

# SANDY POINT

## HAYLING ISLAND

### 2016 BIRD REPORT

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#### Introduction

This is the twelfth annual report for the Sandy Point area. The total of 169 species recorded during the year is a slight improvement on the previous two years, but still five species below the average since 2005. Amongst the species that were not recorded in 2016 were velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca*, red-necked grebe *Podiceps grisegena*, turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*, woodlark *Lullula arborea* and bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, although perhaps none of these can now be regarded as 'expected'.

The number of days on which coverage was achieved in each month in 2016 is shown below, although the amount of recording varies each day. The recording area includes the whole of the Eastoke peninsula, bounded by Fishery Creek to the north, as far west as Eastoke Corner on the seafront (an area of little more than 1km<sup>2</sup>). Most of the peninsula is residential development/caravan parks, so the bulk of observations come from Sandy Point Local Nature Reserve north to Black Point.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days:	27	23	28	23	18	16	27	30	30	27	28	27

#### Highlights of 2016

2016 began rather mild and stormy, producing a small number of little gulls and kittiwakes. Over-wintering birds included six Sandwich terns and a rather elusive **black brant**, along with a good showing of great northern divers, but it remained a poor winter for auks and ducks. A brief cold snap in mid-January produced black-necked grebe, pochard, jack snipe, woodcock, black redstart and firecrest.

A notable occurrence on 15<sup>th</sup> February was the appearance of a **common dolphin** *Delphinus delphis*, which spent over an hour swimming up and down the harbour entrance, having apparently beached at the top of the harbour the previous day. This is the second record of this species at Sandy Point since 2005 (and only the fourth live cetacean record).

Early spring migrants included stonechat and chiffchaff before the end of February, but the first wheatears on 23<sup>rd</sup> March were a week later than normal. The highlight of the spring was a **hoopoe** on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, although it was very flighty and soon disappeared. The most significant spring arrival occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, with excellent numbers of warblers (including sedge, reed and garden), and several whinchats, redstarts and tree pipits.

After several poor seasons, spring sea-watching saw a return to form, with a number of good days of passage between 14<sup>th</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> May. Highlights included flocks of pomarine skuas and **Balearic shearwaters** on 21<sup>st</sup> April, roseate tern on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, flocks of pomarine skuas and black terns on 5<sup>th</sup> May, a pochard, two pairs of avocet, and a strong passage of terns on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Weekly sea-watch totals for selected species are shown in table 1.

	March			April			May			Total 26/3 – 13/5
	26-1	2-8	9-15	16-22	23-29	30-6	7-13			
Brent goose		72	35	<b>73</b>	6	14	11	71		282
Common scoter		-	3	23	6	-	<b>72</b>	30		134
Bar-tailed godwit		-	-	-	<b>15</b>	-	13	1		29
Whimbrel		-	-	4	<b>153</b>	26	13	15		211
Pomarine skua		-	-	-	<b>9</b>	-	8	-		17
Arctic skua		-	-	1	3	-	3	<b>5</b>		12
Little gull		-	-	<b>4</b>	-	-	3	-		7
Little tern		-	-	5	9	20	17	<b>60</b>		111
Black tern		-	-	-	-	<b>22</b>	5			27
Common tern		-	-	109	279	173	497	<b>1390</b>		2448

**Table 1:** Spring sea-watching – easterly totals for selected species for weeks 13-19.

Late spring highlights included a summer-plumaged purple sandpiper on the rocks on 17<sup>th</sup> May, a roseate tern on 8<sup>th</sup> June and a late cuckoo on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Moth-trapping over the summer produced some exciting records, the highlight undoubtedly being singles of **The Latin** *C. juventina* and **The Druid** *A. funesta*, trapped on successive nights in July, these being the seventh and fifth British records respectively (see photographs on back cover). Other notable species trapped during the year included **Clay Fanfoot** *P. trivalis* on 24<sup>th</sup> July, **Clifden Nonpareil** *C. fraxini* on 5<sup>th</sup> September and **Radford's Flame Shoulders** *O. leucogaster* on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October.



The roe buck remained in the reserve – completing 8½ years in residence (photo taken on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016).

In July, early signs of autumn passage included an avocet on 19<sup>th</sup>, a cuckoo, and an adult arctic tern on 27<sup>th</sup> – though it proved to be a poor autumn for all tern species. Gales on 20<sup>th</sup> August brought a single Manx shearwater and the only arctic skua of the autumn, whilst the first of six pied flycatchers appeared on 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by little stint on 29<sup>th</sup>. September highlights included curlew sandpipers on 10<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, nightjar on 12<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile pale-bellied brent with returning dark-bellied brents from 18<sup>th</sup>. Further strong winds on 24<sup>th</sup> produced a **sooty shearwater**.

Autumn visible migration was again below par, continuing the pattern of the previous three years, and it was a poor season for almost every species; visible migration totals for selected species are shown in table 2.

	September			October			November			
	10-16	17-23	24-30	1-7	8-14	15-21	22-28	29-4	5-11	12-18
Woodpigeon	-	-	-	-	-	75	10	<b>100</b>	-	-
Skylark	-	-	1	13	15	<b>92</b>	56	10	9	4
House martin	<b>840</b>	520	208	124	33	1	-	-	-	-
Meadow pipit	151	397	161	<b>517</b>	223	45	21	5	-	12
'Alba' wagtail	1	5	15	266	<b>298</b>	35	31	3	2	1
Jackdaw	-	-	-	13	4	3	<b>100</b>	-	-	-
Chaffinch	2	2	5	12	<b>40</b>	10	30	15	6	2
Goldfinch	-	7	64	490	<b>2135</b>	445	1338	237	98	97
Siskin	-	1	-	32	<b>86</b>	17	47	3	1	2
Linnet	-	32	-	341	<b>402</b>	70	173	35	28	3
Redpoll	-	-	-	2	4	8	<b>29</b>	15	7	-

**Table 2:** Autumn visible migration – weekly totals of selected species for weeks 38-47. The peak for each species is shown in bold.

This period was not without interest, however, and October's highlights included four ring ouzels, **yellow-browed warbler**, **great grey shrike**, **black brant**, purple sandpiper and a confiding **shorelark** for three days. November chipped in with an excellent record of three **great egrets** flying west (with three little egrets) on 26<sup>th</sup>.

The second winter period remained largely mild, resulting in low numbers of winter birds. Highlights included long-staying black-throated diver and Cetti's warbler, multiple goosanders, and brief visits from avocet, scaup and two long-tailed ducks. However, once again, many winter visitors, including divers, ducks and auks, remained noticeable by their paucity.

### Acknowledgements

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**SYSTEMATIC LIST**

Species are listed according to the British Ornithologists' Union 8<sup>th</sup> Checklist (2013). Status given is for the recording area only, whilst bullet points highlight the most notable records (usually in at least a county context). Abbreviations used in the text, in addition to compass points (indicating direction of flight) are:

B/d: Bird-days                      BP: Black Point (BPC: Black Point Creek)  
CH: Chichester Harbour            SP: Sandy Point nature reserve

**Mute swan** *Cygnus olor*                      *Resident in the area*

One was reported on 1<sup>st</sup> March, two flew east on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, and in November one flew north on 1<sup>st</sup> and two north on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Otherwise, regularly recorded in small numbers in Chichester Harbour.

**Greylag goose** *Anser anser*                      *Rare (feral?) migrant*

One flew east on 25<sup>th</sup> February, one north on 16<sup>th</sup> March and six west on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. In the autumn two flew west on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

An above average year.

**Canada goose** *Branta canadensis*                      *Occasional feral migrant*

4<sup>th</sup> January: two in Chichester Harbour.

2<sup>nd</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> June: eight records of one to three birds.

September: 12 east over CH on 17<sup>th</sup>, three on 19<sup>th</sup> and two west on 26<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, there was a party of 10 hybrid geese in Chichester Harbour on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Barnacle goose** *Branta leucopsis*                      *Rare winter visitor*

17<sup>th</sup> February: one with brent geese in Chichester Harbour.

3<sup>rd</sup> November: three flew east.

**Dark-bellied brent** *Branta bernicla bernicla*                      *Common winter visitor*

21<sup>st</sup> March – 11<sup>th</sup> May: spring passage totalled 814 east, including 500 on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 72 on 26<sup>th</sup> March and 38 on the late date of 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Summer records included two in Chichester Harbour on 19<sup>th</sup> May, one at Black Point on 30<sup>th</sup> June and one east on 6<sup>th</sup> July. The first returning birds in September were two on 10<sup>th</sup>, with a sudden influx of 220 on 18<sup>th</sup>, rising to 333 the next day (an early date for such a number).

There was an unusual record of one on the footpath alongside the reserve on 17<sup>th</sup> October, which allowed itself to be picked up, and was then released in Black Point Creek.

**Pale-bellied brent** *Branta bernicla hrota*                      *Scarce winter visitor and migrant*

18<sup>th</sup> September – 27<sup>th</sup> October: a juvenile arrived with dark-bellied brents, and was subsequently regularly present in Fishery Creek.



*Pale-bellied brent, juvenile (with juvenile dark-bellied brent in the foreground), Fishery Creek, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.*

**Black brant** *Branta bernicla nigricans*                      *Rare winter visitor*

- 4<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January: one in Chichester Harbour on three dates.

- 26<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November: one on three dates in Fishery Creek.

In addition, an apparent hybrid was present in Chichester Harbour on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*                      *Regular visitor*

7<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> June: a pair in the reserve on 15 dates, with two pairs on 24<sup>th</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> June. Six flew north on 11<sup>th</sup> March, with nine east and 11 west between 4<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> May.

There were no notable movements in the autumn, and poorly recorded in Chichester Harbour.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*                      *Regular migrant and winter visitor*

Poorly recorded again in 2016, with the first back noted on 6<sup>th</sup> September, and a peak count of 600 in Chichester Harbour in mid-September.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*                      *Uncommon migrant*

In November there were two on 8<sup>th</sup>, one on 14<sup>th</sup> and five on 30<sup>th</sup>, followed by one north on 31<sup>st</sup> December. Another low-key year.

<b>Teal</b> <i>Anas crecca</i>		<i>Regular winter visitor</i>												
Max	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
SP:	8	23	13	6	-	-	-	2	10	35	48	52		

Good numbers on the marsh until 22<sup>nd</sup> April and especially from 8<sup>th</sup> October, with a new record high of 52 on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Last in the spring was two east on 30<sup>th</sup> April, first back were two on 12<sup>th</sup> August, with 10 on the sea on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

<b>Mallard</b> <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		<i>Regular visitor, and breeds</i>												
Max	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
SP:	9	9	7	5	13	7	6	6	11	3	6	2		

Two broods of four and seven ducklings appeared on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May respectively, with five (of the seven) fledging. 45 in Fishery Creek on 27<sup>th</sup> September was a notable count.

<b>Pintail</b> <i>Anas acuta</i>		<i>Uncommon winter visitor</i>												
B/d:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	6	-		

The peak count was six west on 20<sup>th</sup> September. A poor year, particularly the first winter period, for which the average number of bird-days is 26.

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* *Winter visitor and migrant*  
January: one or two on the marsh in the reserve on 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Three on the marsh on 5<sup>th</sup> May, and one on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Five flew south on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, followed by up to three on the marsh from 25<sup>th</sup> November until the end of the year.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina* *Rare migrant*  
20<sup>th</sup> January: a female flew northwest.  
8<sup>th</sup> May: a male flew east inshore.  
There are just 13 previous records (involving 93 birds) since 2005; the January record is the third for that month, but the May record is the first.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* *Uncommon migrant*  
A pair that landed on the marsh on 17<sup>th</sup> May was the first such record. Two were also recorded flying over on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June.  
Two flew north on 20<sup>th</sup> September and one east on 24<sup>th</sup> October.  
This species is most frequently recorded in May (with 16 of the 54 records). Conversely, the September record is the first for that month, leaving August the only month in which this species has yet to be recorded.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila* *Rare winter visitor*  
30<sup>th</sup> November: a female in Chichester Harbour, associating with red-breasted mergansers.  
Only the seventh record (of 28 birds) since 2005, the previous records occurring in January, February (two), April, November and December.

<b>Eider</b> <i>Somateria mollissima</i>		<i>Occasional visitor and migrant</i>												
Max:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	4		

Last in spring was 22<sup>nd</sup> April, and first back were four on 25<sup>th</sup> October.  
Another very low-key year.



*Eider*, four immature males, Chichester Harbour, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**Long-tailed duck** *Clangula hyemalis* *Rare winter visitor*  
12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December: two flew out of Chichester Harbour on both dates.  
These may well have been the birds that took up residence in Langstone Harbour during the 2016/17 winter. Surprisingly these are the first records for December, the previous nine records (of 15 birds) occurring in every other month between October and May, some staying for long periods.

**Common scoter** *Melanitta nigra* *Regular winter visitor and migrant*

Max:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
	2	-	-	15	68	-	30	10	16	3	44	3		

Spring passage totalled 140 east between 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> May, with 15 on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 68 on 6<sup>th</sup> May and 19 on 10<sup>th</sup> May the only counts over six. In the autumn, 30 on 8<sup>th</sup> July, ten on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 16 from 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September and up to 44 from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November were the only counts over three.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* *Uncommon winter visitor*  
November: a female was in Chichester Harbour on 11<sup>th</sup>, and a male on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-breasted merganser** *Mergus serrator* *Common winter visitor*  
Four flew east and 11 west between 20<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May, and the first back was on 24<sup>th</sup> October. The peak in Chichester Harbour was 44 on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser* *Rare winter visitor*  
November: one flew south on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and five were in the harbour on 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Recorded almost annually, five is the largest number seen since flocks of 24 and six flew past during a major cold weather movement in December 2010.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* *Resident*  
Up to four ever present and bred, with one chick seen on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Red-throated diver** *Gavia stellata* *Winter visitor and migrant*  

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	5

 Extreme dates were 17<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Black-throated diver** *Gavia arctica* *Scarce winter visitor and migrant*  
30<sup>th</sup> April: one was reported flying west.  
11<sup>th</sup> November: one arrived in Chichester Harbour and was seen regularly until 1<sup>st</sup> December, and again from 28<sup>th</sup> December into 2017.

**Great northern diver** *Gavia immer* *Winter visitor and migrant*  
Recorded regularly until 13<sup>th</sup> March, with a peak of five on 7<sup>th</sup> January and four on several dates. Subsequently singles were present on 12<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May. One or two recorded regularly from 18<sup>th</sup> November until the end of the year, with three on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* *Frequent migrant, especially in spring*  
26<sup>th</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> May: 16 bird-days, including five on 20<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May, followed by singles on 11<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July and three on 20<sup>th</sup> August.  
Another poor year, although surprisingly similar to 2015.

**Sooty shearwater** *Puffinus griseus* *Rare migrant*  

- 24<sup>th</sup> September: one flew west distantly offshore at 08:52.

 This bird had passed Selsey Bill just 12 minutes earlier. The five previous records occurred between 2007 and 2010, two of which were in September (and one each in October, November and December).

**Manx shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* *Rare migrant*  
20<sup>th</sup> August: one flew west distantly offshore during gales.  
Most records occur between April and July. There were two in September 2009, but this is the first August record.

**Balearic shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus* *Rare migrant*  

- 21<sup>st</sup> April: a flock of 12 flew east around a mile and a half offshore at 16:48.

 The first spring record, with the nine previous records all occurring between 29<sup>th</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> September. This unprecedented passage was also observed in Sussex, with nine at Selsey Bill and 18 at Splash Point the same day.

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus* *Regular offshore*  

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	8	-	1	50	61	22	173	125	29	4	-	2
Max:	5	-	1	7	9	6	100	30	20	1	-	1

By far the highest numbers were in late July with 100 on 27<sup>th</sup> (when one was resting on the sand-bank – a most unusual occurrence) and 50 two days later.



Gannet, adult, with great black-backed, black-headed and herring gulls on the offshore sandbank, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* *Common, especially in winter*  
Present throughout the year in low numbers, with a maximum of ten in Chichester Harbour on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Movements included five east on 21<sup>st</sup> April and a total of 58 mostly west or south between 7<sup>th</sup> September and 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* *Occasional visitor*  
Singles recorded on 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> September (dead), 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November.  
Another poor year.

**Little egret** *Egretta garzetta* *Resident*  
Generally recorded singly in the reserve, although there were two on seven dates between 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> June, and five dates in October/November. Singles flew east at sea on 19<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> May and west on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, and six flew west on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**Great egret** *Egretta alba* *Very rare migrant*  

- 26<sup>th</sup> November: three flew west over the lifeboat station at 08:37, accompanied by three little egrets.

 This group of egrets was also seen over the Sussex side of the harbour heading towards Sandy Point, having earlier been seen coming in off the sea at Selsey Bill. It is the second record at Sandy Point, following one that flew over (also with a little egret) on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**Grey heron** *Ardea cinerea* Resident in the area

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	1	6	3	-	7	6	8	6	5	1	1

Multiple records involved two on 21<sup>st</sup> March, three west on 29<sup>th</sup> August, two NW on 7<sup>th</sup> September and three east on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**Little grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Regular winter visitor  
16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September: a juvenile in the drain in the nature reserve.  
Peaks in Fishery Creek were five on 24<sup>th</sup> January and seven on 10<sup>th</sup> November.  
The September bird is only the third within the reserve, following singles on the marsh in April 2008 and October 2012.



Little grebe, Black Point,  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Great crested grebe, in breeding plumage,  
Chichester Harbour entrance, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

**Great crested grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Regular, mainly in winter  
Up to 17 recorded in the first winter period, and 24 in the second.

**Slavonian grebe** *Podiceps auritus* Regular winter visitor  
Up to four regularly recorded until 22<sup>nd</sup> February, with eight on 9<sup>th</sup> February.  
One to three sporadically recorded from 22<sup>nd</sup> November to the end of the year.

**Black-necked grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* Rare winter visitor and migrant  
One in Chichester Harbour on 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January. A typical record.

**Marsh harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* Scarce migrant  
Singles flew east on 14<sup>th</sup> April and south on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Two typical records.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* Resident and migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	11	6	11	13	5	2	13	21	18	20	13	8

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* Migrant, and resident on the island

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	4	1	7	6	1	3	13	12	12	4	1

There were three on 25<sup>th</sup> February and two on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* Scarce migrant  
27<sup>th</sup> August – 5<sup>th</sup> October: 13 bird-days, including three in the harbour on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**Water rail** *Rallus aquaticus* Regular winter visitor  
Up to three recorded in the reserve until 6<sup>th</sup> April and from 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Resident  
Ever present in the drain in the reserve, producing broods of five in May and three in July. One at Sparkes Marina on 10<sup>th</sup> June was unusual, as was an adventurous bird exploring gardens in Bracklesham Road in December.

**Coot** *Fulica atra* Rare visitor  
16<sup>th</sup> February: one heard flying east then west after dark.  
The fourth such record. This species is resident at nearby Lakeside.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* Scarce migrant and winter visitor  
8<sup>th</sup> May: a pair flew east at 07:57, pausing on the offshore sandbank.  
10<sup>th</sup> May: a pair flew east at 12:28.  
19<sup>th</sup> July: one was present on the sandbank all morning.  
25<sup>th</sup> November: one was present in Chichester Harbour at low tide.  
The first records since 2012. Nine previous spring records all occurred between 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> May, whilst the July and November birds are both second records for those months.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* Common winter visitor; some summer  
See Table 3 (page 12) for maxima at the Black Point high tide roost. No notable movements were recorded.

**Grey plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* Common winter visitor and migrant  
Ten were noted flying east between 20<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May.  
See Table 3 (page 12) for Black Point high tide roost maxima, where it was an average year.

**Golden plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* Occasional winter visitor and migrant  
At Sandy Point, three flew east on 8<sup>th</sup> May, and singles flew over on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October. Up to 500 were seen more distantly around Chichester Harbour at both ends of the year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oystercatcher:	130	100	36	15	11	3	2	23	98	114	138	149
Grey plover:	55	54	51	-	-	-	-	14	35	38	49	54
Ringed plover:	140	107	22	30	8	-	9	100	164	76	42	96
Curlew:	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	2	1	1	2	2
Bar-tailed godwit:	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
Turnstone:	40	21	12	5	3	5	13	21	2	15	43	13
Knot:	270	1000	60	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	400	120
Sanderling:	100	141	120	47	27	-	-	60	1	30	90	120
Dunlin:	8000	4000	2000	22	-	-	24	20	90	800	5000	15000
Redshank:	3	2	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	3	5

Table 3. Black Point high tide wader roost: monthly maxima.

**Ringed plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* Common winter visitor, and breeds  
See Table 3 (above) for Black Point high tide roost maxima. Two or three flew east on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May. There was no nesting attempt on the beach this year.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* Occasional winter visitor and migrant  
The only records at Sandy Point were one south on 26<sup>th</sup> October and one heard after dark on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. However, regularly noted more distantly in and around Chichester Harbour.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Regular migrant  
14<sup>th</sup> April – 21<sup>st</sup> May: 280 bird-days, including 211 east, with peaks in April of 65 on 20<sup>th</sup>, 88 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 26 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and in May 13 on 9<sup>th</sup>.  
5<sup>th</sup> July – 23<sup>rd</sup> September: 33 bird-days, with 18 south and four in Fishery Creek on 9<sup>th</sup> August the only count over two.  
26<sup>th</sup> November: a very late bird was present on the winner.  
An above average year all round.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata* Common winter visitor and migrant  
See Table 3 (above) for Black Point high tide roost maxima.  
Spring migrants included three east on 26<sup>th</sup> March and singles on 20<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Black-tailed godwit** *Limosa limosa* Winter visitor and migrant  
There were none recorded away from Fishery Creek, where there was one on 4<sup>th</sup> January and up to 15 in November.

**Bar-tailed godwit** *Limosa lapponica* Common winter visitor and migrant  
20<sup>th</sup> April – 9<sup>th</sup> May: a total of 29 flew east, including 11 on both 21<sup>st</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May. First back was on 17<sup>th</sup> July, and up to 100 were present in Chichester Harbour. See Table 3 (above) for Black Point high tide roost maxima, where it was a poor year.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Common winter visitor and migrant  
See Table 3 (page 12) for Black Point high tide roost maxima.  
Offshore, nine flew east between 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May. First back was on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus* Common winter visitor  
See Table 3 (page 12) for Black Point high tide roost maxima, where it was a good year. Offshore in May there were singles on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and 20 east on 9<sup>th</sup>.

Knot and grey plover, Black Point, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**Curlew sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* Scarce migrant  
September: an adult in the high tide roost at Black Point on 10<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* Common winter visitor and migrant  
See Table 3 (page 12) for Black Point high tide roost maxima, where it was a poor year. Maxima at Sandy Point or along the seafront are shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	-	-	45	111	80	4	300	200	159	270	175	-

Last in spring were on 3<sup>rd</sup> June; first back were 60 on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* Common winter visitor and migrant  
See Table 3 (page 12) for Black Point high tide roost maxima.  
Spring records off Sandy Point included 140 on the beach on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and a total of 43 east between 18<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> May. Last in spring were 20 on 17<sup>th</sup> May, and the first back on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**Purple sandpiper** *Calidris maritima* Scarce migrant and winter visitor  
 17<sup>th</sup> May: one in summer plumage on the rocks at Sandy Point.  
 26<sup>th</sup> October: one on the rocks at Sandy Point.  
 The 16 previous records since 2008 have occurred between October and March.



Purple sandpiper, Sandy Point, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**Little stint** *Calidris minutus* Scarce migrant  
 Single juveniles were in the high tide roost at Black Point on 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> September.  
 The August bird is the earliest juvenile recorded, and the first record for that month.

**Common sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* Uncommon migrant  
 In spring, singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April, and two on 4<sup>th</sup> May.  
 13<sup>th</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September: 16 bird-days, including five on the causeway on 17<sup>th</sup> July and four at Black Point on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**Green sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* Scarce migrant  
 The only records were on 16<sup>th</sup> August (being pursued by a peregrine) and 14<sup>th</sup> September.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* Uncommon migrant and winter visitor  
 8<sup>th</sup> May: one flew north.  
 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September: four bird-days, followed by one on south on 1<sup>st</sup> November.  
 The May record is only the fourth spring migrant to be recorded. Conversely, it was a very poor autumn.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus* Winter visitor and migrant  
 See Table 3 (page 12) for Black Point high tide roost maxima.  
 In Fishery Creek, birds returned from 7<sup>th</sup> July, with up to 85 in September.

**Jack snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus* Migrant and winter visitor  
 Singles present in the sea rush marsh on 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> December.  
 Another poor showing, although there was reduced searching for this species, especially in the second winter period, to prevent disturbance to teal on the marsh.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* Scarce migrant and winter visitor  
 20<sup>th</sup> January – 20<sup>th</sup> March: one or two recorded regularly at dusk.  
 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November: one at dusk on each date.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* Winter visitor and migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	9	1	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	6

Another low-key year for this species, which tends to be recorded in higher numbers during cold weather.

**Pomarine skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* Scarce migrant  
 21<sup>st</sup> April: a flock of nine flew east at 08:55.  
 5<sup>th</sup> May: at 17:34 four flew southwest and three east (following a possible six seen poorly at 15:00). Another flew east at 15:49 the next day.

**Arctic skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* Frequent migrant  
 15<sup>th</sup> April – 10<sup>th</sup> May: 12 bird-days, with one or two on nine dates.  
 20<sup>th</sup> August: one offshore, the sole autumn record.  
 Another poor year; the spring average is 32 bird-days, and 13 in the autumn.

**Great skua** *Stercorarius skua* Uncommon migrant  
 19<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> May: ten bird-days, all singles apart from three on 20<sup>th</sup> April.  
 A return to normal after a blank year in 2015.

Pomarine skua, three passing 'Chimet', 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016.





**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Regular winter visitor

Singles recorded on eight dates between 14<sup>th</sup> October and 20<sup>th</sup> December. Unidentified auks were seen on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Winter visitor and migrant

Singles present on 11<sup>th</sup> January and regularly from 11<sup>th</sup> November to the end of the year.

**Little tern** *Sternula albifrons*

Common summer visitor

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	-	-	-	12	28	?	50	32	-	-	-	-

14<sup>th</sup> April – 12<sup>th</sup> May: 108 flew east, with a peak of 28 on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

11<sup>th</sup> July – 28<sup>th</sup> August: summer gatherings at the Black Point high tide roost peaked at 50 on 25<sup>th</sup> July, with a maximum of 14 juveniles on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Black tern** *Chlidonias niger*

Migrant

5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May: 27 flew east, including 21 on the first date.

3<sup>rd</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August: three singles were the only autumn records.

In contrast to 2015, this was the best spring passage since 2008 (when there were 54), but an extremely poor autumn.

**Sandwich tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Common summer visitor; a few overwinter

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	6	6	5	80	100	?	25	15	23	10	9	6

10<sup>th</sup> April – 10<sup>th</sup> May: 600 flew east, with a peak of 100 on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

**Common tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Common summer visitor

10<sup>th</sup> April – 12<sup>th</sup> May: easterly spring passage totalled 2448, with a notable peak of 943 on 10<sup>th</sup> May, and six other movements of 100-250. The best spring passage since 2008.

27<sup>th</sup> July – 13<sup>th</sup> August: regular three-figure gatherings at Black Point peaked at 480 on 1<sup>st</sup> August. The only subsequent high count was 140 on 25<sup>th</sup> August, but few remained in September. The last of the year was on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Roseate tern** *Sterna dougallii*

Scarce migrant

23<sup>rd</sup> April: one flew east.

8<sup>th</sup> June: one feeding in the harbour mouth.

**Arctic tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Frequent migrant

In spring two flew east on 14<sup>th</sup> April, one on 5<sup>th</sup> May and two on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

27<sup>th</sup> July - 11<sup>th</sup> August: just four singles recorded. Another very poor year.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Occasional winter visitor and migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	11	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-

Eight flew east on 1<sup>st</sup> January. The worst year on record, the average annual bird-day total being 88.

**Black-headed gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Common throughout

Little of note recorded; the summer peak at the Black Point high tide roost was 400 on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

**Little gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Occasional migrant and winter visitor

2<sup>nd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> January: one to five on five dates.

Three flew east on 14<sup>th</sup> April, one the next day and three on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

12<sup>th</sup> October: a first-winter offshore.

An improvement on recent springs, but a very poor autumn.



Little gull, first-winter, on the sea, 11<sup>th</sup> January

**Mediterranean gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Regular visitor

Significant counts included 80 on 9<sup>th</sup> February, up to 100 during July,

23 in the Black Point high tide roost on 7<sup>th</sup> September and 14 west on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

An adult was found dead on the beach on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**Common gull** *Larus canus*

Common non-breeding visitor

A small amount of spring passage was recorded, e.g. eight east on 21<sup>st</sup> April, and the last of the spring on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**Lesser black-backed gull** *Larus fuscus*

Frequent migrant

Poorly recorded in 2016. An adult in the Black Point high tide roost on 22<sup>nd</sup> February was unusual.

**Herring gull** *Larus argentatus*

Common non-breeding visitor

Ever present in small numbers, occasionally three-figure flocks recorded, e.g. 106 in the Black Point high tide roost on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 115 on the offshore sandbank on 12<sup>th</sup> April and 200 on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Yellow-legged gull** *Larus michahellis*

Migrant

12<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July: only four bird-days.

29<sup>th</sup> November: an adult on the winner. A very poor year.

**Great black-backed gull** *Larus marinus*

Common

Ever present in small numbers.

**Feral/racing pigeon** *Columba livia*  
Ever present.

Common

**Stock dove** *Columba oenas* Frequent migrant  

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	4	2	1	4	2	1	1	3	21	-

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus* Common resident and migrant  
Very common in the reserve throughout the year. There was little evidence of autumn migration, with just 185 west on four dates between 19<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Collared dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* Common resident  
Present throughout the year in small numbers, 11 on 14<sup>th</sup> September the only double figure count.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* Scarce migrant  
One was in the reserve on 16<sup>th</sup> June, and a juvenile was reportedly present in the clearing by Sparkes Marina for a few days at the end of July.

**Short-eared owl** *Asio flammeus* Scarce migrant  
9<sup>th</sup> October: one flushed within the reserve.  
In addition, an unidentified eared owl species was seen after dark on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Following a record autumn in 2015, up to seven could be seen from Black Point, hunting on Thorney Island throughout January and February.

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus* Rare migrant  
12<sup>th</sup> September: one was seen briefly after dark.  
This species has yet to give itself up properly at Sandy Point - two previous rather unsatisfactory records were in 2010, including one on the similar date of 15<sup>th</sup> September (seen distantly at sea).

**Swift** *Apus apus* Common summer visitor  

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	-	-	-	7	17	11	80	20	-	-	-	-

  
Recorded most days between 20<sup>th</sup> April – 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* Winter visitor  
Recorded regularly until 13<sup>th</sup> March and again from 6<sup>th</sup> August to the end of the year. Two were seen together on 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* Rare migrant  

- 3<sup>rd</sup> April: a flighty and elusive bird favoured the northwest corner of the reserve before heading off north.

Two others arrived in Hampshire on the same day. This is the first at Sandy Point since one on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April 2006, which was also very mobile and hard to pin down.



Hoopoe, Sandy Point reserve, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016.

**Green woodpecker** *Picus viridis* Resident  
Present throughout the year, and bred.

**Great spotted woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* Occasional visitor  

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	4	-	1	1	-	-	12	8	8	17	7	4

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* Regular visitor  

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	1	2	12	pres.	pres.	10	9	1	16	18	7	1

  
The instalment of a nest-box encouraged a pair to take up residence from April into May, although in the end they didn't nest. Three were present on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* Scarce migrant  
6<sup>th</sup> May: one in the harbour entrance – the first May record at Sandy Point.  
1<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October: two singles. A typical autumn showing.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* Scarce migrant  
29<sup>th</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> May: singles on each date.  
A poor year - the spring average is five bird-days, and the autumn average is four.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus* Occasional visitor  

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	8	3	-	4	-	-	2	2	4	9	7	2

  
One on 16<sup>th</sup> August chased a green sandpiper over the reserve.

**Great grey shrike** *Lanius excubitor* *Rare migrant*

- 14<sup>th</sup> October: one moved rapidly through the reserve, being heavily mobbed by chaffinches, song thrushes and magpies.

The first record for Sandy Point (and Hayling Island) and one of the highlights of the autumn.

**Magpie** *Pica pica* *Resident and winter visitor*

Early year peaks included 25 on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 20 on both 11<sup>th</sup> January and 26<sup>th</sup> February, and 18 on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Two flew north on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Peak counts in the last quarter were 17 on 20<sup>th</sup> September and 16 on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* *Former non-breeding resident*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	-	7	3	-	-	4	7	11	-	-

An improvement on 2015, but reinforcing its new status as a migrant rather than near-resident.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* *Regular migrant*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	5	6	23	7	18	7	-	6	20	151	22	8

The only significant count was a single flock of 100 flying west on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Another very poor autumn.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* *Common resident in the area*

As usual there were regular dusk movements of around a hundred birds to their roost, and occasional birds recorded flying over the reserve.

**Carrion crow** *Corvus corone* *Resident*

Three pairs bred. The highest count was 27 on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Raven** *Corvus corax* *Scarce migrant*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	1	5	9	2	2	4	2	5	7	9	4	-

Most records involved one or two birds flying over. However, one was flushed off a rat's corpse on 30<sup>th</sup> March, and four flew east on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

A record year.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* *Regular migrant*

Records included one in-off the sea on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, one singing on 1<sup>st</sup> May, and early autumn birds on 18<sup>th</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> September ahead of the main migration.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla* *Uncommon migrant and winterer*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	2	2	16	8	-	-	-	-	2	6	4	13

There were four on 26<sup>th</sup> and five on 28<sup>th</sup> March, with the last of the spring on 8<sup>th</sup> April. The first of the autumn were on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**Coal tit** *Periparus ater* *Scarce migrant*

6<sup>th</sup> July: a mobile individual moved rapidly through. Although recorded annually between 2005 and 2010, this is only the second record since. It is also the second to be recorded in July.

**Blue tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus* *Resident*

Present throughout, with no records of note.

**Great tit** *Parus major* *Resident*

Present throughout and bred.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* *Regular migrant*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	6	1	-	-	3	-	1	177	24	1

Peak movement was between 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October, with 130 west, peaking at 44 on 19<sup>th</sup>. Another below average year, very similar to 2015.

**Shorelark** *Eremophila alpestris* *Rare migrant*

- 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October: an obliging individual along the seafront beach and promenade, performing well for a steady stream of locals and visitors.

The second recent record at Sandy Point; the previous record was a very brief visit on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009.



Shorelark, seafront beach, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**Sand martin** *Riparia riparia* Regular migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	-	33	-	-	120	32	16	3	-	-

18<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April: the peak was 21 north on 21<sup>st</sup>.

6<sup>th</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> October: the only counts over seven were all in July: 42 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 40 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 14 on 21<sup>st</sup>. An above average spring and below average autumn.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Common migrant and summer visitor

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	-	137	118	13	14	368	1008	449	-	-

3<sup>rd</sup> April – 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The highest spring count was 49 on 29<sup>th</sup> April. There were 11 three-figure movements in the autumn, between 25<sup>th</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**House martin** *Delichon urbicum* Common migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	-	13	21	-	-	28	1678	158	-	-

21<sup>st</sup> April – 23<sup>rd</sup> May: peaks 11 on both 29<sup>th</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> May.

12<sup>th</sup> August – 20<sup>th</sup> October: there were six three-figure counts in September, peaking at 500 on both 14<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Cetti's warbler** *Cettia cetti* Rare visitor

A male first heard on 19<sup>th</sup> December was recorded on three further dates, and remained into 2017.

The four previous records have occurred in March, September and October (two).

**Long-tailed tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* Resident

A family party was seen on 11<sup>th</sup> May, but this species was perhaps less conspicuous than usual, with no significant flocks noted.



Long-tailed tit, six juveniles, Sandy Point reserve, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

**Yellow-browed warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* Rare migrant

- 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October: an elusive bird heard calling on two dates, and seen on 15<sup>th</sup>.

There have been seven in the last 11 years, all in October.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* Regular migrant; rare in winter

The first migrant arrived on 29<sup>th</sup> February and the spring peak was nine on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Three males held territory. No significant numbers were recorded during the autumn, and one bird remained through December.

**Willow warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Regular migrant

30<sup>th</sup> March – 12<sup>th</sup> May: 125 bird-days, with peaks of 20 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 33 on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 14 on 1<sup>st</sup> and ten on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. A late bird was present on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

23<sup>rd</sup> July – 21<sup>st</sup> September: 96 bird-days, with double-figures on only 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August.

The spring average is 75 bird-days, and the autumn 143.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* Regular migrant

A wintering bird was seen on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February.

1<sup>st</sup> April – 23<sup>rd</sup> October: three males held territory, and there were at least 20 during the fall on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

A wintering bird was recorded on three dates in December.

**Garden warbler** *Sylvia borin* Uncommon migrant

2<sup>nd</sup> May: two recorded during the significant spring fall.

The first blank autumn since 2005.

**Lesser whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca* Summer visitor and migrant

Recorded between 20<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> September, there were three on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, and one male held territory.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* Common summer visitor and migrant

5<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> October: at least 20 were present on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and at least three males held territory.

**Dartford warbler** *Sylvia undata* Resident and migrant

28<sup>th</sup> January – 3<sup>rd</sup> March: six bird-days, including two on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

3<sup>rd</sup> October – 26<sup>th</sup> November: 18 bird-days, including two on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Grasshopper warbler** *Locustella naevia* Scarce migrant

15<sup>th</sup> April: one seen and heard reeling in gorse in the north of the reserve.

**Sedge warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Uncommon migrant

In spring, a ringed singing male was present from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May.

5<sup>th</sup> August – 11<sup>th</sup> September: 11 bird-days, including three on 9<sup>th</sup> and two on 14<sup>th</sup> August. An above average autumn.



Sedge warbler, ringed male, Sandy Point reserve, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016.

**Reed warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* Migrant (has bred)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May: six bird-days, including three on 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
 16<sup>th</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September: 22 bird-days, including four on 17<sup>th</sup> and two on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. A very good year all round.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Resident  
 Present in small numbers throughout.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* Common resident and migrant  
 The only movements noted were 24 northeast on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 60 west on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 110 west on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**Ring ouzel** *Turdus torquata* Scarce migrant  
 In October there was one on 5<sup>th</sup> and three flew northeast on 14<sup>th</sup>.  
 An average showing.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula* Resident and migrant  
 Ever present and bred.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* Uncommon migrant  
 13<sup>th</sup> March: one in the clearing by Sparkes Marina.  
 14<sup>th</sup> October – 26<sup>th</sup> November: nine bird-days, including four on the first date, followed by a single on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The autumn average is 16 bird-days.

**Song thrush** *Turdus philomelos* Resident and migrant  
 Present all year and bred. Autumn migrants were conspicuous on 4<sup>th</sup> October, with at least 20 present, and 14<sup>th</sup> October, when ten flew northeast.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* Regular migrant, especially in autumn

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	21	45

Last in spring on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, first back 4<sup>th</sup> October. 16 on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 42 on 12<sup>th</sup> December were the only counts over three.

**Mistle thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* Uncommon migrant  
 15<sup>th</sup> June: a dispersing juvenile.  
 4<sup>th</sup> October – 4<sup>th</sup> December: nine bird-days, including two on 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October. An average showing.

**Spotted flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* Uncommon migrant  
 11<sup>th</sup> May: the only spring record.  
 24<sup>th</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> October: ten bird-days, including two on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September. An above average autumn.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* Resident  
 Ever present.

**Pied flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* Scarce migrant  
 24<sup>th</sup> August – 11<sup>th</sup> September: six singles. Another good showing.



Pied flycatcher, Sandy Point reserve, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

**Black redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* *Scarce migrant and winterer*  
 19<sup>th</sup> January – 25<sup>th</sup> March: records on 11 dates may have referred to one bird.  
 7<sup>th</sup> April: a migrant in the reserve.  
 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November: just three autumn singles.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* *Migrant*  
 15<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> May: ten bird-days, including four on both 19<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May.  
 18<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> August and 8<sup>th</sup> September: just three autumn singles.  
 A topsy-turvy year; the spring average is five bird-days, and the autumn 18.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* *Migrant*  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May: two on 2<sup>nd</sup>, four on 3<sup>rd</sup> and one the next day.  
 14<sup>th</sup> July: an early returning bird, followed by seven singles between 18<sup>th</sup> August  
 and 14<sup>th</sup> September. An above average spring, but below average autumn.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola* *Migrant (has bred)*  
 24<sup>th</sup> February, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March: three spring singles.  
 Present from 7<sup>th</sup> September, peaking at five in mid-October, there were still four  
 on 26<sup>th</sup> November, and two remained to the end of the year.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* *Regular migrant*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	18	37	11	-	1	37	59	7	-	-

23<sup>rd</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> May: 66 bird-days, with peaks of nine on 24<sup>th</sup> March and seven  
 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April.  
 21<sup>st</sup> July – 17<sup>th</sup> October: 104 bird-days, peaking at 11 on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 17 on 1<sup>st</sup>  
 and ten on 11<sup>th</sup> September.  
 The spring average is 107 bird-days, and the autumn 96.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis* *Resident*  
 Ever present in good numbers, with little evidence of migration noted.

**House sparrow** *Passer domesticus* *Common resident*  
 Present throughout.

**Yellow wagtail** *Motacilla flava* *Regular migrant, particularly in autumn*  
 18<sup>th</sup> April – 8<sup>th</sup> May: nine bird-days, including three on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.  
 In July there were early returning singles on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.  
 15<sup>th</sup> August – 5<sup>th</sup> October: 227 bird-days, with peaks in August of 39 on 24<sup>th</sup> and  
 48 on 25<sup>th</sup>, and in September of 32 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 24 on 15<sup>th</sup>. An average year.

**Grey wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* *Frequent migrant, especially in autumn*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	53	40	10	2

Peak counts were six on 9<sup>th</sup>, nine on 14<sup>th</sup> September, and five on 13<sup>th</sup> October.  
 A very good year.

**Pied wagtail** *Motacilla alba* *Resident and common migrant*  
 Present throughout the year and bred. In spring, seven flew north between 11<sup>th</sup>  
 and 23<sup>rd</sup> March.  
 14<sup>th</sup> September – 14<sup>th</sup> November: 657 moved mostly east, with peaks in October  
 of 64 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 70 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 88 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 75 on 13<sup>th</sup>. An above average autumn.

**Tree pipit** *Anthus trivialis* *Frequent migrant, particularly in autumn*  
 5<sup>th</sup> April – 11<sup>th</sup> May: five bird-days, including three on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.  
 9<sup>th</sup> August – 20<sup>th</sup> September: 21 bird-days, with no counts over three.  
 Five is the highest ever spring total. The autumn average is 31 bird-days.

**Meadow pipit** *Anthus pratensis* *Resident and common migrant*  
 11<sup>th</sup> March – 19<sup>th</sup> April: 78 flew north, including 51 on 18<sup>th</sup> March. One pair bred.  
 7<sup>th</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> November: 1523 bird-days, with peaks of 211 north on 17<sup>th</sup>  
 September and 194 east on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Small numbers recorded during the  
 winter months. A below average year all round.

**Rock pipit** *Anthus petrosus* *Migrant*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	10	2

The average number of autumn bird-days is 23.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* *Migrant, particularly in the autumn*  
 8<sup>th</sup> October – 18<sup>th</sup> November: eight singles.  
 Another poor autumn, the average bird-day total being 32.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* *Resident and common migrant*  
 13<sup>th</sup> September – 30<sup>th</sup> November: 157 bird-days, with 22 northeast on 14<sup>th</sup>  
 October and 28 northeast on 26<sup>th</sup> November the only counts over ten.  
 The fourth poor year in a row; the average number of autumn bird-days since 2005  
 is 574.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris* *Common resident and migrant*  
 Present throughout the year in small numbers. 15NE on 14<sup>th</sup> October was the  
 only evidence of autumn passage, and the peak count was 30 on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina* *Common breeder and migrant, fewer in winter*  
 Up to 15 sporadically recorded during the winter. Nine flew north on 21<sup>st</sup> April.  
 21<sup>st</sup> September – 14<sup>th</sup> November: 1084 bird-days, with peaks of 114 on 7<sup>th</sup>  
 October and 139 the next day. The average autumn bird-day total is 1818.

**Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea* *Migrant, mainly in the autumn*  
 20<sup>th</sup> April: a solitary spring record.  
 6<sup>th</sup> October – 26<sup>th</sup> November: just 66 bird-days, with 25 northeast on 28<sup>th</sup> October  
 the only count over six. A poor autumn; the average is 294 bird-days.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*  
Resident and common migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
B/d:	30	25	56	52	19	8
Max:	12	7	13	13	6	3

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	35	11	73	4408	552	19
Max:	13	2	37	817	121	9

Generally more obvious throughout the year than formerly, and bred locally.

28<sup>th</sup> September – 14<sup>th</sup> November: movements over 200 are shown below:

Oct:	6 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
NE:	297	251	283	362

Oct:	14 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>
NE:	817	221	497	484

Another poor autumn, the bird-day total being around half the average.



Goldfinch, Sandy Point, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*  
Migrant, mainly in the autumn

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	182	8	-

23<sup>rd</sup> September – 30<sup>th</sup> November: there were just six double-figure counts in October, with 36 northeast on 14<sup>th</sup> the peak. A very poor year.

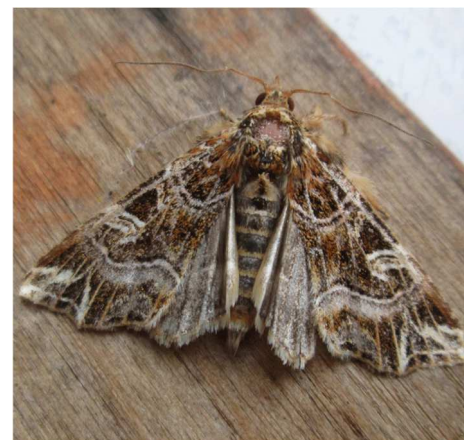
**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*  
Scarce migrant  
Singles were recorded on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November. A typical showing.

**Reed bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
Frequent migrant  
17<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> April: a singing male (exactly the same as in 2015).

18<sup>th</sup> September – 8<sup>th</sup> November: 37 bird-days, with a peak of four on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Subsequently there was one on 31<sup>st</sup> December. An average year; the coincidence of spring dates with 2015 is remarkable.

**Escapes**

**Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*  
Escape (Australia)  
13<sup>th</sup> March: one flying around calling, was possibly taken by a sparrowhawk (the moment of impact occurred out of sight!). Singles were also recorded in 2007 and 2008.



Front cover: shorelark, seafront beach, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Back cover: summer-plumage purple sandpiper, Sandy Point, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016;  
The Latin, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016; The Druid, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

All photographs by A. Johnson.