

# HEIGHTS HOTEL WILDLIFE BREAKS

Friday June 15th – Sunday June 17th 2018



## Saturday June 16th

**Weather: cloudy in the morning with light rain at midday, more sunny in the afternoon but a fresh south-westerly wind all day.**

Radipole RSPB Reserve, 0930

We started our weekend by escaping the cold wind on Portland in favour of more sheltered conditions in Weymouth. Our first notable find at Radipole was a group of unusually dark Bee Orchids. Soon Pyramid and Southern Marsh Orchids were also seen along with a host of other interesting plants, such as the lovely little Skullcap. The weather was just about warm enough this morning to produce some insects with lots of delicate Blue-tailed Damselflies and several beautiful Scarlet Tiger Moths. The only butterflies seen were a couple of Speckled Woods. Birds were more obvious in these conditions and we enjoyed good views of Great Crested Grebes and a female Marsh Harrier seeing off a Buzzard. Arriving back at the car park a young Mediterranean Gull was a surprise find.



*'atrofuscus' Bee Orchid, normal Bee Orchid and Southern Marsh Orchid*



*Scarlet Tiger, Blue-tailed Damselfly and Banded Demoiselle*

Portland Bill, 1300

After lunch we walked out to the most southerly point in Dorset, the Trinity House obelisk at the end of Portland Bill. Gannet, Shag, Fulmar, and Guillemot were seen well with Manx Shearwaters passing unusually close in. Several Rock Pipits were around the rocks of the Bill Quarry along with a Wheatear which appeared to be feeding young.

Eastcliffs, 1430

In search of more sheltered spots that might show us some butterflies we sought the shelter of the cliffs above Penn's Weare on the east side of the island, walking along the track of the old Weymouth to Portland railway line. Meadow Browns were soon found closely followed by several very fresh Large Skippers. Lulworth Skippers were one of our main targets here and we soon found a good number of them, seemingly just emerged from their pupae. Carrying on down the railway line we reached the fulmar colony, with the birds very active in the strong wind. We were just wondering where the Peregrines were when a male appeared overhead, clearly checking us out to see if we were any danger to its family which must have been nearby. Kestrel and Sparrowhawk were also seen at this site which has always held a good population of raptors.



*Lulworth Skipper and Pyramidal Orchid*

**Sunday June 17th**

**Weather: very similar to yesterday, although less sunshine**

Ferrybridge, 0900

High tide is not the ideal condition to find birds here but we did get some distant views of Little Terns flying over their colony on Chesil Beach. A passing Kestrel gave us the chance to count all 50 terns as the whole colony took to the air at once.

Warmwell, 1030

A quick stop here to see just one very rare species, the parasitic Bird's-nest Orchid.

Higher Hyde Heath, 1100

This Dorset Wildlife Trust reserve is one of the best places in the country to see Sand Lizards and today we found three – a young male with an adult male and an unusually large female. Quite a few dragonflies and damselflies were out, including lots of very bright Common Blue Damselflies. Probably the most memorable sight of the weekend was seen here as hundreds of tiny frogs/toads swarmed on the paths (see video at [https://youtu.be/ADZec\\_NyWN8](https://youtu.be/ADZec_NyWN8)).



*Sand Lizard, Speckled Bush-cricket and Speckled Wood*

Arne RSPB Reserve, 1300

We just stopped here for lunch today but made a mental note to come back in September when there should be at least ten Ospreys to see after the 2018 season's introductions.

Winfrith Heath, 1430

The increasingly cloudy weather really didn't help us this afternoon but in the end we found a good range of birds and plants. The main target here was the lovely little Silver-studded Blue which we did find but only after a great deal of searching. Most of our time was spent looking at birds here, particularly a family of Stonechats and a very noisy Yellowhammer. A singing Tree Pipit was a very welcome find even we never did manage to actually see it.



*Clouded Border and Crambus pascuella*



*July Belle and Silver-studded Blue*

Looking forward to the next time,

Bob

### The weekend's list of species:

Little Grebe	Radipole, Higher Hyde
Great Crested Grebe	Radipole
Gannet	Portland Bill
Cormorant	Portland Bill
Shag	Portland Bill
Fulmar	Portland Bill, Eastcliffs
Manx Shearwater	Portland Bill
Grey Heron	Radipole
Little Egret	Ferrybridge
Mute Swan	Radipole
Canada Goose	Lodmoor
Mallard	Radipole, Higher Hyde
Shoveler	Radipole
Gadwall	Radipole
Tufted Duck	Radipole
Kestrel	Portland, Ferrybridge
Peregrine	Eastcliffs
Buzzard	Portland
Marsh Harrier	Radipole
Sparrowhawk	Eastcliffs
Pheasant	Winfrith
Coot	Radipole
Moorhen	Radipole
Oystercatcher	Ferrybridge
Dunlin	Ferrybridge
Black-headed Gull	Radipole
Mediterranean Gull	Radipole
Herring Gull	Portland etc
Great Black-backed Gull	Portland etc
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Radipole
Kittiwake	Portland Bill
Little Tern	Ferrybridge
Common Tern	Radipole, Ferrybridge
Guillemot	Portland Bill
Razorbill	Portland Bill
Wood Pigeon	Portland etc
Collared Dove	Radipole
Feral Pigeon	Eastcliffs
Stock Dove	Eastcliffs
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Winfrith
Swift	Radipole
Swallow	Radipole
House Martin	Radipole
Skylark	Ferrybridge
Meadow Pipit	Ferrybridge
Tree Pipit	Winfrith (heard)
Rock Pipit	Portland Bill
Pied Wagtail	Ferrybridge
Wren	Portland etc

Duncock	Radipole
Robin	Portland etc
Stonechat	Higher Hyde
Wheatear	Portland Bill
Mistle Thrush	Higher Hyde
Blackbird	Portland etc
Cetti's Warbler	Radipole
Sedge Warbler	Radipole
Reed Warbler	Radipole
Dartford Warbler	Winfrith
Blackcap	Portland etc
Garden Warbler	Higher Hyde (heard)
Chiffchaff	Radipole, Higher Hyde
Willow Warbler	Higher Hyde (heard)
Long-tailed Tit	Radipole, Higher Hyde
Coal Tit	Winfrith
Blue Tit	Portland etc
Great Tit	Portland etc
Treecreeper	Higher Hyde (heard)
Jay	Higher Hyde
Magpie	Portland etc
Jackdaw	Portland etc
Carrion Crow	Portland etc
Raven	Portland Bill, Ferrybridge
Starling	Portland Bill, Ferrybridge
Greenfinch	Radipole
Goldfinch	Radipole
Chaffinch	Portland
Linnet	Portland etc
Siskin	Higher Hyde (heard)
Reed Bunting	Radipole
Yellowhammer	Higher Hyde

### **Mammals**

Sika	Higher Hyde
Bunny	Higher Hyde

### **Reptiles/Amphibians**

Sand Lizard	Higher Hyde
Slow-worm	Higher Hyde
Grass Snake	Higher Hyde
Common Frog	Higher Hyde

### **Insects**

#### *Butterflies:*

Dingy Skipper	Portland
Large Skipper	Portland, Higher Hyde
Lulworth Skipper	Eastcliffs
Common Blue	Portland
Silver-studded Blue	Winfrith
Wall	Portland
Comma	Arne

Meadow Brown	Portland etc
Speckled Wood	Portland etc
<i>Moths:</i>	
Six-spot Burnet Moth	Portland
Scarlet Tiger	Radipole
Common Heath	Higher Hyde
Clouded Border	Higher Hyde
July Belle (?)	Winfrith
<u>Crambus pascuella</u>	Winfrith
<i>Dragonflies:</i>	
Large Red Damselfly	Higher Hyde
Common Blue Damselfly	Higher Hyde
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Radipole, Higher Hyde
Banded Demoiselle	Radipole
Common Darter	Higher Hyde
Four-spotted Chaser	Higher Hyde
<i>Bees and wasps:</i>	
Red-tailed Bumblebee	Radipole
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	Radipole
Common Carder Bee	Radipole
Willow Sawfly	Radipole
<i>Beetles:</i>	
Seven-spot Ladybird	Ferrybridge
Bloody-nosed Beetle	Portland
<i>Bush-cricket:</i>	
Roesel's Bush-cricket	Eastcliffs
Speckled Bush-cricket	Higher Hyde
<i>Hoverflies:</i>	
<u>Helophilus pendulus</u>	Higher Hyde
<u>Episyrrhus balteatus</u>	Radipole

## Plants

Arum Family:	Lords and Ladies
Bedstraw Family:	Hedge Bedstraw Lady's Bedstraw Wild Madder
Bindweed Family:	Bellbine Hedge Bindweed
Birch Family:	Alder Silver Birch
Borage Family:	Comfrey Viper's Bugloss
Broomrape Family:	Common Broomrape Ivy Broomrape
Buddleia Family:	Buddleia
Buttercup Family:	Bulbous Buttercup Clematis Creeping Buttercup Meadow Buttercup
Cabbage Family:	Annual Wall Rocket Black Mustard

Hedge Mustard  
Hoary Cress  
Sea Radish

Carrot Family:

Alexanders  
Cow Parsley  
Fennel  
Hemlock Water Dropwort  
Hogweed  
Rock Samphire  
Stone Parsley  
Wild Carrot

Daisy Family:

Beaked Hawk's-beard  
Carline Thistle  
Common Catsear  
Creeping Thistle  
Daisy  
Dandelion  
Greater Knapweed  
Lesser Burdock  
Marsh Thistle  
Musk Thistle  
Oxeye Daisy  
Prickly Sow-thistle  
Slender Thistle  
Spear Thistle  
Wormwood  
Yarrow

Dock Family:

Amphibious Bistort  
Broad-leaved Dock  
Curled Dock  
Sorrel

Dogwood Family:

Dogwood

Elm Family:

Elm

Fern Family:

Bracken  
Hart's-tongue Fern  
Male Fern  
Soft Shield Fern

Figwort Family:

Common Field Speedwell  
Common Figwort  
Broad-leaved Eyebright  
Foxglove  
Germander Speedwell  
Yellow Rattle

Gentian Family:

Common Centaury  
Yellow-wort

Geranium Family:

Herb Robert  
Pyrenean Cranesbill

Grass Family:

Annual Meadow Grass  
Barren Brome  
Cats-tail  
Cocksfoot

	Crested Dogstail
	False Brome
	False Oat-grass
	Red Fescue
	Reed
	Reed Canary-grass
	Rough Meadow Grass
	Rye Grass
	Tall Fescue
	Upright Brome
	Wall Barley
	Yorkshire Fog
Hazel Family:	Hazel
Heather Family:	Bell Heather
	Cross-leaved Heath
	Ling
Honeysuckle Family:	Elder
	Honeysuckle
	Guelder Rose
Horsetail Family:	Field Horsetail
	Marestail
Iris Family:	Gladiolus
	Yellow Flag Iris
Ivy Family:	Ivy
Maple Family:	Sycamore
Milkwort Family:	Common Milkwort
Mint Family:	Hedge Woundwort
	Marjoram
	Self-heal
	Skullcap
	Wild Thyme
	Wood Sage
Nettle Family:	Pellitory-of-the-Wall
	Stinging Nettle
Olive Family:	Ash
	Wild Privet
Orache Family:	Marsh Samphire
	Sea Beet
	Sea Purslane
	Shrubby Seablite
Orchid Family:	Bee Orchid
	Birdsnest Orchid
	Pyramidal Orchid
	Southern Marsh Orchid
Pea Family:	Birdsfoot Trefoil
	Black Medick
	Common Vetch
	Dwarf Gorse
	European Gorse
	Hairy Tare
	Hop Trefoil
	Horseshoe Vetch



	Kidney Vetch
	Lesser Trefoil
	Meadow Vetchling
	Red Clover
	White Clover
Pine Family:	Corsican Pine
	Scots Pine
	Monterey Pine
Pink Family:	Chickweed
	Lesser Stitchwort
	Ragged Robin
	Red Campion
Plantain Family:	Buck's-horn Plantain
	Greater Plantain
	Hoary Plantain
	Ribwort Plantain
Poppy Family:	Field Poppy
Potato Family:	Woody Nightshade
Primrose Family:	Scarlet Pimpernel
Reedmace Family:	Greater Reedmace
Rose Family:	Agrimony
	Blackthorn
	Bramble
	Dog Rose
	Hawthorn
	Himalayan Cotoneaster
	Meadowsweet
	Wild Strawberry
Sea-Lavender Family:	Thrift
Sedge Family:	Bulrush
	Common Cottongrass
	False Fox-sedge
	Glaucous Sedge
Spurge Family:	Portland Spurge
	Wood Spurge
Stonecrop Family:	Rock Stonecrop
Sundew Family:	Round-leaved Sundew
Valerian Family:	Red Valerian
Willow Family:	Sallow
	White Willow