

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

Grand Gravelot – Sandregenpfeifer – Bontbelplevier – Storre strandpipare – Stonerunner

Common breeding resident, scarcer in winter

The breeding population has seen a significant increase since the 1970s, following work to protect ground nesting birds with electric fencing. The annual totals during the 1970s ranged from ten to 23 pairs whereas during the 1990s between 36 and 52 pairs were estimated each year, almost exclusively along the Beach Reserve. The largest gatherings mostly involve high tide roosts along the sea bank during August and September before numbers drop off to leave a smaller wintering population. The highest counts all relate to flocks roosting on the sea bank: 210 on 19 August 2000, 152 on 29 August 1999 and 150 on 7 September 1998, although large numbers have also been noted roosting just outside the recording area at Rye Saltings and Northpoint Pit, perhaps involving birds using the river Rother and shore at low tide. Breeding birds may start to return as early as late January, and males can be seen in display flights on fine days from then on. A colour marked male present during the breeding season of 1997 had been marked the previous October at Canvey Island in Essex.



Breeding Ringed Plover at Rye Harbour

