

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED IN 2006

The records presented in this Systematic List are based largely based on the Park Rangers' daily diary entries with additional information from various websites and other sources. In comparison with some other Dorset sites (such as Portland Bill and Hengistbury Head), there is little systematic seawatching undertaken at Durlston with the result that sea passage is greatly under-recorded.

In describing the status of species at Durlston, the semantic terms presented below are used.

Common occurs regularly at Durlston in large or fairly large numbers during the appropriate period or is widely distributed in suitable habitat; there is a good chance that the species would be seen on most visits during that period.

Fairly common occurs in moderate numbers at Durlston during the appropriate period in suitable habitat; there is a reasonable chance that the species would be seen on visits during that period.

Uncommon occurs annually in small numbers at Durlston during the appropriate period; would not be expected to be seen on most visits.

Scarce a species that can be seen in most years at Durlston, but records are few in number (one to ten).

Rare a species that occurs at Durlston on a less than annual basis.

These terms are based on those used in *The Birds of Dorset* (Green G., 2004).

The sequence adopted in the Systematic List follows the edition of the British Ornithologists' Union *The British List* published in 2002.

Graphs are presented for some species. These show the number of 'bird-days' per week.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Rare, passing offshore in winter.

Eight birds flew south on 13th October.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

Scarce, passing offshore in winter.

Ten birds flying west on 30th October were probably this species.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Scarce, passing offshore.

Two grey geese passing on 20th February were probably this species. Two passed east on 1st March with a flock of Brent Geese. Birds are likely to be from the resident feral population in the Avon Valley, north of Christchurch.

BRENT GOOSE (Dark-bellied) *Branta bernicla*

Fairly common, passing offshore mainly in autumn and winter.

The main wintering areas for Brent Geese in Dorset are Poole Harbour and The Fleet. Birds seen at Durlston are probably moving between these and other sites, or taking part in coastal passage during spring and autumn. The last record of the first winter period was of four birds passing on 17th April; however, most records were before mid-March. The largest flock recorded was of 20 birds on 5th February. The first record of the second winter period was of

two birds passing on 16th September. Birds were subsequently recorded up to the end of the year with notable records of 30 birds on 14th October and 20 on 2nd November.

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon, passing offshore in spring, autumn and winter.

Shelduck can normally be seen at Durlston (single birds or pairs flying down the coast) at any time of the year, other than in July and August. In 2006, no birds were recorded in September, October and November either, and the only record of the second winter period was of two birds on 17th December.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Scarce, passing offshore in spring, autumn and winter.

In the first winter period, there was a somewhat bizarre record of a bird associating with a group of female Pheasants on 26th February. In the second winter period, there were three records: birds passing on 9th September, 13th and 14th October (eight birds).

COMMON TEAL *Anas crecca*

Scarce, passing offshore mainly in winter.

One was reported on 2nd January.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Uncommon, passing offshore.

Two birds were reported passing offshore on 5th March, 8th and 29th April, 18th and 26th December.

NORTHERN SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Scarce, passing offshore mainly in winter.

A male and a female Shoveler were seen passing west during a short seawatch on 16th February. The species was also recorded passing offshore on 13th October.

COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

Uncommon, passing offshore in spring, autumn and winter.

All records in the first half of the year were from May – two birds on 1st, three on 3rd and ten on 17th May. There were two records at the end of July – on 29th and four birds on 31st.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant.

This species is generally under-recorded at Durlston, and the Table below shows the trends in numbers, but not all sightings. The higher numbers in April reflect spring passage. The June count includes a 'string' of over 20 male birds on 19th June heading west - these seaducks leave their northern breeding grounds soon after mating to head south, leaving the females to take on full parental duties. Return passage off Dorset normally shows a slight peak in July, as shown by the figures in the Table.

Monthly counts (bird days):

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	24	17	45	19	39	59	15	41	34	26	4

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce, passing offshore mainly in winter

Two birds passed heading east on 12th March.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator***Uncommon, passing offshore in spring, autumn and winter.**

Poole Harbour and The Fleet/Portland Harbour combined site hold nationally important populations (over 100) of Red-breasted Mergansers, the second and third largest in Britain. Birds seen at Durlston are possibly moving between these and other sites, or taking part in coastal passage during spring and autumn. All records are given: 24th January, two on 5th March, 11th March, two on 20th March, 29th April, 5th May, an unusual record of six birds on 1st July, 21st and 31st October, and 26th December.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa***Scarce visitor.**

Two birds on the Coast Path on 7th April were an unusual record. Other birds were recorded in the more usual habitat of the downs on 12th November and 10th December.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix***Scarce visitor.**

There was one record: two birds near the Lighthouse on 21st March.

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus***Common feral resident.**

A significant population of this gamebird has become established on the Park. Four to five males held 'territory' and females generally outnumbered males. Successful breeding was proven for a second year.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata***Uncommon, passing offshore in spring, autumn and winter.**

Red-throated is by far the commonest diver seen at Durlston. In the first winter period and during spring passage, birds were seen up to the late date of 27th May (a summer-plumaged bird). A count of 42 birds past on 11th February was exceptional. The first record of the second winter period was on 12th October.

Monthly counts (bird days):

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	52	14	7	4	-	-	-	-	3	8	10

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia artica***Scarce, passing offshore in spring, autumn and winter.**

All records are given: two birds on 6th and 11th February, one on 12th February, one on 23rd March, one on 7th October and one on 16th November.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer***Uncommon winter visitor and offshore passage migrant.**

All records are given. In the first winter period, birds were recorded on 8th January, 1st February, six on 11th February, 6th March, 11th and 15th April and 3rd May. In the second winter period, birds were recorded on 15th, 18th, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 29th November and 10th, 15th, 17th, 27th and 31st December.

UNIDENTIFIED DIVERS *Gavia spp*

Unidentified Divers, probably Red-throated, passed on 12th and 23rd January and 13th March

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Scarce, passing offshore in winter.

There were two records of birds seen passing on seawatches: on 12th November and 9th December.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Fulmars are seen for most of the year along the cliff-face, although they are generally scarce or absent between mid-September and mid-November. One seen over the farmland on 9th June was very unusual. Seventy-four were seen moving east during a one and a half hour seawatch in very strong winds (up to 58 mph) during the morning of 22nd May. As usual, breeding numbers were difficult to assess but there were nine apparently occupied sites with one chick identified.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce, passing offshore mainly in autumn

There were ten records between 2nd September and 22nd October.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

Uncommon, passing offshore in spring, summer and autumn.

The species is generally under-recorded at Durlston. The species was first reported on 15th April. Numbers of passing birds continued to increase, reaching a maximum of 31 birds moving east during a one and a half hour seawatch in very strong winds on 22nd May. No birds were reported in June after three birds on 9th; June is normally the peak month for the species. Records for July were also scarce – the species was only recorded on two dates. Birds were recorded on five dates in August including six birds on 31st. The last record was of two birds on 2nd September.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Uncommon, passing offshore mainly in late summer and autumn.

Balearic Shearwaters were reported more often between July and September than the closely-related Manx Shearwater. All records are given: July – 21st, 23rd and 29th; August – 13th, 16th (four birds), 17th, 23rd (four birds), 28th (two birds); September – 2nd (four birds), 9th, 10th (two birds), 16th (two birds) and 20th; October – 21st (three birds). The Balearic Shearwater is the rarest bird in the world to visit Britain regularly. It is believed that there are fewer than 2,000 pairs of this critically-endangered seabird in the world, and experts on the species believe they could be visiting British waters in increasingly larger numbers - involving hundreds of birds - in late summer and early autumn, possibly as a result of climate change. The RSPB has launched a survey in UK waters to learn more about the species.

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Scarce, passing offshore mainly in summer and autumn.

The species is generally under-recorded at Durlston. Large numbers of Storm-petrels passed along the Dorset coast between 19th and 28th May during a period of high winds, reaching a maximum of over 1,000 birds past Portland Bill on the 20th. At Durlston, the highest counts were of 33 birds on 25th May, 21 birds on 24th and 14 birds on 22nd; the last was seen on 28th. Birds were also reported from Swanage Bay where six birds were feeding off the Lifeboat Slipway on 27th May.

NORTHERN GANNET *Morus bassanus*

Fairly common, passing offshore.

Gannets can be seen off Durlston at any time of the year but are most abundant in spring/early summer (April to June) and autumn (August to October) with slightly fewer birds in mid-summer (July) and a much smaller population offshore in winter (November to March). Birds involved in

feeding movements during the summer months almost certainly come from the closest colonies on Alderney and Sept Iles in Brittany. The peak count was on 31st January when 320 Gannets moved east during a period of an hour, with flocks of over 30 birds passing close to Durlston Head.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Common coastal resident.

There were no breeding Cormorants at Durlston, but there were regular sightings of birds on the rocks below the Observation Point and flying past on the way to/from their breeding sites at Ballard.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
Common coastal resident.

Shags are seen throughout the year, mostly close into the cliffs. Seven nests were noted between Durlston Head and Tilly Whim. Birds were attaining breeding plumage (evidenced by crests), as early as 20th November.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*
Scarce, passing offshore.

The Little Egret was a national rarity until 1990; it is now more numerous than the Grey Heron in Poole Harbour with breeding taking place on Brownsea Island DWT Reserve since 1996. Birds seen at Durlston are almost certainly from the Poole Harbour population. Two were seen flying west past Durlston Head on 4th June. There were two further records: two passing birds on 14th October, and one on 17th November.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*
Uncommon visitor.

Grey Herons can be seen at Durlston at any time of the year, although they are not common with only ten records in 2006. Records are normally of single birds or pairs flying down the coast.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*
Scarce passage migrant.

There were two records: one was seen flying over the farmland on 10th September, and a bird was seen over Tilly Whim on 3rd November.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

A Marsh Harrier was recorded heading east along the coast on 16th September, a day when birds of prey were particularly prominent with seven species recorded (the others being Merlin, Hobby, Peregrine, Common Buzzard, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk). A female was recorded during the evening of 19th September.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

A male Hen Harrier was seen flying across Durlston Bay being mobbed by gulls during the morning of 21st October, a further day when birds of prey were prominent with six species recorded (the others being Merlin, Peregrine, Common Buzzard, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk). A further bird was seen heading west on 31st October.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus***Scarce passage migrant.**

A bird was reported on 29th April.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis***Rare visitor.**

A bird was reported on 20th August soaring above the Gully.

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus***Breeding resident and passage migrant.**

Birds were regularly seen hunting in the Park throughout the year. A pair were often seen displaying over the landslip area above Durlston Bay prior to the breeding season. A notable movement of Sparrowhawks occurred on 17th October with over 25 sightings between 0730 and 1000.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo***Uncommon resident, breeding in the wider area.**

Although frequently seen in other parts of Purbeck, the Common Buzzard was, until recently, relatively uncommon in the Durlston area. Records are, however, increasing and may be linked to the continuing spread of the species in England where a substantial eastward range expansion has occurred. Common Buzzard is arguably now the most abundant diurnal raptor in Britain. Three birds were seen together at Durlston on five occasions. Records are summarised below on a monthly basis.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	4	9	2	11	10	3	3	6	8	8	13	7
No. of bird days	4	10	3	16	12	3	3	12	9	9	20	9

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus***Scarce passage migrant.**

There were three records: one on 12th April, a bird over the northern boundary of the Park on 25th June, and a passing bird on 14th October (another day when six raptor species were recorded, the others being Merlin, Peregrine, Common Buzzard, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk).

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus***Fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant.**

Kestrels were seen throughout the year in all areas of the Park. A pair raised young which were seen regularly from June 18th onwards, honing their flying skills and being fed by their parents; four young birds were watched being fed in the Gully on 22nd July.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius***Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.**

Merlins are most likely to be seen at Durlston during the passage periods, particularly in the autumn. There were four spring records: 4th March, 12th March, 2nd April and 20th April. The first autumn passage birds were seen on 16th and 17th September. October is the peak month for Merlins at Durlston and in Dorset generally, as the raptors hunt the migrating passerine flocks. In October 2006, Merlins were recorded on 20 days with multiple birds on 14th (between four and nine/ten birds), 18th (three birds) and 25th (three birds seen in the air together). Merlins were seen on five days in November, and two days in December.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record of the year was of a bird flying in off the Channel on the relatively late date of 30th April. Other spring and summer records were: 19th May, 28th May, 2nd and 3rd June, 14th and 16th July, and 13th August. September is the best month for seeing Hobbies at Durlston with birds seen on six dates.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

Fairly common breeding resident.

Peregrines can be seen throughout the year at Durlston and are the most regularly seen bird of prey. Almost all sightings were of the resident pair which raised two young, the first fledging on 18th June. One of the best places to see a Peregrine in Dorset is from the Coast Path, just to the west of the Dolphin Watch Hut. Birds are often perched on the ledge on Durlston Head to the east of the Observation Point. Late summer provides good opportunities to see the parent birds teaching their young to hunt; three or more birds can sometimes be seen in the air together.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Uncommon visitor and passage migrant.

Oystercatchers are the commonest wader seen at Durlston. Birds are normally seen passing offshore at any time of the year, either singularly or in twos or threes. However, as the only wader species to occur in any numbers along the rocky coasts in Dorset, they are sometimes seen on rocks along the coast.

GREAT RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

Scarce, passing offshore in spring and autumn.

A flock of eight passing Ringed Plovers was seen during a short seawatch on 27th August.

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

All records were of birds passing overhead: two birds on 10th September, single birds on 11th, 20th, 21st October, 1st and 7th November and two further birds on 19th November.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring.

There were four records: five birds on 26th April, and single birds on 3rd May, 24th June and 26th July.

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

There was one record: a bird on 4th May.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Scarce, passing offshore mainly in late spring.

There were two records during seawatches: four birds on 16th May and two birds on 3rd June.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant.

There were two records: a bird alighted briefly on the rocks below the Observation Point on 4th February, and a bird was recorded on 26th December. The nearest regular wintering population is at the entrance to Poole Harbour and the birds may have come from there.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Scarce, passing offshore.

There were intermittent sightings between mid-April and May. There were two records in June, each of three birds passing during seawatches on 18th and 19th June. Given the relatively early date, these were probably failed breeding birds returning from the north.

COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

Scarce passage and winter visitor.

There were two records, both of birds in the meadows: on 8th and 17th December.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

Scarce autumn migrant and winter visitor.

There was one record in the first winter period: a bird flushed from the Saxon Field on 7th February. There were four records in the second winter period: 12th October (two birds), 22nd November, 9th and 26th December.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Uncommon, passing offshore mainly in spring.

Birds were seen passing offshore on the typical dates of 25th April (ten birds), 1st May (eight birds), 3rd May (30 birds) and 4th May. Returning birds were seen on 30th July (14 birds). A more unusual record was of one feeding around the car parks for over an hour on 14th September, completely oblivious to cars, visitors and dogs.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring.

The first record was of a bird on 7th April with peak passage during the typical dates of late April/early May. Of note, 12 birds were seen on 4th May, and a bird was seen on the grass by the Lighthouse on 9th June. Return passage commenced with two birds on 29th July; there were three records in August and one in September.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were six records in the first half of the year: 11th March, 12th March (two birds), 20th March, 3rd May, 18th June and 19th June. There were two records in the second half: on 18th September and 13th October.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

A bird was reported from Durlston Bay on 17th December.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce passage migrant.

All records relate to calling birds flying over: on 23rd June, 21st July and 13th August.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor

A bird passed overhead on 3rd August.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor.

Two birds were seen amongst the boulders in Durlston Bay on 24th April, with a further two birds on 1st May. Return passage birds were seen on 26th June, 27th June, 1st, 10th and 29th July, 3rd, 10th and 26th August, usually on the rocks, but sometimes passing offshore.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Uncommon, passing offshore in spring, autumn and winter.

Birds were seen passing offshore on 26th April and 27th May.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Scarce offshore passage migrant.

A pale phase bird, complete with tail 'spoons', was seen during a seawatch on 29th May. A further bird was seen passing close to Durlston Head on 16th October.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Uncommon offshore passage migrant.

There were eight records during the first half of the year: 26th April, 2nd, 3rd, 19th, 20th, 22nd and 24th May and 19th June. Records in the second half comprised a passing bird on 10th August, three on 23rd August, two on 2nd September and two birds on 21st October.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Rare passage migrant.

A juvenile passed on 2nd September.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*

Uncommon, passing offshore in spring, autumn and winter.

A bird was seen passing during a one and a half hour seawatch in very strong winds on 22nd May. Autumn records were more numerous: three birds on 2nd September, a bird very close-in to Durlston Head on 19th October, and further birds on 21st October and 2nd November.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Uncommon offshore visitor and passage migrant.

There were three records in the first half of the year: 14th February, 5th March (two second winter birds amongst a flock of 300 plus Black-headed Gulls in Durlston Bay) and 1st April. Records in the second half of the year were more numerous: 24th and 30th July (two and three birds respectively), 14th August, 14th and 20th September (two birds), 1st (two birds) and 21st October, 2nd, 5th, 11th and 25th November and 3rd December. Records relate to either passing birds, or birds feeding with other gulls.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Uncommon, passing offshore mainly in autumn and winter.

There were seven records: 5th March, 22nd May, 1st July, 22nd October (three birds delicately picking over the floating seaweed in Durlston Bay with Black-headed Gulls), 25th October, 2nd and 13th November.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Common visitor and offshore passage migrant.

Spring passage occurs between March and April when it is probable that over 1,000 birds move east past Durlston. Over 100 birds were present on 2nd November, part of large feeding aggregations offshore.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Fairly common winter visitor and offshore passage migrant.

Common Gulls are seen on most days between mid-September and May. Over 50 birds were present on 2nd November, part of large feeding aggregations offshore.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Fairly common visitor and offshore passage migrant.

This species is seen in small numbers throughout the year, peaking in late summer and autumn.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common coastal resident and cliff-nesting species.

There were 13 nests between Durlston Head and Tilly Whim with another nine west from Tilly Whim to Ragged Rocks. Two nests were easily visible from the cliff-top path with a chick fledging from each nest. Herring Gulls did not nest again on the upper Guillemot ledge. There is evidence of large offshore movements (mainly west) in October.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus (cachinnans) michahellis*

Scarce visitor.

A Yellow-legged Gull was seen amongst a large flock of Black Headed Gulls in Durlston Bay on 24th July.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Fairly common coastal resident and cliff-nesting species.

Great Black-backed Gulls are seen on, and around, the cliffs throughout the year. Two nests were noted, with chicks fledging from both (one nest below the cliff camera had two young).

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Fairly common visitor and offshore passage migrant

Around 50 pairs of Kittiwakes breed to the east of Durlston at Blackers Hole, a large sea cave near Dancing Ledges. Some of the birds seen passing Durlston, particularly in the summer, are no doubt these local breeding birds, but others are on passage or wintering in the area. Peak counts were as follows: 20 plus on 17th April, 55 on 22nd May and 50 on 24th May during a period of high winds.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Fairly common summer visitor and offshore passage migrant.

The first record was on 26th March, with birds seen from then until 5th November. Some of the birds may be from the nearest breeding colony, on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. Peak counts in the first half of the year were 40 on 3rd May, 20 on 19th May and 45 on 22nd May.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Fairly common summer visitor and offshore passage migrant.

Birds were recorded from 17th April with 12 passing on 25th April, 20 on 2nd May and 25 on 3rd May. Some of the birds may be from the nearest breeding colony, on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. Birds were recorded very intermittently during June and July, with a slight increase in frequency in August and the first week of September; the last record was on 9th September.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce offshore passage migrant.

The only record was during autumn passage: a bird on 2nd October.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Scarce offshore passage migrant.

There were two records: on 1st and 3rd May.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce offshore passage migrant.

There was one record: three birds passing on 4th May.

COMMON GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

Common coastal resident, winter visitor and offshore passage migrant.

The annual seabird counts recorded 602 Guillemots at Durlston. The records which follow were observations from the cliff camera. The first record of the year was on 3rd January, when 220 birds were counted on the upper ledge (including 'Tufty', one bridled bird and a few in winter plumage). The average of subsequent counts was 194 birds on the upper ledge and 32 on the lower, making a total of 226. This is lower than in 2005 but the frequency of counts was greatly reduced in 2006. The maximum count was on 27th February with 240 birds on the upper ledge and 73 on the lower. Birds visited regularly between January and March, with permanent occupation from 16th April. The first egg was laid on 24th April and the first chick was seen on 29th May (two eggs were abandoned and three chicks at least failed to fledge at the end of season). Unusually, a very late chick was present on the lower ledge until 19th July. No birds were seen in the area from then until 20th November. From 20th November, they were recorded on or around the ledges on 21 days. Virtually all of these birds were in breeding plumage by this time. Unfortunately, the camera lost its wiper this year and the study had to be abandoned from the start of June because of lack of visibility.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

Common coastal resident, winter visitor and offshore passage migrant.

There were seven breeding pairs at Durlston. The maximum number of individuals (just below the cliffs) was 13 on 2nd Feb

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor, usually storm driven.

There was one record: of a passing bird on 2nd November.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*

Uncommon summer visitor and offshore passage migrant.

Around 10-15 pairs of Puffins nest to the west of Durlston, primarily at Dancing Ledges. The majority of the birds seen at Durlston are likely to be from that population. The first record was of four birds on 23rd March; three birds were recorded on 9th April, and birds were seen on nine days in May. There were no records at Durlston after the end of May. However, birds were seen every week on the Friday evening Seabird Boat Trips to Dancing Ledges (19th May – 7th July) with a maximum count of 15.

FERAL ROCK DOVE (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia*

Common coastal resident.

A population of Feral Pigeons live on the cliffs throughout the year, breeding successfully. Many are taken as prey by the resident Peregrines.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

A flock of over 20 birds was reported on 2nd April. Almost 200 birds passed overhead on 1st November, a typical late autumn movement.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Significant overhead movements were reported on 27th, 31st October, 1st, 2nd and 19th November (2,900, 1,350, 1,600, 2,500 and 1,000 birds respectively). These represent much smaller numbers than those recorded in 2005 when there was a peak count of 72,000 birds.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common breeding resident and uncommon passage migrant

There is some evidence of spring migration. Two or three pairs bred.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant.

Two birds were reported on 23rd May, with single birds on 29th May, 2nd, 4th and 24th June, 29th July, 31st August and 1st, 10th and 14th September. This is a declining species at Durlston.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET (Ring-necked Parakeet) *Psittacula krameri*

Scarce visitor from local feral breeding population.

Rose-ringed Parakeets recorded at Durlston almost certainly originate from the small colony at Studland, although this seems to have decreased in size in recent years. A bird was recorded on 16th May, with a further bird on 18th November.

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record was of a bird on the relatively late date of 1st May. There were further records on 2nd and 5th May and 2nd, 3rd and 8th June. This is a declining species at Durlston.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Rare visitor.

A bird was seen quartering over the 'Saxon' field early in the morning of 19th November.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Uncommon visitor and resident in the wider area.

There were three records: on 21st and 26th January, and of a bird at Belle Vue on 19th November.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Breeding resident.

The majority of records of birds seen or heard in the first half of the year were in February. In the second half of the year, birds were heard calling, or occasionally seen, on a small number of occasions in between August and December. There are thought to be between one and three pairs resident at Durlston.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

There were seven records: on 17th March; 7th September; 7th, 18th, 19th and 23rd October and 19th November.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare passage migrant.

There was one record: a bird seen in the Gully during a guided walk on 4th September.

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record was of two birds on 15th April. A significant movement occurred on the relatively late date of 29th May when there was a continuous stream of Swifts and House Martins flying in off the Channel at a rate of well over 200 per hour. Towards the end of July, Swifts gather in flocks prior to departure after breeding; records then decline and the last record was on 17th September.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

It is probable that at least three birds passed through Durlston in autumn 2006. The first report was on 18th August. A bird reported near the western boundary on 17th September could not be relocated. More obliging was a bird seen at various locations from 22nd to 26th September, including perched in the top of a blackthorn bush just inside the Wildlife Area by the Visitor Centre. It, or a further bird, was also seen on 3rd October.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Fairly common breeding resident.

Three young Green Woodpeckers seen on 21st July and a family party in Long Meadow eight days later suggested successful local breeding.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Uncommon breeding resident.

A newly fledged bird on 20th June suggested successful local breeding.

WOOD LARK *Lullula arborea*

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

No birds were recorded in the first half of the year. Autumn passage was concentrated into the last three weeks of October with birds recorded passing overhead on 11th, 12th (eight birds), 13th, 14th (two), 16th, 17th, 20th (three), 21st (two), 22nd, 27th (nine), 30th and 31st. A late bird passed overhead on 12th November.

SKY LARK *Alauda arvensis*

Fairly common breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.

Four males held territories in the meadows. On 29th May and 10th June, disputes were observed caused by first brood young birds, which had left the nest, straying onto an adjoining territory and engendering a dispute amongst the adults. The main autumn passage occurred during October; 92 birds passed overhead on 14th, over 70 on 17th and 180 on 27th.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Fairly common passage migrant.

The first record was on the late date of 6th April, around two to three weeks later than normal. Twenty plus birds passed overhead on 19th April. Return passage was evident from the third week of August onwards with a particularly strong movement on 10th September when 1,400 birds per hour were estimated to be passing overhead. The last record was on 11th October.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record was on 29th March, around two weeks later than normal. One hundred birds passed overhead on the relatively late date of 1st June. Return movement became obvious at the end of August and reached a peak in the first three weeks of September. Particularly strong movements were noted on 10th, 11th and 15th September with hourly counts of around 7,000,

2,000 and 7,500 birds respectively. Numbers had dropped by October with over 800 birds on 5th and 750 on 11th. The last record was on 12th November.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record was on 29th March, around one week latter than normal. A significant movement occurred on the relatively late date of 29th May when there was a continuous stream of Swifts and House Martins flying in off the Channel at a rate of well over 200 per hour. Return movement became obvious at the end of August and reached a peak in the first three weeks of September. Particularly strong movements were noted on 10th and 15th September with hourly counts of around 2,000 birds on both days, and on 25th September. The last record was on 26th October.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Uncommon passage migrant.

All records from the first half of the year were in April with a maximum of three birds passing through on 18th April. Return passage commenced on 22nd July; movement peaked between the third week of August and the third week of September with over 15 birds on 26th August and ten birds on 17th September. The last record was on 11th October.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Fairly common breeding resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Significant spring passage movements occurred on 20th March (120 birds) and on 7th and 17th April (100 birds on both days). Return passage became evident from mid-September with over 100 birds passing on 16th September. Peak movements were in the first three weeks of October: Particularly strong movements were noted on 2nd (1,500 birds), 3rd (over 650 birds), 14th (1,400 birds) and 17th (485 birds).

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

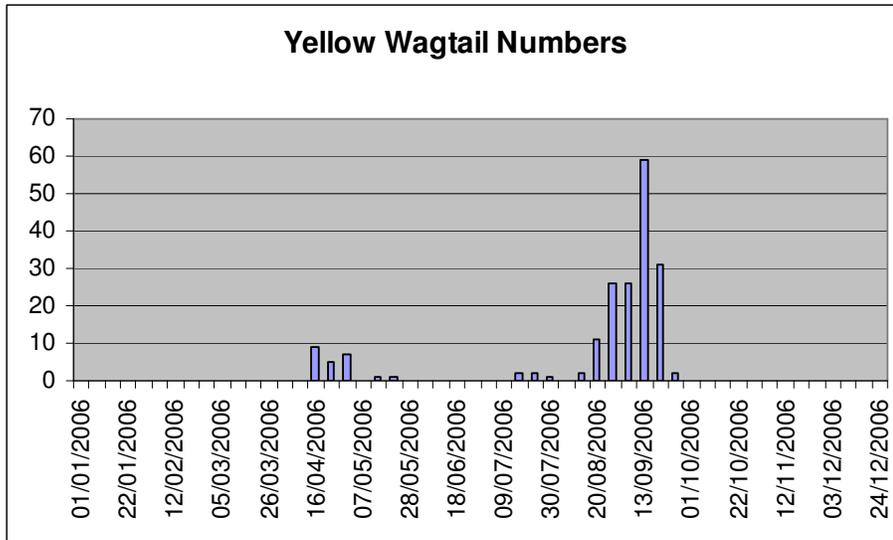
Common coastal breeding resident.

It is estimated that between five and eight pairs of Rock Pipit breed at Durlston.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Fairly common passage migrant.

The first record of the year was on 16th April with birds seen regularly passing overhead, albeit in small numbers, from then until the first week of May. Sporadic records continued up to the beginning of the return passage in the third week of August (see Graph). Passage peaked in the second week of September; the maximum count was of 30 birds on 17th September. The last record was on 17th October.



GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Grey Wagtails can normally be seen at Durlston in most months other than June (although there were records this year at both the beginning and end of the month). However, records are normally of single birds or small numbers passing overhead. A movement of over 100 birds on 4th September was exceptional.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Occasional breeding resident, common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor.

Significant autumn passage movements were noted on 14th and 16th October (740 and 248 birds respectively).

(Winter) WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common breeding resident and occasional passage migrant.

There are estimated to be approximately 20 pairs of Wrens breeding at Durlston.

HEDGE ACCENTOR (Dunnock) *Prunella modularis*

Common breeding resident.

The Dunnock is a common and widespread breeding bird at Durlston with a population of over 20 pairs. There is no real evidence of any passage.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The Robin is a common and widespread breeding bird with a population of over 25 pairs. There is some evidence of autumn passage, particularly during October and November.

RUFOUS NIGHTINGALE (Nightingale) *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Scarce passage migrant.

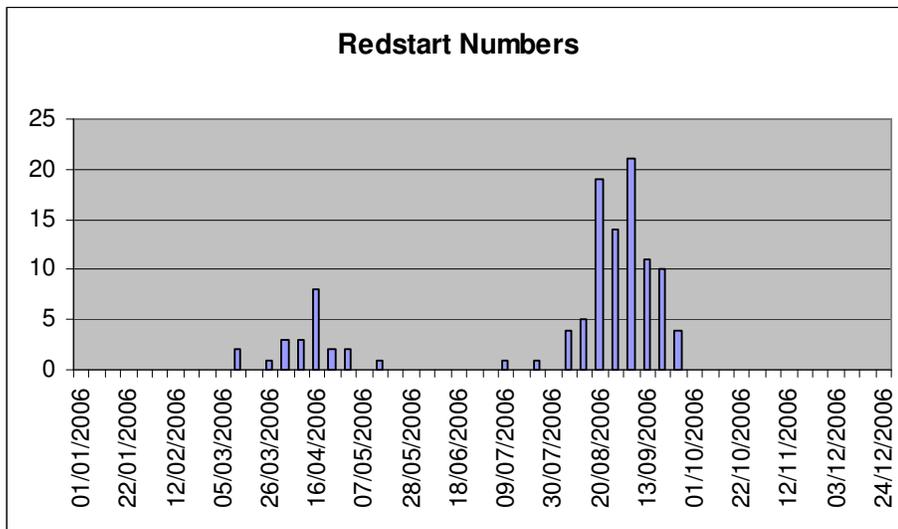
There were two records: on 5th April, and a young bird on 26th August.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochuros***Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.**

Black Redstarts were seen regularly up to the third week of March. The Tilly Whim area was the favoured location, and two birds were seen on 11th March, raising hopes that they might breed. Records then decreased significantly, suggesting that the birds had been wintering and moved on. There were only three records in April, and one in May. Birds were present on 12 days between mid-October and mid-November, normally the main passage period for this species. Three birds were present on 24th October and 6th November. In December, birds were seen regularly, again in the favoured wintering area of Tilly Whim.

COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***Fairly common passage migrant.**

The first spring passage record was on the early date of 12th March; birds passed through until 16th May with most birds recorded in the third week of April. The autumn passage of Redstarts at Durlston is normally heavier than in spring, and 2006 was no exception (see Graph). Peak passage was between the third week of August and the first week of September, with 12 plus birds on 22nd August and 15 on 7th September. The last record was on 3rd October.

**WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*****Uncommon passage migrant.**

The first spring passage record was on 26th March, although birds were not seen then until the third week of April, records continued sporadically into May with the last record on 29th May. Autumn passage commenced on 2nd August and continued until 24th September. Peak passage was during the first two weeks of September.

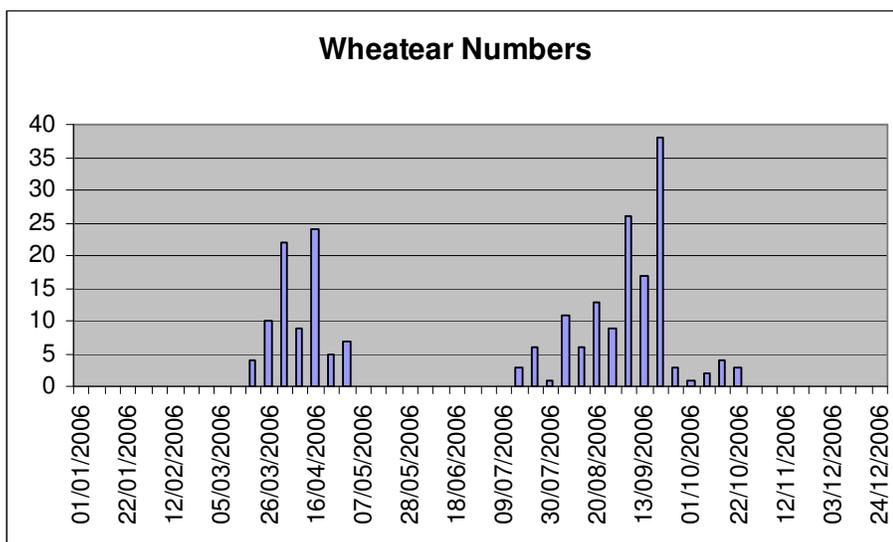
COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata***Common breeding resident and passage migrant.**

2006 was a poor year for breeding with only one confirmed pair. However, productivity of the pair was high with three broods and at least 14 young fledged. Fifteen birds, probably on passage, were recorded on 4th and 21st October.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe***Fairly common passage migrant.**

Northern Wheatear is one of the commonest passerine passage migrants at Durlston and normally the first to arrive from Africa. The first spring record was of four birds on the late date of 23rd March. Peak passage was during the first three weeks of April (see Graph). Return

passage commenced in earnest at the end of July, peaking in the third week of September with approximately 20 birds reported on 18th and 19th. The last record was on 25th October.



RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*
Uncommon passage migrant.

There were three records during the spring: on 5th, 15th and 17th April. The first autumn bird was on 8th September. Autumn passage of Ring Ouzels at Durlston is invariably stronger, and birds were reported almost daily between 10th and 30th October with 50 birds on 16th and eight on 20th.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*
Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There are estimated be approximately 15 pairs of Blackbirds breeding at Durlston. Twenty birds seen on 17th October were possibly birds from further north moving through.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were three records during the first winter period: 1st March (two birds), 12th March and 7th April. Birds were seen in the second winter period from 13th October onwards, with the frequency of sightings peaking in late October/early November, indicating that this is mainly a passage bird at Durlston.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*
Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

This species has shown an upturn in fortunes in recent years at Durlston with a breeding population now estimated to be over 12 pairs. Autumn movements were rather light - principal overhead movements comprised 65 and 50 birds on 14th and 16th October respectively.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*
Fairly common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor.

There were three records during the first winter period: 20th and 30th January, and 4th March. The first record in the second winter period was on 4th October; birds were then seen regularly until the end of the year. The largest overhead movement was on 16th October when 250 birds passed.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Occasional breeder, common visitor and uncommon passage migrant.

There were three records during the first winter period, each of three birds: 20th, 24th and 31st January. As with the other thrushes, birds are seen far more frequently in the second winter period with passage birds seen regularly from mid-October onwards. Six birds were seen together on 4th October.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Uncommon passage migrant.

The first record of spring passage was on 9th April. Birds were then seen or heard intermittently (mainly in the Gully) up to the beginning of May with two birds reported on 17th April. There were then three records at the beginning of June. Return passage commenced on 14th July with peak passage in the last week of July when 14 bird-days were recorded. Passage continued through August until the third week of September, with a late record on 3rd October.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

The first record of the spring was of two birds on 17th April. Passage continued during April and May, albeit in low numbers, until 3rd June. Return passage commenced with two birds on 22nd July with peak passage in the first two weeks of August. Intermittent records continued until 17th September.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

Reed Warblers normally arrive later than Sedge Warblers, but the first record on 15th May was particularly late. As is normal with this species, spring passage is protracted and lasted until 24th June. As with Grasshopper and Sedge Warblers, most records were from the Gully. Return passage commenced on 27th July. Reed Warblers are significantly less common at Durlston than Grasshopper and Sedge Warblers, primarily because of the lack of the favoured reedbed habitat. Records continued very intermittently until 18th September.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

Uncommon breeding resident and autumn visitor.

A pair held territory west of the Lighthouse. As normal, there was evidence of post-breeding autumn dispersal with several records of over four birds in October and November.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*

Scarce passage migrant.

There were three records: of a bird in the Gully, seen as it dashed deep into the Blackthorn scrub on 28th July, a bird reported in the evening of 30th August and a bird reported in the Long Grass (Field 13) on 10th September.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

Rare autumn migrant.

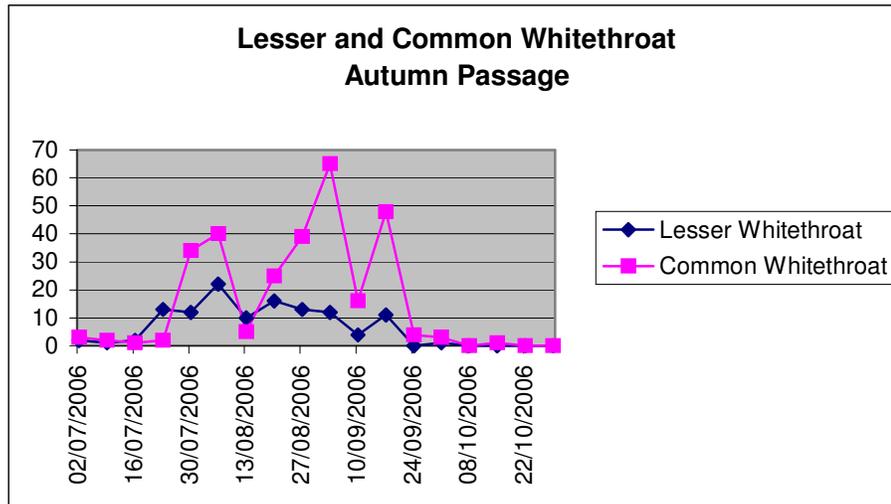
A bird was well seen and heard on 15th-16th September from the top of the Gully.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Fairly common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first spring record was on 24th April and birds were then seen on an almost daily basis throughout May and into June. As with many spring records of warbler species, it is difficult to separate passage birds from resident breeders. The frequency of records declined in June as birds had either moved through, or had become less evident during breeding. Return passage started to become obvious during the last week of July with over ten birds present on 27th July.

Passage continued though August and September at a reasonably constant rate (see Graph), with ten birds present on 22nd August. The last record was on 3rd October.



WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first spring record was on 13th April and as with Lesser Whitethroats, birds were then seen on an almost daily basis throughout May and June, albeit more commonly. As with the Lesser Whitethroat, return passage started to become evident at the end of July (see Graph). Common Whitethroats are more common at Durlston than the previous species and this is particularly evident during the autumn passage. Peak passage was during the first week of September with over 50 birds present on 7th September. The last record was on 16th October.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

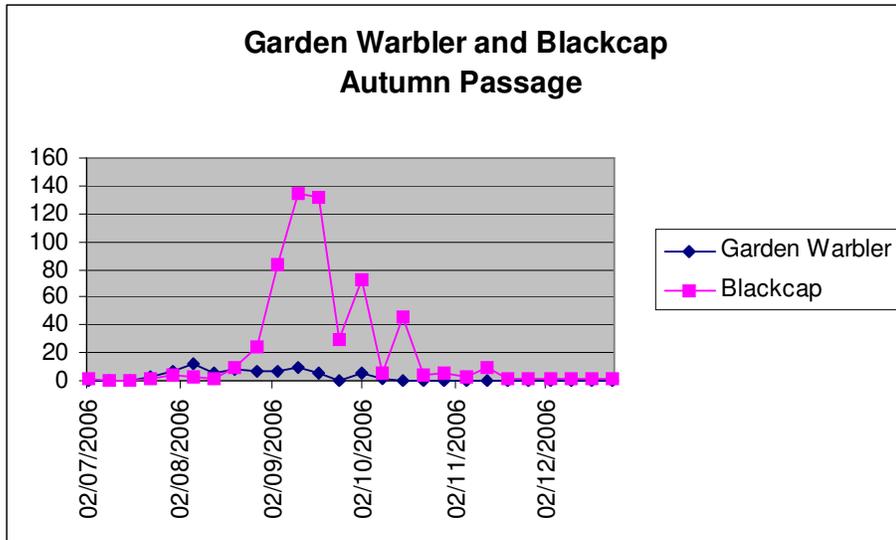
Occasional breeding summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant.

The first record was on 22nd April with records continuing on an intermittent basis until the end of May. Return passage commenced at the end of July but daily numbers were low with a maximum of five birds on 22nd August. The last record was on 11th October.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Fairly common breeding summer visitor and common passage migrant.

Blackcaps are amongst the first warblers to arrive in spring and the first record was on 1st April. Always more common than Garden Warblers, Blackcaps were recorded up to the third week of June. Return passage commenced at the end of July and peaked in the first three weeks of September. As in spring, the higher numbers of Blackcaps compared with Garden Warblers in autumn is evident from the Graph. Forty or more birds were recorded on six days with over 50 on 17th September. Numbers then declined (see Graph) although over 25 birds were recorded on 3rd and 4th October, and over 20 birds were seen on 16th October. Blackcaps over-winter in Dorset, and birds were seen up to the end of the year.



PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Rare late autumn vagrant.

A bird was reported from the scrub area to the east of the Castle on 26th November, and briefly on the next day.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Scarce autumn passage vagrant.

There were two records. A bird was seen near the Castle on 13th October. A further bird was found in the scrub area to the east of the Castle on 27th November whilst searching for the Pallas's Leaf Warbler present on the previous day. It was also seen on 29th November and reported on 30th.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

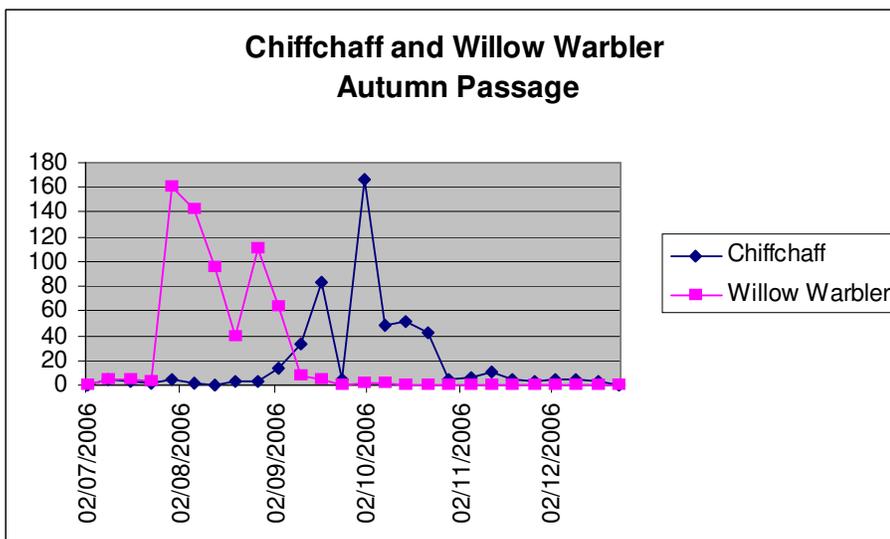
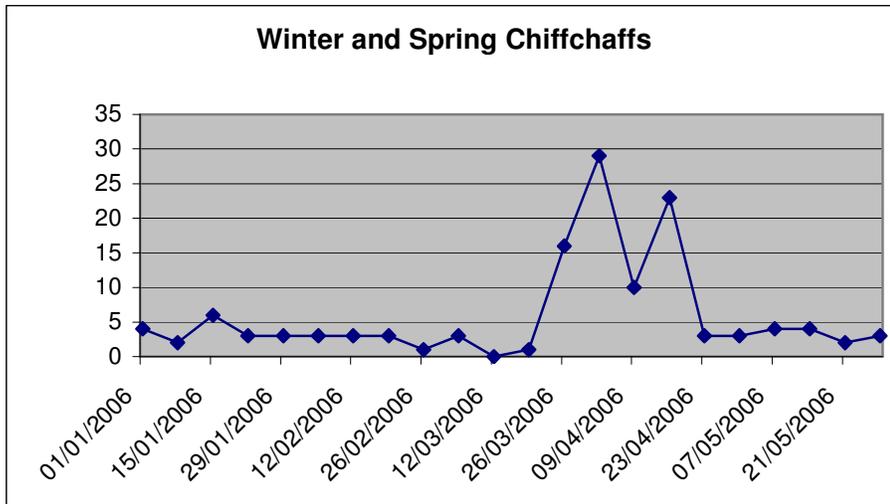
Scarce passage migrant.

There were two autumn records of single birds: on 7th and 18th September.

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant; scarce in winter.

Chiffchaffs overwinter at Durlston with up to two birds seen throughout January and February. It is never clear when wintering birds are replaced by migrants, although a Graph of bird-days between January and June (see below) shows a clear peak from the end of March to the end of April as migrant birds moved through, later than normal. Chiffchaff autumn passage is later than the closely-related Willow Warbler (see second Graph) and was evident from the beginning of September, continuing until the end of October. Peak passage was during the first week of October with over 100 birds reported on 3rd October and 45 on the next day. Chiffchaffs overwinter in Dorset, and birds were seen up to the end of the year.



WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Occasional breeding summer visitor and common passage migrant.

The first spring record was on 29th March and passage continued throughout April with over 20 birds on 17th April; there were no May records after 1st. Willow Warblers migrate earlier in the autumn than Chiffchaff and this can be seen in the Graph above which show peak passage between the first week of August and the first week of September. The peak counts were of over 120 birds on 2nd August and 40 on 30th August. The last record was on 13th October.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Uncommon breeding resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Two to three males held territory. The highest numbers of Goldcrests are recorded in October and November with counts in 2006 peaking at approximately 120 birds on 22nd October. A flock of between 15 and 18 was watched on 28th October as they moved along a Hawthorn and Bramble hedgerow.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor.

Firecrests were seen intermittently throughout the first winter period up to 17th April, with two birds seen on a few occasions. The first autumn record was on 17th September. Birds were seen between October and the end of the year approximately every other day, with two birds on 26th November and 10th and 16th December, and three on 18th November.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Fairly common passage migrant.

The first spring passage record was on 4th May with birds seen intermittently up to 9th June; the highest count was of six birds on 29th May. Return passage commenced on 23rd July and continued to 20th September, with nine birds reported on 22nd August.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Uncommon passage migrant.

There were five records, all in the autumn passage period: two birds on 2nd August, and singles on 8th, 22nd and 23rd August, and 18th September.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus*

Rare visitor.

A group of three were seen in the long grass in the Saxon Field on 10th November, first identified by their distinctive pinging calls, then a brief glimpse of one making an uncertain wavering flight before returning to the safety of the dense grassland. Usually a bird of reedbeds and wetlands, flocks disperse in the autumn across the south coast.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common breeding resident.

At least three pairs held territory. Twenty-five birds were seen on 10th September.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant.

A large family party of young Coal Tits on 20th June suggested successful local breeding.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

Common breeding resident.

A family of seven young were raised in the nest box with a camera attached to the hide wall. Many more broods were raised elsewhere in the Park.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Common breeding resident.

Great Tits are found all across Durlston – particularly in hedgerows and woodland. Bollards by the Diagonal Path and by Tilly Whim were successfully used for nesting.

EUROPEAN NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Scarce visitor.

There was one record: 15th February.

EURASIAN TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Uncommon breeding resident and visitor.

Treecreepers were seen in the woods regularly up to 17th April, and then from 20th June onwards.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

Scarce passage migrant.

A bird was present in the Saxon Field, often perched on bramble scrub, from 15th to 19th October.

EURASIAN JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Fairly common breeding species and passage / irruptive migrant.

A sample count of ten birds was recorded on 4th September. As normal, Jays were particularly evident in the autumn, as they collected acorns from the many Holm Oaks around the park.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Common breeding resident.

Maggies were recorded daily with regular counts of eight to ten birds together. There was successful breeding again.

EURASIAN JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Common breeding resident and passage migrant.

At Durlston, Jackdaws mostly breed in the cliff face. Thirty-five birds were counted on 11th January.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Common non-breeding visitor.

Rooks are usually seen at Durlston in the meadows.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Common breeding resident.

Carrion Crows nest in the Gully and various wooded areas.

COMMON RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Fairly common visitor.

Normally seen as single birds or pairs, the maximum counts were of six birds on 21st April and seven birds on 7th September and 7th October.

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Uncommon breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

An increase in Starling numbers generally was noticeable by mid October with a roost in a Sycamore on the northern boundary illustrating why their collective noun is 'murmuration'. One hundred and five birds were recorded passing overhead on 16th October, with 80 on 21st October.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant.

At least two breeding pairs were present with some evidence of autumn dispersal. However, House Sparrows are much less numerous at Durlston than 30 years ago.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Scarce passage migrant.

There were two records of single birds passing overhead: on 21st October and 2nd November.

COMMON CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs***Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.**

One hundred and fifty birds passed overhead on 2nd April. Autumn passage is always stronger than spring passage and lasts from October until mid-December; 110 birds passed over on 9th December. Other significant movements were recorded on 12th October (633 birds), 14th October (520 birds), 27th October (1,320 birds), 18th November (236 birds) and 29th November (140 birds).

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla***Uncommon passage migrant mainly autumn and winter visitor.**

There were two records in the first half of the year: on 27th March and two birds on 2nd April. As with other finch species, autumn passage is always stronger. The first record of the second winter period was on 2nd October; records continued until the end of the year. Noticeable movements occurred on 27th and 30th October (80 and 15 birds respectively), 18th and 19th November (51 and 30 birds respectively) and 9th December (18 birds).

EUROPEAN SERIN *Serinus serinus***Scarce migrant: mainly spring**

There were two records: of a bird singing briefly in Reservoir Copse on 1st May, and more unusually, on 29th November..

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris***Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.**

The Greenfinch is a commonly seen species throughout the year with a breeding population of over ten pairs. Although still numerous as a passage migrant, Greenfinches do not move through Durlston in the numbers associated with species such as Chaffinch, Linnet and Goldfinch. However, noticeable movements occurred on 17th, 20th and 26th October (52, 145 and 50 birds respectively), and on 1st November (50 birds).

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis***Breeding resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor.**

Over 100 birds were observed passing overhead on 20th April, 50 birds on 26th April. As with other finch species, autumn passage is always stronger. Autumn passage is concentrated in October and significant movements were recorded on 2nd, 10th, 14th, 16th, 21st and 27th (600, 1,000 plus, 1,460, 710, 470 and 1,465 birds respectively).

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus***Fairly common passage migrant, particularly in autumn.**

In the first half of the year, Siskins were recorded from 14th February to 19th June, with only two records after the end of April. Six birds were recorded on 2nd April. Birds were seen from 26th August onwards; early passage birds may have been from local breeding populations. Main passage is in October with significant movements on 12th, 14th and 16th (347, 535 and 110 birds respectively).

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina***Breeding resident and common passage migrant.**

The breeding population of Linnets has reduced significantly and is now estimated to be approximately six pairs. Maximum counts of birds moving overhead in spring were 40 on 2nd and 17th April. As with other finch species, autumn passage is always stronger. Autumn passage is concentrated in October and significant movements were recorded on 2nd, 14th, 16th, 27th, 31st (800, 6,000, 1,280, 870 and 590 birds respectively).

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Scarce passage migrant.

There were three records of single birds: on 30th October and on 6th and 7th November.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis carbaret*

Fairly common passage migrant mainly in late autumn.

All records were from the second half of the year. The first was on 9th September. Main passage commenced in mid-October with birds passing over, albeit in small numbers amongst the other finches. The maximum number were 10 birds on 14th October and an unprecedented 43 on 27th October. Birds continued to be recorded throughout November, and at a decreasing frequency, during December.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Uncommon passage migrant and irruptive visitor.

Crossbills were recorded passing overhead, in singles, twos or threes, on 5th January, 11th February, 19th March, 1st April, 23rd June, 11th July, and 20th October.

COMMON BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Breeding resident and uncommon passage migrant.

The Bullfinch is a secretive and often under-recorded species; between four and seven pairs bred at Durlston. Passage was much less marked than in 2005: six birds were recorded on 20th April and eight on 27th November.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce passage migrant.

There were only three records this year: of birds passing overhead on 13th, 26th and 27th October. This contrasts with 2005 when unprecedented numbers passed overhead Durlston in October.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce passage migrant.

There were only two records: of birds passing overhead on 3rd and 31st October.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare autumn migrant and winter visitor.

A bird passed over on 27th October.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citronella*

Fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant.

At least ten males held territory. There was evidence of some small autumn movements, mainly during October.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

There were two spring records: birds passing overhead on 11th March and 2nd April. As with other finch species, autumn passage is always stronger and records consisted predominantly of small numbers of birds moving overhead. Reed Buntings were recorded on nine days in October, six in November and three in December.