

THURLESTONE BAY BIRDS NOVEMBER 2017

Another relatively mild month, slight frost on 4 days – only gale force winds were F8/9 on 22nd and F8 on the 23rd. No easterly winds. Heavy rain only 23rd/24th

Only 109 species recorded – (c/f 2016 -124, 2015 – 122) Just one new species for the year – **RED BREASTED MERGANSER** taking the total to 202 (c/f 2016 – 199, 2015 – 186) .

Main highlights

GEESE, DUCKS and DIVERS

CANADA GOOSE – A record count of 900+ on South Huish Marsh on 14th.

WIGEON – Max on South Huish Marsh 20 on 23rd, A flock of 120+ wintering on the southern end of the Avon Estuary.

TEAL – Max at South Efford Marsh 90+ on 23rd on South Huish Marsh 30 on 21st.

GADWALL – A female on South Huish Marsh from 15th.

COMMON SCOTER – Only recorded on 4 days, max 8 on 12th.

RED BREASTED MARGANSER -A female flew east across the Bay on 21st.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER – 1 flew east on 23rd.

GANNET, EGRETS, SPOONBILL and RAILS

GANNET – Max of 245+ on 14th in a feeding frenzy flock

LITTLE EGRET – Max of 12 at South Efford Marsh on several dates.

CATTLE EGRET – Another interesting month with singles on both Marshes on 1st, 17th, 21st, 2 on 23rd and a max of 5 on South Efford Marsh on 7th and 8th.

SPOONBILL – A Juv first seen on South Huish Marsh on 4th and 8th, then from 17th seen on South Efford Marsh.

WATER RAIL – at South Milton Ley a max of 5 on 2nd.

RAPTORS and OWLS

MERLIN – 1 at Huxton Cross on 2nd. Otherwise regular sightings of **KESTREL**.

SPARROWHAWK – 1 ringed at South Milton Ley on 24th

PEREGRINE and BUZZARD.

OWL – Both **TAWNY and BARN OWL** regularly reported.

WADERS – 16 species recorded.

OYSTERCATCHER – Max 11 on 23rd.

RINGED PLOVER -Max on the rocks 9 on 14th.

LAPWING – A flock of 60+ watched flying down the Avon Estuary on 19th.

SANDERLING – 2 on the rocks on 21st.

PURPLE SANDPIPER – 1 on the rocks at Hope Cove on 15th.

DUNLIN – Max 10 on South Efford Marsh on 19th and 21st.

JACK SNIFE – 1 over Thurlestone Marsh on 8th.

SNIFE – Max on South Huish Marsh – 19 on 20th.

WOODCOCK – 1 reported by a local farmer on 24th.

BLACKTAILED GODWIT – Max 8 on South Huish Marsh on 26th.

CURLEW – Flock At South Efford Marsh totalled 28.

COMMON SANDPIPER – Max on the Avon Estuary of 4 on 12th.

GREEN SANDPIPER – 3 together on North Marsh on 2nd.

GREENSHANK – Max on South Efford Marsh of 11 on 12th.

REDSHANK – Max on South Efford Marsh of 6 on 12th.

TURNSTONE – Max on the rocks of 27 on 22nd.

GULLS

SABINES GULL – 1 flew east close inshore on 14th.

KITTIWAKE – Max 22 flying east on 15th.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL – A 1st W on South Huish Marsh on 12th and 14th.

CRESTS AND WARBLERS

FIRECREST – Record numbers continue to be reported – 4 main sites a max of 5 on 17th, several reports of 2 in local gardens. A total of 14 ringed at South Milton Ley on 2nd, 13th and 24th. This makes 14 ringed in 2017.

GOLDCREST – reported in small numbers at several sites. A total of 18 ringed on 2nd, 13th and 24th At South Milton Ley.

CETTIS WARBLER – 2 ringed at South Milton Ley on 13th.

BLACKCAP – 3 in a local garden on 15th. Pair at Aveton Gifford on 26th.

YELLOW BROWED WARBLER – 1 in a local garden on 1st and 1 at Aveton Gifford on 5th.

CHIFFCHAFF – Up to 5 in a local garden on several dates. At South Milton Ley 19 ringed on 2nd, 12 on 13th and 16 on 24th.

SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF - 1 at South Milton Ley on 13th (ringed) and 17th.

THRUSHES – Noticeable increase around the patch.

BLACKBIRD – 25+ at South Milton Ley on 4th, max of 33 through a local garden on 10th.

FIELDFARE – 50 on 8th and 60+ on 10th flew NW over Thurlestone.

At Huxton Cross a flock of 70+ on 24th.

SONG THRUSH – Max of 8 through a local garden on 13th.

REDWING – Flocks of 15 at South Milton Ley on 2nd and 4th and 43 flew NW over Thurlestone on 10th.

MISTLE THRUSH – Reported from 4 sites, max of 8 at Aveton Gifford on 2nd.

Miscellaneous

BLACK REDSTART – Reported from 4 sites, males at Thurlestone on 2nd and South Efford Marsh on 3rd. Male/Juv on the rocks on 6th.

NUTHATCH – 5 in a garden at Aveton Gifford indicative of a good breeding season, usually only singles reported.

PIPITS, FINCHES AND BUNTINGS

WATER PIPIT – 1 regularly seen at South Efford Marsh throughout the month. 1 at South Huish Marsh on 6th.

CHAFFINCH – Max 100+ at Huxton Cross on 3rd.

BRAMBLING – Males at Huxton Cross on 3rd and over South Milton Ley on 13th.

SISKIN – Very poor Autumn passage, this month only report was of 2 at South Milton Ley on 13th.

YELLOWHAMMER – 3 at Huxton Cross on 3rd and a male on 24th, 3 on 26th.

CIRL BUNTING – Recorded in a Thurlestone Garden on 5 days with a max of 5 on 10th.

LINNET – Max 40 at Huxton Cross on 3rd.

REED BUNTING – 1 ringed at South Milton Ley on 2nd and 2 on the 24th. 2 regularly on feeders in a local garden.

RED POLL – 1 flying over stubble fields on 26th.

BULL FINCH – Up to 8 at South Efford Marsh, 3 in a local garden on 8th also reported from 3 other sites.

First blast of cold northerly winds due from a 25th – hopefully a few more birds will be arriving

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