

**LONDON BIRD CLUB
RARITIES CHECKLIST:**

**BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA
DESCRIPTION SPECIES**



London
Natural
History
Society

BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA DESCRIPTION SPECIES

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the London Bird Club. However, with an ever-growing number of active birdwatchers in the London Area, it seems sensible to issue guides to our requirements.

This guide specifically concentrates on the records required for Rarities and includes only species in that category. It follows the order of the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) List, 9th edition, February 2019 and its nomenclature (apart from Feral Pigeon). The ten species marked with an asterisk (*) were recorded at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since.

Please note: 'Lower Thames' is defined as the section of the R Thames from the Thames Barrier to the eastern edge of our recording area.

The Rarities Committee needs details of all the species in the following list, and also reserves the right to request full details for any record, eg, out-of-season migrants.

Key to records required:

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| <p>A = all records.</p> <p>B = all breeding records.</p> <p>BBRC = full description required; form from www.bbrc.org.uk. <i>British Birds</i> Rarities Committee makes the decision.</p> <p>D = full description required; form available on LNHS website (see Details of an Unusual Record Form under Recording: Recording Birds).</p> <p>F&L = first and last dates for any site.</p> <p>MM = dated monthly maximum counts.</p> | <p>N = brief notes required (how identified, view, distance, etc); form available on LNHS website(see Details of an Unusual Record Form under Recording: Recording Birds).</p> <p>NR = all records from sites where bird not seen regularly.</p> <p>P = passage movements.</p> <p>RBBP = Rare Breeding Birds Panel</p> <p>S = all records mid-May to mid-July.</p> <p>ST = annual statement of status at a site.</p> <p>T = all territory counts.</p> <p>W = records outside breeding season.</p> |
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| English name | Scientific name | Guidelines for contributors |
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| Red-breasted Goose* | <i>Branta ruficollis</i> | BBRC |
| Snow Goose | <i>Anser caerulescens</i> | A, D (unless obvious escape) |
| Pink-footed Goose | <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> | A, D |
| Tundra Bean Goose | <i>Anser serrirostris</i> | A, D |
| Bewick's Swan | <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> | A, N |
| Whooper Swan | <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> | A, N |
| Blue-winged Teal | <i>Spatula discors</i> | BBRC |
| Green-winged Teal | <i>Anas carolinensis</i> | A, D |
| Ferruginous Duck | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | A, D |
| Ring-necked Duck | <i>Aythya collaris</i> | A, D |
| Lesser Scaup | <i>Aythya affinis</i> | A, D |
| King Eider | <i>Somateria spectabilis</i> | BBRC |
| Eider | <i>Somateria mollissima</i> | A, N |
| Velvet Scoter | <i>Melanitta fusca</i> | A, D |
| Long-tailed Duck | <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> | A, N |
| Black Grouse* | <i>Lyrurus tetrix</i> | A, D |
| Red-throated Diver | <i>Gavia stellata</i> | A, N |
| Black-throated Diver | <i>Gavia arctica</i> | A, N |
| Storm Petrel | <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> | A, D |
| Leach's Petrel | <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i> | A, D |
| Fulmar | <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> | A, D |
| Cory's Shearwater | <i>Calonectris borealis</i> | A, D |
| Manx Shearwater | <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> | A, D |
| Balearic Shearwater | <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> | A, D |
| Barolo Shearwater | <i>Puffinus baroli</i> | BBRC |
| Pied-billed Grebe | <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> | BBRC |
| Black Stork | <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | BBRC |
| White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | A, D |
| Glossy Ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> | A, D |
| Little Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> | BBRC |
| Night-heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | A, D |
| Squacco Heron | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | BBRC |
| Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | A, D |
| Gannet | <i>Morus bassanus</i> | A, N away from Lower Thames. |
| Honey-buzzard | <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | A, D |
| Golden Eagle* | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | A, D |
| Goshawk | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> | RBPP - A, D |
| Hen Harrier | <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | A, D for May-Sep records |
| Pallid Harrier | <i>Circus macrourus</i> | BBRC |
| Montagu's Harrier | <i>Circus pygargus</i> | A, D |
| Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | A, D |
| White-tailed Eagle | <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> | A, D |
| Rough-legged Buzzard | <i>Buteo lagopus</i> | A, D |
| Great Bustard* | <i>Otis tarda</i> | BBRC |

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| Corncrake | <i>Crex crex</i> | A, D |
| Little Crake | <i>Porzana parva</i> | BBRC |
| Baillon's Crake | <i>Porzana pusilla</i> | BBRC |
| Spotted Crake | <i>Porzana porzana</i> | A, D |
| Crane | <i>Grus grus</i> | A, D |
| Stone-curlew | <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i> | A, D |
| Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | A, D |
| Sociable Plover | <i>Vanellus gregarius</i> | BBRC |
| White-tailed Plover | <i>Vanellus leucurus</i> | BBRC |
| Pacific Golden Plover | <i>Pluvialis fulva</i> | BBRC |
| American Golden Plover | <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> | A, D |
| Killdeer | <i>Charadrius vociferus</i> | BBRC |
| Kentish Plover | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | A, D |
| Dotterel | <i>Charadrius morinellus</i> | A, D |
| Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | <i>Calidris acuminata</i> | BBRC |
| Temminck's Stint | <i>Calidris temminckii</i> | A, D |
| Purple Sandpiper | <i>Calidris maritima</i> | A, D |
| Baird's Sandpiper | <i>Calidris bairdii</i> | BBRC |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i> | A, D |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | <i>Calidris subruficollis</i> | A, D |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | <i>Calidris melanotos</i> | A, D |
| Western Sandpiper | <i>Calidris mauri</i> | BBRC |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i> | BBRC |
| Great Snipe | <i>Gallinago media</i> | BBRC |
| Wilson's Phalarope | <i>Phalaropus tricolor</i> | BBRC |
| Red-necked Phalarope | <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> | A, D |
| Grey Phalarope | <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i> | A, D |
| Spotted Sandpiper | <i>Actitis macularius</i> | BBRC |
| Solitary Sandpiper | <i>Tringa solitaria</i> | BBRC |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | <i>Tringa flavipes</i> | A, D |
| Marsh Sandpiper | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> | BBRC |
| Cream-coloured Courser* | <i>Cursorius cursor</i> | BBRC |
| Collared Pratincola | <i>Glareola pratincola</i> | BBRC |
| Sabine's Gull | <i>Xema sabini</i> | A, D |
| Bonaparte's Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i> | BBRC |
| Laughing Gull | <i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i> | BBRC |
| Franklin's Gull | <i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i> | BBRC |
| Ring-billed Gull | <i>Larus delawarensis</i> | A, D |
| Glaucous-winged Gull | <i>Larus glaucescens</i> | BBRC |
| Glaucous Gull | <i>Larus hyperboreus</i> | A, D away from Lower Thames, West London reservoirs or Beddington. |
| Iceland Gull | <i>Larus glaucoides</i> | A, D away from Lower Thames, West London reservoirs or Beddington. |

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| Slaty-backed Gull | <i>Larus schistisagus</i> | BBRC |
| Gull-billed Tern | <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> | BBRC |
| Caspian Tern | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> | BBRC |
| Bridled Tern | <i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i> | BBRC |
| Roseate Tern | <i>Sterna dougallii</i> | A, D |
| Whiskered Tern | <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i> | BBRC |
| White-winged Black Tern | <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> | A, D |
| Great Skua | <i>Stercorarius skua</i> | A, D |
| Pomarine Skua | <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> | A, D |
| Arctic Skua | <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> | A, D away from Lower Thames. |
| Long-tailed Skua | <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i> | A, D |
| Little Auk | <i>Alle alle</i> | A, D |
| Common Guillemot | <i>Uria aalge</i> | A, D away from Lower Thames. |
| Razorbill | <i>Alca torda</i> | A, D |
| Puffin | <i>Fratercula arctica</i> | A, D |
| Pallas's Sandgrouse | <i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i> | BBRC |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> | BBRC |
| Scops Owl* | <i>Otus scops</i> | BBRC |
| Snowy Owl | <i>Bubo scandiacus</i> | BBRC |
| Tengmalm's Owl* | <i>Aegolius funereus</i> | BBRC |
| Common Nighthawk | <i>Chordeiles minor</i> | BBRC |
| Nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> | A, N |
| Alpine Swift | <i>Tachymartus melba</i> | A, D |
| Roller | <i>Coracias garrulus</i> | BBRC |
| Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | A, D |
| Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | A, D |
| Wryneck | <i>Jynx torquilla</i> | A, D |
| Lesser Kestrel | <i>Falco naumanni</i> | BBRC |
| Red-footed Falcon | <i>Falco vespertinus</i> | A, D |
| Merlin | <i>Falco columbarius</i> | A, N away from Lower Thames. |
| Gyr Falcon | <i>Falco rusticolus</i> | BBRC |
| Brown Shrike | <i>Lanius cristatus</i> | BBRC |
| Red-backed Shrike | <i>Lanius collurio</i> | A, D |
| Daurian/Turkestan Shrike | <i>Lanius isabellinus/ phoenicuroides</i> | BBRC |
| Lesser Grey Shrike | <i>Lanius minor</i> | BBRC |
| Great Grey Shrike | <i>Lanius excubitor</i> | A, D |
| Woodchat Shrike | <i>Lanius senator</i> | A, D |
| Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | A, D |
| Nutcracker | <i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i> | BBRC |
| Hooded Crow | <i>Corvus cornix</i> | A, N |
| Crested Tit | <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i> | A, D |
| Willow Tit | <i>Poecile montanus</i> | A, D |
| Penduline Tit | <i>Remiz pendulinus</i> | A, D |
| Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | BBRC |

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| Shore Lark | <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> | A, D |
| Short-toed Lark | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | A, D |
| Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Cecropis daurica</i> | A, D |
| Wood Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | A, D |
| Hume's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus humei</i> | BBRC |
| Pallas's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i> | A, D |
| Radde's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i> | A, D |
| Dusky Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i> | A, D |
| Iberian Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i> | RBBP - BBRC |
| Eastern Crowned Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i> | BBRC |
| Great Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | BBRC |
| Aquatic Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> | BBRC |
| Paddyfield Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i> | BBRC |
| Blyth's Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i> | A, D |
| Marsh Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i> | RBBP - A, D |
| Melodious Warbler | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> | A, D |
| Icterine Warbler | <i>Hippolais icterina</i> | A, D |
| Savi's Warbler | <i>Locustella luscinioides</i> | BBRC |
| Barred Warbler | <i>Sylvia nisoria</i> | A, D |
| Western Subalpine Warbler/ Moltoni's Warbler/Eastern Subalpine Warbler | <i>Sylvia iberia/ subalpina/cantillans</i> | BBRC |
| Sardinian Warbler | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> | BBRC |
| Short-toed Treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | BBRC |
| Rose-coloured Starling | <i>Pastor roseus</i> | A, D |
| Grey-cheeked Thrush | <i>Catharus minimus</i> | BBRC |
| Naumann's Thrush | <i>Turdus naumanni</i> | BBRC |
| American Robin | <i>Turdus migratorius</i> | BBRC |
| Bluethroat | <i>Luscinia svecica</i> | A, D |
| Red-breasted Flycatcher | <i>Ficedula parva</i> | A, D |
| Desert Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe deserti</i> | BBRC |
| Dipper | <i>Cinclus cinclus</i> | A, D |
| Alpine Accentor* | <i>Prunella collaris</i> | BBRC |
| Richard's Pipit | <i>Anthus richardi</i> | A, D |
| Tawny Pipit | <i>Anthus campestris</i> | BBRC |
| Olive-backed Pipit | <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> | A, D |
| Red-throated Pipit | <i>Anthus cervinus</i> | BBRC |
| Buff-bellied Pipit | <i>Anthus rubescens</i> | BBRC |
| Pine Grosbeak* | <i>Pinicola enucleator</i> | BBRC |
| Common Rosefinch | <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i> | A, D |
| Twite | <i>Linaria flavirostris</i> | A, D |
| Common Redpoll | <i>Acanthis flammea</i> | A, D |
| Arctic Redpoll | <i>Acanthis hornemanni</i> | BBRC if identified to subspecies, otherwise A,D |
| Parrot Crossbill | <i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i> | A, D |

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| Two-barred Crossbill* | <i>Loxia leucoptera</i> | BBRC |
| Serín | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | A, D |
| Lapland Bunting | <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i> | A, D |
| Snow Bunting | <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> | A, N |
| Pine Bunting | <i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i> | BBRC |
| Ortolan Bunting | <i>Emberiza hortulana</i> | A, D |
| Cirl Bunting | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> | A, D |
| Little Bunting | <i>Emberiza pusilla</i> | A, D |
| Rustic Bunting | <i>Emberiza rustica</i> | BBRC |
| Black-headed Bunting | <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i> | BBRC |
| Dark-eyed Junco | <i>Junco hyemalis</i> | BBRC |

All records of escapes are also welcomed by the Society. All records of hybrids and birds showing plumage aberrance are also welcomed.

Subspecies

All records of subspecies/races are welcomed. Full descriptions are required for the following: White Wagtail in autumn; Yellow Wagtail races other than *M. f. flavissima* and spring records of Blue-headed Wagtail; Siberian Chiffchaff; Northern Willow Warbler; Continental Coal Tit and Northern Bullfinch. For other subspecies please provide your reasons for assigning the record to a particular subspecies/race.