

Portland Heights Birdwatching Breaks  
Friday September 24th – Sunday September 26th

**Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup>**

Weather: Long sunny spells all day in a very cold northerly wind.

Portland Bill, 0700

A very cold early morning at the Bill produced Rock Pipit, Gannet and, the star bird of the day, Mistle Thrush.

Kingbarrow Quarry, 0930

The Little Owl remained hidden but we did find several Wheatears and Chiffchaffs as well as 6 or 7 Kestrels.

Ferrybridge, 1200

Just a few Dunlins and Ringed Plovers here but we all enjoyed the close views of the Starlings.

Rodden Hive, 1300

Probably the best visit of the day with hundreds of Wigeon, even more Coot and a remarkably tame Knot. 3 Buzzards were seen from the bus as we arrived and a flock of tits in the hedgerow produced good views of Long-tailed Tit and Chiffchaff.



Knot at Rodden (photo by Bob Ford)

Radipole Lake RSPB Reserve, 1500

This famous reserve produced a host of memorable sightings including 2 Kingfishers, an adult Mediterranean Gull, 4 Black-tailed Godwits and lots of Snipe. Cetti's Warblers were heard but, as usual, not seen.

**Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>**

Weather: Similar to yesterday but much warmer.

### Portland Bill, 0900

In much more pleasant conditions we revisited the Bill and walked along the Eastcliffs to the Bird Observatory. Here the chief ringer, Peter Morgan, showed us Blackcap and Chiffchaff in the hand (see below, photos by John Prodger)



A Long-winged Conehead was found while we were waiting for the birds to be caught. The Portland Bird Observatory web site has a daily updated summary of sightings at [http://www.portlandbirdobs.org.uk/aa\\_latestnews.htm](http://www.portlandbirdobs.org.uk/aa_latestnews.htm). On the way back to the car park we found a family of Stonechats, the only ones seen all weekend.



Long-winged Conehead and Kestrel (photos by Bob Ford)

### Cheyne Weare, 1130

The resident pair of Peregrines were absent when we arrived but soon after the male turned up chasing a pigeon. The pigeon got away and the Peregrine retired to its ledge seemingly exhausted. A few minutes later the female arrived, probably expecting lunch! A pair of Clouded Yellow butterflies were the best insects seen over the weekend.

### Ferrybridge, 1300

Higher numbers of Dunlins and Ringed Plovers today along with a single adult Mediterranean Gull.

Lodmoor, 1400

We spent over 2 hours here enjoying the abundance of birds including a Spoonbill (spotted before we even entered the reserve!), a Greenshank, 2 Bar-tailed Godwits and a Common Sandpiper. The highlight was an adult male Marsh Harrier, which due to it being in heavy moult had drastically shortened wings.

The final tally of only 75 species was surprisingly low, but included an impressive range of quality birds.

**Birds 79 species**

Little Grebe	Radipole
Great Crested Grebe	Radipole
Gannet	Portland Bill
Cormorant	various sites
Shag	Portland Bill
Little Egret	Lodmoor, Rodden
Grey Heron	Lodmoor, Radipole
Spoonbill	Lodmoor
Mute Swan	Radipole, Rodden
Canada Goose	Lodmoor
Shelduck	Radipole
Wigeon	Lodmoor, Rodden
Gadwall	Lodmoor, Radipole
Teal	Lodmoor, Radipole
Mallard	Lodmoor, Radipole
Shoveler	Lodmoor, Radipole
Tufted Duck	Lodmoor, Radipole
Pochard	Lodmoor
Marsh Harrier	Lodmoor
Sparrowhawk	Radipole
Buzzard	various sites
Kestrel	various sites
Peregrine	Portland
Water Rail	Lodmoor (heard)
Moorhen	Lodmoor, Radipole
Coot	Lodmoor, Radipole,
Oystercatcher	Portland Bill
Ringed Plover	Lodmoor, Ferrybridge
Lapwing	Lodmoor
Dunlin	Lodmoor, Ferrybridge
Knot	Lodmoor, Rodden
Common Sandpiper	Lodmoor
Green Sandpiper	Radipole
Greenshank	Lodmoor
Snipe	Lodmoor, Radipole
Black-tailed Godwit	Radipole
Bar-tailed Godwit	Lodmoor
Mediterranean Gull	Ferrybridge, Radipole
Black-headed Gull	various sites
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Radipole
Herring Gull	various sites
Great Black-backed Gull	various sites
Sandwich Tern	Lodmoor
Wood Pigeon	various sites
Feral Pigeon	Radipole

Collared Dove	Portland
Green Woodpecker	Rodden (heard)
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Rodden
Kingfisher	Radipole
Skylark	Portland
Swallow	various sites
House Martin	various sites
Meadow Pipit	various sites
Rock Pipit	Portland Bill
Pied Waatail	various sites
Wren	Portland (heard)
Dunnock	various sites
Robin	various sites
Stonechat	various sites
Wheatear	Portland
Mistle Thrush	Portland
Blackbird	various sites
Cetti's Warbler	Radipole (heard)
Whitethroat	Portland
Blackcap	Portland
Chiffchaff	various sites
Long-tailed Tit	Rodden
Blue Tit	various sites
Great Tit	various sites
Magpie	various sites
Jackdaw	various sites
Rook	Rodden
Carrion Crow	various sites
Starling	various sites
House Sparrow	various sites
Chaffinch	Lodmoor, Rodden
Greenfinch	Portland
Goldfinch	Portland, Lodmoor
Linnet	various sites

**Insects 12 species**

Small White	Portland
Large White	Portland
Clouded Yellow	Portland
Common Blue	Portland
Comma	Rodden
Red Admiral	various sites
Painted Lady	Lodmoor
Speckled Wood	Portland
Meadow Brown	Portland
Small Heath	Portland
Long-winged Conehead	Portland
Migrant Hawker	Radipole, Lodmoor

**Reptiles/Mammals: 4 species**

Common Lizard	Lodmoor
Rabbit	Lodmoor
Brown Rat	Radipole
Fox	Portland