

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

### **31st**

During late morning an impressive male Hen Harrier was observed flying over Worth marshes flushing prey from the scrubland but not appearing to make much effort in catching it! On the Estate we have 2 Chiffchaff and 3 Goldcrest overwintering and the Dartford Warbler is still present on the beach.

### **29th**

Highlights at New Downs today were 1 Goldeneye, 24 Brent Geese, 1 male Hen Harrier, 1 Snipe, 1 Common Sandpiper, 1 Spotted Redshank, 1 Short-eared Owl, 3 Goldcrest, 6 Reed Bunting and on the Estate 20 Corn Bunting were recorded.

### **28th**

Probably due to disturbance of conservation work little was sighted, though perhaps more records will be submitted tomorrow as the observatory was humming with volunteers and visitors alike. Of notable interest was a single Little Owl that spent some of the afternoon atop the straw bales near the observatory.

### **27th**

Good coverage over all our recording areas, highlights: at the Point - 131 Curlew, 1 Short-eared Owl, 43 Skylark, 1 Rock Pipit, New Downs - 8 Snipe and totals of 10 Mistle Thrush, 17 Song Thrush and 12 Redwing across all areas. The Dartford Warbler is still showing well between Prince's clubhouses, thought to be a female/immature.

### **26th**

A Dartford Warbler was spotted today amongst Buckthorn on the beach between Prince's clubhouses and 2 Woodcock were seen frequently around the Whitehouse throughout the day. Numbers of Fieldfare and Redwing reached 32 and 17 respectively and across the whole of our recording area 18 Stonechat were counted. At the Point 1 Red-breasted Merganser, 1 Woodcock, 92 Skylark and also 29 Corn Bunting with a further 7 on the Estate.

### **24th**

Highlights today in the New Downs recording area were 1 male Merlin, 1 Goldeneye

and 1 Spotted Redshank.

## **23rd**

Large flocks of Golden Plover were seen flying over the Estate throughout the day numbering over 3,000 in total, there were also over 1,000 Lapwing recorded.

## **22nd**

Despite a north wind, suprisingly little movement offshore: 43 Brent Geese, 2 Ringed Plover and 1 Turnstone. On the Estate we saw an influx of Blackbirds (30+) from the continent, 4 Mallard are enjoying the Haven stream, 2 Sparrowhawk one an adult male caught by the ringers, 1 Blackcap hatched last year but sporting juvenile plumage and over 700 Golden Plover across the Estate.

## **21st**

Counted at the Point were 30 Skylark, 400 Oystercatcher, 300 Grey Plover, 20 Curlew and just outside our recording area 14 Grey Partridge were sighted.

## **20th**

This morning the monthly boat trip took place and 57 species were seen highlights were: 150 Wigeon, 600 Teal, 1 male Common Scoter, 800 Oystercatcher, 2,900 Golden Plover, 360 Grey Plover, 7,700 Lapwing, 100 Knot, 60 Sanderling, 300 Dunlin, 270 Bar-tailed Godwit, 2 Spotted Redshank, 280 Redshank and 2 Kingfisher. If you would like to brush up on your wader ID perhaps you should book your place for next month's boat trip.

## **19th**

At mid-day a Red Kite was seen flying over the Estate towards Worth Marshes, also seen 1 Peregrine at Worth, 17 Corn Bunting on the Estate, 2 Red-throated Diver Offshore and a Moorhen was seen in the Haven enjoying the recently maintained habitat and rising water levels.

## **18th**

A wet day with gale force winds saw most birds seeking shelter, on Restharrow Scrape 28 Mute Swan, 8 Wigeon, 30 Teal, 2 Gadwall, 22 Curlew, 1 Cormorant, 1 Snipe and overhead 1 Hen Harrier.

## **16th**

Another good day for Divers offshore with 15 Red-throated Diver, one Black-throated Diver also 31 Great Crested Grebe, 1 Guillemot and a Common Scoter. At the Point over 1,000 Golden Plover, 3 Grey Plover, 2,176+ Lapwing and one male Eider Duck

## **15th**

On a calm and sunny late afternoon a Chiffchaff was flicking about on the edge of the Elms and a lovely grey male Hen Harrier was drifting over the fields on Worth Marshes. Offshore 2 Black-throated Divers were seen and 31 Great Crested Grebe.

## **14th**

A single female Goldeneye remains on the New Downs reservoir, on the Estate 150 Fieldfare flew over the White house area also recorded 42 Mistle Thrush and 4 Ring-necked Parkeet.

## **12th**

12 White-fronted Geese were present on Worth marshes. Offshore 1 Black-throated Diver, 25 GC Grebes and 1 Common Scoter.

## **9th**

Early this morning a Barn Owl was seen at the Tollgate.

## **7th**

An increase in Great Crested Grebe with 29 counted and 2 Red-throated Diver offshore. On Worth there were 19 White-fronted Geese, 2 Tundra Bean Geese, 39 Mute Swan, 4 Wigeon, 119 Teal, 19 Shoveler and 26 Fieldfare.

## **6th**

White-fronted Geese still present on Worth marshes and can be seen from the Obs tower through a scope, joining them today were 2 Tundra Bean Geese. Offshore were 20 Great Crested Grebe and on the shoreline 80 Oystercatcher.

## **5th**

Highlight of the day was a single Goldeneye on New Downs reservoir also recorded 3 Fieldfare, 5 Redwing and 3 Mistle Thrush.

## **4th**

Excellent views midday of a male Common Scoter as it was only a few feet from the shore, also seen offshore were 7 Red-throated Diver, 1 Black-throated Diver, 11 Great Crested Grebe and on Restharrow Scrape 1 Greenshank feeding with Curlew. Nearby our recording area 21 Snow Bunting were seen.

## **3rd**

Flying over the Estate towards Worth this morning was a male Hen Harrier and on the marshes were 14 White-fronted Geese.

## **2nd**

On the Estate 75 Oystercatcher, 7 Sanderling, 1 Turnstone and 25 Linnets.

## **1st**

6 Snow Bunting were seen around the car park by the old Prince's Clubhouse, offshore were 1 Common Scoter and 1 Red-throated Diver. On the Estate 2 Goldcrest were present, 32 Goldfinch and 1 Corn Bunting.