

June 2009**29th**

A narrow band of sea-fret helped take the edge off the temperature along the coast, but not far inland it was very warm again. A Black-tailed Godwit dropped on to Restharrow Scrape and three parties of Cormorants flew over, perhaps disorientated by the mist, and on Worth marshes in the afternoon a Barn Owl was hunting in broad daylight and a Green Sandpiper flew from the river.

28th

On another gloriously sunny morning a Spoonbill flew over the Observatory, heading towards Deal.

26th

A drake Garganey was on Restharrow Scrape in the morning and after a tatty Marsh Harrier drifted over the Observatory a walk along Worth track produced a family party of Bullfinches, 4 singing Yellowhammers and the distant hysterical wittering of a Green Sandpiper.

25th

2 Avocets flew over the Observatory and on to Restharrow Scrape, where they remained until early evening. 3 Sand Martins were also present over the pool.

22nd

A Spotted Redshank flew over Worth marshes, where a Hobby was busily intent on reducing the dragonfly population and a Peregrine was circling about, and 3 Green Sandpipers and a Greenshank were on Backsand Scrape.

21st

Although most interest over the weekend seems to have been centred around the area's orchids, a Spotted Redshank was seen on the scrape in the morning and at least 3 Cuckoos were present on the Estate.

18th

2 superb summer-plumaged Spotted Redshanks dropped in briefly to Restharrow Scrape at an unearthly hour and a Green Sandpiper was on Backsand Scrape later in the morning.

17th

An increasingly brisk wind made things difficult, though the Little Grebes on Restharrow Scrape have produced 3 young and the Lapwing chicks have thus far evaded the daily attentions of Brer Fox.

16th

A female or first summer Golden Oriole that tumbled out of the Whitehouse bushes into the Oasis set the scene for a very good day, though apart from a Spotted Flycatcher in the Elms and 4 Green Sandpipers scattered about the remaining highlights were all of a non-avian nature, best of which was a **Lesser Emperor** dragonfly; only our second record. There was also news of 2 Quail at the scrape late in the evening, hard on the heels of 2 on Prince's yesterday morning.

12th

.... and whilst on the subject of early birds and worms, a Golden Oriole was singing in trees on the golf course at 6 am before moving off north and a Spoonbill dropped in to the scrape not long after 8, also disappearing shortly afterwards.

11th

A Grey Partridge, flying over our heads in the Observatory car park, had me wondering about the contents of my pint last night, but it was otherwise all about the progress of the local breeding birds. At least 12 pairs of Common Whitethroats are feeding young, the local Kestrels have produced four healthy-looking chicks and the Lapwing brood on the scrape remains intact. A Little Owl was also seen, making off with what looked very much like a slow worm.....

10th

On a dull, calm and humid morning a Marsh Harrier was floating about over the fields and 80-odd Swifts appeared between showers.

8th

Away from marauding gangs of Long-tailed Tits, suddenly obvious across the area, 2 Marsh Harriers and a Hobby were cruising about over Worth and four freshly-hatched Lapwing chicks were scurrying about on the scrape.

5th

In gloomy conditions with light rain, 2 Greenshanks and a drake Garganey had arrived on Restharrow Scrape and a few groups of Swifts moved through.

4th

2 Spoonbills arrived on the scrape at 06.25. Otherwise, it was a quiet day that was just about right for assessing the state of the local breeding warblers, among which Common Whitethroats, like Ian Dury's Billericay Dickie, appear to be doing very well.

2nd

Suddenly, the place has descended into bedlam, with hordes (at least 400) of newly-fledged Starlings noisily rampaging around the sheep pens and surrounding fields. A Red Kite was perched on a fence post amidst it all in the morning and 2 adult Mediterranean Gulls flew over around mid day, but decided not to stay.

1st

A Red Kite was seen over Worth in the morning, but otherwise the month started in much the same frame of mind as most of May.