HOLES BAY NATURE PARK

BIRDS AND WILDLIFE REPORT

2023

THE BIRDS,
WILDLIFE & ECOLOGY
OF HOLES BAY
AND UPTON COUNTRY PARK

CONTENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Black-tailed Godwit in Holes Bay North-west ©Martin Adams

Welcome to 4th Holes Bay report. As well as the annual bird report, this year's report at includes the annual Moth Report, Fungi List and the introduction of an exciting new project to look at the Bats of Upton Country Park in more detail. Over the last three years we have recorded 967 non-bird species in the recording area and next year, as well as the bats, we hope to look in more detail at the invertebrates in Upton Country Park; this year we are focusing in on Holes Bay.

We started the first report by noting: "Holes Bay Nature Park is a haven for wildlife in an urban environment, a site where wildlife thrives despite being surrounded by human activity. We use Holes Bay and the land around it for transport, housing, retail and industry, as well as for leisure activities such as boating, cycling, fishing, dog walking, and of course birdwatching. Despite all this, Holes Bay is a thriving and arguably improving habitat for nature."

With four more years of observations and data, we can pretty confidently lose the word "arguably" as this year we have broken site records for counts of Black-tailed Godwit, Shoveler and Pintail. The numbers for Black-tailed Godwit were particularly impressive, passing 4000 and setting a county record for one site in Dorset.

Black-tailed Godwit in Holes Bay South-east ©Martin Adams

Wigeon are the reaching numbers undreamt of in the past, and although some species have seen declines, the overall number of birds are undoubtably increasing - roughly 26% of the birds counted in Poole Harbour during this year's WeBS surveys were in Holes Bay - peaking at 34% in January with over 6,500 wetland birds counted!

These cold hard numbers tell an incredible story: most of these birds are winter visitors. The Godwit come from Iceland, we get Brent Geese from Siberia, high arctic breeders like Turnstone and Knot, Redwing in Upton Country Park from Scandinavia, and even the tiny little Goldcrest and Firecrest visit us in Winter from Europe. In the Summer, the local breeding birds are joined by migrants from Africa and Europe, such as Chiffchaff and Blackcap. Reed Warblers seem to be increasing around Holes Bay, and Whitethroat bred for the first time in Upton Country Park this summer.

Poole Harbour's nationally important population of Terns sometimes use the Bay, especially in the autumn when they are feeding up ready for their long journey back to their wintering sites in Southern Africa. As well as these summer and winter visitors, birds like Spotted Flycatcher and Whimbrel pass through the Bay and the Park in Spring and Autumn.

Flock of Black-Tailed Godwit ©Martin Adams

These birds connect our patch to a slice of the globe from the arctic to Southern Africa, from the Americas to Russia, reminding us we are part of one world. It is an incredible story, and an important one to tell, now more than ever. The Lookout is an excellent focal point, looking out into Holes Bay NW, and this year has seen Upton Country Park and organisations such as BARI, BOPH, and the RSPB holding public events to introduce people to the Bay and the nature that it nurtures.

All but the most ill-informed know, and only the most blinkered deny, that nature is in crisis and the eco systems that we rely on are breaking down. But in a time where people have many immediate problems, and where crisis after crisis hits the world, the existential threats of climate breakdown and biodiversity loss don't get the attention they so urgently need.

This is why it is important to connect people to nature. Not only does nature serve as refuge, but without this connection it is too easy to fall into the delusion that we are apart from it. Despite technologies and urban lifestyles that keep us one step removed from it, it is still nature that sustains us: in the food we eat, the air we breathe, and the climate we inhabit.

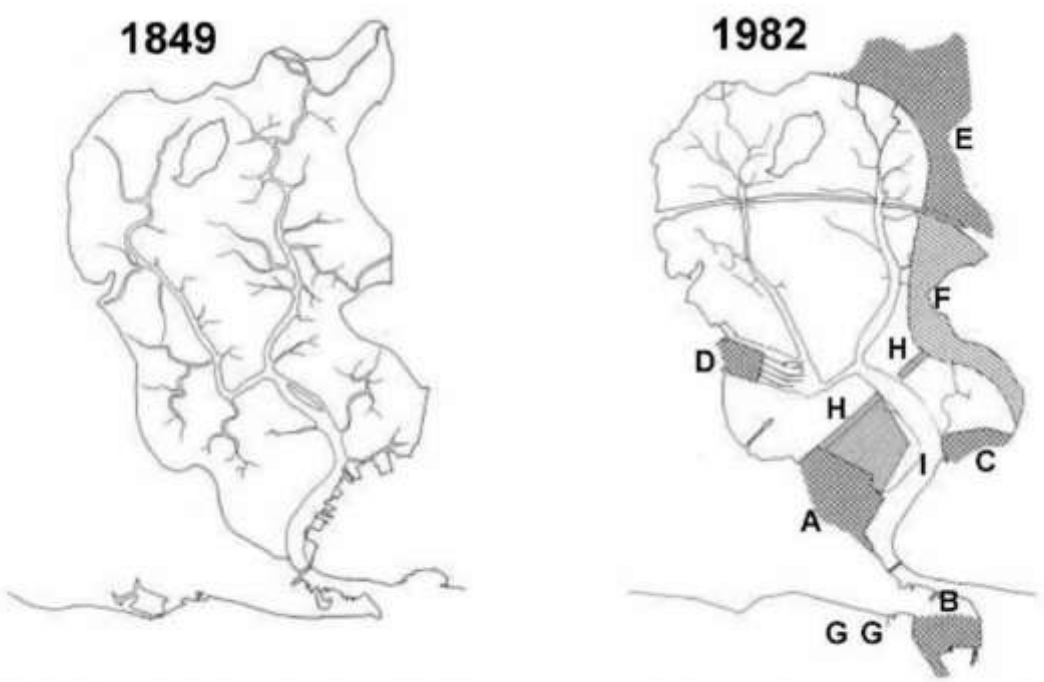
People don't save what they don't cherish however, and they don't cherish what they don't know. Without a knowledge of the world outside our windows and without an emotional connection to nature we won't save it, or ourselves.

Yet there is a contradiction here: despite the global and national losses in biodiversity we are able to tell a story of increased abundance on our little patch of nature. Why?

Obviously, a decline in something as vast and complex as nature will not be smooth, uniform and even. There will be winners and losers amongst species and locations, so why is Holes Bay 'winning?'

There is not, of course, one simple answer.

There is less industry around Holes Bay and consequently less pollution. In the 1960's, heavy industry and the Power Station resulted in a significant pollution problem, so there must have been less plants, fish and invertebrate prey in the 1960's, especially in the South of the Bay. (Even though there is alot less Bay – the Holes Bay road built in the late 1980's was the last of a series of developments including The Power Station and Cobb's Quay which saw Holes Bay shrink by about a third in the Twentieth Century.)



Infilling from 1849 to 1982 (areas H & I were proposed changes that never emerged.)
From Holes Bay Nature Park: Ecology & Human Activity.

Aerial Photograph of Hamworthy and Holes Bay ©Rene Goad

The paths were set back from the shoreline of Upton Country Park a few years ago, although The Bay is big enough that most of the birds are too distant for disturbance to be a major issue. Birds in the North East, which are much closer to the cycle path, are habituated to sharing space with us. The fact that birds are able to tolerate predictable human activities is shown by ~~the~~ observing the Oystercatchers roosting on the Railway Embankment when a train rattles by literally feet away. As they are habituated to four trains an hour, they don't even flinch!

Milder winters possibly mean birds are short stopping here rather than going further South. The warmer winters are certainly linked to the increases in Avocet and Spoonbill. Paradoxically, it was a cold snap that led to the astonishing Godwit numbers at the start of the year. Even without this extreme event however, numbers are substantially up.

Black-tailed Godwit © Martin Adams

Black-tailed Godwit are on a long-term upward trend in Poole Harbour, mainly due to the expansion of the breeding range and population in Iceland. UK and local populations of Avocet are also increasing. Climate is obviously a big factor in the latter (as well as conservation efforts.)

The hydrology and ecology of Holes Bay is unique - it is shallow and slow draining (an effect increased by the Railway Embankment that effectively turns the North of the Bay into a tidal lagoon – a rare habitat,) and fed by freshwater streams (and the runoff from the sewage works!) This is not however something that has changed in recent years.

The biggest change to the ecology of Holes Bay over the last few decades has been the loss of saltmarsh and consequent increase in mudflats, where waders probe for the invertebrates they feed on. The saltmarsh in Holes Bay declined by 70% due to erosion and infilling between 1924 – 1994 and has continued apace since. This is a plausible explanation, at least in part, for the increases in waders, but what about the ducks?

According to the BTO, the UK wintering population of Wigeon declined 11% between 1995/96 - 2020/21, Pintail by 28% while Shoveler increased by 53% and Teal by 5%. However, these species are all on the increase in Holes Bay.

Wigeon ©Martin Adams

Wigeon are particularly conspicuous, with numbers exceeding 2500 and even at night the Bay rings out with their whistling calls. Yet in January 1997 the WeBS count was 104, and this represented an increase on previous numbers. There has been a local increase in Wigeon in Poole Harbour, bucking the national trend. Possibly the same changes in Iceland that have benefited the Godwit have also benefited the Wigeon population there, which would favour us in Western England, but the upward trend in Holes Bay out-paces even this trend.

Possibly the decline in Spartina has benefited the ducks as well as the waders. Shoveler are mostly found in the NW, so presumably the zooplankton they feed on flourishes here. Wigeon and Teal are more evenly distributed across the Bay. Interestingly, Wigeon breed in eutrophic lakes - that is lakes with high levels of nutrients. Eutrophication is a problem, with nutrient levels from human activities such agricultural runoff and sewage damaging eco systems.

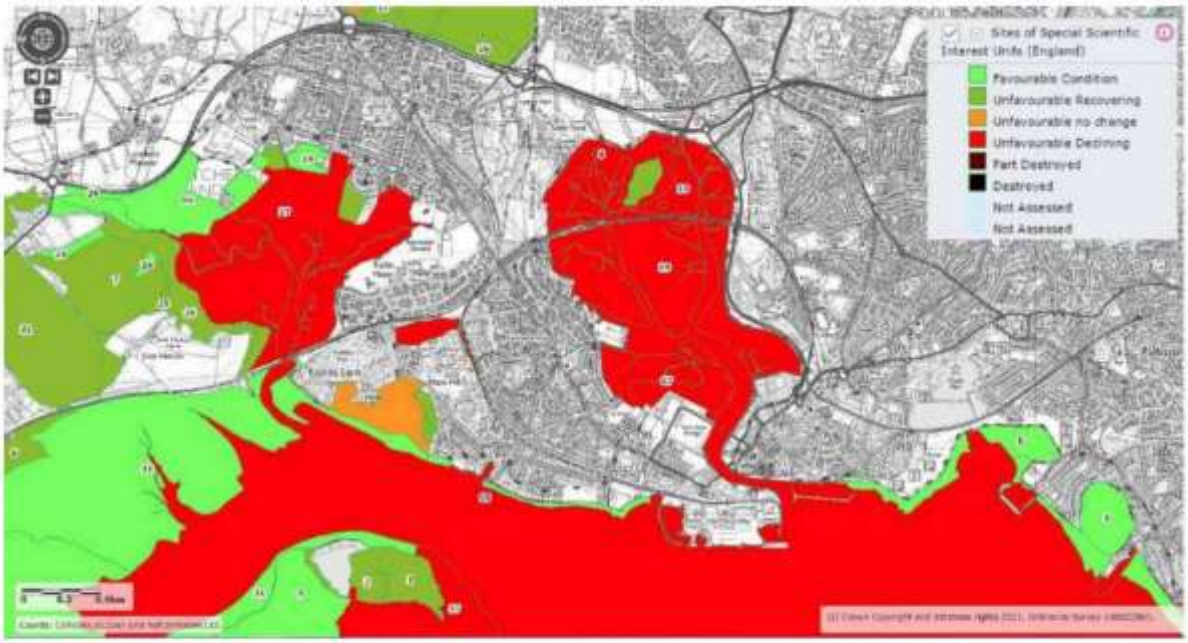
A level of nutrients is important to plant growth however, so maybe it is possible that Holes Bay has hit a ‘sweet spot’ with its nutrient levels?

Shoveler in Flight ©Pete Corbin

Habitat loss is the biggest driver of decline in bird populations globally, so it seems likely that at least some of Holes Bay’s gains are due to losses and declines elsewhere. Littlesea on the Isle of Purbeck is one such site locally that has declined dramatically, mainly due to invasive Carp decimating the eco system. In January 1994, there was a count of 261 Shoveler alone: now it is only occasionally used as a roost for Wildfowl.

There is still pressure from Wildfowling in other parts of Poole Harbour, which may make Holes Bay more attractive than these sites, and recreational disturbance has almost certainly increased across the Harbour.

Of course, given the extraordinary ranges of these birds, sites that have declined don't have to be confined to Poole Harbour, Dorset or even Britain. The fact that other sites have declined is also a warning that we can't be complacent about the current abundance, as is the fact that we don't understand the reasons behind the increase.



2017/2020 SSSI Condition Assessment of Holes Bay and adjacent areas by Natural England (https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx accessed on 3rd February 2021)

Indeed, the latest assessment by Natural England (NE) in 2017 rated the Bay as unfavourable/declining[1] Given the abundance, it is tempting to ask if anyone has told the birds, but there are real issues: Holes Bay is the part of Poole Harbour most affected by Saltmarsh decline and algal mats, according to the NE assessment.

Key species such as Shelduck, Curlew, Redshank and Oystercatcher have declined, although not as spectacularly as the species that have increased. Shelduck in particular are a Key Species that have declined in Holes Bay more than they have nationally or in the Harbour as a whole. Pochard have disappeared: counts of 100+ were once possible, but there have been no records since February 2020. Breeding birds like Spotted Flycatcher, Willow Warbler and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker have disappeared from Upton Country Park.

Climate change is obviously the biggest threat going forward. At the moment it means we get more Spoonbill and Avocet but more extreme weather events and the possibility of colder winters due to changes in the Gulf Stream in the long term are a threat, as are rising sea levels.

View from the UCP Bird Hide ©Martin Adams

There was a period this autumn that was a sobering reminder amidst the general abundance seen this year. Water levels in the harbour generally were far higher than predicted (they were recorded as 60cm higher in Lytchett Fields) and there was nowhere for the birds to go. At times, Black-tailed Godwit numbers were barely in double figures. Brownsea benefited, as Holes Bay benefitted when the lagoon there was frozen, but the lagoon there will be also be overwhelmed eventually.

In a natural state, habitat lost by rising sea levels would be replaced inland, but obviously a wetland surrounded by the hard barriers of human land use like Holes Bay has nowhere to expand to. The Arne Moors project is designed partly to compensate for this habitat loss.

Rainbow over Holes Bay South East ©Martin Adams

The continued erosion of the Saltmarsh could also mean the Bay loses its value as a high(ish) tide roost - already the birds are flooded out on the higher Spring tides. There was a plan to restore the Saltmarsh, especially around the Railway Embankment which is vulnerable to erosion, but nothing came of this. More, and higher Saltmarsh would also help mitigate the effect of sea level rise. Saltmarsh is itself a rare and declining habitat, and an important carbon store. It is a fascinating contradiction that the decline of this habitat has been to the benefit of other habitats.(Reed has also increased, to the benefit of Reed Warblers, for example)

Disturbance, while not a major issue, will only increase with more housing around the Bay. While it may be less of an issue in Holes Bay than in other parts of the Harbour, bait diggers, boats, dogs and people encroaching on The Bay can cause disturbance. New fencing is planned along the Northern shoreline, which should mitigate this issue.

Shag entwined with fishing line ©Martin Adams

A Shag fouled with fishing line in November shows the impact human carelessness can have. Littering is an issue around the Bay, although this is perhaps more of an issue to the people than the birds.

The summer algal mats seem to be increasing (a negative effect of over eutrophication) and warmer weather means they seem to be present for much of the year now. Avian Influenza, despite claiming the lives of the resident Peregrines, didn't seem to have a major impact apart from a few sick looking Herring Gulls, but this and other new pathogens are a threat.

In a way, it is perhaps comforting to conclude that, simply by stopping polluting and infilling the Bay, we have allowed nature the space to thrive. Obviously, there is no guarantee that whatever poorly understood factors that have led to the current abundance will continue, and however great the Bay is, habitat elsewhere and the climate in general are big factors to migratory birds. As amateur nature enthusiasts, we are hardly in a position to answer any of these questions, but can the important ecology of The Bay be better understood?

Holes Bay Nature Park Interpretation Panel ©Martin Adam

Is there anything that can be done to protect the Bay in its current abundance, or even improve it and mitigate against future changes? Holes Bay Nature Park was launched in 2015 “to work closely with local people to protect the natural environment for future generations”[2] However, Holes Bay is not actively managed or officially monitored to nearly the extent that a site of similar importance like Brownsea is: the now vandalised boards around the Bay tell a sorry story of neglect. This is why it is important for us, and you, to continue to monitor and advocate for The Bay.

Holes Bay North-east at low tide ©Martin Adams

Change is often said to be the only constant, and it the interplay of change and constancy that is part of the joy of patch watching. The changes of the season over the year, as well as the changes in tides and the weather, bring changes in the bird life. Wigeon come back in the winter and Warblers return when it warms up. Waders move from high tide roosts in the North-Western corner to feed on the mud exposed around the Bay as the tide falls. Jackdaws fly onto Pergins Island in their thousands as the night falls, then leave again as the sun rises.

Holes Bay had a reputation for quantity rather than quality, but as well as these predictable birds we do get the odd unexpected bird: Spoonbills, Great White Egret, Whinchat, even White-tailed Eagle are all bonus birds observed this year amongst the usual suspects.

Great White Egret ©Pete Corbin

It is a joy for us to observe and document these changes, to enjoy both the expected and unexpected, and looking back on this year whets the appetite for next year… and beyond.

ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

1. https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteFeatureCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1000110&SiteName=Poole%20Harbour%20SSSI
2. https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/11837853.wildlife-on-your-doorstep-the-nature-park-thats-been-launched-in-the-heart-of-poole/

Spotted Redshank ©Martin Adams

BIRDS RECORDED IN HOLES BAY AND UPTON COUNTRY PARK IN 2023

Martin Adams, Jackie Hull, Stephen F. Smith and Nick Woods

The following list of birds includes all those species known to have occurred in the recording area in 2023.

Records have been obtained from individual recorders, from accessible records on the E-bird online recording system, from the Websites maintained by the Birds of Poole Harbour and the Dorset Bird Club. In some cases, records have been downloaded by observers from the Birdtrack online recording system managed by the British Trust for Ornithology.

The Holes Bay Nature Park was established in 2015 by a partnership of the Poole Harbour Commissioners, Dorset Wildlife Trust, and the Borough of Poole (now Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council).

Upton Country Park is owned and managed by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. A map showing the names used for different locations within the Country Park is included within the report. There is no public access to the fields of Upton Park Farm.

Abbreviations:

BoPH – Birds of Poole Harbour

BTO – British Trust for Ornithology

WeBS – Wetland Bird Survey (carried out by volunteers from the BTO)

SANG – Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace

This report is based on records and information from the following observers:

James Adams, Martin Adams, Richard Adams, Tracey Akehurst, Tim Appleton, Ian Ballam, Birdguides, Birds of Poole Harbour, Mick Brooks, Martin Bugler, Peter Cadogan, Michael Caponi, Tom Carley, Steve Chastell, Andy Collyer, Peter Corbin, Matthew Crosby, Tina Dawkins, Dorset Bird Club, David Foster, Tony Furnell, Tony Gaston, Rene Goad, Andy Green, Clive Hargrave, Tanya Hart, Mick and Lorraine Highfield, Jackie Hull, Nick Hull, Graham Jaggard, Ian Julian, Scott Keyes, Paul Kirby, Richard Kurtz, Lyn Lambert, Ian Lewis, Paul Lewis, Jez Martin, Neill Mitchell, Peter Moore, Daniel Nash, Jaiden Orchard, Glyn Owen, Glen Pascoe, Roy and Mary Phillips, Daniel Preter, John Purrington, Andy Renton, Andrew Slade, Karen Smedley, Stephen F. Smith, Bruce Townsend, Geoff Upton, Steve Violette, Patrick Ward, Luke Westacott, David White, Liz Woodford, Nick Woods and Mark Wright.

With apologies for any errors or omissions.

The following photographers have also provided photos for use in the report:

Martin Adams, Andy Collyer, Pete Corbin, Tania Dawkins, Rene Goad, Nick Woods.

The authors would like to thank all the observers and photographers who have contributed. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions.

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main entrance
front field
Bascombe's pond
Upton Park Farm
Roper's Lane
SANG car park
Upton House
east field
13 acre field
Creekmoor field
Creekmoor channel
car park
duck pond
Llewellin wood
walled garden
north-east shoreline
play area
kennel mead
the stone bench
the bridge
The Grove (Grove woodland)
drying ground field
bird hide (site of)
Pergins Island
back drive
Allens Lane
boardwalk
Grove pond
half-moon field
lambs leas field
bird screen (observation point)
Jack's wood
Symes Road
the lodge
UPTON COUNTRY PARK
Field names and other names used by bird watchers and others for particular areas or feataures within the Park.
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Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla)*

Still the scarcer of the two 'black geese' regularly recorded, but increasing in Holes Bay.

©Martin Adams

Maxima	**Total**	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020	**12**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
2021	**26**	8	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
2022	**56**	15	13	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10
2023	**87**	18	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	26

The 'total' column shows that numbers in Holes Bay have risen strongly over the past four years. Almost all records were in the SW sector, but for the first time, 17 ventured across the railway to the NW on 17th February 2023.

Extreme dates in 2023: 29th March (3) and 29th November (3).

Canada Goose *(Branta canadensis)*

The commonest of the 'black geese', with flocks in the hundreds sometimes seen in Holes Bay and flocks also feeding on the fields at Upton Country Park; at least one pair has bred at Upton Country Park in the past (2011).

©Nick Woods

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20 (29th*)	4 (19th*)	5 (15th)	3 (19th)	73 (31st)	150 (21st)	223 (10th)	32 (3rd)	70 (25th)	503 (7th)	36 (26th*)	99 (24th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Most of the three-figure counts in 2023 were made in the NW sector, with smaller flocks often present in 13 Acre Field.

The mean maximum has remained stable at about 108 over the past four years, and 2023 was a typical year in that numbers were low in spring, when birds were on their breeding areas. Birds return to Holes Bay in midsummer once young are fledged, and there is then a slight drop in August and September followed by a major rise in October (see table below). This year's maximum of 503 is the second highest count since systematic recording began in 2020; the all-time maximum was 610 in October 2021.

The mean monthly maxima across the four years 2020 – 2023 are as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
22	10	4	3	65	213	200	148	103	351	108	125

Barnacle Goose *(Branta leucopsis)*

A rare winter visitor or passage migrant to Dorset, though feral birds may also occur.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Greylag Goose *(Anser anser)*

The only 'grey goose' regularly recorded, the birds being part of a widespread feral population small numbers sometimes seen in Holes Bay, often with Canada Geese. Birds have been colour-ringed in Poole Park in a study of the local population (sightings of such birds can be reported to pooleparkgreylags@gmail.com).

2023 was a typical year, with four records: 2 on 29th April, 3 on 22nd September, 5 on 10th October and 4 on 6th November.

Tundra Bean Goose *(Anser serrirostris)*

A very rare winter visitor to Dorset, with very few recent records from Poole Harbour.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons)*

A rare winter visitor and passage migrant to Poole Harbour, with few recent records from Holes Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Mute Swan *(Cygnus olor)*

A few pairs often breed around Holes Bay, with larger numbers found in winter.

©Rene Goad

©Martin Adams

Two pairs bred in 2023 as well as a possible pair in SW, with a total of 6 young surviving until at least the end of the summer. Another pair attempted to breed on the saltmarsh near Asda in Holes Bay South. They lost one brood of eggs when the nest was inundated on the spring tide, and probably lost another before one of the pair was seen dead on 11th May. On 29th April they had been seen being chased by a dog, and it is possible that this was the cause of death.

The monthly maxima were similar year to 2022.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16 (29th*)	18 (20th)	25 (29th)	27 (2nd*)	27 (31st)	16 (23rd)	25 (24th)	26 (13th*)	40 (30th)	31 (15th*)	42 (26th*)	50 (24th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

A male noted in the SW on 9th March 2023 had been ringed in Christchurch on 24th July 2005.

Black Swan *(Cygnus atratus)*

An introduced Australian species, now seen in small numbers in Poole Park and at other sites across Dorset.

©Nick Woods

Single birds present on 28th August and 7th September 2023.

Egyptian Goose *(Alopochen aegyptiaca)*

A species introduced into Britain and now spreading, one or two occasionally recorded in recent years.

©Martin Adams

5 briefly in the NW sector on the evening of 31st May 2023.

Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)*

A few pairs breed around Holes Bay or nearby, with groups of young birds seen in summer; flocks in winter may increase in cold weather (650 recorded in Holes Bay in 1987).

©Tina Dawkins

©Nick Woods

Breeding: The first creche of 8 young was noted on 16th June 2023 in SW. This had increased to three broods by 1st July: two in NW and one in SW, and the highest number of young counted was 15 on 26th June. The latest record (indicating the minimum number of surviving young) was 9 on 14th August.

As usual, numbers of adults dropped in late summer as birds left for their moulting areas on the coast of Germany, returning in numbers from November onwards. Monthly maximum counts:

Mean	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
65	122 (29th*)	130 (19th*)	183 (5th*)	98 (2nd*)	11 (23rd)	22 (26th)	27 (24th)	18 (13th*)	10 (10th)	12 (11th)	79 (26th*)	69 (10th*)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

The annual mean figures of monthly maxima over the past four years are as follows:

2020: 64 2021: 49 2022: 56 2023: 65

These figures suggest that the local population is currently stable after a fall of about 30% over the years 2000 - 2020.

Shoveler *(Spatula clypeata)*

A regular winter visitor to Holes Bay, with numbers increasing strongly.

©Pete Corbin

A record-breaking year for this species, with very high numbers in the NW sector at both ends of the year.

Monthly maximum counts:

Mean	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
72	154 (7th)	80 (4th)	12 (29th)	2 (3rd)	1 (12th)	-	3 (19th)	6 (31st)	14 (21st)	67 (31st)	211 (20th)	312 (30th)

The species was strongly concentrated in the NW sector, and typically for a species with a concentrated distribution the maxima were all revealed by counts other than WeBS. The importance of continuing to count right up to the end of the year was further shown by the fact that the count of 312, by far the highest number ever recorded in Holes Bay, was made on 30th December.

The Shoveler that spend the winter in Britain have bred mainly in northern Europe and north-western Russia. The year 2023 was unusual in that records in Holes Bay came from all months except June (although admittedly the single figures present in April, May and July may refer to the same anomalous summering birds). The species is, however, primarily a winter visitor, and it is interesting to compare the figures winter-by-winter rather than by calendar years. The mean maxima for the months October to March inclusive over the past four winters are as follows:

2020–21: 82 2021–22: 46 2022–23: 95

The figures for January – March 2024 may well result in the monthly mean for winter 2023-24 being much higher again, so we await them with interest.

Gadwall *(Mareca strepera)*

Mainly a winter visitor to Holes Bay, usually in small numbers.

For the second year in succession there were records from all months in 2023, and the mean monthly maximum is stable at 4. Birds were evenly spread between the NW and NE sectors, with one record in the SW.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8 (26th)	6 (1st)	2 (18th)	2 (17th)	2 (24th)	3 (5th)	2 (11th)	3 (17th)	4 (7th)	4 (21st)	4 (30th)	4 (5th)

Wigeon *(Mareca penelope)*

A winter visitor to Holes Bay, with numbers greatly increasing in recent years to outnumber all the other duck species, and with counts of over 1,000 often made. The bird's loud whistling call is a characteristic sound on the salt marshes.

©Rene Goad

Mean	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
621	1313 (29th*)	1220 (11th)	470 (4th)	45 (3rd)	-	1 (15th)	-	2 (23rd)	163 (21st)	714 (31st)	1360 (26th*)	2159 (10th*)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

The mean monthly maxima for the six winter months October – March over the past three winters show that 2022 – 2023 in Holes Bay was rather a poor one for Wigeon by recent standards:

2020–21: 1242 2021–22: 471 2022–23: 1175

An intriguing aspect of the Wigeon population in Holes Bay is the fact that drakes outnumber females by somewhat over 2:1. This was first noticed in early December 2023 and was confirmed by sample counting of discrete flocks, mainly at close range in the NE sector. Research has suggested that this sex imbalance is not confined to Holes Bay, and the explanation is still not clear, with several reasons being under consideration. One is that males and females simply winter in different places, although this seems unlikely as pairing takes place throughout the winter. A second possible explanation is that females are more heavily predated than males on the breeding grounds in north-eastern Europe and Russia. This seems plausible as incubation is done by the females, which are vulnerable to land-based predators while on the nest. Fur farms are widespread in northern Russia where many of Britain's wintering Wigeon breed, and a percentage of foxes and mink inevitably escape and live ferally. Enquiries to the Wildfowl Trust have yet to produce any conclusive answers to the question.

Mallard *(Anas platyrhynchos)*

With Shelduck, the only duck species known to breed in the area, with pairs often present on the larger ponds in Upton Country Park and small flocks also seen in Holes Bay. A variety of domesticated birds also occur.

©Nick Woods

©Nick Woods

Breeding: 2 nests were noted in April in the Upton CP sector, and one pair in the NE sector.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8 (4th)	12 (19th*)	8 (29th)	9 (25th)	8 (2nd)	6 (5th)	26 (10th)	16 (16th)	9 (10th*)	11 (15th*	30 (23rd)	13 (10th*)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Pintail *(Anas acuta)*

A winter visitor to Holes Bay with numbers increasing in recent years and counts of 50 or more birds now regularly being made.

©Pete Corbin

2023 was an excellent year for this species. The March count is the highest in Holes Bay since systematic recording began in 2020, and it is good to see numbers exceeding 100 in two successive winters. Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
53 (17th)	63 (19th)	142 (5th*)	3 (6th)	-	-	-	-	13 (5th)	12 (20th)	43 (20th)	108 (4th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

The mean maxima from the six months from October to March over the past three winters confirm the steady increase in Pintail, which strongly favours the NW sector [although not as strongly as Shoveler].

Winter 2020-21: 40 Winter 2021-22: 49 Winter 2022-23: 66

Teal *(Anas crecca)*

In winter usually the second most abundant duck (after the Wigeon) in Holes Bay, with several hundred often present.

©Nick Woods

2023 was an excellent year for this species. The mean monthly maximum for the year (347) is by far the highest since the Holes Bay report was started in 2020, and the February count of 1144 also comfortably exceeds the previous all-time record of 996 in December 2022.

Monthly maximum counts:

Mean	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
347	890 (29th*)	1144 (19th*)	714 (5th*)	135 (2nd*)	7 (2nd)	-	5 (13th)	50 (26th)	105 (10th*)	250 (5th)	313 (26th*)	556 (10th*)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *.

It is interesting that no less than seven of the above maxima were picked up by WeBS – a marked contrast with the Shoveler maxima. This shows the value of the synchronised WeBS counts in picking up numbers of a species which is generally distributed across the Bay, and also more difficult for a single counter to assess accurately because of its tendency to skulk in the saltmarsh.

A comparison of the winter mean monthly maxima (October – March) over the last three winters makes it clear what an outstanding winter 2022 – 23 was for Teal in Holes Bay:

Winter 2020-21: 300 Winter 2021-22: 327 Winter 2022-23: 731

The few Teal that remained throughout May gave a hint that breeding might take place undetected.

Pochard *(Aythya farina)*

Once a regular winter visitor to Holes Bay, occurring in most years, with over 100 birds recorded in the 1987 cold spell, now rarely seen and then usually in very small numbers.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Tufted Duck *(Aythya fuligula)*

A few birds usually occur in Holes Bay in the winter, though this species and the other 'diving ducks' are much less abundant than the various species of 'dabbling duck'.

2023 was a poor year for this species in Holes Bay: 2 on 19th June, 1 on 21st August, 1 on 30th November and 2 on 2nd December. All these birds were recorded in the NE sector, perhaps wanderers from the slightly more substantial flock at Hatch Pond nearby. The decline in formerly numerous diving duck species in Poole Harbour as a whole is sadly reflected in Holes Bay, where Red-breasted Merganser is now only an irregular winter visitor, and Pochard, Scaup and Goldeneye failed to appear at all in 2023.

Scaup *(Aythya marila)*

A scarce winter visitor to Holes Bay, not recorded at all in some years, once present birds maybe present for some time.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Goldeneye *(Bucephala clangula)*

An irregular winter visitor in small numbers to Holes Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Goosander *(Mergus merganser)*

An uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant in Dorset; a rare visitor to Holes Bay.

One in SW sector on 11th and 12th November 2023, the first record since 30th November 2021.

Red-breasted Merganser *(Mergus serrator)*

Irregular winter visitor in small numbers to Holes Bay.

©Tina Dawkins

This species is in serious decline in Holes Bay and in Poole Harbour as a whole, and the table now gives bird-days rather than maxima. Two birds were present on 9th January and 23rd November 2023; otherwise, single birds.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bird-days	5	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1

Pheasant *(Phasianus colchicus)*

Formerly seen regularly at Upton Country Park (prior to the conversion of much of the adjacent farm to SANG), now rarely reported from the recording area.

One record – a single bird recorded at 'Upton Country Park and Holes Bay' on 13th February 2023.

Nightjar *(Caprimulgus europaeus)*

Although breeding widely on local heathlands a bird rarely if ever reported from the recording area, though given its crepuscular or nocturnal habits, it may be under-recorded.

Single birds were recorded on 1st June 2023 and 21st & 22nd August 2023.

Swift *(Apus apus)*

A summer visitor to Britain which has declined greatly in recent years. Birds may be seen feeding over the recording area and measures are being taken to provide safe nesting sites on buildings nearby.

Recorded from 29th April 2023 to 24th July 2023 (21 dates), with one very late record of a bird at the PC World Drain on 5th September 2023. Always recorded in small numbers (1-5 birds), with around one-third of the records from around the Barclays Building in Poole.

Cuckoo *(Cuculus canorus)*

An uncommon passage migrant in the recording area.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *(Columba livia)*

Feral pigeons, in various colour patterns, are thought to breed on many buildings and bridges (including Poole Bridge) and along the railway line around the recording area.

Recorded in every month and usually present in the urban areas where breeding probably occurs; maximum number recorded 27 on 3rd April 2023. A small flock of white 'doves' sometimes seen in the northern part of Holes Bay.

Stock Dove *(Columba oenas)*

Less conspicuous, lacking the white wing bars of the more abundant Wood Pigeon, the Stock Dove is found in much smaller numbers but its distinctive song can be heard from many wooded areas.

©Martin Adams

Recorded in all months of the year. The largest count recorded was 16 on 17th June 2023, but probably overlooked amongst the commoner Wood Pigeon. Singing birds frequent and widespread in the woods and gardens of Upton Country Park, but no conclusive evidence of breeding.

Wood Pigeon *(Columba palumbus)*

A common breeding species, the Wood Pigeon also forms feeding flocks, often seen in the fields at Upton Country Park. Flocks apparently migrating sometimes recorded with a large roost sometimes noted on Pergins Island. Probably under-recorded.

Always present at Upton Country Park; almost certainly bred with recently fledged young recorded in Upton Country Park on 15th May 2023. Counts of 50 or more included 89 on 4th January 2023, 67 on 13th February 2023, 93 on 9th October 2023 and 50 on 23rd November 2023. 620 were recorded leaving the roost on Pergins Island on 28th November 2023.

Collared Dove *(Streptopelia decaocto)*

Small numbers seen around the recording area, may breed.

Recorded in all months except October-December at various locations including the shoreline, and the west side of the SANG (near Roper's Lane). Records usually of 1-2 birds with a maximum of 4 recorded on 5th September 2023. No evidence of breeding, but regular presence of birds in particular locations suggest this may occur.

Water Rail *(Rallus aquaticus)*

A secretive bird, rarely seen, its presence often revealed by its squealing call, present in the reed beds around Holes Bay and occasionally on the ponds in Upton Country Park.

Recorded in all months of the year, except May usually 1-2 birds. Most records from the main reed beds around Holes Bay with birds also recorded from the duck pond in Upton Country Park. No definite evidence of breeding though it is likely that this may have occurred; most records refer to birds heard. More frequently recorded in spring, and especially, in Autumn (bird-days shown below) – possibly a reflection of migrant birds being present.

Bird Days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	5	8	6	-	5	3	6	11	9	4	1

Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus)

A few pairs breed around Holes Bay and on several of the ponds at Upton Country Park.

©Martin Adams

Recorded in Upton Country Park and around the Bay (including the PC World Drain) in all months of the year. Breeding birds were reported from the Grove Pond and the duck pond (both in Upton Country Park) and the PC World Channel with at least two broods seen at the Grove Pond on 25th June 2023. Maximum number recorded was 5 birds on 3rd March 2023, 11th May 2023 and 10th September 2023.

Coot *(Fulica atra)*

Occasionally seen in Holes Bay and thought to have previously bred on the Grove Pond in Upton Country Park.

Records, usually of single birds, on 9th, 16th, 29th & 30th January 2023, with 6 on 21st October 2023, and 3 on 22nd & 1 on 24th December 2023. Most records from around the PCW channel.

Little Grebe *(Tachybaptus ruficollis)*

A small flock regular in Holes Bay (often seen near the railway line) in the winter, thought to have previously bred on the pond in the Grove at Upton Country Park.

©Tina Dawkins

Small numbers in autumn/winter/spring, with last spring record 1 on 3rd April 2023 and first autumn record 2 on 7th October 2023; usually seen close to the railway in Holes Bay.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8* (29th)	9 (7th)	3* (5th)	1 (1st & 3rd)	-	-	-	-	-	4* (15th & 21st)	6 (29th)	10* (10th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Great Crested Grebe *(Podiceps cristatus)*

Small numbers present in Holes Bay, mainly in the winter but is seen almost the whole year. Nearby, birds regularly breed on sites such as Hatch Pond.

©Martin Adams

Reported in Holes Bay in all months of the year (50 dates) with most records south of the railway), an increase on 2022, when only recorded on 11 dates in January-March 2023 and 8 dates in November-December 2023. Maximum 5 on 8th May 2023. Two birds were seen briefly with nest material on 11th February 2023.

Black-necked Grebe *(Podiceps nigricollis)*

Rarely recorded in Holes Bay despite being an annual visitor to other parts of the Harbour and Studland Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)*

Occasional (usually unsuccessful) breeding bird around the margins of the Bay. Present all year round but more common in winter. The wintering population in Poole Harbour has declined since 1990.

©Nick Woods

Recorded from all months of the year in Holes Bay, monthly maxima given below.

Breeding records were more limited this year with no young observed. A pair were seen copulating on the Saltmarsh near Asda on 28/3/2023, and on 29/5/2023 there was possible display and courtship behaviour on a roof in Factory Road (where breeding occurred last year.)

In winter, large high tide roosts sometimes assemble on the south side of the railway embankment on the east side of the Bay. This year roosting was also seen further west along the embankment. Most of the high counts are or are assumed to be from these roosts. Anecdotally, these roosts seem to have declined in number in the last 20 years, in line with a national and local decline in wintering numbers.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
81 (26th)	29 (19th)	23 (5th)	22 (21st)	6 (13th)	3 (24th)	18 (31st)	27 (9th)	35 (10th)	51 (21st)	104 (30th)	114 (1st)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by*

Avocet *(Recurvirostra avosetta)*

Appearing in late autumn, flocks in Holes Bay can number over 200 in winter with numbers increasing in recent decades. Poole Harbour is one of the most important wintering sites in the UK for Avocet.

©Pete Corbin

Large numbers in winter, mainly in northern parts of Holes Bay. Although there was no repeat of last year's extraordinary high count of 484 on 16th January 2022, numbers continued to be very strong. More likely to stay in The Bay on all tides than most wader species, presumably as they are less reliant on exposed mud to feed.

The last Winter sighting was on 12th April 2023 with birds returning from 25th September – later and earlier than last year's dates of 13th March 2022 and 29th September 2022.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
288 (7th)	210 (13th)	16 (9th)	1 (12th)	-	-	-	-	5 (25th)	73 (31st)	256 (28th)	258 (29th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Lapwing *(Vanellus vanellus)*

A winter visitor to Holes Bay in small numbers, often best seen from the boardwalk in Holes Bay NW. Has been seen in the fields at Upton Country Park, especially in prolonged cold spells. Formerly bred on the fields were the Upton bypass now goes through.

©Nick Woods

There were 23 records in 2023, the exact same number as 2022 and 2020, although there were 30 records in 2021.

13 records were in the first winter period up until 5th March 2023, and 10 in the second winter period from 10th September 2023.

There were 2 records of birds in 13 Arce Field and 1 of a bird flushed in Half Moon Field, but most records were in Holes Bay North-West.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4 (9th)	3 (4th)	1 (5th)	-	-	-	-	-	2 (10th)	1 (16th)	1 (m)	9 (3rd)

m = multiple dates

Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)*

A passage migrant or winter visitor to Holes Bay, birds being reported more often in recent years.

6 records: 2 in January (One North-West & one South-West.) One record of 2 birds North-West on 21st June 2023. 3 Records in December: 2 of single birds South-West, One of 2 birds (exact location not specified.)

This pales in comparison with the 30 records from autumn 2022, with a high count of 11. However, the 3 records of single birds in 2021 represents a more typical year.

Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)*

Usually an occasional visitor to Holes Bay, mainly as a passage migrant, with small flocks rarely seeming to stay long.

2 records – a flock on 10 seen briefly in Holes Bay North-West on 15th August 2023 and a single bird on 7th September 2023. As with Grey Plover, last autumn was extraordinary with 18 records and a high count of 42. More typically, there was 1 record in 2020 and none in 2021.

Whimbrel *(Numenius phaeopus)*

A regular spring and autumn passage migrant seen in Holes Bay singly or in small numbers.

13 Spring records between 18th April 2023 and 15th May 2023, and 16 Autumn records between 10th July 2023 and 10th September 2023. The dates were broadly similar to last year's, except that 2023's records extended into June. Totals were higher this year however, due to greater efforts to count birds that tend to be spread out around the Bay.

Often found in the under-watched "Boat Graveyard" South of Cobb's Quay in Hole Bay South-West.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	-	7 (29th)	5 (9th)	-	4 (19th)	5 m	1 (10th)			

M = multiple dates

Whimbrel ©Andy Collyer

Curlew ©Pete Corbin

Curlew *(Numenius arquata)*

Can be seen in Holes Bay in all months of the year with counts of 50 or more in the winter, favouring Pergins Island and the saltmarsh South of the railway embankment. Can also be seen feeding in the fields of Upton Park Farm.

Recorded in all months of the year; monthly maxima given below. Worryingly, this is the first year since the first report in 2020 that we have failed to record totals of 100+, or even 90+. By contrast,

in 2020 there were 2 months were counts exceeded 100 and a further 3 where they exceeded 90. This sadly reflects the national decline of this iconic, Red-listed wader.

12 records of birds in 13 Acre Field, with a maximum of 53 on 7th November 2023. This is an increase in records and numbers, possibly reflecting the wetter autumn and winter.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
83* (29th)	47* (19th)	36 (20th)	10 (29th)	4 (12th)	12 (30th)	76 (10th)	69 (9th)	50 (10th)	76* (15th)	88* (26th)	56 (10th)

Combined Holes Bay count by WeBS counters shown by * M = multiple dates

Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)*

Occasional winter visitor to Holes Bay. In Poole Harbour this species is more characteristic of Whitley Lake and Brownsea Island, and vastly outnumbered by the Black-tailed Godwit.

8 records. One each in February, March and April. 4 records in September (2 of 2 birds,) and one in November. There were 10 records in 2022, although these were all in September and October.

Black-tailed Godwit *(Limosa limosa)*

Can be seen in all months of the year in Holes Bay but numbers much greater, and increasing, on passage and in winter with regular counts of over 1,000. This is an internationally important figure, representing over 1% of the world's population. The Poole Harbour wintering population is thought to be exclusively of the Icelandic race (Limosa limosa icelandica) the population of which is estimated at 50-70,000 individuals.

©Nick Woods

A truly extraordinary year, capping an extraordinary few years for the 'Blackwit.' Before 2020 there were no known counts of 1000+ in Holes Bay. A count of 1,260 was recorded in September 2020, the only count of 1000+ that year. Since there have been regular counts exceeding the threshold for international importance of 1,100, including one count of 2000+ in January 2021.

In a wider context, wintering Black-tailed Godwit numbers have increased massively in Britain and Poole Harbour. They were considered a rare visitor to Dorset in the 19th Century, becoming more common in the 20th Century. Numbers really took off from the mid-1980s onwards, and a Poole Harbour total of 2,046 in March 1995 was a county record. This increase is thought to be mainly due to 2 factors. Firstly, the population in Iceland has increased due to greater protection and the warming climate expanding their range and breeding success, with a population of 2-3000 in 1900 growing to over 50,000 now. Secondly, the warmer winters have led to birds 'short stopping' here instead of heading to the Bay of Biscay and Portugal (presumably this increase in their winter

range has also had a positive effect on their population). In contrast to the Icelandic race, the nominate race which breeds from Britain eastwards to Russia is in sharp decline, mainly due to habitat loss. Indeed, Black-tailed Godwit, along with many wading birds, would probably have bred in Dorset in the past.

Cold weather at the end of January and into February resulted in birds seeking the relative warmth of Holes Bay, especially with the Lagoon on Brownsea Island partly freezing up. The count of 4,120 on 28th January 2023 by Ian Ballam was a site record, and a record count for one site in Dorset. Numbers were high for a few weeks, but again passed the 2000 mark in December.

In contrast, numbers on Spring and Autumn passage were not quite as spectacular as in previous years. September's high count of 382 was notably low. Wet weather and low pressure meant that water levels were unusually high, meaning that the mud the birds feed on and the saltmarsh they roost on was flooded for longer periods. This is a threat going forward, with sea levels predicted to rise.

©Martin Adams

Internationally significant numbers have now been recorded in Holes Bay in every month except for May, June and July. It is worth noting also that different birds use The Bay at different times of the year: many of the birds recorded in August will have moved on to wintering grounds further South. Therefore, the true numbers of birds that use Holes Bay throughout the year are likely to be much higher than these already phenomenal maximum figures.

Recorded twice in the fields of Upton Park Farm, notably on 1st December 2023 when over 450 of the flock of 2,222 moved into 13 Arce Field for a short time as the tide rose. Although Blackwit can be seen in every month as non-breeding birds over-summering in Poole Harbour, there was a gap in records between 20th May 2023 and 26th June 2023.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4120 (28th)	3036 (11th)	1044 (29th)	682* (2nd)	120 (3rd)	9 (30th)	250+ (26th)	800+ (16th)	382 (22nd)	949 (18th)	1678 (23rd)	2222 (1st)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by * m = multiple dates

Turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)*

A winter visitor to Holes Bay often seen (usually distantly) on the Railway Embankment.

©Nick Woods

22 records, the exact same number as last year. Probably present on the Railway Embankment in winter more frequently than recorded but often distant and hard to see. They have been recorded in 3 sectors on the Embankment, and if any are on the Embankment in the North-West they would be too far away to be visible from any accessible viewpoint. Also occasionally seen on the Saltmarsh in the South-West. Extreme dates 2nd April 2023 and 7th October 2023.

Under-recorded previously with 1 record in 2020 and 10 in 2021 before being 'discovered' on the Embankment, resulting in greater focus and observer effort.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12 (26th)	8 (11th)	8 (27th)	9 (2nd)	-	-	-	-	-	2 (m)	18 (17th)	20 (1st)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by * m = multiple dates

Knot *(Calidris canutus)*

An occasional winter visitor to Holes Bay, probably appearing more regularly in recent years.

A record of 4 birds on 31st August 2023, then 2 records of single birds in September before a flurry of 14 records in December with a peak count of 57 on 21st December 2023.

This follows the recent pattern of the occasional small flock with odd birds in-between: a flock overwintered in 2020/21, and a small flock was frequently present in autumn 2022, with scattered autumn/ winter records in-between.

Last year's high count of 25 was the highest year count in Dorset, in a poor year for Knot, and it seems that this year's high count of 57 will once again hold this distinction, as well as being the highest count ever recorded in Holes Bay.

Ruff *(Calidris pugnax)*

Occasionally seen in Holes Bay or on the fields of Upton Park Farm, but not recorded every year.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Curlew Sandpiper *(Calidris ferruginea)*

A scarce passage migrant in Holes Bay – recorded occasionally, and not necessarily every year.

1 record of 4 birds on 4th October 2023, after 2 records in 2022, none in 2021 and 2 in 2020. Very probably under-recorded amongst the often-distant flocks of similar-looking Dunlin.

Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)*

The smallest wader commonly found in Holes Bay, winter flocks may number 500 or more and when disturbed will form tight flocks.

©Martin Adams

No repeat of last year's extraordinary high count of 1168, or of the particularly strong autumn numbers, but counts once again exceeded 500 at the start and end of the year. Last date 6th April 2023 (2 weeks later than 2022) and first date 22th July 2023 (6 days earlier than 2022.)

It is worth noting that despite seeing such large numbers these birds are on the Red List due to the decline in wintering numbers.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
500+ (24th)	87 (1st)	40+ (13th)	3 (6th)	-	-	1 (22nd)	3 (7th)	7 m	40 (31st)	355 (17th)	503* (10th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by * m = multiple dates

Woodcock *(Scolopax rusticola)*

Rarely recorded and then usually single birds flushed from some of the less disturbed woodland areas in winter, or more recently as Peregrine prey.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Jack Snipe *(Lymnocryptes minimus)*

A scarce winter visitor, seen infrequently in Holes Bay – probably associated with colds spells and not recorded each year.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Snipe *(Gallinago gallinago)*

An inconspicuous wader often lurking on the edges of the reed beds in Holes Bay with only one or a few birds usually seen in winter. Birds may be heard calling as they fly out of the saltmarsh at dusk.

©Rene Goad

44 records in 2023, another increase in records after 26 records in 2022 and 10 in 2021.As with Turnstone, this is mainly a result of greater focus on the South of the Bay and suitable habitat there, in this case the Saltmarsh North of Cobb's Quay in the South-West. Snipe seem almost ever present here in the winter, if not always conspicuous. 8 records were from the North of Holes Bay, and 4 from 13 Acre Field or Upton Park Farm.

Last Spring date 8th April 2023, over a month after last year's, and first winter record 10th October 2023, 3 weeks after last year's.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
24 (15th)	10 (21st)	3 (7th)	5 (10th)	-	-	-	-	-	3 (31st)	21 (23rd)	21 (24th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Common Sandpiper *(Actitis hypoleucos)*

Mainly a spring or autumn migrant in Poole Harbour (and more rarely a winter visitor); usually seen around the edge of Holes Bay, sometimes frequenting the railway embankment or the shore along the Holes Bay cycleway.

©Andy Collyer

There were no winter records this year, after a single bird overwintered in the winter of 2021/2022, and 1 was present in the second winter period of 2022 up until 16th December 2022. The last record coincided with a cold snap, so it is possible that the bird perished or moved on due to the cold weather.

Although locally common as a passage bird only about 50 birds overwinter in the UK, and Holes Bay was one of only 3 sites in Dorset with winter records in 2022.

There were only 6 Spring records between 17th April and 29th April 2023 with a maximum of 3 on the 27th, but 24 autumn records with a maximum of 4 on the 9th August 2023. Recorded in 3 sections of Holes Bay and the PC World Drain. Birds on the Railway Embankment are often flushed by passing trains, where they can be easily identified from within the train by their distinctive flight.

Bird Days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	9	0	0	0	12	17	20	3	0	0

Green Sandpiper *(Tringa ochropus)*

A scarce passage migrant or winter visitor, usually of single birds. Sometimes frequents the channels in Holes Bay NE.

Three records. 1 bird on 24th January 2023 and 2 on 17th April 2023 in the North-West, and 1 bird on 25th October 2023 (exact location not specified.)

Redshank *(Tringa totanus)*

Present in Holes Bay for most of the year, and may have bred in the past, it's piping call is one of the signature sounds of wetland habitats. Passage or wintering flocks can number more than 200.

©Nick Woods

Recorded in all months of the year except May.

Fairly consistent with last year's figures, although the high count of 292 was exceeded by last year's 323.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
182* (29th)	200 (19th)	184 (5th)	72 (2nd)	-	16 (30th)	189 (19th)	292 (9th)	215 (17th)	289* (15th)	146* (26th)	233* (10th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

On 26th August 2023, a colour-ringed Redshank was seen in Holes Bay NW from the 'WadersForReal' program: https://www.gwct.org.uk/wadersforreal/. This year's bird was ringed on the nest in 2021 and had returned to nest successfully in 2022 and 2023. This is the third year running that a bird from this program has been recorded in Holes Bay.

Spotted Redshank *(Tringa erythropus)*

Once a regular winter visitor or passage migrant with one or two birds being regularly seen along the Northern edges of Holes Bay, this species has become much less frequent in recent years. In the last couple of year, it has been recorded more frequently in the South-West.

©Martin Adams

©Tina Dawkins

29 records in 2023, a slight increase on 24 records in 2022, which was a significant increase on the 8 records in 2021 and 2 records in 2020. As with Snipe and Turnstone, this is largely due to a greater focus on the South of the Bay.

There were 11 records of 1 or 2 birds in the First Winter Period up until 6th March 2023, all in the South-West where a location was specified. There were 18 Autumn/Winter records from 15th August 2023, including 4 records of 2 birds. Of the records that specified a location, 2 were in the North-East and 1 in the North-West.

Greenshank *(Tringa nebularia)*

An uncommon but annual passage migrant or winter visitor to Holes Bay. As with Spotted Redshank, this is a bird that has become less common in recent years.

12 records in 2023, slightly down on the 16 records in 2023, but a slight increase on the 10 records in 2021 and 11 in 2020.

2 Spring records, on 27th April and 1st May 2023. 10 Autumn/Winter records from 17th August including just 1 record of 2 birds on 17th November 2023 (compared to 4 records of 2 birds in 2023.) 2 records were of birds flying over Half Moon Field from the hard to observe Western corner of Holes Bay North-West, suggesting that birds might be under-recorded here.

Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)*

A rare visitor to Holes Bay, though breed in small numbers it is common on passage along the Dorset Coast.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)*

Present all year in Holes Bay, flying over and on the fields of Upton Country Park. Breeds elsewhere in Poole Harbour and the strikingly patterned juveniles may attract attention in late summer. Large flocks may be seen flying to and from Holes Bay.

Seen in all months of the year with high counts in the winter months, notably over 2000 recorded on the 8th January 2023. The first juveniles were recorded on the 8th July 2023 in front of the stone bench, Holes Bay n/w.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
529 (29th)	>2000 (8th(	186* (5th)	452* (16th)	16 (9th)	76 (23rd)	35 (10th)	339 (13th)	451* (10th)	1048* (15th)	1820 (15th)	781* (10th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Black-headed Gull © MartinAdams

Mediterranean Gull ©Nick Woods

Little Gull *(Hydrocoloeus minutus)*

A very scarce visitor

A one day only sighting, two birds on 1st May 2023 in Holes Bay, one bird lingered for the day. (Mathew Crosby). This was the first sighting since 2016.

Mediterranean Gull *(Ichthyaetus melanocephalus)*

The distinctive calls of overflying birds of this species are a feature of early spring and birds may also be seen in Holes Bay or on the fields of Upton Park Farm.

Recorded in most months with highest counts recorded during March with a record of 17 seen on mud in the north Holes Bay at 16:00hrs with probably more flying over. The first juvenile was noted on the 8th July 2023 associating with juvenile Black-headed Gulls in front of the stone bench in n/e Holes Bay. An unseasonal record of 2 on the 23rd December 2023.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	4 (21st)	17 (16th)	4 (2nd)	2 (2nd)	0	1 (8th)	1 (13th)	0	0	0	2 (23rd)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Common Gull *(Larus canus)*

Recorded in spring, winter, and autumn, usually in Holes Bay.

Good numbers seen during autumn and winter lingering into April 2023, the last spring record were six on 16th April 2023. First returning autumn birds were recorded on 12th August 2023.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11* (29th)	32 (21st)	28 (14th)	8* (2nd)	0	0	0	2 (21st)	8* (10th)	15* (15th)	13* (26th)	21 (23rd)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Great Black-backed Gull *(Larus marinus)*

This large and intimidating gull is usually present in low numbers in Holes Bay.

Seen in all months of the year in small numbers with a maximum of 11 on the WeBS counts in March and October.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5* (29th)	3* (19th)	11* (5th)	8* (2nd)	2* (16th)	2 (12th)	2 (3rd)	3 (13th)	8* (10th)	11* (15th)	2* (26th)	7* (10th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)*

Common resident and winter visitor.

Almost always present in Holes Bay. Usually breeds on buildings in Poole town and on industrial buildings to the west of Upton Country Park. An adult and two small chicks were recorded on the roof of an industrial unit in Factory Road, Upton on 5th June 2023. An interesting observation was noted on 10th October 2023 of 250 assembling at dusk to roost on the mudflats.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
117* (29th)	128* (19th)	80 (29th)	150 (18th)	26 (1st)	60 (24th)	23 (6th)	360* (13th)	354* (10th)	328* (15th)	212* (26th)	273* (10th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Yellow-legged Gull *(Larus michahellis)*

Once a regular visitor to Holes Bay in small numbers, this species is now only seen occasionally.

An early spring record of one seen on 5th March 2023, then one on 10th May 2023 of an adult in Holes Bay north west near the drain outlet. There were further sightings from July to December with a maximum count of three on 30th September 2023.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *(Larus fuscus)*

Regularly present in small numbers in Holes Bay.

©Martin Adams

Seen in all months of the year, maximum count this year of 23 on 13th April 2023. On 23rd July 2023 a pair were seen calling and dive-bombing suggesting breeding on site at the old Power Station.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3* (29th)	10	15 (20th)	23 (13th)	7 (1st)	14 (26th)	7 (24th)	6* (13th)	9* (10th)	4* (15th)	10 (23rd)	2* (10th)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Sandwich Tern *(Thalasseus sandvicensis)*

Breeding locally on Brownsea Island and an occasional visitor to Holes Bay particularly during passage time.

©Rene Goad

Recorded first in Holes Bay South a single on 23rd March 2023, not recorded again until late April, two-three birds picked up in early morning fog on the 29th April 2023, two seen 3rd May 2023. Only sighting after this was of two 31st July 2023, a good record of four on 9h August 2023.

Autumn records include September there were several sightings with two 4th and 21st September 2023 and singles on 5th, 19th, 22nd and 30th September 2023. Two 15th October and sightings recorded in November of 1 on 6th, 2 on the 9th, 1 on the 11th.

Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)*

Like the Sandwich Tern, this summer migrant breeds on Brownsea Island but relatively few visit Holes Bay and then usually only 1 or 2 birds at a time.

First bird of season was recorded on 3rd May 2023 from the RNLI college. On 15th May was seen from the stone bench in north west of Holes Bay, fishing briefly - unusual in this part of the bay. Single recorded on 29th and three on 31st July 2023. Two on the 9th, 1 on the10th, 1 on the 24th August 2023, 1 on the 7th and 10th September 2023, 1 on the 2nd November 2023.

One was photographed as prey item by Peregrine returning to the balcony of the Barclays Building in Poole on 29th May 2023.

Razorbill *(Alca torda)*

A coastal species rarely found in the inner harbour. As far as is known, not previously recorded in Holes Bay.

A single bird in Holes Bay south – opposite Poole railway station on 11th November 2023.

Red-throated Diver *(Gavia stellata)*

A very scarce winter visitor to Holes Bay.

One flew over the south part of Holes Bay, appearing from the north and flying towards Asda, on 10th December 2023 – the first known record since 2015

Great Northern Diver *(Gavia immer)*

A very scarce winter visitor to Holes Bay, not recorded in every year and then usually single birds.

A single bird recorded on 20th & 23rd November 2023 in south-west Holes Bay. First known record since 2019.

Shag *(Phalacrocorax aristotelis)*

Breeding along the cliffs of Dorset, this species, unlike the Cormorant, is rarely seen in the inner parts of Poole Harbour.

©Martin Adams

Single birds reported on three dates in January 2023, one date in September 2023 and seven dates in November 2023, usually in the south part of Holes Bay. A bird seen in early November

was thought to be unwell and possibly fouled with fishing line, though it is not known what happened to it. Eleven records is an increase over recent years with 3 in 2020 and 2022 and none in 2021.

Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)*

Often present in small numbers in Holes Bay, much larger flocks are occasionally recorded.

Cormorant ©Martin Adams

Cormorant (continental) ©Pete Corbin

Present in Holes Bay throughout the year, usually with 20 or less birds being recorded but with the following large counts (50 or more birds): c 70 on 1st January 2023, 136 on 21st February 2023, 150+ flying over 1st, 50+ on 2nd & 7th November 2023. The large counts usually referring to flocks. A bird of the continental race (P. carbo sinensis) was identified by Steve Groves from a photograph taken by Peter Corbin on 6th August 2023.

Spoonbill *(Platalea leucorodia)*

An occasional visitor to Holes Bay though now regularly seen in some numbers in Poole Harbour as a whole.

©Pete Corbin

Three birds were seen in the north-west of Holes Bay on 26th January 2023 and then 1-5 birds in Holes Bay on 11 dates from 9th October 2023 to 9th December 2023

Cattle Egret *(Bubulcus ibis)*

Once a rare passage migrant, the Cattle Egret is now regularly recorded at sites across Dorset and has bred in the county.

Single birds in Holes Bay on the following dates 13th August 2023, 11th, 12th & 24th October 2023. The bird on 13th August 2023 was with Little Egrets on Pergins Island and there were several reports from Lytchett Bay of birds flying towards Holes Bay, possibly to roost.

Grey Heron *(Ardea cinerea)*

Usually present in Holes Bay, with birds sometimes seen roosting at high tide along the railway line; sometimes visits Grove Pond in Upton Country Park.

Recorded (usually in single figures) in all months of the year in Holes Bay with a maximum count of 10 on 15th October 2023 and 25th November 2023. Birds were seen roosting on the railway embankment at high tides on several occasions.

Grey Heron in flight ©Tina Dawkins

Great White Egret in flight ©Martin Adams

Great White Egret *(Ardea alba)*

Rarely recorded in Holes Bay, though with increasing numbers being reported in Dorset (as a passage migrant and winter visitor) perhaps likely to become more frequent.

A good series of records with single birds on 26th July 2023, 16th August 2023 and 4th & 10th October 2023, with seven birds on 9th October 2023.

Little Egret *(Egretta garzetta)*

Usually present in Holes Bay, sometimes with large high tide roosts along the railway line or in the trees along the shore of Upton Country Park.

©Martin Adams

©Nick Woods

Usually present around Holes Bay with small numbers of birds sometimes feeding in the fields of Upton Park Farm. Monthly maxima are given below, though these may not be truly representative

of the numbers present, since largest counts are often of birds flying to or from roosts; daytime visits may not therefore record the maximum number present. A regular roost is believed to occur on Pergins Island with birds sometimes seeming to assemble nearby on the saltmarsh. The 75+ birds recorded on 18th July 2023 were roosting on Pergins Island and there were other records of birds flying to roost on the island and of birds roosting on the railway embankment and in trees in Boathouse wood.

Monthly maximum counts:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27 (20th)	9* (19th)	10 (20th)	6 (18th)	4 (24th)	10 (24th)	75+ (18th)	71 (4th)	44 (19th)	33* (15th)	16* (26th)	11 (1st)

Combined Holes Bay counts by WeBS counters shown by *

Osprey *(Pandion haliaetus)*

Regularly seen in Holes Bay on migration, with sightings having increased in recent years. In the autumn, one or more birds may be present for several weeks. A platform on the Upton Country Park side of Pergins Island was erected in 2020. A project to reintroduce the Osprey to Poole Harbour is currently being run by the Birds of Poole Harbour.

As with last year, there were no Spring records and another productive autumn. There were 17 records of single birds between 19th August and 23rd October 2023 – the same number of records as last year, although over a longer time period compared to 30th August to 27th September 2022.

All records that stated plumage referred to Juveniles. Juveniles migrate later in the summer than the adults, and passage birds from further North take longer to get to the South coast, so it is probable that these records were all of Scottish juveniles.

The platform on Pergins Island collapsed in the second winter period.

In 2001, an Osprey stayed in Holes Bay from 1st October until 30th November, the latest record in Dorset.

© Rene Goad

© Rene Goad

Sparrowhawk *(Accipiter nisus)*

Regularly seen flying over Upton Country Park and around Holes Bay– probably breeds locally.

29 records in 2023, one more than the 28 from last year of this common but often elusive bird. Records in every month of the year, and recorded throughout Upton CP, around every sector of Holes Bay and on Pergins Island, with 1 record at Barclays House and one in the PC World Drain.

Marsh Harrier *(Circus aeruginosus)*

Occasional visitor to Holes Bay, birds flying over the saltmarsh or reed beds usually causing havoc amongst the waders and wildfowl.

3 records, the same number as last year; 1 on 27th March 2023 in Upton Country Park (although this could refer to Holes Bay,) 1 on 10th September 2023 in Holes Bay and 1 on 30th September 2023 on Upton Lake (i.e. Holes Bay.)

Hen Harrier *(Circus cyaneus)*

Very rarely recorded in Holes Bay, though at least one previous record: one near Upton Country Park in 1983.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Red Kite *(Milvus milvus)*

Increasing numbers seen in south-east Dorset, especially in spring of 2020, several records for Holes Bay, Upton Country Park and nearby areas.

11 records between 2nd March and 30th May 2023, including birds recorded over Fleetbridge, with the 4 recorded on the latter date the highest count. 3 records between 7th October and 23rd November 2023.

14 records represent an increase on the 6 in 2022 and 4 in 2021.

White-tailed Eagle *(Haliaetus albicilla)*

Birds from the Isle of Wight re-introducion scheme are becoming an increasingly common and popular sight in Poole Harbour.

©Rene Goad

3 records in 2024. 1 seen over Fleetsbridge flying towards Holes Bay on 18th May 2023, one recorded over Upton Lake on 30th September 2023 and a satellite tagged bird G466 logged passing through Holes Bay South 30th October 2023.

Buzzard *(Buteo buteo)*

The most frequently seen bird of prey in the recording area, and has bred in Upton Country Park, once scarce it spread rapidly in south-east Dorset in the 1980s and 1990s.

Buzzard ©Martin Adams

Buzzard in flight ©Pete Corbin

Ever present – recorded in every month of the year around Upton CP, Holes Bay, 13 Arce Field, Upton Park Farm and the PC World Drain. Also recorded in the centre of Poole by Barclays House several times, possibly indicating that birds are becoming more habituated to humans. A particularly confiding bird that frequented the park in the second half of the year was perhaps further evidence of this trend.

A record of 5 Individuals on 13th February 2023 was the highest count. Almost certainly bred, with 2 pairs seen displaying on 2nd April 2023 and 3 birds recorded 3 times in July and August, probably representing a family group.

Barn Owl *(Tyto alba)*

Occasionally recorded at Upton Country Park, though very rarely in recent years.

One recorded hunting along the verge by the Premier Inn/Holes Bay pub on the Holes Bay Road on 10th February 2023.

Tawny Owl *(Strix aluco)*

Heard from woodland areas notably in Upton Country Park.

Recorded in all months except January and November 2023, usually from the woodland areas of Upton Country Park with both males and females heard. Juveniles were seen and heard on a number of occasions, and 1 (possibly 2) juvenile were present at the north end of the Grove with another 2 calling at the Duck Pond on 1st July 2023, suggesting at least two pairs bred.

Kingfisher *(Alcedo atthis)*

A winter visitor to Holes Bay (when at least one bird is often present), with movement through in autumn, the birds starting to appear in August. Often seen perched on posts (or a shopping trolley) close to the Holes Bay cycleway and occasionally visits ponds in Upton Country Park.

©Tina Dawkins

Recorded on 107 dates from 1st January 2023 to 16th April 2023 mainly from the edges of Holes Bay and PC World Drain: usually a single bird but occasionally 2 or 3, and on one occasion 4, birds. Not recorded from Dead Man's Ditch or the Grove Pond. The number of bird days (see below) suggests passage through the site in autumn with fewer birds remaining in winter.

Monthly bird-days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	9	9	1	-	-	-	13	24	20	19	13

Great Spotted Woodpecker *(Dendrocopos major)*

Widespread and conspicuous in woodland areas and gardens, breeding at Upton Country Park and probably other areas.

©Martin Adams

One to three birds regularly recorded in all months of the year, usually at Upton Country Park with at least one drumming bird recorded. A juvenile was seen on 3rd August 2023 in Holes Bay south (near the school in Hamworthy). Probably bred in recording area.

Green Woodpecker *(Picus viridis)*

The distinctive 'yaffle' call of this species is frequently heard in Upton Country Park (often from the fields behind the stone bench) and the bird probably breeds in the Park and possibly in other areas.

One or two birds recorded in all months of the year (except September), usually at Upton Country Park, often from near the duck pond/east field or in the vicinity of Upton House. May have bred at Upton Country Park.

Kestrel *(Falco tinnunculus)*

Seen occasionally hunting over Upton Country Park and along the Holes Bay Road.

©Rene Goad

26 records in 2022, a significant increase on 18 records in 2022 and 13 records in 2021. 12 records that specified location were from Upton Country Park, after 11 in 2022 and none in 2021.

This is possibly due to changes in the management of the park: less mowing and more wild area could potentially have increased the population of the rodents that are Kestrel's main prey item.

Hobby *(Falco subbuteo)*

A summer migrant, the Hobby is a rare breeding bird on Dorset's heaths and forests, and birds are occasionally seen in the recording area.

One record on 9th October 2023, hunting over Holes Bay, the first record since 2013.

Peregrine *(Falco peregrinus)*

After several years of records in Holes Bay South on the Asda building, a pair successfully bred on Barclay's House in 2021 after a failed attempt in 2020.

©Rene Goad

The resident pair once again bred this year, again producing 3 young. Sadly, both adults subsequently succumbed to Avian Influenza. One juvenile subsequently remained on the territory for most of the rest of the year.

As last winter, both adults were seen on the territory throughout the winter: the female in particular was often present on Barclays House. Work continued on the Asda building, so this was no longer available as a perch and larder. The pair seemed to use the roof on the west side of Barclays House as a food storage/prep area instead.

The pair were seen copulating on the 14th and 17th of March 2023, and the first nest changeover (indicating that they were incubating) seen on the 26th, although the pair seemed elusive from the 22nd, a change of behaviour that could indicate that they were on eggs. The first changeover last year had been observed on 25th March 2022, while it had been confirmed that eggs had been laid on 14th April 2021.)

The first juvenile begging call was heard on the 14th May 2023, with a head and wing observed on the 25th indicating at least 2 young, and a juvenile was first seen on the Balcony on 29th May 2023. On the 31st May 2023 it was confirmed that there were once again 3 juveniles. The first juvenile fledged on the 6th June, and at least 1 more had fledged by the next day. (The first observed fledglings for the previous 2 years had been on 5th June 2022 and 14th June 2021, so the adults were consistent in their breeding dates over the last 2 years after a slower start.)

In each of the previous 2 years, a juvenile had died in the first week after fledging, and this is a dangerous time for them. On the 9th June, a juvenile was seen colliding with a pillar, although

thankfully it was unhurt. On the 14th a downed juvenile was rescued, and it was returned to the nest site a few days later.

This year, the family spent a lot of time on the roof of Barclay, possibly because Asda was unavailable. As the roof is higher than an available vantage point, observation was a lot more difficult and the birds sometimes elusive. All 3 were seen together on 10th & 28th June and then again, for the last time, on 2nd July. 2 juveniles were observed play fighting on the 18th June, and 1 seen flying towards Baiter with the male on the 20th. 2 juveniles were seen over Cobb's Quay in Hole Bay SE on 2nd July.

©Rene Goad

Unfortunately, HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) had hit the area, in particular devastating the Tern and Gull colonies on Brownsea Island, killing over 650 birds. The Poole Pair have been recorded flying towards Brownsea, and have been observed preying on Common Term, Sandwich Tern and Black-headed Gull, with the former being seen as a prey item on the 2nd July.

The male was last seen alive on 16th July 2023, but was then seen dead on the Asda building on the 18th. The female was last seen alive on the 25th, and was then seen dead, also on the Asda building on the 30th. The body of the male was recovered, but DEFRA apparently decided not to test it as HPAI had already been confirmed in the area. It is not known what became of the female's body, but the deaths can be attributed to HPAI.

The BTO ring on the male confirmed that he was HF, Ringed as a chick in Bournemouth in 2017, and had lost his colour ring in 2021.

2 juveniles were seen together on the 4th of August, the last sighting of more than 1. Fortunately, the death of the parents occurred at a time when the young would have been fending for themselves anyway, and 1 became regular on Barclays and Asda, favouring Asda (now completed) as the year went on.

On the 12th October, a failed attempt to take pigeon and Redshank was witnessed. After 29th October, there were no records in Poole until 22nd of December, followed by 2 more records of a Juvenile.

©Rene Goad

During the Spring there had been 2 intruders on the territory, both of ringed birds. Female Orange PDT was ringed as a chick in Hammersmith on 13th May 2022. She was seen in Richmond Park in August 2022 then in Poole on the 16th April 2023.Blue MP was 1 of 3 females ringed on 26 May 2020 at a coastal site in south Devon. She was seen on 15th March for the first time seen leaving the nest site.

There were 5 records over Holes Bay and 1 over Upton Country Park.

Jay *(Garrulus glandarius)*

A common breeding bird in Dorset with additional birds often arriving in autumn and conspicuous in the woodland and parkland of Upton Country Park.

Recorded in small numbers in all months of the year with a maximum count of 6 on dates in January-February, September and November 2023. Two juveniles were recorded on 13th July 2023 in Upton Country Park suggesting at least one pair bred there.

Magpie *(Pica pica)*

A common bird, probably breeding around the recording area.

©Martin Adams

Widely recorded all months of the year, maximum count 12 at Upton Country Park on 4th January 2023 (total for all parts of the Park). No records of breeding but it is likely that birds bred in several locations.

Jackdaw *(Coloeus monedula)*

Often the most abundant member of the crow family, with flocks frequenting the fields of Upton Park Farm. Probably breeds in trees and buildings in the recording area. Large roosts regularly form on Pergins Island.

Recorded in all months of the year and particularly notable for the large roosts that form on Pergins Island. 2000+ were recorded on 14th December 2023, but true numbers are hard to assess with mobile flocks, often in poor light. Counts of 200 or more were made in January, June, July, October, November and December.

Large pre-roosts form before sunset in the fields of Upton Park Farm and the surrounding trees, with smaller numbers of Carrion Crows and Rooks. The flock then departs to Pergins Island around sunset, where they spend the night, before leaving before sunrise. The roosts seem to mostly come from, and largely head back to, the West.

Birds were noted heading to roost from May this year, albeit in smaller numbers than the winter roost, earlier than had previously been noted.

There are no known records of this roost before winter 2020/21 suggesting that it may be a new phenomenon. A survey of Corvid roosts by Birds of Poole Harbour in 2007/08 did not record a roost on Pergins Island, although it did record them flying over the Island upon leaving a roost on Upton Heath.

No breeding records received but almost certainly bred in the area.

Rook *(Corvus frugilegus)*

Recorded much less often than the Jackdaw, with which it will feed, thought to have previously bred on the Upton Estate.

Possibly under-recorded, recorded on 9 dates (compared to 15 dates in 2022). Small numbers (usually one to eight birds) were recorded in January-March, August-September and December 2023. Maximum recorded 20 on 25th February 2023

Carrion Crow *(Corvus corone)*

A resident species probably breeding in the recording area.

Usually present in Upton Country Park, with birds recorded from the recording area in all months. High counts (20 or more) included: 26 on 4th January 2023, 30 on 18th April 2023, 129 on 21st & 23 on 22nd October 2023. Fledged young were seen in Upton Country Park on 21st June 2023, suggesting at least one pair bred there.

Raven (*Corvus corax)*

In recent years the Raven has been recorded regularly in the area and is believed to have bred on Pergins Island, reflecting the bird's increasing presence in Dorset. Its distinctive call is often heard over Upton Country Park.

Recorded (usually one to two birds) in January, March-April and July-December 2023 with a maximum of 4 (thought to be a family party) on 17th July 2023. May have bred nearby. Often seen flying over Upton Country Park, around the power station site and elsewhere in Holes Bay.

Coal Tit *(Periparus ater)*

Frequent in woods and gardens and probably breeding widely in the recording area.

Recorded in all months of the year. Maximum recorded count was 6 at Upton Country Park on 14th March 2023. No confirmed reports of breeding were received but it is likely the bird bred at Upton Country Park and possibly elsewhere.

©Nick Woods

©Martin Adams

Marsh Tit *(Poecile palustris)*

An uncommon and declining breeding resident in Dorset, very rarely reported from the recording area.

Two birds recorded at 'Holes Bay' on 25th February 2023 and a 'probable' in Upton Country Park on 14th March 2023.

Blue Tit *(Cyanistes caeruleus)*

Widespread and common as a breeding bird.

Recorded in all months of the year. Maximum count was 28 on 13th February 2023 (combined count for all areas of Upton Country Park). At least two pairs are thought to have bred at Upton Country Park with fledged young seen near the bird hide on 27th May 2023 and near the board walk on 22nd June 2023.

Great Tit *(Parus major)*

Probably widespread and common as a breeding bird around the recording area.

©Rene Goad

Recorded in all months of the year with a maximum count of 20 birds on 4th January 2023 (combined count for all areas of Upton Country Park). Bred in Upton Country Park (and possibly elsewhere in the recording area) with birds visiting a probable nest site near the stone bench on 11th April 2023 and fledged young seen by the observation point on 22nd June 2023.

Bearded Tit *(Panurus biarmicus)*

A very scarce autumn or winter visitor to the more extensive reedbeds – often only one or two birds and not recorded in every year.

A single record of one or two birds heard in the reedbed in front of the bird-screen/observation point on 17th November 2023.

Skylark *(Alauda arvensis)*

Rarely reported from the recording area though a possible migrant.

Records of a single bird heard flying over the PC World Drain and Upton Country Park on 26th October 2023, could possibly refer to the same individual; the first record since 2021.

Sand Martin *(Riparia riparia)*

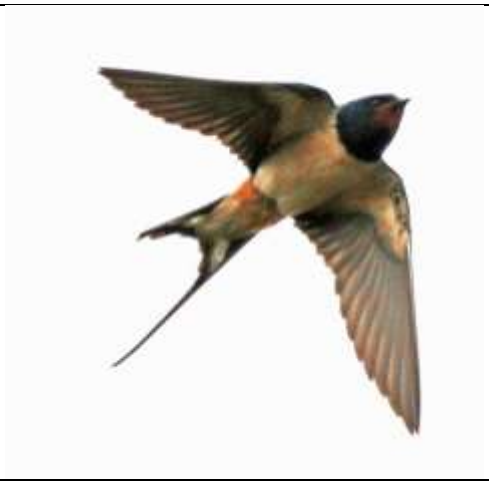
The scarcest of the three hirundines (Swallows and Martins) which are regular summer visitors, though a few are usually seen over Holes Bay on migration.

Only four records received – 3 heading south on 20th March 2023, 4 on 10th & 31st July 2023 and an unspecified number of birds on 16th August 2023. Most records from Upton Country Park.

Swallow *(Hirundo rustica)*

A few pairs often breed on buildings at Upton Country Park with flocks seen feeding over Holes Bay and the fields of Upton Park Farm.

Regularly recorded from 1st April to 30th September 2023, with a late record of a single bird on 27th November 2023. Usually in small numbers (20 or fewer birds), though the larger counts were made in the autumn: 23 on 7th & 20+ on 29th August 2023, 41 on 4th, 20 on 25th ,50+ on 27th & 20+ on 28th September 2023. Most records from Upton Country Park. At the park birds bred in the two ice-houses ('turrets') in the corners of the walled garden and in the courtyard of the tearooms (5 well-grown young seen there on 14th July 2023).

	
Swallow ©Rene Goad	**House Martin ©Rene Goad**

House Martin *(Delichon urbicum)*

Regular on migration with flocks often assembling in autumn, sometimes resting on prominent buildings such as Upton House.

Recorded on 25 dates from 20th May 2023 to 21st September 2023. Five records of ten or more birds: 10 on 16th June 2023, c 10 on 10th, 40+ on 24th & c20 on 31st July 2023, and 12 on 21st September 2023. Most of the larger counts were at Upton Country Park, with birds often feeding over the SANG or farm fields

Cetti's Warbler *(Cettia cetti)*

The sudden, indignant song of this inconspicuous resident warbler has been heard regularly along the shoreline since 2017 when a pair is first thought to have bred at Upton Country Park.

A single bird at the PC World channel on 30th January 2023 and 1-3 birds around the Upton Country Park shoreline on four dates in October 2023, including birds heard singing at the duck pond and near the observation point. The pattern of records suggest (as in 2022) that the species failed to breed in the recording area, where it is though to have been present as a breeding species between 2017 and 2021.

Long-tailed Tit *(Aegithalos caudatus)*

Probably a widespread breeding bird, the noisy flocks formed in the winter and roving around woodlands and gardens are more conspicuous.

©Nick Woods

Recorded (usually 1-10 birds) in all months except June with the largest count being 14 birds at Upton Country Park on 2nd December 2023. Two or more pairs probably bred in the recording area with nest building reported at the PC World Drain on 18th March 2023 and fledged young at Bascombe's pond in Upton Country Park on 27th May 2023.

Yellow-browed Warbler *(Phylloscopus inornatus)*

A very scarce visitor with a few records from wet scrubby areas around Holes Bay.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Willow Warbler *(Phylloscopus trochilus)*

Once thought to be a regularly breeding bird at Upton Country Park, the Willow Warbler has declined as a breeding bird and is now usually seen on spring or autumn migration, although the attractive song can sometimes be heard in spring and occasionally in autumn.

One to three birds recorded on 13 dates in spring (1st April 2023 to 2nd May 2023) and one to four birds recorded on 14 dates in autumn (3rd August 2023 to 9th September 2023). Majority of records were from the PC World Drain, with birds also recorded from Upton Country Park and one or two other locations around Holes Bay. Although a few records were made of singing birds, these were probably birds passing through and there was no evidence of birds breeding.

Willow Warbler ©Rene Goad

Chiffchaff ©Pete Corbin

Chiffchaff *(Phylloscopus collybita)*

In recent years, far commoner than the similar Willow Warbler; difficult to see but the simple 'chiff-chaff' song can be heard from woodland and scrub. A common passage migrant and found as a winter visitor.

Recorded in all months of the year. Wintering records were mainly from the PC World Drain in the first winter period, maximum 8 on 18th February 2023, with a single bird in Upton Country Park on 13th February 2023. Singing birds widely recorded especially at Upton Country Park and at the PC World Drain. At Upton Country Park 10 singing birds were recorded on 3rd April 2023 and fledged young were seen in the Park on 7th August 2023; allowing for some birds singing on passage, it suggests a number of pairs bred in the Park. In the autumn and second winter period birds were recorded from both the PC World Drain (maximum 20 on 30th August 2023) and Upton Country Park (one to two birds on several occasions).

A bird with a song like a Chiffchaff which then continued into descending notes like a Willow Warbler was heard from birches near the Grove boardwalk/causeway on 29th May 2023, with a similar song also heard in the same general area previously to this.

Siberian Chiffchaff *(Phylloscopus collybita tristis)*

The Siberian Chiffchaff is usually regarded as a different subspecies to the bird commonly found in Britain; difficult to distinguish on plumage it has a distinctive call and is regarded as a scarce autumn migrant and increasing winter visitor in Dorset.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Sedge Warbler *(Acrocephalus schoenobaenus)*

Usually reported as a migrant passing through, though sometimes singing in one place for a few days – much less frequent than the Reed Warbler.

Single birds on 22nd, 27th & 28th April 2023, 2nd & 7th May and 30th August 2023, mostly from the PC World channel with at least one record from Upton Country Park. No evidence of breeding.

Reed Warbler *(Acrocephalus scirpaceus)*

The song of this summer migrant is regularly heard from reed beds around the Bay and in wet habitats such as the Grove Pond and duck pond at Upton Country Park.

©Tina Dawkins

Regularly recorded in low numbers (maximum 9 on 2nd May 2023, 5th June 2023 and 3rd July 2023) from 20th April 2023 to 25th September 2023. Singing birds (up to nine) were recorded from

reed beds around Holes Bay and on the Grove pond in Upton Country Park. Fledged young were reported in Holes Bay north on 11th July 2023 and 29th August 2023 and several pairs probably bred. It is thought there were 20+ territories around the Bay at various times. It is known that Common Reed has increased in abundance in some parts of Holes Bay.

Blackcap *(Sylvia atricapilla)*

Mainly a summer migrant, with a few birds sometimes being found in winter, the clear, tuneful song is widely heard from woodland and scrub.

Regularly recorded from 28th March 2023 to 28th September 2023, with additional single birds at the PC World drain or Upton Country Park on 20th,21st & 26th October 2023, possibly representing wintering birds. Singing birds widespread in woodland and scrub areas especially at Upton Country Park and the PC World Drain. Maximum recorded was 9 birds around Upton Country Park on 2nd May 2023. Fledged young were seen in the Park on 22nd June 2023 and 7th August 2023, suggesting a number of pairs probably bred.

Female Blackcap ©Nick Woods

Male Blackcap ©Nick Woods

Lesser Whitethroat *(Sylvia curruca)*

Rarely reported passage migrant in recording area; less frequently seen than the Whitethroat.

Two records of single birds at the PC World drain – 27th April 2023 and 30th August 2023.

Garden Warbler *(Sylvia borin)*

Much scarcer than the similar sounding Blackcap, the Garden Warbler may occur occasionally on passage but tends not to breed in the recording area.

Single birds, though to be migrants recorded (mainly at the PC World drain) on 9th & 29th April 2023, 30th August 2023 and 1st September 2023 (with two birds on 21st August 2023).

Whitethroat *(Sylvia communis)*

Much more frequent than the Lesser Whitethroat on passage recorded most years, with birds sometimes singing and possibly breeding.

Spring migrants included singles on 15th, 22nd & 29th April 2023 with 8 on 27th April 2023 (all at the PC World Drain). A male was regularly singing along the hedge between half-moon field and Lambs Lees field from 13th May till 21st June 2023, with two birds seen on several occasions and one bird seen carrying a faecal sac on 3rd July 2023. This is the first confirmed breeding known at Upton Country Park, in an area with a recovering hedge, additional tree planting and longer grass

since it became part of the SANG. Single birds (probably migrants) were then present at the PC World channel on 21st, 27th, 29th & 30th August 2023, and 11th & 17th September 2023.

Whitethroat ©Rene Goad

Firecrest ©Rene Goad

Firecrest *(Regulus ignicapilla)*

Previously a scarce winter visitor to areas such as Upton Country Park, the Fircrest has greatly increased as a breeding bird in recent years, with singing birds heard in a number of locations. Wintering birds are widely found in woodland and garden areas with good cover.

Small numbers (usually one to two birds) recorded on 46 dates in January-June and August-December 2023, with 6 present on 14th March 2023. Monthly bird-days (given below) show an increase in the first part of the year compared to 2022. At Upton Country Park singing birds were recorded on at least three occasions at each of the following locations: near the north-west corner of the walled garden, at the south end of the old orchard and near the Allen's Lane entrance, suggesting birds holding territories and probably breeding, though this was not confirmed. Wintering birds recorded at various locations in Upton Country Park and at the PC World channel.

Monthly bird-days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	8	12	4	10	8	-	1	1	5	3	4

Goldcrest *(Regulus regulus)*

A common breeding bird in woodland and gardens, still far outnumbering the Firecrest, which has recently increased as a breeding bird.

Recorded in all months mainly from Upton Country Park, but also the PC World Drain and Holes Bay in general, maximum count of 8 at Upton Country Park on 9th October 2023 (count from all areas). Nest building was recorded near the old boat house in the Park on 20th May 2023 and it is likely that a number of pairs bred.

Wren *(Troglodytes troglodytes)*

Widespread and common in woodland, scrub and gardens as a breeding bird, occupying even small areas of suitable habitat.

Recorded in all months of the year, with a maximum count of 24 birds from all areas of Upton Country Park on 2nd May 2023. Fledged young were recorded in Upton Country Park on 12th August and it is likely that several pairs bred.

©Pete Corbin

©Andy Collyer

Nuthatch *(Sitta europaea)*

Widely distributed as a breeding bird in woodland and gardens, one of the noisiest and most conspicuous woodland birds.

Recorded in all months of the year and widespread in woodland and gardens at Upton Country Park and possibly suitable habitat elsewhere around the Bay. Maximum count of 11 birds on 4th September 2023 (counts from all areas of Upton Country Park). Although no records of breeding were received it is likely that several pairs bred in the Park.

Treecreeper *(Certhia familiaris)*

Much quieter and far less conspicuous than the Nuthatch, the Treecreeper is widely distributed in woodland, usually seen creeping up the trunks of the larger trees.

©Andy Collyer

Recorded on 28 dates, from every month except October 2023, usually one or two birds but 4 on 14th March 2023. Most records from Upton Country Park, with those for which a location was specified (13 records), concentrated on the area around Bascombe's Pond, the Grove (including the Grove pond) and Jack's Wood. Three birds, thought to be a family party, were seen near Bascombe's pond on 5th June 2023, and it is likely that a pair bred in that area, with the Grove / Jack's wood another possible breeding territory.

Starling *(Sturnus vulgaris)*

Most obvious for the passage or winter flocks, often seen feeding on grassland or perched on pylons and electricity transmission lines, e.g., on the Hamworthy side of Holes Bay. Starlings may also breed in trees or buildings.

Recorded in all months of the year except September. Twenty plus birds seen between the boardwalk and bird screen on20th May 2023, included a bird carrying food or faecal sac and fledged young were seen on 21st June 2023 in the south-west part of Holes Bay – suggesting breeding occurred in or near the recording area. There were relatively few large counts, with counts of 20 or more as follows: 50 on 25th February 2023, c40 on 5th, 20 on 7th & 20 on 15th March 2023, 20+ on 20th May 2023, 35 on 26th June 2023, 100+ on 3rd August 2023, 35 on 16th & 50 on 21st October 2023 and 20 on 23rd November 2023.

Fieldfare *(Turdus pilaris)*

Mainly a winter visitor with some birds also passing through, numbers may increase with flocks of over 100 birds being seen in really cold weather.

A single record in the first winter period: 1 flying over 11th February 2023, with only two records of living birds one on 22nd November 2023, perched briefly in the top of a tree near the walled garden and 4 on 5th December 2023. In addition, two records (on 12th & 25th November 2023) as prey remains at the Peregrine breeding site at Barclays House. It seems the Fieldfare is now a relatively scarce visitor to the area unless there is severe weather.

Song Thrush *(Turdus philomelos)*

A widespread breeding species with its repetitive song of clear phrases heard from gardens and woodland.

Regularly present in small numbers (one to three birds) particularly at Upton Country Park, but also recorded at the PC World Drain and recorded in all months except September 2023. Records often of singing birds, but no records of confirmed breeding.

Song Thrush ©Pete Corbin

Mistle Thrush ©Nick Woods

Mistle Thrush *(Turdus viscivorus)*

A widespread species, perhaps more comfortable away from cover than the Song Thrush it is often seen in the fields of Upton Park Farm.

Recorded in small numbers (1-4 birds), mainly from Upton Country Park in January-April 2023, September-October 2023 and December 2023. No records of breeding.

Redwing *(Turdus iliacus)*

Like the Fieldfare a winter visitor also seen on passage, often more abundant than the Fieldfare with birds present in woodland areas for much of winter and large flocks numbering several hundred in severe weather.

©Rene Goad

Recorded from 4th January 2023 to 15th March 2023 (maximum 57 at Upton Country Park on 13th February 2023) and from 9th October 2023 to the end of the year (maximum c 20 at Upton Country Par on 4th December 2023).

Blackbird *(Turdus merula)*

A common breeding bird and prominent singer, the Blackbird is also a migrant and winter visitor though these are difficult to distinguish from the residents, often seems more abundant in winter.

Recorded in all months of the year, mainly from Upton Country Park. Several pairs probably bred with nest building seen behind the lookout/bird hide on 18th May 2023 and fledged young seen at the PC World Drain on 14th June 2023 and in Upton Country Park. Maximum count was 24 birds on 13th February 2023 from all areas of Upton Country Park.

Spotted Flycatcher *(Muscicapa striata)*

A declining summer visitor in Dorset, the Spotted Flycatcher is now a characteristic autumn migrant often seen in scrub around the farm fields at Upton Country Park where individuals will make fly-catching sorties and usually return to the same perch.

Spotted Flycatcher ©Andy Collyer

Spotted Flycatcher ©Nick Woods

Autumn passage recorded on 12 dates from 21st August 2023 to 7th September 2023, usually 1-5+ birds with a maximum of 7 at Upton Country Park on 26th August 2023; monthly bird-days given below. Birds were most frequently recorded around the east fields of Upton Country Park (the fields behind the stone bench) or at the PC World Drain, but there were also records of single birds on two dates near the SANG car park. In addition, two birds including a juvenile were seen near the shoreline (west of the duck pond) in Upton Country Park on 26th June 2023, these were thought to be locally breeding birds, though the absence of any other spring / summer records suggest that breeding may not have been in the recording area itself.

Monthly bird-days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	34	9	-	-	-

Pied Flycatcher *(Ficedula hypoleuca)*

Very scarce passage migrant in recording area.

One record of a single bird flying around the young oaks in the east field near the donated tree paddock at Upton Country Park on 21st August 2023.

Pied Flycatcher ©Nick Woods

Whinchat ©Martin Adams

Robin *(Erithacus rubecula)*

Widespread and common as a breeding bird and, where fed, happy to approach people; migrant birds probably increase numbers in winter.

Recorded in all months of the year with maximum counts of 20 birds from all areas of Upton Country Park on 3rd November 2023. Several pairs probably bred at the Park and elsewhere in the recording area, with fledged young reported from the Park.

Redstart *(Phoenicurus phoenicurus)*

A scarce passage migrant around Holes Bay.

Only a single record – of six birds at the PC World drain on 30th August 2023.

Whinchat *(Saxicola rubetra)*

A scarce passage migrant in the recording area.

Single birds (probably the same individual) recorded near the boardwalk and in scrub behind the bird screen on 21st & 22nd September 2023.

Stonechat *(Saxicola rubicola)*

A common breeding bird on nearby heaths but seen in the recording area mainly in autumn/spring and winter – when birds may occasionally be found on the shoreline or in the fields at Upton Country Park.

Fewer records than in 2022 with none from first winter period (compared to 7 in 2022). autumn/second winter period: a single at Upton Country Park on 27th September 2023, present in Holes Bay SW on 7th October 2023, then, at Upton Country Park: 2 on 16th October 2023, 1 on 3rd November 2023 and 2 on 11th December 2023. Most frequently recorded along the shoreline or nearby in drying ground and/or half-moon fields.

Wheatear *(Oenanthe oenanthe)*

An uncommon passage migrant, sometimes seen in areas such as Upton Country Park and along the Holes Bay Road.

©Rene Goad

In the spring: singles on 11th & 12th April 2023 in a garden close to Holes Bay (SW sector). In the autumn 1or 2 birds recorded from around Holes Bay on 11 dates, from 6th September 2023 to 25th October 2023. A male, recorded on 26th & 27th September 2023, was described as having characteristics of the Greenland race (*O. oenanthe leucorhoa)* i.e. large, strongly marked, with strong buff-pink on underparts extending to vent area.

House Sparrow *(Passer domesticus)*

A once abundant bird that is known to have declined in many areas, probably still breeds in residential areas around Holes Bay and small flocks may be seen on the fringes of Upton Country Park.

Female House Sparrow ©Nick Woods

Male House Sparrow © Nick Woods

Although this species may be under-recorded, it was recorded in all months of the year. Noted on the edge of Upton Country Park near Symes Road and around Holes Bay, and occasionally in the

SANG near the footpath down from Roper's Lane. Larger counts often from SW Holes Bay (near Symes Road) where a local resident maintains bird feeders on the edge of the reeds/saltmarsh. Counts of 30 or more birds: c 30 on 5th March 2023, 80 in SW Holes Bay on 18th April 2023, 30 in Holes Bay south on 25th September 2023, 30 on 22nd October 2023 and 30 on 29th November 2023. Likely to breed on the Hamworthy side of Holes Bay but no records of breeding received.

Dunnock *(Prunella modularis)*

A widespread breeding resident.

Recorded in all months of the year, usually in small numbers (maximum count 14 on 7th March 2023 – count from all of Upton Country Park). Probably a common breeding bird - singing birds widely reported and fledged young seen near the duck pond in Upton Country Park on 21st June 2023.

Yellow Wagtail *(Motacilla flava flavissima)*

A scarce passage migrant in the recording area.

Five-plus birds seen with cattle in 13-acre field on 31st August 2023 and 1 flying north-east over the PC World channel on 2nd September 2023.

Grey Wagtail *(Motacilla cinerea)*

Usually, a passage migrant or winter visitor, with one or two birds seen along the shoreline or on streams and ditches.

Small numbers (usually singles, but occasionally 2 birds) recorded on 40 dates in January-March, July and September-December 2022. Monthly bird-days shown below. Recorded from around Holes Bay (including the PC World Drain) and wet areas within the fields at Upton Country Park.

Monthly bird-days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	7	5	-	-	-	1	-	9	5	6	5

Grey Wagtail ©Rene Goad

Pied/White Wagtail ©Nick Woods

Pied/White Wagtail *(Motacilla alba)*

A few pairs may breed and small parties are found on passage in winter, often in farm fields. Characteristic 'chis-ick' call often heard from birds flying over.

Recorded in all months except August 2023, usually in small numbers – though a count of 62 (in 13-acre field at Upton Country Park) was made on 2nd November 2023. The largest other count was a total of 26 birds in various locations around Upton Country Park on 3rd November 2023. Fledged young were seen in front of Upton House on 21st June 2023 and it is thought a pair bred

in or near the recording area. Although some observers recorded the birds as ‘White Wagtails’ there were no known records of the subspecies *alba*.

Meadow Pipit *(Anthus pratensis)*

Seen on passage or in winter with occasional birds or small flocks seen, usually in grasslands or in farm fields.

©Rene Goad

Recorded in small numbers (less than 10 birds) on 24 dates in January-February 2023, April 2023 and September-December 2023, however maximum count was 40 birds on 3rd November 2023 in 13-acre field at Upton Country Park.

Water Pipit *(Anthus spinoletta)*

A scarce passage migrant or winter visitor with very few records.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Rock Pipit *(Anthus petrosus)*

Usually seen in winter along the shoreline, the rock used for coastal protection along the Holes Bay Road helping to provide suitable habitat.

©Pete Corbin

Recorded on 9 dates (compared to 17 in 2022) in January-February 2023, October 2023 and December 2023 (usually single birds but 2 on 9th January 2023, 11th October 2023 and 5th

December 2023. Monthly bird-days given below, most records from around Holes Bay, often along the Holes Bay Road.

Monthly bird-days:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	3

Chaffinch *(Fringilla coelebs)*

A widespread and common breeding species with small flocks sometimes found at Upton Country Park.

Recorded in all months (except August 2023) Present all year, usually in small numbers, highest count 12 from all parts of Upton Country Park on 2nd May 2023. Singing birds present in some areas but no records of confirmed breeding.

Male Chaffinch ©Nick Woods

Male Bullfinch ©Nick Woods

Brambling *(Fringilla montifringilla)*

A very scarce winter visitor or passage migrant to the recording area.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Bullfinch *(Pyrrhula pyrrhula)*

Despite the colourful plumage of the male, the Bullfinch can be surprisingly inconspicuous and is probably under-recorded (helped by its weak song); may be seen all around the area and probably breeds.

Recorded in all months of the year (32 dates), usually one or two birds, occasionally three birds. Most records from Upton Country Park but also recorded at the PC World Drain and SW Holes Bay. In Upton Country Park, several records from the area behind the stone bench and from the area from the SANG car park to the Grove pond. Fledged young were seen on 8th July 2023 between the walled garden and new bird hide - suggesting one or more pairs bred in the Park.

Greenfinch *(Chloris chloris)*

A resident bird often breeding in loose colonies e.g., in the scrubby areas of Upton Country Park recently taken over from the adjacent farm.

Recorded in small numbers in most months of the year in Upton Country Park and in other areas around Holes Bay, maxima: 16 in SE Holes Bay on 4th September 2023 and 15 in Holes Bay NW / Upton Country Park on 15th October 2023. There was a lack of records in November 2023 and

December 2023, though it is not known if this reflects genuine absence or just observers not recording such a common species. Fledged young were reported in two areas in Upton Country Park: by the duck pond on 22nd June 2023 and near the bird screen on 29th June 2023. At the PC World Drain singing males were reported as well as nest building on 18th March 2023. Birds probably bred in several locations in the recording area.

Greenfinch ©Rene Goad

Linnet ©Nick Woods

Linnet *(Linaria cannabina)*

Singing birds have been found along the edge of some of the fields of Upton Park Farm possibly indicating breeding. In winter, flocks of 100 or more have also been recorded – possibly taking advantage of seeds from farming operations or weeds as areas have been taken out of agricultural production.

Recorded in Upton Country Park on 17 dates in April-July and October 2023, maximum count of 12 on 27th September 2023, a slight increase in the number of dates recorded and the maximum count compared to 2022. Once again singing birds were recorded along the shoreline near the bird screen but there were no confirmed breeding records.

Lesser Redpoll *(Acanthis cabaret)*

Once thought of as an 'occasional winter visitor', now reported vary rarely.

Not recorded in Holes Bay during 2023.

Goldfinch *(Carduelis carduelis)*

Probably breeds locally and flocks occur in autumn and winter.

Recorded in all months of the year with fledged young seen in Upton Country Park, suggesting possible breeding there. Small flocks regularly present, with maximum counts (both at Upton Country Park) of 22 on 4th January and 17th October 2023. Small flocks often seen feeding on thistles and alders.

Male Goldfinch ©Nick Woods

Male Siskin ©Nick Woods

Siskin *(Spinus spinus)*

Small flocks occasional in winter in Upton Country Park, often feeding on the Alders planted at Upton Country Park.

Recorded on 20 dates in January-April 2023, July 2023 and September-December 2023, most records from Upton Country Park and the PC World drain (sometimes of birds feeding on Alders in the car park by KFC). Most records of 1-3 birds with a maximum of 7 on 30th January 2023.

Reed Bunting *(Emberiza schoeniclus)*

©Martin Adams

Although the male is strikingly marked, its song is easily overlooked but several pairs probably breed in the reed beds along the shoreline.

Records of 1 or 2 birds on 37 dates in all months of the year. Singing birds reported on several occasions along the shoreline in Upton Country Park, near the stone bench and at the bird screen/observation point. Birds were seen collecting nest material from the duck pond in the Park on 18th May 2023 and fledged young were seen at the bird screen/observation point on 29th June 2023. It is likely that one or more pairs bred along the shoreline. Two autumn records of single birds (7th August and 26th October 2023) were of birds in the hedge between half-moon and Lambs Leas field.

MOTHS RECORDED IN UPTON COUNTRY PARK AND HOLES BAY IN 2023

Sally Grant, Tony Grant and Nick Woods

INTRODUCTION

During 2023 up to three moth traps were operated at Upton Country Park (UCP) in The Walled Garden, as in the previous 3 years, and also in the Education Centre compound on 2 occasions in August.

These were a Robinson-style trap with a 125-watt mercury-vapour bulb ('the mv trap'), a Skinner-style trap ('the actinic trap') with two 20-watt actinic bulbs; a "bucket"-style actinic trap with one 20-watt actinic bulb. Later in the year the MV was fitted with a black light and recorded as such. Both types of actinic were just recorded as "actinic" and no differentiation was made between the two.

Fig. 1 Upton Country Park – typical locations for moth traps

The traps were usually left overnight in the walled garden or adjacent herbaceous border, or in the Education Centre Compound, as these areas are secure. The walled garden is largely amenity grass (turfed in 2012) with small beds of ornamental planting and is surrounded by areas of formal gardens and ornamental pleasure grounds. The Education Centre Compound is mostly rough grass and gravel, closely surrounded by mature broad-leaved and coniferous trees, laurel, holly and other evergreen shrubs. Both sites are set within the larger area of former parkland with some veteran oak trees and unimproved or semi-improved grassland and much mixed woodland, mainly

of plantation origin. Slightly further away are the saltmarsh, reed beds and mudflats of Holes Bay. On the landward side the site is surrounded by grazed pasture or former farmland, much of which has recently been laid down to grass with substantial areas of native tree and shrub planting to form a 'SANG.

The walled garden is popular with visitors and adjacent to the Park's tearooms. The catch from the traps was examined early in the morning in the walled garden or to the side of the tearooms, and the opportunity taken to show different species to interested members of the public. The moths were released as quickly as possible.

Actinic & MV Moth Traps: Education Centre Compound at Upton Country Park ©Sally Grant

Records of the moths identified were entered on the 'Living Record' online recording system, used by the Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC), from which the National Moth Recording Scheme can draw records. Records submitted in this way are subject to verification by local experts but this report has been prepared prior to completion of this process.

FIELD RECORDS

There has also been a welcome increase in casual field records of moths throughout Upton Country Park and the around Holes Bay. In addition, an informal list has been collated of those species spotted by members of the public and UCP staff and listed on the "Sightings" board and diary in the Welcome Centre. Such observations are welcomed by anyone. Please email details and photographs to: **sallygrantucp@gmail.com**.

NEW FOR SITE (NFS) AND "HISTORICAL RECORDS"

Since 2020 moth surveys have been carried out at UCP on a regular basis, but we also have more sporadic moth counts dating from the 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s which we have referred to when collating this report.

These "historical" records were mostly from traps set within the walled garden, but also on the roof of Upton House, and Gordon Eastwick-Field trapped in the area known as Kennel Mead, between the Winter Garden and the Bird Hide. One record only lists the species trapped without any numbers recorded. In this case each species has been listed as one individual. Also, whilst micros would certainly have been present, very few have been listed in these records.

Taking these "historical" records into account allows us to state with a little more certainty the species of moth that have not been formally recorded on-site before. Whilst many of the moths not listed may have been present, for the purposes of this report we have referred to them as New for Site (NFS).

NAMING CONVENTIONS

In this article the first mention of a particular species will usually include both English and scientific names. Later mentions will use only the English name for those relatively well-known, usually larger, species typically regarded as 'macro-moths.' As the latest (second) version of the Field Guide to the Micro-moths of Great Britain and Ireland now includes English (i.e. vernacular or common) names for the majority of 'micro-moths', the English name will be given after the scientific name.

Flame Carpet ©Nick Woods

Frosted Orange ©Nick Woods

Great Prominent ©Nick Woods

SUMMARY OF RESULTS 2023

300 moth taxa were recorded in 2023. This includes adult moths recorded in the field as well as those trapped. Most moths were identified to species level though a few critical species were only recorded as aggregates and a few only to genus level. **See Appendix 1** for full list.

Moths were caught in either or both traps on 35 dates between 10th February and 21st November 2023, compared with 27 in 2022 and 34 in 2021. An mv and an actinic trap were both used on 29 of those dates; on one of those dates no moths were caught in the mv, and on another no moths were caught in the actinic.

A total of 2459 adult moths of 300 taxa were recorded from the traps. A total of 1,352 moths of 266 taxa were recorded in the MV traps on 30 dates and 1004 moths of 183 taxa on 31 dates in the actinic trap. There were 145 taxa identified from both types of trap, with 89 species identified unique to the mv trap and 59 unique to the actinic trap. There were also 103 moths of 34 species counted outside of the traps. **Table 3** lists the larvae recorded.

The number of taxa identified from the traps in each month in 2023 and the number of trapping sessions is shown in Fig 1

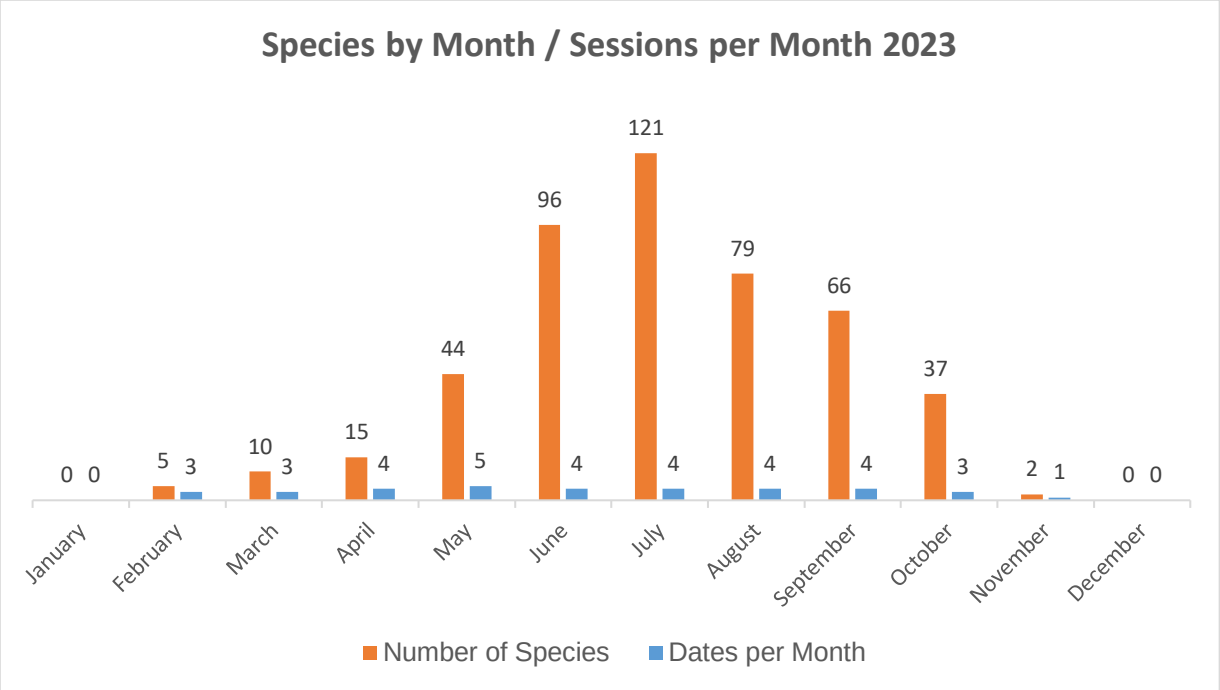


Fig. 2 Number of species trapped and number of trapping sessions 2023

The 20 most trapped species in 2023 are shown in Table 1. These account for 1364 (55.5%) of the total catch of 2459 moths. The Box Tree moth (218) represented 8.9% of moths caught in traps during 2023.

At the same time 101 taxa were only caught on a single occasion: 33.6% of the total taxa (300) identified in 2023.

Common Name	Scientific Name	m	Individuals
Box-tree Moth	*Cydalima perspectalis*	m	218
Large Yellow Underwing	*Noctua pronuba*		185
Heart & Dart	*Agrotis exclamationis*		91
Common Footman	*Eilema lurideola*		74
Common Rustic agg.	*Mesapamea secalis agg.*		71
Dark Arches	*Apamea monoglypha*		69
Garden Grass-moth	*Chrysoteuchia culmella*	m	68
Vine's Rustic	*Hoplodrina ambigua*		66
Silver Y	*Autographa gamma*		54
Uncertain/Rustic agg.	*Hoplodrina octogenaria/blanda*		52
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	*Noctua janthe*		49
Lunar Underwing	*Omphaloscelis lunosa*		45
Marbled Minor agg.	*Oligia strigilis agg.*		40
Setaceous Hebrew Character	*Xestia c-nigrum*		39
Treble Lines	*Charanyca trigrammica*		39
Common Masoner	*Blastobasis adustella*	m	37
Common Quaker	*Orthosia cerasi*		31
Light Emerald	*Campaea margaritaria*		30
Square-spot Rustic	*Xestia xanthographa*		30
Common Wainscot	*Mythimna pallens*		27
Shuttle-shaped Dart	*Agrotis puta*		27
Willow Beauty	*Peribatodes rhomboidaria*		27

Riband Wave	*Idaea aversata*		26
Dun-bar	*Cosmia trapezina*		25

Table 1 Twenty most prevalent trapped species 2023 (m=macro)

Compare with the 20 most trapped species for 2021-2023, and you can see they are very similar.

Common Name	**Scientific Name**		**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**Total**
Box-tree Moth	*Cydalima perspectalis*	m	159	53	218	**430**
Large Yellow Underwing	*Noctua pronuba*		77	73	185	**335**
Common Quaker	*Orthosia cerasi*		58	151	31	**240**
Heart & Dart	*Agrotis exclamationis*		42	53	91	**186**
Dark Arches	*Apamea monoglypha*		26	76	69	**171**
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	*Noctua janthe*		42	80	49	**171**
Garden Grass-moth	*Chrysoteuchia culmella*	m	49	31	68	**148**
Common Footman	*Eilema lurideola*		35	34	74	**143**
Common Rustic agg.	*Mesapamea secalis agg.*		8	36	71	**115**
Vine's Rustic	*Hoplodrina ambigua*		23	26	66	**115**
Treble Lines	*Charanyca trigrammica*		45	28	39	**112**
Flame Shoulder	*Ochropleura plecta*		20	71	17	**108**
Setaceous Hebrew Character	*Xestia c-nigrum*		15	50	39	**104**
Common Masoner	*Blastobasis adustella*	m	12	49	37	**98**
Hebrew Character	*Orthosia gothica*		38	37	20	**95**
Uncertain/Rustic agg.	*Hoplodrina octogenaria/blanda*		17	23	52	**92**
Double-striped Pug	*Gymnoscelis rufifasciata*		23	51	13	**87**
Light Emerald	*Campaea margaritaria*		42	15	30	**87**
Silver Y	*Autographa gamma*		17	8	54	**79**
Marbled Minor agg.	*Oligia strigilis agg.*		5	33	40	**78**
Willow Beauty	*Peribatodes rhomboidaria*		35	16	27	**78**
Rush Veneer	*Nomophila noctuella*	m	1	72	2	**75**
Shuttle-shaped Dart	*Agrotis puta*		9	38	27	**74**
Lunar Underwing	*Anchoscelis lunosa (Omphaloscelis lunosa)*		10	12	45	**67**

Table 2 Twenty most prevalent trapped species 2021-2023 (m=macro)

Rugged Beauty Conch (Rough-Winged Conch) Phtheochroa rugosana ©Nick Woods

Southern Wainscot ©Nick Woods

FIELD RECORDS

Field Records account for 32 species, including larvae of 4 species, and 102 individual adults. The 88 Cinnabar larvae were seen in the SANG on 2nd July 2023; the 18 Mullein larvae were stripping a Verbascum (Mullein) plant in the herbaceous border behind the walled garden.

These are informal, ad-hoc sightings and do not reflect the true number of species that may be present outside of the walled garden.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Adults	Larvae
Blood-Vein	*Timandra comae*	1	
Box-tree Moth*	*Cydalima perspectalis**		1
Burnet Companion	*Euclidia glyphica*	10	
Carnation Tortrix*	*Cacoecimorpha pronubana**	3	
Chevron Grass-moth*	*Agriphila geniculea**	1	
Cinnabar	*Tyria jacobaeae*		88
Common Grass-moth*	*Agriphila tristella**	1	
Common Nettle-tap*	*Anthophila fabriciana**	1	
Common Wave	*Cabera exanthemata*	4	
Feathered Cutter*	*Incurvaria masculella**	2	
Hedge Beauty*	*Alabonia geoffrella**	1	
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	*Macroglossum stellatarum*	1	
Jersey Tiger	*Euplagia quadripunctaria*	15	
Large Yellow Underwing	*Noctua pronuba*		1
Mint Moth*	*Pyrausta aurata**	1	
Mother of Pearl*	*Pleuroptya ruralis**	1	
Mother Shipton	*Euclidia mi*	5	
Mullein	*Cucullia verbasci*		18
Pale-streaked Grass-moth*	*Agriphila selasella**	1	
Rosy Knot-horn*	*Oncocera semirubella**	2	
Silver Y	*Autographa gamma*	3	
Six-spot Burnet	*Zygaena filipendulae*	28	
Small Yellow Wave	*Hydrelia flammeolaria*	1	
Straw Dot	*Rivula sericealis*	1	
Straw Grass-moth*	*Agriphila straminella**	1	
Sulphur Bark Moth*	*Esperia sulphurella**	1	
Twin-barred Knot-horn*	*Homoeosoma sinuella**	1	
Vestal	*Rhodometra sacraria*	1	
White Plume*	*Pterophorus pentadactyla**	1	
Winter Moth	*Operophtera brumata*	1	
Yellow Shell	*Camptogramma bilineata*	1	
Yellow-banded Longhorn*	*Nemophora degeerella**	13	
32 Species		**102**	**4**

Table 3 Field Record of Species seen in 2023 - *micro
Adult moths are included in Appendix 1

NEW FOR SITE (NFS)

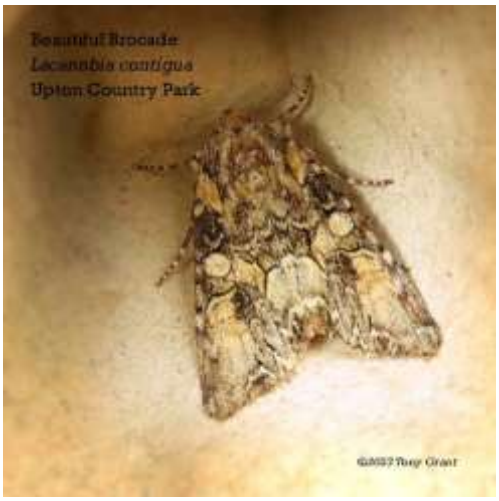
In 2023 a further 49* species were recorded that were NFS, compared with 76 NFS species in 2022. In addition, 9 species were recorded for the first time since before 2020, and 17 species had only been recorded once before.

**This includes 13 adults of the species named Uncertain (Hoplodrina octogenarian). These will have certainly been present before, but they are difficult to identify accurately and some would have been*

recorded previously as Uncertain/Rustic agg. (Hoplodrina octogenarian/blanda agg). It was possible to inspect these particular individuals to determine that the underwing was brown as opposed to grey.

MACRO MOTHS

210 macro-moth taxa were identified in 2023 out of approximately 900 species found in the UK[1]. Of those, 34 species were NFS, which included 3 caught in the Education Centre Compound.



Beautiful Brocade
Lacanobia contigua

Convolvulus Hawk-moth
Agrius convolvuli

July Belle
Scotopteryx luridata

Mullein Moth larvae
Cucullia verbasci

Pale Brindled Beauty
Phigalia pilosaria

Portland Ribbon Wave
Idaea degeneraria

Puss Moth
Cerura vinula

Sandy Carpet
Perizoma flavofasciata

Shoulder-striped Wainscot
Leucania comma

Swallow-tailed Moth (not seen since <2020)
Ourapteryx sambucaria

Fig. 3 Some "NFS" macro moths recorded at Upton County Park in 2023

MICRO MOTHS

90 taxa of micro-moth were identified in 2023; a small proportion of around 1,600 species known from Britain. 15 of those recorded were NFS, which included 3 species caught in the Education Centre Compound.

Micro-moths, by definition, tend to be small, and not necessarily easy to identify. For more information about micro moths please see the *Holes Bay Nature Park Report for 2021*.

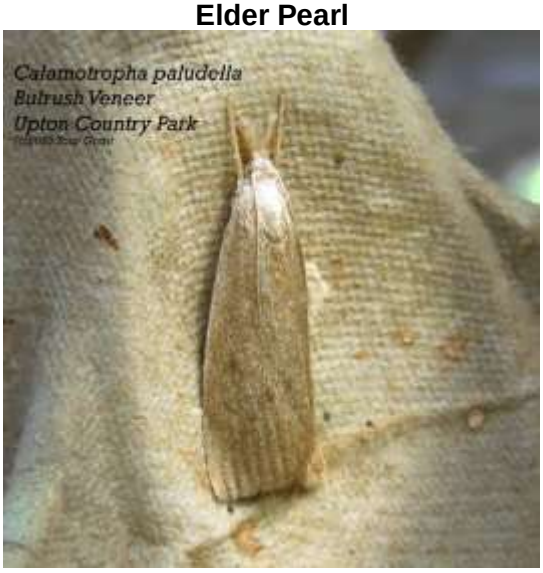
Acrobasis tumidana
Tufted Oak Knot-horn

Acrocercops brongniardella
Oak Cloud

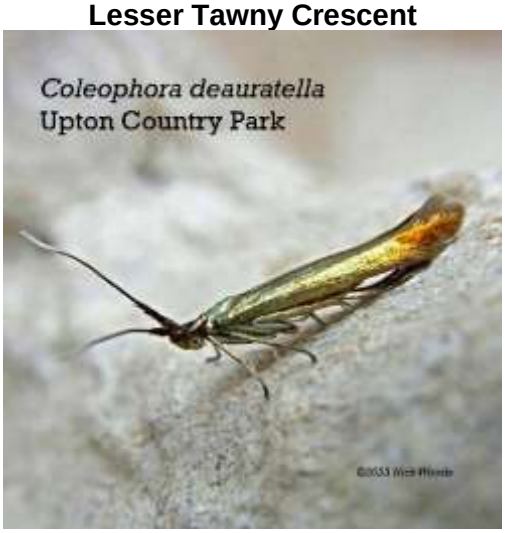
Alabonia geoffrella
Hedge Beauty

Anania coronata
Elder Pearl

Batia Lunaris
Lesser Tawny Crescent



Calamotropha paludella
Bulrush Veneer

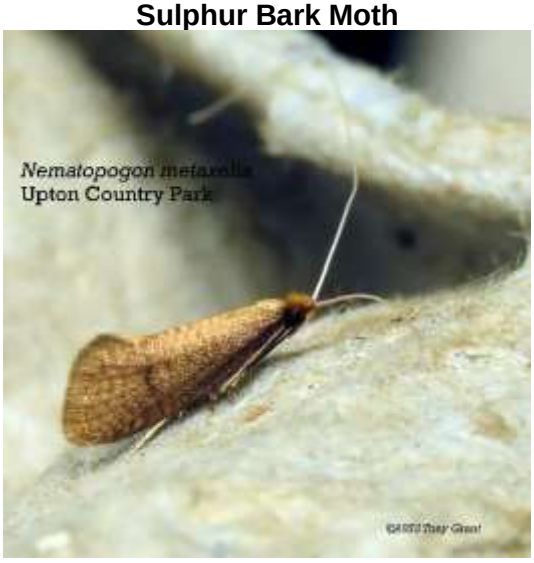


Coleophora deauratella
Purple-shot Case-bearer ©Nick Woods

***Ectoedemia subbimaculella* (Unconfirmed)**
Broken-barred Oak Dot

Esperia sulphurella
Sulphur Bark Moth

Glyphipterix thrasonella
Eyed Rush Moth (Speckled Fanner)



Nematopogon metaxella
Dark-dotted Longhorn

Pyrausta despicata
Straw-barred Pearl

Fig. 4 Some "NFS" micro moths recorded at Upton County Park in 2023

BOX-TREE MOTH: UPDATE

The number of Box-tree Moths recorded in the traps reached an all-time high of 218 adult moths in 2023, compared with 159 in 2021 and just 53 in 2022. Only 1 larva was recorded on Living Record, but many more were noted within the walled garden over the spring and summer.

It is planned to replace the box hedging in the walled garden with *Lonicera nitida* (shrubby honeysuckle) during 2024.

Fig. 5 Box-tree Moth larvae and the damage they can cause

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Based on the limited data collected to date, there has been a steady increase in the number of Macro species recorded since 2020, but the Micro counts have been more unpredictable. There was a small shift between the number of macro and micro moths recorded in 2023 compared with the previous years, but there is insufficient data to draw any conclusions from this.

Year	Macro	% of 900 UK Species	Micro	% of 1600 UK Species
2020-21	172	19%	88	6%
2022	201	22%	105	6.5%
2023	210	23%	90	5.65%

The 210 macro moths and 90 micromoths recorded in 2023 represent around 23% and 5.65% respectively of the total number of species known from Great Britain. Collectively, there is little difference between the years to date.

It is worth repeating the information from previous reports that: The Atlas of Britain and Ireland's Larger Moths[2] *indicates that between 451 and 500 species of macro-moth have been recorded from the 10 km national grid square (SY99) which, in its south-east corner, includes most of Upton Country Park. This square extends to Sturminster Marshall in the north and Morden in the west. As a result, the square will include records for a much wider range of habitats than is present in the Park, including as it does Upton Heath, Lytchett Bay, parts of Wareham Forest and the Stour Valley, areas which include some important wildlife habitats.*

This shows once again, that it is likely that a considerable number of moth species that may be present have not yet been recorded at UCP. It remains to be seen whether trapping in other areas of the Park will result in a higher number of different species.

It is also interesting to look at the number of times individual species were recorded. (**See Fig. 5**).

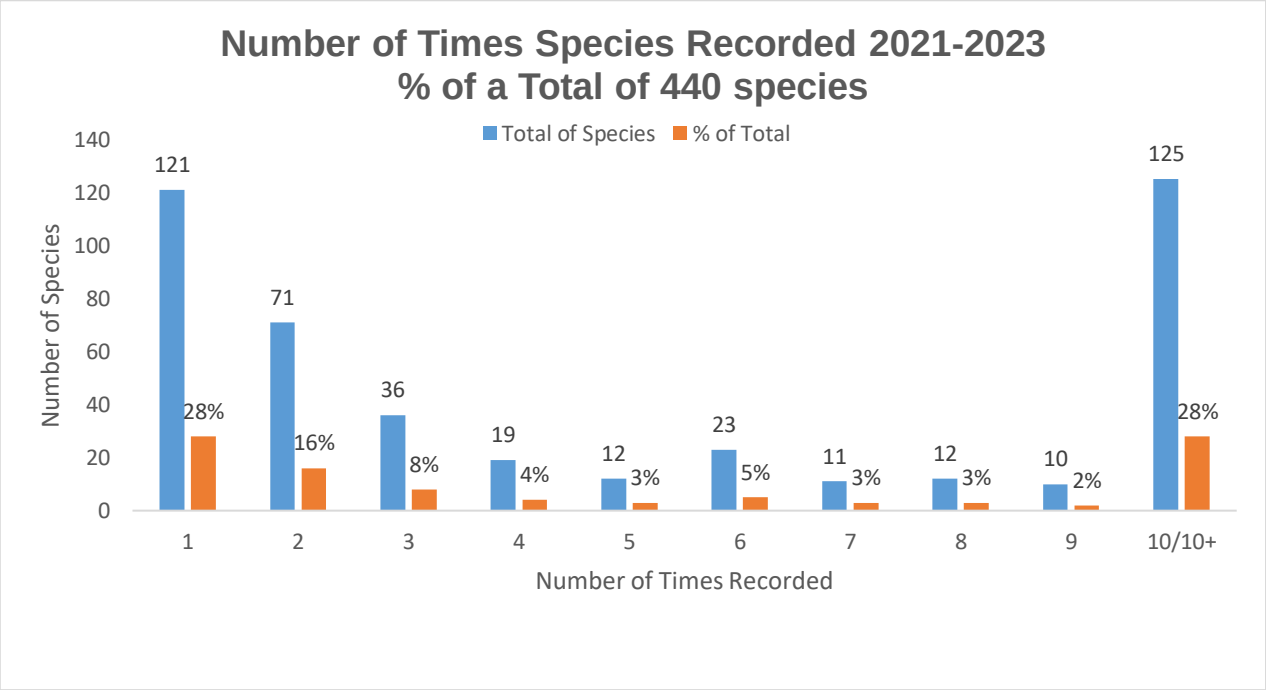


Fig. 5 Proportion of species trapped once, twice, three times etc 2021-2023

Out of the total of 440 species recorded during 2021-2023, the same % of species (28%) were represented by a single moth as were recorded on 10 or more occasions. 16% were only recorded twice.

In 2024 the plan is to carry out trapping sessions in the wider landscape, using a portable light trap. Volunteers will be in attendance for safety reasons.

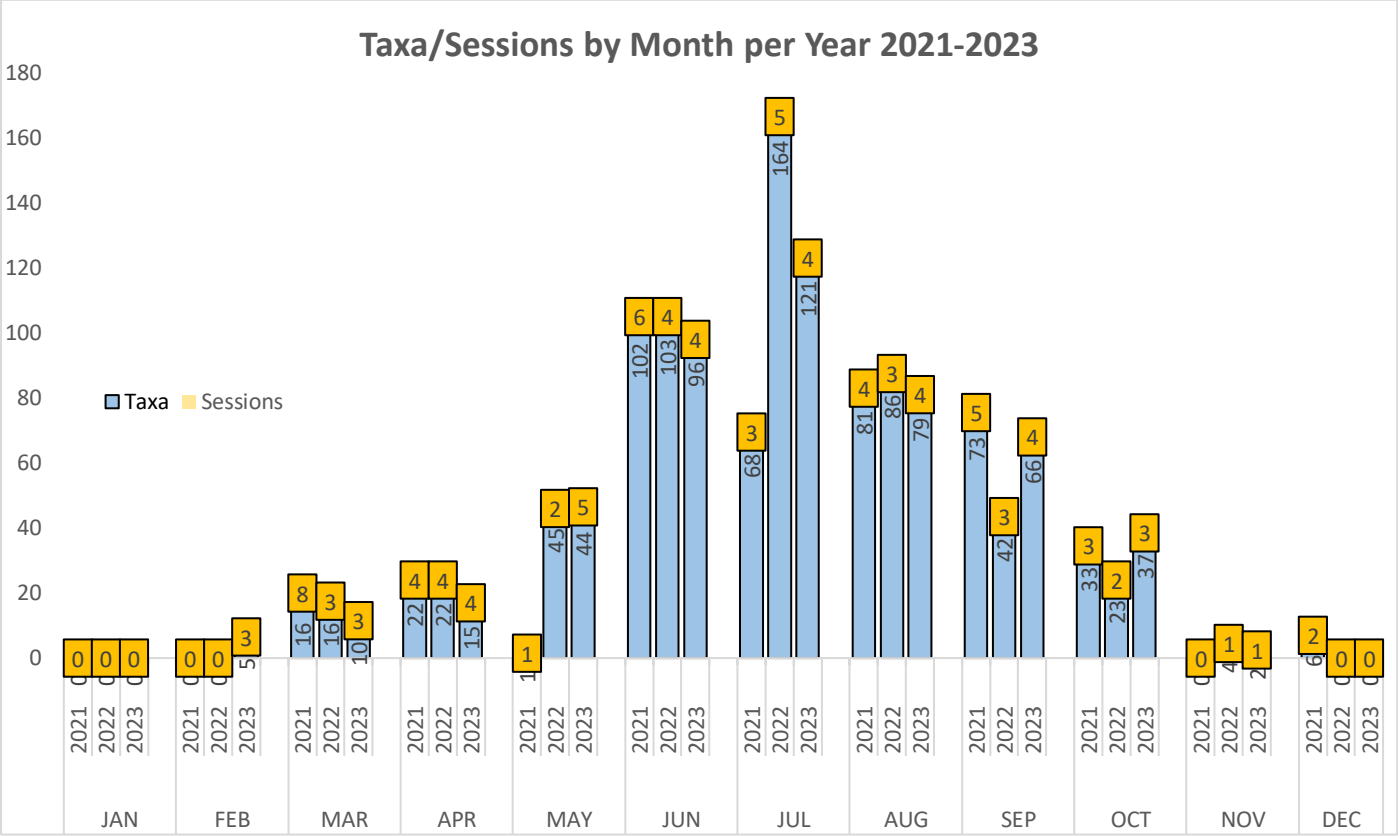


Fig. 6 Number of species trapped by Month per Year 2021-2023

It is interesting to compare the last three years of data, which shows that fewer moths were trapped in 2021 over more sessions than in 2022, but the number of taxa recorded in 2022 and 2023 is extremely close.

Year	Taxa	Sessions
2021	240	31
2022	306	27
2023	300	35

2021 started well, but May was very wet and cold; the poor conditions considered unsuitable to set the traps. The numbers in June are very close to those in subsequent years, but dipped in July before rising again in August and September.

2022 shows a steady rise from March, with an exceptional peak of 164 in July, and a contrasting low in September and October. Both extremes likely reflecting the extended period of hot dry weather that summer, and may indicate that adults emerged earlier than usual.

Compared with 2021 and 2022, it took a long time for the temperatures to rise in early 2023 where we did not see anticipated numbers until May. Numbers of species continued to rise through June and July but fell very short of the July count for 2022. Did the hot weather in 2022 affect the number of eggs surviving to the larval stage perhaps?

It remains to be seen whether the numbers for 2021 and 2023 are closer to the average, rather than a result of weather conditions, compared to the highs of 2022.

Since the late 1970s to the end of 2023 a total of **529 Adult Taxa** and **15095 individual moths** have been recorded: **357 macro** and **172* micro moths**.

**Micro moths were not often recorded before 2020.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The MV and “bucket” actinic traps were provided by Tony Grant; the “Skinner” actinic by Nick Woods.

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Photographs in this article unless otherwise stated are by Tony Grant.

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3 “Field Guide to the Micro-moths of Great Britain and Ireland” – Second Edition, Phil Sterling, Mark Parsons, Illustrated by Richard Lewington, 2023, Bloomsbury Wildlife Guides, London and Dublin.

Appendix 1 Moths recorded at Upton Country Park pre-2020 to 2023

Common Name	Scientific Name		<2020	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Acorn Piercer	*Pammene fasciana*	m				2	1	**3**
Alder Moth	*Acronicta alni*					2	1	**3**
Amber Mompha	*Mompha ochraceella*	m					1	**1**
Angle Shades	*Phlogophora meticulosa*		22		3	7	9	**41**
Apple Leaf-miner	*Lyonetia clerkella*	m	1			14	1	**16**
Ash-bark Knot-horn	*Euzophera pinguis*	m			1	4	3	**8**
Australian Orange-tip (Ruddy Streak)	*Tachystola acroxantha*	m	1		5	4	5	**15**
Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	*Pandemis cerasana*	m	3	1	6	4	3	**17**
Barred Marble	*Celypha striana*	m	1		4	5	8	**18**
Barred Sallow	*Tiliacea aurago*		1		11	1	4	**17**
Beaded Chestnut	*Agrochola lychnidis*				2	2	9	**13**
Beautiful Brocade	*Lacanobia contigua*						1	**1**
Beautiful Oak Knot-horn	*Acrobasis repandana*	m					1	**1**
Beautiful Plume	*Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*	m			1		1	**2**
Beech Mast Piercer	*Cydia fagiglandana*						1	**1**
Black Arches	*Lymantria monacha*		7	4	3	27	8	**49**
Black Rustic	*Aporophyla nigra*		88		2	5	11	**106**
Black-fronted Straw	*Cochylichroa atricapitana (Cochylis atricapitana)*	m	1			1	1	**3**
Black-marked Tortrix (Small Birch Bell)	*Epinotia ramella*	m			3		1	**4**
Blair's Shoulder-knot	*Lithophane leautieri*		3			2	1	**6**
Blood-Vein	*Timandra comae*		32		4	3	10	**49**
Box-tree Moth	*Cydalima perspectalis*	m		52	159	53	218	**482**
Bramble Blotch-miner	*Coptotriche marginea*	m				1	1	**2**
Bramble Shoot Moth	*Notocelia uddmanniana*	m			1	1	2	**4**
Brassy Y	*Argyresthia goedartella*	m			2	1	1	**4**
Bright-Line Brown-Eye	*Lacanobia oleracea*		36		11	25	5	**77**
Brimstone Moth	*Opisthograptis luteolata*		58	2	14	7	1	**82**
Brindled Beauty	*Lycia hirtaria*				2	8	1	**11**
Brindled Green	*Dryobotodes eremita*		80		4	1	1	**86**
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	*Noctua fimbriata*		28	9	3	9	22	**71**
Broken-barred Carpet	*Electrophaes corylata*				1	1	1	**3**
Broken-barred Oak Dot	*Ectoedemia subbimaculella*	m					1	**1**
Brown Bark Moth	*Crassa unitella*	m					2	**2**
Brown House-moth	*Hofmannophila pseudospretella*	m	1		2	2	2	**7**
Brown Moss-moth	*Bryotropha terrella*	m			1		1	**2**
Brown Silver-line	*Petrophora chlorosata*		8		1	2	2	**13**
Brown-tail	*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*		4	1	1	1	1	**8**
Brussels Lace	*Cleorodes lichenaria*		2		8	25	18	**53**
Buff Arches	*Habrosyne pyritoides*		13		1	21	1	**36**
Buff Ermine	*Spilosoma lutea*		37			11	2	**50**
Buff Footman	*Eilema depressa*		9		3	5	1	**18**
Buff Mompha	*Mompha epilobiella*	m				2	2	**4**
Buff-tip	*Phalera bucephala*		41	1	15	9	4	**70**

Bulrush Veneer	*Calamotropha paludella*	m					2	**2**
Burnet Companion	*Euclidia glyphica*					48	10	**58**
Canary-shouldered Thorn	*Ennomos alniaria*		4		3	2	2	**11**
Carnation Tortrix	*Cacoecimorpha pronubana*	m				1	3	**4**
Centre-barred Sallow	*Atethmia centrago*		2		3		6	**11**
Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix	*Pandemis corylana*	m			4	4	4	**12**
Chequered Grass-moth	*Catoptria falsella*	m				1	1	**2**
Chestnut	*Conistra vaccinii*		33		3	3	4	**43**
Chevron Grass-moth	*Agriphila geniculea*	m			2	2	1	**5**
Chocolate-tip	*Clostera curtula*		4			1	1	**6**
Clay	*Mythimna ferrago*		48			11	5	**64**
Clay Triple-lines	*Cyclophora linearia*		3	1		2	3	**9**
Cloaked Minor	*Mesoligia furuncula*		2			7	2	**11**
Clouded Border	*Lomaspilis marginata*		19	1	7	2	7	**36**
Clouded Drab	*Orthosia incerta*		4		3	16	4	**27**
Clouded Silver	*Lomographa temerata*		2		1	1	5	**9**
Cnephasia agg. (Tortrix agg.)	*Cnephasia agg.*	m		1		3	3	**7**
Codling Moth	*Cydia pomonella*						1	**1**
Coleophora sp. (Case-bearer)	*Coleophora sp.*	m		1		27	1	**29**
Common Carpet	*Epirrhoe alternata*		23		2	1	4	**30**
Common Emerald	*Hemithea aestivaria*		16		1	2	1	**20**
Common Footman	*Eilema lurideola*		173	7	35	34	74	**323**
Common Grass-moth	*Agriphila tristella*	m	1	2		16	4	**23**
Common Lutestring	*Ochropacha duplaris*					1	2	**3**
Common Marble	*Celypha lacunana*	m		2	4	8	6	**20**
Common Marbled Carpet	*Dysstroma truncata*		7		8	5	7	**27**
Common Masoner	*Blastobasis adustella*	m			12	49	37	**98**
Common Nettle-tap	*Anthophila fabriciana*	m				1	1	**2**
Common Pug	*Eupithecia vulgata*		4			4	4	**12**
Common Purple & Gold	*Pyrausta purpuralis*	m			1		1	**2**
Common Quaker	*Orthosia cerasi*		50		58	151	31	**290**
Common Rustic agg.	*Mesapamea secalis agg.*		128	2	8	36	71	**245**
Common Swift	*Korscheltellus lupulina*		152		3	1	16	**172**
Common Wainscot	*Mythimna pallens*		200		13	7	27	**247**
Common Wave	*Cabera exanthemata*		16			2	4	**22**
Common White Wave	*Cabera pusaria*		3			4	1	**8**
Convolvulus Hawk-moth	*Agrius convolvuli*						1	**1**
Copper Underwing	*Amphipyra pyramidea*		24				1	**25**
Copper Underwing agg.	*Amphipyra pyramidea agg.*			1	7	4	2	**14**
Cypress Carpet	*Thera cupressata*		2				1	**3**
Cypress Pug	*Eupithecia phoeniceata*						1	**1**
Dark Arches	*Apamea monoglypha*		96	2	26	76	69	**269**
Dark Sword-grass	*Agrotis ipsilon*		16		2	5	6	**29**
Dark-barred Tortrix	*Syndemis musculana*	m					1	**1**
Dark-bordered Pearl	*Evergestis limbata*	m				1	1	**2**
Dark-dotted Longhorn	*Nematopogon metaxella*						3	**3**
Deep-brown Dart	*Aporophyla lutulenta*		2				1	**3**
Diamond-back Moth	*Plutella xylostella*	m	6	1	2	4	3	**16**
Dingy Footman	*Eilema griseola*		35		20	19	2	**76**
Double Square-spot	*Xestia triangulum*		18		10	16	18	**62**

Double-striped Pug	*Gymnoscelis rufifasciata*		40	1	23	51	13	**128**
Double-striped Tabby	*Hypsopygia glaucinalis*	m	1		1	1	3	**6**
Dun-bar	*Cosmia trapezina*		115		2	6	25	**148**
Dusky Thorn	*Ennomos fuscantaria*		5		2	7	9	**23**
Dwarf Cream Wave	*Idaea fuscovenosa*		5		2		6	**13**
Early Grey	*Xylocampa areola*		1		6	2	2	**11**
Elder Pearl	*Anania coronata*						2	**2**
Ephestia sp.	*Ephestia sp.*	m				1	1	**2**
Ermine sp.	*Yponomeuta sp.*	m			7	4	5	**16**
European Corn-borer	*Ostrinia nubilalis*	m				3	1	**4**
Eyed Rush Moth	*Glyphipterix thrasonella*	m			1	1	1	**3**
Fan-foot	*Herminia tarsipennalis*		3		4	8	1	**16**
Feathered Cutter	*Incurvaria masculella*						2	**2**
Feathered Thorn	*Colotois pennaria*		46		1		2	**49**
Fen Wainscot	*Arenostola phragmitidis*		1			1	2	**4**
Festoon	*Apoda limacodes*		3		1		1	**5**
Figure of Eighty	*Tethea ocularis*		5		3	2	2	**12**
Flame	*Axylia putris*		19		4	12	4	**39**
Flame Carpet	*Xanthorhoe designata*		1	1	14		3	**19**
Flame Shoulder	*Ochropleura plecta*		105		20	71	17	**213**
Flounced Rustic	*Luperina testacea*		107	3	8	13	3	**134**
Frosted Green	*Polyploca ridens*		8		6	13	4	**31**
Frosted Orange	*Gortyna flavago*		13				1	**14**
Garden Carpet	*Xanthorhoe fluctuata*		7	2		2	1	**12**
Garden Grass-moth	*Chrysoteuchia culmella*	m	1	5	49	31	68	**154**
Garden Grey	*Eudonia mercurella*	m			3	3	3	**9**
Garden Pebble	*Evergestis forficalis*	m				1	1	**2**
Garden Rose Tortrix	*Acleris variegana*	m			1		1	**2**
Garden Straw	*Agapeta hamana*	m		1	1		1	**3**
Gorse Wanderer	*Brachmia blandella*	m				1	3	**4**
Great Prominent	*Peridea anceps*					1	5	**6**
Green Oak Tortrix	*Tortrix viridana*	m	3		2		15	**20**
Green-brindled Crescent	*Allophyes oxyacanthae*				1		1	**2**
Grey Pine Carpet	*Thera obeliscata*		33	1	12	7	9	**62**
Hawthorn Knot-horn	*Acrobasis advenella*	m			1		2	**3**
Hawthorn Moth	*Scythropia crataegella*	m				1	2	**3**
Heart & Club	*Agrotis clavis*		14		1		3	**18**
Heart & Dart	*Agrotis exclamationis*		720		42	53	91	**906**
Heather Knot-horn	*Pempelia palumbella*						1	**1**
Hebrew Character	*Orthosia gothica*		25		38	37	20	**120**
Hedge Beauty	*Alabonia geoffrella*						1	**1**
Hedge Rustic	*Tholera cespitis*						1	**1**
Holly Tortrix	*Rhopobota naevana*	m			1	4	1	**6**
Horse-chestnut Leaf-miner	*Cameraria ohridella*						4	**4**
House Moss-moth	*Bryotropha domestica*	m				1	1	**2**
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	*Macroglossum stellatarum*					1	1	**2**
Ilex Leaf-miner	*Phyllonorycter messaniella*						1	**1**
Ingrailed Clay	*Diarsia mendica*		20		1	6	3	**30**
Italian Bark Moth	*Metalampra italica*						1	**1**
Jersey Tiger	*Euplagia quadripunctaria*				111	22	21	**154**

July Belle	*Scotopteryx luridata*						1	**1**
Lackey	*Malacosoma neustria*		7				1	**8**
L-album Wainscot	*Mythimna l-album*		4	1	4	8	8	**25**
Large Longhorn	*Nematopogon swammerdamella*						2	**2**
Large Pale Masoner	*Blastobasis lacticolella*	m			4	3	10	**17**
Large Wainscot	*Rhizedra lutosa*		19	2		4	2	**27**
Large Yellow Underwing	*Noctua pronuba*		668	34	77	73	185	**1037**
Least Yellow Underwing	*Noctua interjecta*		4	1	1		9	**15**
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	*Noctua janthe*		89	8	42	80	49	**268**
Lesser Swallow Prominent	*Pheosia gnoma*		10		1	1	4	**16**
Lesser Tawny Crescent	*Batia lunaris*						4	**4**
Lesser Wax Moth	*Achroia grisella*						1	**1**
Lesser Yellow Underwing	*Noctua comes*		30	6	6	4	16	**62**
Light Brocade	*Lacanobia w-latinum*		4		2	1	11	**18**
Light Brown Apple Moth	*Epiphyas postvittana*	m	1	4	6	7	11	**29**
Light Emerald	*Campaea margaritaria*		54	8	42	15	30	**149**
Lime-speck Pug	*Eupithecia centaureata*		13		2	3	1	**19**
Lobster Moth	*Stauropus fagi*		1				1	**2**
Long-legged Tabby	*Synaphe punctalis*	m			3	3	7	**13**
Lunar Marbled Brown	*Drymonia ruficornis*		3		3	3	5	**14**
Lunar Underwing	*Anchoscelis lunosa (Omphaloscelis lunosa)*		630	17	10	12	45	**714**
Lychnis	*Hadena bicruris*		1		2	2	1	**6**
Maiden's Blush	*Cyclophora punctaria*		16		10	21	8	**55**
Many-plumed Moth (Twenty-plume Moth)	*Alucita hexadactyla*	m			1		1	**2**
Marbled Brown	*Drymonia dodonaea*		6			2	2	**10**
Marbled Minor agg.	*Oligia strigilis agg.*		19	1	5	33	40	**98**
Marbled Piercer	*Cydia splendana*	m	1		8	10	18	**37**
Marbled White Spot	*Protodeltote pygarga (Deltote pygarga)*		12		1	12	2	**27**
March Moth	*Alsophila aescularia*				2	8	1	**11**
May Highflyer	*Hydriomena impluviata*					1	1	**2**
Merveille du Jour	*Griposia aprilina*		7		2	1	2	**12**
Middle-barred Minor	*Oligia fasciuncula*		10		1		4	**15**
Mint Moth	*Pyrausta aurata*	m				1	1	**2**
Mother of Pearl	*Patania ruralis (Pleuroptya ruralis)*		18		17	8	6	**49**
Mother Shipton	*Callistege mi (Euclidia mi)*		6			4	5	**15**
Mottled Beauty	*Alcis repandata*		19		1	2	5	**27**
Mottled Rustic	*Caradrina morpheus*		78	4	14	11	11	**118**
Muslin Moth	*Diaphora mendica*		8		2	2	2	**14**
Narrow-winged Grey	*Eudonia angustea*	m		1	7		2	**10**
Nut-tree Tussock	*Colocasia coryli*		1		1	10	1	**13**
Oak Beauty	*Biston strataria*				3	4	2	**9**
Oak Blotch-miner	*Tischeria ekebladella*	m					2	**2**
Oak Cloud	*Acrocercops brongniardella*	m					2	**2**
Oak Hook-tip	*Watsonalla binaria*		51	2	7	7	8	**75**
Oak Longhorn	*Carcina quercana*	m	1	1		6	3	**11**

Oak Nycteoline	*Nycteola revayana*		7		1	3	2	**13**
Obscure Snout	*Anarsia spartiella*						1	**1**
Obscure Wainscot	*Leucania obsoleta*		3			1	2	**6**
Ochreous Pug	*Eupithecia indigata*						1	**1**
Orange Footman	*Eilema sororcula*				12	23	3	**38**
Orange-tipped Nest Moth	*Tinea semifulvella*	m					1	**1**
Pale Brindled Beauty	*Phigalia pilosaria*						2	**2**
Pale Mottled Willow	*Caradrina clavipalpis*		11		1		2	**14**
Pale Pinion	*Lithophane socia*				1	1	2	**4**
Pale Prominent	*Pterostoma palpina*		7	1	3	1	3	**15**
Pale Tussock	*Calliteara pudibunda*		8		1	13	3	**25**
Pale-streaked Grass-moth	*Agriphila selasella*	m				1	1	**2**
Pearl Grass-moth	*Catoptria pinella*	m				1	1	**2**
Peppered Moth	*Biston betularia*		20		6	17	6	**49**
Phyllonorycter sp. (Leaf-Miner)	*Phyllonorycter sp.*	m					2	**2**
Pied Grey	*Eudonia delunella*	m	1		3	6	5	**15**
Pine Carpet	*Pennithera firmata*		4				7	**11**
Pine Hawk-moth	*Sphinx pinastri (Hyloicus pinastri)*		2		1	1	1	**5**
Pinion-streaked Snout	*Schrankia costaestrigalis*		2				1	**3**
Pink-barred Sallow	*Xanthia togata*		12		2		1	**15**
Poplar Hawk-moth	*Laothoe populi*		27		9	4	3	**43**
Portland Ribbon Wave	*Idaea degeneraria*						1	**1**
Purple Thorn	*Selenia tetralunaria*		6				1	**7**
Purple-shot Case-bearer	*Coleophora deauratella*	m					3	**3**
Puss Moth	*Cerura vinula*						1	**1**
Red Twin-spot Carpet	*Xanthorhoe spadicearia*		12		2	1	4	**19**
Red-barred Tortrix	*Ditula angustiorana*	m			1	4	18	**23**
Red-green Carpet	*Chloroclysta siterata*				6	3	5	**14**
Riband Wave	*Idaea aversata*		92	1	17	15	26	**151**
Ringed China-mark	*Parapoynx stratiotata*	m			2		1	**3**
Rosy Footman	*Miltochrista miniata*		19	3	25	16	5	**68**
Rosy Knot-horn (Rosy-striped Knot-horn/ Rhubarb & Custard)	*Oncocera semirubella*	m		1		4	4	**9**
Rosy Rustic	*Hydraecia micacea*		91			2	3	**96**
Rosy Tabby	*Endotricha flammealis*	m		1		1	1	**3**
Rufous Tortrix	*Clepsis consimilana*	m			1	2	4	**7**
Rugged Bryony Beauty (Rough-winged Conch)	*Phtheochroa rugosana*	m	1		3		1	**5**
Rush Veneer	*Nomophila noctuella*	m	2		1	72	2	**77**
Rustic Shoulder-knot	*Apamea sordens*		5			1	1	**7**
Rusty Acorn Piercer	*Cydia amplana*	m			2	1	3	**6**
Rusty-dot Pearl	*Udea ferrugalis*	m			5	3	5	**13**
Sallow	*Cirrhia icteritia*		27		10	10	1	**48**
Sandy Carpet	*Perizoma flavofasciata*						4	**4**
Satellite	*Eupsilia transversa*		4		1		1	**6**
Scarce Footman	*Eilema complana*		103			9	20	**132**
Scarce Silver-lines	*Bena bicolorana*		2			1	1	**4**
Scorched Wing	*Plagodis dolabraria*		8		2	9	1	**20**

Seraphim	*Lobophora halterata*		1			2	3	**6**
Setaceous Hebrew Character	*Xestia c-nigrum*		119	4	15	50	39	**227**
Sharp-angled Peacock	*Macaria alternata*		4			2	2	**8**
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	*Leucania comma*		19				3	**22**
Shuttle-shaped Dart	*Agrotis puta*		178	2	9	38	27	**254**
Silky Wainscot	*Chilodes maritima*		1				1	**2**
Silver Y	*Autographa gamma*		37		17	8	54	**116**
Single-dotted Wave	*Idaea dimidiata*		26			1	5	**32**
Six-spot Burnet	*Zygaena filipendulae*		11	1		415	28	**455**
Small Dusty Wave	*Idaea seriata*						2	**2**
Small Fan-foot	*Herminia grisealis*		4			1	1	**6**
Small Fan-footed Wave	*Idaea biselata*		49		2	5	7	**63**
Small Magpie	*Anania hortulata*	m	1		3	2	1	**7**
Small Mottled Willow	*Spodoptera exigua*						1	**1**
Small Phoenix	*Ecliptopera silaceata*		1		4	7	1	**13**
Small Quaker	*Orthosia cruda*		2		20	33	9	**64**
Small Rufous	*Coenobia rufa*						1	**1**
Small Square-spot	*Diarsia rubi*		52		5	22	3	**82**
Small Yellow Wave	*Hydrelia flammeolaria*		3				1	**4**
Smoky Wainscot	*Mythimna impura*		169	1		5	1	**176**
Snout	*Hypena proboscidalis*		12	1	13	5	9	**40**
Sombre Brocade	*Dichonioxa tenebrosa*					2	1	**3**
Southern Wainscot	*Mythimna straminea*						3	**3**
Spectacle	*Abrostola tripartita*		6	1	8	9	2	**26**
Spotted Knot-horn	*Phycitodes binaevella*						2	**2**
Spruce Carpet	*Thera britannica*		4		5	1	2	**12**
Square-spot Rustic	*Xestia xanthographa*		424	1	14	11	30	**480**
Straw Dot	*Rivula sericealis*		40		13	12	7	**72**
Straw Grass-moth	*Agriphila straminella*	m	1	1	2	5	4	**13**
Straw Underwing	*Thalpophila matura*		4			1	1	**6**
Straw-barred Pearl	*Pyrausta despicata*	m					1	**1**
Striped Sorrel Moth	*Aroga velocella*	m					2	**2**
Striped Wainscot	*Mythimna pudorina*		3				1	**4**
Sulphur Bark Moth (Sulphur Tubic)	*Esperia sulphurella*	m					2	**2**
Swallow Prominent	*Pheosia tremula*		8		6	1	4	**19**
Tawny Grey	*Eudonia lacustrata*	m			2	8	9	**19**
Tawny Oak Tortrix/Tawny Birch Tortrix	*Acleris ferrugana/notana*	m				1	2	**3**
Tawny-barred Angle	*Macaria liturata*		5			7	3	**15**
Tawny-fronted Straw	*Neocochylis molliculana (Cochylis molliculana)*	m			1	3	2	**6**
Treble Brown Spot	*Idaea trigeminata*		3		1		2	**6**
Treble Lines	*Charanyca trigrammica*		62		45	28	39	**174**
True Lover's Knot	*Lycophotia porphyrea*		9		1	4	3	**17**
Tufted Oak Knot-horn	*Acrobasis tumidana*						1	**1**
Turnip Moth	*Agrotis segetum*		45	2	1	4	1	**53**
Twin-barred Knot-horn	*Homoeosoma sinuella*	m			1		2	**3**
Twin-spotted Quaker	*Anorthoa munda*				8	8	4	**20**
*Uncertain	*Hoplodrina octogenaria*						13	**13**

Uncertain/Rustic agg.	*Hoplodrina octogenaria/blanda*		308	3	17	23	52	**403**
Varied Tortrix	*Acleris hastiana*						1	**1**
Variegated Golden Tortrix	*Archips xylosteana*	m			4		1	**5**
Vestal	*Rhodometra sacraria*		1	1		2	6	**10**
Vine's Rustic	*Hoplodrina ambigua*		199	2	23	26	66	**316**
V-pug	*Chloroclystis v-ata*					1	1	**2**
White Crescent	*Teleiodes luculella*	m			1	3	4	**8**
White Ermine	*Spilosoma lubricipeda*		14		7	9	5	**35**
White Plume	*Pterophorus pentadactyla*	m	2		2	3	1	**8**
White Satin Moth	*Leucoma salicis*						2	**2**
White-banded Dot	*Ectoedemia albifasciella*	m					1	**1**
White-point	*Mythimna albipuncta*				7	10	22	**39**
White-shouldered House-moth	*Endrosis sarcitrella*	m			2		2	**4**
Willow Beauty	*Peribatodes rhomboidaria*		52	7	35	16	27	**137**
Willow Ermine	*Yponomeuta rorrella*					2	1	**3**
Winter Moth	*Operophtera brumata*		9				1	**10**
Yellow Horned	*Achlya flavicornis*				1		1	**2**
Yellow Shell	*Camptogramma bilineata*	m	3			2	1	**6**
Yellow-banded Longhorn	*Nemophora degeerella*						13	**13**
			7864	**240**	**1713**	**2819**	**2459**	**15095**

Blue highlighting indicates moth species New for Site (NFS) for 2023 and yellow highlighting indicates NFS for 2022.

Total count includes a few species that are difficult to identify without dissection, which have been recorded as aggregrate (agg.) species.

This includes 13 adults of the species named **Uncertain (Hoplodrina octogenarian). These will have certainly been present before, but they are difficult to identify accurately and some would have been recorded previously as Uncertain/Rustic agg. (Hoplodrina octogenarian/blanda agg). It was possible to inspect these particular individuals to determine that the underwing was brown as opposed to grey.*

BATS IN AND AROUND UPTON COUNTRY PARK – A HISTORICAL REVIEW

Nick Woods

SUMMARY

Thirteen species of bat have been recorded in and around Upton Country Park between 1976 and 2023, around three-quarters of the species regularly recorded in Britain. Some species, e.g. the Greater Horseshoe Bat have only been recorded in the early part of this period, whilst others, e.g. Barbastelle and Nathusius' Pipistrelle were first identified in 2023, based on a series of bat detector recordings. The known records for each species, most of which are incidental rather than the result of systematic surveys, are summarised. Many of the earlier records are of roosting bats in Upton House, especially from the basement and the principal roost sites in the building are described. Brief details of the history of the area, the habitats present and intended further survey work are also given.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Bats can be relatively inconspicuous and are not easy to identify unless seen close-up. Under UK law any activity likely to disturb a bat, even to examine it, will normally require the appropriate licence. Despite this, at least thirteen species are known to have been recorded in or near Upton Country Park. This is a significant proportion of the seventeen species known to breed in Britain[1]. The potential importance of the area for bats is not always apparent; although the ecology of the 'Holes Bay Nature Park' (which includes both Upton Country Park and Upton Woods) has been described in detail[2] there is little published information on the area's bats.

1.2 Many of the earlier bat records from Upton Country Park are of bats found in Upton House itself, these date from around 1976 when the area around Upton House opened as Upton Country Park, and the House was permanently staffed. There are records of bats in Upton House from at least the following years: 1976-1981, 1983-85, 1990, 2004, 2008, 2010-11, 2017 and 2020-21. Most of these records are casual and not the results of systematic survey and it is likely that bats have been seen but not recorded in other years, and that bats have used the house unobserved.

1.3 More recently, the continuing development of 'bat detectors' – electronic devices which reveal and (in some cases) record the ultrasonic calls bats use to navigate and find prey ('echo-location') has given more scope to the identification of bats in flight. This has allowed identification of bats using the habitats within and beyond the Park itself. The increased legal protection given to bats and their roosts has also led to surveys being undertaken to prevent damage or disturbance to bats which could arise from development. Such surveys include inspections of buildings and trees for signs of bats and counts of bats emerging or returning to suspected roosts, as well as the use of bat detectors to identify bats moving through the area.

2. SPECIES RECORDED

2.1 The following species list is based on records from Upton House, Upton Country Park, and nearby areas including Upton Park Farm, Upton Woods (the former estate woodland lying to the north of Poole Road) and Holes Bay, though most records relate to the Country Park. It has been compiled from records held at the Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC), records held by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP), as well as a number of individual recorders. The list includes all species known to have been recorded up to the end of 2023 and emphasises historic records. Bat detector records in recent years have led to three species not previously known from the area to be included in the list: Leisler's Bat (recorded in 2017), Barbastelle and Nathusius' Pipistrelle (both recorded in 2023). Some additional bat detector data collected in 2023

has yet to be looked at in detail and has not been used in compiling the list. It is likely that many of the species are more regularly present in the area than the available records suggest.

2.2 The Greater Horseshoe Bat *(Rhinolophus ferrumequinum)*

It was this bat species which first attracted attention to Upton House as a bat roost. Although few detailed records have been obtained, it is believed the species was found between 1976 and 1980 with another positive record in 1984, with identification based on both a live animal and from droppings. A skull and other bones were also found in 1984. The skull and droppings were identified by Bob Stebbings, then one of the country's best known bat experts.

As far as is known all records were from the basement of Upton House, probably from both the 'bat cave' and the old bakehouse (see below for details of these roost sites). In 1982 new central heating boilers were installed in the basement of Upton House and a hole created in the wall to allow the bats still to access the areas used for roosting. The few later records of this species (and of other species) suggest this work was successful in allowing continued access by bats. There are no known recent records of this species, though the roost locations used in the past are difficult to access, so it is possible it is still present.

Fig 1 Left: bat droppings collected from the basement of Upton House (c 1984)
Right: skull of bat, believed to be a Greater Horseshoe Bat
found in the basement of Upton House in 1984.

2.3 Barbastelle *(Barbastella barbastellus)*

A single bat detector record from the gardens / parkland just south of Upton House on 21st September 2023 (Nick Woods - identification confirmed by Adrian Bicker from sonagram).

2.4 Serotine *(Eptisecus serotinus)*

An early record from 1980 possibly relates to Upton House though it has not been possible to track down the details. Bat detector records from 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2022 from surveys in Upton Country Park and adjacent to residential properties around 500 m from Upton House.

2.5 Bechstein's Bat *(Myotis bechsteinii)*

Recorded from the cavity in the roof of the 'bat cave' in the basement of Upton House in 1984 (identified by Ian Alexander) with another 'probable' in the same year in the basement near the wine cellar; records from buildings being unusual for this species. Recorded by Jan Freeborn near the duck pond and nearby (in Upton Wood – north of Poole Road) and by Nick Tomlinson on 12th June 2010 at a harp trapping session in Upton Country Park.


Fig 2 Left: Bechstein's Bat found in Upton House in 1984.
Note: modern guidelines[7] for licenced bat workers require the use of protective gloves and modified handling techniques to minimise the risk of injury.
Right: Brown Long-eared Bat found dead in Upton House.

2.6 Daubenton's Bat *(Myotis daubentonii)*

Recorded from the basement of Upton House in 1984, identified by Bob Stebbings from droppings. Two trapped in 2010 and one in 2014 with bat detector records in 2018 and 2023. The most recent records predominantly from over and near the pond at the south end of the grove in Upton Country Park.

2.7 Whiskered Bat *(Myotis mystacinus)*

One known record: two females on 12th June 2010 (Nick Tomlinson), caught in harp-trap in Upton Country Park.

2.8 Natterer's Bat *(Myotis nattereri)*

Reported between 1980 and 1983 by the then warden at Upton Country Park and in the basement of Upton House (mainly from the 'bat cave') in 1985 and 1990 (identified by Dave Mockford) and 2008 (Jan Freeborn). Also recorded in 2010 and 2018, when animals were trapped in Upton Wood and in the grove woodland (east of the lake).

2.9 Leisler's Bat *(Nyctalus leisleri)*

Only one confirmed record - reported by ABR Ecology Ltd from echo location calls picked up near residential buildings around 500m from Upton House in 2017[3]. The presence of this species was also indicated by the auto-identification facility on detector recordings made in and near Upton Country Park in 2023, but these auto-identifications have yet to be confirmed (Nick Woods).

2.10 Noctule *(Nyctalus noctule)*

Reported as present in Upton Country Park c1981 and from one of the bat boxes there in 2009 (Jan Freeborn). There is only one known record of this mainly tree-roosting bat at Upton House (one picked up on a bat detector in the basement in 2017). However, there are field records (often using a bat detector) from the Country Park and nearby areas in 2016-2018, 2020 and 2022.

2.11 Nathusius' Pipistrelle *(Pipistrellus nathusii)*

There are no historic records for this species but it was identified from recordings made on a bat detector on three occasions in 2023: at the Fleetsbridge Channel ('PC World Drain') on 5th September 2023 (Nick Woods – identification confirmed by Adrian Bicker), to the rear of Upton

House on 10th October 2023 (Nick Woods) and near the duck pond in Upton Country Park on 28th October 2023 (Jan Freeborn).

2.12 Common Pipistrelle *(Pipistrellus pipistrellus)*

Pipistrelles have been reported from Upton Country Park and nearby areas from 1976. However, given that it was not widely known that both this and the next species were present in this country until the 1980s, it is unclear to which species the earlier records refer to. Whilst there are some physical differences between the two species, they are often distinguished by their echolocation calls – the main identification method used in later records. Such records have been made in 2006, 2010-201, 2014-2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023 from Upton Country Park and nearby areas. A small number of roosting bats have been recorded roosting in residential buildings around 500m from Upton House and there are bat detector records from within the basement of Upton House. A pipistrelle found roosting in the trunk of an old 'totem' Oak at Upton Country Park (Fig 8) was probably this species, but the limited view of the bat meant it was not possible to confirm this (information supplied by Mariko White).

2.13 Soprano Pipistrelle *(Pipistrellus pygmaeus)*

The earliest known record of this species is from 2008, though this probably reflects the difficulty of distinguishing it from the Common Pipistrelle in the past. The species was then recorded from 2008-2010, 2013, 2016-2018, 2020 and 2023. Roosting bats were recorded by Jan Freeborn in bat boxes amongst the mature Oaks south of Upton House on 16th August 2008 (one male in Box 1) and on 30th August 2009 (three bats in Box 2). This species has also been recorded in bat boxes installed in Upton Wood[3] and in the 'pine woodland strip' on Upton Heath in 2013 and 2018. Single bats were recorded emerging from two points on a residential building around 500m from Upton House in 2017 and 2018. There is a single record of a bat found dead on the first floor of Upton House in 2020. There are several more recent records made with bat detectors of this species from the grounds of Upton Country Park.

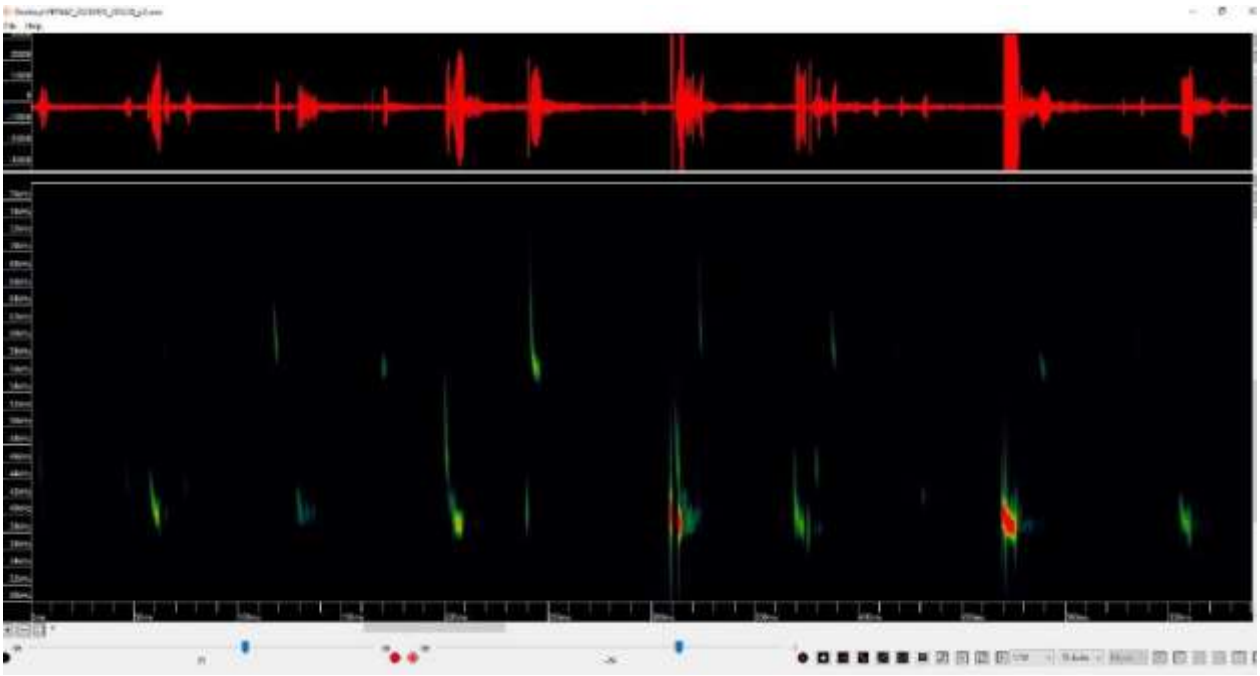

Fig 3 Bat calls recorded on a bat detector at the Fleetsbridge Channel ('PC World Drain') on 5th September 2023.
The sonagram (lower graph) shows frequency in kHz (y axis) and time in milliseconds (x axis). Pipistrelles typically have 'hockey-stick' shaped calls – the red showing the frequency with the greatest intensity. This sonagram shows calls of Nathusius' Pipistrelle peaking around 40 kHz and Soprano Pipistrelle peaking at around 55 kHz.

2.14 Brown Long-eared Bat *(Plecotus auratus)*

This species may be the most recorded bat in and around Upton House itself, with records of one or two animals in 1981, 1984-1985, 2003-2004, 2008-2012, 2017-2018 and 2020-2021. There are records of roosting bats in the basement – in or near the 'bat cave' (see below), the former bake-house and the stair-wells of Upton House. It was also recorded in the old stables (prior to conversion to tea-rooms) and there is one record of a bat in one of the 'turrets' at the corners of the walled garden. Some of the records relate to bats behind panelling or plasterwork. Droppings believed to be from this species have been recorded in various parts of Upton House.

This species has been recorded in bat boxes in Upton Country Park (with one in Box 4 and three in Box 6 on 22nd February 2008) and in trapping sessions in the grove in 2010 and Upton Wood in 2018. It is rarely noted on bat detector surveys – probably due to the difficulty of identifying it due to its very quiet calls.

There is one record on 17th September 1984 of an adult male bat on the first floor of Upton House, that was thought at the time, to be a possible **Grey Long-eared Bat** (*Plecotus austriacus)* as the grey fur appeared darker, almost black when parted and measurements of the forearm, fifth digit and tragus length indicated this species, though measurement of the thumb indicated Brown Long-eared Bat (measurements made by Ian Alexander). The bat was released before it could be further examined and the identification remains unconfirmed.

Fig 4 Long-eared bat found in Upton House on 17th September 1984 – identification not confirmed ***(Note: modern guidelines[7] for licenced bat workers require the use of protective gloves and modified handling techniques to minimise the risk of injury).***

3. KNOWN BAT ROOSTS – UPTON HOUSE

3.1 Upton House (Fig 1) was built around 1818 by Christopher Spurrier, a wealthy Poole Merchant. The house is mainly of rendered brick with a slate roof and was the centre piece of a thousand-acre estate, including farmland, woodland and heathland. The central, and original block of the House is of four stories (including a basement). Subsequent owners included Edward Doughty, who purchased the site in 1828 and added the east wing, and the Llewellin family who purchased the property in 1901. The House was gifted to the then Borough of Poole in 1957, but remained un-occupied for some time. In 1961 it was let on a twenty-two-year lease to Prince Carol of Romania, but the lease was surrendered in 1969, at which time there were concerns over the condition of the building. The various owners have all made extensive alterations to the House, and at times parts have been in poor condition, with much work still needed to ensure its long-term survival. There are numerous places within the structure where bats could gain entry. The building and its history are most comprehensively described in the Conservation Management Plan prepared in 2010[5].

Fig 5. Upton House from the north (showing the front door).
Note the basement extends roughly the full width of the building (approximately 55 m).

3.2 To date nine species of bat are known to have been recorded from Upton House itself: Greater Horseshoe Bat, Serotine, Bechstein's Bat, Daubenton's Bat, Natterer's Bat, Noctule, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared Bat.

3.3 Bats have been found on all four floors of the House, sometimes when bats have entered occupied rooms, and from concealed locations (e.g. behind plaster work) when renovation works have been carried out. Despite the regular evidence for bats in Upton House, there are no known observations of bats leaving roosts or returning to roost and the numbers of individual bats recorded are very low. An early observation by the late Jack Hadfield (the first warden of the Country Park) from the late 1970s to early 1980s suggested bats had entered the attic via the circular window in the apex of the pediment over the front door (see Fig. 1) prior to it being repaired in the early 1980s. Bats would then use door frames within the attic for roosting, with droppings and piles of moth wings collecting on the floor.

3.4 Although there may be other locations in the House used by bats, the majority of the known Upton House records have been from the basement. Bats have been recorded in several parts of the basement (e.g. near the wine cellars and in the vicinity of the well at the east end), though the installation of two sets of fire doors in 1984, may have limited the movement of bats within the basement. Many of the records from the basement are from two areas, both seldom visited by people. The locations of these sites in the basement are indicated in Fig 6.

3.5 The best-known bat roost within the house (unnamed on most plans but nicknamed the 'bat cave' by staff in the past (Fig 6)) is a roughly square room (approximately 3m x 3m) accessed from the lobby adjacent to the squash court via a locked wooden slatted gate (probably installed in the late 1980s or early 1990s to deter unauthorised disturbance to the roosting bats). There is a cavity in the ceiling, possibly a bricked-up vent[5] which has been used by bats. Bats in this cavity cannot be seen from the doorway and, as there is little natural light, and no artificial light in the room, inspection usually requires a torch to be shone into the cavity. For this reason, bats may easily go undetected in this room. In the past some simple monitoring of the cavity took place by placing a sheet of white paper beneath it and periodically checking for bat droppings. In 1982 new central heating boilers were installed in an adjacent room and a new entrance hole was created in an external wall for bats to access this area (later records suggest this early piece of mitigation was effective).

Fig. 6 – Aerial photo of Upton House indicating approximate location of rooms in the basement. Room names and numbers are as used by the Council's Property Services Department and/or in the 2010 Conservation Management Plan[5], except for the 'bat cave' which is usually un-named on plans.
Aerial photo courtesy of Remy Lovesey.

3.6 Many records for the basement are not specific as to the exact location, however, in the past, the following species are known to have been recorded from or near the 'bat cave': Greater Horseshoe Bat (1984), Bechstein's Bat (1984), Daubenton's Bat (1984), Natterer's Bat (1990 and 2008) and Brown Long-eared Bat (2021).

Fig 7 The 'bat cave' (Left to Right): Entrance from lobby to squash court (prior to fitting of wooden gate);
Top: Interior: Lower: Entrance from inside;
Right: bat access hole in nearby wall (adjacent to room holding central heating boilers).

3.7 Another site known to have been used by bats is the old bakehouse; a room of similar size and construction to the 'bat cave.' The Conservation Management Plan suggests that an internal doorway from the (current) squash court may have been bricked up in the early twentieth century[5], since when it has probably been seldom visited, as access is not possible from within the building. The door way is open, though sometimes obstructed by hanging strands of ivy (Fig. 8).

Fig 8 The old bakehouse. Left: Entrance doorway 2023; Right: Interior (c 2010). This room is not accessible from the inside of Upton House.

3.8 Although this site has been rarely visited (probably much less frequently than the 'bat cave'), records for Greater Horseshoe Bat (1984) and Brown Long-eared Bat (probable – 1984) have been made here. The former based on a skeleton and droppings and the latter based on the accumulation of moth wings thought to represent a feeding station.

4. KNOWN BAT ROOSTS – OTHER BUILDINGS AND TREES

4.1 Long-eared Bats were found in the old stable block in 1986/7, prior to its re-building as the Park's tearooms. This species has also been found in one of the 'turrets' in the corner of the walled garden. Legal protection of bats has meant demolition or alteration of buildings will often require a bat survey by a qualified ecologist looking for bats, signs of bats or bats emerging or entering buildings. In addition to the known roosts in Upton House, a small number of roosts have been identified on at least two other buildings (residential and agricultural) that were formerly part of the Upton Estate, and are within 500m of Upton House. Other surveys of buildings such as the fowl house and car park toilets have failed to find any evidence of bats, though given bats can roosts in small crevices such surveys will not necessarily find all the bats present. However, those responsible for works to buildings in and near the Park are aware of the possibility of finding bats and the legal requirement to protect them.

5. BAT USE OF THE WIDER HABITATS IN AND AROUND UPTON COUNTRY PARK

5.1 Bats will also use roosts in trees, particularly old trees with splits, loose bark etc. Upton Country Park has many such trees, including many old Oaks within the former parkland (Fig. 9). The newly built Upton House was surrounded by an extensive 'park,' with scattered trees, and some of the veteran trees are probably older than Upton House itself[6]. Even much younger trees can contain potential roost sites. As far as is known there is only one record of a bat roosting within a tree, a pipistrelle found in a crack in a dead tree stump in 2023 (Fig. 9). As with buildings, when major tree works are proposed a qualified ecologist will often be employed to survey for signs of bats or potential roosts.

Fig 9 – Left: veteran Oak tree near the shoreline and
Right: Pipistrelle bat roosting in crack in dead tree trunk at Upton Country Park
(Photo courtesy of Mariko Whyte)

5.2 Mitigation for possible loss of roosting sites, has included the erection of bat boxes, which have also been provided as a general enhancement to habitats present (Fig 10). The following species (at least) have been recorded from bat boxes in Upton Country Park and/or Upton Woods: Noctule, Soprano Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared Bat. The most recently erected building in the Park (the Welcome Centre) has had gaps left in the soffits to allow bats to access to the roof space, and the stone block walls used in the building may also provide places for bats to roost (Fig 10).

Fig 10 Artificial bat roosts: Left: bat box in the Grove;
Right: Upton Country Park's new Welcome Centre has gaps in the soffit to allow bats to enter and the gaps in the stone walls could also provide roosting spaces.

5.3 As well as roost sites, bats need appropriate habitats to feed in. Much of the parkland was, and some still is, grazed by farm stock. In the past the farmland which surrounded the parkland would have been used both as pasture and arable. More recently it has been largely used for stock grazing and much has now been converted to open space with public access, as a SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space). Conversion to SANG has meant the loss of grazing stock – effectively replaced with tree planting and a new grass cutting regime. Although the latter is often designed to encourage wild flowers, the absence of grazing animals may have a negative effect on some insects, which are potential food for bats. Beyond the parkland and existing or former agricultural land there are several small woods (former plantations), several hedgerows

and several ponds and small watercourses. This varied landscape probably provides good feeding habitat for bats, as well as potential roost sites.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 The thirteen bat species recorded in and around Upton Country Park represents roughly three-quarters of those species regularly recorded in Britain. Although these may not all be present today, the area still provides varied habitats and potential roost sites. Today much of the land is intensively used for recreation, but it does have some protection from development due to its green-belt status, the presence of nearby protected habitats and its use as a SANG. The maintenance of good quality habitats for bats should be largely compatible with current and future land use.

6.2 Whilst roost sites are legally protected, they can be inadvertently damaged by modifications to buildings or by the loss of suitable roost sites in trees, which can occur when, for example, dangerous trees are felled or dead wood removed for safety reasons. The further restoration of Upton House could provide both challenges and opportunities for bats. From the available records summarised above it is unclear to what extent the House is still used by bats, though such use is not always obvious. Whilst repairs and improvements might restrict access for bats (and probably have done so in the past), there are relatively inaccessible parts of the building (including the 'bat cave' old bakehouse and coal store/ice house') with limited scope for public use that could be retained, improved or adapted for bat use. This would be in keeping with the approach adopted nearly fifty years ago, when measures were taken to ensure access for bats to the 'bat cave' was not lost due to the installation of a new central heating system.

6.3 A small group of volunteers is currently assisting Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council with wildlife recording in Upton Country Park and Holes Bay, and is intending to monitor the use of bat boxes and other roost sites, as well as carrying out bat detector surveys in and around the Park. The Park's volunteer group, The Friends of Upton Country Park, has recently agreed to fund the installation of a static bat detector, initially to be sited in Upton House. It has hoped that this work will provide much more detailed information on what bats are present in the area, how the landscape is used by bats and this will, in turn, enable Upton House and the nearby areas to positively managed to the benefit of bats.

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FUNGI RECORDED IN UPTON COUNTRY PARK AND HOLES BAY IN 2023

Rowan Booth, Sally Grant, Nick Woods

INTRODUCTION

During 2023, 75 species of fungi were recorded within Upton Country Park and around Holes Bay. (See Full Species List). At least one species was recorded every month between March and December. The species identified were entered on the 'Living Record' online recording system, used by the Dorset Environmental Records Centre (DERC), and our thanks go to Bryan Edwards for verification of the majority of our records. At the time of writing a few species are yet to be entered and verified.

Coral Tooth *(Hericium coralloides)* was again present (on its usual log) and Zoned Rosette was re-found. Both are priority species under the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan and Bryan Edwards reports that Zoned Rosette had been found at UCP in 2006, 2009 & 2013 - so good to re-find in 2023.

Magpie Inkcap *(Coprinopsis picacea)*, with found in impressive numbers with over 110 noted.

Agaricus augustus
The Prince ©Nick Woods

Amanita fulva
Tawny Grisette ©Nick Woods

Amanita phalloides
Deathcap ©Rowan Booth

Boletus porosporus
Sepia boletus ©Nick Woods

Calocera cornea
Small Stagshorn ©Nick Woods

Coprinopsis picacea
Magpie Inkcap ©Rowan Booth

Coprinus comatus
Shaggy Inkcap/Lawyer's Wig ©Rowan Booth

Cortinarius hemitrichus
Frosty Webcap ©Nick Woods

Ganoderma applanatum/lipsiense
Artists Bracket ©Rowan Booth

Ganoderma resinaceum
©Rowan Booth

Geastrum triplex
Collared Earthstar
©Rowan Booth

Hericium coralloides
Coral tooth Fungus
©Rowan Booth

Hypholoma fasciculare
Sulphur Tuft ©Nick Woods

Inonotus hispidus
Shaggy Bracket ©Rowan Booth

Kuehneromyces mutabilis
Sheathed Woodtuft
©Nick Woods

Mycena rosea
Rosy Bonnet ©Nick Woods

Peziza vesiculosa
Blistered Cup ©Rowan Booth

Pleurotus dryinus
Veiled Oyster ©Nick Woods

Podoscypha multizonata
Zoned Rosette ©Nick Woods

Polyporus squamosus
Dryad's Saddle ©Nick Woods

Schizophyllum commune
Splitgill ©Nick Woods

Scleroderma citrinum
Common Earthball ©Nick Woods

Stereum hirsutum
Hairy Curtain Crust ©Nick Woods

Thelephora penicillate
Earthfan ©Nick Woods

Trametes versicolor
Turkey Tail ©Rowan Booth

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Full List of Fungi Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
Abortiporus biennis	Blushing Rosette	*Laetiporus sulphureus*	Chicken of the Woods
Agaricus augustus	The Prince	*Lepista nuda*	Wood Blewit
Amanita fulva	Tawny Grisette	*Leratiomyces ceres*	Redlead Roundhead
Amanita phalloides	Deathcap	*Lycogala epidendrum*	
Ascocoryne sarcoides	Purple Jellydisc	*Lycogala terrestre*	
Bolbitius titubans	Yellow Fieldcap	*Lycoperdon excipuliforme*	Pestle Puffball
Boletus porosporus	Sepia Bolete	*Lycoperdon perlatum*	Common Puffball
Boletus radicans	Rooting Bolete	*Macrolepiota procera*	Parasol
Boletus subtomentosus	Suede Bolete	*Marasmiellus ramealis*	Twig Parachute
Calocera cornea	Small Stagshorn	*Mycena galericulata*	Common Bonnet
Calocybe gambosa	St George's mushroom	*Mycena rosea*	Rosy Bonnet
Chlorophyllum rhacodes	Shaggy Parasol	*Mycena vitilis*	Snapping Bonnet
Clitocybe geotropa	Trooping Funnel	*Myxomycota indet.*	Witches Butter
Coprinopsis picacea	Magpie inkcap	*Oudemansiella mucida*	Porcelain Fungus
Coprinus comatus	Shaggy Inkcap / Lawyer's Wig	*Panellus stipticus*	Bitter Oysterling
Cortinarius hemitrichus	Frosty Webcap	*Paradiacheopsis erythropodia*	
Daedaleopsis confragosa	Blushing Bracket	*Parasola plicatilis*	Pleated Inkcap
Daldinia concentrica	King Alfred's Cakes / Cramp Balls	*Paxillus involutus*	Brown Rollrim
Exidia nucleata	Witches Butter	*Peziza vesiculosa*	Blistered Cup
Fistulina hepatica	Beef Steak Fungus	*Pholiota gummosa*	Sticky Scalycap
Flammulina velutipes	Velvet Shank	*Piptoporus betulinus*	Birch Polypore / Razorstrop Fungus
Fuligo septica		*Pleurotus dryinus*	Veiled Oyster
Ganoderma applantum/lipsiense	Artist's Bracket	*Pluteus petasatus*	
Ganoderma australe	Southern Bracket	*Podoscypha multizonata*	Zoned Rosette
Ganoderma resinaceum		*Polyporus leptocephalus*	Blackfoot Polypore
Geastrum triplex	Collared Earthstar	*Polyporus squamosus*	Dryad's Saddle
Grifola frondosa	Hen of the Woods	*Psathyrella candolleana*	Pale Brittlestem
Gymnopilus junonius	Spectacular Rustgill	*Ramaria stricta*	Upright Coral Fungus
Gymnopus fusipes	Spindle Toughshank	*Rhytisma acerinum*	Sycamore Tarspot
Gyroporus castaneus	Chestnut Bolete	*Russula atropurpurea*	Purple Brittlegill
Helvella crispa	White Saddle	*Russula Mairei*	Beechwood Sickener
Hericium coralloides	Coral Tooth	*Russula sardonia*	Primrose Brittlegill
Hypholoma fasciculare	Sulphur Tuft	*Schizophyllum commune*	Splitgill
Hypoxylon fragiforme	Beech Woodwart	*Scleroderma citrinum*	Common Earthball
Inonotus hispidus	Shaggy Bracket	*Stereum hirsutum*	Hairy Curtain Crust
Kretzschmaria deusta	Brittle Cinder	*Thelephora penicillata*	Earthfan
Kuehneromyces mutabilis	Sheathed Woodtuft	*Trametes versicolor*	Turkeytail
Laccaria amethystina	Amethyst Deceiver	*Tricholoma sulphureum*	Sulphur Knight
Laccaria laccata	Deceiver		
		Total	***76 Species***