

Saturday July 19th

Weather: thundery showers in the morning, warm and sunny in the afternoon

Portland Bill 0900

In unusually calm conditions there were very seabirds to be seen apart from the occasional gannet and fulmar flying past. Inland we had good views of kestrel and linnet with several skylarks singing overhead. A great variety of limestone-loving plants were found here including black and greater knapweed, pale flax and field scabious. A few late pyramidal orchids were still in flower but the most attractive plant was probably the tiny lesser centaury. Amongst these low-growing plants we found a very attractive little short-winged cone head with a grasshopper (probably a meadow grasshopper) for comparison.



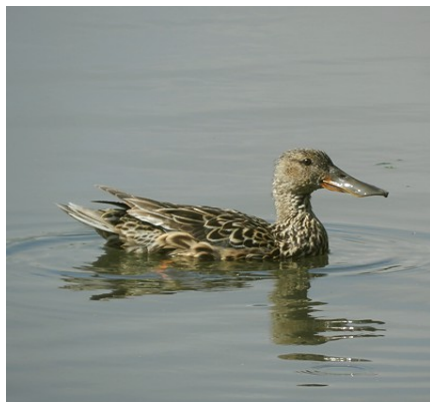
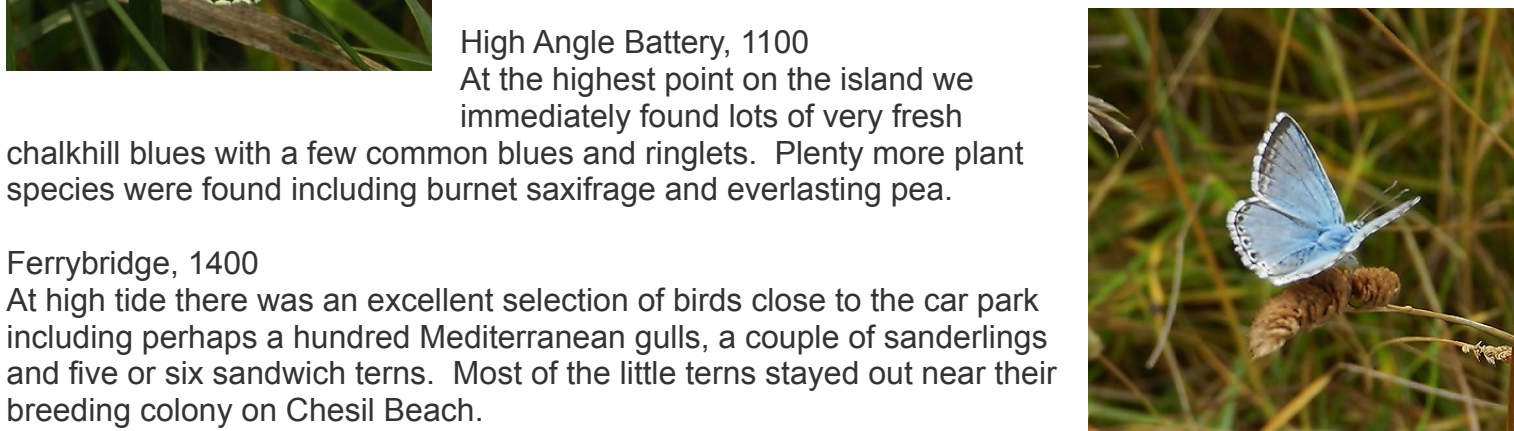
The first butterflies were seen on the walk out to the Westcliffs, mostly meadow browns and gatekeepers with a few common blues and marbled whites along with just one small skipper. At the Bird Observatory the night's moth catch was inspected and revealed a long list of species including a huge eyed hawk-moth and a very smart swallowtail. The real star though was in the observatory lounge being photographed by the warden - a rare dark crimson underwing. [See here for Martin Cade's photo.](#)

High Angle Battery, 1100

At the highest point on the island we immediately found lots of very fresh chalkhill blues with a few common blues and ringlets. Plenty more plant species were found including burnet saxifrage and everlasting pea.

Ferrybridge, 1400

At high tide there was an excellent selection of birds close to the car park including perhaps a hundred Mediterranean gulls, a couple of sanderlings and five or six sandwich terns. Most of the little terns stayed out near their breeding colony on Chesil Beach.



Radipole RSPB Reserve, 1500

A very pleasant warm afternoon here with reasonable views of species such as bearded tit, reed warbler and a good range of ducks including shoveler, teal and gadwall. From the car park two more waders were found - common sandpiper and black-tailed godwit. Insects were well-represented here with holly blue and comma added to the day's list as were our first dragonflies with several massive emperors hunting over the water. The North Hide gave us an excellent view of a little egret and a passing sparrowhawk. A good variety of flowers were seen here as well including the very poisonous hemlock water dropwort.

Sunday July 20th

Weather: warm and sunny all day

Portland Westcliffs 0900

In beautiful summer weather we enjoyed a very pleasant walk along the Westcliffs from Weston to Blacknor. The path was alive with butterflies, mostly gatekeepers, chalkhill blues and marbled whites but on the cliff edge we also found several walls along with a painted lady and a small tortoiseshell. Here fulmars and kestrels were flying close to where we were standing on the cliff-top path and a family part of five ravens flew croaking overhead. The highlight was when a peregrine landed in full view on the cliff just in front of us.



Admiralty Quarries, 1100

An intensive search for silver-studded blues turned up nothing more than a few brief glimpses. E did however find a huge range of new plants and butterflies including small coppers and wood spurge.

Ferrybridge, 1400

Another very pleasant lunch in close proximity to Mediterranean gulls and sanderling.

Lodmoor RSPB Reserve, 1500

A very successful afternoon here with a good selection of waders such as whimbrel, redshank and greenshank. Probably the most memorable sighting was the arctic tern amongst the colony of common terns, but the juvenile marsh harrier was also very popular amongst the group and a fine ending to the weekend.



Looking forward to our next trip out together,

Bob Ford, July 20th 2014

Birds: 75 species

Little Grebe	Radipole
Great-crested Grebe	Radipole
Fulmar	Portland
Gannet	Portland Bill
Cormorant	Portland, Radipole, Lodmoor
Little Egret	Radipole, Lodmoor
Grey Heron	Radipole, Lodmoor
Mute Swan	Radipole, Lodmoor
Canada Goose	Radipole, Lodmoor
Shelduck	Lodmoor
Shoveler	Radipole
Mallard	Radipole, Lodmoor
Teal	Radipole
Gadwall	Radipole
Tufted Duck	Radipole, Lodmoor
Pochard	Radipole
Sparrowhawk	Portland, Radipole
Kestrel	Portland
Peregrine	Portland
Marsh Harrier	Lodmoor
Buzzard	Portland, Radipole, Lodmoor
Moorhen	Radipole, Lodmoor
Coot	Radipole, Lodmoor
Oystercatcher	Lodmoor
Redshank	Lodmoor
Greenshank	Lodmoor
Common Sandpiper	Lodmoor
Whimbrel	Lodmoor
Dunlin	Ferrybridge, Lodmoor
Sanderling	Ferrybridge
Turnstone	Lodmoor
Black-tailed Godwit	Radipole
Mediterranean Gull	Portland, Lodmoor
Herring Gull	various sites
Great Black-backed Gull	various sites
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Radipole
Arctic Tern	Lodmoor
Common Tern	Radipole, Lodmoor
Little Tern	Ferrybridge
Sandwich Tern	Ferrybridge
Collared Dove	Portland Bill
Wood Pigeon	various sites
Feral Pigeon	various sites
Skylark	Portland Bill
Rock Pipit	Portland Bill
Meadow Pipit	Portland Bill
Pied Wagtail	Lodmoor

Swift	various sites
Swallow	various sites
House Martin	Radipole
Wren	various sites
Dunnock	Radipole
Stonechat	Portland
Blackbird	Portland
Cetti's Warbler	Radipole (heard)
Reed Warbler	Radipole, Lodmoor
Sedge Warbler	Radipole
Whitethroat	Portland
Chiffchaff	Radipole
Bearded Tit	Radipole
Long-tailed Tit	Radipole
Blue Tit	Radipole
Great Tit	Radipole
Raven	Portland
Magpie	various sites
Jackdaw	various sites
Rook	Ferrybridge
Carrion Crow	various sites
Starling	various sites
House Sparrow	various sites
Goldfinch	various sites
Greenfinch	Lodmoor
Linnet	Portland
Reed Bunting	Radipole

Insects:

Small White	Portland
Green-veined White	various sites
Large White	Portland
Wall	Portland
Marbled White	Portland
Meadow Brown	Portland
Gatekeeper	Portland
Small Heath	Portland
Speckled Wood	Portland, Radipole, Lodmoor
Ringlet	Portland
Small Tortoiseshell	Portland, Radipole
Peacock	Portland, Radipole
Red Admiral	Portland
Comma	Radipole
Painted Lady	Portland
Small Copper	Portland
Common Blue	Portland
Chalkhill Blue	Portland
Holly Blue	Portland, Radipole
Large Skipper	Portland
Small Skipper	Portland
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Radipole
Emperor	Radipole
Black-tailed Skimmer	Lodmor
Bright-line Brown-eye	PBO moth trap
Brown-line Bright-eye	PBO moth trap
Brown-tail	PBO moth trap
Brussels Lace	PBO moth trap
Buff Arches	PBO moth trap
Common Footman	PBO moth trap
Dark Arches	PBO moth trap
Drinker	PBO moth trap
Dusky Sallow	PBO moth trap
Early Thorn	PBO moth trap
Eyed Hawk-moth	PBO moth trap
Garden Tiger	PBO moth trap
Large Yellow Underwing	PBO moth trap
Magpie	PBO moth trap
Shuttle-shaped Dart	PBO moth trap
Silver Y	PBO moth trap
Six-spot Burnet	Portland
Short-winged Conehead	Portland
Meadow Grasshopper	Portland
Soldier Beetle	Portland
Thick-kneed Beetle	Portland
Ichneumon Wasp	Portland
Marmalade Hoverfly	Portland

