

Wallasea Wetland bird monitoring - Oct-Dec 2008

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. 2008/09 is the third winter of monitoring. The counts are being carried out by *CJT Ecology* on behalf of DEFRA.

The following table summarises the results for key species from the six counts carried Oct-Dec 2008, using the peak count for each month. The table also compares this 2008 data with that from the same periods in 2006 and 2007. When comparing the three early winter periods it is clear that the majority of species have increased in number over time, particularly the longer beaked wading birds. There were some high overall totals in 2006 but these were dominated by the relatively large numbers of teal, golden plover and lapwing.

	11-Oct	16-Oct	01-Nov	23-Nov	17-Dec	23-Dec	Peak count (Oct-Dec)		
							2008	2007	2006
Cormorant	9	6	13	3	2	2	13	19	14
Little egret	15	10	11	5	3	4	15	37	45
Brent goose	0	0	103	78	536	63	536	702	10
Shelduck	3	12	67	108	511	292	511	101	82
Wigeon	0	0	1	38	137	90	137	22	3
Teal	133	39	13	136	638	229	638	420	762
Mallard	61	84	71	79	137	106	137	146	133
Avocet	0	1	67	89	65	141	141	135	0
Ringed plover	245	282	219	79	287	222	287	507	733
Golden plover	82	270	0	10	1075	372	1075	1300	1352
Grey plover	9	47	87	78	155	67	155	125	26
Lapwing	486	374	33	4	2689	2120	2689	940	1530
Knot	3	26	157	65	243	160	243	27	5
Little stint	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	6
Curlew sandpiper	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Dunlin	107	552	725	995	996	1039	1039	1812	514
Black-tailed godwit	61	85	129	81	227	109	277	183	7
Curlew	9	23	206	58	74	37	206	83	43
Redshank	367	338	319	193	311	273	367	338	92
Greenshank	9	4	0	1	1	2	9	22	3
Black-headed gull	89	111	33	10	11	145	145	385	62
Herring gull	149	43	79	86	3	31	149	162	76
Kingfisher	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2
Skylark	4	0	1	8	4	1	8	15	49
Meadow pipit	7	3	8	13	19	11	19	23	17
Rock pipit	8	4	5	3	3	2	8	4	1
Stonechat	1	2	0	2	4	4	4	3	3
Starling	14	25	155	15	15	28	155	253	133
Reed bunting	5	6	1	3	3	8	8	12	2
Corn bunting	4	0	0	0	2	5	5	0	1
Totals	1881	2350	2503	2242	8153	5565	8979	7779	5706

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