

THE PEGWELL BAY BIRD REPORT 1998

Red-Throated Diver/Diver Sp.

Under-recorded. Most divers pass through too far out for positive identification but are obviously mainly Red-Throated. Birds noted as follows: 14 south on 14th Jan, 1 north on 17th Feb and 1 north on the 27th Feb. Then 2 south on 27th Nov, 2 north and 11 south on 6th Dec, 1 west on 22nd Dec, 2 south on 25th Dec and 3 south on the 26th Dec.

Black-Throated Diver

A summer plumaged bird was present offshore on the 24th of April. {PM}

Great Northern Diver

One flew south past Shellness point on the 6th November.

Great Crested Grebe

Regular offshore and were obviously present in largest numbers during the winter months. A peak count of over 100 birds were present offshore during December.

Red-Necked Grebe

One was present offshore on the 25th of August.

Slavonian Grebe

A summer plumaged bird offshore on the 26th of April. {DG, MW + CS}

Shag

An immature was present on 24th of February and an adult on the 23rd of December.

Cormorant

A common bird in the area with 10+ birds regularly present.

Fulmar

10+ pairs breed along the western under-cliff plus occasional 20+ birds present. {Spring}

Gannet

Commonly seen passing through in spring/autumn in small numbers. Up to 30 some days. {May}

Little Egret

Another increase in numbers this year. 2 singles in spring on April the 4th and 28th then none until 10th of July (a single bird) followed by 2 on the 27th of July. Birds were regularly seen from then on all through August, building up to 7 birds present on the 24th of August. Peak count occurred on the 25th of August when an incredible 11 birds were seen...the 7 still present from the previous day plus 4 flyovers! Present daily during September {2 to 3+ birds} with odd 1-2 present October/November. At least one bird wintered in the area (the first ever to do so) plus there were 2 birds present between the 22nd and 25th of December.

Great White Egret

A non-breeding bird was present on the mudflat for 25 minutes on the 17th of March before flying off high north. {PM} One was later reported flying south past Beachy Head earlier that same morning.

Grey Heron

A regularly seen bird – not regularly recorded!!!!

Spoonbill

One was present on the 4th of May. {DT, CS, PM etc.}

Bewicks Swan

One flew over in March {DW} and 2 flew through on November the 1st. {DG, MW} What they flew through I couldn't tell you?

Mute Swan

14 on 10th of April, 1 on 28th of April, 1 on 27th of June, 4 on 25th of July, 2 on 11th of October and 1 on 21st of December.

White-Fronted Goose

A flock of 6 flying south on the 31st of December - the only record.

Greylag Goose

One was present on the 3rd of February and 2 flew west on the 18th of April.

Canada Goose

43 on the 15th of September was a fantastic record for Pegwell ... if you like that sort of thing?

Brent Goose

Very, very under-recorded!

Peak month day-counts only: JANUARY: 3. FEBRUARY: 3. MARCH: 26. APRIL: 29.
MAY: 1. JUNE: 1. JULY: 1. AUGUST: ZILCH! SEPTEMBER: 29. OCTOBER: 200+
NOVEMBER: no counts taken.... good recording eh!! DECEMBER: 29.

Shelduck

Peak month day-counts are ...YAWN....is anyone interested anyway? I think I will put all the common ducks in a grid so we can ignore them all in one go!!

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jly</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
<i>Shelduck</i>	223	215	84	72	76	38	66	34	-	13	71	91
<i>Wigeon</i>	287	722	4	2	0	1	0	13	29	-	-	454
<i>Mallard</i>	337	416	14	2	-	1	17	95	176	175	-	396
<i>Gadwall</i>	-	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	-	2	-	1
<i>Pintail</i>	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	-	-	1	-	1
<i>Shoveler</i>	4	4	2	6	0	0	2	3	2	1	-	9
<i>Teal</i>	-	42	4	0	0	0	9	109	24	-	-	25
<i>Eider</i>	7	6	7	4	5	4	7	15	16	-	-	1

Garganey

A juvenile swimming around with teal on the 28th of August.

Pochard

Always scarce on the area - with 7 present on the 6th of December the only record.

Tufted Duck

5 on the 23rd of May and 1 on the 6th of November.

Scaup

4 flew north on the 6th of December.

Eider

A group of birds were present near the western under-cliff all year (see boring grid above) plus a few birds seen flying through during autumn -winter.

Common Scoter

Odd groups of birds were seen flying through...no large movements.

Velvet Scoter

A female was present offshore on the 29th of March.

Goldeneye

Singles present on the 6th and 15th of November and the 23rd of December.

Red-Breasted Merganser

Singles on 3rd and 8th of February then a pair present 13th to 17th of February. Also 2 more 18th to 21st of April, 1 on 29th of April, 3 on the 1st of July, 1 on 30th of August and 1 on 6th of November.

Goosander

Singles {all flying north} on February 1st and 3rd then December the 23rd.

Montagus Harrier

An adult female bird was present one day in August. {DG}

Hen Harrier

Regular January to March and October to December with a peak of 3 present on the 3rd of February. A juvenile was present on the 13th and the 14th of August which is a very early returning date for the area.

Marsh Harrier

An adult female was present on the 8th of January and a juvenile present for a week or so in mid August.

Migrant birds as follows...single birds unless stated:
20th of March, 28th of March, 14th of April, 25th of April, 16th of May, 11th of July, 5th of August, 8th of August, 11th of August, 12th of August, 22nd of August, 4 on 28th of August, 5th of September, 6th of September, 15th of September, 16th of September and 2 on the 1st of November. As usual most of the migrant birds were heading north/northwest with the odd one going west - inland.

Sparrowhawk

3 to 4+ birds were regularly present between January and March with regular spring migrants noted March through May although no large movements. {With a peak day count of 5 birds on 27th of March} The first returning bird on the 29th of August with perhaps up to 6+ birds present on and off during November/December?

Honey Buzzard

One flew north on 11th of September {PM} and 1 west on the 16th of September. {PM+CS}

Common Buzzard

1 hanging about {not literally} on the 3rd of February plus another reported during late February. Migrants as follows: 1 west on 24th of February, 3 north on 20th of March, 1 south on 27th of March, 1 west on 14th of April, 1 north 16th of May, 1 west 19th of September and 1 west on the 7th of November.

Rough-Legged Buzzard

An immature bird flew west on the 24th of February was then seen hunting over fields at Manston for about 30 minutes. {PM}

Osprey

1 northwest on the 28th of March, 1 west on the 18th of April, 1 present 5th to 6th of May and 1 present for 30 minutes before flying off west on the 12th of August.

Kestrel

2 pairs breed in the general area.

Hobby

Very low numbers reported. Only 3 single migrants during spring {on May 4th, 6th and 8th} then 3 singles during July, 2 singles, a pair and 3 during August, a single and a pair in September plus an amazingly late record on the 18th of October!

Peregrine

Regular in every month. A pair of birds were hanging about for most of the year which has made it impossible to tell how many other birds have passed through?

Merlin

Regular between January through April and October to December, with at least 2 or 3+ birds wintering in the area. The first autumn arrival on 17th of July (very early) and a dull male took up residence October to December...although perhaps I shouldn't talk about Dave Gilbert that way? 2 other males on 24th of September and a few days in November plus 3 different females present during December.

Grey Partridge

3 pairs present with odd double figure counts later on in the year.

Pheasant

2 or 3 birds about ...I suppose?? Er...who cares anyway?

Water Rail

Often heard calling from the spartina from September through till March.

PEAK MONTHLY DAY COUNTS OF COMMON WADERS

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jly</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
<i>Oystercatcher</i>	524	631	304	169	162	102	251	746	946	1031	931	464
<i>RingedPlover</i>	3	2	11	14	52	4	5	154	150	14	12	76
<i>Gdn Plover</i>	500	300	30	0	0	0	1	200	100	162	500	2300
<i>Grey Plover</i>	399	237	284	150	34	2	4	45	120	162	189	175
<i>Lapwing</i>	1500	1500	1000	?	35	40	106	150	231	800	1000	7000
<i>Knot</i>	127	59	42	40	16	0	3	44	79	82	85	166
<i>Sanderling</i>	76	111	204	107	4	12	54	4	8	52	53	51
<i>Dunlin</i>	391	1515	661	364	97	3	334	601	600	750	1000	1187
<i>Snipe</i>	2	?	7	3	0	0	0	1	3	28	120	61
<i>Bar T Godwit</i>	382	201	164	43	66	0	2	8	18	20	72	186
<i>Whimbrel</i>	-	-	-	30	1	1	25	21	2	-	-	-
<i>Curlew</i>	577	510	376	331	35	227	453	474	365	300	183	207
<i>Redshank</i>	200	208	183	224	10	14	292	335	125	250	250	250
<i>Greenshank</i>	-	-	-	2	2	2	15	17	31	6	-	-
<i>Turnstone</i>	32	9	62	15	7	-	5	5	6	12	143	104

Avocet

2 on March 15th- 17th, 1 on March 18th, 7 on March 21st, 4 on April 21st, 1 on May 8th, 2 on May 22nd, 2 on July 12th, 1 on July 20th, 2 on August 3rd, 1 on August 31st, 1 on September 20th and 15 on November 1st.

Collared Pratincole

Seen by some jammy, fat, big-nosed northerner early morning on the 12th of May and was obviously the bird present at Stodmarsh during the same period. {DT + JT}

Little-Ringed Plover

2 on March 31st, 2 on 22nd April, 1 on 3rd May, 1 on 6th June, 1 on 17th July, 1 on 28th July, 1 on 6th August and 2 on 13th August.

Kentish Plover

A male on 4th April, a female on 17th and 18th April, a male on 29th April, a male on 13th May then a female/juvenile type on 5th August.

Common Sandpiper

Reasonably regular between April then July to September with a peak day count of 10 birds present during July.

Curlew Sandpiper

No spring records then all autumn birds as follows:

JULY: 1 on 15th, 1 on 19th, 2 on 20th, 4 on 21st, 1 on 24th, 2 on 27th, 1 on 29th and 1 on 31st.

AUGUST: 1 on 1st, 2 on 2nd, 2 on 4th, 3 on 5th, 1 on 10th, 1 on 12th, 1 on 24th, 7 on 28th, 6 on 29th, 12 on 30th and 11 on 31st.

SEPTEMBER: 3 on 4th, 15 on 5th, 7 on 11th, 6 on 12th, 2 on 16th, 1 on 17th, 6 on 18th and 2 on 19th.

OCTOBER: 1 on 11th

NOVEMBER: 1 on 7th.

Purple Sandpiper

5 were on the rocks beneath the western under-cliff on the 22nd of December.

Little Stint

No spring records.

JULY: 1 on 21st. AUGUST: 2 on 28th, 3 on 29th and 3 on 31st.

SEPTEMBER: 7 on 5th, 30 on 11th, 6 on 12th, 2 on 16th, 11 on 17th and 2 on 19th.

OCTOBER: 2 on 6th, 3 on 14th, 2 on 16th and 1 on 19th.

Temmincks Stint

A stint seen flying off north in May was thought to be a Temmincks? {CS}

Ruff

JANUARY: 1 on 11th. FEBRUARY: 2 on 4th. JULY: 1 on 31st.
AUGUST: 1 on 10th, 3 on 24th, 1 on 25th, 1 on 26th, 2 on 28th and 1 on 31st. SEPTEMBER: 10 on 1st,
1 on 5th and 2 on 16th. OCTOBER: 1 on 14th, 2 on 23rd and 1 on 29th. NOVEMBER: 1 on 7th.

Black-Tailed Godwit

One wintered in the area and was seen between January 13th and February 17th.
MARCH: 3 on 14th and 1 on 20th. APRIL: 1 on 7th, 1 on 11th and 1 on 25th. MAY: 1 on 1st.
JULY: 1 on 14th and 1 on 18th. AUGUST: 1 on 19th, 1 on 24th and 1 on 25th. SEPTEMBER: 2 on 11th
OCTOBER: 1 on 17th. DECEMBER: 1 on 12th.

Spotted Redshank

One wintering bird was present in January and February.
APRIL: 1 on 17th-19th, 2 on 24th, 1 on 26th and 1 on 28th. MAY: 1 on 2nd and 3rd.
Then a terrible autumn when 2 – 3 birds were reported but none seen by any of our bunch.

Wood Sandpiper

One was present on 2nd of August and one flew over on the 28th of August.

Green Sandpiper

JULY: 1 on 17th and 2 on 31st. AUGUST: singles on 5th and 29th.

White-Rumped Sandpiper

A moulting adult was present on 29th and 30th of July. {*PM, DG, CS, FS etc.*}

Long-Billed Dowitcher

A juvenile bird was present in amongst a newly arrived flock of golden plovers on October the 15th.
{*DG, MW, PM, CS + FS*}

Jack Snipe

1 on 6th January, 1 on 17th October, 2 on 10th November and 1 on 6th December all flushed from
flooded pools in the salt marsh.

Great Skua

1 was present in the area on and off between 22nd and the 25th of October.

Arctic Skua

JUNE: 1 south on 26th. JULY: 2 on 25th. AUGUST: 2 on 3rd, 1 on 14th, 1 on 28th and 1 on 31st.
SEPTEMBER: 3 on 12th, 1 on 17th and 1 on 20th.

Long-Tailed Skua

A juvenile flew south past Shellness Point on 12th of September. {*PM*}

Mediterranean Gull

FEBRUARY: 1 on 14th. MARCH: 1 on 17th. APRIL: 1 on 21st. MAY: 1 on 24th.
JULY: 1 on 15th, 1 on 21st and 1 on 27th. AUGUST: 1 on 14th, 1 on 21st and 1 on 29th.
SEPTEMBER: 1 on 11th. OCTOBER: 1 on 1st, 2 on 23rd, 1 on 27th, 2 on 28th and 1 on 29th.
NOVEMBER: 1 on 7th and 1 on 27th. DECEMBER: 3 on 6th, 1 on 12th and 1 on 25th.

Little Gull

A 1st winter on 29th of September.

Black-Headed Gull

No counts taken.

Common Gull

No counts taken.

Kittiwake

No counts taken.

Sabines Gull

An adult bird was seen flying into the bay (from Sandwich) on October the 2nd. {*SBBO*}

Herring Gull

Again not counted ... but there were more than 7.

Yellow-Legged Gull *L.MICHAHELLIS*

1 on 7th February, 1 on 4th of April, 1 on 10th of July, 1 on 23rd of September, 1 on 7th November,
and 2 on 25th of December. Far fewer records than in past years.

Caspian Gull *L.CACHINNANS*

A 3rd year bird was present on the 30th of December. The first record for the area. {*CS, MW + PM*}

Glaucous Gull

A 1st/2nd year bird {?} on 3rd February and an adult present on 6th and 23rd of December.

Great Black-Backed Gull

No proper counts taken but 481 on 12th of December and 911 on 23rd of December were noted.

Lesser Black-Backed Gull

Again under-recorded but there were 97 present on the 30th of December.

Sandwich Tern

The wintering bird again present. {since 1992} Then decent counts as follows:
APRIL: 81 on 4th and 100 on 26th JULY: 250 on 14th, 150 on 15th, 350 on 17th, 246 on 18th, 270 on 20th, 354 on 21st, 226 on 24th, 130 on 25th and 420 on 28th. AUGUST: 385 on 2nd, 545 on 3rd, 750 on 5th and 401 on 19th. SEPTEMBER: 100 on 11th and 158 on 12th.

Common Tern

Highest numbers on: AUGUST: 57 on 3rd, 100 on 5th, 200 on 14th, 600 on 17th and 49 on 28th.
SEPTEMBER: 368 on 12th and 403 on 16th.

Arctic Tern

Scarce. Singles on 15th July, 2nd August, 14th August, 25th August and 2 on 12th September.

Roseate Tern

Wait for it ... a mind numbing 6 {yes six} on 14th July {PM, CS} then singles on 15th July and 25th July then in August further singles on the 5th and the 11th.

Little Tern

4 on 20th April the first ones then highest numbers recorded as follows:
15 on 26th April, 21 on 2nd August and 40 on 3rd August.

Black Tern

Awful numbers. Only 2 singles on July 17th and 28th plus 3 south on 12th September.

Auk {Species}

Fairly regular little black and white specks whizzing past the point...October – March.

Little Auk

A strange record of 2 sitting out on the mud before flying upriver on 1st November. {DG + MW etc}

Wood Pigeon

Nice fried up with a bit of garlic apparently! Unfortunately too boring to count.

Stock Dove

Slightly more interesting than wood pigeons but not interesting enough to count em!

Collared Dove

ZZZZZZZZZZ.....ZZZZZZZZZZ.....ZZZZZZ.....ZZZZ etc.

Turtle Dove

I actually like Turtle Doves...I didn't count any though!

Cuckoo

Yes...there were cuckoos present....none November-February though??

Ring-Necked Parrakeets

Up to 8 birds seen around the cliffsend area. I prefer to call them rong nicked paraquots?? Very noisy and very green.

Barn Owl

One reported hunting over the fields they buried all the skylarks nests last year {around February?} another near the hide...I cant remember when? Plus another seen hunting across the river on 3rd Feb.

Short-Eared Owl

JANUARY: 1 on 14th FEBRUARY: 1 on 3rd OCTOBER:1 on 5th, 1 on 11th, 3 on 14th + 1 on 27th
NOVEMBER: 1 on 6th and 1 on 23rd. A better total than of late.

Long-Eared Owl

1 in Stonelees {in the spring} then singles on 14th October and 6th November.

Swift

No counts taken.

Pallid Swift

One showing well in a large movement of swifts on the 14th of July, was present in the area for 10 to 15minutes before moving off {southwest} with the other swifts. {CS +PM}

Kingfisher

1 on 28th August, 2 on 12th September, 1 on 23rd September, 1 on 16th October and 1 on 6th December.

Bee-Eater

1 was seen flying over the car park {with Swifts} on 10th of June. {DW}

Green Woodpecker

A peak of around 4 birds?

Great-Spotted Woodpecker

1-2 birds knocking around the Stonelees area.

Skylark

R.I.P. If the theory of evolution were true Pegwell skylarks would develop shovel shaped bills and wear miners lamps on their heads! They don't so it cant be. Oh yeah..perhaps they fly off? {private dig at Kent Trust who re-top soiled the fenced off field in the breeding season!}

Woodlark

One was seen flying north on the 20th of March.

Shorelark

A group of 5 birds turned up in November followed by a single bird. Then on the 6th of December there were 9 birds across on Shellness Point. 4 birds wintered thereafter and were present almost every day then-onwards until the end of the year either on Shellness or the disused Hover pad.

Sand Martin

550 flew west and northwest on the 11th of July, 400 on the 15th of July and 10,000 plus birds flying south on the 17th of July.

House Martin

Did not count...so there!

Swallow

Not counted.

Golden Oriole

Adult males on May the 5th and May the 8th was thought to be the same bird on both occasions?
{PC + PF}

Rock Pipit

A few about.

Meadow Pipit

A few about.

Tree Pipit

A few about.

Richards Pipit

One was seen in October. {DW}

Pied Wagtail

A few about.

Grey Wagtail

A few about. Its getting a bit silly just saying "a few about" isn't it !

Yellow Wagtail

A few about. I just can't help myself?

Wren

Plenty about especially during the 1939-1945 conflict.

Duncock

More than one ... honest.

Robin

Yes, but still no sign of batman.

Nightingale

One was singing in Stonelees in April.

Bluethroat

Two white spot males were present along the sea wall on the 28th of March. {PM, DT, PC, CS etc}

Common Redstart

2 or 3 singles recorded in the autumn.

Whinchat

One spring record on the 11th of May plus quite a few in August and September peaking at 6 on the 11th of September.

Stone chat

Scarce. 1 present during February and a pair September and October the only ones reported.

Wheatear

Under recorded. Odd ones and twos were seen along the sea wall April-May and August-October.

Ring Ouzel

A rare winter record of one in stone lees on January the 6th plus 3 on May the 1st.

Blackbird

No counts taken.

Fieldfare

No counts taken.

Redwing

No counts taken.

Song Thrush

No counts taken.

Mistle Thrush

No counts taken.

Grasshopper Warbler

Two arrived on the 20th of April, with one staying until the 24th and the other present until the 1st of July, which very probably bred on the Country Park?

Cettis Warbler

One was present and heard singing {in the ditch near the main road} on the 11th of April. {PF}

Sedge Warbler

Regular around sedges. 10+ pairs breed.

Reed Warbler

Regular around reeds. A few pairs breed.

Garden Warbler

Regular around gardens.

Lesser Whitethroat

Regular around ... lesser? 1-2 pairs breed.

Whitethroat

A common migrant with 15+ pairs breeding.

Blackcap

Another common migrant with 2-3+ pairs breeding.

Willow Warbler

A few pairs breed in Stonelees.

Chiffchaff

A very common spring/autumn migrant with occasional bird wintering.

Goldcrest

No counts taken but present in reasonable numbers during the autumn months.

Spotted Flycatcher

One in Stonelees in April and another on the cliff-top on April the 28th.

Blue Tit

No counts taken.

Great Tit

No counts taken.

Long-Tailed Tit

2+ pairs breed with the odd double figure flock noticed.

Treecreeper

One was present on a few dates in Stonelees in the autumn.

Starling

Lots!

Jay

Present in small numbers...1-4 with occasional migrant.

Magpie

Regular double figure counts and occasional breeder.

Rook

An irregular migrant plus there is a newly formed Rookery adjacent to Stonelees.

Carrion Crow

Regular day counts of 50+ birds present.

Jackdaw

Occasional migrant flocks in the spring and autumn.

Raven

One flew northwest across mudflat and was last seen circling high up over Manston. One of the Dungeness birds possibly? Probably the first ever Pegwell record? {PM}

House Sparrow

No counts taken.

Chaffinch

No comment!

Brambling

A few flyovers in the spring and autumn.

Siskin

Regular spring and autumn migrants in small flocks.

Greenfinch

No counts taken.

Goldfinch

No counts taken.

Bullfinch

At least 2 pairs present on the reserve.

Redpoll

Odd ones in the autumn.

Twite

A flock of 30+ birds present in December.

Linnet

No counts taken.

Crossbill

8 were seen flying north on the 1st of April. {DG}

Corn Bunting

A peak count of 40 roosting birds during the winter months.

Yellowhammer

A little bit of cheeese...who thought that up? Odd records of 1 or 2 birds present.

Reed Bunting

About 5 pairs breed with 30 or so present in the autumn and winter.

Lapland Bunting

One was present near the bird hide on the 11th of December. {PM + JV}

Snow Bunting

Singles on the 6th and 21st of December plus a decent flock of 35 birds on the 25th of December.

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KEY TO INITIALS

PM = PHIL MILTON

JV = JOHN VEAL

CS = CRAIG SAMMELS

DW = DYLAN WRATHALL

FS = FRANCIS SOLLY

PF = PETE FORREST

PC + PHIL CHARLTON

MW = MARTYN WILSON

DT = DAVE TYSON

JT = JACKY TYSON

SBBO = SANDWICH BAY BIRD OBS.

