

UK TIDES OCT

The times below are for high tide, when waders and wildfowl will be pushed closer to dry land...

Find the location closest to your destination and add or subtract the hours and minutes from the high tide time at London Bridge, below.

Date	Time m	Time m
1	w 05:38 6:40	18:09 6:47
2	th 06:30 6:14	19:12 6:24
3	f 07:41 5:92	20:31 6:17
4	sa 09:08 5:96	21:55 6:38
5	su 10:31 6:29	23:10 6:76
6	m 11:41 6:72	
7	tu 00:13 7:12	12:38 7:08
8	w 01:06 7:34	13:27 7:32
9	th 01:52 7:42	14:11 7:46
10	f 02:35 7:42	14:52 7:53
11	sa 03:15 7:36	15:33 7:52
12	su 03:54 7:21	16:13 7:36
13	m 04:33 6:95	16:53 7:06
14	tu 05:10 6:60	17:34 6:67
15	w 05:48 6:23	18:17 6:27
16	th 06:29 5:90	19:09 5:93
17	f 07:25 5:62	20:17 5:73
18	sa 08:48 5:51	21:39 5:80
19	s 10:19 5:74	22:52 6:13
20	m 11:24 6:15	23:48 6:48
21	tu	12:12 6:48
22	w 00:30 6:70	12:52 6:69
23	th 01:07 6:85	13:27 6:84
24	f 01:42 6:98	14:01 6:99
25	sa 02:16 7:10	14:36 7:12
26	su 02:51 7:14	15:12 7:16
27	m 03:27 7:07	15:48 7:10
28	tu 04:03 6:90	16:27 6:97
29	w 04:42 6:69	17:09 6:79
30	th 05:25 6:45	18:00 6:55
31	f 06:18 6:21	19:03 6:34

SOUTH WEST	Swansea (+4:42)
Weston-Super-Mare (+5:05)	Milford Haven (+4:37)
Barnstaple (+4:30)	Cardiff (+5:15)
Newquay (+3:32)	NORTH WEST
Falmouth (+3:30)	Whitehaven (-2:30)
Plymouth (+4:05)	Douglas (-2:44)
Torquay (+4:40)	Morecambe (-2:33)
Bournemouth (-5:09)*	NORTH EAST
Portland (+4:57)	Skegness (+4:29)
St Peter Port (+4:53)	Grimsby (+4:13)
Swanage (-5:19)*	Bridlington (+2:58)
Portsmouth (-2:29)	Whitby (+2:20)
Southampton (-2:53)	Hartlepool (+1:59)
SOUTH EAST	Slyth (+1:46)
Ryde (-2:29)	Berwick (+0:54)
Brighton (-2:51)	SCOTLAND
Eastbourne (-2:48)	Leith (+0:58)
Dungeness (-3:05)	Dundee (+1:12)
Dover (-2:53)	Aberdeen (-0:18)
Margate (-1:52)	Fraserburgh (-1:28)
Herne Bay (-1:24)	Lossiemouth (-2:00)
Southend-on-sea (-1:22)	Wick (-2:29)
Clacton-on-sea (-2:00)	Lerwick (-2:50)
EAST ANGLIA	Stromness (-4:29)
Felixstowe Pier (-2:23)	Scrabster (-5:09)
Aldeburgh (-2:53)	Stornoway (+5:30)
Lowestoft (-4:23)	Ullapool (+5:36)
Cromer (+4:56)	Garioch (+5:16)
Hunstanton (+4:44)	Oban (+4:12)
WALES	Greenock (-1:19)
Colwyn Bay (-2:47)	Ayr (-1:44)
Holyhead (-3:28)	Campbeltown (-1:12)
Barmouth (-5:45)	Girvan (-1:51)
IRELAND	Kirkcubright Bay (-2:25)
Aberystwyth (-6:11)	IRELAND
Fishguard (+5:44)	Londonderry (-5:32)
	Belfast (-2:47)
	Donegal (+4:20)

*Approximate times due to large variance between the month's neap and spring tides. All times are GMT.



Kate Risely's SPECIES UPDATE

What do you know about Rock Pipits? Not much? You're not alone! Kate Risely, from the BTO, looks at one of our hardest to monitor birds

Rock Pipit – bird of mystery



ROCK PIPIT HAS the rather dubious honour of being one of the worst-monitored of our regular breeding birds. The 2013 update of the population estimates of British birds repeatedly referred to Rock Pipit as an example of a data-poor species: there has never been a national survey of Rock Pipits, their population changes are not monitored through the Breeding Bird Survey or other schemes, and local studies of breeding density, which potentially could be scaled up using national Atlas data, have historically been lacking. The reasons behind this paucity of data are related to the ecology of the species; this is a bird that is restricted to craggy sea coasts, which not only makes them physically difficult to survey but means that common rules of thumb about the way birds are distributed across the landscape do not apply. In some cases, the territories of Rock Pipits are actually arranged vertically in space, up sheer cliff faces, making traditional mapping techniques problematic!

Fortunately, we do know some things about Rock Pipits, otherwise this would be a shorter piece than normal. The UK population is estimated at 36,000 breeding pairs. This was derived for the 1988-91 breeding atlas using an 'informed guess' of the numbers present in a square multiplied by the number of occupied squares. There has been no way to update this estimate since then, and while the 2007-11 Bird Atlas indicates that there has been an increase in the number of squares occupied in the breeding season, the authors note that this could be due to under-recording in the 1988-91 breeding atlas. This was suggested because many of the supposed gains were at sites that had previously been occupied in the 1969-72 atlas, and it seems more likely that occupied sites were missed in the intervening survey, rather than birds leaving and then recolonising.

Given this lack of population information, it's encouraging that a ringer from Grampian Ringing Group has chosen to focus her ringing efforts on an intensive study of Rock Pipits on the Aberdeenshire coast. Studies like these, involving marking individual birds with coloured rings, and monitoring the success

of each nesting attempt, give us hard data on population density, adult survival, and average nesting success. Although these are, by necessity, studies of geographically limited populations, which may be different from those in other areas, the figures produced are superior to the 'expert guesstimates' on which previous population assessments have been based.

Atlas results show that during the breeding season Rock Pipits occur exclusively on the rocky coasts of Britain and Ireland, and are absent from inland areas and the flat and sandy east coast of England. The highest breeding densities are in western Ireland, south-west Wales, the Hebrides and the Northern Isles. These breeding birds do not migrate far, if at all, so the increase in occupied range during the winter, taking in eastern coastal marshes and a few scattered inland areas, is mainly due to an arrival of continental breeding birds.

British breeding Rock Pipits can be told from other pipits by their slightly darker, smudgier markings and stout stature, though the difference in habitat often renders identification on plumage unnecessary. The Scandinavian breeding birds that arrive in the winter are of a different race, *littoralis*, which looks very similar to the British race in winter, but may show hints of a slightly more marked face pattern. Another source of confusion is the Water Pipit, which breeds in central and southern Europe and was once thought to be the same species as Rock Pipit. These are even more strongly marked overall than *littoralis* Rock Pipits, and in the breeding season have a greyish head and pinkish breast. Between them, these different races and species can give you something to look for when you see Rock Pipits around our coast this winter. **BW**

Kate Risely is the British Trust for Ornithology's Breeding Bird Survey National Organiser

The BTO runs surveys that monitor changes in bird populations. If you want to use your skills and enthusiasm to help monitor our birds, why not take part in a BTO survey? For more information, visit bto.org or info@bto.org. For ID videos, including Rock and Water Pipit, see bto.org/about-birds/bird-id

