

## **Feb 2007 Avian Sightings - Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory**

### **28th**

A flock of 120 Chaffinches were seen close to the observatory this morning, opposite the farm entrance, but later on most of them had gone.

### **26th**

A Goldcrest was singing in the Elms briefly this afternoon and at the Point 150 Knot and 12 Twite. The Estate and Point had 6 Corn Bunting collectively.

### **25th**

21 Snipe were counted at New Downs today. Estate; 1 Little Owl, 20 Meadow Pipit and amongst the 8 Great Tit that were counted 4 were continental which were caught in the Heligoland by ringers.

### **24th**

The monthly river boat trip took place this afternoon with 59 species seen in total which included: 3 Kingfisher, 1 Rock Pipit, 250 Oystercatcher, 2 Grey Plover, 30 Lapwing, 140 Knot, 1 Sanderling, 400 Dunlin, 6 Snipe, 40 Bar-tailed Godwit, 200 Curlew, 1 Spotted Redshank, 150 Redshank, 4 Common Sandpiper, gull numbers were 1,000 Black-headed, 200 Common, 60 Lesser Black-backed, 1,000 Herring and 40 Great Black-backed.

### **23rd**

New Downs had 2 Pink-footed Geese near the Samphire end and a male Hen Harrier. A count at Pegwell produced large numbers of birds including: 187 Wigeon, 476 Oystercatcher, 300 Golden Plover, 310 Grey Plover, 350 Lapwing, 152 Knot, 57 Bar-tailed Godwit and 360 Curlew.

### **22nd**

A single Common Scoter was offshore and on the beach 73 Oystercatcher and 8 Ringed Plover. On Worth marshes a Green Sandpiper was disturbed from a recently flooded area.

### **21st**

1 Sparrowhawk and 1 Kestrel were present on the Estate today but the highlight was 1 Peregrine seen flying over the observatory.

## **20th**

A flock of 24 Chaffinch flew amongst the bushes in the Whitehouse area all day and 10 Corn Bunting were counted on the Estate.

## **19th**

Highlights were 4 Common Scoter flying South and 4 Great Crested Grebe offshore.

## **18th**

Large numbers of waders were counted particularly at the Point; 850 Oystercatcher, 3,500 Golden Plover, 234 Grey Plover, 4,500 Lapwing, 120 Knot, 30 Sanderling, 400 Dunlin, 81 Bar-tailed Godwit, 90 Curlew and 83 Redshank. 1 Red-throated Diver was seen offshore and 115 Brent Geese were seen flying North from the Point. At New Downs were 2 Linnet and the Point had 15 Twite, 24 Skylark, 12 Meadow Pipit and 16 Rock Pipit.

## **17th**

A Dartford Warbler was seen in the Gorse bushes near the Chequers and 1 Short-eared Owl hunting at New Downs. Highlight of the day was a sighting of 51 Snipe that were flushed at New Downs.

## **16th**

A count at the Point included 5 Twite, 2 Snow Bunting, 1 Ruff, 110 Wigeon, 130 Golden Plover, 3 Grey Plover, 2,400 Lapwing and 2 Long-eared Owls by the old roost. New Downs had a Merlin, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Rock Pipit and 1 Cetti's Warbler.

## **15th**

A Short-eared Owl was seen on New Downs as well as 2 Common Sandpiper, 1 female Goldeneye and 53 Brent Geese.

## **14th**

Another wet day produced few sightings, coverage was only recorded on the Estate

with 22 Blackbird and the usual 60 Woodpigeon, 40 Collared Dove, corvid counts of 1 Jay, 15 Magpie, 30 Jackdaw, 50 Rook and 9 Crow.

### **13th**

A Lesser-spotted Woodpecker was seen on the Green Wall and 2 Common Sandpiper were by the Quay in the town. A male Peregrine was seen flying over the observatory car park mid morning and later in the day spotted again hunting on Worth marshes, as there were 36 Skylark counted perhaps he didn't know which one to choose!

### **11th**

Ring-necked Parakets were seen flying over the observatory this morning and just outside our recording area were 25 Curlew, 4 Grey Partridge and 8 Corn Bunting.

### **10th**

A wet day with little of note on the Estate.

### **9th**

An increase of Meadow Pipit 57 were counted on New Downs today also 3 Rock Pipit, 11 Skylark, wildfowl included 21 Mute Swan, 2 Greylag Geese, 4 Canada Geese, 44 Brent Geese, 19 Shelduck, 4 Wigeon, 42 Teal, 24 Mallard and 22 Tufted Duck on Backsand Scrape. On the Estate 1,000 Golden Plover and a Woodcock in the Haven stream, during a walk between the Estate and New Downs 10 Stonechat were counted.

### **8th**

The female Goldeneye is still present on New Downs reservoir also on the New Downs area were 21 Meadow Pipit, 5 Mistle Thrush and a Barn Owl.

### **7th**

2 Brent Geese were on Restharrow Scrape, 8 Ring-necked Parakeet flew over the Whitehouse area and the Dartford Warbler at Prince's old clubhouse showed briefly early morning.

### **6th**

A Dartford Warbler was seen briefly this afternoon near the Oasis and just outside our recording area - Monk's Wall, a pair of Bearded Tits, 4 Bullfinch, 3 Goldcrest and 1 Grey Wagtail.

## **5th**

Restharrow Scrape had 1 Snipe and the Estate had 10 Corn Buntings.

## **4th**

A female Marsh Harrier was seen on the Estate and a Common Buzzard flew over the obs car park early morning.

## **3rd**

Highlight of the day was a single Sandwich Tern at the Point also there 1 male Merlin, 220 Oystercatcher, 2 Ringed Plover, 140 Grey Plover, 350 Lapwing, 30 Knot, 120 Dunlin and 20 Bar-tailed Godwit. The Dartford Warbler at Prince's was seen today.

## **2nd**

6 Goldcrest were recorded on the Estate today but the highlight of the day came in the afternoon. The Friday Group took a walk to the beach in search of the Dartford Warbler (which didn't show) and across Prince's were two Merlin hunting together around the old clubhouse, they flushed a Skylark but gave up the chase, as they moved away another bird was flushed and one Merlin dropped behind a bunker the second circled then also went down.

## **1st**

New Downs had 23 Brent Geese, 1 Goldeneye, 6 Snipe, 120 Curlew, 37 Redshank and 6 Reed Bunting. Backsand Scrape had 1 Spotted Redshank and on the Estate were 2 Little Owl, 1 Merlin, 40 House Sparrow and 50 Linnets. The Dartford Warbler appeared in the Sea Buckthorn and 2 Twite also alighted upon the shrubs.