will you and take my guide dog ...STOP... YES STOP!!! STOP IT NOW!! Please note that this fantastically funny joke had to be removed from the final draft as the editor thought that the up to now scientific content of the report was being watered down by an attempt at trying to jazz it up with humour...a cheap trick which will not be attempted at all in the duration of this report...thank you. Anyway back to the humble Mistle Thrush – one was seen carrying magpies eggs back to it's nest on June 4th also worms, melons and small pieces of Kit-Kat delicately caressed in it's bill before being expertly dropped into it's treetop abode filled with hungry Thrushettes. Now that's better isn't it? Well isn't it! Another Thrush type thing was reported on December 23rd but was rejected on the grounds that no video, photographic or DNA evidence was forthcoming with the otherwise rather expertly written description. Sorry about that Dylan but I did think you would have learnt your lesson after you submitted the St. Margaret's Booted Eagle data.

REDWING

Poorly recorded in the early part of the year though if memory serves me correct there weren't an awful lot of them about? I only have a few records during March {maximum of 12 birds} but no doubt this was more down to laziness than anything else?

In the autumn none until October 6th {quiet late} when 96 birds were seen moving west. After this reasonable numbers passing through {100+ on 5 dates} until early November with odd small flocks noted throughout November and December.

FIELDFARE

No early winter records and only 1 spring record – a singleton on March 16th! As you might expect a lot better during the autumn with birds regular from October 16th to the first week of November with 59 west on October 31st the best day. Recorded on only 3 dates after this period.

GARDEN WARBLER

An appalling year for Garden Wobblers, I hardly saw any! Francis had the first one on May 3rd {eds. Note: merrily chiff-chaffing its head off no doubt?} and I saw a proper one on May 11th. These were the only spring records I heard about!

The autumn was little better - so there! For a more in depth scientific report regarding the Pegwell Garden Warblers of autumn 2002 please send a cheque or postal order for the amount of £27.50 made payable to P.J.Milton {plus a stamp addressed envelope} and I will supply the full details i.e. times/dates/areas etc of the other 4 birds recorded this past calendar year not already mentioned under this section.

BARRED WARBLER

A juvenile present in the Hover pad bushes on September 26th. {PM, FS, BC, PTP, BM and AS}

BLACKCAP

In contrast to most other species there were lots present in the spring!!! Numbers peaked in the spring when there were 12 and 10 singing males on April 15th and 16th respectively present at the north end of the recording area alone. They do seem to have had a better than average breeding season this year?

Autumn numbers peaked with 15 on September 26th, 20+ on September 27th and over 30 birds present on October 3rd.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

A reasonable spring with birds present from April 15th and around in good numbers throughout the spring migration period. Peak count during this time was 12 singing males present on April 22nd.

Autumn records went largely unrecorded – in fact the largest count I wrote down was a measly 4 on September 19th. The last date was {2 birds} on October 2nd.

WHITETHROAT

Recorded between April 4th and October 2nd with vast {and uncounted} numbers present in the area during August and September.

SEDGE WARBLER

Like Whitethroats – Sedge Warblers go mainly unrecorded at Pegwell, though there are three figure numbers present around the Country Park bushes in the autumn months. The first one was heard singing on March 30th and the last record of 2002 was recorded on October 4th.

REED WARBLER

A bit late turning up this spring with - the first one not seen until April 29th. I don't have a late date for this year? It was probably in late September?

WILLOW WARBLER

First and last dates being April 1st and some time in the autumn respectively, with no decent drops {yet again} recorded this year! What's happened to all the Willow Warblers this past few years?

CHIFFCHAFF

At least two wintering birds in the first part of the year, {Stonelees + country park} with the first definite migrants not showing until March 13th.

Autumn numbers were extremely disappointing with most passing through during September when there were 20 to 30+ birds regularly recorded.

One of the Siberian race "Tristis" present on October 16th.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER

One {near Court stairs Park} on October 16th, {PM} was probably present in the park, and heard calling on the previous day?

GOLDCREST

The odd bird recorded during the winter months with very little else worthy of writing down until September when birds were present on and off in very small numbers. Most of the activity noted during October with 40+ present on the 16th, 40 on the 22nd and 60 on the 30th.

FIRECREST

Spring birds down to a trickle with 2 on March 23rd then singles on March 24th, March 30th, April 3rd and April 15th.

Recorded on 8 dates during October {from the 10th} in ones to threes with a fall of a dozen birds present in Court stairs Park on October 16th. After this only one more record - on November 1st.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

1 in Stone Lees on May 8th and 1 in the old hover pad bushes on September 26th.

PIED FLYCATCHER

2 on the cliff top on September 15th the only record.

GREAT TIT

Nope!

BLUE TIT

The only thing of any interest about blue tits that comes to mind is that a pair bred in the hide..., which was nice. Other than that the normal amount in the normal places etc.

COAL TIT

Singles on March 12th and 13th.

LONG-TAILED TIT

An increasingly common bird in the area these days. *See page 23.*

BEARDED TIT

3 present on the country park on October 24th {PFt} and 5 present in the large reed bed near the Hover pad on November 2nd. I had to put Mr. Forrests initials after the October 24th birds, he was so happy with them.... bless him. A really - really moving moment. He had pure joy written all over his face as he told me of them.

MAGPIE

As I cannot be bothered to write anything about Magpies this year {who would be interested even if I did?} so I thought I would fill in the space with a bit of Pegwell gossip. As you've no doubt noticed if you've met him, Barry Childs is very posh which is obvious, but it turns out - as reported in Pegwell Report 2001 - he is also enormously wealthy. It's not because of his age that he walks so slowly - oh no, it's because of the weight of his wallet! He really struggles to carry it very far at all! Nowadays he's taken to carrying it around in an old ladies shopping trolley! Anyway - for someone so posh and so rich you might think he might have a flashy motor, but you'd be wrong as for the past five years or so he's been driving around in a clapped out, rusty 1970/80s Volvo? Then he announced that this year he was going to buy a new set of wheels...but what? A Roller, S - class Mercedes or an Aston Martin perhaps? No...a *silver* Toyota Yarris!!! Now let me point out at this juncture Toyota Yarris are nice little cars being economical, reliable etc. but surely for someone who makes loans to Bill Gates why on earth a Toyota Yarris? The clue of course was in the colour of the car. One day I took a small sample scraping of the bodywork and it turns out the old Toyota is made from solid silver!!! Now that's rich eh! Mind you why I stuck all this in under the heading of Magpie in a mystery to me?

JAY

Regular in the spring and autumn, with 5 migrants {in off the sea} on September 27th and up to half a dozen or so present during September and October.

JACKDAW

One on octember the seventy forth.

CARRION CROW

Two on september the second of the thirtieth. Ooh nearly forgot...at a half past three.

ROOK

Three on the eighteenth of the fourteenth, flying on a bearing due east. Who hasn't been keeping any corvid counts this past year then? Hmn it's a tricky one that? I blame F.Solly.

STARLING

No counts taken and unfortunately no pink ones...perhaps one day?

GOLDEN ORIOLE

A rather showy {imm. Male or adult female???} present on May 12th. {Ihr, PM + BC}.

HOUSE SPARROW

Seemingly in some decline this past couple of years at the north end of the reserve with little to show of the half reasonable flocks present in July/August time around the stubble fields etc. Peak counts of around 60 odd??? {a guess?} present, in the aforementioned area on September 7th and a more thorough count on September 10th turned up about 130 birds. It does seem a bit excessive doesn't it to spend a morning counting the sprogs? There you go...that's what I do these days for entertainment folks! No doubt Francis will tell me *HE* had 131 birds the day after I did my big sparrow count day.

TREE SPARROW

1 present on September 17th, 8 present on the country park on September 19th then during October 4 present at Little Cliffsend Farm on the 15th, 12 south on 16th, 2 on 17th and 2 south on the 18th. Into November 3 south on 11th, 1 on 15th and 3 present on the Country Park on the 29th. There were also 5 present on November 29th.

CHAFFINCH

150 north on March 22nd the only noteworthy spring movement. Birds started to turn up in early October when not very many turned up!

BRAMBLING

Singles on March 21st, 23rd and 2 south on 30th the only ones recorded during another pitiful spring finch vismig season.

A bit better in the autumn – with 1 south on September 27th then during October 6 present and 6 south on 8th, 8 south on 10th, 2 present on 15th, 3 south on the 16th, 11 south, 8 north and 3 present on 17th, 2 south on 19th, 1 south on 20th and 3 north on the 31st.

LINNET

Spring peaks of 40 north on March 24th and 210 north on April 12th also 45 north and 70 present on September 21st, 70 present on October 2nd and 140 birds present on October 10th.

TWITE

A flock of 5 birds reported on a few dates in February. Then in the later part of the year 3 west on October 26th, followed by 44 present on November 3rd, {groups of 16 and 28} and a flock of up to 32 birds seen between November 5th and December 3rd. Exactly how many birds were present in the autumn/winter period was difficult to determine but there was a huge flock of probable Twite seen flying south on November third of around 60 to 70+ birds? Also on the afternoon of December 3rd we saw individual flocks that were definite Twite of 6, 12, 21 and 32 birds, though as they were so mobile {as normal} we couldn't say for certain if the flocks were getting split up? Peak count was 45 birds on December 16th.

GOLDFINCH

40 south on April 18th the spring peak...wow!
80 present on October 3rd, 235 north on October 6th, 150+ present on October 7th and 210 north on October 11th being worthy of a mention.

GREENFINCH

In October - 44 south on the 16th, 36 south on the 17th and 29 south on the 19th.

SISKIN

Very poor numbers reported in the spring with only 7 north and 16 south recorded on 6 dates between March 3rd and April 16th.

There were no autumn birds noted until October and even then they were recorded on only 5 dates! The only double figure day was 21 south on October the 16th.

A few other records in November/December also.

REDPOLL

1 south on March 23rd then a few records of birds passing through in the autumn.

BULLFINCH

Worryingly scarce with just the odd sighting away from Stonelees.

CROSSBILL

3 west on September 15th, 2 south on September 17th, 2 south and 1 southeast on September 18th then 1 south on September 27th. {All FS + PM}

REED BUNTING

Early winter numbers fairly low with only 4 or 5 present during January and February with 4 or 5 singing males scattered around the area in the spring.

Autumn numbers peaked in October when 30 to 40+ birds were regularly present plus a peak count of 16 migrants seen flying north on September 21st.

SNOW BUNTING

6 on November 12th,

LAPLAND BUNTING

2 flew north on October 10th

CORN BUNTING

Scarce in January then reasonably regular in February with up to 23 birds present on the country park. A very sketchy series of records after this - though the occasional group of up to 11 birds were seen on and off up to April at least.

A single on July 23rd the only record between May and November 1st according to my records - after which they were fairly regularly seen around the Country Park especially during November and less so in December. There were up to 13 birds during November plus a flock of c.30 birds on December 2nd.

YELLOWHAMMER

Facing certain extinction in these parts soon? 1 flying south on October 16th the only record!

Breeding records for 2002.

Species	Country Park	Stonelees	Other
G.PARTRIDGE	1	0	2
PHEASANT	1	0	
WOOD PIGEON	3	5	
TURTLE DOVE	3	3	
STOCK DOVE	0	1	10+
GREEN WOODPECKER	0	1	
SKYLARK	2	0	
MEADOW PIPIT	1	0	
ROBIN	4	8	
BLACKBIRD	7	5	
SONG THRUSH	5	2	
MISTLE THRUSH	1	1	
NIGHTINGALE	0	2	
DUNNOCK	12	6	
WREN	8	6	
REED WARBLER	2	4	c.3
SEDGE WARBLER	14	2	
WHITETHROAT	16	5	c.6+
LESSER WHITETHROAT	2	1	
BLACKCAP	5	4	c.2
WILLOW WARBLER	0	6	
CHIFFCHAFF	0	1	
BLUE TIT	1	3	
GREAT TIT	2	3	
LONG-TAILED TIT	2	1	2+
GOLDFINCH	4	3	
GREENFINCH	2	4	
CHAFFINCH	1	3	
BULLFINCH	0	1	
LINNET	11	0	
MAGPIE	1	1	
C.CROW	0	1	
REED BUNTING	2	1	
CUCKOO	1	0	

Sorry about the wobbly number columns above but I cannot work out how to set this out proper like? I sat here for ages trying to get them straight – then thought stuff it! It looks like Dylan’s had a go at it after a few sherbets eh!

OTHER GUMPF

It's a shame this section isn't about Peter Forrest as then I could have headed it Forrest Gumpf! No unfortunately this section is to help with the submitting of descriptions to the P.R.C. Instead of going into great detail about the dos and don'ts I thought it best to provide a sample description with the intention of making things a little easier for you. The following description was kindly submitted by one of our local and very experienced birders. Please note I did intend to include little Craigy Sammels description of a Meadow Pipit he identified on the salt marsh in February but his mum wouldn't let him do it as it was past his bedtime.

FRANCIS HORATIO SOLLEY
BUXTON RD.,
RAMSGATE,
KENT.

DESCRIPTION OF GOSHAWK AT PEGWELL BAY ON MARCH 17TH 2002

Dear o great one and merciful leader, {ed. A good start}

On Sunday March 17th 2002 I visited the Pegwell Bay nature reserve. I entered the site by the south entrance at around 12.57 that afternoon, a little later than planned due to a long and might I add laborious session at my favourite hairdressers. At approximately 13.42 I stepped in one of the local hazards and it was at this time as I was in the process of cleaning it off one of my hush puppies that I noticed a rather strange looking bird flying in a southward direction 4.27 metres above the salt marsh. It was quite unlike any of the local specimens I had seen during my 29 years of visiting the area. The following things were noted: SIZE: About one foot long with a two foot wingspan. COLOUR: The general overall colour was greyish with darker wingtips and tail band. The most obvious feature in flight was the large white wing patches present down the centre of each wing. The bird was by this time getting jolly close and as luck would have it – it alighted in a small thicket of trees only 40 to 50 yards yonder. Hastily I set up my rarely used telescope {being careful at this point so as not to get any nasty dirt on it} and with trembling hands turned the shiny, good as new and recently polished focusing knob which revealed the bird in even greater detail than already mentioned. At this time my eyes were met with the most incredibly beautiful creature I have ever witnessed. The blue grey of the head, bright yellow eye and white neck patch had me reaching for my 1968 first edition of the Observers book of birds - a book I would advocate the use of to anyone in love with avian fauna as indeed I am – but alas the bird could not be located within it's pages. That said I had a fair idea of its identity -which was clinched once and for all when a loud hoo-hoo-hoo emanated from its vicinity and with a booming victorious cry I fell to my knees... "IT'S A GOSHAWK," I bellowed at the top of my voice! Next after ticking it of my world, western Palaearctic, European, British, English, Kent, Thanet, Ramsgate, Pegwell, Weekend and Sunday {am and pm though a borderline am record} bird lists I rushed to find the local bird expert {editors note: P.J.Milton} for it's verification but alas no-one could be found. I returned home oozing glee and full of excitement and on arrival celebrated the moment with a whole can of light ale, a bit extravagant I will admit – but at times like this all inhibition and self control can easily be lost, I find. Please take on board at this juncture that if the committee rejects this bird I will no longer be able to provide the normal taxi service with regard to the local mothing hot spots. Also I have in the armoury of my memory - amongst others – a Great – White Egret story you may find a little embarrassing?

Yours in hope F.H.SOLLEY

After a personal dilemma the P.R.C. was happy to accept the above cleverly worded and possibly unlawful description. Lets never...ha ha...mention the G.W.Egret story eh? Please mate?

One other belated decision made by the P.R.C. was with regard to all records submitted by one D. Wrathall. With deep regret and malice aforethought the unfortunate decision we {the royal we that is} have been forced to arrive at is that with immediate effect all Mr. Wrathalls records will be struck from the Pegwell list with regard to Mr. Wrathalls showing of deep disrespect to all members of the Pegwell Bay Records Committee. {i.e. me} as he was caught red handed sticking vile and libellous posters mentioning the lawgivers great name without prior permission and drawing twitchers attention to the area. CONT:

Other serious allegations reported to me and yet to be dealt with are as follows:

1: Living within the realms of Thanet yet driving through the area to watch areas outside of my jurisdiction such as Sandwich Bay {boo hiss} St. Margaret's Bay and it pains me to have to mention it...Stodmarsh and Grove Ferry. {Where he was spotted by one of my large network of spies}

2: Jealousy from a certain hairy member with regard to trapping of rare or scarce moths from his back garden - some new to the Thanet area! Although of no direct personal offence to the PRC committee this has caused me much personal discomfort, as I have to put up with the hairy ones constant whinging on this subject so it would be best dealt with - though reluctantly through this channel I suppose?

3: Thirdly and surely the most serious of all...it has been alleged that he has been seen on more than one occasion ...wait for it...ringing!!!

4: Impersonating the hairstyle of the lead guitar player of that awful Swedish band "Europe" and even humming the final countdown in front of children! Tut tut!

If it is deemed necessary to further punish Mr. Wrathall for these yet proven acts of barbarity the PRC recommends the following:

A: Mr. Wrathall will be referred to either as Action man and/or totally ignored by all members at their own discretion.

B: have stinking mud thrown at him or even worse - put in his pint.

C: make him eat a raw and oiled Red-Throated Diver washed down with the vomit of 54 immature Fulmars.

Please note that the fact that Mr. Wrathall is a recovering alcoholic, closet twitcher and part time viola player and of obvious diminished responsibility {and therefore not fully responsible for his actions} was taken into account but was deemed of little excuse in view of the severity of the crimes already mentioned. It was felt that if a lenient view was taken then further abuse could result by other members wrongly assuming the committee to be a soft touch! Quite how he thought he would get away with his misdemeanours did lead me to question Mr. Wrathalls sanity, of course - but it was thought by the committee to be some sort of front so as to his being able to behave in a totally unacceptable manner and be forgiven. Oh no matey...oh no you don't...not on MY patch you don't!

.....
NEWCOMERS:

Some of the members may have noticed a new face on the patch so perhaps as your leader it's my responsibility to introduce you to him, as he's a bit shy. His name is Dennis - or as we call him "The Gadget Man." He's called gadget man because he's got a gadget for everything - it wasn't too cryptic a nickname was it! Perhaps a more apt name for him would be "Q" off the James Bond films - {Or James Boond fillems as Tattooed Tony would probably call them?} Anyway I first saw "gadget" sneaking around on the hover pad with the odd video camera or some other gadget in tow. Ages later Dylan told me he had befriended this weird bloke who spoke in a strange techno - language the likes of which had not been heard amongst us technophobes who have only just acquired mobile phones, let alone the sort of psychobabble that comes out of Dennis' gob! I'm sure if Dylan had met him about ten years back before he'd discovered the love, peace and brown rice philosophy trip he's on at the minute - he'd have stuck the nut on the bloke! I was duly introduced to Gadget and immediately remembered him from days long lost on the hover pad, dodging motorcycles and playing hopscotch around the doggy-do's etc. It was then I recalled to mind the first thing that struck me about him was...well how can I describe it...his body seemed somehow out of proportion? Something wasn't right anyway?

After some time I met Gadget on and off and in close up, it slowly dawned on me what was wrong with his appearance as his legs were totally out of proportion with the rest of his body...a bit Toulouse le trek lets say, as it looked like he'd been chopped off at the knees? I can now announce the full official story to you...a sort of Pegwell Bay Report exclusive!

Now take your minds back to the Second World War and imagine old gadget in a Lancaster flying over enemy lines. Gadget used to be an ace paratrooper back then {or so he thought} and had a home made gadget - a full 50 years ahead of its time which could gauge landing his parachute on a sixpence from anywhere up to 100,000 feet. Remember this was years ahead of the satellite technology - *CONT:* so prevalent in today's modern warfare but nonetheless old Gadget still fancied his chances of his

home made rangefinder making the grade. Unfortunately gadget made a terrible mistake with the set up – something he would rue for the rest of his life! As he neared the soft enemy cow field he had targeted for a nice safe landing, a freak gust of wind caught him up and wafted him across into the first ever Nazi skateboard park - a top secret concrete structure for Storm trooper recreation {after a long hard day doing that silly marching} which consisted of ramps, half pipes and of course a very hard level floor. This is where old gadget, up to then a strapping six-footer - landed and waddled away at about five-foot three!! So now you know. The news is out!

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REVIEWS SECTION: the following was written about the 2001 Pegwell report:

So much more interesting than the now defunct Foreness bird report = The Evening Standard

An enthralling read, a moment of literally genius and so much better than that tacky effort written by F.Solly... whoever he is? = The Tokyo Times.

Far and away the greatest ornithological report of the age = Egg Collecting Monthly.

A masterpiece of the literally art, a sound piece to the masses, a chronicle of such worth I am humbled that I have the unbridled privilege of casting my unworthy eyes upon a document of such magnitude that all other bird reports, dare I say the whole catalogue of modern literature - crumble in it's wake! = A quote by *Francis Solly* during a moment his pent up emotions could no longer be held in! I always knew he was green with envy...HA HA HA!!! And I catch better moths in my garden than he does. It's so obvious why as well – there's not enough concrete at your gaff mate! Ditch the flowers, mirror tile the house, concrete over the garden, use 9 traps and start catching some quality moths geezer!!!

Acknowledgements

Serious bit...the one and only serious bit too! I would like to thank the following people:

Barry Child: for his medical insight, valued help, and various book/magazine loans also for putting up with my various whinging about my personal problems...cheers mate – you deserve a medal. The fact that he will hate this bit goes to show what sort of bloke he is.

John Hollyer: for not batting an eyelid at my scathing comments aimed at him in last years report, even though in truth I didn't know the old fellow that well. A sense of humour has served you well mate.

From now on I am going to refer to you as “Jolly old Johnny Hollyer, the jolliest man in Jolly land!” Thanks also for your excellent poster.

Dylan Wrathall: for Perspex - surely one of the most precious of all commodities to a man in search of moths!

Craig Sammels: for wood-screws.

Francis Solly: for lifts to exotic moth locations, photocopying, A 4 sheets, expert moth i.d. and being the inspiration for much of the last five years reports.

Dave Gilshnan: for being nice to me.

Pete Forrest: for the Nature Reserve breeding bird information.

Dennis Sawyer: for help with the front cover and general computer wizardry ... what a geezer!

And all the rest of the people mentioned {or not mentioned?} in the report that provided records, targets for abuse and/or moral support and understanding during this past year...thanks.

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KEY TO INITIALS:

DB = DAVE BEADLE	GB = GIDEON BEALE	PC = PHIL CHARLTON	BC = DR BARRY CHILD,
PFY = PETE FINDLEY	PFT = PETER FORREST	DG = DAVE GILBERT	Ihr. = IAN HUNTER,
BM = BARRY MATLOCK	TP = TERRY “OOH ME FEET” PRESTON		IH = IAN HARDING
CS = CRAIG SAMMELS	AS = ALAN SESSIONS		FS = FRANCIS SOLLY
DW = DYLAN WRATHALL	JVDD = JOHN VAN DER DOLL. {I doo hope I've spilt this wright?}		
GM=THE GADGET MAN {AKA DENNIS SAWYER}			

I WILL END THIS YEARS RAG WITH THREE STUNNINGLY WRITTEN PIECES OF TOP NOTCH POETRY I WROTE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHILST IN THAT REFLECTIVE FRAME OF MIND THAT OVERWHELMS US TRUE NUTTERS FROM TIME TO TIME. THE FIRST IS SO FAR UNTITLED, THE SECOND DWELLS UPON THAT NORTHERN BAG OF WIND "TATTOOED TONY" AND THE THIRD ER ... WELL MAKE YOUR OWN MINDS UP?

UNTITLED

THERE IS A PLACE WHERE NOTHING GROWS,
YOU'LL FIND IT DOWN BENEATH MY TOES.
ALL VEGETATION WORN AWAY,
OUTSIDE THE HIDE AT PEGWELL BAY

YOU'LL SEE IT WHERE THE MUD POKES THROUGH,
THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIZE 12 SHOE,
THAT SHUFFLE BACK AND FORTH TO SEE -
THE HOPED FOR PEGWELL RARITY. {HA HA!}

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN NOT A MESS,
I USED TO TRUDGE ROUND AT FORENESS,
AND STODMARSH, DUNGE OR ELM-E-LY,
BEFORE PEGWELL STUCK ITS CLAWS IN ME...

SO NOW YOU'LL FIND ME - EVERY DAY,
OUTSIDE THE HIDE AT PEGWELL BAY.

AN ODE TO TATTOOED TONY

SILLY LITTLE - BILLY BALL,
HE AINT GOOD LOOKIN-
HE AINT THAT TALL.
HES MOVED TO PRESTON, AWAY FROM US ALL-
HAS UGLY LITTLE BILLY BALL.

AT STODMARSH WE MET HIM - YEARS AGO,
AND CHAT TO HIM, WHEN THINGS WERE SLOW.
BUT HOW WERE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW,
THAT HE WOULD NEVER EVER GROW!

HES ONE HALF OF THE TATTOOED MEN.
WE'D SEE HIM EVERY NOW AND THEN.
HE LOOKS LIKE BILL - OR IS IT BEN?
AND SMELLS LIKE WHATS BEEN STEPPED IN.

OF BILL DONT STAND DOWNWIND - AS HE -
HAS FLATULENCE WHICH CAUSE TO FLEE,
ANYBODY STU - PID - LY-
STANDING IN SMELLIN DISTANCE OF HE!

THERES THOSE THAT THINK IT A DISGRACE,
TO COVER OVER ONES BOAT-RACE.
SO BE PREPARED IF YOU SHOULD GRACE,
HIS UGLY, BEARDED, TATTOOED FACE!

AND WHY IS BILLY OH SO MOANEY?
A CHAT WITH HIM MAKES US ALL GROANEY,
AND WHY DOES HE CALL HIMSELF - TONY?
IT ALL SOUNDS LIKE A LOAD OF BALONEY!

NOW WE ALL LIKE BILL, DON'T GET ME WRONG,
AND ALL MISS HIM REGARDLESS OF THE PONG.
THOUGH HE'S UGLIER EVEN THAN KING KONG...
PLEASE COME BACK TO US - WHERE YOU BELONG!

SO IF YOU SEE LITTLE BILLY BALL,
PLEASE TELL HIM HE'S MISSED - BY ONE AND ALL.

GULLS: BY F. H.SOLLY.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULLS HAVE BRIGHT YELLOW LEGS
AND BEAKS – A BRIGHT ORANGE YELLOW.
CASPIAN GULLS – ARE SIMILAR – BUT SKINNIER.
A REALLY HANDSOME FELLOW.

MEDITERRANEAN GULLS, COME MOST FROM THE MED
WITH BRIGHT SHINY BILLS ON THEIR STUNNING BLACK HEADS.
FROM THEIR PURE WHITE WING TIPS TO THE TIP OF RED BEAK...
PERFECTION FOR SURE - AS HIGH OF - AS I CAN SPEAK.

MY FAVOURITE I THINK IS THE LESSER BLACKED-BACK?
WITH LESS BLACK ON IT'S BACK THAN MARINUS
THE ICELAND -THOUGH RARE, IF YOUR LUCKY THESE DAYS...
ARRIVES WHEN COLD WEATHERS UPON US.

THE LITTLE *IS* LITTLE, PETITE AND QUITE CUTE,
WHILE THE GLAUCOUS IS HUGE – A HULKING GREAT BRUTE,
THERE'S COMMONS AND HERRINGS - OF TWO DIFFERENT KINDS....
THEN OMISSUS – “THE ENIGMA” – I THINK YOU CAN FIND?

BLACK-HEADED GULLS - HAVE BLACK SHINY HEADS....
NO HANG ON A MINUTE – THEY'RE BROWN?
WHO NAMED THEM BLACK-HEADED?
SOME SILLY OLD FOOL?
WHO'S LET ALL THE BROWN-HEADED GULLS DOWN.

.....
ALL BIRD RECORDS/COMPLAINTS AND LAW SUITS TO:

PHIL MILTON
75, SAINT JOHNS AVENUE
RAMSGATE
KENT
CT12 6JE

E-MAIL MSCHUPJM@YAHOO.COM

Phone HONG KONG 335?????3421 {after free o'clock frank you very much}

I do apologise for the rather scientific approach I've taken towards this year's bird report. Perhaps next year I could add a little bit of humour to it? The Ed.

?? + ??? ? ? ????