

SANDY POINT

HAYLING ISLAND

2019 BIRD REPORT

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Introduction

This is the 15th report summarising observations at Sandy Point. The total of 166 species recorded during the year is the second lowest in that time (there were 165 in 2015). The total has failed to reach 170 in only five years, all of which have been since 2014. 'Expected' species (or subspecies) which went unrecorded in 2019 included black brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* (for the second year running), pochard *Aythya ferina*, scaup *Aythya marila*, purple sandpiper *Calidris maritima*, woodlark *Lullula arborea*, grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia* and crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*.

The number of days on which coverage was achieved in each month in 2019 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 1km²). Most of the peninsula is residential development/caravan parks, so the bulk of observations come from Sandy Point Local Nature Reserve north to Hayling Island Sailing Club and Black Point (see map, page 30).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days:	28	25	28	26	20	17	29	30	30	29	27	22

Black Point high tide roost

The spit to the west of Hayling Island Sailing Club is a nationally, and sometimes internationally, important roost site for winter waders at high tide, when their feeding areas of intertidal mud are covered by water. It is one of a handful of sites around Chichester Harbour where waders can gather in safety and wait for the tide to drop so that they can resume feeding. Similarly, from July to September it serves as an important high tide roost site for terns, prior to their migration to Africa.

It is important that the roosting birds are disturbed as little as possible, since unnecessary disturbance causes the birds to waste vital energy which is necessary to survive the winter weather, or which is needed for their long migration.

Unfortunately, the high tide roost saw unprecedented levels of disturbance during 2019. As well as the perennial issue of dog-walkers and day-trippers, disturbance from Stand-up Paddlers reached unprecedented levels, this pastime having exploded in popularity in a very short space of time. Together with disturbance from kayakers, wind-surfers, sailing activity and even drone flyers, the cumulative effect resulted in much lower numbers of birds being present (especially in July and August), and which can only add to the pressures endured by these birds.

There is plenty of space to accommodate both human activity and wildlife without a conflict of interest, and it always tends to be a lack of awareness which leads to disturbance of roost sites such as Black Point. Therefore, if anyone reading this can help to raise awareness amongst potential unwitting perpetrators, a reduced level of disturbance would be greatly appreciated by both the birds and those observing them.

Summary of 2019

2019 began relatively mild and dry, with good numbers of eider, red-throated diver, auks and Sandwich terns. On the other hand, it was a poor winter for great northern diver and Slavonian grebe, whilst there were brief visits from goldeneye, red-necked grebe, great skua, merlin and black redstart.

Continuing warm and dry weather towards the end of February encouraged some early migrants, including Dartford warbler, bullfinch and yellowhammer. March saw good arrivals of wheatears on 20th & 31st, plus brambling, tawny owl, Egyptian goose, willow warbler, ring-necked parakeet, swallow, whimbrel, redstart and sand martin, followed by coal tit and **great egret** in early April.

Eight arctic skuas, 24 common tern and a velvet scoter on 5th April hinted at a good season's sea-watching, but alas it was not to be, with tern passage in particular being extremely poor (e.g. just one arctic, six black and 17 little terns), although 21 Manx shearwaters on 27th April was a good showing. Highlights on land were 30 willow warblers and a whinchat on 17th April, male and female pied flycatchers on 20th–21st and a ring ousel on 24th, followed by a good arrival on 10th May including three spotted flycatcher and a turtle dove.

Following a roseate tern on 14th, the best sea-watching day was 16th May, when 17 pomarine skuas and two avocets were amongst a variety of species recorded. Weekly sea-watch totals for selected regular species are shown in table 1.

	March				April			May		Total
	26-1	2-8	9-15	16-22	23-29	30-6	7-13	26/3 – 13/5		
Brent goose	50	59	11	22	57	-	-	26/3 – 13/5	199	
Common scoter	-	138	2	12	14	12	-		178	
Bar-tailed godwit	-	8	10	36	23	-	-		77	
Whimbrel	-	2	24	24	23	6	45		124	
Arctic skua	-	8	2	1	15	1	1		28	
Little tern	-	-	-	-	16	-	1		17	
Common tern	-	24	10	20	257	-	-		301	

Table 1: Spring sea-watching – easterly totals for selected regular species for weeks 13-19. The peak for each species is shown in bold.

Following last year's successful breeding, a young male black redstart held territory, but failed to attract a mate. Several Manx shearwaters were seen on 13th June, but gannet numbers were low throughout the summer. Meanwhile, the tawny owl made a surprise reappearance in a private garden.

Moth highlights during the year included a number of rare migrants: **splendid brocade** *L. splendens* on 11th July, **small marbled** *E parva* on 17th July, **The Latin** *C. juvenina* on 26th and 27th July (the 14th and 15th British records), and **Radford's flame shoulder** *O. leucogaster* on 22nd October. Amongst recently colonising species, over 200 box-tree moths *C. perspectalis* represents an exponential increase. A great green bush-cricket *T. viridissima* appeared on 16th September – this being the first recent record at Sandy Point (it is resident in the north of Hayling Island) – and was still present on 28th.



The Latin, Sandy Point, 27th July 2019,

Roe buck, Sandy Point, 30th January 2019

Sad news concerned the roe buck which, after over 11 years in residence, was found dead on 10th September. Equally sadly, a deceased common dolphin washed up on the beach on 14th October.

Unprecedented flocks of green sandpipers and greenshanks flew over on 27th July, followed by a **wood sandpiper** on 13th August and four avocets on 30th. Unfortunately, the high tide roost at Black Point was heavily disturbed, with extremely disappointing numbers of terns as a result, and there were very few black and arctic terns recorded.

The highlight of the year was a juvenile **Kentish plover** which roosted on the seafront on 2nd and 7th September, the 7th also seeing an impressive arrival of 23 wheatears. September also saw an unprecedented movement of grey herons, including an impressive flock of 39 on 10th. Notable arrivals in October included a ring ousel and 40 song thrush on 16th, hen harrier and 138 fieldfare on 21st, and a record arrival of at least 11 black redstarts on 23rd. Also recorded were curlew sandpiper, two short-eared owls and red-necked grebe, long-tailed duck and black-throated diver on 31st.

Visible migration was once again disappointing, with most species recorded in low numbers, most noticeably house martin, 'alba' wagtail, chaffinch, brambling, siskin and redpoll; 'vis mig' totals for selected species are shown in table 2.

	September				October				November	
	3-7	10-16	17-23	24-30	1-7	8-14	15-21	22-28	29-4	5-11
Woodpigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	100	333	200
Skylark	-	-	-	10	15	17	130	52	13	-
House martin	2	404	182	53	250	53	16	-	-	-
Meadow pipit	53	228	113	202	277	382	208	56	-	10
'Alba' wagtail	-	1	10	20	40	44	58	42	27	3
Jackdaw	-	-	-	-	7	-	495	180	-	-
Chaffinch	-	-	3	4	19	25	12	2	-	10
Goldfinch	-	-	-	-	266	1173	1171	499	285	1112
Siskin	-	-	-	2	10	8	37	3	-	2
Linnet	-	-	-	-	180	590	176	74	103	101
Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	3

Table 2: Autumn visible migration – weekly totals of selected species for weeks 36-45. The peak for each species is shown in bold.

The second winter period remained largely mild, though much wetter than the rest of the year. There were again good numbers of eider and red-throated diver, with records of velvet scoter, goldeneye and black-necked grebe, but it was a very poor winter for auks.

Acknowledgements

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Thanks to all other observers who visited the area and passed on their records.

Front cover: juvenile Kentish plover, Sandy Point, 2nd September 2019.

Back cover: male pied flycatcher, Earnley Triangle, 21st April 2019.

All photographs by A. Johnson, unless stated otherwise.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Species are listed according to the British Ornithologists' Union 9th Checklist (2018). 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

Dark-bellied brent *Branta bernicla bernicla*

Common winter visitor

A low-key easterly passage included 153 between 29th January and 28th February, followed by 236 between 18th March – 25th April. One lingering bird was in Fishery Creek on 20th May. First back were seven on 19th September, with 115 the next day, and 500 by 2nd October. There were good numbers of juveniles indicating another successful breeding season.



Brent goose, a leucistic bird present on 21st & 25th October 2019.

Pale-bellied brent *Branta bernicla hrota*

Scarce winter visitor and migrant

24th September and 1st October: a juvenile with dark-bellied brents in Chichester Harbour. A typical record.

Canada goose *Branta canadensis*

Occasional feral migrant

There were 24 over Chichester Harbour on 18th January, a pair in the reserve on 23rd and 31st March, four over Chichester Harbour on 2nd April, one on 1st May, 117 bird-days on ten dates between 28th July – 29th September, and five on 18th December.

Barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis*

Rare winter visitor and migrant

1st May: one flew northwest – highly likely to be a feral bird.

Mute swan *Cygnus olor*

Resident in the area

Two or three were recorded in or over the reserve on 20th March, 17th & 29th October and 15th November. Regularly recorded in small numbers in Chichester Harbour, peaking at 10 on 14th October.

Egyptian goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Rare feral visitor

27th March: a pair flew round the reserve.

The fifth record, and the second in March (others January, February and October).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna**Regular visitor*

2nd March – 26th June: one or two pairs regularly in the reserve, with three pairs on 6th June. One pair investigated nest burrows, but apparently did not nest.

16 flew east between 16th – 30th April, whilst autumn movements included four west on 31st July and 17 east or north on 30th October. The peak count in Chichester Harbour was 72 on 10th February.

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata**Winter visitor and migrant*

Up to four regularly on the marsh in the reserve until 11th February, one from 31st October to 9th November, two on 14th November and one on 16th December. One flew east on 14th May, and three or four were in Chichester Harbour from 28th – 31st December. A below average year.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera**Uncommon migrant*

In January there was a drake in Chichester Harbour on 4th and three on 21st, followed by four north on 15th November. A poor year.

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

Generally present in low numbers in Chichester Harbour, the first back were six on 31st August, and there were up to 700 from September to November.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos**Regular visitor, and breeds*

Max	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
SP:	2	5	3	5	6	2	2	4	13	21	7	5

A brood of three ducklings appeared in August, one of which was rescued having fallen through the grating into a road drain on 3rd.

Pintail *Anas acuta**Uncommon winter visitor*

B/d:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	2	12

The only counts over three were four north on 1st January, ten offshore on 31st October and five in Chichester Harbour on 28th December.

Teal *Anas crecca**Regular winter visitor*

Max	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
SP:	23	12	10	10	-	1	-	1	7	45	44	20

Last in spring was on 16th April. There was an unusual mid-summer record of a female in the reserve on 17th and 21st June, and the first back was on 31st August.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula**Uncommon migrant*

In May, nine flew through the reserve on 13th and two on 31st. A female with eight tiny ducklings was in Fishery Creek on 17th July before clambering up to the lake at Lakeside. Finally, two flew north on 31st October.

Rather a low-key year compared to recent years.

Eider *Somateria mollissima**Winter visitor and migrant*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	52	40	50	9	8	-	4	-	4	5	50	62

A very good year, with sizeable flocks in both winter periods.



Eider, immature male, Sandy Point, 5th February 2019.

Velvet scoter *Melanitta fusca**Uncommon winter visitor and migrant*

5th April: one flew east with seven common scoter.

11th – 12th November: a female in Chichester Harbour.

Two typical records.

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

Max:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3	2	5	99	30	3	3	-	5	18	25	9

Spring passage totalled 208 east between 2nd April and 16th May, with 99 on 5th April the only count over 32.

Long-tailed duck *Clangula hyemalis**Uncommon winter visitor and migrant*

31st October – 4th November: an adult male off Black Point.

8th – 11th November: a female in Chichester Harbour.

3rd December: presumably the same female flew out to sea at 16:22.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula**Uncommon winter visitor*

13th February: a male with red-breasted mergansers in Chichester Harbour.

30th November: a female flew into the harbour.

Goosander

Mergus merganser
Uncommon winter visitor

10th January – 3rd February: eight bird-days on four dates.
10th October – 21st November: seven bird-days on four dates.
Another good year.



Goosander, Sandy Point, 17th January 2019.

Red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*

Common winter visitor

The peak in Chichester Harbour was 32 on 1st February; 12 flew east between 2nd – 6th April, and the first back was on 4th October.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Formerly resident

26th September – 17th October: a juvenile – the first record for two years.



Pheasant in saltmarsh by the lifeboat station, 28th September 2019.

Red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*

Winter visitor and migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	20	91	-	8	-	-	-	-	2	6	43	36
Max:	6	42	-	4	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	5
Diver sp.2	-	-	-	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1

Double-figure counts in February were 36 on 1st and 42 on 3rd. First back were two (one in summer plumage) on 29th September. A good year.

Black-throated diver *Gavia arctica*

Uncommon winter visitor and migrant

Singles recorded on 3rd January, 11th February and 18th – 19th March.

5th April: three flew east.

31st October – 13th November: one in Chichester Harbour, with two on 3rd – 4th.

Great northern diver *Gavia immer*

Winter visitor and migrant

January: singles on 24th and 29th were the only records in the first winter period.

May: singles flew west on 16th and 29th.

30th October – 30th December: one regularly recorded, with two on three dates.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Frequent migrant, especially in spring

10th March – 8th May: 13 bird-days on ten dates, followed by seven on 13th June, two on 30th July, one on 9th and three on 10th August. Continues the recent run of poor springs: the average was 59 bird-days between 2005-12, but only 16 since 2013.

Manx shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Rare migrant

24th – 27th April: after three singles, 21 flew east on the last date.

13th June: two groups of three were recorded in the evening.

Another good year.

Little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Regular winter visitor

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	7	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2

Red-necked grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Scarce winter visitor and migrant

18th February: one in Chichester Harbour.

31st October: one offshore, then flew east.

A good showing by recent standards.

Red-necked grebe, record shot on the sea off Sandy Point, 31st October 2019.



Great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Regular, mainly in winter

Up to 25 recorded in the winter months, and there were 20 present on 11th May.

Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Regular winter visitor

The only records in the first winter period were on 2nd January, 7th-9th February and two on 16th March. Regular from 22nd November – 23rd December, including six on 14th December and three the next day.

Black-necked grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare winter visitor and migrant

6th November: one in Chichester Harbour. A relatively poor year.

Grey heron *Ardea cinerea*

Resident in the area

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	3	2	14	12	3	5	8	28	53	7	5	1

Movements included singles east on 30th March, 16th April and west on 24th April. After three west on 18th June, there was a spectacular westerly movement between 24th August and 14th September, with 14 on 24th August, eight on 26th, 43 (including a flock of 39) on 10th September and ten on 14th.

The best year on record.



Grey herons, Sandy Point, 10th September 2019.

Little egret *Egretta garzetta*

Resident

Generally recorded singly in the reserve, with two on only 21st January and 24th March. A low-key year.

Great egret *Egretta alba*

Rare migrant

- 8th April: one flew east over the reserve.

The first spring record, the previous three (of six birds) all being in October/November.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Regular offshore

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	10	45	19	122	39	20	24	21	36	16	1	1
Max:	6	30	11	39	11	5	10	10	10	15	1	1

A poor summer.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Occasional visitor

22nd January – 17th March: singles on six dates, followed by four east on 16th April. 24th August – 31st October: 15 bird-days on ten dates. A rather average year.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common, especially in winter

Sizeable feeding flocks were recorded during both winter periods, peaking at 51 on 31st January and 75 on 3rd November.

Easterly movements included six on 18th March, nine on 30th March and seven on 17th April, followed by eight on 14th and 11 on 29th July. Six flocks of 4-11 were noted moving west between 19th September and 7th October.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce migrant

18th and 27th April: singles arrived off the sea.

31st August – 4th October: 21 bird-days, including two on 11th September.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Resident and migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	11	10	16	17	10	5	12	42	26	30	10	9

Marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce migrant

Singles were seen on 4th January, 12th February and 15th November.

Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Rare migrant

21st October: a ringtail flew NW through the reserve.

Only the fourth such record, previously 19th April 2006, 30th April 2010 and 7th November 2011.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Migrant, and resident on the island

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	1	18	10	13	-	-	5	2	-	1	-

A good spring, including counts of eight on 26th March and four on 2nd May. In contrast, the autumn was very poor.

Water rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Regular winter visitor

Up to two recorded in the reserve until 7th April and from 15th October.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Resident

Ever present in the drain/marsh in the reserve, with small chicks noted in June and August.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* Common winter visitor; some summer

See Table 3 (page 14) for maxima at the Black Point high tide roost, where it was an average year. One was regularly feeding in the reserve in January and March and again on 31st December.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* *Scarce migrant and winter visitor*
In spring, two flew east on 16th May, followed in the autumn by four west on 30th August and five east on 21st September. A good year.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* *Occasional winter visitor and migrant*
There were only three records within the recording area: one in Fishery Creek on 18th July, one in the high tide roost on 24th August, and one over the reserve on 21st November.
Regularly noted more distantly in and around Chichester Harbour.

Golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* *Occasional winter visitor and migrant*
The only record was of two in the Black Point high tide roost on 16th October, although up to 700 were seen more distantly around Chichester Harbour during both winter periods.

Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* *Common winter visitor and migrant*
See Table 3 (page 14) for Black Point high tide roost maxima. One flew east on 5th April and four on 14th May. First back noted on 16th August.

Ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* *Common winter visitor, and breeds*
See Table 3 (page 14) for Black Point high tide roost maxima, where it was another poor year. A pair prospected nest sites on the beach, but didn't breed.

Kentish plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* *Rare migrant*

- 2nd and 7th September: a juvenile roosted on the seafront at high tide with ringed plovers and sanderlings.

Presumably present in between these sightings, but evidently mobile. This is only the second record since 2005, the previous being a female at Black Point on 4th May 2009.



Kentish plover, juvenile (right), with ringed plover, Sandy Point seafront, 7th September 2019.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* *Regular migrant*
31st March – 30th May: 229 bird-days, including 121 east/north and 17 west, with peaks of only 21 east on 15th April and 18 north on 7th May.
9th July – 15th October: 69 bird-days, with a peak of six on 28th July. The only record after 25th August was a long-stayer favouring the causeway from 29th September to 15th October.
An average year.



Whimbrel, Sandy Point causeway, 5th October 2019.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* *Common winter visitor and migrant*
See Table 3 (page 14) for Black Point high tide roost maxima.
24th February – 16th April: 57 east or northeast, with a peak of 23 on 8th April.
Returning birds noted from 4th July.

Bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica* *Common winter visitor and migrant*
See Table 3 (page 14) for Black Point high tide roost maxima.
5th – 28th April: 77 flew east, with a peak of 32 on 22nd. First back was noted on 16th August. Up to 200 were present in Chichester Harbour in the winter.

Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* *Winter visitor and migrant*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	41	49	10

As ever, usually recorded in Fishery Creek/Mengham Salterns, with high numbers through the late autumn.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oystercatcher:	156	165	69	32	8	8	5	17	77	119	151	140
Grey plover:	63	59	19	-	-	-	-	-	24	38	50	52
Ringed plover:	46	47	23	6	10	-	12	88	102	100	90	64
Curlew:	2	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	2	2	3	1
Bar-tailed godwit:	19	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	6
Turnstone:	-	10	18	7	-	-	2	12	46	28	23	39
Knot:	400	250	99	-	-	-	-	-	3	18	250	300
Sanderling:	34	65	25	21	34	-	2	61	5	148	130	120
Dunlin:	5000	3000	500	2	3	-	1	45	73	500	4000	5000
Redshank:	4	3	-	-	-	-	6	8	1	6	2	7

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

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Common winter visitor and migrant
See Table 3 (above) for Black Point high tide roost maxima.
Last in spring flew east on 14th May and first back 19th July.

Knot *Calidris canutus* Common winter visitor
See Table 3 (above) for Black Point high tide roost maxima, where it was a below average year.

Curlew sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* Scarce migrant
10th and 12th October: a juvenile in the Black Point high tide roost.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Common winter visitor and migrant
See Table 3 (above) for Black Point high tide roost maxima.
Maxima at Sandy Point or along the seafront are shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	-	-	60	100	44	-	30	248	106	175	-	-

There were 90 in Chichester Harbour on 24th May, and the first returning bird was on 13th July. Another rather poor year.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* Common winter visitor and migrant
See Table 3 (above) for Black Point high tide roost maxima.
Ten flew east on 15th April and last of the spring were seven in Chichester Harbour on 24th May. First back was on 14th July.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* Winter visitor
5th January – 17th March: seen at dusk on eight dates, including two on the last.
14th November – 31st December: one regularly, with two on 22nd December.

Jack snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* Migrant and winter visitor
Singles in the sea rush marsh on seven dates between 23rd January and 22nd February, and again on 18th April. In December there were two on 12th and one on 19th.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Winter visitor and migrant
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
B/d: 4 4 1 - - - 1 - - - 3 6
One in the high tide roost on 23rd November was unusual.
Another very poor year, although under-recorded.

Common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Uncommon migrant
In spring, two on 30th April, and one on 10th May.
1st August – 10th September: 14 bird-days, including three on 1st September.
An average year.

Green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Scarce migrant
Following one on 26th July, a flock of nine flew over the next day.
Two records is below average, but the flock of nine is by far the largest yet recorded.

Redshank *Tringa totanus* Winter visitor and migrant
See Table 3 (opposite) for Black Point high tide roost maxima.
First back were four in Fishery Creek on 28th June, where numbers were regularly 80 – 100 from August to early October.

Redshank, Black Point, 21st January 2019.

Wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Rare migrant
• 13th August: one flew calling over Black Point.
The fourth record, following two similar records last year and one in 2008.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Uncommon migrant and winter visitor
10th January – 27th March: recorded on eight dates.
27th July: a flock of 14 flew over the reserve.
22nd August – 6th December: singles recorded on 11 dates.
The flock of 14 is the highest recorded at Sandy Point (cf. green sandpiper).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* Occasional winter visitor and migrant

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

Peak count was six west on 7th February.
The decline continues; this species is now hard to come by at Sandy Point.

Black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* Common throughout
Little of note recorded; the summer peak at the Black Point high tide roost was 185 on 25th July.

Little gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* Occasional migrant and winter visitor
The only records were six east on 22nd April, one east on 25th April and one in Chichester Harbour on 1st May.
Another poor year – another formerly regular visitor that is now rarely seen.

Mediterranean gull *Larus melanocephalus* Regular visitor
Significant counts included: in Chichester Harbour 100 on 4th March; in the Black Point high tide roost 60 on 24th August and 70 on 3rd October; and offshore 130 on 9th September and 100 on 8th October.

Common gull *Larus canus* Common non-breeding visitor
16th – 25th April: 91 flew east, with a peak of 40 on 19th April.
Last in spring on 14th May and first back on 9th July.

Herring gull *Larus argentatus* Common non-breeding visitor
Ever present in small numbers, evidently breeding nearby, and showing aggressive signs of nesting intent along Wittering Road.

Lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus* Frequent migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
B/d:	5	10	11	25	3	1
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	4	17	5	3	-	-

Seven on 2nd April and eight on 24th August were the highest counts.



Lesser black-backed gull, Black Point, 6th February 2019.

Yellow-legged gull *Larus michahellis* Post-breeding migrant
17th July – 2nd September: an adult on just five dates.
Another very poor year.

Great black-backed gull *Larus marinus* Common
Ever present in small numbers.

Sandwich tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* Common summer visitor; a few overwinter

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	13	16	8	270	15	13	22	130	43	55	27	12

5th – 25th April: 520 flew east, including 180 on 5th and 270 on 25th.

Little tern *Sternula albifrons* Common summer visitor

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	-	-	-	16	1	14	20	38	-	-	-	-

First recorded on 24th April, the only movement noted was 16 east the next day.
Summer gatherings at the Black Point high tide roost were severely affected by disturbance, and peaked at only 38 on 15th August. A very poor year.

Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* Scarce migrant
14th May: one offshore, before moving into Chichester Harbour.

Common tern *Sterna hirundo* Common summer visitor

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	-	-	-	250	100	-	10	300	22	7	-	-

5th April – 10th May: easterly passage totalled 311, peaking at 250 on 25th April.
23rd July – 12th October: due to excessive disturbance there were only four three-figure counts, all in August: 111 at Black Point on 8th, 150 there on 10th, 300 at dusk on 11th and 300 in Chichester Harbour on 15th.

Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* Decreasing migrant
In spring one was reported on 11th May.
In autumn a juvenile on 9th – 10th August and two on 27th September.
Another dreadful year; this species is now much scarcer than in previous years.

Black tern *Chlidonias niger* Migrant
17th – 18th May: five on the first date and one the next day.
19th – 30th August: 15 bird-days, including 10 on 25th.
Another poor year.

Arctic tern, juvenile, Black Point, 9th August 2019



Great skua *Stercorarius skua* *Uncommon migrant*
 20th February: one on the beach, chased off by crows and gulls.
 5th – 30th April: ten bird-days, including five on 25th April.
 An average year.

Pomarine skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* *Scarce migrant*
 16th May: 17 flew east, comprising a flock of eight at 17:05, one 18:05, five at 18:12 and three at 18:25.

Arctic skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* *Frequent migrant*
 5th April – 19th May: 31 bird-days, with eight east on 5th and 12 east on 25th April the only counts over two. The only autumn records were singles on 9th August and 11th October. An average spring, but below average autumn.

Guillemot *Uria aalge* *Winter visitor and migrant*
 10th September – 29th November: just five records (plus three unidentified auks on 10th -11th October). A very poor year.

Razorbill *Alca torda* *Regular winter visitor*
 5th January – 13th March: up to four ever present, and 12 flew west on 21st January (with up to 10 unidentified auks on a further five dates).
 31st October (two), 11th and 13th November: the only records in the late year.



Razorbill, Black Point, 25th February 2019

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

Stock dove *Columba oenas* *Frequent migrant*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
B/d:	1	-	-	2	-	5
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	1	54	30	2

Peak count was 30 west on 21st October.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* *Common resident and migrant*
 Very common in the reserve throughout the year. A low total of 873 flew west between 20th October and 6th November.

Turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* *Scarce migrant*
 10th May: one flew over.
 The first record since 2015 of this ever-decreasing species.

Collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto* *Common resident*
 Present throughout the year in small numbers.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* *Scarce migrant*
 1st August: a juvenile in the reserve.
 The first blank spring since 2005.

Barn owl *Tyto alba* *Rare visitor*
 One was seen from Black Point, hunting over Thorney Island on 11th, 17th February and 8th March.
 These sightings are not included in the Sandy Point totals, where there were five records between 2007 - 2009, but none since.

Tawny owl *Strix aluco* *Rare visitor*
 23rd March – 9th April: a male seen and/or heard on six dates, was present again on 2nd May, and then roosting in a garden in Haslemere Gardens for a few days in late June. In addition, an unidentified owl was seen after dark on 9th December. These records presumably relate to the bird present on 13th November 2018.



Stock dove, Sandy Point, 6th June 2019



Tawny owl, Haslemere Gardens, June 2019 (Felicitas Vogel)

Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus* Scarce migrant
 Singles were recorded on 23rd, 29th October and 13th November.
 An average year. In addition, singles were seen from Black Point hunting on Thorney Island on 21st, 30th January and 14th November.

Swift *Apus apus* Common summer visitor

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max:	-	-	-	-	34	112	35	32	-	-	-	-

 Recorded most days between 3rd May – 28th August. 112 on 30th June was the only count over 35.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Winter visitor
 In the first winter period only recorded on 9th, 25th January and 18th March.
 Regularly recorded from 2nd August until the end of the year, with two regularly in October, and three on 22nd.
 A return to normal in the second half of the year, following a poor winter 2018/19.

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

Great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* Regular non-breeding visitor

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	2	4	-	-	-	7	26	18	14	18	7	3

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Regular visitor

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
B/d:	1	2	2	7	4	3
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	9	5	23	28	14	11

Kestrel, Sandy Point, 30th November 2019.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* Scarce migrant
 23rd February: one present in Chichester Harbour.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* Uncommon migrant
 1st – 10th May: five, including two on 7th.
 25th August, 20th and 30th September: three autumn singles. An average year.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* Occasional visitor

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	1	3	4	6	7	-	-	10	5	6	6	9

Species observed being pursued included a kingfisher on 2nd September and the lingering whimbrel on 2nd October.

Ring-necked parakeet *Psittacula krameri* Rare visitor
 30th March and 9th April: singles recorded.
 The 6th & 7th records, of which five have been in the spring.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* Non-breeding resident

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	1	-	-	10	10	-	-	27	25	18	9	1

Magpie *Pica pica* Resident and winter visitor
 Early year peaks included 26 on 9th January and 23 on 28th February.
 Autumn peaks were 19 on 22nd August, 22 on 10th September, 24 on 14th and 25 on 23rd October.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* Regular migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	10	13	24	16	19	8	4	6	20	764	18	-

 A tame (hand-reared), talking bird was present from 20th – 23rd March.
 17th – 22nd October: 675 flew west, including 420 on 20th and 180 on 22nd.
 Another above average year.



Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident in the area

There were the usual dusk movements to roost, and occasional birds recorded flying over the reserve.

Carrion crow *Corvus corone*

Resident

Two pairs bred. Peak counts included 30 in saltmarsh on 13th September, 40 on 14th October and 26 on 30th December.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Scarce migrant

4th – 26th March: one or a pair on four dates.

1st – 26th September: up to four on four dates, followed by four on 10th November. This species maintains a low profile at Sandy Point.

Coal tit *Periparus ater*

Scarce migrant

3rd April: a typically mobile individual in the reserve.

The 8th spring record, all arriving between 16th March – 10th April. Most, if not all, involve birds of the continental race *ater*.

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:	-	11	1	2	1	-	-	-	11	252	30	3

The peak autumn movement was only 46 west on 16th October.

The autumn average is 379 bird-days.

Sand martin *Riparia riparia*

Regular migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	2	11	-	3	7	46	29	-	-	-

Recorded between 31st March – 17th April and 29th June – 26th September. 17 on 21st August was the only double figure count.

The spring average is 25 bird-days, and the autumn 212.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common migrant and summer visitor

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	3	86	117	9	27	343	1744	371	3	-

Recorded between 30th March – 6th June and 18th June – 6th November. The spring peak was 27 on 17th April, while there were 11 three three-figure movements in the autumn between 26th August and 3rd October.

The spring average is 371 bird-days, and the autumn 3539.

House martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	-	3	24	6	6	43	641	319	-	-

Recorded between 6th April – 24th May and 7th June – 20th October. There were five three-figure counts between 14th September and 2nd October.

Another poor autumn, similar to 2018, roughly half the average bird-day total.

Cetti's warbler *Cettia cetti*

Rare visitor, has bred

Singles recorded 17th – 21st July, 30th August, 10th & 17th September, 21st October – 5th November (with two on 1st November) and 30th November into 2020.

A good year. How many individuals were involved is unknown, as they were typically elusive.

Long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Resident

Peak counts were 20 on 13th July and 13 on 6th November.

Willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Regular migrant

29th March – 12th May: 120 bird-days, with peaks of 15 on 8th and 30 on 17th April.

26th July – 30th September: 132 bird-days, with 10-15 on four dates in August.

A much better year; the spring average is 84 bird-days, and the autumn 133.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Regular breeder & migrant; rare in winter

6th March – 5th December. Largest spring arrivals were ten on 23rd & 31st March. Two pairs bred.

Sedge warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Uncommon migrant

7th May: one singing behind the lifeboat station.

16th July – 8th September: seven singles. An average year.

Reed warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Migrant (has bred)

10th, 29th May and 4th June: three singles.

27th July – 15th September: 14 bird-days.

An average year, the spring average is four, and the autumn 13 bird-days.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Regular migrant

Winter birds were recorded on 5th January and 4th December.

25th March – 19th November: ten arrived on 17th April, and two or three males held territory.

Garden warbler *Sylvia borin*

Uncommon migrant

1st August – 15th September: nine bird-days. The autumn average is five.

Lesser whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Summer visitor and migrant

22nd April – 20th September: one pair bred, and a second male held territory.

A return to normal after a couple of poor years.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* Common summer visitor and migrant
17th April – 27th October: three or four males held territory, and the autumn peak was 20 on 20th August.

Darford warbler *Sylvia undata* Resident and migrant
Singles were recorded on 27th February, 21st April and 29th October – 17th November. Another disappointing year.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* Regular migrant and winterer
Present until 2nd April and from 2nd September, peaking at three in February, November and December.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* Resident & regular migrant
Present in small numbers throughout.

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

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* Common resident and migrant
The first post-breeding flock was 100 on 21st May, whilst autumn movements totalled 1270 west between 23rd October and 8th November, including 700 on 30th October.

Ring ousel *Turdus torquatus* Scarce migrant
24th April: one flew over.
16th, 19th and 23rd October: three autumn singles.
An average year, following a blank 2018.



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

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* Uncommon migrant
21st October – 30th November: 144 bird-days on five dates, including 18 down and 120 west on the first date. An excellent autumn; such numbers are usually only recorded during cold weather events.

Blackbird, bathing, Sandy Point, 19th October 2019

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* Regular migrant, especially in autumn
In spring, four on 21st March and one on 7th April.
13th October – 26th November: 44 bird-days, with 14 on 30th October and nine the next day the only counts over four.

Song thrush *Turdus philomelos* Resident and migrant
Present all year and bred. Autumn migrants were evident from 28th September, including 40 on 16th October – the largest number yet recorded at Sandy Point.

Mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus* Uncommon migrant
25th February, 21st March and 23rd May: three spring singles.
30th September and 16th October: two autumn singles.
The spring average is two, and the autumn average is ten bird-days.

Spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Uncommon migrant
10th – 25th May: six bird-days including three on the first date.
26th August – 28th September: nine bird-days, including two on 8th and 15th September.
The spring average is four bird-days, and the autumn seven.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* Resident
Ever present, the first juvenile seen on 29th April.

Pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* Scarce migrant
20th – 21st April: a female on the first date followed by a male the next day.
27th and 29th August: two autumn singles.



Pied flycatcher, male, Earnley Triangle, 21st April 2019

Black redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* *Scarce migrant and winterer*
2nd – 14th January: a wintering bird was seen on three dates.

28th March – 7th April: six bird-days.

29th April – 18th June: a first-year male held territory until 31st May, but failed to attract a mate, and then moved westwards along the seafront.

22nd October – 28th November: following one on 22nd, there was a spectacular arrival of (at least) 11 the next day, with nine still present on 24th, numbers tailing off thereafter.

Another remarkable year for this species, following successful breeding in 2018. The territory holding bird is presumed to be one of the offspring from 2018, whilst the autumn 'fall' is the largest recorded at Sandy Point, and was part of a nationwide influx.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* *Migrant*

31st March – 7th May: five singles recorded.

20th August – 13th September: ten bird-days, with two on 20th August and 5th September, followed by a late bird on 22nd – 23rd October.

An average year.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* *Migrant*

17th – 18th and 29th April: two spring males.

6th July: an early returning male, associating with two juvenile stonechats.

16th August – 26th September: 13 bird-days, including two on 7th September.

The spring average is two bird-days, and the autumn 11. The July record echoes similar records in 2005 and 2016.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* *Migrant (has bred)*

A wintering pair was present on 1st January, the male remaining until 28th February. Spring migrants occurred on 27th February and 19th March.

Two juveniles took up residence from 30th June – 10th July, followed by one on 20th July and then from 2nd August until joined by autumn migrants from 14th September, with peak counts of six on 20th September and 17th October. A pair remained into 2020.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* *Regular migrant*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	-	74	31	5	-	-	17	86	15	-	-

20th March – 12th May: 110 bird-days, with peaks in March of 11 on 20th, 19 on 30th and at least 30 on 31st. The peak in April was eight on 17th.

2nd August – 23rd October: 118 bird-days, with a notable peak of 23 on 7th September.

A very good year; the spring average is 99 bird-days, and the autumn 95.

Duncock *Prunella modularis* *Resident*

Ever present in good numbers, with little evidence of migration noted.

House sparrow *Passer domesticus* *Common resident*
Present in good numbers throughout, e.g. an estimated 100 on 16th August.

Yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava* *Regular migrant, particularly in autumn*
9th April – 2nd May: ten bird-days, including three on 17th April.

11th July: an early returning bird.

17th August – 3rd October: 206 bird-days, with peaks of 34 on 25th August and 25 on 2nd September. A late bird flew northeast on 15th October.

The spring average is 12 bird-days, and the autumn 193.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	2	6	1	-	-	2	4	13	48	15	5	-

The peak count was six on 13th September. The autumn average is 89 bird-days.

Pied wagtail *Motacilla alba* *Resident and common migrant*

Present throughout the year and bred.

In spring, a white wagtail *M. alba alba* was present on 23rd March with two on 7th April.

22nd September – 5th November: 244 bird-days, with a peak of just 39 on 14th October. The average autumn total is 532 bird-days.



White wagtail, Sandy Point, 7th April 2019

Meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis* Resident and common migrant
 Small numbers present during the winter months. One male held territory.
 8th March – 18th April: 391 flying north.
 2nd September – 23rd October: 1528 bird-days recorded, with October peaks of
 150 NW on 2nd and 350 NE on 14th.
 An above average spring, but below average autumn.

Tree pipit *Anthus trivialis* Frequent migrant, particularly in autumn
 2nd August – 23rd September: 19 bird-days, with three on 23rd August.
 A poor year; the spring average is two, and the autumn average is 28 bird-days.

Rock pipit *Anthus petrosus* Migrant
 5th September – 27th November: 24 bird-days, peak three on 12th October.
 The spring average is three bird-days, and the autumn 25.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* Resident and common migrant
 18th September – 17th November: only 77 bird-days, with 22 on 14th October the
 only count over ten. The autumn average is 517 bird-days; 77 is worse than the
 previous lowest of 95 in 2013.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* Migrant, particularly in the autumn
 23rd, 29th March and 7th April: three spring migrants, the last being a male.
 21st October, 5th and 17th November: just three autumn singles.
 The spring average is one, and the autumn 28 bird-days.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* Scarce migrant
 27th February: an early spring migrant in the lifeboat bushes.
 Most are recorded in the autumn, there are just two previous spring records.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* Common resident and migrant
 Present throughout the year in small numbers, with a peak count of 30 on 4th
 July.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina* Common breeder and migrant, fewer in winter
 Post-breeding numbers peaked at around 100 during July.
 3rd October – 5th November: 1287 bird-days, with 590 NE on 14th October by far
 the largest movement.
 The average autumn bird-day total is 1676.

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* Migrant, mainly in the autumn
 15th October – 28th November: just 11 bird-days, including three on 6th
 November.
 A very poor autumn; the average is 265 bird-days.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Resident and common migrant

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	38	57	55	18	10	13	46	27	83	3431	1488	45
Max:	10	16	16	6	3	10	6	5	20	880	1092	11
Movements over 190 were:					Oct: 14 th	17 th	20 th	23 rd	Nov: 5 th			
					NE: 880	291	275	254			1092	

A poor autumn, the bird-day total being almost half the average.

Siskin *Spinus spinus* Migrant, mainly in the autumn

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
B/d:	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	58	3	-

30th September – 12th November: just 63 bird-days, with 27 on 15th October the
 only count over seven.
 The autumn average is 1289 bird-days, but totals fluctuate widely; there have been
 two worse autumns (59 bird-days in 2006 and 15 in 2014).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* Scarce migrant
 In February, one on 23rd and two on 27th.
 In October, singles on 17th and 20th. A typical year.

Reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Frequent migrant
 25th February and 8th April: just two spring singles.
 12th September – 21st October: just 12 bird-days, including three on 20th and 21st
 October.
 A very poor year, following a failed nesting attempt in 2018. The autumn average is
 40 bird-days, and 12 is the lowest ever.

Escapes

Bar-headed goose *Anser indicus* Escape (Central Asia)
 18th December: two flew across Chichester Harbour with five Canada geese.
 The same two birds (which reside with Canada geese in the Chichester area) were
 recorded in the harbour on 21st September 2017.

Australian shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides* Escape (Australia)
 21st October: one (or a hybrid) flew north with three shelducks.

White-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* Escape (Europe)
 5th September: a juvenile flew over.
 This bird had been released from a cage on the Isle of Wight only a few days
 previously. A wild bird was recorded on 12th December 2010, but from now on, sadly,
 all records will have to be presumed to originate from the pointless and ill-advised
 reintroduction scheme on the Isle of Wight.

