

## Wallasea Wetland bird monitoring - October 2007

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 were carried out in winter 2006/07, with a further 12 planned (two/month) this winter. The counts are being carried out by *CJT Ecology* on behalf of DEFRA.

The following table summarises the results from the two October 2007 counts and compares them with the October 2006 count. When comparing 2007 with 2006 it is clear that the majority of species have increased in number, particularly the longer beaked wading birds. There was a high total number of birds in 2006 but this was dominated by the relatively high numbers of both golden plover and lapwing.

	06/10/2007	14/10/2007	2007 mean	2007 peak	12/10/2006
Cormorant	19	9	14	19	9
Little egret	32	37	35	37	45
Mute swan	0	2	1	2	0
Shelduck	58	57	58	58	5
Teal	420	220	320	420	7
Mallard	71	59	65	71	11
Avocet	135	88	112	135	0
Ringed plover	329	507	418	507	733
Golden plover	846	1300	1073	1300	1352
Grey plover	50	56	53	56	11
Lapwing	580	762	671	762	1530
Little stint	2	0	1	2	6
Dunlin	202	727	465	727	159
Black-tailed godwit	31	42	37	42	0
Curlew	26	8	17	26	9
Redshank	284	338	311	338	92
Greenshank	7	22	15	22	3
Green sandpiper	0	1	1	1	0
Turnstone	1	0	1	1	0
Black-headed gull	385	138	262	385	62
Common gull	5	0	3	5	29
Herring gull	116	161	139	161	2
Great black-backed gull	9	4	7	9	1
Kingfisher	0	1	1	1	0
Kingfisher	0	0	0	0	2
Skylark	12	10	11	12	23
Meadow pipit	11	23	17	23	8
Rock pipit	0	4	2	4	1
Linnet	7	8	8	8	85
Reed bunting	2	12	7	12	2
<b>Total for all species:</b>	<b>3687</b>	<b>4632</b>	<b>4160</b>	<b>5211</b>	<b>4356</b>

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