

## Wallasea Wetland bird monitoring - Winter 2007/08

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 carried out (two/month) this winter. The counts are being carried out by *CJT Ecology* on behalf of DEFRA.

The following table summarises the results, for key species, from the 12 counts carried Oct-Mar 2007/08, using the peak count for each month. The table also compares the peak count for the 07/08 winter with the equivalent 2006/07 count. When comparing the two winters it is clear that the majority of species have increased in number, particularly the longer beaked wading birds. There were some high overall totals in 2006 but these were dominated by the relatively large numbers of both golden plover and lapwing.

The 18 counts carried out to-date have recoded total of 67 species of bird, including 10 species of wildfowl and 19 species of wader.

	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2006/07</b>
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Peak</b>	<b>Peak</b>
Cormorant	19	9	9	5	8	8	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
Little egret	37	21	6	10	8	11	<b>37</b>	<b>45</b>
Brent goose	3	702	551	1886	2066	1656	<b>2066</b>	<b>169</b>
Shelduck	58	63	101	141	235	139	<b>235</b>	<b>286</b>
Teal	420	134	110	332	152	26	<b>420</b>	<b>762</b>
Mallard	71	98	146	157	109	49	<b>157</b>	<b>133</b>
Goosander	0	0	1	1	1	1	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Oystercatcher	0	0	0	1	21	26	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>
Avocet	135	52	3	4	6	3	<b>135</b>	<b>4</b>
Ringed plover	507	213	275	517	285	270	<b>517</b>	<b>733</b>
Golden plover	1300	655	446	933	282	37	<b>1300</b>	<b>1352</b>
Grey plover	56	84	125	85	12	12	<b>125</b>	<b>29</b>
Lapwing	762	639	940	2026	1373	0	<b>2026</b>	<b>1530</b>
Knot	11	6	27	48	54	83	<b>83</b>	<b>5</b>
Little stint	2	1	1	1	1	1	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
Dunlin	727	724	1812	1228	1035	625	<b>1812</b>	<b>1214</b>
Black-tailed godwit	42	183	110	84	101	100	<b>183</b>	<b>65</b>
Curlew	26	72	83	74	10	7	<b>83</b>	<b>43</b>
Redshank	338	320	223	278	327	227	<b>338</b>	<b>116</b>
Black-headed gull	385	89	83	91	471	74	<b>471</b>	<b>284</b>
Herring gull	161	92	97	28	115	128	<b>161</b>	<b>118</b>
Skylark	12	14	15	5	7	3	<b>15</b>	<b>49</b>
Meadow pipit	23	20	12	6	18	7	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>
Rock pipit	4	3	4	1	2	8	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
Starling	19	253	4	28	0	1	<b>253</b>	<b>133</b>
Linnet	8	5	12	31	20	8	<b>31</b>	<b>85</b>
Reed bunting	12	22	4	7	12	5	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>
Corn bunting	0	0	0	0	2	2	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5211</b>	<b>4610</b>	<b>5225</b>	<b>8037</b>	<b>6772</b>	<b>3561</b>	<b>10742</b>	<b>7345</b>

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