

Mandarin Duck

Aix galericulata

Introduced breeding resident, locally common; not listed as it is a non-native species.

The Mandarin Duck originates from East Asia, but became established in Britain in the early twentieth century. Its preferred habitat is woodland with ponds. It has greatly expanded its range in Britain over the last 40 years and is now found across much of south-east England, with other populations centred on the Severn Vale and the Peak District (National Atlas).

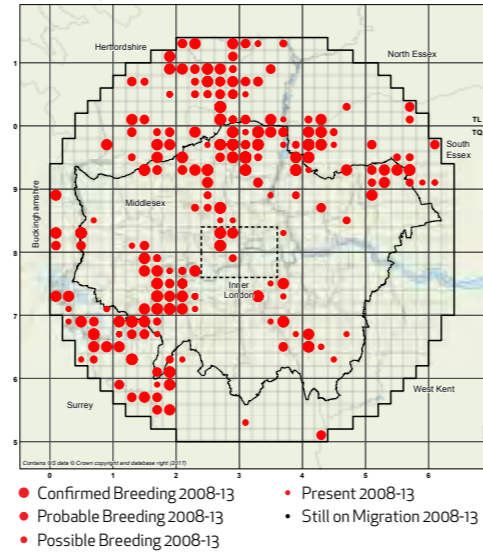
The earliest populations in the London area were in the south-west, probably the result of expansion from its original strongholds around Virginia Water and Windsor Great Park, which lie in Surrey just outside the London area. The Mandarin was already established in these areas at the time of the first confirmed breeding in the London area, near Thorpe in 1946 (Self). By the second atlas period, it was widespread in the south-west and breeding in several locations elsewhere, particularly in north London and the Hertfordshire sector, as well as Epping Forest. It was also recorded as present in Inner London at Regent's Park.

The current atlas shows losses from a small number of tetrads in Surrey but increased occupancy in most other areas, confirming that Mandarin Duck is fully established in the London area. In Inner London, breeding appears to have occurred amongst birds of captive origin in St James's Park in the late 1990s (Self), followed by a pair at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens in 2007 and subsequently other Royal Parks (Self).

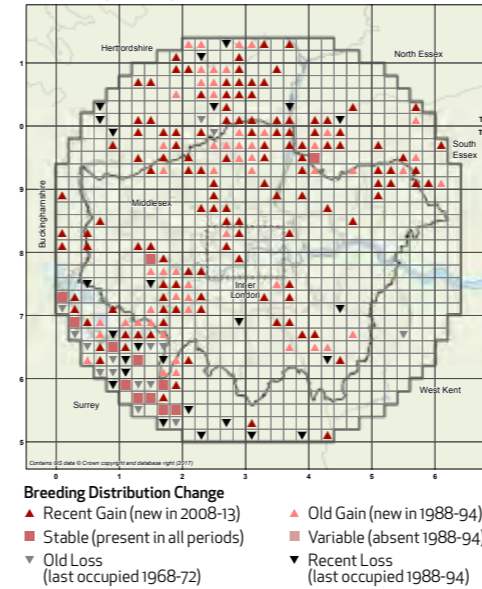
Period	Number of Tetrads		
	Evidence of Breeding	Seen Only	Total
Breeding 1968-72	24	9	33
Breeding 1988-94	54	38	92
Breeding 2008-13	126	66	192
Winter 2007/8-2012/13	-	-	151

During winter, the distribution of the Mandarin Duck is similar to the breeding season, both nationally and within London. Compared to the breeding season, it was found in fewer tetrads within the London area. However, birds are more often seen in larger flocks and may be more visible, particularly if they are forced into more open water by cold weather. The biggest count during the atlas period came from Grovelands Park, north London, with 158 in November 2009. A three figure count also occurred at Regent's Park, where 103 were recorded in December 2010 (LBR), possibly relating to birds moving into London as a result of cold weather.

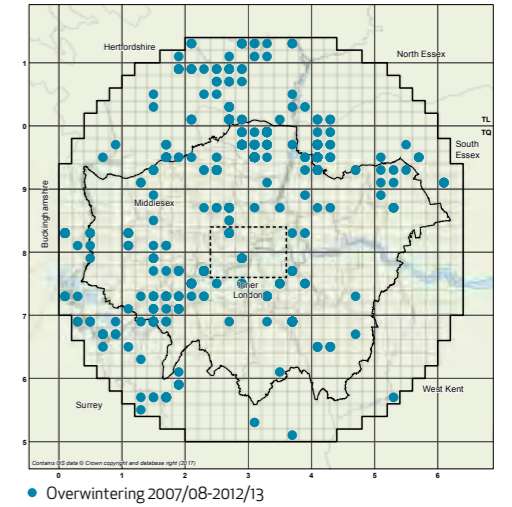
Breeding Distribution



Breeding Change



Winter Distribution



Little Owl

Athene noctua

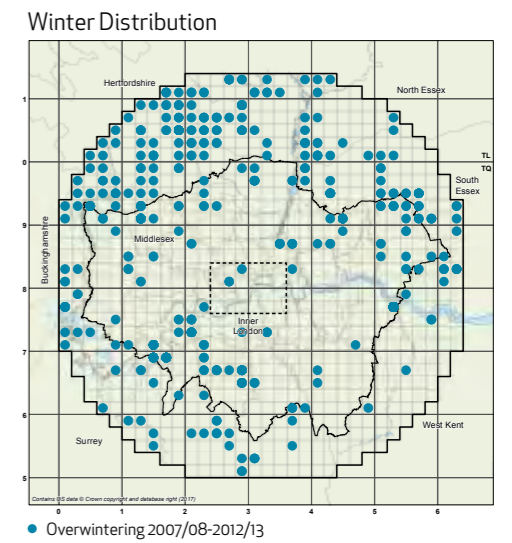
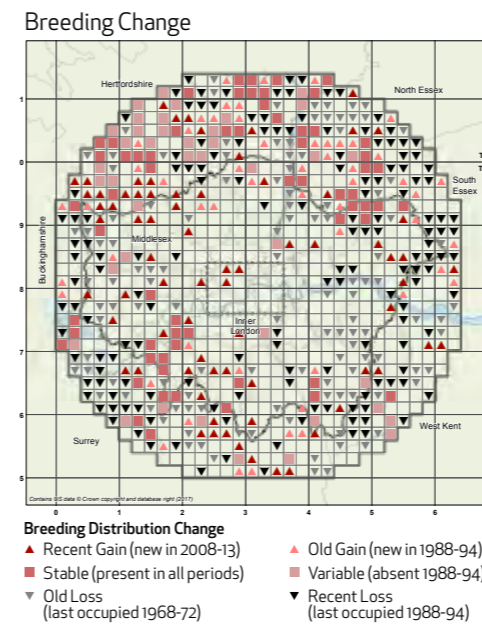
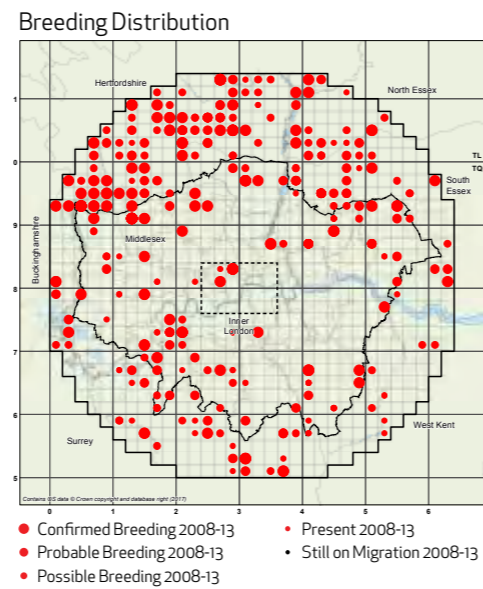
Introduced, localised breeding resident.

The Little Owl was introduced in the latter part of the nineteenth century and has since colonised much of lowland England and parts of Wales and, to a very limited extent, Scotland. However, the population, particularly in western England, is currently in decline (National Atlas).

In our area, the distribution of this species has remained much the same between the first and current atlases. This species is primarily a bird of low-lying, open but lightly wooded country and that is reflected in the atlas maps. Most of the records come from outside Greater London and particularly the Hertfordshire and Essex sectors. There are however breeding populations in some of the larger open spaces within the built-up area, including Richmond Park, where 18 pairs were recorded in 2008 (LBR). This species has also penetrated Inner London. It is reported in the second atlas that a bird was often seen in Regent's Park in 1989 and at least one pair bred successfully here several times during the current atlas period. A pair also bred in Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens during the current atlas period.

Period	Number of Tetrads		
	Evidence of Breeding	Seen Only	Total
Breeding 1968-72	161	114	275
Breeding 1988-94	171	98	269
Breeding 2008-13	131	99	230
Winter 2007/8-2012/13	-	-	213

Although it has a large home range, the Little Owl is a sedentary species. As a consequence, the distribution of this species in our area during the winter is much the same as during the breeding season.



Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus

Abundant breeding resident; green list.

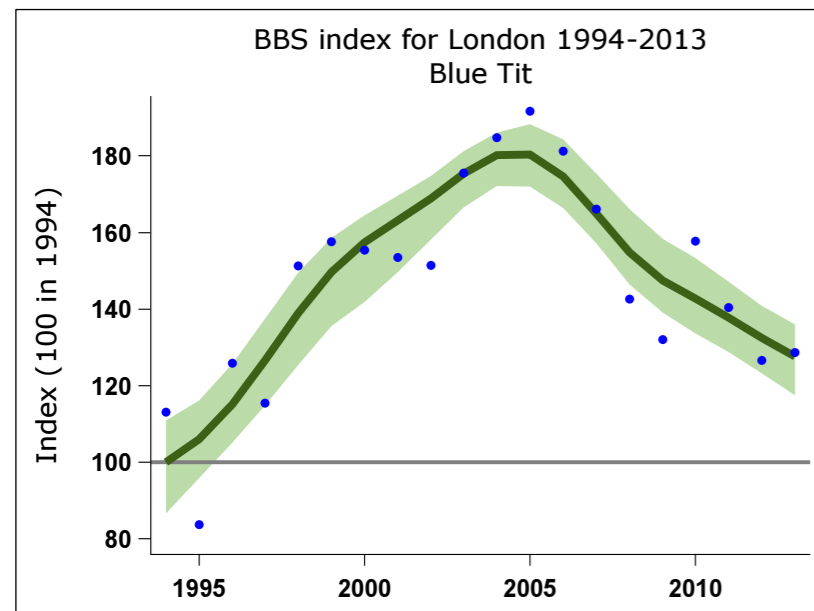
The Blue Tit is one of the commonest resident species in Britain and Ireland and, although it is most abundant in lowland England, it is found in nearly every 10km square (National Atlas).

It is also found in every tetrad in the London area. The first atlas shows some gaps in distribution, around the Thames, however, this was a reflection of the completeness of the survey work rather than a real absence at that time. The Blue Tit population in London increased steadily from the end of the second atlas period until around 2005 when it went into decline. It appears that the population has now returned to a similar level to that at the time of the second atlas (BBS). The reasons for the recent decline are not known.

Blue Tit abundance across our area seems to be largely level but with patches of higher density which are mostly associated with greater levels of tree cover and especially extensive woodland.

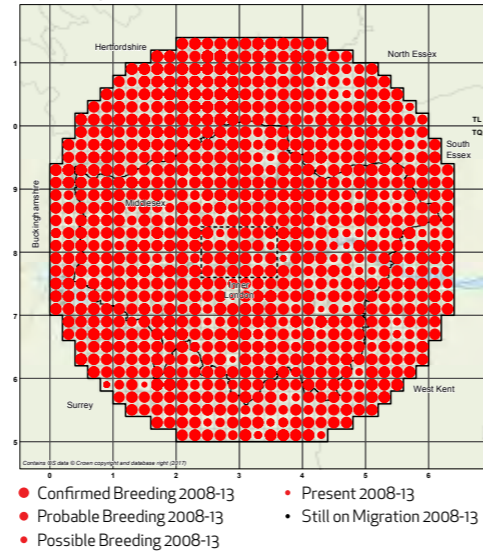
Period	Number of Tetrads		
	Evidence of Breeding	Seen Only	Total
Breeding 1968-72	743	50	793
Breeding 1988-94	842	14	856
Breeding 2008-13	818	38	856
Winter 2007/8-2012/13	-	-	855

The distribution of the Blue Tit in winter, both nationally and in our area, is the same as the breeding season. Patterns of abundance are also similar.

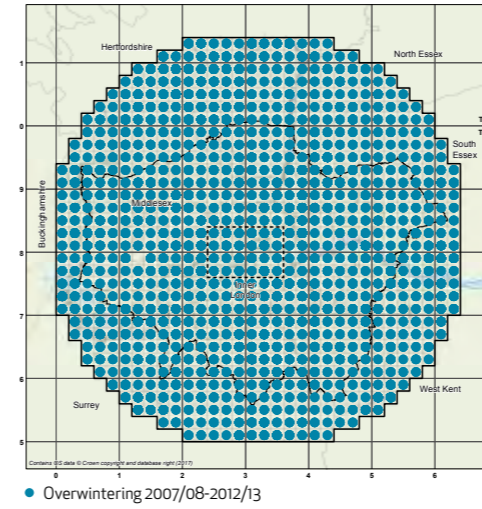


BT0/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)

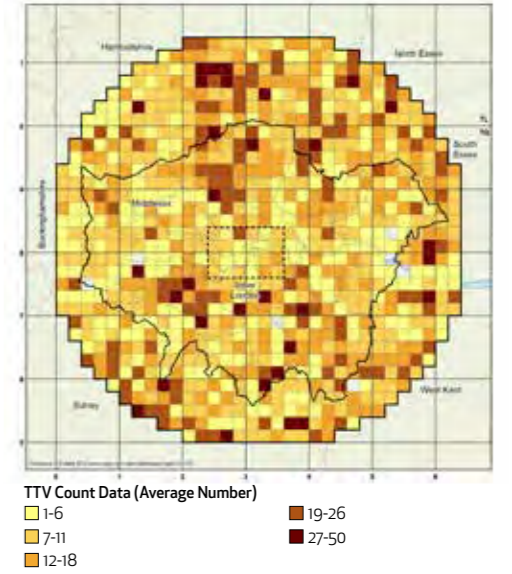
Breeding Distribution



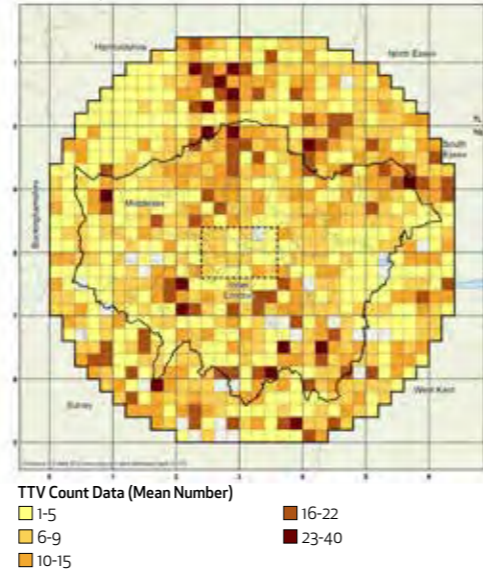
Winter Distribution



Winter Abundance



Breeding Abundance



Breeding Change

