

THE PEGWELL BAY BIRD REPORT 1999

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

A juvenile {present in Ramsgate harbour December 1998 to March 1999} was present offshore on January 1st & March 5th.

RED THROATED DIVER / DIVER SPECIES

All identifiable Divers passing by offshore were Red-Throated – as is the norm.

	Jan	Feb	Mar		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
South	197	21	0		2	1	0	17
North	7	350	4		0	0	0	28

These account only for the divers seen moving through the area although they were regularly present offshore in small numbers during the winter months.

GREAT-CRESTED GREBE

Peak monthly day counts of birds present offshore:

JAN: 127 FEB: 217 MAR: 25 APR: 4 MAY: 2 JUN: 0 JUL: 2 AUG: 2 SEPT: 2 OCT: 6

NOV: 6 DEC: 30+

RED-NECKED GREBE

One flew south on 30th of January

LITTLE GREBE

A surprisingly uncommon bird at Pegwell. There was one in the river during January & another heard calling on 16th of October.

SLAVONIAN GREBE

I reported in January...I cant remember by whom???????

FULMAR

Peak monthly day counts:

JANUARY: 26 FEBRUARY: 11 MARCH: 24 APRIL: 9 pairs breeding along cliffs. MAY:

9 pairs JUNE: 9 pairs JULY: {no counts taken} AUGUST: 8 SEPTEMBER: 2 OCTOBER: 1

NOVEMBER: 2 DECEMBER: 6

GANNET

Birds passing through as follows:

JANUARY: 2 south on 2nd & 2 south on 25th APRIL: 2 south on 6th, 1 south on 7th & 1 south on 26th MAY: 2 south on 10th JUNE: 5 south on 6th JULY: 10 south on 10th & 86 south on 21st

AUGUST: 3 south on 6th, 20 south on 15th & 10 south on 18th SEPTEMBER: 1 north on 16th, 7 south on 18th & 5 south on 20th OCTOBER: 15 north on 1st & 1 south on 13th.

CORMORANT

5 – 10 + birds present every day of the year with 16 present on 16th April, 16 on 20th August and 29 on 16th October with regular continental {*Sinensis* types} birds seen - peaking on 8th April when a flock of 8 flew north.

SHAG

An adult bird was present offshore - on the 4th of April.

LITTLE EGRET

The first birds turned up on April 23rd {2 birds} followed by another pair present May 10th – 13th.

There was one more on 1st July before a steady influx from 18th of July through until October when birds were present almost every day in varying numbers. {Peak of 7 birds}

At a guess - perhaps 15 to 20 + different birds involved? Who knows? Who cares ???

Anyway at least 3 wintering birds this year were present on and off during November and December.

GREY HERON

A common bird in the area - with 1-5+ birds present most days of the year. The highest numbers present August to October - with a peak count of 25 birds seen by some old bloke....Oh ...what's his name.....you know....er ... that's it....Dave Giblet.... Oops I mean ... Dave Gilbert!

{P.S. the 25 herons were present one day in August}

WHOOPEE SWAN

One flew east on the 12th of October. {PM}

MUTE SWAN

MARCH: 10 on 5th & 2 on 31st. APRIL: a flock of 12 present on & off. MAY: 11 on 1st.
SEPTEMBER: An immature present 19th to 26th OCTOBER: 2 on 26th

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BEAN GOOSE

12 of the tundra race {*Rossicus*} were present in nearby fields we later found out – were also seen in flight from the reserve on January the 5th, 6th & 22nd. Also 6 flyovers {west} on 14th of December represent a good tally of this rarely seen goose in the area. {*DG, PF, PM etc*}

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

9 on 3rd of January, 20 on 22nd of January, 40 to 50 on December 24th and 18 on 27th of December all being flyovers heading either west or northwest.

GREYLAG GOOSE

Singles on 6th of February & July the 24th the only records.

CANADA GOOSE

4 flew west on the 12th of April then 10 present on the 24th of July.

BRENT GOOSE

No large numbers recorded all year. Monthly peak counts as follows:

JANUARY: 6. FEBRUARY: 5. MARCH: 22. APRIL: 7. MAY: 1.

Then:SEPTEMBER: 7 on 15th. OCTOBER: 70 on 6th. NOVEMBER: 44 on 4th. DECEMBER: 14 on 16th.

Diabological numbers though grossly under-recorded.

BARNACLE GOOSE

7 feral birds were seen flying north on 11th of May.

PEAK COMMON DUCK COUNTS ... ////////////////////

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shelduck	91	71	68	39	31	22	31	6	34	89	63	164
Wigeon	402	423	28	2	-	-	3	4	34	163	155	521
Mallard	286	235	51	5	5	8	10	168	148	306	226	191
Gadwall	5	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	5
Pintail	31	1	9	2	-	-	-	5	-	5	7	5
Shoveler	18	7	13	3	-	-	1	1	5	1	1	12
Teal	115	9	3	2	-	-	2	21	18	44	24	11
Eider	3	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	5

GARGANEY

A Juvenile/female type present on the 28th of September.

POCHARD

Only one ...on the 9th of December.

TUFTED DUCK

2 on 15th January, 2 on 23rd of January and 2 on 18th of September.

SCAUP

2 flew south on the 5th of February.

COMMON SCOTER

1 on 16th of January, 4 south on 5th February, 2 present 18th to 22nd of April, 20 south on 9th of May, 5 south on 21st of May, 40 south on 4th of August, 20 south on 14th of August, 1 south on 15th of August, 1 south on 30th of August, 60st on 6th of October, 18 on 4th of November, 5 north on 15th of November, 1 south on 24th of November, 1 north on 27th of November, 2 north on 14th of December & 1 south on 16th of December.

GOLDENEYE

1 on 9th of January, 1 on 10th of January {a different one} then: 1 on 16th of October, 6 on 12th of November, 2 on 15th of November, 1 on 21st of November & 2 on 21st of December.

All birds were present offshore.

EIDER

As well as the birds present { *see above* } birds were seen flying past as follows: 7 south on 17th January, 5 south on 26th January, 6 south on 29th January & 4 south on 8th December.

SMEW

A drake bird was present offshore on 30th of January. { *CS, DG + PM* }

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

JANUARY: 2 on 1st, 1 on 2nd & 3 on 29th. APRIL: 4 on 25th MAY: A pair present all month were even seen displaying though unfortunately no signs of breeding. The same pair was present until 1st of June. NOVEMBER: 1 on 15th & 1 on 21st

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GOOSANDER

1 south on 5th February plus single birds present on the 17th & 22nd of April & 21st of December.

RED KITE

An exceptional year for Red Kites. Two birds passed through on April 4th { *PM, MW + CS* } the first bird a juvenile that had been roaming the area for some weeks { seen at N.Foreland, Monkton, Grove St. Margaret's etc } followed later on that afternoon by an adult which flew west – ending up at Grove/Stodmarsh as well as being seen a couple of times before it reached there! The immature bird was also present again on April the 11th and 15th. Then yet another bird flew west on May 10th, which was recognisable as the bird seen earlier on in the month at Dungeness – it having extensive wing damage. { *CS* }

Easily a record amount of Kites for the area.

MONTAGUS HARRIER

One this year - a ringtail type { north } on 14th of May. { *PM* }

HEN HARRIER

Regular between October and March/April. Highest { definite } day count 3 birds, but its difficult to be sure as most of the birds are ringtails and are hard to individualize.

In the first part of the year the last record was on 11th of April with the first returning bird on the 27th of September.

MARSH HARRIER

Single migrant birds { *unless stated* }

APRIL: 6th, 7th, 11th, 2 on 16th & 25th. MAY: 3rd, 5th, 8th & 25th. AUGUST: 3rd, 3 on 14th, 2 on 15th & 25th. SEPTEMBER: 1 on?? & 1 present 26th / 27th. DECEMBER: 1 on 28th { recognisable as the wintering Stodmarsh bird with extensive white mantle / wings }

SPARROWHAWK

An increasingly common bird in the area, which makes picking out the spring and autumn migrants a little difficult. Most common during the winter months { up to 8+ different birds present in January? } with 1 or 2 generally present most days in the months September to March.

Best migrant day was 12 on 4th of April.

HONEY BUZZARD

1 north on 8th of May, { *PM* } 1 north on 5th of June { *PM* } then another north on 30th of August. { ?? }

COMMON BUZZARD

An exceptional spring with records as follows:

MARCH: 1 on the 5th and a record 13 birds on the 20th that included a flock of 7 flying west { *CS + PM* } during a period of intense buzzard movement over Thanet. { A flock of 6 over Ramsgate { *PB* } and 22 past N.Foreland on the same day { *FS* } }

APRIL: 2 on 2nd, 1 on 4th, 4 on 7th, 4 on 11th, 4 on 13th, 1 on 14th & 4 on 16th.

Far fewer autumn records as is normal.

OCTOBER: singles on 4th and 7th. DECEMBER: 1 on???? Date not known.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD

One flew north on 11th of April. { *MW* }

OSPREY

Another good year with 1 west on 14th of May, 1 southwest on 21st of July, 1 present on the 17th and 18th of September and another present briefly on 20th of September before flying off south

KESTREL

2 { successful } breeding pairs plus occasional migrant and wanderers etc. Present daily in small numbers.

HOBBY

Single birds unless stated:

APRIL: 22nd & 25th MAY: 1st, 2nd, 5th, 2 on 8th, 11th, 13th, 2 on 21st, 2 on 22nd, 23rd, 29th & 31st.
 JUNE: 2 on 6th. JULY: 15th, 17th & 23rd. AUGUST: 2 on 7th, 8th, 14th, 2 on 18th, 2 on 19th, 26th & 31st.
 SEPTEMBER: 2 on 1st, 3rd, 20th, 24th & 3 on 26th. OCTOBER: 1 on 1st.

PEREGRINE

A pair were present January and February with a single bird present March and April then a migrant bird on 10th April. A single present on 7th May then a gap until August through to the end of September when up to 3 + birds showed almost every day.

Amazingly scarce from then on with singles on: October 9th then December 6th, 7th, 10th & 11th. This represents a poor year in this area for this specie.

MERLIN

JANUARY: 1 - 4 present in area {seen most days} FEBRUARY: 2 present. MARCH: 2 present.
 APRIL: 2 present. MAY: singles on 1st, 9th & 11th. JUNE: An unusual record of 1 present on 6th.
 AUGUST: singles on 11th, 17th & 25th. SEPTEMBER: 1 - 2 birds in area. OCTOBER: 3 + birds
 NOV: Scarce. Singles on 5th, 23rd + 30th. DEC: singles on 10th, 11th, 14th, 20th plus a male on 28th/29th.

RED- LEGGED PARTRIDGE

A very unusual local record. 4 birds turned up on 4th may then no records until June when up to 6 birds were present on & off. These dates coincide with birds turning up out of the blue in Minster too!

GREY PARTRIDGE

3 pairs in the area {with some successful breeding} 9 present during August and September with a peak count of 26 birds {reserve / surrounding fields} during October.

PHEASANT

2 - 3 birds were present most days on the Country Park.

QUAIL

1 heard calling from rough ground behind the reserve on 23rd June. {PM}

WATER RAIL

Regularly heard calling from the salt marsh in autumn / winter - plus occasional brief sightings. Recorded from 20th of September through to mid March, at least 3 birds near the hide area - so there must be many more present.

MOORHEN

One was heard calling on 2nd of July.

COMMON WADER PEAK DAYCOUNTS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oystercatcher	750	558	307	248	265	191	290	552	913	882	511	541
RingedPlover	7	22	13	43	0	23	21	159	150	15	70	15
GoldenPlover	337	1952	20	40	2	1	4	10	200	1000	5000	1556
Grey Plover	337	?	436	105	17	8	2	14	34	124	193	185
Lapwing	10000	3100	59	17	10	49	72	122	250	1500	2500	10000
Turnstone	337	331	136	73	7	1	3	88	7	120	54	121
Sanderling	91	75	108	64	24	6	53	350	32	15	49	32
Knot	139	157	278	57	37	2	3	26	33	8	193	262
Dunlin	1606	1512	1006	54	122	14	141	350	231	270	610	984
Curlew	501	517	238	384	23	59	350	324	308	324	154	121
Whimbrel	-	-	-	58	75	2	18	116	6	1	-	-
Bar-t. Godwit	275	321	295	236	3	5	6	355	35	47	91	124
Redshank	385	306	159	194	14	24	193	300	150	150	150	117
Greenshank	-	-	-	9	9	4	15	370	16	10	1	-
Com Sand	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	11	-	1	-	-
Snipe	11	17	34	4	1	0	0	2	7	25	48	62

AVOCET

JANUARY: 2 on 22nd. FEBRUARY: 0 MARCH: 0 APRIL: 1 on 4th and 5th, 1 on 20th, 4 on 22nd, 1 on 24th & 1 on 8th. MAY: 1 ON 21st & 10 on 27th JUNE: 1 (no date) JULY: singles on 6th & 10th. SEPTEMBER: 2 on 4th. OCTOBER: 2 on 5th & 1 on 13th - 15th. NOVEMBER: 1 on 15th - 16th. DECEMBER: 1 on 22nd - 26th.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

MARCH: 1 on 31st. APRIL: Singles on 2nd & 5th. MAY: 2 on 5th & 1 on 13th. JUNE: 1 on 5th. JULY: singles on 2nd, 4th, 9th & 3 on 16th. SEPTEMBER: 1 on 2nd.

KENTISH PLOVER

In the spring: A female on April 1st then 2 different males on 21st to 22nd & 30th of April plus a third male on 4th of May, which represents an average amount of spring overshoots.

A slightly better than average autumn with 1 on 17th September & 2 more on 20th of September.

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER

A near fully summer plumaged bird present out on the mudflat on the 18th of August was thought to be a Pacific Golden Plover. {PM}

CURLEW SANDPIPER *single birds unless stated:*

JULY: 9^h, 24th, 30th & 3 on 31st. AUGUST: 1st, 3 on 3rd, 4th, 120 on 7th, 8th, 18th, 4 on 19th, 15 on 20th, 10 on 21st, 10 on 22nd, 23rd, 2 on 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th & 3 on 30th. SEPTEMBER: 18 on 1st, 23 on 2nd, 12 on 3rd, 9 on 4th, 11 on 5th, 11 on 6th, 7 on 8th, 4 on 15th, 10 on 24th, 20 on 25th, 24 on 26th, 6 on 27th, 4 on 29th & 7 on 30th. OCTOBER: 6 on 1st...phew.... I'm glad that lots finished!!!!

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PURPLE SANDPIPER

2 on 30th of January, 3 on 6th of February & 1 on 9th of October - all present in the high tide wader roost near the western under cliff.

LITTLE STINT

1 on 5th & 4 on 9th of May in the spring then in the autumn:

JULY: 1 on 22nd. AUGUST: 43 birds passed through with a peak of 26 on 7th.

SEPTEMBER: 2 on 14th, 1 on 17th & 5 on 23rd OCTOBER: singles on 1st & 6th.

TEMMINCK'S STINT

A juvenile bird was present on 20th of August. {PM, CS, FS etc}

PECTORAL SANDPIPER

One was present on the 15th of September. {PM}

RUFF

JANUARY: singles on 2nd & 26th FEBRUARY: 2 on 2nd MARCH: 1 on 21st APRIL: 1 on 21st & 3 on 30th. AUGUST: 14 on 7th, 5 on 8th & 1 on 25th. SEPTEMBER: 1 on 25th - 26th & 2 on 30th OCTOBER: 1 on 12th, 1 on 15th & 3 on 29th NOVEMBER: 1 late in month

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

MAY: 1 on 1st, 3 on 7th, 2 on 9th, 1 on 12th - 15th & 1 on 27th - 28th. JULY: 1 on 13th & 3 on 23rd. AUGUST: 1 on 7th, 4 on 11th, 1 on 13th & 2 on 18th.

SPOTTED REDSHANK

At least 2 birds winter in the area and are seen regularly November through March every year of late. (Occasionally 3 birds) then migrants on:

APRIL: 1st, 22nd, 25th & 26th. MAY: 1 on 1st. JUNE: 1 on 19th and 20th. AUGUST: 22 on 7th, 14 on 8th, 1 on 11th, 1 on 14th, 2 on 15th & singles on 18th, 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th. SEPTEMBER: singles on 5th, 20th, 23rd, 29th & 30th. OCTOBER: 1 on 1st.

3 birds wintered in the area and showed from October 26th through until the end of the year.

WOOD SANDPIPER

All records in August - with 1 on 9th, a flock of 11 (flyovers) on 10th exceptional then 1 on 20th.

GREEN SANDPIPER

MAY: 1 on 20th JULY: 1 on 19th & 1 on 24th. AUGUST: 2 on 1st & 2 on 7th SEPTEMBER: 1 on 8th & 1 on 15th. OCTOBER: 1 on 8th.

MARSH SANDPIPER

One on August 11th flying around with a flock of greenshank (the Monks Wall bird) was a first for the area. {PM}

WOODCOCK

1 on 23rd of October the only one reported.

JACK SNIFE

All around the salt marsh pools on: JANUARY: 22nd & 26th. MARCH: 1 on 9th Then returning birds on: OCTOBER: 3 on 24th & 1 on 25th NOVEMBER: 1 on 4th DEC: 1 on 9th.

GREY PHALAROPE

1 flew south on 29th of December. {PM}

GREAT SKUA

1 flew south on 25th of September.

POMERINE SKUA

1 north on 27th on April & a probable north on 1st of October?

ARCTIC SKUA

3 north on 25th of April in the spring then birds offshore on 6th of August, 2 on 14th August, 1 on 18th August & 1 on 20th September.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL

JANUARY: 1 on 30th MARCH: 1 on 5th, 1 on 7th, 1 on 20th & 1 on 31st
 APRIL: 1 on 2nd, 4 on 4th, 2 on 22nd & 2 on 24th. MAY: 2 on 11th, 1 on 13th & 1 on 18th JUNE: 1 on 4th
 JULY: 1 on 1st, 3 on 19th, 1 on 20th & 1 on 25th AUGUST: 1 on 5th, 1 on 8th, 1 on 16th, 1 on 17th, 1 on 20th, 1 on 22nd, 1 on 23rd & 1 on 25th. SEPTEMBER: 2 on 18th, 1 on 27th. OCTOBER: 1 on 11th & 1 on 16th. NOVEMBER: 1 on 21st. DECEMBER: 1 on 11th.

LITTLE GULL

JANUARY: 1 south on 16th. MARCH: 1 present on 30th. MAY: 1 on 1st. Then none until:
 OCTOBER: 1 on 22nd, 3 on 24th / 25th & 1 on 27th.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

No one could be bothered to count them.... including me! Its safe to say peak counts were somewhere between 1 & 47 million.

COMMON GULL

Again largely ignored ... certainly no counts taken.

KITTIWAKE

Seen all months of the year in small numbers but most frequent in the winter months. No large movements noted with a peak of only 16 north on 25th of April.

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HERRING GULL

Not counted.....so there!!

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL_ {L. Michahellis}

Western race birds noticed on the following dates:

JANUARY: 1 on 16th & 1 on 25th. APRIL: 1 on 1st, 1 on 2nd & 1 on 10th. MAY: 1 on 7th, 1 on 8th & 1 on 12th. JUNE: 1 on 31st. SEPTEMBER: 2 on 16th, 2 on 18th & 1 on 26th. OCTOBER: 1 on 22nd & 1 on 24th. NOVEMBER: 2 on 4th DECEMBER: 1 on 7th

CASPIAN (TYPE) GULL {L. Cachinnans}

A number of strange looking yellow-legged gulls have turned up in 1999 and I have called them Caspian type gulls only because there are apparently two races...hence the caution. The birds are however very distinctive with elongated body shape, long head / billed, very long legged also paler mantled with reduced black on wingtips when compared with the western race birds and are sometimes a bit smaller – though not always? Two odd looking birds – an adult on 25th of January (too heavily built + short legged) and a 3rd summer on 25th of July (not leggy enough? and at a funny time of the year?) were perhaps a bit dodgy but did show signs of Cachinnans (especially the 3rd year bird) and did not pass for L.Michahellis??? So what were they then...I don't know?? Anyway far better candidates were noted as follows: An adult on November the 13th {PM} with 3 adults present on 15th of December {CS} with one lingering until the 16th December. {PM}

GLAUCOUS GULL

An adult was seen on three dates in January {present since Dec.98} a 1st winter in January {exact day long since forgotten} a 2nd winter on 28th March and a 1st winter on December 22nd.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL peak day counts:

JAN: 500+ FEB: 16 MAR:13 APR: 12 MAY: 33 JUN: 51 JUL: 61 AUG: 70 SEPT: 346
 OCT: 354 NOV: 553 DEC: 1000+

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

JAN: 80 FEB: 13 MAR: 29 APR: 26 MAY: 23 JUN: 8 JULY: 12 AUG: 20 SEPT: 31 OCT: 19
 NOV: 75 DEC: 16

SANDWICH TERN

Common from late March / April to the end of October / November with the largest movements mid July to September. Also of note the returning wintering bird present since 1992 assuming it is the same bird.

Movement started on 1st April and ended some time around 2nd October with the wintering bird seen on and off until the end of the year. Also 2 birds present on the 24th & 30th of November lead us to think that there were perhaps 2 wintering birds but these were the only winter dates that more than one bird was reported on so perhaps they were just late birds? Records of all 20+ spring & 50+ autumn day counts as follows:

JANUARY: 4 singles. FEBRUARY: 1 single. MARCH: 0 APRIL: 22 on 1st, 20 on 4th, 70 on 5th, 113 on 6th, 187 on 7th, 127 on 10th, 141 on 16th, 113 on 30th, 250 on 21st, 161 on 22nd, 80 on 24th, 513 on 25th, 120 on 26th and 91 on 27th. MAY: 60 on 3rd, 57 on 4th, 70 on 6th, 100 on 6th, 112 on 8th, 84 on 11th & 54 on 23rd. JUNE: 2 on 1st, 21 on 6th and 23 on 11th. JULY: 90 on 10th, 169 on 16th, 112 on 17th, 304 on 20th, 297 on 21st, 317 on 23rd, 293 on 24th, 257 on 25th, 220 on 30th and 156 on 31st. AUGUST: 172 on 3rd, 189 on 4th, 167 on 5th, 226 on 7th, 150 on 8th, 263 on 9th, 50 on 10th, 100 on 12th, 120 on 13th, 316 on 14th, 120 on 15th, 84 on 16th, 150 on 18th, 141 on 19th, 36 on 20th, 25 on 21st, 150 on 22nd, 144 on 24th, 200 on 25, 124 on 27th and 100 on 30th. SEPTEMBER: 150 on 1st, 100 on 4th, 30 on 15th, 65 on 23rd and 37 on 24th. OCTOBER: 10 on 1st and 2 on 2nd. NOVEMBER: 1 on 16th, 2 on 24th, 1 on 29th and 2 on 30th. DECEMBER: singles on 17th and 27th.

COMMON TERN

From: APRIL: 1 on 5th, 15 on 21st, 26 on 25th, 27 on 26th and 15 on 30th. MAY: 8 on 2nd, 3 on 6th, 15 on 7th, 12 on 8th and 18 on 9th. JUNE: 4 on 6th and 8 on 12th. JULY: 36 on 20th, 53 on 21st, 28 on 23rd, 10 on 24th and 16 on 25th. AUGUST: 2 on 3rd, 2 on 4th, 8 on 5th, 31 on 7th, 176 on 8th, 25 on 9th, 12 on 13th, 48 on 14th, 20 on 15th, 63 on 16th, 500+ on 18th, 31 on 19th, 27 on 20th, 33 on 21st, 704 on 22nd, 23 on 24th, 30 on 25th, 11 on 27th and 14 on 30th. SEPTEMBER: 150 on 1st, 46 on 4th and 8 on 15th.

ARCTIC TERN

From: APRIL: 4 on 21st, 5 on 24th and 12 on 26th. MAY: 2 on 6th and 3 on 8th.

Then returning birds from:

JULY: 1 on 20th, 1 on 23rd, 1 on 24th and 2 on 25th. AUGUST: 1 on 3rd, 1 on 7th, 1 on 14th, 2 on 16th, 2 on 17th, 2 on 18th and 10 on 23rd. SEPTEMBER: 200+ on 1st, 2 on 4th, 1 on 18th and 3 on 29th.

OCT: 1 on 13th.

This represents a very good year for this specie in this area.

ROSEATE TERN:

A very average year with single birds on: 1st of May, 13th of July, 20th of July and 23rd of July.

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BLACK TERN:

In the spring 1 on 30th April then: JULY: 1 on 20th. AUGUST: 1 on 3rd, 2 on 6th, 71 on 7th, 4 on 8th, 1 on 9th, 1 on 14th, 1 on 18th, 1 on 22nd, 1 on 24th and 1 on 28th. SEPTEMBER: 1 on 1st, 1 on 5th and 1 on 28th.

LITTLE TERN

Regular from mid – late April through to September (October) with attempted breeding normally ruined by the first high tide or sometimes disturbance. Birds in the area or passing through as follows:

APRIL: 4 on 21st, 9 on 22nd, 21 on 24th, 9 on 27th & 7 on 30th.

MAY: 11 on 2nd, 118* on 3rd, 8 on 4th, 10 on 6th, 8 on 7th, 23 on 8th, 3 on 9th & 3 on 25th. JUNE: 2 on 6th.

JULY: 7 on 10th, 12 on 19th, 7 on 20th, 7 on 23rd & 9 on 30th. AUGUST: 9 on 3rd, 9 on 4th, 34 on 5th, 33 on 7th, 5 on 13th, 5 on 18th & 4 on 24th. SEPTEMBER: 2 on 1st & 6 on 15th.

* *The 118 on 3rd of May were an exceptional number for the area these days.*

AUK SPECIES

Most auks are seen at range flying past out at sea and very few can be positively identified. No small auks were noticed this year {as normal} and all the birds close enough to see properly were guillemots except for one Razorbill...again as normal! Regular from December to February in small numbers.

WOOD PIGEON

Following the wisecrack in last years report about pigeons being nice fried up with a bit of garlic I received a few complaints. I do unreservedly apologise as they are lovely little birds and I have since learned they are far better marinated in yoghurt overnight and slow cooked on a low gas for two hours – served with a side salad garnished with coriander!

STOCK DOVE

Lets be honest who in their right mind takes any notice of pigeons? I certainly don't and browsing through every-one elses records nor does anyone else!!!

COLLARED DOVE

//////////////////////.....//////////////////////.....//// e.t.c.

TURTLE DOVE

Present from 1st April to September 25th with 4 pairs breeding on the reserve.
Migrants peaked with 10 birds on 1st May.

CUCKOO

1st one on 22nd April with rather poor numbers recorded after.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET

Very noisy, unwelcome, green, foreign scum some might say while others might quite like them for some reason? Anyway- regular on the north end of the reserve increasing this year to over 30 birds!!!!
Whats going on?????

SHORT-EARED OWL

No wintering birds this year-only 2 migrants both on 25th October.

LONG-EARED OWL

Singles on 10th & 25th of April.

LITTLE OWL

1 was in Stonelees on 24th of July.

SWIFT

The first one on 6th May and none recorded after September. Peak movement was on 15th July when between 3-5000 or so were seen moving south.

ALPINE SWIFT

One flew north on 3rd May...LOVELY!!! {PM}

KINGFISHER

1 on 1st of January, 1 on August 12th & 20th then 2 + birds present all through September.
Singles followed on: October 25th & 29th, November 13th & 27th and December 23rd.

WRYNECK

1 present in stone lees on September 30th. {PM + MWn}

GREEN WOODPECKER

A pair breed in the area (2 young) with a peak count of 6 birds present in the autumn months.

GREAT-SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Up to 3+ birds present in the area, though irregular.

SKYLARK

4 pairs bred with a peak count of 70+ birds present in late November.

WOODLARK

One was present (eventually off south) on 16th April. {PM}

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SHORE LARK

The 4 wintering birds {present since November 1998} were seen most days between the 1st January and 4th of April on Shellness point plus 2 different ones on the Hoverpad / north beach area between April 21st to 27th. Also an autumn record of one present on November 13th.

SAND MARTIN

First one on 2nd of April and the last on 10th October. No large movements this year but two pairs nested for the first time in the area.

HOUSE MARTIN

Present from 6th April – late October. A large movement of approx. 15,000 birds were seen moving west on 7th of October.

SWALLOW

20,000 north on 25th September the biggest movement noted with birds seen in the area from 1st April to late October.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW

An exceptional spring with 2 records one on 2nd April {CS, MW + PM} and another on 28th May. {PM}

ROCK PIPIT

A regular winter visitor with 4 or 5 birds normally present. 21 on 10th December an exceptional number for the area.

WATER PIPIT

1 on 6th October {PM} and 1 (or 2?) on 25th October {CS + PFY} were unusual records for Pegwell.

TREE PIPIT

2 on 9th of April, 3 on 14th of May, 2 on 26th of September and 1 on 6th of October.

MEADOW PIPIT

A large movement of 600 one day in October the best day.

RED-THROATED PIPIT

A flyover on 29th October {CS} is probably the first record for the area?

RICHARDS PIPIT

1 was present on 8th of October. {PM + PF}

PIED WAGTAIL

Another common bird largely ignored. 1 pair probably bred in the area.

WHITE WAGTAIL

Regular from mid March to May in small numbers.

YELLOW WAGTAIL

Present from 2nd April – mid September with a few pairs breeding in surrounding farm fields.

GREY WAGTAIL

Singles on: 8th April, 11th April, 18th April, 9th Oct., 2 on 16th Oct, 1 on 21st Oct. & 4 on 22nd Oct.

WAXWING

3 west on 16th November {PM} and 2 present in stone lees from the 16th to 19th of November.
{EVERYONE}

WREN

12 breeding pairs on the reserve.

DUNNOCK

15 breeding pairs in the area.

ROBIN

9 breeding pairs in the area.

NIGHTINGALE

1 in Stonelees on 9th of April plus 1 singing on edge of reserve for a couple of weeks during May.
{Breeding???

REDSTART

Singles on: 10th April, 14th April, 31st August, 2nd September & 6th October.

BLACK REDSTART

1 on 30th April the only record.

WHINCHAT

No spring records but regular August and September with a peak count of 9 on 3rd Sept.

STONECHAT

2 present in March then a peak of 5 in early December with 2+ staying until the end of the year.

WHEATEAR

An awful year. A terrible spring with a peak of only 3 on 3rd April and in relative terms an even worse autumn with only the odd single bird with a peak of.... wait for it.... 2 on 18th of August!!!!!!

RING OUZEL

Singles on 9th & 10th April in the spring (2 birds) then in October birds on 6th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 2 on 19th, 21st, 2 on 22nd and 3 on 25th.

BLACKBIRD

14 pairs breed around the reserve.

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FIELDFARE

Very poor numbers. A peak count of only 30 in November although there must have been more....surely?

REDWING

100+ on a few days October to November {a peak of approx. 200+} with regular double figure counts during January to March and again in December.

SONG THRUSH

14 pairs bred – present in small numbers away from the breeding months.

MISTLE THRUSH

1 or 2 pairs breed in the area.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Singles on 24th and 30th April – early June, the long staying bird probably breeding?

SEDGE WARBLER

Present April 5th to October 6th with 15 pairs breeding on the reserve.

MARSH WARBLER

Singing males in the sunken garden on 19th May {CS,PM} and in Stonelees on the 5th June. {PF, PM, CS + MW}

REED WARBLER

2 + pairs bred on the reserve.....that's all I have to say!

DARTFORD WARBLER

1 found on the reserve on 21st November stayed until the end of the year. {*PF and everyone*}

GARDEN WARBLER

1st one on 25th September with no breeding noticed this year.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

Present from 27th April to 10th Oct. 1+ pair bred.

WHITETHROAT

Present from 4th April with 22 pairs breeding on the reserve.

BLACKCAP

4+ pairs bred.

WILLOW WARBLER

A few pairs breed. No records submitted.

CHIFFCHAFF

2 pairs bred in the area with at least 2 birds wintering. {November to December}

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER

One present in Stone lees on October 24th. {*CS, MW*}

PALLAS WARBLER

One in the sunken garden on October 16th. {*DB, PM etc.*}

GOLDCREST

8 – 10+ birds present Nov. – Dec. with a peak of 20 – 30 birds one day in the autumn the only records submitted.

FIRECREST

Singles on: 14th, 16th & 21st – 26th of October.

PIED FLYCATCHER

One on 3rd of September and another on 5th September.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

One spring record on 7th May then in the autumn singles on 29th August, 31st August, 3rd September and 2 on 7th September.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER

A juvenile Present in Stone lees between 21st and 23rd of October. {*PF and everyone*}

BLUE TIT

8 breeding pairs present.

GREAT TIT

7 pairs bred in the area.

SNOT-BAG TIT WARBLER

A nocturnal visitor to the reserve. Only recently discovered in the area by accident when a dog-walker dropped half a coconut . . . the tit warblers favourite food. When the coconut was missed the dog walker returned – by chance at dusk on the 24th of July – right in the middle of the tit warblers migration period, from its breeding grounds three miles north of junction 14 on the M25 on its way to Mwangi in western Africa. Anyway as Mr. Theeskins – an accountant from Margate approached the area where he had dropped his coconut the day before he heard a strange gurgling sound somewhere ahead of him. Due to poor visibility at that hour {3: 47 a.m.} He crept within 9 feet of this rare and often overlooked visitor – even observing it sucking up pieces of coconut through its 2-foot proboscis before it flew away with to quote Mr. Theeskins “ a startled expression on its face” Exciting stuff!!! For the next two weeks the paths of the reserve were strewn with coconuts but unfortunately no more tit warblers were seen.

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COAL TIT

One on the 18th of October the only record.

LONG-TAILED TIT

3 pairs bred around the reserve with up to 20 birds present during the winter months.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE

One present in Stonelees between 21st to 23rd of October - the first record for many years. {*PF, DW, PM etc*}

STARLING

Completely ignored.

GOLDEN ORIOLE

A singing male was heard on the 5th of June. {*PM*}

MAGPIE

One pair bred with 10 or so present most days. A count of 43 birds on one day during November was exceptional for the area and was certainly due to migration???

JACKDAW

Occasional migrants – mainly in the spring plus up to 4 birds regularly seen flying south to roost September to December.

CARRION CROW

1 pair bred with 20+ present most days.

HOODED CROW

One flew north on December 29th the first record for many years. {PM, BM etc }

ROOK

Rarely seen on the reserve with only the odd flyover seen.

TREE SPARROW

Singles on April 24th, May 6th and June 6th then 11 on October 25th and 1 on October 19th.

HOUSE SPARROW

Often overlooked. A peak count of 79 birds present during March.

CHAFFINCH

4 pairs bred with only 3 or 4 birds present in the winter months. No spring/autumn migration counts taken.

BRAMBLING

Scarce. 1 on April 3rd and 2 on October 15th the only records.

SERIN

1 west on October 22nd. {PM}

SISKIN

Under-recorded. Regular small flocks seen flying over September to November.

GREENFINCH

7 breeding pairs with very few on the reserve in the winter with a peak of only 9 birds!

BULLFINCH

2 breeding pairs with up to 6 present in autumn/winter.

GOLDFINCH

6 breeding pairs with a spring peak of 32 birds present in April with 400+ birds present on October 8th and 9th.

REDPOLL

6 on October ????

TWITE

The first ones turned up on November 24th {7 birds} which were seen on a few dates. The flock increased to 26 birds on December 6th with birds regular in varying amounts present until the end of the year.

LINNET

21 pairs bred with peak spring counts of 54 in May then in the autumn 150 on October 9th, and scarce during November and December.

CROSSBILL

2 north on April 10th.

CORN BUNTING

A bit scarcer this year with one pair breeding and a peak count of 27 present in December.

YELLOWHAMMER

Occasionally present in autumn /winter with a peak of 4 on November 23rd.

REED BUNTING

3 pairs bred. 100+ were present on October 25th, which is a good number for Pegwell.

SNOW BUNTING

Mostly seen across on Shellness point. Day counts as follows: FEBRUARY: 1 on 6th.
NOVEMBER: 1 on 4th, 1 on 12th, 1 on 15th, 1 on 16th, 3 on 21st, 10 on 23rd, 3 on 26th and 16 on 27th.
DECEMBER: 1 on 21st.

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YIPEE IT'S FINISHED!

THE AUTHOR WOULD HEREBY LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR SUPPLYING
THEIR HELP IN SUPPLYING RECORDS FOR THIS REPORT.

ALAN FROM DEAL. {Allan Sessions}
MARTIN WILSON.
BARRY CHILD.
DAVE GILBERT.
CRAIG SAMMELS.
PHIL CHARLTON.
PETE FINDLEY.
DYLAN WRATHALL.
JOHN VEAL
TONY JOLLEY.
JOHNNY WEBSPER.
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN.
PETER FORREST.
FRANCIS SOLLEY.

.....
KEY TO INITIALS:

DW = DYLAN WRATHALL
PF = PETE FORREST
PFY = PETER FINDLEY
DB = DAVE BEADLE
CS = CRAIG SAMMELS
JM = JOSHUA MILTON
MW = MARTYN WILSON
DG = DAVE GILBERT
MW_n = MICK WILKINSON
BM = BARRY MATLOCK
FS = FRANCIS SOLLY
PM = PHIL MILTON
PB = PHIL BERET
JMH = JAMES MARSHAL HENDRIX