

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

BIRD-WATCHING HOLIDAY TO

SOMERSET & DORSET

NEW YEAR – NEW LIST



JANUARY 2ND - 9TH 2022

TRIP REPORT

Contact: info@wingspanbirdtours.com

PLACES VISITED

SUNDAY 2ND

TEALHAM MOOR – HAM WALL

MONDAY 3RD

SHAPWICK HEATH – GREYLAKE – BURROW MUMP - ALLER MOOR – LANGPORT – SWELL WOODS – RED HILL (HEALE)

TUESDAY 4TH

CHEDDAR RESERVOIR – CHEW VALLEY – BARROW GURNEY – CHEW VALLEY – HAM WALL STARLING ROOST

WEDNESDAY 5TH

WESTHAY MOOR – CATCOTT LOW – TRANSFER TO DORSET, VISITS TO CHARMINSTER WATER MEADOWS – MAIDEN CASTLE – SILVERLAKE

THURSDAY 6TH

WEYMOUTH BAY – LODMOOR RSPB RESERVE – PORTLAND HARBOUR (viewed from Weymouth sailing club and Sandsfoot Castle) – FERRYBRIDGE – PORTLAND CASTLE – CHESIL COVE - PORTLAND BILL – CHESIL COVE – FERRYBRIDGE – RADIPOLE LAKE

FRIDAY 7TH

STOBOROUGH HEATH – MIDDLEBERE – ARNE – CROSSWAYS WATERCRESS BEDS – SILVERLAKE – FERRYBRIDGE – CHESIL COVE

SATURDAY 8TH

ABBOTSBURY SWANNERY – RIVER LIM (LYME REGIS) – THE COBB (LYME REGIS) – SEATON WETLANDS – WEST BEXINGTON – ABBOTSBURY SWANNERY – RADIPOLE LAKE

SUNDAY 9TH

WEYMOUTH BAY – RADIPOLE LAKE – PORTLAND HARBOUR (SAILING CLUB, BILLY WINTERS CAFÉ HAM BEACH) – CHESIL COVE – FERRYBRIDGE – CHARMINSTER MEADOWS - STOFORD MEADOW

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TRIP REPORT

SUMMARY

The combined trip of the Somerset Levels and Southern Dorset worked very well, we logged 140 species noting all five species of Grebes and all three Divers. Great, Little and Cattle Egrets are now easy sightings in Somerset with Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis and Whooper Swans regulars in both areas. It had been an excellent tour and despite the inclement weather we saw some excellent species, top of the list went the group's favourites, voted birds' of the day throughout the tour; Firecrest, Hen Harrier, Dartford Warbler, Dipper, Purple Sandpiper, the Starling murmuration and the Black Redstart. Other goodies included the Lesser Scaup, Red-necked Grebe and the 'white' Ruff. The sea-watching experience at Portland Bill was also mentioned and the stormy weather conditions at the Cobb at Lyme Regis were unforgettable.

Thank you to all the team for their contributions to the lively dinnertime entertainment, the banter on the bus and the finding of most of the birds. A special thank you goes out to Richard Pettett for providing his photographs for the blog and for this report.

Leader: Bob Buckler

Team:

Mike & Lorna Taylor, Richard Pettett, Linda Williams, Mike Ambler, Graham & Pam Stuart, Andrew Courtman.

DAY 1 January 2nd 2022 – SOMERSET LEVELS: - TEALHAM MOOR - HAM WALL RSPB RESERVE

WEATHER: cloudy with heavy rain showers during the afternoon, brighter later, quite windy until 3pm. Temp 12C

This mini-tour of the 'Levels' started at 10am as we all met up at our lovely Farm Guest-House near Westhay on the Somerset Levels. It was quite mild with patchy sunshine but quite windy to start with. Birds around the farm buildings included a couple of thousand Starlings, a few House Sparrows, Robin, Pied Wagtail and Collared Doves, I could hear a Song Thrush singing as I got out of the bus.

Everyone was settled into their rooms so we set off on our bus to begin this 8 day Somerset /Dorset adventure. We drove towards Burtle in search of a **Glossy Ibis** which had been favouring this area recently. After 200 meters we found a field with a flock of **Little Egrets** feeding in the wet grass, three **Cattle Egrets** were with them and half a dozen **Mute Swans**. We could not see the **Glossy Ibis** in the area so we gave up and headed over to Tealham Moor.

The wide, flat landscape of Tealham Moor stretched for miles in all directions as we drove along a very straight and narrow lane just north of Westhay Village. Eventually we came to a wet area of Tealham Moor where more fields were flooded with recent rainfall and lots of birds were roosting or feeding in them. We saw a single **Greylag Goose** with dozens of **Canada Geese**, also **Mute Swans** and a couple of hundred **Lapwings**. Many **Black-headed Gulls** were loafing near the pools and a few **Common Snipe** flew over us.

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a view of part of Tealham Moor

Linda picked out a pair of **Stonechats** and Richard photographed a very obliging **Meadow Pipit**. We eventually got round to finding our target bird which was a single **Tundra Bean Goose**, it was quite distant, and it seemed to be associating with a pair of **Mute Swans**.



a record shot of the **Bean Goose** on Tealham Moor

Next we drove back to the main road near Westhay and stopped to view a field which was absolutely full of **Cattle Egrets**, I can't remember seeing so many in one place, anywhere. We estimated that there was over 300 of them (later we heard that the official count was 347). That is truly amazing since this bird was virtually unknown in the UK just 5-6 years ago. Two **Great Egrets** were seen in the next field to the **Cattle Egrets**.

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After driving into Wedmore to collect lunch supplies we drove to RSPB Ham Wall Reserve where we ate our lunch sitting in the bus because heavy rain had set in. After 20 minutes or so we emerged from the bus after the rain had ceased, we bumped into Guy Campbell my birding buddy from Yeovil who had negative news on a couple of species we were hoping to see.

We walked towards the Tor View Hide via the main track noting a few species along the way, the rain recommenced as we approached viewing platform No. 1 where we saw a good selection of common duck species, some **Lapwings**, **Common Snipe** and **Little & Great Egrets**.



Common Snipe

The rain drove us to the Tor View Hide where we sought shelter and just as we got settled in someone called out "**Ring-necked Duck**". What great timing, we were hoping to see this Nearctic visitor and there it was 50 meters in front of us, we all had superb views of it and saw it side by side with **Tufted Ducks** which was good for comparison purposes.



Ring-necked Duck, showing its grey flank and its face and bill pattern

We added **Grey Heron**, **Great Crested & Little Grebes** and **Common Pochard** to our day list and after the rain had ceased we set off once again along the main track. We walked all the way to Viewing Point No. 2 and a little beyond where we crossed the main canal and headed towards the Avalon Hide. Along this track we saw **Long-tailed Tits** and three **Chiffchaffs**, we thought they were all **Common Chiffchaffs** but when we inspected the photos later, we could see that one of them was a very pale **Siberian Chiffchaff**, an unexpected bonus bird.



a **Siberian Chiffchaff** taken by Richard Pettett

We spent over an hour in the Avalon Hide enjoying the antics of up to 5 **Marsh Harriers** and dozens of ducks, geese and swans. To our great delight a **Great Bittern** flew into the reeds at the edge of the main pool, the **Bittern** re-emerged from the reeds about 10 minutes later and stood in full view for a few minutes before flying off.



Record shot of the **Great Bittern**

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Marsh Harrier by Richard Pettett taken from the Avalon Hide

Just before 4pm we set off back to the main track where we intended to watch the now famous **Starling** murmuration. Whilst waiting for the **Starlings** to arrive we found a **Water Pipit** feeding on a raft of floating vegetation, another bonus bird for our list.

The Murmuration was a little underwhelming, a couple of hundred thousand birds turned up and displayed a little before dropping into the reedbed, we didn't get to see the fabulous sky dancing and mesmerising shape-making swirls and dives that these incredible gatherings sometimes produce. At least the rain and wind had gone away so we could enjoy what little spectacle was performed in front of us.

Before driving back to the farmhouse we made a small detour to try to see a Barn Owl on Shapwick Moor. We never saw a sausage! So, in the dark, we drove back to finish the day. Later, our bird-log revealed that a total of 48 Species had been seen with two species heard only, not a bad start. We enjoyed a superb roast beef dinner followed by a delicious home-made pavlova dessert, yum, yum!

DAY 2 - January 3rd 2022

SHAPWICK HEATH – RSPB GREYLAKE – ALLER MOOR – SWELL WOODS

WEATHER: dull and overcast all day, but no rain! Light chilly breeze. Temp 6-8C

We had an excellent start to the day as we walked along the main track towards Shapwick Heath from the car park at Ham Wall. It was 8:15 as we set out and just beyond the car park on Shapwick Heath track we started listing some good sightings. An encounter with a male **Bullfinch** is always an exciting experience but today was extra special as we saw two males and a female, this was quickly followed by a **Goldcrest** sighting as this tiny bird flitted through the same bush as the **Bullfinches**.

Suddenly a flock of small finches dropped into the top of an Alder tree close by, we scoped them and found both **Siskin** and **Lesser Redpolls**. More birds arrived, we got onto some **Chaffinches** and to our great surprise we found a

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few **Brambling** with them. Wow! A good number of great sightings in less than 5 minutes and we hadn't even started the walk to Noah's Lake on Shapwick Heath.

The finch flock soon left us, so we moved on noting **Robin, Wren, Dunnock** and we Heard a **Cetti's Warbler** up ahead of us. The large pool at Meare Heath was covered in ducks, you could hear a cacophony of bird calls coming from the mass of **Wigeon, Teal, Shoveler, Gadwall, Coot** and **Mallards**. A **Marsh Harrier** drifted over the reeds at the back of the pool whilst a **Great Egret** and two **Grey Herons** stood at the edge of the water waiting for breakfast to appear. Two **Ravens** flew over us calling and the sky always had **Starlings, Cormorants, Crows, Jackdaws, Rooks, Black-headed Gulls** or **Lapwings** dashing across it.

Along the woodland track leading down to the hide at Noah's Lake we saw **Goldfinches, Long-tailed, Blue** and **Great Tits** and on the lake we had a similar scenario as the Meare Heath Lake, it was absolutely covered in birds. From the hide (we had trouble getting into the hide because at first yours truly didn't push hard enough on the dorr and declared it was locked – dipstick!) Richard then barged the door open and we enjoyed a good half an hour sifting through the mass of birds out on the water.



A 'spring' of Teal with a single Lapwing in the middle, taken from the hide at Greylake

We quickly found our first target bird, **Whooper Swan**, two of them were feeding on the opposite side of the lake and our second target was the **Pintail Duck**. They stood out from the crowd of **Wigeon** with their smart chocolate brown and white uniforms. We couldn't see anything else new for our list, but it was an enjoyable visit.

Walking back along the woodland track we found another flock of finches, at one point I had **Goldfinch, Siskin** and **Lesser Redpoll** in my field of view. Plenty of those three species kept us entertained for a while before we departed. We attempted to see a calling **Cetti's Warbler** without success and another **Goldcrest** showed up in the bushes. Walking back to the car park via the circular boardwalk trail produced one **Chiffchaff** sighting!



A record shot of a **Lesser Redpoll**

From Ham Wall we drove to RSPB Greylake reserve where we spent an hour or so sitting in the main hide sifting through the ducks and **Lapwings**. But before we walked to the hide we scanned the open meadows across the main road looking for **Merlin** or **Cranes** or both. We found a few **Fieldfares**, lots of **Starlings** and a single **Buzzard**, there was also one or two distant **Great Egrets** and plenty of **Mute Swans**.



Another 'spring' of **Teal** with a single **Wigeon**

A single, solitary **Golden Plover** flew over us as we walked towards the hide and the **Lapwings** gave us a splendid aerial display swirling this way and that, there must have been at least a 1000 up there.

From the hide we had thousands of **Teal** and **Wigeon** to sift through with a few **Snipe** thrown in and Mike Taylor found a couple of **Water Rails** for us. A Mega rare **Baikal Teal** had been seen yesterday, but no-one could find it today, it could have been anywhere on the huge expanse of marshland. Apart from the odd **Marsh Harrier** drifting by, putting up all the **Lapwings** we had little to write home about except for the sheer numbers of ducks, there was thousands of them.



A **Water Rail** at Greylake with a sleeping **Teal**

A quick stop at Burrow Mump after leaving Greylake produced nothing except for more **Fieldfares** and some distant **Canada Geese** and a very pale-coloured **Buzzard**. We then drove round to Staithe to view the water meadows from the high banks of the River Parrett, we eventually found a flock of **Common Cranes**. They were very distant feeding along the edge of a maize field, we counted 31 birds but we guessed there was a quite a few more.



Very distant **Common Cranes** feeding in a maize field

From there we drove into Langport to buy our picnic lunch, from the main car park in Langport we added **Greenfinch** to our trip list, a few of them were found in a tree with **Chaffinches** and **Goldfinches**.

We then drove to RSPB Swell Woods where we sat in the bus watching the busy activity around the bird feeders whilst eating our lunch. In actual fact the feeders were empty, but people had been throwing down seed in the car park and we helped by chucking out many crumbs and scraps. We soon found **Blue, Great & Coal Tits**, along with **Robin, Dunnock** and **Chaffinch**. Then the star bird arrived, the **Marsh Tit**, our most wanted and targeted bird, shazam!!

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A **Siskin** from our visit to Noah's Lake

We heard a **Nuthatch** calling in the woods and so we decided to take the lovely circular walk around the woods. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** also called before we stopped to watch a couple of **Treecreepers**, further round the track we stopped to admire the fantastic view from a lookout point before moving along and finding our first **Jay** of the trip. This bird attracted our attention by calling, it used its seldom heard 'buzzard-like' call which totally threw us at first.

The woodland was very quiet as you might expect in the middle of winter, but we did see **Goldcrest**, **Goldfinches** and **Chaffinches** and back at the car park we finally got sight of the **Nuthatch**.

For the last part of the day we decided to stake-out an area where the **Common Cranes** could be seen as they came in to roost, so we drove the short distance to a very steep hill and parked up. Our view of the moors was stunning and panoramic, we waited about 45 minutes before Lorna spotted the **Cranes** in the distance. In the meantime, we had fun scanning the moors below us, finding many species and huge numbers of **Lapwing** and a good sized flock of some 300-400 **Golden Plover**.



Some of the Cranes as they flew in to roost

As the **Cranes** got nearer, we could hear them and on counting the flock we found there was 72 of them!! Wow, we never expected that many. They got nearer and then dropped down onto the moors some distant away, what a lovely experience, I know you can see roosts of over 20,000 Cranes in France and Spain but for a bird just brought back from the brink of extinction in the UK, 72 is a good number and we'll take it!

We drove back to the Farmhouse at 4pm and before we parked up to finish the day we drove just past the farm to check the adjacent fields for the elusive **Glossy Ibis**. We saw dozens of **Cattle Egrets** and **Little Egrets** but not the Ibis, we will try again tomorrow.

DAY 3 – JANUARY 4TH 2022

CHEDDAR RESERVOIR - CEW VALLEY LAKE (STRATFORD HIDE, HERRIOT'S BRIDGE, HERON GREEN, NUNNERY POINT, THE DAM - BARROW GURNEY TANKS - HAM WALL

WEATHER: it was an atrocious start to the day, high winds, rain and very low temperatures. Much brighter later with sunshine and light winds. Temp 2-5C

What a cold start to the day! It was almost freezing out there, a strong wind with driven rain didn't make for good bird watching. We set off at 8am and headed for Cheddar Reservoir, but first we attempted to find the **Glossy Ibis** in the fields next to the farm. We found lots of **Cattle** and **Little Egrets** with **Mute Swans** but not the Ibis.

It took 30 minutes to drive across to the Cheddar Reservoir and just five minutes out of the bus was enough to freeze us all and drive us back on board! The wind was ridiculously strong you could hardly stand up let alone scan the very choppy water. We saw **Black-headed Gull**, **Pied Wagtail**, **Cormorant** and **Coot!**

Moving round to the Axebridge side of the reservoir we found a very sheltered spot, the rain had stopped and we had reasonable weather conditions for a proper scan of the water which was still very choppy. We found lots of **Tufted Duck**, **Great Crested Grebes**, **Coots** and plenty of **Common Pochard** but not the hoped for **Red-crested Pochard**, perhaps our target birds had flown back to Cotswold Country Park where they had come from?

The drive across to Chew Valley took us through the town of Cheddar and the famous Gorge, we saw very little along the way just the usual corvids in the fields and lots of **Wood Pigeons**.



Common Snipe seen from the Hide at Stratford Bay

Our first port of calls at the Lake was the Stratford Hide where for the last few weeks a small number of **Jack Snipe** had been performing well. It was very windy at the hide, the wind was blowing into our faces through the viewing openings, it was freezing in there. We found a few **Common Snipe** before we got onto a **Jack Snipe**, this bird quickly bobbed its way out of sight before all of the group got to see it.

A second bird was found, it too was bobbing but on closer inspection it turned out to be another **Common Snipe** (I have seen **Common Snipe** mimic the bobbing action of Jack Snipe before now, but the group had not). It was a big disappointment for them because after an hour of searching the **Jack Snipe** did not reappear, we left the hide and planned to return a little later in the day.

All of sudden the wind dropped, it was like someone had shut a door somewhere, wow, that was spooky, it happened so fast. We watched the feeders at the back of the hide for a while, noting: **Blue, Great, Long-tailed & Coal Tits, Chaffinch**, some of the group saw a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** our first of the trip.

At Herriot's Bridge we were once again disappointed because of the weather, we added **Shelduck, Pintail, Wigeon, Common and Herring Gulls** to our day list, but nothing else could be seen. So we drove to the pastie shop in West Harptree to buy lunch before heading round to Heron's Green to eat.

In the bay at Heron's Green two **Great Black-backed Gulls** were tussling over a very large dead fish whilst the smaller **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** looked on. We found a pair of **Goldeneye** and saw lots of **Tufted Ducks** out by Nunnery Point where we were informed by a local birder that a couple of **Greater Scaup** had been seen a few minutes ago. So we drove round to the track to Nunnery Point, we got most of the way there but a second gate was padlocked shut, so we had to walk for a while.

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two of the female **Greater Scaups** seen at Nunnery Point

During our walk we saw **Long-tailed Tits**, **Fieldfares**, we heard a **Green Woodpecker** and we found a huge flock of **Common Pochard** in a small inlet. At the point we sifted through the **Tufted Duck** flock and found a 1st year male **Greater Scaup** and three female type birds, we also had closer views of the **Goldeneye**.

From Nunnery Point we drove across country to the 'Tanks' (3 small reservoirs) at Barrow Gurney where we knew a long staying **Long-tailed Duck** was present, over-wintering for its third year. It took about five minutes to locate the little beauty, what a stunning male bird it was, it quickly went onto the top of the list for our bird of the day!



the male **Long-tailed Duck** at Barrow Gurney Tanks

Back at Chew Valley we visited the Dam near Chew Stoke where we found the wintering **Common Sandpiper** and a couple more **Goldeneye**, our stay there was brief because we wanted to return to the Stratford Hide for a second attempt at seeing the **Jack Snipe**.



Common Sandpiper at the Dam, Chew Valley Lake

The weather conditions were now very good, the sky had cleared, we had sunshine a very light breeze although it remained cold. We quickly picked out up to 12 different **Common Snipe** from the hide and it was Linda who found a

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Jack Snipe. This one performed really well and over the next 30 minutes it showed several times and performed its bobbing action. Hooray, everyone got to see it well at last.



the big beady eye of the **Jack Snipe**

A **Marsh Harrier** flew low near the hide and various common duck species could be seen, I saw a **Nuthatch** as we left the hide and usual birds were around the feeders, it was too breezy for **Bearded Reedlings** to show so we didn't look for them.

With the weather conditions so good we thought a second visit to the Starling Roost at Ham Wall would go down very well, we had a clear sky and virtually no wind, perfect. On the way back to the 'Levels' we saw plenty of **Cattle Egrets**, at least 150 sat in one field, we also picked out **Common Buzzards**, **Fieldfares** and lots of **Wood Pigeons**.

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sunset at the Levels, what a contrast to the start of the day!!

At Ham Wall we joined the throngs of people on the main track and made it to Viewing Platform No. 1 by 4pm, it was still quite light, so we ventured further along the track hoping for a **Firecrest** sighting. We saw **Great Egrets, Grey Herons, Marsh Harrier** and then the **Starlings** started to arrive.

Once again the murmuration did not occur, we were very disappointed, thousands of birds turned up but they simply dove down into the reedbeds and settled for the night. Two or three separate roost sites were chosen by the **Starlings** so the numbers at each site was quite low, tens of thousands instead of hundreds of thousands. I assumed it was because of the weather, it was too good and the conditions gave the starlings multiple choices of where to roost.

We left underwhelmed once again, but before we went to the farmhouse we stopped near Burtle to listen for **Tawny Owls**, none called during our brief stop so we got back to our rooms by 17:30pm which gave us an hour before the bird log was called. We have seen 85 species so far and hope find a few more tomorrow before we leave the Levels for our Dorset part of the Tour.

DAY 4 - JANUARY 5TH 2022

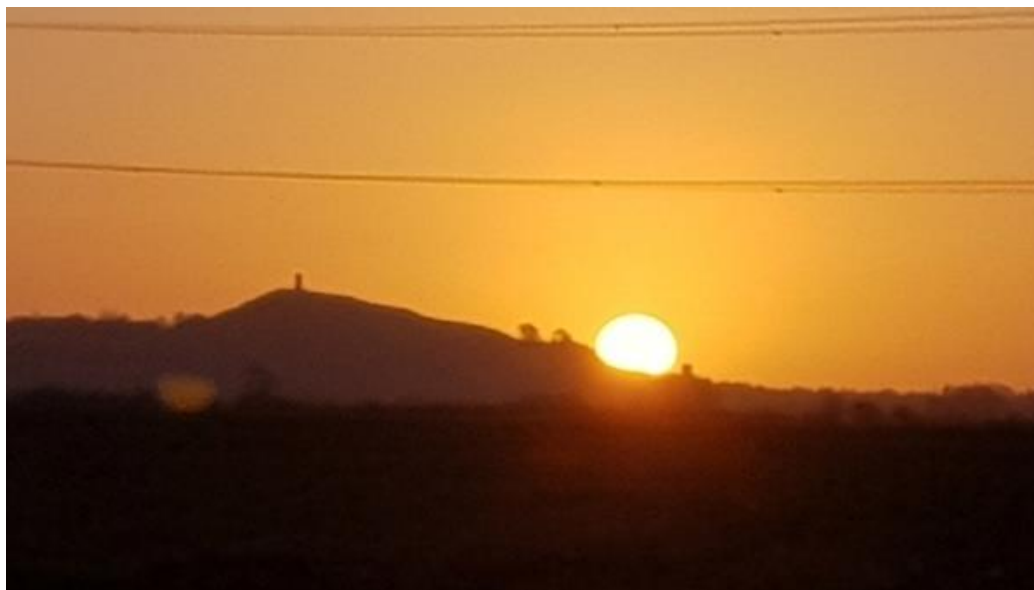
WESTHAY MOOR – CATCOTT LOW – TRANSFER TO WEYMOUTH IN DORSET, WITH STOPS NEAR DORCHESTER:- CHARMINSTER WATER MEADOWS – MAIDEN CASTLE – SILVERLAKE

WEATHER: a very cold start but a light breeze and all-day sunshine. Temp 2-5C

Our best day by a country mile as far as the weather was concerned with some excellent birding too! We started at the usual time 8am and decided to check the meadows adjacent to the farmhouse for any sign of the **Glossy Ibis** which failed to turn up once again. We did see plenty of **Little & Cattle Egrets, Mute Swans** and swarms of **Starlings**.

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We then drove the short distance to Westhay Moor parking at the southern end of London Drove, we saw **Redwings** and **Fieldfares** as we got out of the bus and a nice flock of **Chaffinches**. Not far into our walk we saw 3 **Jays** and a **Raven** flew over calling. At the first pools we came to we saw the common duck species such as **Teal**, **Shoveler**, **Mallard** and **Gadwall**, we also saw **Great Egret**, **Grey Heron**, **Canada Goose** and **Mute Swans**.



sunrise from Westhay with the Glastonbury Tor in view

At 30 Acre Lake we watched from the hide and found **Pintail**, **Wigeon**, **Tufted Duck** and our star bird the **Goosander**, two pairs were present, we watched these graceful birds for a while. We then continued along the Drove stopping on a bridge to view the surrounding meadows hoping for a **Kestrel** sighting but we never saw one. Mike Taylor then called out an Otter sighting which was quite a distance away, but unmistakable. A **Marsh Harrier** came over and dive bombed the **Otter**, how extraordinary was that?



Male **Goosander** at Westhay Moor

The group wanted to get closer views of the **Otter** and decided to walk to the next drove and maybe get a little nearer, in the meantime I walked back to the bus and drove it round to meet them. The **Otter** had gone by the time they got there but they did get good views of a flock of about 50 **Cattle Egrets**.

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a pair of **Pintail Ducks** at Westhay Moor

Before moving on to our next destination we stopped for a coffee near Westhay Village and then we drove to Catcott Low, carefully checking the fields along the way for the **Glossy Ibis**. At Catcott we watched from the blinds beside the hide, because the hide was full of birders.



Catcott Low - a view from the hide

Hundreds of Wigeon were very close by with one or two **Pintail**, some **Teal** and **Shoveler**, but we saw nothing new at Catcott.

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Great Egrets are now quite a common sight on the Levels

At 12 noon we were all packed and ready to transfer to Dorset for our 4-day tour, Mike Ambler was heading off home first thing in the morning so he drove his own car down. We collected three more participants in Stoford, Graham, Pam and Andrew, they jumped onto the bus and we continued along the route to Weymouth with planned stops around Dorchester ahead of us.

Charminster Water Meadows were covered in birds we hoped to see **Russian White-fronted Geese** which had been seen everyday for a couple of weeks. We could not find them, they had gone AWOL. However, the meadows looked great in the early afternoon sunlight and we enjoyed great views of **Lapwings, Black-tailed Godwits, Wigeon, Teal, Gadwall, Mallards, Grey Heron, Little Egrets** and hundreds of gulls. We saw **Black-headed, Mediterranean, Herring** and **Common Gulls** as well as **Cormorants** and **Canada Geese**.



Linnets in the afternoon sunlight at Silverlake

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After stopping in Dorchester to buy lunch at 2pm we drove around the town to visit Maiden Castle where a good number of species were to be looked for. Our main target bird was the **LITTLE GULL**, two of them had been seen in recent days. We found one after about five minutes of looking, Mike Taylor got onto it first! Marvellous, this species is an excellent one for the list and a very unusual winter sighting especially at an inland site!!

We drove down to the main car park and scanned the fields for other species, thousands of birds were out there including: **Black-headed** and **Mediterranean Gulls**, **Starlings**, **Rooks**, **Crows**, **Jackdaws** and **Wood Pigeons**.

Before long we had found a large flock of **Linnets**, we saw small parties of **Skylarks** a couple of **Stonechats** and one of our main targets, the **Corn Bunting**, several of these were seen in a field of beet.

We left at 3pm and drove to the east side of Dorchester to the disused gravel pits at Silverlake and spent the last 1 ½ hours of daylight enjoying some great sightings.

To our great delight and surprise we found a small group of **Russian White-fronted Geese** (apparently there was 11 present but we saw only 3 of them), they were standing with **Greylag** and **Canada Geese**. In the water we found a single male **Goldeneye**, lots of **Tufted Ducks**, **Common Pochards**, **Wigeon**, **Teal** and **Shoveler**. Then 5 **Egyptian Geese** flew in and a little later a single **RUDDY SHELDUCK** flew over the water and landed out of sight.

In the meantime we saw a pair of **Great Spotted Woodpeckers**, a couple of **Green Woodpeckers**, a small flock of **Linnets** and a **Nuthatch**. There was no sight nor sound of a **Woodlark** or **Goosander** (3 goosander were reported from the eastern pool, but we had no time to walk there!).



a quick snapshot of the **Ruddy Shelduck** in flight, taken by Richard Pettett



Sunset over the water at Silverlake

As we got back into the car we saw **Great Tit, Robin, Redwing, Starling** and **Blackbird**. Our final sighting of the day was a **Kestrel**, seen as we drove over the ridge between Dorchester and Weymouth, hooray!! At last we had seen a **Kestrel** the first of the trip for us!

DAY 5 - JANUARY 6TH 2022

**WEYMOUTH BAY – LODMOOR – PORTLAND HARBOUR – FERRYBRIDGE – CHESIL COVE -
PORTLAND BILL – CHESIL COVE – RADIPOLE LAKE**

WEATHER - a dry start, then it got windy and wet, very windy at the end of the day and very wet. Temp 5-8C

We knew it was coming, the bad weather that is, so we tried to make the most of it before it got too wet and windy. At 8am we set off to view Weymouth Bay from the sea wall near Lodmoor RSPB reserve. We searched for a **Red-necked Grebe** that had been present for a couple of weeks now, it was cold standing there with a brisk breeze in our faces. We saw lots of **Cormorants, Great Crested Grebes**, a few **Razorbills** and the usual gulls but not the **RN Grebe**.



my motley crew at dinner – clockwise from front left:- Linda, Lorna, Mike T, Mike A, Pam, Graham, Andrew and Richard

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We then walked the west path at Lodmoor which was buzzing with finches, we saw a dozen or so of **Greenfinches**, a couple of **Bullfinches**, **Chaffinches** and **Goldfinches**, we also saw a very tame **Robin**, lots of **Dunnocks** and also **Blue**, **Great** and **Long-tailed Tits**.



the 'white' Ruff at Lodmoor with **Black-headed Gulls** and **Lapwings**

Out on the marsh we saw the usual Lodmoor suspects such as: **Common Snipe**, **Dunlin**, **Black-tailed Godwits**, the 'white' Ruff, **Teal**, **Gadwall**, **Shelduck**, **Wigeon**, **Shoveler**, **Grey Heron**, **Little Egret**, **Canada Geese** and a pair of **Little Grebes**.



a selection of birds at Lodmoor: **Ruff**, **Lapwing**, **Great BB Gull**, **Common Snipe** and **Moorhen**

It was quite sheltered from the wind as we got out of the bus at Weymouth Sailing Club where we scanned the northern side of Portland Harbour for grebes and divers. We soon found **Red-breasted Mergansers**, a single **Black-necked Grebe** and then a single **Slavonian Grebe**, that's four grebe species in the bag, so far.

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A juvenile **Black-tailed Godwit** taken by Richard Pettett

I picked out a **Black-throated Diver** but after showing briefly we lost sight of it, doh! A **Razorbill** and a few **Mediterranean Gulls** was all we saw before we walked up to Sandsfoot Castle to view the harbour from there. From the castle grounds we added **Great Northern Diver** to the list, this one showed quite well although distant, a second **Black-necked Grebe** was also found before we moved on.

Next stop was Ferrybridge, it was high tide, so all the roosting birds were very close to the visitor's centre. We saw a couple of dozen **Dark-bellied Brent Geese**, dozens of **Dunlin**, a couple of **Turnstones**, **Ringed Plover** and five **Bar-tailed Godwits**. Four **Oystercatchers** flew and then three **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** arrived, they fed very close by, amongst a host of **Mediterranean Gulls**.

We drove up to Portland Castle after stopping at the supermarket to buy lunch. We found a sheltered spot and scanned the southern end of the harbour. All we saw was a few **Red-breasted Mergansers**, there was a host of **Shags** and a couple of **Cormorants** on the sea-defence wall, it was good to point out to the group the differences between the two.



A single **Cormorant** (far right) with a bunch of **Shags**, taken by Richard from Portland Castle

A brief stop in Fortuneswell to view a very windy Chesil Cove looking for a **Black Redstart** was a bit of a waste of time. We did see a bedraggled **Rock Pipit** and a beautiful **Red Fox**!

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Wind swept **Rock Pipit** taken by Richard at Chesil Cove

The windiest part of our day was the time we spent at Portland Bill, you could hardly stand up at times but we had a terrific hour-long sea-watching session huddled behind the wall of the Lighthouse garden.

It was manic out at sea just off the Bill, dozens of **Northern Gannets** gathered just eastward off the Bill with just as many **Kittiwakes**, also **Herring Gulls** with a few **Great Black-backed Gulls**. A constant stream of Auks flew past, heading both eastward and westward, we identified both **Guillemots** and **Razorbills** from Richard's photographs, we also saw a couple of **Fulmars**, five **Common Scoter** and three **Red-throated Divers** all going west. I am sure others passed us by further out.



two record shots of **Red-throated Diver** taken by Richard Pettett



We then sat in the bus and ate our picnic lunch it was 2pm!! After a brief stop at Chesil Cove for a second look for the Black Redstart we drove into Weymouth. We made a short stop at the sheltered harbour, it was like being in another world, no wind at all but it was raining lightly. We searched for a Iceland Gull, another elusive bird that could be anywhere at anytime, we failed to see it.



Guillemots, two of them are in summer plumage, taken by Richard



Pale-Bellied (foreground) and **Dark-bellied Brent Geese**, by Richard Pettett at Ferrybridge

Lastly we spent the remaining part of the day at Radipole Lake, the wind had dropped a little but the rain had increased. I can't believe that my group were still keen to get out of the bus and walk around near the visitor's centre, which was closed at usual.

We sifted through the hundreds of gulls on the car park and in the main lagoon for the bird from Iceland without luck, however, we did see a good number of **Common Gulls** which was nice.

We decided to stay around for the Starling Roost, you can only see a few thousand birds here compared to the hundreds of thousands you see at Hall Wall in Somerset, but they usually give a nice Murmuration aerial display. Despite the rain we had a terrific display, it was amazing, the group loved it, it lasted a good fifteen minutes, many shapes and patterns were displayed above us, fascinating. Then all of a sudden, the birds decided to drop down to roost not far from us, down they dropped into the reeds, swirling like water flowing into a plug-hole, gone in a flash! What a superb ending to a great birding day in awful weather!!

DAY 6 – JANUARY 7TH 2022

STOBOROUGH HEATH – MIDDLEBERE -RSPB ARNE – CROSSWAYS WATERCRESS BEDS – SILVERLAKE – WEYMOUTH BAY – FERRYBRIDGE – CHESIL COVE

WEATHER: light cloud with plenty of sunshine to start with, cloudy, windy and rain later, Temp 1-3C

Burrr!! It was cold and wet at times today but also very sunny and still, it was certainly a day of two halves. We set off at 7:45am and drove to Stoborough Heath just south of Wareham arriving 40 minutes later.

It was cloudy at first with very bad light and as we drove along a lane onto the heath we saw two **Mistle Thrushes** fly up as a dog and dog-walker came towards us. We pulled over at a likely spot where to look for **Dartford Warblers**, nice heathland habitat where dense gorse bushes were scattered about. It took a little searching but soon we found our target numero uno, a **Dartford Warbler**, it showed well intermittently, and we all got to see it, Richard managed to get some good photos of it.



view across to Hartland Moor from Stoborough Heath



Dartford Warbler taken by Richard Pettett

We then circumnavigated Hartland Moor to arrive at the car park at the track to Middlebere where we parked the bus and set off on foot. Along the track we bumped into a pair of **Bullfinches** and we scoped a few species out in the fields and reedbeds. We saw **Little Egret**, **Black-headed Gull**, a large flock of **Lapwings** and three distant **Sika Deer**, there was also plenty of common birds along the track. Just before we reached the hide two **Eurasian Spoonbills** flew over us.



Two **Spoonbills** flying over us at Middlebere, taken by Richard

The sun came up and finally the light improved as we reached the hide, we had timed it well as the tide was about 90 minutes before being at its highest. We spent a fantastic hour or so viewing the exposed mud where dozens of birds were feeding or sleeping. Our target number two was quickly in the bag as we found two **Spotted Redshanks**. Also on view was: dozens of **Avocets**, 20+ **Common Redshanks**, a few **Curlews**, big flocks of **Dunlin**, plenty of **Teal**, a few **Wigeon**, **Shoveler** and **Mallards**. A single **Spoonbill** dropped in for a short while and promptly went to sleep!



the view from the hide at Middlebere

A small flock of **Meadow Pipits** landed on a fence and with them we saw a pair of **Reed Buntings**, a **Stonechat** sat nearer to us and a **Wren** flitted about in the reeds below.

We saw a **Marsh Harrier** in the distance as well as a pair of **Common Kestrels** and then suddenly the start bird appeared right in front of the hide, a female or Ringtail **Hen Harrier**!! It flew right across our field of view about 50 meters away, oh what a beauty! That left the group buzzing with excitement, we quickly left the hide to see if we could relocate the bird but it never reappeared.



Hen Harrier captured by Richard from the hide at Middlebere, he did extremely well to get this picture

Next, we drove down to the RSPB Reserve at Arne and visited the car park area to look for **Firecrests**, I had seen them there on January 1st. We noted **Coal, Blue, Great** and **Long-tailed Tits, Nuthatch, Chaffinch** and plenty of **Robins**. It took a while, we scoured the car park and then a single **Firecrest** appeared and showed extremely well at eye-level, what a little gem that bird is, it went straight to bird of the day status, the **Hen Harrier** dropped down a peg, how fickle we are!



the holly and the **Firecrest** by Richard Pettett

We sat in the café drinking a well-deserved coffee before walking into the mature woodland nearby to look for other woodland species, it wasn't long before we located a **Treecreeper** and to our great amazement another **Firecrest** appeared in the ivy wrapped around an oak tree! Wow, another great sighting.



This **Treecreeper** was singing, taken by Richard

It was now 12 noon and we began to lose the sunshine, rain was forecast for later so we tried to make it to other sites before it got too bad. We stopped in Wareham to buy lunch and then continued to Wareham Forest, we parked along the northern edge besides a farm where we looked for **Yellowhammers**. We saw **Redwings, Fieldfares, Chaffinches, Goldfinches, House Sparrows** and **Dunnocks** but no **Yellowhammers**.

As we made our way back towards Weymouth we stopped at the Watercress beds at Crossways where we found our first **Grey Wagtail** with **Meadow Pipits** and **Pied Wagtails**, it started to rain just then.

Nearby we pulled into Silverlake as the rain increased in intensity, a quick scan of the pools produced several sightings including **Egyptian Geese** but not the hoped-for **Goosanders**. The rain drove us off. We moved onto another site nearby where I know **Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers** breed, it was sheltered there but the rain was quite intense, we saw very little except for a mixed 'tit flock'.

We got back into Weymouth around 3pm, a quick scan of Weymouth Bay from Greenhill produced absolutely nothing, so we drove across Weymouth to Ferrybridge, it was slow going in the school-time traffic. The rain stopped and it got lighter, but the wind had increased. A second cup of coffee was followed by a quick scan of the mudflats which produced sightings of **Brent Geese, Bar-tailed Godwits, Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Turnstones, Mediterranean Gulls** and a flock of **Linnets**.

Before retiring for the day and before it got too dark, we drove to Chesil Cove once more (our third attempt) to look for a **Black Redstart**, which did not appear once again! We gave up at that point and drove into Weymouth passing Radipole Lake where the Starling murmuration was just ending, we saw the birds dropping down into the reeds as we arrived! Doh!!



a wet and windy Chesil Cove at 4pm

It was a brilliant morning up to about 1pm, then the day sort of fizzled out as the weather deteriorated, the forecast is for more wet and windy weather tomorrow, such joy!!

DAY 7 – JANUARY 8TH 2022

ABBOTSBURY SWANNERY – RIVER LIM & THE COBB AT LYME REGIS – SEATON WETLANDS – WEST BEXINGTON - ABBOTSBURY SWANNERY – RADIPOLE LAKE

WEATHER: wet and windy for most of the day with dry spells. Temp 6 -11C

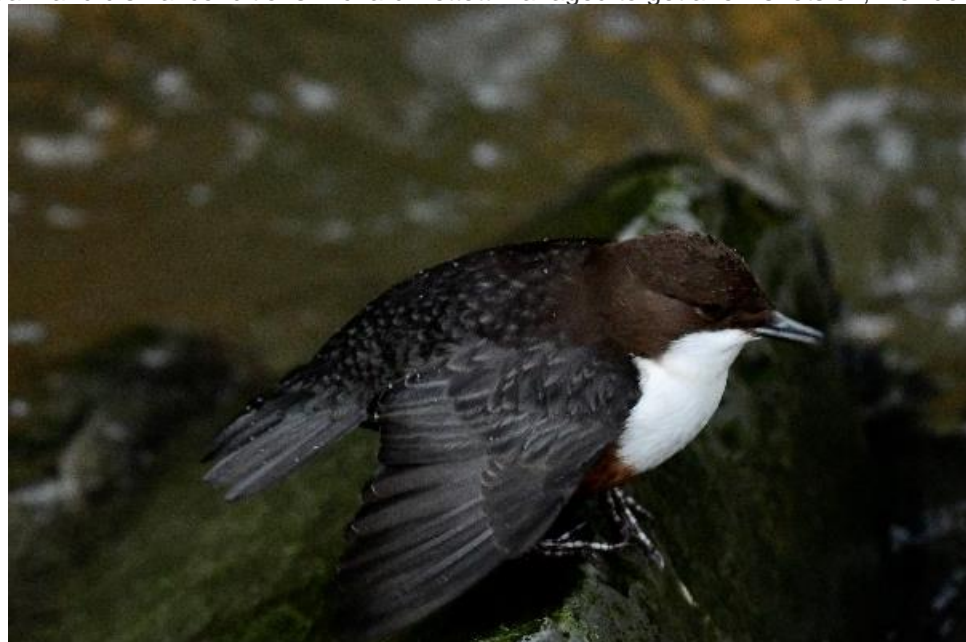
It was a lot warmer today and the winds had died down somewhat, the rain was light but was with us for most of the day and heavy in spells.

I am getting fed up with this wet and windy weather, the light has been very bad too, but we have to soldier on regardless. We set off at 8am and headed for Abbotsbury Swannery a few miles west of Weymouth, we noted many released **Pheasants**, also **Little Egret**, **Buzzard**, **Lapwing** and many gulls in the fields once we had left the main road but no sign of any **Partridges**.

At Abbotsbury we were hoping to scan the main pool from the road but with the rain coming down at 45 degrees in our faces and the terrible, misty light conditions we abandoned after five minutes of seeing nothing! In Lyme Regis it was much calmer and the rain had stopped for a spell, we parked near the river Lim and within a couple of minutes we had found our target bird, the **Dipper**. Not one, but two birds performed well, it was fascinating to watch them from above and see them walking about underwater. A **Grey Wagtail** appeared too, nice one, job done.



in very dark and dismal conditions Richard Pettett managed to get a few shots off, well done matey



It was a very different story at the sea front, a westerly wind was whipping the waves up and over the Cobb (sea-defence wall), we were hoping to see **Purple Sandpiper** there, but their usual roost site was under water for most of the time. As we walked along the sheltered lea side of the Cobb we noted a dozen or so **Rock Pipits** with quite a few **Pied Wagtails**, we walked half way along the Cobb trying to avoid a soaking as huge waves crashed over the high wall showering us with sea-spray, occasionally a ginormous wave would come over the top and we had to avoid those.

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on the Cobb at Lyme Regis, waves were coming over the top of the sea defence wall

Searching the small harbour and the area around the buildings on the Cobb we realised that the sandpipers were not there but as we walked back to the car park, we checked the beach area and found a mixed flock of **Ruddy Turnstones** and **Purple Sandpipers**! Hooray, some of the birds flew up onto the Cobb wall and over to the sheltered side, so we walked back and found them having a bath in a puddle.



Ruddy Turnstone on the Cobb, Richard Pettett



Two in a bath, **Turnstone** and **Purple Sandpiper**

We then drove down into Seaton visiting a supermarket for lunch supplies before driving the wetlands a couple of miles out of town, we noted the river Axe was almost bursting its banks during this high tide period.

At Black Hole Marsh we sat in the island hide and scanned the marsh, it was flooded with hardly any mud showing and very few birds were out there. We noted **Common Shelduck, Teal, Oystercatcher, Common Snipe, Moorhen** and **Grey Heron** and that was all!



Grey Heron at Black Hole Marsh, Seaton

At the Discovery Hide we saw a **Kingfisher**, our first for the trip would you believe, we also scanned the Water Meadows in the distance and saw a lot of birds out there, so we walked to the hide that over-looks Colyford Water Meadows, it started to rain once again as we walked out in the open area.



our first **Kingfisher** of the Tour, my phone-scoped picture above and Richard's DSLR camera below



From the hide we saw a large flock of **Canada Geese** (one of which looked like a hybrid between a Canada and a Bar-headed Goose), dozens of **Curlews** fed in the meadow with **Lapwings**, **Common Shelduck** and lots of corvids. The best sighting was made by Linda, she picked out a nest box near a farm building and on closer inspection you could see a **Tawny Owl** looking out of the entrance hole, fantastic, well done, Linda!

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Richard's **Reed Bunting**, seen at the feeders on Seaton Marshes

From Seaton we drove back Abbotsbury but we made a stop in West Bexington to look for **Yellowhammers** and a possibly a **Cirl Bunting**. This stop was a big mistake because as we left the bus it started to rain, it got progressively worse the further away from the bus we walked. We found the correct spot for the buntings from directions we had been given, but with a howling wind and wind-driven rain we had no chance of finding anything.

On reaching Abbotsbury for the second time the sky was much brighter and the visibility had improved 100%. We scanned the pool from New Barn Lane and picked out **Teal**, **Shoveler**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Wigeon** and then we found a flock of **Tufted Duck** and **Common Pochard**. Our target birds the **Great & Lesser Scaup** were supposed to be with such a flock.



the end of the Cobb showing the extension of rocks, normally this where the **Purple Sandpipers** roost - errr....but not today!!

Scanning through the flock we quickly found a **Greater Scaup** and after a short while we got the female **Lesser Scaup** too! It was very difficult to get all of the group onto these birds as they were diving as well as moving within the flock. The **Lesser Scaup** separated from the flock for a while and I got all of the group to see it through my scope, result!!

As we were watching the ducks Pam called out a **Hen Harrier!!!** Learning from our experience at Middlebere Pam correctly identified a Ring-tailed **Hen Harrier**, wow, what a great find!! The rain came back with a vengeance and drove us off.

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another of Richard's **Purple Sandpiper** shots

Back in Weymouth we had time for a quick walk onto the reserve at Radipole Lake, we were hoping for a sighting of **Bearded Reedling** and sure enough a small bunch of them appeared in the reeds along the main track. Unfortunately, they did not stay around long enough for Linda, who was most desperate to see them, she missed the sighting,



you don't get much closer than this to a **Rock Pipit**, taken by Richard Pettett on the Cobb

We hung around for the Starling murmuration and even though there was only a thousand or so birds they performed well. Many shapes and formations were produced in the sky which precluded their dive into the reeds to roost. In the meantime, we saw a **Marsh Harrier** in the distance and a **Sparrowhawk** flew over us before we left.

DAY 8 – JANUARY 9TH 2022

WEYMOUTH BAY – RADIPOLE LAKE – PORTLAND HARBOUR (SAILING CLUB, BILLY WINTERS CAFÉ, HAM BEACH) – CHESIL COVE – CHARMINSTER MEADOWS, DORCHESTER – STOFORD

WEATHER: clear to start with some cloud and sunshine later, light breeze but cold. Temp 3-6C

Would you believe it? the rain had stopped the wind had dropped and it was time for us to go home, Murphy's Law fully applied!!!

We had 3 ½ hours birding-time available on this last, lovely morning and we had several species to find, so off we went. At 8am we walked from the Guest House to the sea-front along Weymouth's famous promenade, it was a walk of some 100 meters! We set up our scopes and scoured the bay in front of us, we were looking for a **Red-necked Grebe** which had eluded us so far this week, many people were swimming in the bay, are they nuts, it was freezing out there!!!

We found several **Great Crested Grebes** and a group of three **Great Northern Divers**, one or two **Razorbills** flew past and both **Cormorants** and **Shags** were dotted about in the bay, but the **RN Grebe** was not in sight.

Before we moved on to other places, we made one more attempt at seeing the Grebe from the promenade opposite Lodmoor Reserve about ½ mile east of where we were. As we drove down the main road a **Peregrine Falcon** flew over the bus!! From our new position on the promenade we found all of the previous sightings and then just before we gave up we found the elusive **Red-necked Grebe**, hallelujah!! After 3 or 4 attempts we had finally found this very hard-to-find bird, now all five grebe species were on the list, shazam!!

From the dizzy height of a grassy bank near the Lodmoor car park we scoped the marshes on the Lodmoor Reserve, we saw **Lapwing, Common Snipe, Teal, Shoveler, Mute Swan, Canada Goose** and **Little Egret**.

We quickly drove round to RSPB Radipole Lake to look for **Bearded Reedling** which had only been seen by a few of us. We walked the main track from the visitor's centre in the Swannery Car Park, it was a little windy there, causing the reeds to sway, not good conditions for **Bearded Reedling** sightings. We never saw or heard one but some of the group saw a **Water Rail** and the usual birds were in the main lagoon.

Portland Harbour was our next venue we viewed it from three locations, the first of these was the ramp above Weymouth Sailing Club. I wanted to consolidate some of our earlier sightings so that all the group could go home happy with 'good views' of a number of species.

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Four **Black-necked Grebes** came first, along with up to thirty **Red-breasted Mergansers** and a single **Razorbill**. Then searching further afield we found two **Black-throated Divers** in close proximity to one another, with the good light conditions these distant birds were easily identifiable. We all watched a couple of **Greenfinches** in the bramble behind us.

A sole **Slavonian Grebe** was also easy to identify in the good light, followed by a **Great Northern Diver**. So it was now official, we had seen all five species of grebes and all three diver species during the last four days!!

As we drove round to the southern side of the Harbour below Portland 'Island' we noted **Bar-tailed Godwits** as we past Ferrybridge. We made no further sightings in the harbour either from Billy Winters or Ham Beach but we did get much closer views of **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Black-necked Grebes** and **Razorbills**.

For the fourth time we drove to the car park in Chesil Cove, we were looking for a **Black Redstart** which had appeared to all other birders except for us!! This time however we spotted it from the bus as we approached the car park. Luckily it remained in close proximity for a while before disappearing into a private garden behind a high stone wall. Well, what a great result, our morning was going swimmingly.



Black Redstart seen at last in, Fortuneswell, Chesil Cove, Portland



We stopped at Ferrybridge for a quick coffee, the tide was high and most of the birds had gone to roost. We did see about 50 **Brent Geese**, some **Mediterranean** and **Black-headed Gulls**, a group of five **Skylarks** and a couple of **Oystercatchers**.

The trip was almost over, we had to return to our guest house to collect our luggage and drive back to Stoford to conclude the tour. It was 12noon when we set off for Stoford via Dorchester. Richard and Linda left us in Weymouth, they had their own car and set off for home in Kent directly from Weymouth.

We made one stop on the way to Stoford and that was the water meadows at Charminster, we wanted to get better views of **White-fronted Geese**, we had seen them at Silverlake but at a great distance and in poor light. The geese were present and not too far away, so we all had good views of them. Also present was **Lapwings**, **Mute Swans**, lots of **Wigeon**, some **Gadwall** and **Mallards**, a couple of **Little Egrets** and lots of **Rooks**, **Crows**, **Magpies** and **Jackdaws**.



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a view of the Charminster Meadows from the roadside near Dorchester



a view of Charminster Meadows showing **Herring Gulls**, **Wigeon**, a **Crow**, **Little Egret** and four **White-fronted Geese**



White-fronted Geese

There was one last tick for the group at my home in Stoford, a group of **Red-legged Partridges** were sitting in the meadow viewed from my garden, I made that the 140th tick of the trip, marvellous, a great tally for our mini tours of Somerset & Dorset and a huge boost to our year listers. We said our goodbyes and my group set off in different directions, heading for homes in Leeds, Sheffield and Cheltenham.

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CHECKLIST OF SPECIES SEEN

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH	9 TH
	ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae									
1	Brent Goose	<i>Brenta bernicla</i>					X	X		X
2	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	X	X		X				
4	Russian Wh-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>				X				X
5	Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Ansa rossicus</i>	X							
6	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	Whooper Swan	<i>Cynus cynus</i>		X						
8	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>				X		X		
9	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			X		X	X	X	X
10	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				X				
11	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
12	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X		
13	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
14	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
15	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		X	X	X				
16	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
17	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	X		X	X			X	
18	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
19	Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	X							
20	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>			X				X	
21	Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>							X	
22	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>					X			
23	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>			X					
24	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			X	X				
25	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>				X				
26	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>					X		X	X
	GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae									
27	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
28	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>								X
	COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae									
29	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		X			X		X	X
30	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
31	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	GRUIFORMES: Rallidae									
32	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	H	X	H		H			X
33	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
34	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	GRUIFORMES: Gruidae									
35	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		X		H				
	PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Podicipedidae									
36	Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auratus</i>					X			X

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME									
			2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH	9 TH	
37	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					X			X	
38	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		
39	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
40	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>								X	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Haematopodidae											
41	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					X		X	X	
CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae											
42	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						X			
CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae											
43	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
44	Eurasian Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		X							
45	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					X	X			
CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae											
46	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>						X	X		
47	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>					X	X		X	
48	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				X	X	X			
49	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					X	X	X		
50	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					X				
51	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>					X	X			
52	Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>							X		
53	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>			X						
54	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	X	X	X		X		X	X	
55	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			X						
56	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				X					
57	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						X			
58	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						X			
CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae											
59	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>					X				
60	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
61	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoleus minutus</i>				X					
62	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>				X	X	X		X	
63	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		X	X	X	X			X	
64	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>			X		X	X	X	X	
65	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
66	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	X		X						
CHARADRIIFORMES: Alcidae											
67	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>					X				
68	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>					X			X	
GAVIIFORMES: Gaviidae											
69	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>					X				
70	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>					X			X	
71	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>					X			X	
PROCELLARIIFORMES: Procellariidae											
72	Fulmar	<i>Fulmaris glacialis</i>					X				
PELECANIFORMES: Sulidae											

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME									
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73	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>					X				
PELECANIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae											
74	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>					X			X	
75	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae											
76	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						X			
PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae											
77	Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	X								
78	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
79	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulicus ibis</i>	X	X	X	X					
80	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	X	X	X	X					
81	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae											
82	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	X						X		
83	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X		
84	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>						X	X		
85	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae											
86	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>							X		
PICIFORMES: Picidae											
87	Great Sp. Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>		H	X	X					
88	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			H	X					
CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae											
89	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>							X		
FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae											
90	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				X		X	X		
91	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	X							X	
PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae											
92	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		X		X			X		
93	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
94	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
95	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	
96	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
97	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		X	H	X	H	X	X		
PASSERIFORMES: Paridae											
98	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		X	X			X			
99	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		X							
100	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
101	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae											
102	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				X				X	
PASSERIFORMES: Scotocercidae											
103	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H	H	H	H	X				
PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae											
104	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

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	PASSERIFORMES: Panuridae									
105	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>					X		X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae									
106	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	X	X						
107	Siberian Chiffchaff		X							
	PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae									
108	Dartford Warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>						X		
	PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae									
109	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>						X		
110	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		X	X	X	X	X		
	PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae									
111	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	H	X		H	X	X		
	PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae									
112	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta Europaea</i>		X	X	X		X		X
	PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae									
113	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		X				X		
	PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae									
114	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae									
115	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
116	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	X	X	X	X				
117	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		X		X		X		
118	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>						X	X	
119	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						X		
	PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae									
120	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
121	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>								X
122	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	X	X		X		X		
	PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae									
123	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>							X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Prunellidae									
124	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
	PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae									
125	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae									
126	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>						X	X	
127	Pied/White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla motacilla/alba</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
128	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	X					X	X	
129	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	X							
130	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>					X	X	X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae									
131	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
132	Brambling	<i>Fringella Montifringella</i>		X						
133	Common Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		X		X	X	X		
134	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		X			X			X

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135	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				X	X	X			
136	Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>		X							
137	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
138	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		X							
PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae											
139	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				X					
140	Eurasian Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						X	X		
BUTTERFLIES-MAMMALS-CETACEANS-REPTILES - AMPHIBIANS - OTHER INTERESTING SPECIES											
	Red Fox					X					
	Rabbit			X		X		X		X	
	Roe Deer			X	X						
	Sika Deer							X			
	Grey Squirrel			X	X			X			
	Otter					X					
	Brown Hare								X		
	Brown Rat								X		
	Small Tortoiseshell			X							