

Wallasea Wetland bird monitoring - October 2006 count

This inter-tidal wetland, created on Wallasea Island by DEFRA, is designed to compensate for bird habitat losses elsewhere in SE England. The site is being surveyed for winter bird usage to monitor the success of the scheme. Six counts will be carried out this winter by *CJT Ecology* on behalf of DEFRA.

The following table summarises the results from the first of these counts, carried out on 12th October (six counts - one/hour - on a rising tide). The obvious highlights of this count were the numbers of plovers using the site, particularly ringed plover, with the peak count of 733 being of international importance (representing 1% of the E Atlantic flyway population). Also of note is the number of little egrets, reflecting the remarkable recent increase in this bird in SE England.

	Count One	Count Two	Count Three	Count Four	Count Five	Count Six	Mean of six counts	Peak count
Cormorant	9	1	1	2	2	0	2.50	9
Little egret	30	45	29	31	30	27	32.00	45
Grey heron	2	3	1	1	1	1	1.50	3
Brent goose	10	3	0	5	0	0	3.00	10
Shelduck	2	2	2	5	0	2	2.17	5
Wigeon	0	0	0	3	3	0	1.00	3
Teal	2	1	0	0	1	7	1.83	7
Mallard	10	2	0	3	11	7	5.50	11
Kestrel	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.17	1
Ringed plover	30	53	67	163	733	435	246.83	733
Golden plover	1025	883	925	932	1344	1352	1076.83	1352
Grey plover	5	4	0	2	11	8	5.00	11
Lapwing	955	1025	1027	1530	1364	863	1127.33	1530
Knot	5	0	0	2	0	1	1.33	5
Little stint	3	3	3	3	6	5	3.83	6
Dunlin	29	26	22	15	146	159	66.17	159
Curlew	4	9	3	4	2	2	4.00	9
Redshank	81	58	64	53	92	65	68.83	92
Greenshank	2	2	3	1	3	0	1.83	3
Black-headed gull	26	30	36	62	48	49	41.83	62
Common gull	0	0	29	0	0	0	4.83	29
Lesser b-backed gull	1	0	0	1	2	2	1.00	2
Herring gull	0	0	1	2	0	2	0.83	2
Great black-backed gull	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.17	1
Stockdove	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.17	1
Kingfisher	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.33	2
Skylark	23	6	0	1	0	0	5.00	23
Meadow pipit	5	8	2	3	3	2	3.83	8
Rock pipit	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.17	1
Pied wagtail	0	2	3	4	0	1	1.67	4
Starling	133	95	0	87	0	0	52.50	133
Linnet	51	42	85	0	4	0	30.33	85
Reed bunting	0	0	1	2	0	0	0.50	2
Totals	2445	2309	2305	2919	3806	2993	2796	4356

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