

Aug 2008[<< Back to Sightings](#) | [Printer friendly version](#)**31st**

On a second sunny and increasingly humid day it was pretty quiet on land but there were two notable flurries of activity during the day. At around mid morning, 5 Greenshanks and 2 Crossbills flew N, 6 Turnstones flew in off the sea and 2 Black-tailed flew S. At mid day 3 Marsh Harriers and 2 Common Buzzards flew N and at least 4 Hobbies and 10 Kestrels were seen during the morning, including several flying N.

29th

A perfectly still day, with a mirror-calm sea merging into the sky, provided 4 Black Terns and an Arctic Skua offshore, plus several parties of Ringed Plovers and Dunlins moving overhead or low over the sea. On land, 20 Willow Warblers and 2 Spotted Flycatchers were still present, 15 Turtle Doves, 8 Blackcaps and 2 Grey Wagtails were new arrivals and, for that extra bit of oddity, a Knot was on Restharrow Scrape.

28th

It was another calm and dull morning but with a decent arrival of migrants, at long last. Pick of the bunch were 5 Spotted Flycatchers, 2 Common Redstarts and 7 Lesser Whitethroats, in the company of 30 Willow Warblers, a Cuckoo and, flying overhead, 4 Crossbills and 2 Hobbies. An influx of Meadow Pipits was also evident, with at least 35 scattered about.

27th

There was little change from yesterday on another dark and dismal morning, though there were 18 Wheatears on the beach and a Common Redstart was lurking in the Elms.

26th

The principal highlight of yet another gloomy day was an arrival of 10 Whinchats and 15 Wheatears along the shore, while a Common Redstart was trapped and a Hobby and a Marsh Harrier were seen over Worth marshes.

25th

Day 2 of our Open Days started calm and bright; a treat for the ringers, who extracted a Grasshopper Warbler and 70 *Acros* from the maize first thing. Although cloud built up and the wind increased, making much of the day inhospitable once again, a record number of people turned up to be treated to some of the 12 Wheatears that were along the shore and 2 Hobbies, though 3 Common Buzzards sneaked by out of sight of the majority over New Downs.

24th

More wet and dull and, frankly, chilly weather did its best to dampen the first of our Bank Holiday Open Days but although it was hard work, a Common Redstart, a Grasshopper Warbler, 60-odd Common Swifts and 200 Swallows provided a supply of interest throughout the day and a Sparrowhawk in off the sea brought a flavour of things to come in the next couple of months.

23rd

There was no repeat of yesterday's good totals on an overcast and chilly morning, though 4 Grasshopper Warblers were trapped and other bits and pieces included a Common Redstart and 8 Wheatears.

22nd

Calm, cloudy conditions produced a good fall of migrants, including 106 Sedge and 74 Reed Warblers in the maize, an *acredula* Willow Warbler, a Common Redstart, 4 Lesser Whitethroats and a Whinchat, while 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers flew N.

21st

The sun continues to be a reluctant spectator to generally quiet goings-on, though a Spotted Flycatcher was on the Estate with 3 Lesser Whitethroats and 12 Willow Warblers. A Hobby was seen along the beach, where 6 Wheatears were hopping about, and 1,900 Black-headed Gulls flew SW.

20th

On a better day than of late, though still pretty gloomy, 3 Wood Sandpipers were on Restharrow Scrape, with another flying S, together with 2 Common Sandpipers, one Green Sandpiper and a Greenshank. 2 Hobbies were seen during the course of the morning, which also featured a steady procession of 1,400 Black-headed Gulls, heading SW from the bay, and in the bushes were 8 Lesser Whitethroats and 24 Willow Warblers. Later in the afternoon, another 4 Wood Sandpipers, for which this was an excellent day, were present on Backsand Scrape with 63 Greenshanks.

19th

On a blustery morning with frequent squally showers, Wood Sandpiper, Greenshank and Ringed Plover all dropped in to Restharrow Scrape but stayed only briefly.

18th

In persistent rain for much of the morning, 217 Common Terns, a Black Tern, 2 Arctic Skuas and a flock of 77 Ringed Plovers flew S offshore and when the sun poked its nose out later on, 2 Hobbies were tearing about over Restharrow and another flew S across Pegwell in the afternoon.

17th

Our Olympic success has clearly got to the Little Egret population, which set a new record of 79 today. There was also an arrival of 157 Ringed Plovers in Pegwell, mostly of the small, dark *C.h.tundrae* race, 3 Mediterranean Gulls were seen during the course of the day, 121 Swifts flew S out to sea and there was a most impressive water spout upchannel off Ramsgate.

16th

The monthly boat trip along the river produced notable totals of 72 Little Egrets and 121 Common Sandpipers, while an Arctic Skua and a Black Tern were seen offshore.

15th

A Marsh Warbler in one of the gullies and a Grasshopper Warbler near Restharrow were the highlights of a calm and warm morning. There were also 22 Willow Warblers and a Garden Warbler on the Estate and a Black-tailed Godwit and 17 Green Sandpipers on Backsand Scrape.

14th

Despite a decent morning at last, 12 Willow Warblers were dotted about the Estate, but little else except for the Wood Sandpiper on the scrape, though a Kestrel flew in off the sea in between showers in the afternoon.

13th

Before the weather really got going, one Wood Sandpiper remained on Restharrow Scrape, though a freshening breeze meant that finding birds in bushes was very difficult. By mid day the wind had increased at least to gale force with some intense squalls and in an hour's seawatching 114 Common Terns, 58 Dunlin, 9 Ringed Plovers, 2 Mediterranean Gulls and 2 Little Terns flew N towards Pegwell.

12th

Heavy rain obliterated the early morning, but in the bright conditions that followed 5 Black Terns flew towards Pegwell and 2 Wood Sandpipers dropped in to Restharrow Scrape, which also held 2 Greenshanks and 3 Common Sandpipers.

11th

On another day that was more like late than early autumn, an Arctic Skua was perched on a buoy just offshore, taking off to chase a group of passing terns, and a Nightingale was on the Estate. Ringing produced 70-odd warblers - mainly Sedge and Reed - in the maize and 9 Willow Warblers and a Garden Warbler were also on the Estate.

10th

2 Arctic Skuas were seen offshore before the cloud began to break and a subsequently bright and blustery day was fairly quiet, although a Hobby was showing interest in the large numbers of Migrant Hawker dragonflies that are currently scattered about the Estate.

8th

On a rather breezy and gloomy morning, a Great Spotted Woodpecker flew N, 9 Willow Warblers were scattered about and 5 Common Sandpipers included a panic-stricken individual that very nearly flew into the ringing room!

7th

Gloom and rain in the morning was replaced around mid day by warm sunshine and a late afternoon visit to Pegwell produced 12 Avocets, 13 Little Terns, 570 Sandwich Terns, 84 Common Terns, 2 Arctic Terns, 9 Mediterranean Gulls, one Curlew Sandpiper and 11 Whimbrel.

6th

On an increasingly warm and humid morning, the second Wood Warbler of the autumn was performing splendidly in the Elms and 33 Willow Warblers were scattered about the Estate, where there was also a Garden Warbler. Elsewhere, 5 Wheatears were on the beach and an Arctic Skua was briefly chasing terns offshore.

5th

3 Grasshopper Warblers were scattered about the Estate this morning and although tern numbers in Pegwell were well reduced, a Little Stint, 2 Avocets and 3 Black-tailed Godwits were present on the rising tide.

4th

Overnight rain provoked the autumn's first decent arrival of warblers, including 40 Willows and 2 Lesser Whitethroats, while a Hobby tore across Restharrow Scrape.

3rd

On a dull, showery morning with a spirited W breeze 350 Common and 6 Black Terns flew N towards Pegwell and at least 10 Arctic Skuas were seen offshore, some moving purposefully S while others were more interested in the feeding terns. A particularly high tide induced large numbers of waders to roost on Backsand Scrape, including 44 Green Sandpipers, 36 Greenshanks and 23 Common Sandpipers, while a flock of 35 Golden Plovers, mostly in summer plumage, elegantly decorated the fields nearby.

2nd

A French-ringed Sedge Warbler was trapped in the maize this morning.

1st

It was a bright start to the month, with a freshening W breeze that failed to dislodge the large, loose flock of terns offshore. From 8.30, at least 450 Common and 250 Sandwich Terns poured into Pegwell close to the beach, together with 7 Black Terns and 4 Arctic, while 3-4 Arctic Skuas patrolled further out like aerial sharks, waiting their moment, which came at about 10 as the terns started to drift back to the S. On terra firma there were 2 Marsh Harriers, a Quail on New Downs and a Pied Flycatcher was trapped on the Estate; the earliest to have been caught in the Observatory's history.