

31st

Dull and overcast, with patchy drizzle and a light SE breeze, the morning featured a Black-necked Grebe on the sea just offshore and, in Waldershare Gully, a **Pallas's Warbler**. It moved quickly into the adjacent Waldershare Avenue where it was joined by a second individual, loosely associating with a flock of 30 or so Goldcrests, while at least 4 Firecrests were also present.

30th

A **Waxwing** was heard over Waldershare Gully and a Short-eared Owl was seen near the Chequers.

29th

Although the Water Pipit was again on Restharrow Scrape and 70 Blackbirds were busying themselves in berry-laden hawthorns, the main highlight of an otherwise cheerless day was a scrap between a weasel and a field mouse on the scrape. The mouse appeared to escape more or less unscathed, but probably filed the experience away as one best not repeated.

28th

It wasn't quite as windy today, but with the SW wind continuing it was predictably quiet, although a Short-eared Owl was seen over Royal Cinque Ports golf course and a Water Pipit was on Restharrow Scrape.

27th

With a brisk SW wind and overcast conditions it was suddenly a good deal warmer. However, with the bushes blown-out the shift in conditions produced a morning of offshore dribs and drabs (well, mostly drabs) that amounted to little more than a Little Egret and a Red-throated Diver, though a Brambling flew in off the sea and 7 House Martins tumbled S along the shore.

26th

The theme of birds arriving from off the continent earlier than usual continued this morning, with 4 **Waxwings S** along the shore, a Lapland Bunting flying N and a Common Redpoll in the mist nets - probably the earliest to have been recorded here.

25th

In addition to a familiar mix of birds moving N during the morning, in no more than moderate numbers, 4 Woodcocks were seen along the shore, 2 of which flew in off the sea.

24th

Cloudless with a light NW breeze, the morning produced a decent variety of overflying migrants, but in very small numbers. However, 2 more Waxwings flew N along the shore, bringing general glee to all concerned.

22nd

Despite calm conditions and little cloud, it was the quietest day for some time, although a Lapland Bunting and 78 Skylarks flew N.

21st

With the first decent frost of autumn on the ground, a still, crisp dawn was beautifully illuminated by golden vapour trails, penned against an ink-blue sky. Visible migration was subtly different to recent days, with totals of 69 Redpolls, 26 Reed Buntings, 86 Skylarks, 74 Siskins, 3 Great Spotted Woodpeckers and 19 Collared Doves flying N and a Woodlark heading in the opposite direction. Marsh Harrier and Peregrine over Worth proved to be a taster for a raptor movement either side of mid day that featured 19 Common Buzzards, 5 Sparrowhawks, a Marsh Harrier and a Merlin, mostly arriving from the SE and either heading N along the coast or veering off inland.

20th

A bright day with a stronger NW wind produced a N movement of 632 Goldfinches, 58 Siskins, 29 *alba* wagtails and, 67 Greenfinches, while a Woodlark was disturbed from the shore (the same bird as two days ago?) and a Merlin tacked

steadily N out at sea. Being on the fringes of the higher ground on either side of us, thrush numbers here are rarely comparable, but at least 60 Blackbirds were evident, many of which were arriving from overhead or flying N, and 83 Fieldfares flew in from off the sea.

19th

The wind had veered slightly into the NW and in bright conditions, six hours observation on the shore produced a really memorable day. Finches, pipits, larks and buntings again made up the bulk of bird on the move, with totals of 1,307 Goldfinches, 196 Greenfinches, 20 Reed Buntings, 40 Siskins, 3 Tree Sparrows, 2 Bramblings, 115 Meadow Pipits and 40 Skylarks, while 450 Swallows and 45 *alba* wagtails also flew N. There were also at least 12 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, including 8 that flew N or W inland. However, it was the variety of other notable species that was remarkable, starting with a Lapland Bunting that flew S, then a **Waxwing** that bounded up from the south and dropped on to the line of elms bordering the Cellars. A **Richard's Pipit** flew by, low over the beach and, after 2 Common Buzzards had appeared over Worth, a **Rough-legged Buzzard** drifted out to sea from inland and gained height until it must have been 5-600 feet up before slipping away to the south. A Merlin was also seen over Worth.

18th

A bright, calm start to proceedings was overtaken by increasing cloud, but showers stayed away. N movement amounted to 83 Siskins, 38 Reed Buntings, at least 450 Swallows and 130 House Martins, 49 Skylarks and 41 *alba* wagtails. A very tired-looking Woodlark was seen in gardens along the shore, a Merlin flashed along the beach and a **Great White Egret** was seen plonking down on to the fields on Worth, not far from HQ, with a Marsh Harrier close by.

17th

With the wind having slipped back into the E, visible migration was somewhat haphazard, but 336 Siskins, 182 Goldfinches, 48 Skylarks, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 36 Swallows, 7 *alba* wagtails and 62 Greenfinches flew N, while 650 Starlings flew in off the sea. Offshore, a Slavonian Grebe and an Arctic Tern flew by and other migrants on the Estate included a Hawfinch, 60 Blackbirds, 60 Goldcrests and 22 Bramblings.

16th

In bright conditions with a freshening N wind that brought showers steadily closer, visible migration was again the main

point of focus and birds flying N included 1,046 Goldfinches, 3 Lapland Buntings, 320 Swallows, 159 Greenfinches, 73 Siskins, 3 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, 6 Reed Buntings and 18 *alba* wagtails. Otherwise, a Marsh Harrier and a Peregrine were seen over Worth and a Tree Sparrow - rarer this year than Lapland Bunting! - was seen on the Observatory track.

15th

The best part of 3,000 more Goldfinches flew N in the first hour and a half after dawn and although movement slackened they continued to move well into the afternoon, contributing to an eventual total of 3,630. Other birds flying N included a Great Spotted Woodpecker, 34 Reed Buntings, 74 Greenfinches, a Short-eared Owl, 620 Swallows and a Whimbrel, while other notables included a Black Redstart, 2 Fieldfares, 24 Cormorants, moving in more directions than there are varieties of liquorice allsorts and 6 Twite near Prince's old clubhouse.

14th

A heavily overcast morning with a continuing NE breeze and spells of drizzle induced a spectacular movement of 6,740 Goldfinches, rolling and tumbling across the dunes as they swarmed N in flocks of up to three hundred. Thrushes were again dropping in throughout the morning, amounting to 40 Song Thrushes and 50 Blackbirds, accompanied by 44 Redwings and 40 Robins. Apart from the Goldies, other birds moving N included 157 Meadow Pipits, 34 Chaffinches, 21 Skylarks, 106 Swallows and 29 House Martins.

13th

Despite a potentially productive NE breeze and overcast conditions, visible migration was slow to get off the ground, but eventually 580 Goldfinches flew N. The Yellow-browed Warbler was calling again in the Elms, but continues to bring a new meaning to the word 'elusive', 60 Song Thrushes had arrived and a Merlin, a Short-eared Owl and a Peregrine were inducing panic over the marshes.

12th

Inhabitants of the Estate this morning included 70 Goldcrests, a Merlin, a Peregrine, a Black Redstart, 16 Song Thrushes and 26 Redwings, while overhead movement included 104 Swallows, 97 Meadow Pipits, 28 Redpolls, 71 Greenfinches and 24 Skylarks.

11th

It was again cloudless with a stiff E breeze, making examination of the bushes fairly taxing. Nevertheless, a **Yellow-browed Warbler** was found among the 130 Goldcrests that were busying themselves about the Estate, 64 *alba* wagtails flew N and 40 Song Thrushes were present.

10th

Crystal clear with a SE/E breeze, today was slightly different to yesterday, with totals of 11 Brambling, 2 Firecrest among 60 or so Goldcrests (one of which had been ringed in Poland), about 600 Goldfinches, 83 Siskins, 16 Reed Buntings and 2 Common Redstarts. Away from the Estate, a female Hen Harrier and a Peregrine were seen on New Downs.

9th

It was again heavily overcast, to the point that dawn was barely noticeable. Robins were again numerous, thrushes and finches were constantly arriving and totals for the morning amounted to 70 Song Thrushes, 57 Bramblings, at least 1,000 Goldfinches, 35 Goldcrests, 50 Robins and 26 Redwings. Back at the Observatory, a superb adult male Black Redstart was bouncing about on the bales opposite and a party of 18 Bramblings was feeding on the approach track.

8th

The morning was heavily overcast, but only from an hour or so after dawn, following a clear night, with a light SE breeze. There was an influx of 70 Robins, along with 41 Song Thrushes, 30 Blackbirds and 36 Goldcrests and 50-odd Chiffchaffs were zipping about with marauding gangs of tits. A Sandwich Tern flew inland over Restharrow Scrape, but it was Backsand that turned up the bird of the day, our third **Pectoral Sandpiper** of the autumn, on a very high afternoon tide.

7th

Although the morning was calm and bright it proved to be rather anti-climactic, with little more than the first 36 Lesser Redpolls of autumn, about 50 Chiffchaffs and the Barred Warbler, which was still creeping about in the Cellars, now in its eleventh day!

6th

The rain relented in mid morning, after which it was showery, dull and blustery. Under the circumstances, a Merlin and a steady procession of 700 or so Swallows and 400 House Martins was probably as much as could reasonably have been expected.

5th

220 Meadow Pipits, 16 Reed Buntings, 11 Siskins and 15 *alba* wagtails flew into a freshening SW breeze on another overcast morning, this time with spells of drizzle, which eventually deteriorated into a fairly foul afternoon of persistent rain.

4th

After yesterday's wind and rain this morning was utterly still, though the rain lingered for nearly an hour after first light and it remained heavily overcast and misty. At least 410 disoriented Chaffinches materialised overhead from out of the lowest cloud, 57 Siskins flew N and a Grey Wagtail, 170 Starlings and 33 Meadow Pipits flew in off the sea. 40 Chiffchaffs were busily flitting about the Estate, where at least 40 Robins, 6 Ring Ouzels, 14 Song Thrushes, 8 Wheatears, 2 Spotted Flycatchers and a Pied Flycatcher were present. 130 Goldfinches swirled about, as 120 Swallows tried to find their way out of the envelope of cloud that shrouded the landscape and a **Hawfinch** flew low over the houses before disappearing inland. Elsewhere, 4 Lapland Buntings and a Jack Snipe were found at the Point, another Pied Flycatcher was located on Worth track in the afternoon and the Barred Warbler was still in the Cellars.

2nd

This morning was a complete contrast to yesterday; still and bright with the calls of Robins and Dunnocks echoing everywhere. The Barred Warbler showed well and flyover migrants included a Brambling, 9 Mistle Thrushes, 18 Skylarks, a Grey Wagtail and 13 Reed Buntings, while 6 Wheatears and 3 Whinchats were clustered mainly around the sailing club and Dickson's Corner and a Ring Ouzel was on the Estate.

1st

Not atypically, the new month came barging in like a bull in a china shop. However, before the worst of the wind and rain

set in the Barred Warbler was seen very briefly and 1850 House Martins blustered S, along with 180 Swallows.