**Bird species list for Shoreham Beach LNR and Harbour mouth from FoSB**

**Last updated 31 January 2020 by Tony Benton**

**Brent Goose**

Seen on passage April and May 2018, moving East.

**Mute Swan**

One on the sea, west of Ferry Road entrance, on the 25 August 2018.

**Pheasant**

One early December 2018 around the Fort. (CB)

**Great Crested Grebe**

These birds are often seen on the sea during the winter and early spring, by which time they will be acquiring summer plumage.  This species breeds inland on fresh water but is at home on salt water, especially if inland water bodies freeze up. Two off shore on 15 April 2018 for example. One off shore January 2020.

**Little Egret**

One 16 May 2019, on exposed sand, harbour mouth, opposite life boat station. Foraging at low tide.

**Gannet**

Can be seen throughout the year, although somewhat scarce in the winter months. This species has to be looked for off-shore and on occasions can be seen quite close to the beach. The first that I noted in 2018 was a single bird heading East on 19 March. At least 100 birds off shore on the 3 January 2019.

**Cormorant**

Present throughout the year, off-shore and in the harbour area. Often seen from the fort car park in and around the harbour.

**Sparrowhawk**

One seen over the beach and around the Fort car park on 30 march 2018.

**Oystercatcher**

Fairly common on and around the reserve, frequently seen - and heard - flying along the beach.

**Golden Plover**

One on 26 September 2018.

**Grey Plover**

x2 on the shore line, 29 October 2019. At high tide so perhaps displaced from the nearby salt marsh where two birds were being seen daily.

**Ringed plover**

Seen along the tide line and sometimes on the beach or along the harbour wall. A single bird was photographed on the beach on 26/May 2019.

**Turnstone**

Present throughout the year and easily seen around the harbour, especially along the west harbour arm and on the beach between the arm and the wooden jetty.

**Sanderling**

Seen from time to time along the tide line, scurrying around like a clock work mouse!

**Purple Sandpiper**

A speciality of the harbour area, these birds are an autumn and winter visitor. Look for them on the wooden jetty in the harbour mouth, particularly around high tide. Five birds would be a good number. At least three in January 2020.

**Common redshank**

Sometimes seen and heard flying along the beach. Present year round but in small numbers on the reserve.

**Kittiwake**

Not seen in large numbers and always off shore. But they can be seen not far off the beach, especially in the winter months.  A juvenile was seen really well on 5 March 2018 by way of example.

**Black-headed gull**

Always present along the shore line and at sea. The numbers are highest in the winter months.

**Mediterranean gulls**

Fifteen on 23 April 2019

**Common gull**

Can be seen off shore, sometimes very close to the beach, especially in the winter months.

**Great Black Backed Gull**

Always present in small numbers.

**Herring gull**

Probably the most frequently seen gull on the reserve and present throughout the year.

**Sandwich tern**

Seen off shore from early spring through to September and sometimes into October. Away from the reserve they can sometimes be seen from the Ferry Bridge. They often announce themselves with their distinctive call.  At least 20 seen on 30 March 2018, and three on 15 April. In the autumn period five or six birds off shore on the 26 September.

In 2019 birds were seen off shore from early March onwards. The first birds seen by me in 2019 were four on the 31 March and in July perhaps non-breeding birds.

On the 25 August 2019 there at least seven birds off shore, seen well from the Ferry Road entrance area of the beach.  A single sandwich tern on 22 October 209, off-shore.

**Razorbills**

x50, 10 January 2019, with lots of birds flying in small flocks east and west.

**Feral pigeon**

Always present on the beach.

**Wood Pigeon**

A single bird was seen foraging on the beach on the 19 June 2019.

**Peregrine**

Seen in/off the sea on 30 October 2018.

**Swift**

One seen over the beach on 7 July 2018.

**Magpie**

Occasionally seen foraging along the beach, for example on 7 March 2018 at the far west end of the reserve. And one near the Ferry Road entrance on 6 April 2019. Two seen at the western end of the reserve on 5 June 2019.

**Carrion crow**

Always present on the beach.

**Barn Swallow**

Up to 12 over the beach on 4 September 2018. Two along the beach on 15 July 2019.

**House Martin**

One seen over the beach on 26 September 2018.

**Wren**

 x2 on 28 October 2019.

**Chiffchaff**

One was heard around the fort car park on the 7 March 2018.

**Common starling**

Always present on the reserve, especially close to the back gardens of beach side properties. Very large flocks, including many juvenile birds, seen in July and August 2018.

**Black restart**

Present around the fort and fort car park intermittently during the first three months of 2018. The bird would sometimes go missing for days on end. This species likes old buildings and 'industrial' type settings in the winter months.

**Eurasian stonechat**

A pair were present for a few weeks in 2016 at the extreme west of the reserve. A winter visitor.

At least three birds at the east end of the reserve, about 100 meters west from the Fort on 22 October 2019.

**Northern wheatear**

This species is seen every year during the spring and autumn months when the birds are on migration. My first in 2018 was seen on 10 April, and then singles also on 12 and 15 April.  They all appeared to be females. Returning migrants seen on 23 and 25 August 2018 and to the 28 September at least.

On the 20 March 2019, five newly arrived migrants were seen fly-catching from the sea defence rocks West of Beach Green.

**House Sparrows**

These familiar but declining birds can be seen throughout the year, often close to the houses that back onto the beach and frequently at the far western end of the reserve close to the Church of the Good Shepard.

**Meadow pipit**

One seen displaying around the Fort area and beach on 30 March 2018. Two seen around gardens and the Fort area on 30 October 2018.

**Rock Pipit**

Around the Fort area and harbour arm, especially in the winter months. Example December 2018.

**Dunock**

One on 19 November 2019

**Pied Wagtail**

At least one December 2018.

**Greenfinches**

Often present in small numbers, with more birds in the autumn 2018. Twenty seen on 16 November 2019.

**Goldfinches**

Usually present in small numbers and with an increase in the autumn. Two juveniles at least on 15 July 2019, feeding on seed heads.

**Linnets**

A few seen in July 2018, raising a question about whether they had bred on the beach?

Two seen at the west end of the beach on 6 July 2019.

**Snow Bunting**

A confiding bird at the Fort on 22 October 2019.