

THURLESTONE BAY BIRDS OCTOBER 2017

Surprising very few wet days, 2 major storms passed through with storm Brian producing the F10 winds. End of the month mild, sunny and dry.

A total of 122 species recorded (c/f 2016 – 133, 2015 – 108). With 3 new species for the year – **HEN HARRIER, SHORT EARED OWL and LEACH'S PETREL** taking the total for the year to 201 (c/f 2016 -192, 2015 – 183.) Still 2 months of the year left and the years target of 200 species has been exceeded. Accolade for the 200th species of the year goes to James Kirkwood and his **SHORT EARED OWL** off Bolt Tail.

Main highlights **GEESE, DUCKS and DIVERS**

BRENT GOOSE - 8 flew E on 31st.

WIGEON – 1 at South Efford Marsh on 2nd and 42 through the Bay on 9th.

TEAL – 20 on South Efford Marsh all month, at South Efford Marsh a max of 90 on 30th.

COMMON SCOTER – Recorded on 5 days max on 9th and 31st.

GREAT N DIVER – 1 flew E on 5th.

SHEARWATER, PETREL and GANNET.

SOOTY SHEARWATER – 2 flew E on 16th.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER – On 5th 1E, 11th 2E and 16th 7E.

LEACH'S PETREL – Storms fro. 20th produced 2 records both single birds in the Bay on 21st and 23rd.

GANNET – Max for the month 275+ on 5th.

EGRET and RAIL

LITTLE EGRET – Upto 6 on both Marshes most of the month.

CATTLE EGRET – 1 on South Huish Marsh all month – joined by a 2nd on 18th and 31st.

Now been recorded in every month this year.

WATER RAIL – Up to 5 at South Milton Ley .

RAPTORS and OWLS

HEN HARRIER – A ringtail watched over Bolt Tail area on 2nd. First patch record since December 2012.

MERLIN – Singles recorded on 9th, 15th, 17th and 20th.

HOBBY – Last record a single on 2nd.

No change in status for **BUZZARD, SPARROWHAWK, PEREGRINE, KESTREL.**

TAWNY OWL – Reported from 3 local sites.

BARN OWL – 2 sites held birds throughout the month.

SHORT EARED OWL – 1 watched over Bolt Tail on 20th.

WADERS – 18 species recorded.

OYSTERCATCHER – Max 22 on 9th.

RINGED PLOVER – Max 26 on 2nd.

GOLDEN PLOVER – Flock of 30 over Bolt Tail on 7th.

LITTLE STINT – On South Efford Marsh 1 On 1st and at South Huish Marsh, 2 on 6th.

CURLEW SANDPIPER – 2 on South Huish Marsh on 1st and 2nd and 5th, on the latter date also 2 on South Efford Marsh.

DUNLIN – max 15 on 5th.

SNIFE – max 3 on 12th.

WOODCOCK – 1 reported at South Milton Ley On 30th.

BLACK TAILED GODWIT – Max 12 at South Milton Marsh o. 23rd.

BAR TAILED GODWIT – 2 on each Marsh on 1st.

COMMON SANDPIPER – Max on the River Avon 4 on 5th.
GREEN SANDPIPER – 1 on North Marsh on 6th.
GREENSHANK – max at South Efford Marsh 7 on 14th.
REDSHANK – max at South Efford Marsh 4 on 1st.
CURLEW – max at South Efford Marsh 32 on 15th.
TURNSTONE – max on the rocks 8 on 31st.
GREY PHALAROPE - 1 on South Huish Marsh following storms on 21st

SKUAS, GULLS and TERNS

ARCTIC SKUA – Singles flew E on 5th and 16th.
GREAT SKUA – 2 flew E on 16th.
MEDITERRANEAN GULL – 2 on 8th and 11th and 7 on 15th.
SANDWICH TERN – An adult and aa Juv on the rocks on 15th.

MISC

MARSH TIT – 1 along the River Avon on 1st. Long time since we had 2 records in a year!
SWALLOW – Max 150+ over South Huish Marsh on 8th, last sight 2 over Thurlestone Village on 30th.
HOUSE MARTIN – Very poor autumn passage 3 on 5th last record.

WARBLER

CETTIS WARBLER – Single on 3rd and 26th at South Milton Ley (both ringed) a male calling on Thurlestone Marsh on 30th.
YELLOW BROWED WARBLER – 1 in South Milton on 18th and 1 at South Milton Ley on 31st.
CHIFFCHAFF – Plenty of movement with up to 6 in a Thurlestone Garden, 5 at South Huish Marsh. At South Milton Ley 54 birds caught and ringed with 13 on 3rd and 26 on 6th
BLACKCAP – Up to 3 in a village garden, at South Milton Ley, 4 birds ringed.

CHATSS, STARTS and WHEATEAR

STONECHAT – Up to 6 around South Huish Marsh
WHINCHAT – single Juv at both Marshes on 6th.
BLACK REDSTART – A Juv on roof top in Thurlestone Village.
REDSTART – 1 perched on the window of the hid at South Efford Marsh on 26th.
WHEATEAR – At South Huish Marsh mx 4 on 3rd, at South Efford Marsh a mx of 6 on 6th. Last record 1 on Golf Course on 23rd.

THRUSHES

FIELDFARE – 2 flew NW over Thurlestone on 30th.
REDWING – At South Milton Ley 15 on site and 2 ringed on 26th.
MISTLETOE THRUSH – 5 at South Milton Ley on 26th.

PIPITS, FINCHES LARKS and BUNTINGS

WATER PIPIT- 1 at South Efford Marsh on 30th.
MEADOW PIPIT – max 100+ at South Huish Marsh on 3rd.
CHAFFINCH - Max viz mig 68 on 30th over Thurlestone Village.
GOLDFINCH – 150+ At South Huish Marsh on 15th.
SISKIN – Max 8 at South Milton Ley on 1st.
LINNET – Max 250+ in local fields on 2nd.
REDPOL – 1 over South Milton Ley on 29th.
HAWFINCH – Having never been recorded before a 2nd record on 17th when 2 flew out of a copse in Thurlestone and flew South.
BULLFINCH – 8 at South Milton Ley on 3rd (3 ringed) 6 moved through a Thurlestone Garden on 30th.

SKYLARK – On 30th 20 flew south. At Huxton Cross 40+ on 12th.

YELLOWHAMMER – 2m At Huxton Cross on 12th.

CIRL BUNTING – 2 flew South on 31st, Singles recorded at 3 other sites.

REED BUNTING – 4 birds ringed at South Milton Ley, also recorded at 3 other sites.

CRESTS WAGTAILSSx and PIGEON

GOLDCREST – A total of 20 ringed at South Milton Ley with a max of 9 on 26th.

FIRECREST – A South last influx produced 6 at South Huish Marsh on 15th, 2 in a Village Garden on 17th, 3 at Hope Cove on 20th and finally 6 ringed at South Milton Ley on 26th.

PIED WAGTAIL – Max roost of 45+ at Thurlestone on 8th.

WOOD PIGEON – Late October sees the early morning passage of flocks – this year 13,650 on 30th and 31,000 on 31st.

Plenty of time to add to our Years Total, particularly if there is a cold spell in December.

Mike Passman

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