

## **Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*).**

There are 29 reliable records from 1961 to the end of 2013. Most (20) are of spring migrants, the earliest being one in off the sea on Mar 29<sup>th</sup> 1999, the latest of individuals present until June 22<sup>nd</sup> in 1972 and 1976. The six autumn records concern birds from July 7<sup>th</sup> (in 1961) to one present from Aug 31<sup>st</sup> to Sep 30<sup>th</sup> in 1969. It was no great surprise when news broke of successful breeding for the first time in the UK at Dungeness in 2010 – itself a record year for the Bay with singles on New Downs on May 1<sup>st</sup> and in Pegwell on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, on Willow Farm on May 20<sup>th</sup> and on New Downs on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Two singles were also seen in May 2011 and one was in Pegwell in April 2013.