

THURLESTONE BAY BIRDS JULY 2017

Some unseasonal weather in the second half of the month, heavy rain on 18th, 21st and coupled with SW gales of F8+ produced some good sea passage particularly **SHEARWATERS** and **SKUAS**.

A total of 113 species recorded (c/f 2016-95, 2015-104)

3 year ticks – **GREAT SHEARWATER, CORYS SHEARWATER, LITTLE STINT** taking the total to 188 (c/f 2016 – 170, 2015 – 169)

Adults in breeding plumage had been seen at South Huish Marsh and late evening and early morning flying to/from the Avon Estuary.

Juveniles first seen on 13th at South Efford Marsh (photographed) and then on 15th at South Huish Marsh. On 21st 4 juveniles observed together on South Efford Marsh. Birds seen daily up to 31st. Consensus of opinion that 2 pairs fledged 4 young.

Main Highlights

DUCKS

WIGEON – 3 male on South Huish Marsh on 23rd and a F on South Efford Marsh on 31st were very early returning birds

COMMON SCOTER – Max 100 flew through on 18th.

SHEARWATER, FULMAR, GANNET AND SKUAS

CORYS SHEARWATER - 1 flew east close offshore on 21st.

GREAT SHEARWATER – 1 flew into the Bay from west on 21st and landed on the sea.

SOOTY SHEARWATER – One flew east on 18th, early evening of 28th 12 flew east in an hour of excellent sea passage before a period of heavy rain with F8+ SW winds.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER - 2 recorded on both 18th and 21st with at least 20 on the afternoon of the 28th.

MANX SHEARWATER – On 28th 1020 recorded flying east.

FULMAR - Highest numbers of the year on 28th when 75 recorded flying east.

GANNET- Largest total of the year 625 on 28th.

ARCTIC SKUA – A total of 7 east on 28th.

POMARINE SKUA – 2 flew west on morning of 28th.

EGRETS

LITTLE EGRET – A max of 4 on South Efford Marsh. At a local roost a total of 25 on 17th.

CATTLE EGRET – Confirmation of local breeding with 3 juvs from 13th and a max of 4 on 21st. Up to 4 Adults recorded during the month at both South Huish Marsh and South Efford Marsh. A first breeding record for Devon.

WADERS

A total of 13 species recorded

OYSTERCATCHER – Max 20 on 4th.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER – A Juv in South Huish Marsh on 15th.

RINGED PLOVER – Max 7 on 31st.

SANDERLING – A mixed flock of 20 including DUNLINS on 4th, otherwise a max of 5 on 19th.

LITTLE STILT – A moulting adult on South Huish marsh on 29th – 31st was the earliest autumn patch record.

DUNLIN – Max 28 in off the sea on 12th, on South Huish Marsh max of 19 on 31st.

BLACKTAILED GODWIT – Max 8 on 30th.

WHIMBREL – 3 on the rocks from 23rd, 2 on South Efford Marsh from 3rd.

CURLEW – Max at South Efford Marsh 27 on 23rd.

COMMON SANDPIPER – Up to 3 on Avon Estuary all month.

GREEN SANDPIPER – Singles on 27th and 29th on South Huish marsh with 2 on South Efford Marsh on 29th.

GREENSHANK – Recorded on South Efford Marsh all month with a max of 4 on 29th.

REDSHANK – Max of 3 at South Efford Marsh on 29th and 31st.

GULLS AND TERNS

LITTLE GULL – 1 flew east on 27th.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL – Low numbers this year with a max of 4 on 3rd.

YELLOW LEGGED GULL – first juvenile of the year a South Huish Marsh on 31st.

LITTLE TERN – 3 flew west on 4th.

SANDWICH TERN – A max of 11 on 18th otherwise occasional singles.

COMMIC TERN – 4 flew west on the morning of 28th.

HIRUNDINES AND SWIFT

SWALLOW – to noticeable totals over Thurlestone of 86 early on 6th and 115 in an hour afternoon of 25th.

HOUSE MARTIN – 30 over Thurlestone on afternoon of 25th.

SAND MARTIN – Max 6 on 4th over South Huish Marsh

SWIFT – 125 over Thurlestone in an hour on 25th.

WARBLERS

Some early morning movement through a Thurlestone garden with **CHIFFCHAFF** 5 on 4th regularly up to 4, **BLACKCAP** 6 on 5th and 5 on 14th.

Ringling at South Milton Ley total were

CHIFFCHAFF	51 (5 sessions)	REED WARBLER	40
SEDGEWARBLER	44	BLACK CAP	6
WILLOW WARBLER	12	GARDEN WARBLER	1

FLYCATCHERS, WAGTAIL, FINCHES AND BUNTING

SPOTTED FLYCATCHERS – Reported from 2 sites.

YELLOW WAGTAILS – Singles at South Huish Marsh from 17 with 3 Juv at South Efford Marsh on 23rd.

LINNET – Good breeding season with a flock of up to 70 around local farm fields/coastal path.

CIRL BUNTING – Regularly recorded at several sites.

Looking forward to the returning Wader passage in August and possibility of some interesting sea passage.

Mike Passman

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