



**Saturday September 19th**

**Weather: warm and sunny with a very light westerly breeze**

**Portland Bill, 0900**

We started our weekend with a very pleasant circuit of the Topfields area of Portland Bill. Plenty of migrants were seen, mostly wheatears but also several common and lesser whitethroats plus a lovely group of yellow wagtails. Raptors were much in evidence with kestrels everywhere and singles of buzzard, sparrowhawk and peregrine.

**Admiralty Quarries, 1130**

In increasingly warm weather we explored the north of the island where we found several stonechats and another wheatear. Up on the top of the huge communications tower a pair of ravens watched us. The adder home was occupied by a large colony of slow-worms instead the expected snake. Better views of buzzard were obtained at the Engine Sheds and the moth list was initiated with a yellow underwing. Butterflies were scarce but we did see a few red admirals and speckled woods.

**Ferrybridge, 1400**

Close views were had here of a number of dunlins and ringed plovers with more distant views of some turnstones, a bar-tailed godwit and three or four Mediterranean gulls.

**Radipole Lake RSPB Reserve, 1530**

Lots of new species were seen here, mostly common waterbirds such as mute swan and little grebe. The North Hide was very quiet but a good variety of ducks were seen flying past including teal and shoveler.

## Sunday September 20th

Weather: as yesterday but with a little more cloud

Radipole Lake RSPB Reserve, 0900

A second attempt at finding the bearded tits succeeded but only with fairly brief and distant views. The kingfisher and the snipe were rather more obliging but the water rail that twice dashed across a gap in the reeds was only seen by a favoured few.

Arne RSPB Reserve, 1100

On Coombe Heath overlooking the tidal mudflats of Middlebere Lake we found our first Dartford warblers but none were close enough to see well. From the hide we saw a very distant flock of spoonbills which sadly did not come any closer. Curlew, black-tailed godwits and redshank were all here in abundance along with a few shelduck. On a small pond nearby a very smart raft spider was found.

After a very pleasant lunch accompanied by a large cat and an even larger peacock we walked out onto Shipstall Point. Much better views of Dartford warblers were obtained here and a pair of spoonbills were spotted a considerable distance away. Plenty of non-avian highlights were seen here including several emerald damselflies and a southern hawk dragonfly. Walking back to the bus we added one last bird to the list, a very handsome green woodpecker.

Looking forward to the next time,

Bob

### Birds: 83 species

Great Crested Grebe	Radipole
Little Grebe	Radipole
Cormorant	Portland, Radipole
Little Egret	Ferrybridge, Radipole, Arne
Grey Heron	Radipole
Spoonbill	Arne
Mute Swan	Radipole
Canada Goose	Radipole, Arne
Shelduck	Arne
Teal	Radipole, Arne
Mallard	Radipole
Gadwall	Radipole
Shoveler	Radipole
Tufted Duck	Radipole
Marsh Harrier	Arne
Kestrel	Portland, Arne
Peregrine	Portland, Arne
Buzzard	Portland, Arne
Sparrowhawk	Radipole, Portland
Pheasant	Portland
Coot	Radipole
Moorhen	Radipole
Water Rail	Radipole
Curlew	Arne
Oystercatcher	Arne, Ferrybridge
Redshank	Arne
Bar-tailed Godwit	Ferrybridge
Black-tailed Godwit	Radipole, Arne
Dunlin	Ferrybridge
Snipe	Radipole
Ringed Plover	Ferrybridge
Turnstone	Ferrybridge
Black-headed Gull	various sites

Mediterranean Gull	Ferrybridge, Radipole
Herring Gull	various sites
Great Black-backed Gull	various sites
Wood Pigeon	various sites
Feral Pigeon	Radipole
Kingfisher	Radipole
Green Woodpecker Arne	Arne
Treecreeper	Arne (heard)
Nuthatch	Arne
Skylark	Ferrybridge, Portland Bill
Sand Martin	Portland,
Swallow	various sites
House Martin	Portland,
Meadow Pipit	Portland, Arne
Yellow Wagtail	Portland
Pied Wagtail	Portland
Wren	various sites
Dunnock	various sites
Robin	various sites
Stonechat	Portland, Arne
Wheatear	Portland
Blackbird	various sites
Cetti's Warbler	Radipole (heard)
Reed Warbler	Radipole
Dartford Warbler	Wareham Forest
Whitethroat	Portland
Lesser Whitethroat	Portland
Blackcap	Radipole
Chiffchaff	various sites
Goldcrest	Arne
Long-tailed Tit	Radipole, Arne
Coal Tit	Arne
Blue Tit	various sites
Great Tit	various sites
Raven	Arne, Portland
Magpie	various sites
Jackdaw	various sites
Rook	Arne
Carrion Crow	various sites
Starling	various sites
House Sparrow	various sites
Goldfinch	Portland
Chaffinch	Portland, Arne
Greenfinch	Arne
Siskin	Portland, Arne
Linnet	Portland
Redpoll	Arne

**Mammals:**

Grey Squirrel	Arne
British Primitive Goat	Portland
Sika Deer	Arne
Rabbit	Portland
Brown Rat	Portland

**Reptiles:**

Slow-worm	Portland
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**Insects:**

Wood Ant	Arne
Sloe Bug	Arne
Fox Moth	Arne
Large Yellow Underwing	Portland
Meadow Brown	Portland
Speckled Wood	Portland
Large White	various sites
Small White	various sites
Common Blue	Portland
Red Admiral	various sites
Emerald Damselfly	Arne
Common Darter	various sites
Southern Hawker	Arne
Migrant Hawker	various sites

**Arachnids:**

Raft Spider	Arne
Garden Cross Spider	Arne
Harvestman	Arne

**Plants:**

Common Toadflax	Portland
Ling	Arne
Bell Heather	Arne
Cross-leaved Heath	Arne
Dorset Heath	Arne