



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Birds at Portland and Lodmoor Field Study

Date: 6th March 2025
 Weather: Warm and sunny
 Walk Leader: Pete Wellstead
 Attendees: 13

Portland Bill is a narrow promontory (or bill) at the southern end of the Isle of Portland and the southernmost point of Dorset. Jutting out 6 miles into the English Channel, Portland is ideally placed to receive migrants in the spring and autumn. Portland's coast has been notorious for the number of shipwrecked vessels over the centuries. The dangerous coastline features shallow reefs and the Shambles sandbank, made more hazardous due to the strong Portland tidal race. The Bill is an important way-point for coastal traffic, and three lighthouses have been built to protect shipping. The original two worked as a pair from 1716, the lower lighthouse was demolished and rebuilt in 1844, it became a bird observatory in 1961. They were replaced in 1906 by the current one.[]

RSPB Reserve at Lodmoor is a SSSI and a quiet haven for wildlife in Weymouth. Lodmoor is 1.6 kilometres (1mile) east of Weymouth, near the suburb of Preston. The site is accessible via three trails and is separated from Weymouth Bay by Greenhill beach and the B3155 Preston Road. The construction of a sea wall in the twentieth century alongside the B3155 road has prevented regular tidal incursions, although freshwater flooding is still an occurrence, especially in winter. The combination of a large reedbed, open water, saltmarsh, wet grassland and bushes attract a variety of different birds.

Portland (AM)		RSPB Lodmoor (PM)	
Birds	Flowering Plants	Birds	Flowering Plants
Starling	Daisy	Wren	Winter Heliotrope
Pied Wagtail	Alexanders	Chiffchaff	Teasel (Seed Head)
Herring Gull		Cetti 's Warbler	Red Dead-nettle
Kestrel	Mammals	Gadwall	Blackthorn
Fulmer	Grey Seal	Teal	Dandelion
Ganet		Mallard	Sweet Violet
Guillemot	Fungi	Moorhen	Lesser Celandine
Razorbill	Field Mushroom	Shelduck	Field Speedwell
Purple Sandpiper		Little Egret	
Cormorant		Sparrowhawk	
Great Black-backed Gull		Mediterranean Gull	
Red Throated Diver		Black-headed Gull	
Carrion Crow		Lesser Black-backed Gull	
Rock Pipit		Black-tailed Godwit	
Meadow Pipit		Shoveller	
Goldfinch		Canada Goose	
Magpie		Coot	
Blue Tit		Grey Heron	
Dunnoek		Widgeon	
Robin		Mute Swan	
Blackbird		Water-rail	
Wood Pigeon		Greenfinch	
Little Owl		Marsh Harrier	

House Sparrow		Cormorant	
Peregrine		Snipe	
Rock Dove		Long-tailed Tit	
Jackdaw			
Raven			
Oystercatcher			
Turnstone			
Chaffinch			
Great Tit			



Little Owl at Portland Quarry by Gerry Traves



Water Rail at Lodmoor by Gerry Traves