

Portland Heights Birdwatching Breaks
Friday February 19th – Sunday February 21st 2010

Saturday February 20th

Weather: A cold north westerly breeze with showers of sleet in the morning, sunny in the afternoon.

Kingbarrow Quarry, 0700

The resident Little Owls proved very elusive this morning but we did get a good view of a Redwing and found lots of singing Greenfinches.

Portland Bill, 1000

In freezing conditions we still managed to see plenty of seabirds, the highlight being a Red-throated Diver flying past. Razorbills, Guillemots, Gannets and Fulmars were also seen with a single Kittiwakes feeding offshore. Nearby were a fine Black Redstart and no less than 29 Rock Pipits.

Grove Point, 1100

Splendid views here of a pair of Peregrines as well as some very close Fulmars and a Raven flying overhead.



Portland Castle, 1200

Very little here at all, just a Rock Pipit and a few Red-breasted Mergansers.

Ferrybridge, 1230

Large flocks of Dark-bellied Brent Goose grabbed most of our attention here but we also checked the gulls and found 7 Mediterranean Gulls along with lots of Common Gulls.

Sandsfoot Castle, 1330

The 15 Black-necked Grebes we saw here was an all-time record for Portland Harbour – and one of them was in full breeding plumage!

Bincleaves, 1400

At the far northern corner of the harbour we found a flock of Great-crested Grebes and a superb Black-throated Diver, which sadly flew off before we could all 'scope it.

Radipole, 1430

Our final stop for the day added plenty of new species including 2 mammals – Brown Rat and Roe Deer. From the north hide we had long views of a hovering Kestrel and a range of ducks including Shelduck, Teal and Wigeon. Our old friend Hoodie the Hooded Merganser was performing as usual but sadly there was no sign of the Bittern. Walking back to the car park we finished the day with a great view of a Water Rail on the path in front of us.



Sunday February 21st

Weather: Overcast and drizzly with brief sunny intervals, warmer than yesterday.

Portland Bill, 0730

In much warmer conditions than yesterday we added just one new species – Common Scoter but had good views in flight and on the sea.

Wareham Forest, 1030

Lots of woodland birds here but only 2 out of the hoped-for 3 woodpeckers. Good views of Siskin were had eventually but the Crossbills wouldn't co-operate and we had to be content with the briefest of in-flight views.

Arne, 1400

It was just about warm enough to eat our lunch outdoors, enabling us to watch Marsh and Coal Tits on the feeders, as well as a Blue Tit with a grotesquely overgrown beak.



Middlebere, 1500

Huge numbers of waders here with hundreds of Dunlins and Black-tailed Godwits along with large numbers of Redshank, Grey Plover and Avocet. Our final sighting for the weekend was an amazing flight of 6 Spoonbills.

The final total was an impressive 94 species, which amazingly included no Sparrowhawks or Turnstones!

Looking forward to our next outing together,

Bob

Birds: 94 species

Red-throated Diver	Portland Bill
Black-throated Diver	Portland Harbour
Great Crested Grebe	Portland Harbour
Black-necked Grebe	Portland Harbour
Little Grebe	Radipole
Fulmar	Portland Bill
Gannet	Portland Bill
Cormorant	Portland, Radipole
Shag	Portland Bill
Spoonbill	Middlebere
Little Egret	Middlebere
Grey Heron	Radipole
Mute Swan	Radipole
Canada Goose	Middlebere
Shelduck	Radipole, Middlebere
Gadwall	Radipole
Wigeon	Radipole
Teal	Radipole, Wareham Forest
Mallard	Radipole, Wareham Forest
Tufted Duck	Radipole
Pochard	Radipole
Hooded Merganser	Radipole
Red-breasted Merganser	Portland Harbour
Common Scoter	Portland Bill
Kestrel	Portland, Radipole
Peregrine	Portland
Buzzard	Wareham Forest
Pheasant	Arne
Water Rail	Radipole
Moorhen	Radipole
Coot	Radipole
Curlew	Middlebere
Oystercatcher	Portland Bill
Black-tailed Godwit	Middlebere
Grey Plover	Middlebere
Lapwing	Middlebere
Dunlin	Middlebere
Avocet	Middlebere
Redshank	Middlebere
Snipe	Radipole
Black-headed Gull	various sites
Herring Gull	various sites
Great Black-backed Gull	various sites
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Radipole
Kittiwake	Portland Bill
Mediterranean Gull	Ferrybridge
Yellow-legged Gull	Middlebere
Guillemot	Portland Bill
Razorbill	Portland Bill
Wood Pigeon	various sites
Feral Pigeon	Portland
Collared Dove	Portland
Green Woodpecker	Wareham Forest (heard)
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Wareham Forest
Nuthatch	Arne, Wareham Forest
Rock Pipit	Portland Bill
Meadow Pipit	Portland Bill
Pied Wagtail	Portland
Grey Wagtail	Wareham Forest
Skylark	Portland Bill
Wren	various sites
Duncock	various sites
Stonechat	Radipole
Robin	various sites
Black Redstart	Portland Bill
Blackbird	various sites
Mistle Thrush	Wareham Forest
Song Thrush	Wareham Forest

Fieldfare	Wareham Forest
Redwing	Portland, Wareham Forest
MarshTit	Arne
Long-tailed Tit	Middlebere, Wareham Forest
Coal Tit	Wareham Forest
Blue Tit	various sites
Great Tit	various sites
Jay	Wareham Forest
Raven	Portland
Magpie	various sites
Jackdaw	various sites
Rook	Portland Bill
Carrion Crow	various sites
Starling	various sites
House Sparrow	various sites
Greenfinch	various sites
Goldfinch	various sites
Chaffinch	various sites
Bullfinch	Radipole
Linnets	Portland Bill
Siskin	Wareham Forest
Crossbill	Wareham Forest
Yellowhammer	Wareham Forest
Reed Bunting	Radipole

Insects: 1 species

Bumble Bee	Portland
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Mammals: 6 species

Grey Squirrel	Wareham Forest
Roe Deer	Radipole
Sika Deer	Middlebere
Brown Rat	Radipole
Red Fox	Middlebere
Rabbit	Middlebere