



LONDON BIRD REPORT 2022

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

LONDON BIRD REPORT 2022

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LONDON BIRD REPORT

NO.87 FOR THE YEAR 2022

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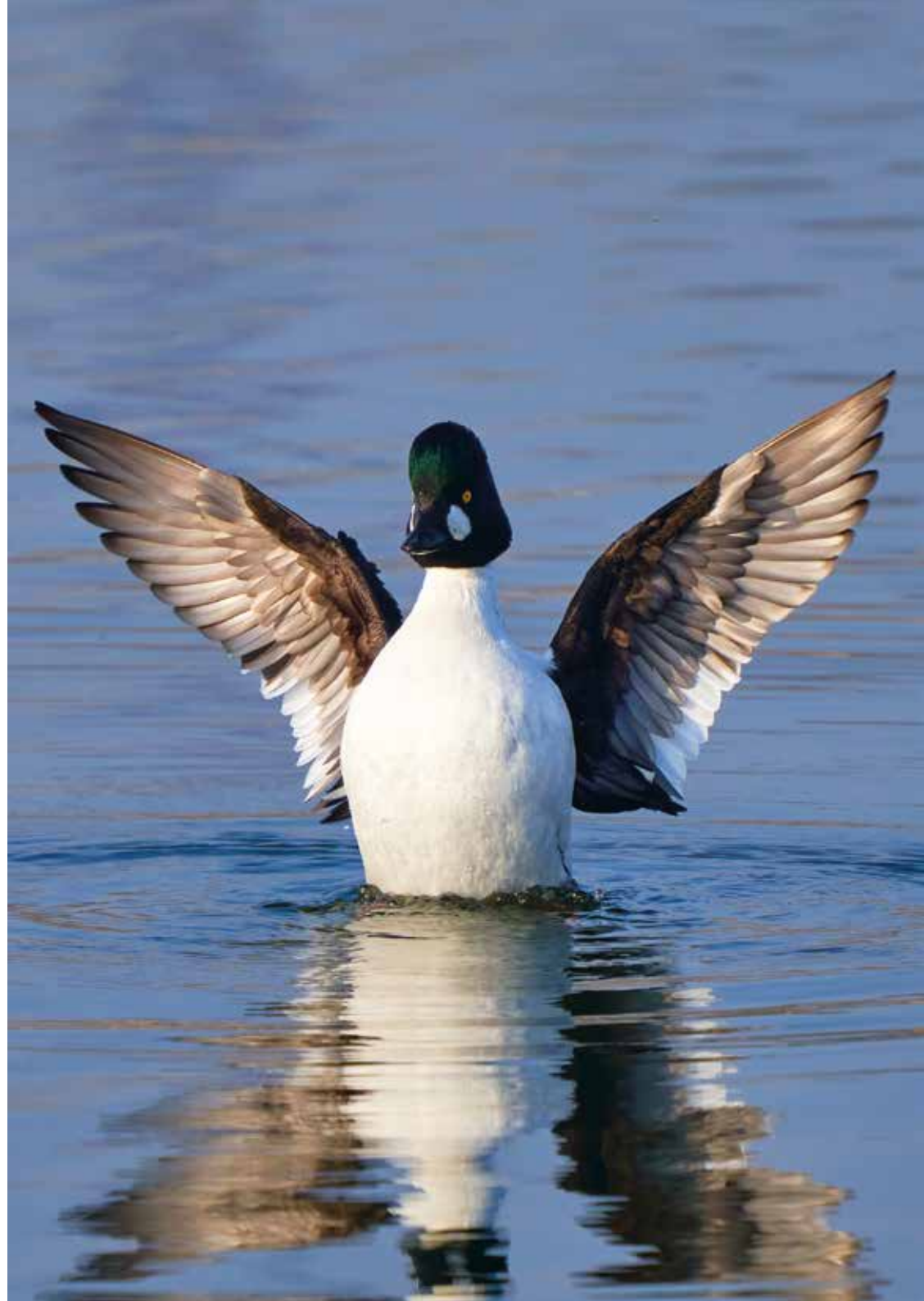
Front cover: Bearded Tit at Rainham Marshes. (Rudraksha Chodankar)
Back cover: Peregrines at Greenwich Park. (Rudraksha Chodankar)
Opposite: A Goldeneye wing-flapping after preening. (Phil Ayles)

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Oliver, P., 2018. Breeding density of Buzzards in Surrey. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 82: 207-210

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CONTENTS

LBR Editorial Board	1
About the London Natural History Society	6
Introduction and Acknowledgements - Pete Lambert	8
Rarities Committee and Recorders	9
Recording Arrangements and Map of the London Area	10
Mini-Gazetteer of Sites - Pete Lambert and Mike Trier.....	12
A Tribute to Peter James Oliver, OBE, 1939-2023 - Chris Wheeler	16
Peter Oliver and the London Bird Report - Pete Lambert	21
Review of the Year - John Walker	22
Contributors to the Systematic List	28
Birds of the London Area: the systematic list	39
1: Geese to Shelduck - Alex Massey	41
2: Dabbling Ducks - Kanishka Karunanayake	47
3: Diving Ducks - Dave Bradshaw	54
4: Game Birds - Bob Watts	64
5: Divers to Grebes - Maia Benham	67
6: Herons - Derek Coleman	70
7: Cormorant - Ian Woodward	79
8: Osprey to Buzzard - Andy Merritt	80
9: Rails - Quentin Given	85
10: Stone-curlew to Curlew Sandpiper - Roy Woodward	86
11: Sanderling to Greenshank - Andrew Self	98
12: Gulls - Richard Bonser	107
13: Terns - Derek Coleman	116
14: Skuas - Richard Bonser	120
15: Auks to Cuckoo - John Colmans	120
16: Owls to Woodpeckers - Paul Goodman	126
17: Falcons - Viviana Biazzo and Andrew Moon	134
18: Parakeet to Raven - Paul Ballantyne	138
19: Tits - Chelsea Raddler	144
20: Larks to Long-tailed Tit - Tim Harris	148
21: Warblers - Pete Lambert	153
22: Crests to Starlings - Sally Middleton	163
23: Thrushes - Connor Lovell	167

24: Flycatchers to Wheatear - Rhys Evans	174
25: Sparrows to Pipits - Alan Lewis and Derek Coleman	179
26: Chaffinch to Siskin - Angela Linnell and Dave Clark	185
27: Buntings - Bob Watts	193
28: Appendix I and II: Escapes and Hybrids - Roger Payne	197
Appendix III: Non-proven & non-submitted records and records in circulation	202
First and Last Dates of Regular Migrants	204

Papers about birds in the London Area 205

Ringing Report - Daniel Whitelegg	207
Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls: the Gibson Theory vindicated - Alan Gibson	215
The Breeding Bird Survey in London, 2022 - Richard Arnold and Ben Hillier	216
Baltic Gull at Thamesmead: the first record for London - Richard Bonser	220
Pallid Harrier at Staines Moor: first for the London Area - Rob Innes	222
Emerging effects of Usutu virus on London's Blackbird population - Rob Robinson	226
Observations on the birds of a north London suburban garden, 1963-1978 - Jeremy Galton	228

Checklist of Birds of the London Area 239

Checklist and Guide to Contributors of Records	240
Breeding Criteria	250
Index of Common Names	251
Index of Scientific Names	253
<i>Writers Needed for Birds of the London Area Species Accounts</i>	255

Sequences to file links on the LNHS website: www.lnhs.org.uk

Recording> Recording Birds: Bird Recording Form, Checklist Guide Breeding Criteria, Details of an Unusual Record Form, LBC Gazetteer of Sites.

Publications> London Bird Report: Back issues of the London Bird Report.

Publications> London Bird Report> London Bird Report additional materials:

Consolidated table of contents: 1936 to present.

LNHS bird checklists, breeding criteria, indexes and gazetteers: Checklist of birds of the London area and guide to contributors; Breeding Records Criteria; Indexes of common and scientific names; Mini-gazetteer of sites: 2022.

Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls data: Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls 2013-2023.

LBR Corrections: London Bird Report 1985 and 2010-2016.

Miscellanea: Ringing Reports, WeBS Counts.

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1858

The Society publishes ornithological and other natural history records for the area within 20 miles (32km) of St Paul's Cathedral. As well as Ornithology, other interests in natural history are catered for through the Society's Sections which record and study the major groups of flora and fauna, and the habitats in which they are found. Meetings organised by each Section are open to all members.

New members, beginners and experts alike, are welcome. An extensive programme of talks and field meetings, open to all, is provided throughout the year. As well as the annual London Bird Report, the Society publishes its journal, The London Naturalist, each year, its Newsletter every quarter and its full-colour Programme every six months; this includes details of its virtual talks, which are archived on the Society's website afterwards and can be viewed by members of the Society and the public. Members have access to a large lending and reference library of natural history books and can join one or more of several reading circles which circulate many natural history journals at a fraction of the cost of subscribing direct.

Yearly subscriptions range from £20 (for ordinary members) through £16 for senior members (over 65 years and who have been in continuous membership for ten years or more) to £5 for students (under 18 years of age, or receiving full-time education). Additional family members, who enjoy all the benefits of membership except separate journals and Newsletter, pay only £4 each. Subscriptions may be paid by PayPal or Standing Order (see 'Join Us' on our website), or by Cheque made payable to the London Natural History Society and sent to The Assistant Treasurer, LNHS:

Robin Blades, 8 Chapman House, Chapman Square, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 2SQ
Further copies of this issue of the London Bird Report, and back numbers of most recent issues, may be obtained (price £8.00 plus £2.00 UK postage and packing) from:

Catherine Schmitt (retiring June 1st 2024), 4 Falkland Avenue, London, N3 1QR
Cheques should be made payable to the London Natural History Society; or see our website:

www.lnhs.org.uk > Publications > London Bird Report > Buying back issues

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Cecilia Derrick

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Introduction

In order to reduce the workload of individuals, Section Editors (all of whom are also species account writers) are now assisting the three Editors of Birds of the London Area. They are credited on the inside front cover with (SE) under Species Account Writers.

We welcome Cecilia Derrick to the Editorial Board as Papers Editor for LBR No.88 2023 onwards. Cecilia has assisted Liz Andrew in this role for two years. Please see the inside back cover for details of where to send papers. Many thanks to Liz, who has held this position since LBR No.82 2017, for her excellent work over the years.

Sean Huggins has retired as Sector Bird Recorder for Middlesex with effect from LBR No.88 2023. Many thanks to Sean for all his good work. Please use the generic email addresses (opposite) ...@lnhs.org.uk for sending records to our Recorders.

Nick Rutter has handed over the role of Author of Review of the Year to John Walker. Many thanks to Nick for the 13 Reviews he has produced; and welcome to John.

A useful website for finding the location and characteristics of green spaces in Greater London is provided by GoParksLondon (details in the Mini-Gazetteer on page 14).

We are sad to report the death of Peter James Oliver in June 2023. A tribute to him by Chris Wheeler is on pages 16 to 20, followed by a summary of his long connection with the London Bird Report by Pete Lambert on page 21.

As always, your comments on this issue are very welcome, especially any suggestions for how we could improve things even more. **Our contact details are on page 2.**

A list of abbreviations used throughout the text of the London Bird Report is on page 40.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the London Natural History Society, we would like to thank the many individuals and organisations who have contributed their records. Without your enthusiastic support we could not produce the annual London Bird Report.

We would also like to thank all those volunteers, listed on the inside front cover, who helped with the production of the report. Thanks also to Nigel Partridge for designing the layouts; and Swallowtail Print for printing and distributing this issue.

We are particularly grateful to all the Recorders, who, in addition to the time-consuming tasks of inputting all the data for their area, checked the species accounts in the Systematic List and provided comments and corrections. We would also like to thank the many people who looked at the draft text and made comments to improve it. If you would also like to see draft copies of future reports for comment, please contact us. Thanks also to Thames Water for the many courtesies extended to our members, and to the following organisations for their generous help in the exchange of records:

BirdGuides, British Birds Rarities Committee, British Trust for Ornithology, Buckinghamshire Bird Club, East London Birders Forum, Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, Hertfordshire Natural History Society, Kent Ornithological Society, Londonbirders Yahoo group, Surrey Bird Club.

RARITIES COMMITTEE AND RECORDERS

RARITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman: Bob Watts

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Members: John Archer, Richard Bonser, Sean Huggins, Rob Innes, Andrew Moon, Andrew Self

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Surrey: Paul Goodman

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Alternatively, see the London Bird Club section of the Contact Us page on the LNHS website where there are links to these email addresses: www.lnhs.org.uk > About LNHS > Contact us > Enquiries about London Bird Club

Bird records sent by post for all counties should be addressed to
LNHS Bird Records
38 Maury Road
London
N16 7BP
from where they will be forwarded to the appropriate Recorder(s).

RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

The London recording area covered by this Report, 'the London Area', lies within a 20-mile radius of St Paul's Cathedral. The Area covers the whole of Greater London and parts of Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. However, for continuity of recording, we still use the Watsonian vice-counties in this Report rather than the present administrative areas (but we combine vice-counties 18 and 19 as Essex). These vice-county boundaries are all shown on the map opposite. We also use a special recording zone for 'Inner London', which covers parts of Middlesex, Surrey and (just) Kent. This is a rectangular area, five miles north to south, eight miles east to west, centred on the site of the old Charing Cross on the south side of Trafalgar Square.

All records are welcome from LNHS members and non-members alike. We would particularly like information on the local status of common species, breeding records, notes on passage (including first and last dates and main movements), regular counts of wintering populations, notes on behaviour, as well as details of unusual birds. Regular reports from the same sites are a great help in seeing population trends and, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. Our Checklist of Birds of the London Area and Guide to Contributors of Records (pages 239 to 249), together with Breeding Criteria (page 250), specify what information we would like for each species.

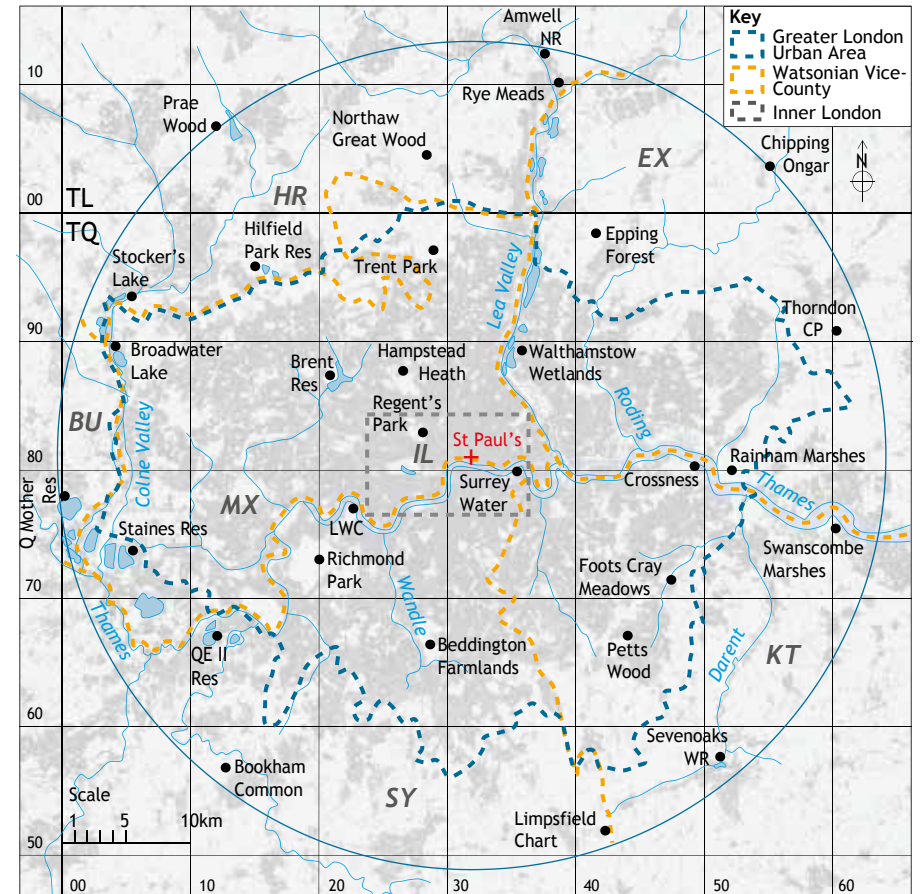
When sending in records, please use site names as listed in our Gazetteer (see opposite) if you can. **If you send in details from sites not listed in the Gazetteer, please give an OS Grid Reference for the site.** A useful website for finding an accurate Grid Reference is <https://gridreferencefinder.com> which gives both six-figure and ten-figure references.

For records of any year to appear in the LBR, we must have them no later than March 31st of the year after. Records received thereafter will just be added to our database.

We would prefer that you input records using the Going Birding Records Portal; alternatively, send us records on our Bird Recording Form. Both of these are on our website under [Recording > Recording Birds](#) together with other relevant information. Otherwise, contact one of our Recorders (see page 9) or the Editorial Board. It would also help if you list different species in the order used in this Report. Separate sheets of the Bird Recording Form should be used for each recording area.

Records of nationally rare species have to be considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Their website (www.bbrc.org.uk) gives details. You should send these records as soon as possible after the sighting, with a copy to the relevant Recorder. Breeding records of rare species should be sent to the relevant Recorder. Details will then be sent to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (www.rbbp.org.uk). Where requested, records will of course be treated in strict confidence. Records of other rare and unusual species in the London Area are considered by our Rarities Committee before being included in the London Bird Report. Species for which we need a full description or brief description/field notes are listed in the Checklist and Guide to Contributors. Please send these as soon as possible after the sighting.

Our records are stored with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) and if you would like to use any of our records for study purposes, please contact GiGL for details: <http://www.gigl.org.uk/contact/>



LNHS Area map with locations of some well-known bird-watching sites. Boundary sites give an indication of the extent of the LNHS Area. A grey background shows a built-up area. (Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database rights 2012)

Gazetteer of Sites

The LBC Gazetteer of Sites is on the LNHS website (see page 5). This full gazetteer lists open spaces and the names of towns, villages etc. It does not list streets; you should be able to locate these easily with a street map, but contact us if you have difficulty.

Each site name is followed by the recording area for that site and an OS Grid Reference; this should help you to find the site on a map. The Grid Reference either refers to the centre of the site or to a point of particular ornithological interest. Not all of these sites are open to the public; some are private, for some you need to have a permit. Contact the Editorial Board if you need information on any site. **Our contact details are on page 2.**

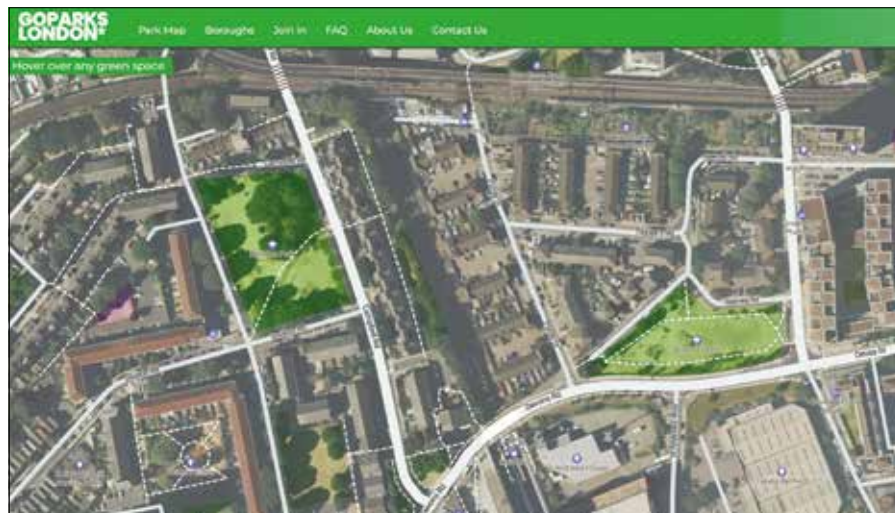
MINI-GAZETTEER OF SITES

This mini-gazetteer of sites is a compact summary of recent changes to the full LBC Gazetteer of Sites. It lists the main sites in the London Area as well as the sites added to the full gazetteer in 2022 (the latter printed in *italic type*). Cross-references from older names are in **red type**. A key to abbreviations is on page 40. It is also posted on the LNHS website under LBR additional materials for LBR 2022 (see page 5).

If a site is not entirely within one of our recording areas, then it is usually taken to be in the recording area that contains the larger area of the site. The most notable of these are: all of the Lea Valley reservoirs, Crystal Palace Park, Holyfield Lake, South Norwood Country Park, Stocker's Lake, Victoria Park and Wraybury Reservoir.

Addington Hills	(SY)	TQ352644	Chess Valley	(HR)	TQ052961
Aldenham Country Park	(HR)	TQ170955	Chorleywood Common	(HR)	TQ033963
Alexandra Park	(MX)	TQ300900	Claybury Woods & Park	(EX)	TQ435912
Amwell Nature Reserve	(HR)	TL378128	Cobham Floods	(SY)	TQ106595
Arbrook Common	(SY)	TQ143632	Cole Green Tip	(HR)	TL265112
Ashford Common	(MX)	TQ087697	Colnbrook Landfill	(BU)	TQ025778
Ashted Common	(SY)	TQ175595	Connaught Water	(EX)	TQ404953
Banbury Reservoir	(EX)	TQ362915	Part of Epping Forest		
Banstead Downs	(SY)	TQ252610	Coopers Green Gravel Pits	(HR)	TL201097
Barking Bay/Marsh	(EX)	TQ477820	Coopers Green Lane	(HR)	TL192096
Barnes Common	(SY)	TQ222758	Cornmill Meadows - LVRP	(EX)	TL380011
<i>Bartlett Park</i>	(MX)	<i>TQ373814</i>	<i>Cray Valley Golf Course</i>	(KT)	<i>TQ481695</i>
Battersea Park	(IL/SY)	TQ282772	Crayford Marshes	(KT)	TQ532775
Beddington Farmlands	(SY)	TQ290667	Creekmouth, Barking	(EX)	TQ452827
Bedfont Lakes Country Park	(MX)	TQ078726	Crossness	(KT)	TQ490808
Beech Farm Gravel Pit	(HR)	TL190088	Croxley Common Moor	(HR)	TQ082948
Belhus Woods Country Park	(EX)	TQ570825	Crystal Palace Park	(KT)	TQ347707
Bentley Priory Nature Reserve	(MX)	TQ155927	Dagenham Chase	(EX)	TQ514858
Black Park	(BU)	TQ010836	Dartford Marshes	(KT)	TQ544774
Bookham Common	(SY)	TQ130565	Davy Down	(EX)	TQ592803
Brent Res	(MX)	TQ215870	Downe Bank	(KT)	TQ438609
Bricket Wood Common	(HR)	TL130010	Duck Wood	(EX)	TQ555923
Broadwater Lake	(MX)	TQ045892	Dulwich Park	(SY)	TQ335735
Broxbourne Woods	(HR)	TL329073	Dulwich Upper Wood	(SY)	TQ339729
Buckingham Palace Gardens	(IL/MX)	TQ288796	Dulwich Village	(SY)	TQ334739
Bulphan Fen	(EX)	TQ633864	East India Dock Basin - LVRP	(MX)	TQ391808
Burgess Park	(IL/SY)	TQ335778	East Sheen Common	(SY)	TQ195745
Bury Lake	(HR)	TQ053938	Ellenbrook Fields	(HR)	TL205090
Bushy Park	(MX)	TQ160690	Enfield Chase	(MX)	TQ290988
Canada Water	(IL/SY)	TQ355793	Epsom Common	(SY)	TQ190605
Canons Farm	(SY)	TQ248577	Epsom Downs	(SY)	TQ219582
Cassiobury Park	(HR)	TQ090970	Esher Common	(SY)	TQ135625
Cely Woods	(EX)	TQ560830	Fairlop Waters	(EX)	TQ459905
Cheshunt Gravel Pits - LVRP	(HR)	TL370030	Farthing Downs	(SY)	TQ299576
For records where precise pit not identified.			Fir & Pond Woods	(MX)	TL276011

Fishers Green Goosefield - LVRP	(EX)	TL380038	Joyden's Wood	(KT)	TQ500715
Fishers Green Island - LVRP	(EX)	TL376037	A small part is in Bexley		
Foots Cray Meadows	(KT)	TQ478715	Kelsey Park	(KT)	TQ376688
Frays Valley Local Nature Reserve	(MX)	TQ055865	<i>Kemnal Woods</i>	(KT)	<i>TQ448717</i>
Frays Wildfowl Lake - LVRP	(MX)	TQ056864	Kempton Nature Reserve	(MX)	TQ116706
Friday Lake	(HR)	TL371020	Kew Gardens	(SY)	TQ182769
Frogmore Lakes	(HR)	TL150033	King George V Dock	(EX)	TQ432803
Fryent Country Park	(MX)	TQ194877	King George V Reservoir	(EX)	TQ374964
Galleyhill Wood	(EX)	TL394034	King George VI Reservoir	(MX)	TQ041732
Part of Epping Forest			Knighton Wood	(EX)	TQ409931
Gallions Reach	(EX/KT)	TQ445801	Part of Epping Forest		
Garsons Farm	(SY)	TQ125639	Lake Farm Country Park	(MX)	TQ091803
Gasston Park/Lake	(SY)	TQ271525	Lamorbey Park	(KT)	TQ465731
Glen Faba - LVRP	(EX)	TL393088	Leg O Mutton Nature Reserve	(SY)	TQ218774
Gobions Wood	(HR)	TL256035	Letchmore Heath	(HR)	TQ155977
Godstone Sand Pit	(SY)	TQ345518	Leyton Flats	(EX)	TQ397885
Grays Gorge	(EX)	TQ608789	Part of Epping Forest		
Greenland Dock	(IL/SY)	TQ361791	Limpsfield Chart	(SY)	TQ431521
Greenwich Park	(KT)	TQ390775	Lion Gorge	(EX)	TQ599786
Greenwich Peninsula	(KT)	TQ393796	Lippitts Hill	(EX)	TQ392976
Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (KT)		TQ400793	Part of Epping Forest		
Grey Goose Farm	(EX)	TQ629807	Littlebrook Lake	(KT)	TQ553756
Hackney Marsh - LVRP	(MX)	TQ366861	London Wetland Centre	(SY)	TQ228770
<i>Hainault Forest Country Park</i>	(EX)	<i>TQ476932</i>	Long Running	(EX)	TQ434997
Hall Marsh Scrape - LVRP	(EX)	TL373017	Part of Epping Forest		
Hampermill Lake	(HR)	TQ095942	Longfield Gallops	(KT)	TQ602697
Hampstead Heath	(MX)	TQ273866	Lullingstone Park	(KT)	TQ520645
Hatfield Park	(HR)	TL240080	Lynsters Farm	(HR)	TQ034920
Havering Country Park	(EX)	TQ505930	Lynsters Lake	(HR)	TQ038916
Hayes Common	(KT)	TQ405652	Maple Lodge Nature Reserve	(HR)	TQ036924
Hayes Hill Farm - LVRP	(EX)	TL383033	Mar Dyke Valley	(EX)	TQ600805
Hersham Gravel Pit	(SY)	TQ128663	Millwall Docks	(MX)	TQ377795
Highgate Cemetery	(MX)	TQ284871	Molesey Heath	(SY)	TQ132672
Highgate Wood	(MX)	TQ283887	Mollands Lane Gravel Pits	(EX)	TQ604820
Hilfield Park Reservoir	(HR)	TQ158959	Monken Hadley Common	(MX)	TQ262971
Hilly Fields Park	(MX)	TQ323985	Morden Hall Park	(SY)	TQ264687
Hoddesdonpark Wood	(HR)	TL352084	Mores Plantation	(EX)	TQ566968
Hogsmill Nature Reserve	(SY)	TQ197682	Mudchute Farm	(MX)	TQ381786
Previously Hogsmill Sewage Works			Nazeing	(EX)	TL414065
Holmethorpe Sand Pits	(SY)	TQ295515	North Mymms Park	(HR)	TL215045
Holyfield Hall Farm - LVRP	(EX)	TL384038	Northaw Great Wood	(HR)	TL285044
Holyfield Lake - LVRP	(EX)	TL378045	Orsett Fen	(EX)	TQ628833
Home Park	(MX)	TQ166676	Otford to Filston	(KT)	TQ521602
Horsenden Hill	(MX)	TQ162844	Walk from Otford (village) to Filston Farm. Grid ref is mid point on path.		
Hounslow Heath	(MX)	TQ123745	Oxhey Hall	(HR)	TQ103943
Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens (IL/MX)		TQ274804	Oxhey Woods	(HR)	TQ105925
Ingrebourne Valley	(EX)	TQ538843	Oxleas Wood	(KT)	TQ445759
Island Barn Reservoir	(SY)	TQ140670			



GoParksLondon is a facility of CPRE London, London's countryside charity. It provides information about facilities at parks in Greater London (the 32 London Boroughs); and users of its website <https://www.goparks.london/> can type the name of a park in the search box and bring up a location map and details of the characteristics of the different areas in the park. The example above shows Prospect Park in Tower Hamlets, one of the new places in our Gazetteer of Sites. Map courtesy of GoParksLondon.

Oxshott Heath	(SY)	TQ139612	Roding Valley Meadows NR	(EX)	TQ430943
Panshanger Park	(HR)	TL283130	Ruislip Woods	(MX)	TQ094890
Perivale Wood	(MX)	TQ159836	Rushett Farm	(SY)	TQ173608
Poplar Dock	(MX)	TQ382803	Russia Dock Woodland	(IL/SY)	TQ362797
Poyle Poplars Nature Reserve	(BU)	TQ030764	Ruxley Gravel Pits	(KT)	TQ473700
Prince's Coverts	(SY)	TQ160610	Rye Meads	(HR)	TL383103
<i>Prospect Park</i>	(MX)	TQ377823	Selsdon Woods	(SY)	TQ362616
Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir	(SY)	TQ120670	Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve	(KT)	TQ522570
Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park	(EX)	TQ381846	Seventy Acres Lake - LVRP	(HR)	TL374030
Queen Mary Gravel Pit	(MX)	TQ059700	Sewardstone Marsh - LVRP	(EX)	TQ379985
Queen Mary Reservoir	(MX)	TQ070695	Sheen Common	(SY)	TQ196746
Queen Mother Reservoir	(BU)	TQ007768	Smallford Gravel Pit	(HR)	TL197071
Queen's Wood	(MX)	TQ288886	South Norwood Country Park	(SY)	TQ353684
Radlett Aero Gravel Pit	(HR)	TL155035	South Norwood Lake	(SY)	TQ341693
Rainham Marshes	(EX)	TQ525800	Southwark Park	(IL/SY)	TQ352789
Rammey Marsh - LVRP	(MX)	TQ374996	Spencer Road Wetland	(SY)	TQ279665
Regent's Park	(IL/MX)	TQ281828	St James's Park	(IL/MX)	TQ294798
Richmond Park	(SY)	TQ200730	St Katherine Docks	(IL/MX)	TQ340805
Rickmansworth Aquadrome	(HR)	TQ057940	<i>St Paul's Cray Common</i>	(KT)	TQ452691
Ripple Nature Reserve	(EX)	TQ468827	Staines Moor	(MX)	TQ033734
River Darent, Otford Road	(KT)	TQ526582	Staines Reservoir	(MX)	TQ051731

Stanborough Lakes	(HR)	TL230108	Waddon Ponds	(SY)	TQ309650
Stanmore Common	(MX)	TQ156940	Walthamstow Forest	(EX)	TQ393912
Stanmore Country Park	(MX)	TQ173928	Part of Epping Forest		
Stanstead Innings - LVRP	(HR)	TL388112	Walthamstow Marshes - LVRP	(EX)	TQ350878
Stanwell Moor	(MX)	TQ034744	Walthamstow Wetlands	(EX)	TQ353890
Stocker's Farm	(HR)	TQ052933	Previously Walthamstow Reservoirs		
Stocker's Lake	(HR)	TQ046935	Walton Downs	(SY)	TQ220573
Stoke Newington Res > Woodberry Wetlands			Walton Heath	(SY)	TQ232540
Stone Marshes	(KT)	TQ568755	Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth)	(SY)	TQ122698
<i>Strawberry Bank</i>	(KT)	TQ452608	Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough)	(SY)	TQ119681
Streatham Common	(SY)	TQ305709	Wandle Meadow Nature Park	(SY)	TQ264710
Stubbers Outdoor Pursuits Centre	(EX)	TQ575845	Wandsworth Common	(SY)	TQ275740
Surrey Water	(IL/SY)	TQ356800	Wanstead Flats	(EX)	TQ410864
Swanscombe Marshes	(KT)	TQ605760	Part of Epping Forest		
Symondshyde Great Wood	(HR)	TL195107	Wanstead Park	(EX)	TQ415875
Syon Park	(MX)	TQ173765	Part of Epping Forest		
Ten Acres, Yeading (as OS map)	(MX)	TQ099838	Warley Country Park	(EX)	TQ583925
Previously Ten Acre Wood, Yeading			Warties Park	(EX)	TL412017
Tenchleys	(SY)	TQ419512	Part of Warties Estate, Epping Forest		
Thames Barrier	(EX/KT)	TQ415795	Warren Gorge	(EX)	TQ597794
Thames Chase	(EX)	TQ584863	Warren Hill	(EX)	TQ413952
Thamesmere Lakes	(KT)	TQ463810	Part of Epping Forest		
The Ledges, Esher	(SY)	TQ122628	Waterlow Park	(MX)	TQ286872
The Mores, Brentwood	(EX)	TQ561965	<i>Watermeadows Open Space</i>	(KT)	TQ472690
The Withey Beds LNR, Watford	(HR)	TQ078941	Waterworks Nature Reserve	(EX)	TQ363868
Theobalds Park	(HR)	TL345005	West End Common	(SY)	TQ125632
Thorndon Country Park North	(EX)	TQ608912	West Hyde Gravel Pit	(HR)	TQ034913
Thorndon Country Park South	(EX)	TQ627903	West India Docks	(MX)	TQ376800
Thorpe Water Park	(SY)	TQ030681	West Thurrock Marshes	(EX)	TQ583767
Tolworth Court Farm	(SY)	TQ200650	Whitewebbs Wood	(MX)	TQ323997
Tooting Common	(SY)	TQ293720	Whitings Hill Open Space, Arkley	(HR)	TQ231954
Tottenham Marshes - LVRP	(MX)	TQ354910	Willowbank	(MX)	TQ057853
Totteridge Valley	(MX)	TQ240930	Wimbledon Common	(SY)	TQ227721
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park	(MX)	TQ370823	Woodberry Wetlands	(MX)	TQ326876
Trent Park	(MX)	TQ290970	Previously Stoke Newington Reservoirs		
Trevereux	(SY)	TQ430510	Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross	(HR)	TQ033933
Troy Mill Lake	(HR)	TQ039905	Wormwood Scrubs	(MX)	TQ221818
Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits	(HR)	TL191052	Wraysbury Gravel Pit	(BU)	TQ015735
Valentines Park	(EX)	TQ438878	Wraysbury Reservoir	(MX)	TQ025745
Vauxhall Park	(IL/SY)	TQ304776	Yardley Hill, Chingford	(EX)	TQ382958
Verulamium Park	(HR)	TL138069	Yeading Brook Meadows	(MX)	TQ105822
Vicarage Farm	(MX)	TQ304979	Yiewsley Lake	(MX)	TQ050804
Victoria Park	(IL/MX)	TQ363840			

A TRIBUTE TO PETER JAMES OLIVER, OBE 1939-2023

CHRIS WHEELER

Peter was a great friend of mine whom I first met 66 years ago and, in the words of a recent correspondent, 'he was a great bloke'.

He was born at Forest Hill, south-east London but started school in Yorkshire where his mother had taken him to escape the bombing in London. Returning home he completed his education at St Dunstan's College, Catford. Sadly his father died when he was only 17.

After leaving school he took employment to train as a Chartered Accountant; qualifying in 1963, he pursued a successful accountancy career in London acquiring exceptional financial and administrative skills which he was able to use to great effect in the cause of conservation.

Peter's family moved from south-east London to Surrey in 1957 - his mother and sister Jean eventually moving to Norfolk in 1979, while Peter bought a cottage at Crockham Hill, Kent. Peter and Mary were married in 1981 and then moved to Briar Patch here in Limpsfield Chart where, over the last 40 years or so, they made many friends. Peter even took up bell ringing in this church - perhaps using his mathematical skills in fathoming the art of change-ringing.

It was his love of birdwatching, particularly on the North Kent Marshes, and his concerns for environmental conservation that were such a feature of his life.

It was his mother who introduced him to the joy of watching and identifying birds, firstly in his garden, and later by exploring Dulwich Park and Sydenham Woods. But I think it was the book 'The Birds of the North Kent Marshes' published in 1950 that might well have been the spur that caused him to expand his horizons and visit them, as they were easily accessible by rail. He tells how once during the winter, on an early trip with a school friend, they got lost as it rapidly got dark and arrived back home extremely late.

After this early adventure, Peter came to love the North Kent Marshes, and this developed into a lifelong interest in its wildlife, carefully recording his observations and noting the changes that were taking place over the years. Peter's sister, Jean, rightly described the North Kent Marshes as Peter's birdwatching home.

It was there where I first met him: we were both in our late teens, studying for our respective professions whilst in employment, and a day out birdwatching was a precious commodity. We very soon became great friends, sometimes meeting for lunch in one of the Dickensian eating houses still to be found in those days in the City of London. We also attended the evening meetings of the London Natural History Society and in course of time meetings of the British Ornithologists Union, British Ornithologists Club and the little known '37 Club'.

We had great times exploring the marshes - often in the winter, when it always seemed to be misty and damp, crawling over the wet grass with our brass and glass telescopes, trying to get close enough to the flock of White-fronted Geese to find the odd Bean Goose. We were very lucky to have a greater freedom in those days, being able



1. Cliffe Marshes, Jan 1963, at the height of the cold winter. We were standing on the ice of the borrow-dyke under the sea wall; I don't think we saw any live birds that day and we collected about 60 dead waterfowl. (Cyril Walker, Richard Elvy, Rex George and PJO).
2. Before 1966. Ringing a Mute Swan at Cliffe. (Cyril Walker, Richard Elvy and PJO).
3. Late 1950s/mid-1960s. Cliffe Quarry, now flooded. (Norman London, PJO and Mike Barnard).
4. 1961. Lydd Airport, the cross-channel air car ferry now long gone, on our first birding adventure abroad; we camped all the way to the Camargue and Pyrenees. (Mike Barnard, Don Harding, Richard Elvy, Norman London, Malcolm Kingswell and PJO).

(All photos © Chris Wheeler)

to wander over the marshes more or less where we pleased, getting to know the local farmers and shepherds as well as the local pub with its hot pasties and bar billiards. Peter was great fun to be with and had a sense of humour always ready for a good laugh.

Obtaining a licence from the BTO enabled Peter to become involved in ringing birds in order to track their movements, and these activities in addition to just watching and recording birds became important to him. Latterly he took an interest in the breeding harriers on the North Kent Marshes - particularly on the Isle of Sheppey, where he monitored the position of all the harrier nests so that the young could be ringed and wing-tagged. He also co-ordinated the counts of Harriers at their winter roost sites for a number of years.

With his interest in migration, Peter became involved in the establishment of a Bird Observatory at cap Gris-Nez, opposite Dover, to link in with the Bird Observatories in the UK. The use of a wartime blockhouse on top of the cliffs and joining the French ringing scheme were arranged. The observatory lasted many years with teams of visitors from Britain and local French birdwatchers covering the autumn months. Peter was there one weekend in October 1963 when a Pallas's Warbler was found, which was officially accepted as a first record of that species for France.

Peter loved visiting sea bird breeding colonies and was particularly fond of Skokholm Island, which he first visited in his younger days, having the opportunity to handle a Manx Shearwater for the first time.

Like many birdwatchers, he enjoyed travelling to new countries and experiencing new aspects of wildlife. Our first bird watching venture abroad was in 1961 when a few of us hired a Bedford van and set out on a camping trip to the Camargue in southern France and the Pyrenees. Many similar trips followed to different parts of Europe eventually reaching out to the wider world including Morocco, Kenya, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago and India. With Mary he also visited Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Chile, the Seychelles and the Arctic. Collectively we saw some wonderful things and had many experiences which would be impossible to replicate today.

On the practical side, Peter was a member of both the London Natural History Society and the Kent Ornithological Society and was involved in the systematic collection of records, becoming Chairman of the London Natural History Society's Records Committee and serving on its Bird Research Committee.

Having been a methodical record keeper over the years as well as travelling widely, he

Limpsfield Chart and, above right, Buzzards; from Peter Oliver's paper in LBR No.78, 2013: 'Changes in the bird-life of the Limpsfield Chart District, Surrey, 2008-2013: a tale of continuing decline. (Dawn Painter)



was acutely aware of all the changes to the environment that had occurred during his lifetime, and it concerned him greatly - in particular the effect this was having to the everyday birds in the areas with which he was familiar. He commented often to me, as he did quite recently, that we were so lucky to have been able to do and see all the wonderful things when we did.

He was determined to highlight the needs of conservation and raise its profile, and I imagine his hope was that by publishing his information and raising awareness it might have some effect on policy makers.

Not being a policy maker himself he was able to use his financial and administrative skills to great effect in the cause of conservation by voluntarily offering his time and energy in supporting charities whose business it was to influence policy makers. In time he became Trustee and Treasurer of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Treasurer and Council member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, a Trustee and then Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Woodland Trust and finally Treasurer of the British Ornithologists Union. It was for service to wildlife conservation that he was awarded his OBE in 2005.

He also used his professional skills in ensuring that the mammoth 'Birds of the Western



Paleartic' came to a successful conclusion when the ninth volume was finally published in 1993. He is also credited with saving the monthly journal 'British Birds' from closure in 2000. At that time it had been published continuously for 93 years and thanks to Peter's efforts its future was secured.

He was author of numerous ornithological papers and notes in various publications, many of them relating to the North Kent Marshes as well as to the local area around his home here. His interest in harriers on the North Kent Marshes enabled him to write the raptor section annually in the Kent Bird Report for over 20 years. He contributed to the 'Birds of the Western Palearctic' and the 'Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the London Area' and wrote 'Birds around Limpsfield Chart - A history of decline', which has remained unpublished.

In 1991 he wrote and self-published 'Bird Watching on the North Kent Marshes', a book which chronicled the changes in the status of the birds since 'The Birds of the North Kent Marshes' was published in 1950.

Peter was not obsessed with chasing rare birds; but as wildfowl were one of his favourite group of birds it was fitting that in 1967, when we were on the marshes, he picked out a drake American Black Duck. This turned out to be the first ever occurrence of this species for Great Britain and Northern Ireland and is now permanently etched in the annals of British ornithology with his name attached to it. There are not many birdwatchers who can claim to be the first to find a new species for Britain as well as one for France.

Modesty was one of the many attributes that Peter possessed; he was never boastful about what he had done or seen or found but was always careful that, if it had relevance, it was recorded somehow.

Away from birdwatching, he loved music, going to Prom concerts, booking seats as soon as the programme was published, and visiting art exhibitions both of which he and Mary enjoyed doing together.

Peter possessed high ethical standards and I suspect that like me he was apolitical. He was conscious of the needs of others and with his knowledge of economics could be critical of a Government's handling of the economy and the effect that it had on the man in the street. The last time we had a chat - a few months ago - he expressed great concern that people in this country had come to rely on food banks to survive and he wondered what he could do about it.

He was also very kind and considerate to all he met, and an encouragement to others, always ready to share his knowledge of wildlife.

Many tributes have been received since the announcement of his death: congenial and an engaging personality; a true gentleman; fair, considerate, intelligent and astute; and one final very apt comment, "another good one gone".

We shall miss Peter - his family, friends and all who had the privilege of coming into contact with him, can say:

"Thank-you - you really were a 'good egg'"

Chris Wheeler
chriswheeler.69@btinternet.com

PETER OLIVER AND THE LONDON BIRD REPORT

PETE LAMBERT

I never met Peter Oliver but had several email conversations with him after I took on the role of Chair of the LBR Editorial Board in September 2010. Peter was involved with the production of the LBR from about 1964 to 1983 but was also involved with other bird organisations nationally including *British Birds*, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, RSPB and BOU. The obituary by Chris Wheeler on the preceding pages covers all his work; here we concentrate on his involvement with the LBR.

Peter began sending records to us from 1957 and was still sending us records in 2022. His record of a Willow Tit at Moorhouse in September 2003 was in fact the last record of Willow Tit in the London Area to date.

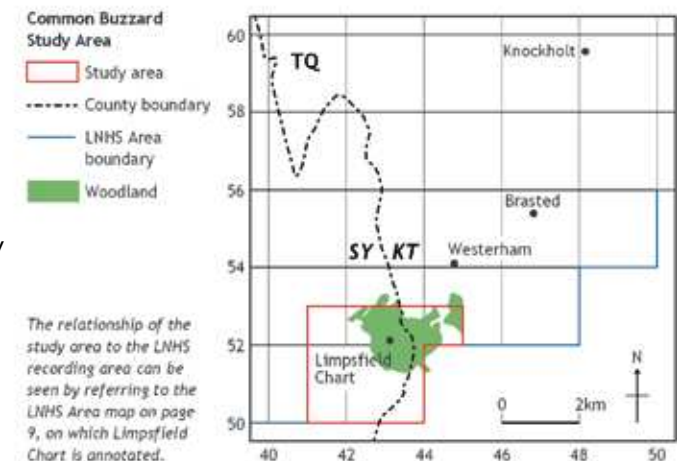
His work towards the production of LBR began in 1964 when he became the LNHS Bird Recorder for Middlesex and Bucks and he continued this until 1967.

In 1972, he became Chair of our Records Committee as well as a member of the LBR Editorial Committee and also a Section writer for LBR. He continued in all these roles until 1982.

From 1972 to 1986, Peter also wrote ten papers in LBR on London's birds, including ones on the status of Little Gulls, on the decline of the Mute Swan and on breeding Tufted Ducks. In the 1990s he wrote another four papers for LBR. In this century, he wrote a paper for LBR 2007 on the establishment of the Buzzard as a breeding species in the London Area. Then in LBR 2013, he summarised his studies of his local patch in 'Changes in the Bird-life of the Limpsfield Chart District'. His final paper for us was in LBR 2017 on the breeding density of Buzzards in his local area in our Surrey sector.

Pete Lambert
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Limpsfield Chart study area, LBR No.82 2017. (The LNHS Area map referred to in the caption (right) is on page 11 of this issue of the London Bird Report.)



REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2022

JOHN WALKER

227 species were recorded in London during 2022 (excluding escapes and subspecies)

There was a first for London this year with the first Pallid Harrier as well as the acceptance of a 2021 record of the 'Baltic' subspecies *L. f. fuscus* of Lesser Black-backed Gull. Other notable birds for 2022 included London's fifth Lesser Scaup and sixth Blue-winged Teal, with one new Ferruginous Duck as well as both Ferruginous and Ring-necked Ducks lingering from the previous year. (There is also the addition of two Ferruginous Duck records for 2011.) Two Red-necked Grebe were recorded following four years of singleton records, and three Slavonian Grebes were recorded. White Stork were recorded at 12 sites, three or four Glossy Ibis was the best total since 2016, highlighting their growing UK presence. Spoonbill were recorded from 12 sites, including the first records in January and in February. Bittern were noted from 11 sites and Cattle Egret continues to increase with records from 25 sites, although Great White Egret numbers remained static with records from 50 locations. The year also saw three Hen Harrier, London's sixteenth Night Heron (in a typical May appearance) and a Purple Heron.

Notable raptors included a single record of Honey Buzzard in September, a Black Kite in April and a likely Isle of Wight-released White-tailed Eagle seen in March and April. Waders included four records of Stone Curlew (the first since 2019), the thirteenth Black-winged Stilt, the first Purple Sandpipers since 2018, the first Red-necked Phalarope since 2018, one Grey Phalarope and the ninth Lesser Yellowlegs the first since 2002. Early November storms were likely responsible for Hertfordshire's first Sabine's Gull since 1998. Only two Iceland Gulls were recorded, and dedicated larophiles picked out a declining number of Yellow-legged Gulls and up to 135 Caspian Gulls (with Thamesmead remaining the most reliable site for the latter species). There was just one record of Roseate Tern. There was only one skua record this year: an Arctic Skua over Epsom Downs. London's fourth Razorbill since 2000 was found on the Thames in September, with three Common Guillemot recorded in the same month.

Notable migrants and winter passerines included one Hoopoe, five Wryneck, one Red-backed Shrike, one Golden Oriole, three Yellow-Browed Warblers, a long-staying Dusky Warbler from 2021 at Walthamstow Marshes, London's third Iberian Chiffchaff which reportedly paired with a Chiffchaff, the second Siberian Lesser Whitethroat, one Common Redpoll, a long-staying Serin, one Snow Bunting and the thirteenth Little Bunting (as well as a lingering bird from 2021).

In the first Winter period, after a benign and warm January, February saw three named storms in quick succession with Storm Eunice setting a new England wind gust record of 122mph! The year opened with some notable 2021 birds still in place - the well-watched Ferruginous Duck at Thorpe Park and the Ring-necked Duck at Priory Pond. Brent Goose numbers were low in this and the later winter period, as were Pink-footed Goose numbers. White-fronted Geese showed a decline after two good years. There was just one record of Whooper Swan. Ten Scaup were recorded, with KGV Res the

stronghold for the species. Smew numbers continued to be low, with once again no more than two birds being recorded at any site. The only Great Northern Divers reported in this period were all over stayers from 2021. There were also two Hen Harrier recorded. Bittern were recorded at seven sites and 159 Water Rail were recorded in the first quarter. The only Turnstone were at the Thames at Grays and Swanscombe Marshes, there was just one Knot in this period and the only Ruff were at Rainham Marshes. Wintering Common Sandpipers were present at 12 sites, and Green Sandpipers at 29 sites. There was just one Kittiwake and two Merlin in this period.

Chiffchaff were recorded at 109 sites, with three or possibly four Siberian Chiffchaffs over-wintering; Blackcap were recorded from 153 sites and six Dartford Warblers over-wintered. There was also a wintering Lesser Whitethroat in a garden in Highbury. Both Fieldfare and Redwing numbers were lower in this period than last year. Brambling had an exceptional year, recorded in January in numbers not seen since the 1950s, and high Hawfinch numbers in January reflected the influx in late autumn/winter 2021.

Spring 2022 was the fifth warmest on record, and the summer was the first in history that recorded a daily maximum temperature over 40C. There were up to six records of four to six Quail this year. During spring passage, 19 Osprey were recorded. Migrating waders included 23 Grey Plover, large Golden Plover counts from London Colney and up to 250 Bar-tailed Godwit in late April/early May. Five of the seven Spotted Redshank seen this year were in this period. The first May record of Purple Sandpiper was particularly noteworthy. Only 13 Black Tern represented the lowest figure this century, although spring passage totals of at least 38 Sandwich Tern, 13 Little Tern and at least 107 pairs of breeding Common Tern were more healthy. The most 'traditional' summer birds showed mixed fortunes; only three Turtle Doves were recorded in spring with no confirmed breeding, but Cuckoo were recorded from 132 sites up to May - no breeding was confirmed but numbers appear stable. Passerines included a single Woodlark, three Wood Warblers, a late and truncated passage of 29 Spotted Flycatchers and the usual light passage of four Pied Flycatchers. Ring Ouzel numbers were down (29 compared with the 62 recorded in 2021) and Redstart showed a significant decline, with 12 birds the lowest total for a decade. By contrast, Whinchat numbers were impressive with 92 birds recorded and Wheatears were observed at 76 sites.

It remains likely that many breeding trends are skewed or masked by varying coverage. Two pairs of Barnacle Geese bred at Walthamstow Wetlands, the first confirmed breeding in London since 2012. One pair of Teal at London Wetland Centre were the first confirmed breeders since 2017. There were also 13 broods of Shoveler, 42 broods of Gadwall and 76 broods of Pochard. Great Crested Grebe bred on 74 sites, 48 Heronries with 435 nests were recorded, and Little Egret bred on ten sites with 97 nests. A single Marsh Harrier pair fledged two young although a second pair were present at Rainham Marshes - very much the stronghold for the species. Eight pairs of Barn Owls, ten pairs of Tawny Owls and 13 pairs of Little Owls bred; it is not clear whether the national decline of the latter species is reflected in these figures. Nightjar were present in the breeding season at five locations. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was recorded at 23 sites but only two possible breeding territories (in Essex) were noted. 26 Red Kite territories were recorded with four confirmed breeding reports. Water Rail probably bred at four sites.

Figures for Hobby remained consistent with confirmed breeding at 17, while 54 pairs of Peregrine remain strongly associated with the ready food supply in central London; 83 young were fledged and this iconic species continues to thrive. Raven continues to increase as a breeding bird, with four confirmed and six additional probable sites - seven of which were new locations. A rather robust pair of Moorhen raised a brood in London Zoo's lion enclosure. Two of Rainham's eighteen Avocet pairs hatched chicks, and the single juvenile Ringed Plover at Rainham in Jun may have been a locally raised or passage bird. Little Ringed Plover numbers remained low, with nine confirmed breeding pairs of the 22 observed.

One Mediterranean Gull was fledged at the same Surrey location as last year but one of the adults died, possibly of avian influenza. The marginal county improvements for Turtle Dove noted in the last two years were cancelled out, with no breeding recorded in 2022. Breeding Marsh Tits were confirmed at two sites and probable at a further three, and Bearded Tit was confirmed breeding at Rainham Marshes (seven pairs) and Swanscombe Marshes. Sand Martin was confirmed or probable at nine sites, which is fewer than in the previous two years. No Woodlark breeding was recorded, but the figure of at least 303 Skylark territories is the second highest for a decade. A Marsh Warbler may have bred at a site in our Kent sector and Cettis Warbler continues to go from strength to strength with at least 519 territories recorded (compared with 369 in 2021). By contrast, the five Grasshopper Warbler territories recorded at three sites is the lowest count since 2018. Notably, a Surrey site saw three Dartford Warbler fledged.

Singing Firecrests were recorded at nine sites and Spotted Flycatcher breeding was confirmed at a single site with two other 'probables'. Only seven Nightingale territories were recorded at three sites, a significant drop on the last two years (16 and 17 territories). Of the 19 recorded Black Redstart territories, three breeding pairs were confirmed. Twelve pairs of Stonechat were recorded at three sites, likely a significant under-recording. A notable absence was Tree Sparrow, with no breeding recorded at last year's single location. At least ten pairs of Yellow Wagtail bred at six sites, and 44 breeding/singing male Grey Wagtails were recorded. Meadow Pipits established 33 territories at eight sites. There was an increase in Bullfinch noted with 35 territories recorded, but Corn Bunting lived up to its 'declining and increasingly localised' description, with only eight territorial males noted at four sites. At least 89 Yellowhammer and 147 Reed Bunting territories were recorded.

Only seven Osprey were noted in Autumn after the 19 Spring records. Passage waders included Ringed Plover recorded at 18 sites, just 18 Whimbrel, six Bar-tailed Godwit and 40 Greenshank; all these numbers were low, probably due to fine weather reducing the likelihood of downed migrants. Four Little Stint together at Coursers Road GP was a notable September observation. Autumn tern numbers were poor, amounting to 35 Sandwich Terns, no Little Terns (for the first time since 2008), just two records of Arctic Terns and only 35 Black Terns. Three Yellow-browed Warblers were recorded; all were single-day birds with none thought to have stayed for the winter. 106 sites recorded Spotted Flycatcher in Autumn and Pied Flycatcher passage was the heaviest in recent years with at least 110 birds passing through, most in August. Daily counts of Whinchat peaked at 84 in early September, with exceptional movement of Stonechat (daily high of 196) in the same month.

The second winter period saw the first Blue-winged Teal since 2000 arrive as well as a Ferruginous Duck. Long-eared Owl were recorded at three sites and Short-eared Owl at 17 sites. There was just one Hen Harrier seen in this period. A small influx of Smew after a freezing spell saw six birds recorded at five sites in December; climate change continues to impact numbers as fewer birds reach the UK. From October, Firecrest numbers increased with birds recorded from 60 sites and long-stayers from at least eight sites. 38 Dartford Warblers were recorded in this period making a total of 42 new birds for the year, more than double the highest estimate of new birds in recent years.

January: The month saw year highs at Rainham Marshes of seven Marsh Harriers, 200 Golden Plovers, 13 Common Sandpipers and nine Rock Pipits, 93 Greater Black-backed (less than 100 being an unusually poor maximum count) and 5,000 Herring Gulls. Year peaks at other sites included 11 Jack Snipe and 142 Snipe at Beddington Farmlands, 1,200 Common Gulls at Wanstead Flats, 98 Magpies leaving their roost at Warren Gorge, 800 Chaffinch and 1,100 Brambling at Reigate and 145 Greenfinch in Victoria Park. The year started with Ferruginous Duck, Ring-necked Duck, three Great Northern Divers and a Red-necked Grebe all remaining from 2021. The peak monthly Barnacle Geese count was 158 at Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) on 5th. A wintering Lesser Whitethroat was seen in a Highbury Garden on 30th. On 27th, London's first Serin since 2018 was found at Woodoaks Farm, Maples Cross and stayed until March.

February: Year peaks this month included 1,000 Lapwings at Rainham Marshes, 9,950 Black-headed Gulls at Kingston-upon-Thames, eight Caspian Gulls at Thamesmead, and 300 Siskin at Broxbourne Woods. The first Hen Harrier of the year was seen at West Thurrock Marshes on 3rd. There was a first-winter peak count of 11 Green Sandpipers at Beddington Farmlands on 16th.

March: The month saw year highs of 38 Goldeneye at Staines Res, 16 Goosander at KGV Res, 50 Pintail at Rainham Marshes, 5,150 Ring-necked Parakeets at Kingston-upon-Thames, 28 Coal Tits and eight Hawfinch at Ongar Park Wood. Little Ringed Plovers returned to two regular sites on the early date of the 3rd and the first returning Wheatear was at Orsett Fen on 10th. On 15th there was the first returning Garganey at KGV Res. An Osprey was seen flying SW over Watford on the 17th. The first Sandwich Tern was at Brent Res on 26th and the first Common Tern at Staines Res on 29th. A Whitethroat was present at Brent Cross Shopping Centre for three days from the 27th. A Hen Harrier was at Oxley Wood on 28th. The immature White-tailed Eagle G818 was sighted in Essex on 30th, the same day that four Common Scoter were seen on the Thames at Rainham Marshes.

April: This month saw year highs of eight Scaup at KGV Res (the species' stronghold), 35 Buzzard at Richmond Park, 16 Little Ringed Plover at Stanborough GP, 46 Bar-tailed Godwit at Crossness and 500 Stock Doves at Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross. A year high of 30 Little Gulls at KGV Res was recorded on 23rd: the same date as 2021's peak count. The first Arctic Tern was on 7th at Island Barn Res. Wheatear numbers peaked on the 13th with 68 birds recorded. The first spring passage Ringed Plovers were seen at

Aldenham CP on the 15th and the first Little Tern was at Rainham Marshes on 19th. A Black Kite was seen over Parliament Hill on 21st and a Wood Warbler was singing by the R Wandle in Wimbledon on 25th. This month also saw the highest monthly total of 12 Osprey and a pair of Garganey were thought to have attempted breeding at London Wetland Centre.

May: Year high counts this month included 25 Red-crested Pochard in Regent's Park (not in the traditional Colne Valley area), 49 Ringed Plover at Rainham Marshes, 13 Whimbrel over Headley Heath, 800 Swifts at Walthamstow Wetlands and 42 Yellow Wagtails at Beddington Farmlands. A Night Heron was observed briefly at Brent Res on 2nd and a Black-Winged Stilt at Beddington Farmlands on 3rd - a typical spring date. The third Iberian Chiffchaff for London was at Regent's Park from 4th (staying into September). A Glossy Ibis stayed for a single day at London Wetland Centre on 5th and was then seen at Beddington Farmlands for two days. A Blue-headed Wagtail appeared at London Wetland Centre on 4th and a Roseate Tern was at Staines Res on the 9th. A Red-backed Shrike was seen at Picks Farm, Sewardstone on 11th.

June: Year peaks in June included 174 Shelduck at Crossness, 48 Little Egrets at Rainham Marshes and 3,800 Starling at Staines Res. On the 5th there was a Purple Heron at Beddington Farmlands, an unseasonal female Goosander was observed on the R Colne at Harefield on 16th and on 18th there was a Golden Oriole at Rainham Marshes. Quail were recorded singing from at least three sites in Essex and Surrey during the month.

July: The year peak of 572 Gadwall at Rye Meads highlighted the continuing upward trend for the species. Other year peaks this month included 18 Green Sandpipers at Beddington Farmlands and a 'super flock' of 122 Mediterranean Gulls over QE II Res. The peak of 20 Yellow-legged Gulls at Crayford Marshes was low, but 913 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at William Girling Res was a healthier number. Fifteen Bearded Tits were the highest year total at Rainham Marshes. Presumed returning wildfowl included Garganey at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) on 3rd and Pintail at Dagenham Chase on 12th. An Oystercatcher was near Tower Bridge on 7th, and a very early returning Bittern visited London Wetland Centre from 24th-29th.

August: Annual peak wildfowl counts included nine Garganey at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) and 1,993 Tufted Ducks at Wraysbury Res. Other year high totals included ten Grey Partridge at Mar Dyke Valley, 50 Little Grebe at Walthamstow Wetlands and 220 Common Terns and 18 Arctic Terns, both at Gallions Reach. A male Red-breasted Merganser at Rainham Marshes on 13th was the first August record this century. Common Sandpiper passage peaked on the 25th with 54 birds observed across the recording area. The first autumn passage Ring Ouzel was found on 15th at North Ockendon, over six weeks earlier than the previous year.

September: The month saw year high counts of at least 500 Greylag Geese at Sevenoaks WR, 300 Egyptian Geese - the highest ever total - at Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 700+ Canada Geese at Sevenoaks WR, 1,470 Cormorants at Q. Mother Res, 354 Great Crested

Grebe at Wraysbury Res, 14 Black-necked Grebe at Staines Res, 21 Common Sandpipers at Crayford Marshes, 137 Sand Martins at Beddington Farmlands, 11 Spotted Flycatcher at Wanstead Flats and 72 Stonechat at Richmond Park. The highlight of the month was the first Pallid Harrier in London at Staines Moor on 1st. Whinchat passage peaked on the 3rd with 84 birds reported from 28 sites and a single site count of 20 in Richmond Park on 3rd. Wryneck were observed on 2nd at both Dagenham Chase and Wanstead Flats, with another at Vicarage Farm on 7th and one at Hampstead Cemetery on 10th. There were also 16 Spoonbills seen over Southmere Park on 10th. The year's single Honey Buzzard was at Nore Hill on 13th. A presumed incoming Pink-footed Goose was heard at night over St Margarets, Twickenham on 17th. A Ferruginous Duck was at Wraysbury GP from 23rd to 24th. The first Blue-winged Teal since 2000 was at Fairlop Waters from 27th. All but one of this year's Curlew Sandpipers were seen during September.

October: Year high counts included 1,174 Coot at Holyfield Marsh, 54 Mandarin Ducks at Hampstead Heath, 19 Curlew at Rainham Marshes, 1,600+ autumn passage House Martins at St Paul's Cray, 175+ Collared Doves at Rectory Farm, 1,870 Redwings at Colley Hill, 12 Water Pipits at Beddington Farmlands and 500 Goldfinches at Stanborough GP. The first returning Brent Geese were noted over Beddington Farmlands on the 19th, and returning Barnacle Geese peaked at 370 on Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) on 22nd. A Hen Harrier was at Stanborough GP on 24th.

November: Year high counts included seven Red-breasted Mergansers over Richmond Park and an impressive 30,180 Woodpigeon at Brook Farm, Upminster. Woodcock were casualties in the City of London - one dead and another found dazed on 17th. The year's sole Snow Bunting flew east at KGV Res on the 3rd and a Siberian Lesser Whitethroat was recorded at Croydon on 13th. The only Skua this year in London - an Arctic Skua in flight - was observed at Epsom Downs on 14th. A Sabine's Gull appeared intermittently from 16th at Amwell NR.

December: Peak year counts included up to 30 White-fronted Geese over Wanstead Flats, at least 1,000 Wigeon and 1,100 Teal at Rainham Marshes, 372 Mallard on the Thames from Putney Bridge to Barnes, 285 Shoveler at Broadwater Lake (one of five sites with counts of national significance), 286 Pochard at Staines Res (a better year for a species listed internationally as vulnerable), ten Grey Plover, 750 Black-tailed Godwit, six Ruff and 1,851 Dunlin at Rainham Marshes, 62 Avocet at Dartford Marshes, 250 Skylarks at Longfield and 21 over-wintering Chiffchaff at Broadwater Lake. A Wheatear at Walthamstow Wetlands until the 5th was the latest record this century. At least three Smew arrived after a freezing spell on 16th and 18th and a Lesser Scaup was observed at Staines Res on 20th which stayed until the end of the year.

CONTRIBUTORS TO BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA

All 3,570 contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 2022 are listed in the table below. We apologise if any names have been omitted inadvertently.

In order to save space, contributors' initials have been combined under each surname and separated by commas. For the purpose of indexing, accents have been ignored.

Aal J	Amer R	Attiwell J	Barnaby J	Beddington	Bichel A	Bonser R	Bresser Matous T	Burrows A	Cary C
Aaron S	Amerikali A	Auger M	Barnes A, C, E, F,	Farmlands Bird	Bieber G	Bookless D	Breton S	Burrus B	Casabonne RL
Ab-Owain M	Ames E	Austin M	J, RT, S	Group	Bierman R	Boon D	Brewer A	Burston P	Casares E
Abraham N	Amos M	Auyeung T	Barnes Birders	Bedford T	Biernat S	Boorman J	Brewitt A	Burt D, T	Cassell J
Abrahams D	Amphlett MJ	Avenell J	Barr J	Beer D	Bigglestone R	Booth D, J, M	Briesacher B	Burtner L	Cassidy J
Acharya S	Ananthakrishnan	Aylen P	Barratt N	Beesley D	Biggs N	Bopitiya R	Briggs B, P	Burton O, R, T, V	Casual Birder
Acuff J	H	Aylward J, S	Barrett A, D	Beevers D	Bignold S	Boran J	Brignoli G	Busby M	Podcast Team
Adam T	Anctil A	Azizollah N	Barrington J	Behr-Andres C	Bingley J	Bork J	Briley S	Busch D	Cattini F
Adams D, J, P	Andersen E	Azpe B	Barron T	Beilman C	Binley A	Borrell J	Bristow P	Bushell J, P	Cawood J
Addis I	Anderson A, B, J,	Bach L	Barrow K	Beissert K	Birard J	Borys W	Brito RM	Busse M	Cedar J
Addison-Scott K	M, N	Bacon L, S	Barry S, W	Bekker J	Birchall H	Bose A	Britten K	Bustard J	Ceg B
Afroz N	Andersson M	Badcock-Parks B	Barter G	Belinsky H	Bird A, C, J, M	Botev D	Britton L	Butcher G	Cemme A
Agar J	Andregg K	Badenhorst C	Barthorpe I	Bell A, E, J, T	Birdlife Species	Bottomley N	Broadbent I	Butler J, T	Chaffe M
Ahearn J	Andres B	Bagott D	Bartlett A	Bellenie H	Champions Team	Botwright S	Brobirder Team	Butlin R	Chakravarty R
Ahier A	Andrews C, J, M,	Bagott D	Bartlett Hall L	Belman P	Birkett C, J	Bouaoun F	Brochstein B	Butson P	Chalmers D
Ahlholm T	P, S	Bailey H, J, K, M,	Bartley J	Blackmore A, E	Birkin P	Boucher J	Brock J	Butt J	Chambers D, K
Ailes G	Anello S	Bain N	Bashford R	Blackburn T	Birks A	Boult P	Brockett R	Buttress J	Chamier L
Akella R	Angus C	Bair E	Bassett AD	Blackford D	Birsan E	Bournat M, O	Broderick G	Buxton R	Chan Y
Akkiraju S	Antram F, H	Baker D, G, I, K,	Batchelor S	Blackman I, R	Behr-Andres C	Boutis N	Brookers A, C	Byatt J	Chaney
Al-Farhan H	Appleby P	N, R, T	Bateman C, H, L,	Blackmore K	Bishop W	Bowd G	Brooks A	Byrne S, T	Chandrial L
Albanese C	Appleton J	R	R	Blahout D	Bishop-Stafford R	Bowen M	Brooms A, C	Cabano K	Chandran D
Albano L	Apps J	Bates D, K, T	Bateson P	Blake D, J, S, T	Bizid A	Bowley M	Broom F	Cabral J	Chang C
Alcolado M	Araya M	Battell M	Batista H	Blanshard T	Bko L	Bowie M	Brown A, D, E, H,	Cadwallender T	Chanin J
Alderson J	Archer JK, M	Batten L, N	Battin C	Blatchler P	Bk A, R	Bowles V	J, L, O, P, S, T	Cadhan C	Chanter B
Aldridge C, J	Arduino J	Bauss T	Battley M	Bleby J	Bell A, E, J, T	Bowman J	Brown J, L, O, P, S, T	Caine T	Chapman P, S, T
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Alexis K	Arndt F	Bayly A, M	Berenguer E	Bloch N	Bendig J	Boyd P	Bryan P	Calcutt D	Chauhan K
Alford P	Arnold J, R	Bayne E	Berger R	Bloom A, L	Bennett K, M	Boyle A, C, P	Bryan P	Calderson S	Cheal O
Alfrey P	Aronov D	Beaumont M	Bergeron B	Bloss J	Bennett K, M	Bozier R	Bryan P	Callaghan C	Cheeseman A
Allan D	Arrowsmith B	Beardmore K	Bergman E	Blouin P	Bensemann A	Bozycki L	Bryan-Bentley J	Callaghan C	Chen A, D, I
Allaway S	Artuso C	Bertuzzo M	Bertuzzo M	Blows T	Bentley M	Bozzi L, N	Bryant D	Callahan D, I	Cheng K
Allen D, E, F, K,	Arunachalam L	Bespolka C	Bespolka C	Bloys R	Benton C	Bradbury J, M	Bubben S	Callaway T	Chesin J
M, S	Ashley P, S	Bessant C	Bessant C	Blume W	Berdejo Espinola	Braddock R	Buchan C	Callif RM	Chiang O
M, S	Ashtead Common	Best A, G	Best A, G	Blunt J	V	Bradfield S	Buchanan S	Cama Torrell A	Child I
Alley S	CBC	Bestwick J	Bestwick J	Blythe T	Berenguer E	Bradley J, S	Buck S	Cameron G	Childs R
Allinson T	Astle R	Beswick N	Beswick N	Boa M	Berger R	Bradnum D	Buckel V	Camp A, J	Chilukuri S
Allom P	Atashroo H	Bettinson R	Bettinson R	Boardman M	Bergeron B	Bradshaw B, D, H,	Buckingham S	Campbell A, C, D,	Chingos T
Allport G	Atkinson C, E, S,	Betts B	Betts B	Bockhorst T	Bergman E	I, R	Buckley M	J, S, T	Chip K
Almagro J	W	Bew N	Bew N	Bodini L	Bertuzzo M	Brady J	Bull J, K	Campeau P	Chiu C
Almond P	W	Bewey M	Bewey M	Boersch-Supan P	Bertuzzo M	Braggs J	Bulling D	Cann L	Chiu Pang C
Alpera C	Atkinson-Baldwin	Bexley Birders	Bexley Birders	Bok Pang S	Bertuzzo M	Brambilla S	Bulpitt M	Cannavaciuolo C	Chiurla E
Ambach K	J	Bezuidenhout B	Bezuidenhout B	Boland S	Bertuzzo M	Branagan J	Bumgarner M	Cantero N	Chodankar R
Ambler P	Attia Y	Bhatia Z	Bhatia Z	Bolton A	Bertuzzo M	Brand B	Burch M	Cantrill B	Chowdhury SU
		Bianchi J	Bianchi J	Bomkamp B	Bertuzzo M	Brasier D	Burckhardt S	Carlill P	Chown P
		Biazzo V	Biazzo V	Bonner R	Bertuzzo M	Brassington D	Burdett R	Carlyle R	Chuah Lim K
		Bibby P	Bibby P	Bonnet T	Bertuzzo M	Braun M	Burfield I	Carman S	Churchley S
				Bonnington R	Bertuzzo M	Bravery M	Burford G	Carmichael G	Cianni A
					Bertuzzo M	Braybrook S	Burgess C	Carol Y	Claiden-Yardley K
					Bertuzzo M	Brazuelo J	Burgess-Wylie C	Carpenter B	Clancy A, S, T
					Bertuzzo M	Breadman A	Burgum N	Carr D, P	Clare K
					Bertuzzo M	Breckenridge M	Burke M	Carroll J, K	Clark C, D, F, G,
					Bertuzzo M	Bregman T	Burn J	Carstensen M	J, M, R
					Bertuzzo M	Brent Birders	Burne C	Carter D, J, R, S	Clarke K
					Bertuzzo M	Bressant C	Burns M	Cartlidge P	Clavijo J

Clay B
Cleghorn B
Clements A
Clements-Partridge A
Clemmons C
Clench K
Clewett R
Cliffe J, P
Clifford A
Closna D
Cloutier F
Clowney B
Coady R
Coath M
Codlin A
Coe A, H
Cohen E, J
Colby C
Cole S
Coleman DA, M, V
Colenutt S
Coles P
Coll B
Collado M
Colledge D
Collings H
Collins P, R, S
Collins-Smith B
Collis M
Collyer A
Colmans J
Combes D, NJ
Condon M
Coney S
Connington A
Connock W
Connor F, S
Conquer R
Conradt B
Conroy C
Conte M
Conville B
Cook C, H, J, M, R, T
Coom A
Coombes H
Coombs D
Cooney L
Cooper B, D, JC
Cooper Relly C
Cooper S
Copas R
Cope R
Copleston K
Coppard A

Coquerel A, D
Corbin C
Corfield G, L
Corker S
Cormack A
Cornelius B
Cornes T
Cornish D
Costa T
Costello L
Cottee-Jones E
Cotten G
Cottrell N
Coulson M
Court J
Courtenay E
Cousins D, J, R
Cowan D
Cowell C
Cox A, C, DJ, P, S
Coxon J
Crabtree G, S
Craggy J
Craig M
Cramp R
Crampton E, SJ
Crane J
Cranny W
Crawford A
Crease O
Creese C
Creightman M
Criado JM
Crilley T
Cripps B, R
Croasdale K
Crockford S
Croft N
Crone D
Crooks B
Crouch R
Crow C
Croydon Birders
Cruz A
Cruzan C
Cuff M
Cullum S
Culyba B
Cumming B, D, P
Cummins T
Cunningham D, M
Cunningham-Eurich I
Cura H
Curnick J
Curran M

Curran-White K
Currier M
Curry R
Curson L
Curtis C
Cushman J
Cuthbert L
Cuthbertson S
Cutting J, M, S
Cutts M
D'Souza L
Da Rocha M
Dabral V
Dack D
Dadds J
Dagenham Bird News Group
Dagley J
Daley E
Dally A
Daniel M
Daniels E, R, S
Darbyshire I
Dare S
Darlinton C, S
Dartlow B
Darrell-Lambert D
Daveport S
Davesne D
David E
Davies C, E, K, L, P, R, T
Davis B, C, D, J, K, M, R, T, W
Davis-Nord R
Davison M
Davy P
Dawes C
Dawson A, B, D, M, P
Dawton B
Day A, E, J, R
Dazley R
De Bruyn G
De Ferrars W
De Hay M
De March T
De Oliveira E
De Silva H
De Souza J
Deacon D
Dean B, J, K
Debenham A
Decencièrre E
Dee J
Deegan M

Deighan M
Del Estal N
Del Rey Garcia J
Del Río L
Delaloye P
Delgado P
Dellavalle P, T
Delpy M
Dempsey D
Denham D
Denison N
Dennehy J
Denner M
Dennett J
Denney-Foster I
Dennies N
Dennison R
Dent A, D, J, M
Destree J, R
Dettmar T
Deulofeut R
Dewar R
Dewes J
Dewey R
Dewhurst C, O
Dhainaut J
Dick M
Dickens A, J, W
Dickson ML
Dietrich S
Dietz D
Dillon-Hooper E, P
Dissanayake R
Distler N
Divakaran S
Dixon H, M
Djukanovich M
Doan R
Dobell E
Dobson A, I
Dodd N
Dodds J
Doerig C
Dolan R
Dolton P
Dombowsky L
Done C
Donegan T
Donelle D
Dorin F
Dorini D
Dorman A
Dorward J
Dos R
Doubleday A

Douch P
Douglas B
Doveston M
Downing A, F, R
Doyle M
Dozier A
Dozin P
Drake S
Drakes J
Draper M
Dray T
Drew B, E, M, R
Drewett J
Drewitt E
Denney-Foster I
Dronfield S
Drummond L
Duarte L
Dubill A
Duckass T
Duckett T
Duncan KP
Dungey J, S
Dunham T
Dunn A
Dunne R
Duns G
Dunwiddie P
Dunwoody R
Duska Huff R
Dutta A
Dyer C
Eades N
Eagan S
Ealing Wildlife Group
Earl T
Earnshaw H
East J
Eaton S
Eccles J
Edden R
Eden E
Edge B
Edwards B, I, J, M, R, S
Eerdmans P
Egan B
Eglowski K
El Mapa E
Elcock J
Element D
Ellam C
Eller J
Ellie H
Elliott K

Elliott-Moustache G
Ellis E, H, I, J, M, T
Ellisdon D
Else K
Elmes J
Elsby K
Elsoffer M
Elwood B
Ely M
Emanuel T
Emerson C, J
Emily
Emmens R
Emmerson A
Endersby P
English P
Englund S
Enright S
Ensom T
Epstein B
Errington S
Esmahan C
Espino P
Esse N
Esteves FM
Etheridge E
Evans B, D, E, G, J, LGR, M, P, R
Evans-Hill L
Evanstad A
Everett CM
Everitt J
Evershed R
Exley J
Eyers S
Facer A, R
Facey R
Fagan B
Faibis C
Fair S
Fairchild V
Fairlop Birders
Fairweather R
Fan X
Fang H
Faragher J
Farah M
Fare B
Farman M
Farnworth M
Farrar A
Farrell C, R
Farrell-Morris C
Farrokhzadeh A

Farthing C
Faulder D
Favreau M
Fawcett R
Fearnside J
Fell J
Fenn G, T
Fenton A
Ferber E
Ferguson D, J, M
Feuerriegel L
Fewster M
Feys S
Fidorra J
Field B, D, M
Fieldes J
Finch F
Findlay C
Finlay C, W
Finsbury Park Birders
Firman C
Fischer R
Fisher H, J, T
Fison C
Fitzgerald S
Flack I
Fleming J, K
Flesher R
Fletcher D, R
Flinn G
Flint M
Flood J
Flory O
Floyd G, M
Fogel D, H
Foley N
Folkening R
Folkes M
Follett P
Fontdevila E
Foot J
Forbes D, N, T
Ford A, G, J, W
Fordred S
Forgham J
Forman A
Forquignon J
Forster T
Forsyth A, T
Fortuna S
Foster K, M
Fotheringham A
Fountain T
Fowkes A
Fowler G

Fowles G, S
Fox R, S
Foy L
Francik J
Francis P, R
Frank J, R
Franklin H
Franks R
Fraser C
Fray R
Frearson S
Free B, J
Freedman A
Freeland-Haynes L
Freeman M, S
French N
Friday Bird Group
Friends of Alexandra Park
Friends of Farthing Downs
Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
Friends of West Ham Park
Froese T
Frost P, S
Fryer R
Fuller L, R, S
Furbush R
Fure A
Furley C
Fyffe A
Gain J
Gaither M
Gale J, S
Gallardo J
Galpin B
Galvan R
Gammage T
Gannaway C
Garcia C, M, N
Gard A
Gardiner A, J
Gardner D, N
Gargan H
Garland MS
Garner-Richards P
Garrido M
Garrigues D
Garro S
Garwood MR
Gasson P
Gat A

Gates J, S
Gatley SJ
Gauley A
Gaunt P
Gauntlett H
Gautier S
Gearly R
Gedge D
Geer G
Geiger P
George E
Georgevits M
Georgiev T
Gerard P
Gerber T
Gerdeman G
Gh F
Ghrist D
Gibbard C
Gibbins C
Gibbons A, B, T
Gibbs B, C, L, M
Gibling M
Gibson C, D, J, N, T
Giddings T
Gieszl B
Gilbert C
Gilbertson M
Giler H
Gilfillan P
Gilja OH
Gill E, G, H, J, R, S, Y
Gillard T
Gillingham J
Gillings S
Girdlestone L
Giroux G, L
Given Q
Glass B
Glazebrook G
Glines M
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Glossop A
Glutzer P
Gorgan R
Glynn B
Gochenaur J
Goddard A, P
Goehring J
Goeltz N
Goenarto P
Golden J
Golley M

Gomes De Freitas PM
Gonzalez
Gerdeman A
González Perea JM
González Táboas F
Goode T
Gooding J, L
Goodman P
Goodwin K
Goodwin-Bain F
Gordon J, R
Gore S
Goriup P
Gornall A
Gorta S
Goswami A
Goudge L
Gough C
Gould O
Gouldstone A, C
Gourley K
Gowers J
Grady A
Grafton T
Graham A, I, P
Grant J
Gravel J
Gray J, P, T
Grayson S
Green C, R, V
Greenway S
Gregory D, J
Grewal R
Griffin A-M, P, W
Griffiths B, D
Grim T
Grimsey A
Grimsley D
Grimstead S
Grimwade S
Grimstead R
Grover J
Groves J
Gruar D
Grundy J
Guest-Consales E
Guilder I
Guiver J
Gull C
Gunatilleke G
Guneratne A
Gunkel P
Gunn C

Guo J
Guthrie G
Guy A
Gygax F
Gymer P
Haas J
Hackett P
Hadley M
Haffner M
Hagge A
Hague O
Haider M
Haig A
Haines B
Halder S
Hale D, R
Halina M
Hall A, M, R, S, T
Halley-Frame V
Halloran K
Halls J
Halsey S
Halstead H
Hamilton A, T
Hammatt N
Hammond S
Hampstead Heath
Birders
Hampton V
Hanak C
Hancock D, R
Hand A
Hanks C
Hannam J
Hannan J
Hansen A
Hanson T
Harbird R
Harden G
Hardie A
Harding A, C, G
Hardy L
Hare M, W
Harewood D
Hargreaves R
Harmon A
Harper M
Harpin D
Harringay Birder
Harrington S
Harris A, AJ, DM,
G, M, NG, S, T
Harrison A, C, D,
H, P, R
Harrop T
Hart G, P

Hartley I
Hartley-Lowe J
Hartman K
Hartmann B
Harvey J, P, S
Hastings J
Hatt G
Havard G
Havens S
Hawgood G
Hawkins F, J, P, R
Hayden E
Haydon R, RM
Hayes D
Hayman P
Haynes A, J
Haysom H
Hayward T
Hazelhurst G
Headley J
Heal J
Healey S
Healy J, M
Heaphy F
Heard C, CDR
Hearne NP, S
Heath B
Hector S
Hedley J
Heer N
Hein E
Heiser E
Heitor AC
Helliwell C
Heltzel A
Hemprich-
Bennett D
Henderson D
Hennige K
Henning S
Henry Langham
V
Henshaw K
Hep A
Herbert C, R
Heron J
Herrington N
Herrlinger P
Herwood T
Hesley B
Hesse C, F
Hester R
Heward Y
Hewitt L
Hibbard A
Hicks R

Higgins G
Higgott J
Higham D, M
Hilder C
Hiley A
Hilfield Reservoir
Bird Report
Hill C, D, J, M, S,
T
Hilliard D
Hillingdon Natural
History Society
Hills D
Hilsden T
Hinsch J
Hirshberg L
Hiscock V
Hitchings M
Ho K
Hoare D, M
Hobbs M, P
Hochstetler W
Hocking C
Hodgson I
Hogan E
Hogarth M
Hogg A
Hohenthal N
Hoit M
Holden D, M
Hollands D
Hollinger S
Hollingsworth N
Hollund E
Holly B
Holmes A, C, K, L
Holt P
Holtby C
Holyoak M
Holzman R, S
Homer-Smith W
Honey G, M
Hooks H
Hooper M, R
Hoover A
Höper J
Hopkin P
Hopkins B
Hopwood G
Horgan C
Horn G, K, R
Hornby K
Horne P
Horner N
Horrocks-Taylor J
Horsley G

Horton C, K, R
Horwood-French
C
Hosier M
Hoskin R
Houldsworth S
Housley D
Houston T
Howard M, P
Howes J
Howey S
Howie G, S
Huang Y
Hubbard I
Hucks S
Huckvale M
Hudson A, J
Huffman C
Huffstickler C
Huggins S
Hughes C, G, J, L,
N, R, S
Huipers P
Huitson M
Hull C
Hully J
Humble J
Humm J
Humphreys-Jones
A
Humphries E
Hunt G, M, MS, N
Hunter B, E, P
Hurd C
Hurley D
Husband A, B
Hutcheson W
Hyde C, L, P
Hyland P
Hyman M
Ibbetson S
Ilett M
Iliffe M
Ingham J
Ingle S
Inglis R
Innes RE
Insua P
Inward D
Iredale R
Irish C
Irvine J
Irving K
Irwin L, N
Ison L
Jablonski D

Jack P
Jackman N
Jackson A, B, I, J,
M
Jacobs S
Jacques M
Jagodzynski K
Jakab N
Jakob-Hoff R
Jama A
James C, D, G, J,
Z
Jamie G
Jayaraman N
Jeanes M-J
Jeffree M
Jeffrey A
Jeffreys D
Jenkins E
Jennings D, S
Jensen C, R
Jepson Y
Jesse B
Jezierski M
Jobbins D, W
Jobson B
Joel C
Joganic J, R
Johannsson J
Johansen HM
Johnson A, D, J,
L, M, N, P, T
Johnston M
Joku Wildlife
Jones A, B, BA, C,
E, G, I, J, K, M,
P, R, S, T, W, Y
Jordan D, M, T
Jorgensen B, J
Joseph C
Judge P
Jules M
Jupp C
Jussa S
Justice W
Kachur M
Kaczmarek T
Kacch M
Kale R
Kaleel T
Kalli G
Kallionaki M
Kalms J
Kalra R
Kalyan D
Kamov G, S

Karadogan B, Y
Karia H
Karnicky J
Karra S
Karstadt P
Karthik N
Karananayake K
Karwowski A
Katcher N
Kaur Waraich B
Kaye I, R
Keay A
Keeble F
Keeper T
Keith G, R
Kellerhals J
Kelley FS
Kelly A, D, J, N
Kelso K
Kemble F
Kemmis BP
Kempa M
Kempton C, E
Kennedy M, S, T
Kennelly A
Kennerley J
Kent S
Kern J
Kernahan G
Kerrigan S
Kettles D
Kew J
Khoo M
Kidby N
Kidd A, L
Kiddell D
Kiepert M
Kietzmann J
Kilian A
Kilic L
Kimani A
Kindall S
King D, J, N, O,
R, T
Kings M
Kinnerman J
Kirby A, J
Kirk A, G
Kirkland M
Kirwan G
Kitchen R, S
Kitchiner S
Kite P
Klapow C
Klaver E
Klein E, R

Kling R
Knight A, G, J, M,
R, S
Knock D
Knott S
Knowles M, T
Knox S, T
Koç ST
Kocharhook N
Kocovska V
Kodama B
Koehn D, J
Koenen S
Köhler M
König R
Konopka C
Koralek I
Koritz S
Kortlandt D
Kosińska-Szot A
Koukoulas M
Kovács Gómez B
Kovner K
Krammer S
Kujawa S
Kumar K, M
Kurtz R
Kurz C
Kuykendall K
Kvarnback J
Kyriotis A
Kyrieleis O
Kyte M
Laas H
Lacrosse M
Laidlaw H, S
Laird I
Lamas A
Lamb J
Lambert P
Lamke K
Lamond C
Lancaster O
Landricombe T
Landrum J
Landsman D, J
Lane S, T
Lang B, I
Langen P
Langham D
Langrand T
Lankford N
Lapimi G
Lara C
Larcher M
Large A, C

Larumbe Á
Latham M
Lathey P
Latorre D
Laubstein M
Lauf F
Laughlin-Karon B
Lavault A
Laverick B
Law M
Lawes A, L
Lawford M
Lawler G, L, R
Lawrence B, J, K,
R, S
Lawrence-Webb H
Lawrie S
Lawson A, G, H
Lawton D
Lay N, S
Layt N
Lea D
Leach D, J
Lebbin D
Leblanc L
Lebon S
Leciejewski M
Ledbetter J
Lee J
Leeke S
Leeman D
Lees A
Leese S
Legg S
Legge C
Lehan S
Leigh G
Leitão F
Leland K
Lelieveld M
Lelliott K
Lenik F
Lentz B
Leon C
Leonard C, E, H,
M, V
Leonhardt K
Leow D
Lesak A
Lethbridge J
Levey Weston H
Levin B
Levy J, S
Lew-Smith J
Lewis A, D, G, J,
P, S, V

Lickfold C
Liddiard P
Lim L
Lima C
Limehouse M
Lindo D
Lindop D
Lindquist M
Lindsay C, N
Litchfield A
Littauer R
Little C, J
Littlechild B
Liu C, X
Livingston H
Llewellyn S
Lobb A
Lockley C
Lawton D
Lay N, S
Layt N
Lea D
Leach D, J
Lebbin D
Leblanc L
Lebon S
Leciejewski M
Ledbetter J
Lee J
Leeke S
Leeman D
Lees A
Leese S
Legg S
Legge C
Lehan S
Leigh G
Leitão F
Leland K
Lelieveld M
Lelliott K
Lenik F
Lentz B
Leon C
Leonard C, E, H,
M, V
Leonhardt K
Leow D
Lesak A
Lethbridge J
Levey Weston H
Levin B
Levy J, S
Lew-Smith J
Lewis A, D, G, J,
P, S, V

Macgregor C
MacKenzie A
Mackie L
MacKinnon J
MacMillan D
MacNicol A
Macrae D
Madgwick T
Magness I
Mahieu N
Maier E
Malby T
Malloy A
Maltby M
Manford M
Manglik G
Manley J
Mann D, L, P, T
Manning P, S
Mansell K
Mansfield D
Mantin M
Mantle P
Manuel D
Manuel Silva L
Mapp B, T
Mapper S
Marchant J
Marek A, J
Marett A
Markiewicz L
Maroivic F, FJ
Marques E
Marques Moreira J
Marr E
Marriner L
Marriott M
Marsh R, S
Marshall E, H, M
Marsi S
Martens D
Martin C, E, H, I,
J, L, R, S, T
Martinka B
Marylebone
Birdwatching
Society
Masa G
Mason G, S, T
Massey A
Massini P
Masten V
Master T
Masters P
Matheus L
Mathis E, R

Mathiyalagan P
 Matt M
 Matthews A, F, J,
 M, S
 Maw J
 Maxwell C, D, R
 May N
 Mayes A
 Mayo S
 Mayson S
 Mazrui-Watt S
 Mañoso A
 McAnlis C
 McAvoy S
 McBain J
 McCabe T
 McCafferty A
 McCaffrey R
 McCCarthy M
 McClean M
 McClelland D
 McCormack S
 McCormick K
 McCullough B
 McCune F
 McCuskey C
 McDonald I
 McEachern K
 McElaney S
 McFadden E
 McFeely G
 McGilvray K
 McGlinchey J
 McGrady P
 McGregor D
 McGuire K
 McGurk G
 McKay A, J
 McKechnie E, J
 McKenzie D
 McKeown M
 McKinney H, T
 McLellan M
 McLennan S
 McMahan I
 McManus C, M
 McNew S
 McQuaid H
 McRae M
 McRoberts J
 McVey Pawar RC
 Meadows A, M
 Mears A, R
 Medrano Martinez
 F
 Mee G

Meed J
 Meek K
 Meeker A
 Melck A
 Mellor M
 Menari R
 Mendes V
 Mendes-Cotman H
 Mendiola L
 Menezes T
 Menon U
 Menzie S
 Merchant P
 Merclova L
 Merkel D
 Merrick AB
 Merrill R
 Merritt A
 Merryweather A
 Mesnildrey N
 Messenger K, M
 Metcalfe N, S
 Michel C, T
 Middleton A, D,
 G, K, S
 Midwood T
 Milburn H
 Milhano B
 Milius N
 Millar A, I, N
 Miller A, J, N, S
 Milhouse E
 Mills B, J, M
 Milne M
 Milner M, S
 Minarik M
 Mines B
 Minoff A
 Minondo Verdú M
 Minton I
 Mirecki D
 Misirlisoy E
 Miskimmin K
 McLennan S
 Missing J
 Mistur E
 Mitchell A, C, D,
 I, J, K, M
 Mixer W
 Moger S
 Mohlmann J
 Moisés Calderón A
 Moll N
 Molloy K
 Molnar J
 Momota Y
 Monckton A

Moncrieff A
 Money L
 Monjarrez M
 Monk A, H
 Monkhouse J
 Monks C, J
 Montemarano J
 Montero A
 Montessori L
 Mooney P, R
 Moore B, D, G, I,
 J, P, R, S
 Moors G
 Morales-Smith B
 Moran T
 Moravec H
 Moray Williams N
 Morden R
 Morden Nature
 Group
 More O'Ferrall D
 Moreland J, R
 Morf P
 Morgan D, G, K,
 M, P, W
 Morrell C
 Morris A, D, R
 Morris-Hale B, G
 Morrison A, D
 Morrow D
 Morton J
 Moss A, P, R
 Mossman H
 Mostardi D
 Mottaghi S
 Moulton T
 Mount L
 Mourez T
 Mulcahy P
 Mullen C
 Mulrooney M
 Münch S
 Mundy M
 Missing J
 Murphy BM, C, J,
 M, S
 Murray B, C, G, J,
 Jm, K, S
 Muse W
 Musgrove A
 Mushkat M
 Moll N
 Musievski S
 Musselwhite M
 Muzaffar S
 Muzika Y
 Mylett T

Nadeau P
 Naina A
 Nair R
 Napier D
 Nash C
 Nathan R
 Navàs F
 Nayager T
 Neal S
 Neale M
 Neill H
 Nelson C, K, S
 Nemisz C, T
 Ness E, R
 Netherwood M
 Newark B
 Newbound P
 Newell D
 Newmark P
 Newnham W
 Newport M
 Newson J
 Newstead M
 Newton A, S
 Nicholson J
 Nickley B
 Nicolson G
 Nielsen H
 Nietlisbach N
 Nikolov D
 Ning Y
 Noack L
 Noakes J
 Nojek R
 Norman I, R
 Norris E, I, M, T
 North R, S
 North East Herts
 Swift Group
 Northwood C
 Norton B
 Nottingham M
 Noulton S
 Nowers M
 Noyes P
 Nunes C
 Nunn G
 Nunns A, R
 Nussbaumer R
 O'Brien S, T
 O'Byrne A, C
 O'Connell H
 O'Connor V
 O'Donnell D, E, S
 O'Flynn C
 O'Hanlon J

O'Keefe S
 O'Leary K
 O'Mahony J
 O'Neil S
 O'Reilly E, R
 O'Rourke H
 O'Shea T
 O'Sullivan F
 Oakenfull P
 Oakes J
 Oakland M
 Orchard M
 Ode P
 Offer L
 Ogilvie L
 Ogle S
 Oh K
 Oldham J
 Oleary S
 Oliver F, N, P
 Olleson A
 Olliver S
 Olsen K, P, R
 Onuegbu J
 Oppenheim M
 Orange C
 Orchard M
 Orlov D
 Ortega M
 Ortiz Ross X
 Osborn C, P, S
 Osborne S
 Osgood P
 Oshea R
 Osterburg F
 Osterley Birders
 Ostrowski T
 Ott J
 Ovidia O
 Owen J
 Owens C, R
 Oxborough R
 Oyan Longbrake I
 Nowers M
 Noyes P
 Nunes C
 Nunn G
 Nunns A, R
 Nussbaumer R
 O'Brien S, T
 O'Byrne A, C
 O'Connell H
 O'Connor V
 O'Donnell D, E, S
 O'Flynn C
 O'Hanlon J

Pandor H
 Panella M
 Pannerselvam V
 Pannifer Z
 Pantoja Maggi V
 Papaioannou V
 Papps P, S
 Parikian L
 Parish J
 Parker C, E, J, M,
 S, T
 Parkes G
 Parkinson D, J
 Parlour R
 Parr M, N
 Parry C, J
 Parry-Davies D
 Parthemore C
 Partridge J
 Pasch G
 Pascoe G
 Pask R
 Patcas Y
 Patch G
 Patel A, D, S
 Paterson M, W
 Patinha S
 Patmore S
 Patterson A, J
 Paul B
 Pausey D
 Paxton E
 Payman V
 Payne D, LKR, RW
 Pearce J, S
 Pearson A
 Peart R
 Peel A, C
 Peggs G, S
 Peile S
 Peixoto V
 Peláez Blanco J
 Pell E
 Pellas G
 Pemberton J
 Penny N
 Pentek P
 Page B
 Peralta A, L
 Perciasepe B
 Perera J
 Perez R
 Pérez Herrero S
 Perrin M
 Perrins ND
 Perry A, M

Persons D
 Petch L
 Peters J
 Petkovic M
 Petrie S
 Pettit J, S
 Peverett C
 Pharoah A
 Phelps C
 Phillips G, J, M, P
 Pia D
 Piccolo T
 Pickering S
 Piehl W
 Pierce J, K
 Piercey B
 Pilsworth M
 Pinho R
 Pinkham D
 Pisano P
 Pitches K, S
 Pitt M
 Pitts R
 Place S
 Plant T
 Platt A, R
 Playford A
 Pleshek A
 Plumb N
 Plume I
 Pocklington R, V
 Podesta J
 Podmore A
 Pointon D
 Poissant J
 Polge N
 Pollitt M
 Ponte S
 Poole D
 Poot M
 Popiel A
 Poppe T
 Poreddy V
 Porritt D
 Port J
 Porter S
 Poston J
 Potter M, P
 Poulson M
 Povey C
 Power A, J
 Prado Rodríguez
 WE
 Pratt D
 Praveen J
 Prescott G

Preston A, J
 Preter D
 Price D, G, M
 Prideaux R
 Priestnall S
 Prince J, M, W
 Prior G, J
 Pritchard J
 Probert A
 Pruitt P
 Puddington E
 Puhl J
 Pulgarín PC
 Punch K
 Purvey KL
 Purley Birds
 Puttock B, K
 Pyrah R
 Quail J
 Quarton E
 Quinn A, C, J
 Rackliffe R
 Radbourn M, MJ
 Radcliffe S
 Rae R
 Ragen L
 Rakow P
 Ralph B, C, P
 Ramesh A
 Ramirez E
 Ramírez Agudelo
 R
 Ramm H
 Ramsay D
 Ramsdell C
 Rance N, S
 Randoing O
 Ranft R
 Rangalle L
 Rao C, N
 Raper S
 Rare Bird Alert
 Rastelli M
 Ratcliffe G
 Rathjen M
 Raven J
 Rawlings N
 Read S
 Reader J
 Readerb J
 Reaney A
 Reavey J
 Recordon J
 Redmond P
 Reed B, C, L
 Rees S

Reeves E, J
 Regan C
 Regimbald N
 Reichert S
 Reicherter R
 Reid A, B, J
 Reisfeld A
 Reiss A
 Reiter A
 Rek M
 Rennert P
 Revard B, S
 Revel A
 Rey L
 Reyes Paez JM
 Reynolds A, E, J,
 M
 Rhodes A, P
 Richards G, L
 Richardson K, M,
 R, S
 Ridaut J
 Riddell D
 Ridley L
 Riffel T
 Rigby P
 Riles S
 Ringer DJ
 Rios R
 Rising N
 Rivel D
 Rivoire J
 Roalef J
 Roast P
 Robert A
 Roberts A, D, W
 Robertson A, F, L,
 N, T
 Robin G
 Robinson B, D, J,
 L, M, P, S
 Robson C, I, J, S
 Roca I
 Roche M
 Rode C
 Rodríguez L
 Rodríguez Arenaz
 M
 Rodríguez Gallego
 M
 Rodway S
 Roecker C
 Rogers J, L, S, T
 Rogowski P
 Rom N
 Roman A, M

Romero J
 Romero S
 Romito E, T
 Romualdo A
 Roosenberg J
 Root S
 Roper P, T
 Rose I, J, P
 Rosier P
 Ross E, J, T
 Ross-Smith V
 Rossi L
 Rossiter N
 Rossouw H
 Rotherhithe
 Birders
 Rouse D
 Rousseau B
 Rowan F
 Rowbotham I
 Rowden D
 Rowe I, J, R
 Rowell M
 Rowland C
 Royal M
 Royce V
 Royston P
 Rozanski J, P
 RSPB North East
 London Local
 Group
 RSPB North West
 London Local
 Group
 RSPB Pinner Local
 Group
 RSPB Richmond &
 Twickenham
 Local Group
 RSPB South East
 Herts Local
 Group
 RSPB St Albans
 Heronwatch
 RSPB St Albans
 Local Group
 Rublee M
 Rudzinski C, W
 Rueda JJ
 Ruis C
 Ruislip Natural
 History Society
 Rumble D
 Rummery S
 Rumsby B, M
 Runge R

Rupp D
Rush M
Rushton C
Russell A, B, D,
G, J, S
Russum D
Rutherford H
Rutt P, S
Rutter N
Rutter Pooley C
Ryan C, D, J, K, P
Ryde A, L
Ryder L
Rye Meads
Partnership
Ryland C
Rymer T
Sadak M
Sadler T
Saharan S
Sainrat T
Sajda A
Salem S
Salenger S
Salmi O
Salmon A
Salomon D, N
Salt R
Salvatto C
Sames E
Samiappan J
Sams T
Samuel B
San Antonio R
Sanchez C
Sand A, M
Sanders B, M
Santamaria R
Santiago Santos S
Sanzari T
Sapatsch A, E
Saraha A
Sarka D
Saul M
Saunders A, M
Savchenko A
Saville R
Savvides T
Sawtell G
Sayers C
Saynor J, L
Scammell B
Scannella V
Scarborough M
Scarratt W
Schackwitz M, W

Schauer N
Scheuring M
Schick B
Schmid M
Schmidt J, S
Schneider H
Schofield R
Scholes P
Scholten Y
Schorr E, T
Schroeder E
Scofield K
Scott D, J, M, N,
R, T
Scott-Sills N
Scriba T
Seargent R
Searte M
Seastron A
Sebi B
Sedgwick K
Seekins R, RW
Salem S
Šeflová K
Segall S
Seibel D G
Self A, S
Seligman P
Sell R
Semple A
Serpiello D
Serup S
Sessoms B, D
Setterfield C
Sewell K
Seymour K, R
Shah M
Shahidi J
Shannon T
Sharma P
Sharp C
Sharpe C
Shaub J
Shaw D, E, G, M
Shawyer C
Shearman A
Sheehan M
Sheffield A
Sheldon B, R
Shellard P
Shepherd C, D, M
Shepherd-Wells M
Sheppard C, J
Sherlock C
Sherriff R
Sherriffs I
Shetterly D

Shields R
Shih A, H
Shilland E, J
Shimwell S
Shindler J
Shipley N
Shirky K
Shone S
Shoop T
Shorrock P
Shrimpton A
Shupe E
Sidelnik M
Sides A
Siger D
Sigrist J, M
Sigworth D
Sileo M
Simmonds Y
Simmons K
Simms O
Simon N
Simpkins A
Simpson B, F, K, S
Simson D
Sinden N
Singh Takhar B
Sipes A
Sirakova P
Sisks G
Sivour B
Skeels D
Skelton V
Sketch P
Skinner J
Skipper T
Skotnicki A
Skuzinske M
Slade A
Slater I
Slavin D
Slaymaker M
Sloan S
Small T
Smalley M
Smallman B, J
Smart S
Smethurst A
Smith A, B, C, D,
Dr D, DW, E, H,
J, K, L, M, N, P,
R, S, T, V, W
Smout C
Sneary M
Sneddon J
Snell J

Soane J
Soanes C
Soetens M
Sohanlal N
Solecki S
Song K
Sorby T
Sorenson N
Sorkin S
Sörövatksaja M
Sorsby C
Sou Y
Southam G, M
Sparkes R
Siger D
Speilburg J
Speller T
Spelling S
Spencer B, PA
Spensley D
Sperber I, P
Spinks B, G
Spoerri P
Spragg D
Spratt D
Sproule J
Squires M, S
Srivatsa A
St Albans
Peregrine Watch
St Pierre S, T
Stacey S
Stachnicki T
Stallard B
Stallings J
Stambler B
Stancombe F
Stańczyk A
Standing R
Stanger A, W
Stanley D, M
Stannard E
Stanton D, J
Stapleton T
Starbuck A
Starling V
Starr G, S
Stebbins S
Stedman B, D
Steele A, R
Stein R
Stephens D, M, W
Stervander M
Stevens M, P
Stevenson C, M
Steward P

Stewart A, C, D,
G, I, N, R
Stillman A
Stinson D
Stobart E
Stockley C
Stocks N
Stockwell B
Stojiljkovic S
Stokes Neustadt J
Stone G, R
Stoneham WR
Stones T
Storey G
Storm T
Stott J
Stow J
Strachan J
Strangeman P
Stratton N
Street F, R
Stridh M
Strong A
Stroud A
Strudwick C
Strydom K
Stuart R, T
Stubs E
Studds G
Stylianou J
Suanjak M
Such M
Suits J
Sukhdev M
Sullivan D, M, P
Summers L, S
Sundaram A
Surbiton &
District Bird
Watching Society
Sutherland B
Suttle K
Sutton C, K
Svahnstrom V
Swann White J
Swart C
Sweet J
Sweetland J, T
Swigart P, S
Swinney E, S
Sylvia M
Symes A
Symonds A
Symons F, J
Syratt M
Sz B

Szczech Y
Szimuly G
Szot E, M
Sztypuljak T
Szymanski J, M
Tadjerout S
Talbot M
Talukder E
Tan C
Tangbi C
Tanner N
Tarrant A, K
Tassel S
Tate G
Taylor A, B, C, G,
I, J, K, M, R, S, T
Teague I
Teedy C
Telford M
Tell E, J
Templeton G
Tennyson A
Terry P
Tesh P
Theobald R
Thom R
Thomas A, B, D,
K, N, P, R, S, SJ
Thomascall B
Thomason E
Thompson C, E, J,
M, N, P, SR
Thomson D
Thorne B
Thornycroft T
Thornhill S, T
Thornycroft G
Thorpe A, S
Thowfeequ S
Thrandon B
Threadgold D
Tickner M
Tietjen A
Tilbury D
Tiller L
Tims G, N
Tindell A
Tinsley J
Tipping J
Tobias J
Todd A, B, J, RJ,
RR
Toloi F
Tombs M
Tomczynski A
Tomlinson A

Tompsett S
Tonge S
Topp A
Tordoff J
Torrecampo M
Torry G, R
Tortoriello A
Tostevin M
Totteridge Valley
Birders
Towheed R, S
Towler K
Townsend B, G,
P, W
Tranfield B
Treen P
Tregenza P, V
Trevi S
Tricarico J
Trollope A
Trotter B
Trout N
Trueman R
Tsak F
Tucker R
Tullah S
Tully J
Tunstall J
Tunström L
Turner B, C, D, H,
J, L, N, R, S
Tweed A
Twells G
Twinberrow G
Twinm M
Twyford N
Tyler D, P, Y
Tyrer W
Tyttenhanger
Birders
Uberoi R
Ukiah B
Ulph R
Underhill GT
Upton A, G, N
Urmson C
Utton BM
Vachon L
Vagner P
Vaidya S
Vale M
Vale Countryside
Volunteers
Valentine L
Valsamidis T
Van Der Veen N

Van Der Walt J
Van Dorsten B
Van Ginhoven Q
Van Schaik W
Van Veen I
Van Vranken J
Vanderver A
Vano T
Varesi B
Vargas B
Vasquez-Grinnell
M
Vaughan B, H, L,
M, P, R
Veal R, S
Velasquez Rasch
ML
Velde M
Venker M
Venter E
Verdejo F
Verdier D
Verhelst J
Versteeg E
Vicary G
Vincent A
Vine T
Violette M, S
Vir H
Visocchi C
Vivian F
Vocadlo L
Von Maltzahn N
Voyce L, M
Vranjes D
Vyas J
Vyvyan-Robinson C
Waddoups S
Wade L
Wadsworth R
Wakefield L
Wakeford H
Wakem S
Wakeman M
Wakering V
Walden R
Waldron S
Walford G
Walker S
Wallace D, N, S
Wallen M
Wallis D, R
Walmesley J
Walsh A, K, S
Walthamstow
Birders

Wan A, L
Wang E
Wangzhong Lu
Wanstead Birders
Wappat A
Ward I, P
Wardell A
Wardle N
Wardman M
Wareing I, J
Warf C, G
Warner K, R
Warren D
Warwick N
Washburn J
Washburn G
Wasley A
Wasse J
Watkins K, T
Watkins V
Watling J
Watson I, Jo, Ju,
M
Watson
Hernandez B
Watts B, P
Wells A, B, C, D,
M, R, T
Weber M
Webster M
Wee E
Weichselbaum T
Weight B
Weingarten S
Weinsbord J
Welch M
Weld L
Welford M
Welland S
Wells A, J, L
Welmers J
Wentworth M
West I, J, S
Westcott S
Westenberger A
Western J
Westwell T
Weyenberg J
Whaley M
Whately B
Wheatcroft D
Wheater J
Wheeler D
Whiley J
Whiskin B
Whitaker-Smith L

White A, C, G, J,
M, P
Whitebread C
Whitehouse A
Whitelegg D
Whitfield A, J
Whittle J
Wibberley M
Wice E
Widdowfield S
Wiggins M
Wigley M
Wilcock S
Wilcox J, R
Wilczur J
Wild P
Wileman T
Wilhelm F
Wilkes K
Wilkin A
Wilkins L, P
Wilkinson A, C
Willett J
Williams A, B, Ch,
Co, H, I, J, K, M,
O, P, R
Williamson C, E, J
Willis A, D
Wills C, T
Wilmot A
Wilson A, AH, B,
G, J, L, N, R
Wiltshire M
Wimsett M
Winfield I
Winkworth M
Winn A
Winsloe M
Winstanley A
Winstead C, D, K
Winzeler C
Wiputra S
Wison A
Witter D
Witts H
Wolf H
Wolfsberger J
Wonfor D, R
Wong K
Wonn A
Wood C, M, R, S,
T
Woodford N, R
Woodhouse R
Woodley P
Woodman J

Woodward R, T	Wrigley K	Yaeger S	Yeung V	Zanni K
Wooldridge J	Writer T	Yaffy D	Yin H	Zanoletti M
Woolfenden S	Wu C	Yan C	Yip E	Zemlin E
Woolgar J	Wulfe M	Yao J	Yoerger Z	Zettlemoyer M
Woolmore K	Wurr M	Yaquib S	Young D, G, M	Zheng Y
Worman K	Wyatt T	Yarkoni N	Younger S	Zhou A, Z
Worrall P	Wylie R	Yates J	Yu V, Y	Zimmerman V
Worsfold S	Wylson J	Yeeles J	Yue B	Zochowska G
Wren L	Wyman J	Yegian J	Yuille J	Zollinger SA
Wright B, C, D, G, J, M, N	Wyn-Jones H	Yelland D	Zagorski S	Zumpe L
	Xavier Horn L	Yelo Soriano A	Zalis R	Zurikarai L

BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA 2022



DATA ENTRY: DENOTING FAMILY NAMES

Our Data Manager received approximately 1 million records of birds for this year's London Bird Report, from more than 3,500 individuals and groups. In order to assist in compiling the data, we ask that you submit your name in one of the following styles, using the hash (#) symbol to distinguish the family name(s) from the forename(s):

Individuals

1. Family Name followed by Forename(s)
eg. Smith#David John
2. Family Name followed by Initial Letter of Forename(s)
eg. Smith#DJ
3. Multiple Family Name (with or without hyphen) followed by Forename(s) or Initials
eg. Walker-Brooks#Edward Michael or Walker Brooks#EM

Groups

4. Name of Group in full - not as initials:
eg. Rye Meads Partnership (not RMP)

Do not use the hash (#) symbol anywhere else.

BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA, 2022

WITH SOME ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

A Report on Bird-life within 20 miles of St Paul's - the London Area

This section of the Report follows the British Ornithological Union (BOU) 9th Edition order and - with one exception - nomenclature; we have retained the common name Feral Pigeon. The Checklist of Birds of the London Area appears on pages 239-249.

The six vice-counties within the London Area are denoted in the report as follows: Essex or EX, Herts or HR = Hertfordshire, Middx or MX = Middlesex, Bucks or BU = Buckinghamshire, Kent or KT, Surrey or SY, and In Lond or IL = Inner London (the central rectangular area shown on the map on page 11). Other abbreviations are:

BBRC	= British Birds Rarities Committee	OS	= Open Space
CBC	= Common Bird Census	PF	= Playing Field(s)
CP	= Country Park	PS	= Power Station
FB	= Filter Beds	QE	= Queen Elizabeth
GC	= Golf Course	QE II	= Queen Elizabeth II
Gdn(s)	= Garden(s)	Q. Mary	= Queen Mary
GP	= Gravel Pit(s)	Q. Mother	= Queen Mother
imm, juv(s)	= immature, juvenile(s)	R	= River
KGV	= King George V	RBBP	= Rare Breeding Bird Panel
KGVI	= King George VI	Res	= Reservoir(s)
LBR	= London Bird Report	RG	= Recreation Ground
LNR	= Local Nature Reserve	SF/SW	= Sewage Farm/Works
LVRP	= Lee Valley Regional Park (site)	SP	= Sand Pit(s)
NR	= Nature Reserve	WeBS	= Wetland Bird Survey
N, S, E, W	= North, South, East and West	WR	= Wildfowl Reserve

Observer names are shown only against records for species which are rare in the London Area. To report an unusual bird, please download the new 'Details of an Unusual Bird (description form)' - see page 5 under [Links to files on the LNHS website: Recording > Recording Birds](#). A list of all the observers who have contributed records for 2022 appears on pages 28-38.

All running totals of rare or unusual birds that are provided in the systematic list refer to occurrences since 1900.

The term 'Lower Thames' is used for the section of the R Thames from the Thames Barrier to the eastern edge of our recording area. The term 'West London reservoirs' is used for the following reservoirs: Island Barn, KGVI, QE II, Q. Mary, Q. Mother, Staines, Walton and Wraysbury.

Status refers to the status of a species in the London Area - not in the UK as a whole.

Previous page: *Blackcap. (Russ Sherriff)*

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Status: occasional migrant and winter visitor.

Birds were recorded at 14 sites, two fewer than last year, but only between 49 and 57 individual birds were recorded, compared with 95 in 2021, just over 100 in 2020 and exactly 100 in 2019. This is the lowest total in the London Area for many years and is well below the ten-year average during 2012-21 of 178 birds.

In January, one bird was at Langley on the 3rd, then one was at Island Barn Res on the 5th (probably over from 2021) and one at Rainham Marshes on the 7th, 9th and 13th. There were no further records until March 8th, when a flock of six was at KGV Res and one was at Rainham Marshes, also seen there on the 10th. One was at Tyttenhanger GP on the 11th with two at the London Wetland Centre on the 13th. Three were at Berwick Ponds on the 20th and one at Crossness on the 22nd. The last record of the first winter period was one at KGV Res on March 23rd.

The first returning birds were a flock of seven flying south-west over Beddington Farmlands on October 19th, then two were at Staines Res on the 22nd. The next record was not until November 13th, with one at Bushy Park, then a juvenile was at Q. Mary Res on the 18th, with one at QE II Res the following day. On the 30th four swam upriver past Rainham Marshes and one at Beddington Farmlands was also seen there on December 1st. On the 3rd, one was again reported at Beddington Farmlands, along with nine flying east. A flock of ten at Rainham Marshes on the same date were possibly the same birds. One was at Rainham Marshes on the 10th, and the final record of the year was one at the London Wetland Centre on December 16th.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Status: very common, introduced breeding resident.

There was a reduction in breeding records, with 246 pairs/broods at just 91 sites, compared with 289 at 110 sites last year and 266 at 127 sites in 2020. There were small variations at most sites where we have breeding records in all these years, but some of the difference may be due to no firm count having been received from Amwell NR (15 in 2021). As noted in previous LBR volumes, fluctuations in observer coverage may also be a factor.

Below are breeding records for sites with three or more pairs/broods (no. in brackets is broods unless stated otherwise) and the highest counts from sites where more than 300 were recorded.

Essex: Breeding reported from 17 sites (19 in 2021). Brook Farm, Upminster (3 pairs).

Connaught Water (3). Hainault Forest CP (3+). Holyfield Hall Farm, 500 on Sep 26th.

Netherhall GP, 496 on Oct 7th. Rainham Marshes (83 pairs, 55 broods); 400 on Jan 19th. Walthamstow Wetlands (16); 409 on Jun 16th. Wanstead Park (3 pairs).

Herts: Breeding reported from 17 sites (23). Essendon (3). Rye Meads (7 pairs); 466 on Aug 29th. Stanborough Park (3). Tyttenhanger GP (6); 330 on Sep 2nd.

Middx: Breeding reported from 21 sites (25). Boxer's Lake, Enfield (3+).

Bucks: No breeding reported.

Kent: Breeding reported from nine sites (9). Otford, 350 on Jan 24th. Sevenoaks WR (7+); 700+ on Sep 29th.

Surrey: Breeding reported from 23 sites (28). Beddington Farmlands (36 territories). Morden Hall Park (3). R Thames: Kew to Richmond (4). South Norwood Lake (3). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (3).

In Lond: Breeding reported from five sites (5). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 415 on Jun 21st and 384 on Jul 21st.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Status: regular winter visitor to SW London; otherwise mainly rare winter visitor but has bred.

This species was reported from 53 sites, just less than the 55 sites last year. There were two main flocks. First, up to 29 had gathered in the Lee Valley Regional Park by early

Barnacle Goose bred for the first time in London since 2012. (Ann Playford)



April and were reported from several sites in Essex and Hertfordshire through to mid-December. Second, the regular flock in south-west London, reported in most years since 2010 and believed to come from a naturalised population summering outside our area, reached 158 individuals in early February; the returning flock peaked at 370 birds in October but had reduced to around 30 by the end of December.

Two pairs bred at Walthamstow Wetlands, although none of the young survived to fly. The first breeding attempt in the London Area was in 1986 and young were successfully hatched in 1987; since then breeding has been sporadic with the last attempt in 2012, although breeding was suspected last year - also at Walthamstow Wetlands. They have also paired with other species of goose, rearing young.

Below is a summary for each sector and details of the larger flocks (peak counts given only for some sites).

Essex: Reported from 14 sites. Fishers Green Goosefield, 20 on Sep 12th. Hall Marsh Scrape, 27 on Mar 26th. Holyfield Hall Farm, peaks of 27 on Feb 22nd & 26th and Mar 10th, and of 22 on Oct 14th and Nov 5th. Holyfield Marsh, 26 on Mar 13th. KGV Res, 14 on Aug 10th. Walthamstow Wetlands (2); peaks of 23 on Jul 4th and 19 on Dec 13th.

Herts: Reported from nine sites. Cheshunt GP, peaks of 29 on Apr 8th and 20 on Nov 29th. Seventy Acres Lake, 13 on Aug 13th and 14 on Oct 28th.

Middx: Reported from three sites. Shepperton, c150 on Jan 17th and c140 on 27th (same as Surrey flock).

Bucks: Reported from two sites.

Kent: Reported from four sites.

Surrey: Reported from 16 sites. Esher, 100+ on Jan 3rd. Hersham GP, peaks of c150 on Jan 3rd and 70 on Dec 18th. Island Barn Res, peak of 368 on Oct 27th. Molesey, 100 on Feb 9th. QE II Res, 85 over on Feb 10th and 68 over on Dec 10th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), peaks of 158 roosting on five dates from Jan 5th to Feb 9th and of 370 on Oct 22nd. Walton-on-Thames, 30 over on Dec 30th.

In Lond: Reported from five sites. Regent's Park, 10 on Aug 10th.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Status: common breeding resident.

There were 134 pairs/broods at 43 sites - a reduction from last year when there were 149 at 49 sites. These figures do fluctuate year-on-year, but several sites, including Amwell NR, Cheshunt GP and Walthamstow Wetlands, had lower breeding numbers than last year and these probably account for most of the reduction.

The highest count was 500+ at Sevenoaks WR (up from 440 at the same site last year). Counts of 100 or more came from 26 sites (31 last year).

Below are all breeding records (no. in brackets is broods unless stated otherwise) along with the highest counts for each sector.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (6+). Connaught Water (3). Fairlop Waters (2). Hainault Forest CP (6). Hall Marsh Scrape (1). Navestock Church (1). Rainham Marshes (62 pairs, 44 broods); 378 on Mar 20th. Roding Valley Meadows NR (2). Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Wetlands (8). Wanstead Park (1). Warren Gorge (4+).

Herts: Amwell NR (3); 155 on Aug 7th. Cheshunt GP (2). Frogmore Lakes (1). Lynsters

Lake (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). Rye Meads (1). Verulamium Park (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park (1). Bedfont Lakes CP (1 nest). Boxer's Lake, Enfield (1). Broadwater Lake (1). Clissold Park (1). Grovelands Park (1). Hill End, 129 on Sep 28th. Little Britain Lake (1). Springwell Lake (1).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 71 on Jul 22nd. Wrybury GP (1).

Kent: Chevening (1). Crossness (2). Sevenoaks WR (8); 500+ on Sep 29th. The Tarn, Mottingham (1).

Surrey: Chessington (1). Dulwich Park (1). Gatton Park/Lake, 110 on Nov 13th. Holmethorpe SP (1 nest). London Wetland Centre (2). Richmond Park (3). South Norwood CP (3). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (1).

In Lond: Cremorne Gdns (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1); 470 on Jul 21st. Regent's Park (1). St James's Park (9), 32 goslings.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Status: scarce winter visitor.

There were four accepted records of at least five birds. In the first winter period, two birds spent several weeks at multiple sites in Essex. A sound-recording of birds on nocturnal migration (nocmig) was taken in September, and one bird was reported to be at Sevenoaks WR for over a week into October. Another five records appear in App III for which descriptions would be very welcome.

Essex: Berwick Ponds, two on Jan 27th (D Bradshaw). Corbets Tey, one on Jan 26th and two on 27th (A Self, S Bacon). Damyns Hall Aerodrome, one or two on multiple dates between Jan 23rd and Mar 3rd (P Rhodes *et al*). Ingrebourne Valley, two on Jan 26th (D Morrison). Rainham Marshes, two on Jan 26th and two on Apr 15th (A Gouldstone). (All January to March Essex records presumed to be the same two birds).

Middx: St Margarets, Twickenham, one plus from nocmig on Sep 17th (P Gray).

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one on Sep 30th, Oct 3rd & 7th (M Coath *et al*).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

After two good years, there was a considerable reduction in the number of records, with 42 to 47 birds recorded at just ten sites (133 at 34 sites in 2021 and 130+ at 44 sites in 2020), including six at two sites staying from 2021. All but four records came in the first winter period, but the largest flock came in the second winter period, with up to 30 birds over Wanstead Flats on December 13th.

All records are given below.

Essex: Bretons Farm, five on Jan 6th (presumed same as Fairlop Waters). Corbets Tey, one on Jan 26th. Dagenham Chase, two W on Dec 16th. Damyns Hall Aerodrome, two on Oct 25th and Dec 13th. Fairlop Waters, five from Jan 1st-3rd, 5th & 9th (staying from 2021). Wanstead Flats, flock of 25-30 E on Dec 13th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on seven dates from Apr 29th to May 23rd.

Bucks: Horton Brook Quarry, juv on Jan 3rd.

Kent: Crossness, four W on Jan 1st.

In Lond: Burgess Park, one from Jan 1st-2nd (staying from 2021).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Status: common breeding resident.

As noted last year, there has been little fluctuation in reported breeding numbers (including nest-building) in the London Area in the past three years, with 132 records from 108 sites this year (127 from 96 sites in 2021 and 121 from 104 in 2020). There were multiple pairs/broods at 16 sites. 'Polish' morph cygnets (ie, cygnets with white rather than grey plumage) were noted at Brockwell Park, Hornchurch and Walthamstow Wetlands.

Four sites had counts of 100 or more (two in 2021 and three in 2020), and a further 13 sites had counts of 50 or more (12 in 2021 and nine in 2020).

Below are breeding record totals followed by selected high counts in each sector.

Mute Swan breeding records (including nest-building)

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
28	27	39	1	5	21	11	132

Essex: Harrow Lodge Park, 104 on Jun 28th. Holyfield Marsh, 74 on Nov 12th.

Herts: Rye Meads, 57 on Jun 11th.

Middx: Isleworth Ait, 60 on Apr 7th. Brent Res, 81 on Jun 28th.

Bucks: Wrybury GP, six on Nov 5th.

Kent: South Mere, 29 on Jan 9th.

Surrey: Canbury Gdns, 89 on Feb 20th. Truss's Island, 195 on Jan 26th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 131 on Jan 2nd.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Status: rare winter visitor.

There were four accepted records of four birds from five sites. There was one record in January, one in October and three in November. A long-staying juvenile was first seen at Amwell NR before relocating to Rye Meads, where it remained until it sadly died. This is the 14th year in a row when Whooper Swan has been recorded in the London Area. Another four records appear in App III for which descriptions would be very welcome.

Herts: Amwell NR, juv from Nov 4th-5th (P Ball). Rabley Park Farm, juv S on Nov 30th (R Pyrah). Rye Meads, juv on most dates from Nov 5th-26th (Rye Meads Partnership *et al*) (same as Amwell NR).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Oct 12th & 17th (CDR Heard).

Kent: Dartford Marshes, two on Jan 17th (A Lawson).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Status: increasing, introduced breeding resident.

Following substantial increases in each of the previous three years, the number of sites this species was recorded at only rose marginally to 564 (compared with 558 last year, 479 in 2020 and 389 in 2019). The number of confirmed broods also rose, to 125 at 99 sites (the highest number of sites since breeding began in our area), following a decrease last year (of 105 broods at 75 sites, with 126 at 91 in 2020). In addition, pairs or large young were seen at another 22 sites where breeding was not confirmed. A pair used a

Kestrel nest-box at Hogsmill SW and another pair ousted a Grey Heron from its nest at Verulamium Park.

The highest ever count in the London Area of 300 birds at Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens was recorded in September; five other counts this year also surpassed the previous high of 215 at QE II Res in September 2017. One observer had an unusual record of one calling loudly from the top of Marble Arch one January evening.

The table below shows the number of sites where they were recorded in each sector. Breeding records are summarised by sector below that, with sites where two or more broods were seen (no. of broods in brackets), along with the highest counts for each sector.

Egyptian Goose: number of sites

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
81	56	141	9	70	130	76	563

Essex: 23 broods at 13 sites. Banbury Res (2). Barking Park (3). Fairlop Waters (5). Rainham Marshes (2). Valentines Park (2). Walthamstow Wetlands (2). Wanstead Flats, 161 on Aug 20th.

Herts: 13 broods at 13 sites. Stocker's Lake, 28 on Jul 17th.

Middx: 25 broods at 25 sites. Q. Mary Res, 169 on Aug 14th.

Bucks: One brood at one site. Q. Mother Res, 242 on Oct 17th.

Kent: 13 broods at ten sites. Crystal Palace Park (2). Greenwich Park (2). Kelsey Park (2). Lamorbey Park, 104 on Nov 26th.

Surrey: 34 broods at 27 sites. Beddington Park (2). London Wetland Centre (2). Millers Pond (2). Morden Hall Park (2). QE II Res (2); 251 on Sep 21st. Richmond Park (2). Tooting Common (3).

In Lond: 16 broods at ten sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (5); 300 on Sep 15th. Regent's Park (2). St James's Park (2).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Status: passage migrant, decreasing breeding resident on Lower Thames, regular visitor to major waters where it breeds in small numbers.

The number of confirmed broods this year was 15 at ten sites, which is about average for this species in our area, although it is slightly down on the previous two years (16 at nine sites in 2021 and 17 at nine sites in 2020). Pairs or large young were reported at a further 14 sites where breeding may have occurred but was not proved. Counts of 50 or more were received from just two sites (Crossness and Rainham Marshes).

All breeding records are shown below, with the number of broods in brackets and the total number of ducklings per site where known, along with selected high counts.

Essex: Rainham Marshes (5); peak of 140 on Feb 10th. Walthamstow Wetlands (1), seven ducklings.

Herts: Coursers Road GP (1), seven ducklings.

Middx: Grand Junction Res (1), four ducklings. Hampton Water Treatment Works (1), four ducklings. Q. Mary Res (2), 12 ducklings. Stain Hill Res (1), four ducklings. Staines Res (1), seven ducklings. Wraysbury Res, 34 on Jun 6th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 20 on May 28th.

Kent: Crossness (1); peak of 174 on Jun 19th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 12 on Mar 6th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) (1), eight ducklings, which all fledged.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Status: introduced breeding resident, established and locally common.

The number of broods this year was at least 54, similar to the last two years (54 in 2021, 66 in 2020 and 32 in 2019). Peak counts were lower than last year at Hampstead Heath (54 in 2022, 60 in 2021), Richmond Park (27, 40) and Twickenham (27, 41), and were higher at Connaught Water (33, 18), Kelsey Park (33+, 29), Regent's Park (40, 25) and Whitewebbs Wood (30, 24).

Below are all confirmed breeding records (no. of broods in brackets) and high counts for each sector.

Essex: Baldwins Hill (1). Connaught Water (1); 33 on Oct 1st. Strawberry Hill Ponds (4). Wake Valley Pond (1).

Herts: Cassiobury Park (1), 15 ducklings on May 31st. Coursers Road GP (2). Stanborough GP (3-4). Wildhill (1).

Middx: Beech Hill Lake (1). Boxer's Lake, Enfield (2). Bushy Park (2). Forty Hall (1). Freezy Water (2). Grand Junction Res (1). Grovelands Park (1). Hampstead Heath (1); 54 on Oct 11th. Osterley Park (1). Totteridge Valley (2). Trent Park (2), 11 ducklings on May 13th. Twickenham (1); 27 on Jan 17th. Whitewebbs Wood (1), 6 ducklings; 30 on Jul 25th. Wildwoods, Enfield (2), 14 ducklings.

Bucks: Langley Park (1). Rowley Farm (1).

Kent: Cornmill Gdns (1). Crystal Palace Park (1). Kelsey Park (1); 33+ on Jan 9th.

Surrey: Epsom Common (1). Hurst Green, Oxted (1). Kingston-upon-Thames (1). Leatherhead (2). London Wetland Centre (1). Mereway Nature Park, 37 on Feb 26th. Richmond Park (2), 14 ducklings on May 12th; 27 on Mar 11th. R Thames: Kew to Richmond (1). R Thames: Teddington to Kingston (1).

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2); 16 on May 23rd. Regent's Park (2); 40 on Jan 25th.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter; occasionally breeds. **RBBP**

The first migrants were two males at KGV Res on March 15th (March 16th last year). They were followed by two males and a female at Stanborough GP on March 17th, a male on March 22nd and a female the day after at Beddington Farmlands, and a male and female at Fairlop Waters from March 22nd to 24th. Two males and a female were seen at Walthamstow Wetlands on March 22nd and 30th (with one of these males staying till the 31st), and at Beckton SW on March 24th, and a male was at North Met Pit on March 24th. In March, there are usually only records from at most four sites so passage seemed early with birds being seen at seven sites.

A pair was at London Wetland Centre from April 1st to 26th, with reports of attempted breeding. Also in April, two males and a female were at Beddington Farmlands from the 3rd to 15th, and there were single males staying for two weeks at Brent Res and

Dagenham Chase. Pairs staying just one day in April and May were seen at Davy Down, Fairlop Waters, Mar Dyke Valley, Rainham Marshes and Stanborough GP, with one-day males at Beckton SW, Parkside Farm/Res, Rainham Marshes, Richmond Park, Staines Moor, Staines Res, Stanborough GP and Thorndon CP South.

In June, there were two males and a female for most of the month at London Wetland Centre, with the female staying until September 6th. A juvenile was also seen at Brent Res on June 25th and 29th.

The first presumed returning birds were two at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) on July 3rd and 9th (July 14th last year), with a peak count there of nine on August 14th and 17th. Others followed from July 16th (singles unless stated, sites ordered by date seen) at Stain Hill Res (two), Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) (four), Rye Meads (six), Brent Res, Tyttenhanger GP (two), Beddington Farmlands, London Wetland Centre (three), Hampstead Heath, Rainham Marshes, Maple Lodge NR, Crossness (two), Staines Res, Wraysbury GP, Holyfield Lake (three), Island Barn Res, Kew Gdns, Sevenoaks WR (two) and KGV Res. The

Garganey appeared in London right on cue in mid-March. This bird at Staines Moor was a little later, in May. (Phil Aylen)



This Blue-winged Teal was found at Fairlop Waters. (Sam O'Donnell)

last bird was at Island Barn Res on October 9th, the same date as last year.

Birds were recorded at 31 sites this year, compared with 25 in 2021 and 19 in 2020.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors*

Status: rare vagrant.

One of the highlights of the year was the sixth record of this duck for the London Area. It has been accepted as a wild bird by the *BBRC*. The last record was at Walthamstow Res in November 2000.

Essex: Fairlop Waters, juv male from Sep 27th to Oct 6th (A Bell *et al*).

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder, with small numbers recorded in summer. **RBBP**

As usual, most of our wintering population had left by late April and began to return in mid-August. This year, five sites recorded numbers of national significance (190), compared with only Rainham Marshes last year. Broadwater Lake had the highest count of 285 on December 17th, compared with 187 last year. The next highest count was at Rainham Marshes (250 this year, 308 last year) followed by KGV Res (240, 100), London Wetland Centre (211, 123) and Crossness (200, 110). The peak count at Staines Res was low for the second year running with 125 (117 in 2022, 448 in 2020 and 310 in 2019).

At Rainham Marshes, 32 pairs were present during the breeding season and ten broods were seen, two fewer than last year. Rye Meads recorded two broods, and there was one brood at the London Wetland Centre. As usual, a few birds summered elsewhere.

The table below gives monthly figures for sites with 100 or more birds in one month. Below that are peak counts from other sites.

Shoveler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX KGV Res	40	10	12	2	-	-	-	40	240	167	3	38
Rainham Marshes	250	165	127	130	32	46	15	50	18	50	62	89
Walthamstow Wetlands	24	6	16	23	4	4	6	11	75	178	125	55
HR Friday Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134
Hilfield Park Res	30	33	108	120	2	-	2	15	68	64	38	59
North Met Pit	15	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	145
Rye Meads	34	79	129	159	4	8	11	26	49	84	70	46
Stocker's Lake	89	18	28	6	-	-	1	-	20	82	76	150
MX Broadwater Lake	50	201	125	37	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	285
Staines Res	36	53	125	40	1	-	3	3	42	52	106	53
KT Crossness	200	71	52	19	9	1	3	-	20	10	157	189
SY Beddington Farmlands	150	137	88	57	6	4	13	31	101	140	127	102
Walton Res (C&L)	18	38	69	25	5	7	3	56	110	101	19	12
Walton Res (K&B)	6	3	2	12	8	5	1	11	100	74	13	24
Wetland Centre	111	118	131	92	8	4	11	91	143	211	55	119
IL Regent's Park	49	54	100	15	2	2	2	2	15	6	30	84

A Shoveler from Wanstead Flats. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 62 on Dec 11th. Dagenham Chase, 62 on Mar 27th. Holyfield Marsh, 69 on Nov 12th. Wanstead Park, 68 on Oct 23rd. Warren Gorge, 68 on Feb 2nd.
Herts: Amwell NR, 60 on Jan 17th. Cheshunt GP, 50 on Feb 28th. Seventy Acres Lake, 67 on Nov 12th.

Middx: Brent Res, 72 on Oct 8th. Kempton NR, 55 on Sep 15th. Red House Res, 52 on Oct 9th. Stain Hill Res, 81 on Feb 20th. Woodberry Wetlands, 50 on Sep 18th.

Surrey: Richmond Park, 50 on Dec 21st.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

The overall total of 42 broods is 13 more than the 2021 total. This increase can be explained by the reserve survey being carried out at Rye Meads after a two-year absence (19 broods were recorded from 20 pairs compared with 12 broods from 13 pairs in 2019). The reserve survey at Rainham Marshes recorded seven broods from 27 pairs (ten broods from 24 pairs in 2021).

The peak count of 572 at Rye Meads on July 22nd is the highest record there since 538 in August 2017 and shows numbers trending back up (474 in 2021, 228 in 2020 and 376 in 2019). The peak count for the London Area is 1,004 at Wraysbury Res in January 2011.

The table below gives sites with 100 or more records in one month. For the 17 sites with data from both years, wintering numbers in January and February were higher than in 2021 at eight of the 17 sites, lower at seven sites and similar at two sites, and in November and December, numbers were higher at seven sites, lower at seven sites and similar at three sites.

All breeding records (no. of broods in brackets) and a high count for Inner London are given below the table.

Gadwall	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Holyfield Marsh	15	6	12	-	-	-	-	85	43	211	215	151
Rainham Marshes	162	66	71	153	175	73	100	2	14	20	23	35
HR Panshanger Park	124	73	45	15	17	24	-	-	87	79	85	119
Rye Meads	34	30	120	75	120	388	572	200	347	270	127	88
Stanborough GP	40	127	12	22	3	-	8	-	-	-	2	27
MX Stain Hill Res	67	34	53	-	-	13	16	66	82	6	56	111
Staines Res	56	108	31	32	8	40	5	20	88	24	24	22
KT Crossness	150	50	88	86	36	40	42	6	50	20	38	198
Dartford Marshes	132	152	100	14	-	-	-	2	1	8	48	13
South Mere	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	110	2	-
SY Beddington Farmlands	95	75	59	35	20	45	38	62	136	163	110	77
Thorpe Water Park	108	30	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Walton Res (C&L)	12	13	4	8	6	23	50	80	54	126	18	12
Wetland Centre	42	38	43	30	30	46	32	81	108	101	88	80

Essex: Rainham Marshes (7). Walthamstow Wetlands (2).

Herts: Rye Meads (19). Stanborough GP (1).

Middx: Brent Res (1). KGV Res (2). Red House Res (1).

Kent: Crossness (1). Swanscombe Marshes (1).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (2). London Wetland Centre (3). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (1).

In Lond: Regent's Park (1). St James's Park, 51 on Aug 20th.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Status: common winter visitor with occasional summer records.

Rainham Marshes again had the highest count with 1,000+ birds on December 27th, however this was much lower than last year's peak of 1,859. In contrast, numbers at Staines Res were higher than last year, with a peak for January to March of 288 on January 20th (248 in February 2021) and the October to December peak being more than double, with 210 on December 17th (87 in December 2021). Elsewhere, numbers appeared similar or slightly higher than last year. There were records of birds in May and June at ten sites (six last year); however, there were no records suggestive of breeding.

The table below gives monthly peaks from regularly watched sites with counts of 100 or more, with other high counts below that.

Wigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	705	595	500	30	2	-	-	2	14	120	516	1000
MX Staines Res	288	136	105	20	-	-	-	-	40	69	79	210
KT Crayford Marshes	25	35	40	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	100	200
Dartford Marshes	120	165	107	-	-	-	-	-	36	120	384	248
SY Island Barn Res	60	102	79	14	0	0	0	0	1	34	29	126
Wetland Centre	116	70	80	43	2	-	10	3	52	70	65	90

Essex: Holyfield Marsh, 152 on Oct 8th.

Herts: Aldenham CP, 108 on Oct 30th.

Bucks: Horton Brook Quarry, 130 on Jan 16th.

In Lond: Buckingham Palace Gdns, one on Dec 20th. Burgess Park, three on Jan 1st. Victoria Park, one on Apr 23rd and one on Dec 25th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Status: very common and widespread breeding resident.

The total number of broods was 285, up from 234 last year. The peak count was 372 on December 12th on the R Thames from Putney Bridge to Barnes, which is substantially lower than the 778 recorded at Swanscombe Marshes last year. The peak summer count was 195 at Q. Mother Res on August 4th (last year's peak count was 250 at Coopers Green GP in July).

The table below shows regularly watched sites that had a count of 150 or more. Breeding records and other high counts are summarised below the table.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Connaught Water	160	74	-	44	30	42	117	66	76	150	107	76
Cornmill Meadows	152	133	154	76	119	118	68	110	94	133	166	162
Dagenham Chase	55	43	32	23	31	63	43	28	15	13	158	25
Walthamstow Wetlands	76	52	44	64	86	51	157	64	47	25	53	51
Wanstead Park	122	117	104	69	21	30	89	73	133	120	155	116
HR Stanborough GP	130	40	150	180	68	20	31	6	1	16	44	60
MX Brent Res	28	26	36	26	27	74	188	74	37	34	33	30
Q. Mary Res	14	8	8	10	30	19	32	182	86	-	12	36
BU Q. Mother Res	16	4	12	14	17	52	73	195	180	43	6	4
SY Beddington Farmlands	80	30	30	30	50	52	84	146	86	118	106	160
Putney Bridge-Barnes	236	138	110	-	-	-	-	-	297	169	310	372

Essex: 75 broods from 21 sites. Holyfield Marsh, 127 on Nov 12th. Ingrebourne Valley, 111 on Sep 24th. Rainham Marshes (29); 120 on Apr 12th. Wanstead Flats, 109 on Aug 20th.

Herts: 61 broods from 26 sites. Radlett, 120+ on Sep 15th. Rye Meads (16). Verulamium Park, 100+ on Oct 16th.

Middx: 71 broods from 36 sites. Hampstead Heath, 121 on Nov 13th.

Bucks: Four broods from two sites. Langley Park, 105 on Dec 15th.

Kent: 25 broods from 15 sites. Kelsey Park, 124 on Aug 9th.

Surrey: 41 broods from 20 sites. London Wetland Centre, 149 on Jan 1st. R Thames: Putney Bridge to Battersea Bridge, 118 on Sep 10th. R Wandle: Carshalton Ponds to Wandsworth, 234 on Dec 27th. R Wandle: Mitcham Bridge to Morden Hall Tram Crossing, 114 on Jan 21st. Richmond Park, 103 on Dec 12th.

In Lond: Eight broods from seven sites. Battersea Park, 102 on Jul 18th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 80 on Apr 5th. R Thames: Battersea Bridge to Vauxhall Bridge, 50 on Oct 9th. St James's Park, 78 on Aug 20th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, very occasional summer visitor.

The peak count was 50 at Rainham Marshes on March 3rd (much lower than the peak count last year of 92 at the same site). The species was observed at 26 sites (compared with 32 sites last year), and overall numbers were similar or perhaps slightly lower than for 2021. The last record in the first half of the year was on June 2nd at Beddington Farmlands and the first returning birds were recorded on July 12th at Dagenham Chase.

The following table below gives counts from the key sites and below it all the records from other sites are listed.

Pintail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	48	47	50	8	-	-	-	-	9	14	47	41
Mar Dyke Valley	4	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HR Hilfield Park Res	5	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
MX Staines Res	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
SY Beddington Farmlands	1	-	3	2	-	2	-	-	3	3	3	2
Walton Res (C&L)	-	4	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wetland Centre	6	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	4	4

Essex: Beckton SW, ten on Sep 21st. Dagenham Chase, two males and a female on Jul 12th, female on seven dates from Oct 21st to Nov 13th and two females on Nov 14th & 16th. KGV Res, male on Apr 12th and one on Sep 2nd. Walthamstow Wetlands, two males and two females on Mar 19th.

Herts: Maple Lodge NR, one on Nov 7th. Stanborough GP, female on Feb 3rd and Mar 11th. Stocker's Lake, male on Mar 27th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on 12 dates from Nov 29th to Dec 18th. Kempton NR, two on Jan 24th. Kempton Park Race Course, male on Jan 23rd. Red House Res, one on Jan 23rd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, up to three on seven dates from Sep 23rd to Oct 29th, with eight on Oct 20th. Wraysbury GP, female on Sep 24th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, present on Feb 23rd and two on Sep 27th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, female on Jan 1st and Nov 6th. Kew Gdns, two on Apr 22nd. QE II Res, male on Mar 16th, one on Sep 18th, two males from Dec 17th-18th and a male from Dec 22nd-25th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), a male from Feb 24th to Mar 2nd, one on Mar 20th and a male on Dec 26th (presumed same as QE II Res). Watermeads, two on Dec 18th.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

Breeding was confirmed this year with one brood at the London Wetland Centre, the first recorded breeding since 2017. Summering pairs were also recorded at several sites.

Comparing data for 16 sites across both years, wintering numbers in January and February were higher than in 2021 at seven of the 16 sites, lower at seven sites and similar at two sites; but in November and December, numbers were higher at twelve sites, lower at three sites and similar at one site. The peak count was 1,100 at Rainham Marshes on December 3rd, significantly higher than the 2021 peak there of 735, whilst the peak of 560 at Crossness on February 10th was lower than the peak there last year of 778.

The table below shows regularly watched sites that had a count of 100 or more, with high counts from other sites and peak counts from all Inner London sites listed below the table.

Teal	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Dagenham Chase	43	40	18	16	-	-	2	1	3	62	132	35
Ingrebourne Valley	39	47	29	23	-	-	-	4	68	48	15	2
Rainham Marshes	500	395	207	100	15	14	12	30	150	179	750	1100
William Girling Res	92	40	42	14	-	-	-	-	33	93	112	17
HR Rye Meads	72	83	27	28	3	-	9	22	72	118	80	68
Stanborough GP	150	250	80	70	2	1	2	1	5	18	34	220
Tyttenhanger GP	50	21	20	14	-	1	5	8	20	55	32	100
MX Brent Res	98	41	27	52	3	4	8	32	152	150	171	91
KT Crayford Marshes	100	100	100	25	-	-	-	3	20	40	250	200
Crossness	400	560	437	197	1	2	32	4	300	425	482	500
Dartford Marshes	65	40	200	36	-	-	1	-	10	42	61	150
Erith Reach	100	20	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	1	15
Swanscombe Marshes	79	16	28	29	-	-	12	-	3	3	115	300

Teal	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
SY Beddington Farmlands	296	255	266	105	4	7	12	50	316	250	533	464
Putney Bridge-Barnes	49	140	59	-	-	-	-	-	2	27	37	191
Walton Res (C&L)	13	2	4	4	1	1	4	50	113	68	49	16
Wetland Centre	105	54	80	50	7	6	10	43	93	80	150	302

Essex: Barking Bay/Marsh, 130 on Sep 27th. Creekmouth, Barking, 300 on Jan 10th. Gallions Reach, 220 on Dec 18th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, five on Feb 24th. Cremorne Gdns, five on Jan 11th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, seven on May 12th. Regent's Park, two on six dates from Apr 3rd to Nov 27th. R Thames: Battersea, one on Nov 12th. Southwark Park, a pair on Dec 12th. Victoria Park, two on Oct 31st and two males on Dec 18th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Status: introduced breeding resident, probably also rare autumn and winter visitor from the continent.

Although it can still be found across the London Area, with records from over 50 sites, the expansion of this introduced duck seems to have halted. The peak count of 25 for this year was markedly lower than the 45 recorded last year and the 61 in 2020. The peak count was also recorded back in the species' former stronghold of Regent's Park, rather than being in the Colne Valley which has held the biggest flock for the last four years. Confirmed breeding came from three sites with broods recorded at Dagenham Chase (for the first time), Holyfield Lake and Rye Meads.

Peak site counts of ten and over are listed below, although the totals for Regent's Park and St James's Park may include pinioned birds.

Herts: Amwell NR, 11 on Feb 12th. Bury Lake, ten on Nov 29th. Helicon Lake, 19 on Nov 11th. Pynesfield North Lake, 14 on Jan 2nd. Rye Meads, 12 on Dec 5th. Stocker's Lake, 22 on Dec 5th. Tilehouse North Lake, 16 on Dec 15th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, 25 on May 13th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 12 on July 20th. St James's Park, 13 on July 8th.

Pochard *Aythya farina*

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder. **RBBP**

This was a much better year for this lovely duck, whose population is declining so rapidly that it is listed internationally as vulnerable. The peak count of 286 at Staines Res was the highest since a count of 438 was recorded at the same site in 2019 and was well above the 175 recorded at Broadwater Lake last year. This increase was widespread, with 17 sites seeing counts of over 50 compared with just ten last year.

Breeding numbers were up although it is likely that submitted records are incomplete. Confirmed breeding came from 19 sites (similar to 20 sites last year), with 76 broods (up from 62 last year). Rye Meads and Walthamstow Wetlands with 21 and 15 broods (9+ and 13+ last year), respectively, had the highest number of broods, but the fact that the two small lakes in Clissold Park had six broods underlines how incomplete submitted breeding records may be.

The table below gives peak monthly counts of over 50 and is followed by a summary of all submitted breeding records.

Pochard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX KGV Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	-	-	-
Dagenham Chase	-	-	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holyfield Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	75
Rainham Marshes	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	-	-	-
Walthamstow Wetlands	-	-	-	-	-	72	177	90	-	55	95	130
Woodberry Wetlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	89	80	-	-
HR Amwell NR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	65	-	-
Stocker's Lake	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82	70	-	109
Hilfield Park Res	59	-	139	-	-	-	117	121	-	-	-	-
MX Broadwater Lake	-	150	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	138
Staines Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	286
BU Horton GPs	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	142	-	-
SY London Wetland Centre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105	-	-	-
Thorpe Water Park	74	122	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walton Res (C & L)	72	-	-	-	-	-	56	-	-	109	-	56
IL Hyde Park/Ken Gdns	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	65	-	-
St James's Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58	-	-	-	-

Essex: 24 broods. Rainham Marshes (8). Walthamstow Wetlands (15). Waterworks NR (1).
Herts: 29 broods. Cheshunt GP (6). Maple Lodge NR (1). Rye Meads (21). Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: 11 broods. Brent Res (1). Clissold Park (6). Finsbury Park (1). Springwell Lake (1).
 Staines Res (1). Woodberry Wetlands (1).

Bucks: One brood. Colnbrook (1).

Surrey: Seven broods. Beddington Farmlands (1). London Wetland Centre (3). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (3).

In Lond: Four broods. Little Venice (3). Regent's Park (1).

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Status: rare vagrant.

There were two records this year, the well-watched drake at Thorpe Water Park first seen in November 2021 remained into January, and a juvenile was recorded at Wraysbury GP in September.

The *BBRC* report for 2022 has two late records for 2021 for the London Area. It confirmed that the Thorpe Water Park drake that first appeared on Staines Res (not Staines Moor as stated in the *BBRC* report) and Hilfield Park Res hosted a pair for one day in April. The three individuals seen in 2021 is the highest number of birds seen in a year since the five recorded in 2010.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, juv from Sep 23rd-24th (CDR Heard).

Opposite: There were fewer Pochard in London than in recent years. (Jonathan Lethbridge)





Ring-necked Duck is an American vagrant. This bird was at Priory Pond for several months. (Dave Harris)

Surrey: Thorpe Water Park, male from 2021 until Jan 31st (RE Innes *et al*).

2021 Additions

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, imm male and a female on April 19th (AJ Harris, J Kalms, M McManus).

Surrey: Staines Res, male on Nov 21st (RE Innes) (presumed same as Thorpe Water Park).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Status: rare vagrant.

After two individuals last year, this North American duck returned to the norm with just one record. The female, which first appeared in December 2020 at Priory Pond, was present from the start of the year until April 22nd. Note that as only part of the pond falls within the London Area, some sightings may have been outside the scope of this report. It failed to return for its third winter.

Surrey: Reigate, female on Priory Pond from beginning of the year until April 22nd (many observers).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

Last year saw the post-breeding flocks reach remarkably high levels in London, so it is no surprise that numbers decreased this year. The peak count of 1,993 at Wraysbury Res was well down on last year's 3,051 - the highest count this century - at KGV Res, but only slightly lower than normal counts. Inner London's peak count at Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens also fell from 188 to 112.

Breeding records are, as always, incomplete, and variations in numbers likely reflect lack of uniformity in submissions as much as population changes. The 179 confirmed

broods is an increase on last year's 116, but is still well below the 231 broods submitted in 2019 before Covid-19 restrictions hit monitoring. Walthamstow Wetlands was the most successful breeding site with 55 broods.

The table gives peak monthly counts of over 500 and is followed by a summary of submitted broods for each sector and all sites with over four broods.

Tufted Duck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX KGV Res	832	881	-	-	-	-	750	1077	1573	1170	691	-
Walthamstow Wetlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	1908	1916	990	700	622	-
William Girling Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	982	-	562	-	-	-
MX KGV Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	1385	1541	-	-	-	-
Q. Mary Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1097	-	-	-
Staines Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	770	1054	-	511	-	564
Wraysbury Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	911	1993	1003	-	-	-
BU Q. Mother Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600	600	520	-	-
SY Island Barn Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	618
QE II Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	835	-	-	-
Walton Res (K&B)	=	-	-	-	-	-	652	871	-	-	-	-

A male Tufted Duck. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



Essex: 68 broods. Rainham Marshes (5). Walthamstow Wetlands (55).

Herts: 38 broods. Rye Meads (30).

Middx: 33 broods. Stain Hill Res (9).

Bucks: Six broods. Colnbrook (5).

Kent: Six broods.

Surrey: 24 broods. London Wetland Centre (10).

In Lond: Four broods.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Status: regular but uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional large influxes during cold weather.

This year saw a slightly better showing with perhaps as many as ten birds in the first winter period compared with six individuals last year and only four in 2020. But these figures cannot disguise the long-term decline in numbers, almost certainly caused by milder winters, with as many as 40 birds seen across London a decade ago. KGV Res is now the clear stronghold for the species, with birds present from the beginning of the year until late April with a peak count of eight - the highest number at one site for over a decade. The female which splits its time between Island Barn and the Walton Reservoirs

Scaup is an uncommon winter visitor to large water bodies. (Chris Farthing)



returned for its seventh winter in October.

Essex: Banbury Res, pair from Jan 29th to Feb 27th. Holyfield Lake, female from Feb 2nd to Mar 1st. KGV Res, two from Jan 1st to Apr 14th, three from Feb 19th to Apr 14th, five from Mar 5th to Apr 5th, seven from Mar 26th to Apr 2nd, eight on Apr 4th with the last one on Apr 20th, singles on Sep 18th and Nov 13th, and two from Dec 10th-16th. Walthamstow Wetlands, female from Mar 15th to Apr 20th. William Girling Res, two on Jan 19th and Feb 16th.

Herts: Cheshunt GP, male from Jan 1st-3rd and on Feb 2nd & 16th.

Middx: KGV1 Res, male from Apr 13th-22nd. Staines Res, male from Jan 21st to Apr 12th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, three imm males on Feb 28th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, female on Jan 2nd and from Nov 10th to end of year. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), female from Jan 3rd to Feb 20th (same as Island Barn). Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), female on Jan 18th & 23rd and Oct 13th to Nov 10th (same as Island Barn). Thorpe Park, female from Jan 14th to Feb 5th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res/Walton Res (C&L and K&B), female from 2021 to Mar 25th and from Oct 13th to end of year. Thorpe Park, female from Jan 14th to Feb 5th.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

Status: rare vagrant.

This is the fifth record for the London Area and the first since another drake was recorded at Sunnymeads GP in 2014. Initially seen in late December, its identification needed the persistent efforts of its finder and was not definitely clinched until the New Year.

Middx: Staines Res, imm male from Dec 20th until end of the year (RE Innes *et al*).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Status: passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, never numerous.

Leaving aside sound recordings of nocturnal migration, perhaps only 45 birds were seen - well down on last year's 57 individuals, which is itself below the average for the last decade. There was a particular fall - from 22 to ten - in numbers recorded on the R Thames at Rainham Marshes which may have been exacerbated by a reduction in regular monitoring from the reserve centre from early spring. Birds were recorded in every month, with flocks of four seen at both Rainham Marshes and QE II Res.

All records are given below.

Essex: KGV Res, two from Mar 3rd-6th. Rainham Marshes, two on Mar 29th, four on Mar 30th, singles on Jul 29th, Aug 8th, Sep 10th and Dec 4th.

Herts: St Albans, nocmig on Mar 18th and Apr 3rd.

Middx: Isle of Dogs, two on Dec 12th. Q. Mary Res, one on Feb 9th. Staines Res, one on Feb 10th, two on Mar 4th, one from Jun 8th-10th, two on Jul 23rd, singles on Sep 2nd and Nov 21st. Wraysbury Res, one on May 30th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on May 30th (same as Wraysbury Res) and four on May 31st, singles on July 28th and Aug 20th.

Kent: Chipstead Lake, pair on May 4th. Greenwich Peninsula, one on Jul 13th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, pair from Jan 23rd-25th and Mar 30th. QE II Res, one on Feb 9th,



It is not often you get this close to a Common Scoter. This bird was photographed at Island Barn Reservoir. (Dave Harris)

four on Jul 12th, singles from Jul 15th-16th and Oct 13th. Wallington, nocmig on Apr 7th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one on Oct 21st. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), one on May 25th and two on Dec 1st.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Status: common winter visitor, has bred.

The peak count, again at Staines Res, of 38 was sharply down on last year's highest site total of 50 and reflects the decline in numbers in recent years. A decade ago, the

highest count was 60, with ten sites recording over 15 birds compared with just six this year and a peak count of over eight. There were no records of breeding or over-summering birds, with the last departing on May 12th and the first returning on July 2nd.

The table gives monthly peak counts of over 10.

Goldeneye	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX KGV Res	29	33	30	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
William Girling Res	19	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MX Broadwater Lake	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KGV Res	26	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staines Res	36	28	38	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	25
BU Wraysbury GP	29	33	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	26
SU Walton Res (K&B)	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Status: winter visitor in highly variable but declining numbers.

The winters when parties of this exquisite duck graced London's reservoirs - a regular sight even 20 years ago - appear to have gone. It is now four years since any site hosted more than two birds. Only Princes Lake at Heathrow and the Cheshunt GP complex had a count of two birds. The mini-influx at the end of year, which saw at least three drakes arrive after a freezing spell, is further evidence that it is milder winters which are encouraging birds to stay closer to their breeding grounds.

All records are given, although there was clearly movement between sites. At Cheshunt GP, some of the records may relate to a presumed escape female present in this area in recent years.

Essex: KGV Res, male from Jan 22nd to Apr 29th. William Girling Res, male on Apr 15th (presumed same as KGV Res).

Herts: Amwell NR, female from beginning of year to Feb 25th. Cheshunt GP, female from Jan 15th to Jun 1st, male from Jan 15th to Feb 16th and female from Dec 3rd to end of year. Frogmore Lakes, male on Jan 20th. Rye Meads, female on Apr 1st. Stocker's Lake, male from Dec 4th-9th.

Middx: Broadwater Lake, male from Dec 18th-28th. Princes Lake, a male from Jan 11th-17th, two males from Dec 16th-20th. Staines Res, male on Jan 13th.

Bucks: Tilehouse North Lake, male on Dec 15th. Wraysbury GP, male from Jan 21st-22nd.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

The peak count of 16 at KGV Res in March was well down on the 29 recorded last year at Weald CP. Five sites, compared with six in the last two years, saw counts of over ten; but while numbers are down, the species was still recorded at over 60 sites. They included a drake in December in Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens, which is the first record in Inner London since 2014. Birds were seen until May 22nd, with an unseasonal female on the R Colne at Harefield on June 16th before a more general arrival from October 1st.

Peak counts of eight or more for both winter periods are listed.

Essex: KGV Res, 16 on Mar 14th and nine on Dec 16th. Weald CP, 13 on Nov 25th. William Girling Res, 13 on Feb 16th.

Herts: Turnford Marsh GP, 12 on Jan 3rd and 18 on Dec 4th & 10th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, nine on Dec 15th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Dec 12th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

A slightly better showing of 12 birds this year, compared with five last year and just two in 2021. The number was boosted by a remarkable flock of seven flying low over Richmond Park, the biggest group since seven were recorded - again in early November - on the R Thames in 2016. The male on the R Thames at Rainham Marshes was the first bird recorded in August this century.

Essex: KGV Res, one on Jan 1st. Rainham Marshes, male on Aug 13th, two female/imm on Dec 3rd. Walthamstow Wetlands, female/imm on Nov 6th.

Surrey: Richmond Park, seven on Nov 4th.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Status: breeding resident, of introduced origin.

Records were received from 82 sites (compared with 128 sites in 2021). The majority, 72%, of the records came from the Essex, Hertfordshire and Middlesex sectors.

All breeding records are given (nos. of pairs/territories are in brackets), along with high counts and other significant records. Some of the higher counts may involve released birds.

Essex: Reported from 19 sites. Orsett Fen (2+), brood seen; 22 on Feb 17th. West Horndon (2), at Dunnings Lane.

Herts: Reported from 26 sites. Bedmond (1). Stanborough GP (1). Elstree (1). Essendon (1+). Praewood Farm, 30 on Jan 16th. Radlett (1+). Stanborough GP, 20 on Dec 18th. Wildhill (1+), brood seen; c22 on Dec 6th.

Middx: Reported from 14 sites. Enfield Chase: Holly Hill Farm (1+). North Lodge Farm (1). Park Farm (1). Parkside Farm/Res (1). South Barvin Farm (1). Vicarage Farm (1). Staines Moor (1). Teddington, one in back garden on Apr 10th.

Bucks: Reported from one site.

Kent: Reported from 15 sites. Cudham (1). Longfield, eight on Dec 16th. Swanscombe Marshes (1), brood seen.

Surrey: Reported from seven sites. Brockwell Park, one on Oct 24th. Woldingham, 64 (known releases in the area) on Sep 25th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Status: breeding resident, declining.

Records came from eight sites across two sectors (compared with 12 sites across three sectors in 2021). Breeding looks likely to have occurred at Brook Farm, Upminster and Warley Street, North Ockendon.

All records are given below (no. of breeding birds/territories are in brackets).

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster (1), three on Apr 10th, two on Jun 6th and six juvs on Jul 23rd. Damyns Hall Aerodrome, two on Nov 26th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Feb 11th. Mar Dyke Valley, 13 records between Feb 12th and Oct 16th, with peak of ten on Aug 19th. North Ockendon (1), at Fair Play Farm; two on Apr 11th, one on May 3rd, two on Jun 6th and Oct 2nd; at Warley Street, pair on Mar 7th and an adult with five juvs on Jul 13th. Orsett Fen, four on Jan 2nd, five on Feb 9th and pairs on Apr 1st & 13th.

Herts: Essendon, six on Nov 10th and at least one on Dec 23rd. Frogmore Lakes, singles on Feb 6th and Mar 13th.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Status: rare summer visitor.

There were up to six records of four to six birds this year, depending on whether the records in Essex and Surrey involved the same or different birds. This is similar to or slightly above the recent average. There have been 47 records of 50 birds since 2010.

Essex: Orsett Fen, singing male on Jun 1st and one flushed on Jul 10th (RT Barnes).

Middx: Saxon Lake, Hillingdon, one flushed on Jun 28th from the track near the lake (J Middleton).

Kent: Forest Hill, one on May 22nd sound recorded overnight (G Horsley).

Surrey: Canon's Farm, singing male from Jun 20th-24th (S Gale *et al*). Walton Downs, singing male from Jun 28th-30th from E of Round Wood (S Gale).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Status: common breeding resident, of introduced origin.

There were records from 273 sites (compared with 308 in 2021), with 81% accounted for by the Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent and Surrey sectors.

The numbers of pairs/territories are given below (in brackets) for sites below for sites with at least two pairs, and comments are given where breeding has been confirmed. High counts and unusual site records are noted, especially in urban areas. Some of the higher counts may involve released birds.

Essex: Reported from 52 sites, with 16 pairs at eight sites. Bonnett's Wood (3), three juvs. Brook Farm, Upminster, female with eight juvs. North Ockendon (2), juvs seen at Fair Play Farm and Warley Street. Orsett Fen (3). Rainham Marshes (4+), four broods, 15 crowing males; peak count of 22 on Dec 3rd. Wanstead Flats, male from Apr 2nd-26th (also recorded at Wanstead Park on 18th). West Horndon (2) at Dunnings Lane.

Herts: Reported from 58 sites, with 20 pairs at 17 sites. Brickendon (2+). Brookmans Park, bred; 17 on Jan 26th. Coursers Farm, fledged young seen. Cuffley, 65+ on Oct 1st. North Mymms Park, 18 on Jan 27th. Radlett (2). Rye Meads (2), two broods.

Middx: Reported from 44 sites, with four pairs at three sites. Bounds Green, one on Feb 27th in Dagmar Road. Enfield Chase Area: Holly Hill Farm, bred, four chicks; Sloemans Farm, 26 on Nov 14th and 20 on Dec 5th; Vicarage Farm (2), two broods. Hampstead Heath, female on Nov 9th behind Stock Pond. Ten Acres, Yeading, juv seen. Tottenham Marshes, only seven records all of single birds, with six recorded between May 17th

and Jul 24th but with no evidence of breeding. Woodberry Wetlands, one on Oct 20th.
Bucks: Reported from five sites, with two pairs at one site. Colnbrook (2+), two broods.
Kent: Reported from 53 sites, with two pairs at two sites. Bexleyheath, c100 on Oct 25th at Penn Lane. Brockley & Ladywell Cemeteries, female on Mar 25th. Pratt's Bottom, c30 on Nov 10th. Swanscombe Marshes, bred, six juvs seen.
Surrey: Reported from 60 sites, with four pairs at four sites. Pilgrims Farm, 50 on Jan 1st. Titsey Wood, 20 on Feb 28th. Woldingham, 140 on Jul 7th and 70 on Sep 25th. Known releases in the area of these sites.
In Lond: Charing Cross Hospital, one on Jun 26th.

Pheasant. (Tony Blake)



Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

As last year, there was just one record. Winter numbers in London have seen a decline over the last three decades, as is demonstrated in the table below.

Red-throated Diver records by decade 1990-2022: 76 records				
Decade	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
No. of records	40	21	13	2

Middx: Q. Mary Res, one on Nov 18th (KL Purdey).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Status: scarce winter visitor and occasional migrant, often after hard weather.

The first winter period recorded one adult and two juveniles, all first seen in 2021, with the last bird departing in summer plumage on April 22nd. Records are sparser for the second winter period, but there were at least three birds, with the first arrival in summer plumage on October 8th. The adult at KGV I Res was presumed to have returned for its tenth winter.

Essex: KGV Res, juv from 2021 until Apr 5th and adult on Nov 3rd. William Girling Res, juv on Jan 19th and Feb 16th & 19th (presumed same as KGV Res).

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, adult on Nov 21st.

Middx: KGV I Res, adult from 2021 until Apr 22nd, departing NW in summer plumage, a 2nd-winter bird from 2021 on Feb 3rd, 10th, 16th & 23rd and Mar 3rd & 17th, two adults on Nov 27th, one adult on Dec 4th, 6th & 9th. Staines Res, juv from 2021 until Feb 21st (presumed same as KGV I Res bird) and one adult on Nov 28th (presumed same as KGV I Res).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one adult in summer plumage from Oct 8th-16th and a 2nd-winter bird on Nov 8th.

Surrey: QE II Res, two adults on Nov 21st.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Status: widespread breeding resident on most suitable waters, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 121 pairs/broods/territories were reported this year, which is greater than recent years (93 in 2021, 97 in 2020 and 112 in 2019). Comparing sites with the most pairs in recent years shows 18 records at Rainham Marshes (24 in 2021), ten at Rye Meads (no count since 2019 when there were 12 pairs) and nine at Beddington Farmlands (12 in 2021, ten in 2020). Records were received from 160 sites in January and February and from 148 sites in November and December (141 and 129 in the respective periods in 2021).

Below is a breeding summary for each sector, breeding counts for Inner London and all sites with three or more pairs (no. of pairs given unless stated otherwise), plus some of the higher counts for each sector.

Essex: 34 pairs/broods/territories at 12 sites. Rainham Marshes (18 territories); 20 on Jul 24th. Walthamstow Wetlands, 50 on Aug 17th. William Girling Res, 24 on Jan 19th.

Herts: 22 pairs/broods at 12 sites. Rye Meads (10); 38 on Sep 9th. Panshanger Park, 32 on Sep 11th. Hilfield Park Res (6 broods); 21 on Sep 22nd.

Middx: 14 pairs at 13 sites. Brent Res, 17 on Dec 18th.

Bucks: One pair at Langley Park.

Kent: 11 pairs at seven sites. Crossness (4). Sevenoaks WR, 15 on Oct 29th.

Surrey: 30 pairs/broods at 17 sites. Beddington Farmlands (9 broods); 28 on Aug 12th. Kew Gardens (3+). Beddington Park, 16 on Jan 17th. Holmethorpe SP, 17 on Jan 23rd. London Wetland Centre, 25 on Oct 8th.

In Lond: 6-7 pairs at 5 sites. Battersea Park (1). Regent's Park (1). Southwark Park (2). St James's Park (1); seven on Aug 5th. Victoria Park (1-2).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

This year, there was one record from Staines Res - the same number as the last four years. In addition, there was a long-staying juvenile from 2021 until May at KGV Res, during which time its moult into breeding plumage was witnessed. It was also seen at William Girling Res.

Essex: KGV Res, juv from 2021 until May 4th, one from Nov 9th to Dec 20th. William Girling Res, one on Jan 19th and Feb 16th (presumed same as KGV Res).

Middx: Staines Res, adult from Jul 1st to Aug 25th (KL Purdey *et al*).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

This year, at least 134 pairs/broods were recorded across 74 sites, compared with 102 at 59 sites in 2021 and 126 at 73 sites in 2020. The highest breeding total was at North Met Pit with 11 pairs recorded; the site has not had a count in recent years.

There was the usual build-up in numbers from July to October with the highest being 354 at Wraysbury Res on September 11th - the highest count since 2004 when there were 437 at Q. Mary Res in January. High counts in recent years have been 176 in 2021, 127 in 2020 and 150 in 2019. The highest count ever was 679 at Q. Mother Res in January 1997.

Numbers at the more significant sites with regular counts are shown in the table. Below that is a breeding summary for each sector, breeding counts for Inner London and all sites with three or more pairs (no. of pairs are given unless stated as broods), plus some of the higher counts at sites not listed in the table.

Great Crested Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX KGV Res	20	25	32	51	78	49	78	74	106	96	34	35
Walthamstow Wetlands	18	14	39	30	50	37	35	75	70	58	43	41
HR Hilfield Park Res	13	19	22	18	30	30	52	40	38	43	45	3
MX Q. Mary Res	207	91	75	75	32	72	34	78	30	-	28	221
Staines Res	15	31	30	30	56	55	110	108	56	20	23	18
Wraysbury Res	16	17	10	12	21	43	159	230	354	101	3	5
BU Q. Mother Res	16	15	23	25	16	37	54	50	83	137	13	-
SY QE II Res	11	14	28	22	21	75	148	170	144	70	36	26



Great Crested Grebes displaying in April. (Phil Ayles)

Essex: 28 pairs/broods at ten sites. Belhus Woods CP (3), Rainham Marshes (3). Walthamstow Wetlands (9 broods). Warren Gorge (3 broods). Holyfield Lake, 69 on Sep 13th.

Herts: 44 pairs/broods at 20 sites. Broxbourne GP (8). North Met Pit (11) Stanstead Innings (3). Tyttenhanger GP (3 broods).

Middx: 17 pairs/broods at 16 sites. KGV I Res, 59 on Jun 17th.

Bucks: two pairs at two sites.

Kent: ten pairs/broods at five sites. Danson Park (5).

Surrey: 25 pairs at 15 sites. Thorpe Water Park, 35 on Jan 23rd.

In Lond: at least eight pairs at six sites. Battersea Park (1). Burgess Park (1+). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1). Regent's Park (1). St James's Park (1). Victoria Park (1).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

This year, all the records were in the second winter period: Staines Res, on the Thames at Rainham and two reservoirs in the Lee Valley. Assuming the latter are the same bird, there were three records of three birds. There were six birds in 2018 since when there have just been one or two birds each year.

Essex: William Girling Res, one on Nov 13th. Rainham Marshes, one on Dec 2nd-3rd. KGV Res, one on Dec 10th & 20th (presumed same as William Girling Res).

Middx: Staines Res, one on Dec 2nd.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Status: passage and winter migrant and rare breeder. **RBBP**

At Hilfield Park Res, the first sighting was two on February 13th, with four in March and two in April. Two pairs were seen in May and on June 9th, but there was no sign of breeding - making this the third year without successful breeding. In July, there were five adults joined by migrant juveniles from the 12th-23rd, with two recorded on the 20th.

Like last year, there was a long-staying bird on Alexandra Lake in Wanstead Flats from April to July, quite possibly the same bird. Winter numbers were similar to last year with Staines Res having the highest counts in both winter periods.

Counts from the main sites are summarised in the following table, and all other records are listed below it.

Black-necked Grebe		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	KGV Res	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
	William Girling Res	5	1	1	-	-	-	1	4	12	13	4	1
HR	Hilfield Park Res	-	2	4	2	4	4	7	4	2	-	-	-
MX	Staines Res	7	8	12	7	6	4	11	12	14	11	9	5

Essex: Walthamstow Wetlands, one from Oct 3rd-9th. Wanstead Flats, one from Apr 11th to Jul 20th.

Herts: Rye Meads, two on May 24th.

Middx: KGV Res, two on Jan 13th. Stain Hill Res, one on Jun 19th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Mar 13th & 20th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, two on Mar 9th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, singles on Mar 13th, Jul 15th and Sep 19th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), one from Aug 11th-16th.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Status: scarce vagrant with birds from reintroduction schemes.

All birds are included, whether they are from reintroduction schemes, are escapes (except if known to be an escape) or are wild birds. There were far fewer sightings this year, with birds being seen at ten sites between February 8th and May 30th and two sites in August. Inevitably, some of these sightings might relate to the same bird. All sightings, except at Perivale, were of birds flying over with no long-stayers. Last year, they were seen at 22 sites, with multiple sightings at some sites.

White Stork: number of sites by month

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	-	1	1	6	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

Essex: Dagenham Chase, one over on May 2nd. Rainham Marshes, one over on Apr 18th. Walthamstow, one N/NE on Apr 11th.

Herts: Mickfield Hall, one E on Apr 13th.

Middx: Brent Res, one (unringed) S on Aug 12th. Hampton, one (unringed) over on Mar 20th. Home Park, three over on Apr 2nd. Perivale, one on Feb 8th.

Kent: Catford, one N on May 30th. Crossness, one (ringed) W on Aug 17th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, one over on Apr 13th. Whitton, one W on Apr 23rd.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Status: rare vagrant.

There was one record in March, four in May between 3rd and 8th, and one in June. All the records in May in Essex and Surrey may relate to the same bird, so there were at least three involved, possibly four, making this the best year since 2016 when six birds were recorded.

Essex: Hall Marsh Scrape, one on May 3rd (C Farthing *et al*). Rainham Marshes, one on May 8th (M Robinson, B Rumsby). Walthamstow Wetlands, one on Jun 1st (C Farthing, D Bradshaw).

Middx: Staines Res, one on Mar 7th (J Sweetland).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one from May 7th-8th (Z Pannifer *et al*). London Wetland Centre, one on May 5th (A Salmon) (presumed same as Beddington Farmlands bird).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Status: scarce migrant.

Records were received from 12 sites (12 in 2021, 12 in 2020 and six in 2019) between January 1st and November 30th. There was one at Swanscombe Marshes on January 1st, which had been seen there in late December 2021 and may have been the same individual that was subsequently at Rainham Marshes from the 8th until late March. These are the first records for January and February, the previous earliest being March 11th 2018. This year's peak of 16 in September was the highest count since 19 birds were recorded in September 2018. Apart from this count, no other site held more than one, except for Rainham Marshes where up to three were seen.

Spoonbill: number of sites by month

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	4	3	1	-

Essex: Barking Bay/Marsh, one on Sep 21st. Rainham Marshes, imm from Jan 8th to Mar 22nd was joined by two adults on Mar 21st & 22nd, then one adult till Apr 8th, one on May 15th & 28th, two from Jun 3rd-5th, up to two from Jul 15th to Aug 22nd and two on Nov 26th & 30th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Oct 1st. Rye Meads, one on Oct 1st. Seventy Acres Lake, one

on Sep 30th. (Amwell NR, Rye Meads and Seventy Acres presumed to be same bird). Stocker's Lake, one on Jul 1st.

Bucks: Q Mother Res, one WSW on May 6th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Oct 12th. Crossness, one from Sep 21st-22nd. Southmere Park, 16 flew SW on Sep 10th. Swanscombe Marshes, one from Jan 1st-5th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Apr 11th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Status: scarce winter visitor, often returning to favoured sites.

Records were received from 11 sites (seven in 2021, six in 2020 and ten in 2019). Seven and six sites had records in the first and second winter period respectively, with the London

The watch point at Fisher's Green is a well-known spot to get good views of Bittern in winter. (Phil Ayles)



Wetland Centre and Seventy Acres Lake having individuals in both winter periods. The last overwintering bird was seen on April 9th (March 17th in 2021); there was a very early returning bird in July (the first in this month since 2017), otherwise the first returning bird was on September 9th (August 28th in 2021). As in previous years, the London Wetland Centre had the peak count with three in both winter periods. There was an unusual record of one heard calling over Banstead in November.

All records are given below, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster, one on Feb 21st. Manor Farm, Upminster, one on Jan 18th. Rainham Marshes, one on Mar 18th & 20th and Apr 2nd & 9th.

Herts: North Met Pit, one on Feb 12th. Rye Meads, one from Oct 13th-29th. Seventy Acres Lake, one from Jan 2nd-3rd & 9th and Sep 9th to Dec 31st. Stanstead Innings, one on Jan 12th.

Kent: Crossness, one on Dec 17th.

Surrey: Banstead, one calling at night on Nov 22nd. London Wetland Centre, up to three from Jan 1st to Mar 9th, one from Jul 24th-29th and up to three from Sep 13th to Dec 31st. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one from Nov 12th-13th.

Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Status: rare vagrant.

One at Brent Res was the first recorded since 2017 and the 16th record for the London Area. Seven of the 16 records have been in May.

Night-heron arrival dates 1970-2022: 16 records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	-	-	1	7	2	1	2	1	1	1	-

Middx: Brent Res, adult flew in at 8:07 and was later seen at dusk on May 2nd (A Self *et al*).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Status: rare visitor having increased in recent years.

Cattle Egrets were seen at 25 sites (29 in 2021 and 15 in 2020 and 2019). There were records in every month except June, with several individuals staying for extended periods. Rainham Marshes had the highest number of records, with a peak of eight in September (ten in November 2021)

All records are given below, summarised in some cases.

Cattle Egret: number of sites by month

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	5	2	3	5	5	-	3	5	5	6	3	1

Essex: Davy Down, one on Apr 16th. Hall Marsh Scrape, up to two on six dates from Jan 1st-12th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Jan 12th and on six dates from Sep 12th to Oct 2nd. Hooks Marsh Lake, one on Jan 23rd. KGV Res, two on Apr 25th & 27th. Mar Dyke Valley, up to two on eight dates from Feb 22nd to Apr 10th, two on May 6th and one on Nov 21st. Mayesbrook Park, one on Mar 29th. Purfleet, two from Jan 15th-19th and

on Feb 4th. Rainham Marshes, up to two from May 2nd-17th, one from Aug 10th-13th, up to four from Aug 26th to Oct 1st with eight on Sep 2nd & 3rd, one from Oct 29th-30th and up to two from Nov 18th to Dec 11th. Warren Gorge, singles on Apr 7th, May 17th and Sep 21st.

Herts: Amwell NR, two on Mar 23rd, singles on Apr 12th and Nov 19th. Cheshunt GP, one on Oct 6th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Aug 7th. St Albans, one on Sep 24th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on May 20th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Jul 27th. Staines Moor, one on six dates from Aug 5th-13th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, one on Aug 13th.

Kent: Orpington, one on May 24th. Swanscombe Marshes, two on Aug 31st and Sep 25th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Oct 1st. Brockwell Park, one on Oct 18th. Hershaw GP, three from Jan 1st-3rd. London Wetland Centre, one on Jul 7th. Richmond Park, singles on Jul 7th and Oct 9th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident.

Counts were made at 48 heronries, nearly back up to pre-Covid numbers (of which there were 53 in 2019), and the total number of 435 nests recorded this year approached pre-Covid numbers (471 nests recorded in 2019). Walthamstow Wetlands continues to be an important site with 28 nests, but this year, Gatton Park and Netherhall GP each had more with 32 nests. There was a noticeable increase at Amwell NR with 25 nests recorded (13 in 2021, 15 in 2020) and a decline at Bookham Common with only 11 nests recorded (16 nests in 2021 and 20 in 2020). The count of three nests at Regent's Park may be incomplete (12 in 2021, 28 in 2020). There was one new heronry at Northolt & Greenford CP. There were no reports from several heronries, but counts were received at other heronries for which no counts had been received in 2021 but counts had been received in prior years. All these heronries had fewer than five nests.

Grey Heron nests 2012-2022

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of nests	352	381	366	398	388	462	471	-	394	435

Outside the breeding season, the peak count was 40 at Beddington Farmlands in July, compared with 38 at Dagenham Chase in October 2021.

Below are breeding records with the number of nests in brackets and significant counts either away from known colonies or outside the breeding season. The LNHS thanks the BTO for permitting the use of data from its Heronries Census.

Essex: Connaught Water (4). Fairlop Waters (4). Holyfield Lake (5). Netherhall GP (32). Thorndon CP North (7). Valentines Park (1). Waltham Abbey Woods (10). Walthamstow Wetlands (28). Warren Gorge (16).

Herts: Amwell NR (25). Frogmore Lakes (1). Seventy Acres Lake (5). Stanborough Lakes (12). Stocker's Lake (16). Tyttenhanger GP (11). Verulamium Park (7).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (2). Boxer's Lake, Enfield (6). Brent Res (7). Frays Wildfowl Lake (9). Home Park (6). Kempton NR (2). Little Britain Lake (15). Northolt & Greenford CP (1). Osterley Park (2). Q. Mary GP (3).

Kent: Crossway Lake NR (15). Kelsey Park (21). Manor House Gdns (5). Sevenoaks WR (3). Swanscombe Marshes (5).

Surrey: Ashtead Park (1). Beddington Farmlands (4); 40 on Jul 27th. Bookham Common (11). Brentford Ait (14). Carshalton Ponds (8). Corporation Island (9). Epsom Common (2). Ewell Court Park (1). Gatton Park/Lake (32). Hogsmill NR (1). Leg O Mutton NR (10). London Wetland Centre, 21 on Sep 1st. Morden Hall Park (10). Richmond Park (6). R Thames: Putney Bridge to Battersea Bridge, 21 on Sep 10th. Thorpe Water Park (21).

In Lond: Battersea Park (13). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3); 15 on Nov 16th. Regent's Park (3+).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Status: scarce vagrant.

For the second year running, there was one record, this one from Beddington Farmlands in June, which becomes the tenth since 2000 and the 30th for the London Area. Unlike some of the other herons, there has been no increase in the number of records. It was the third June record; most records are in May.

Purple Heron records by decade 1956-2022: 30 records

Decade	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
No. of records	2	2	8	5	3	5	3	2

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Jun 5th (Z Pannifer, C Strudwick *et al*).

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Status: scarce but increasing visitor.

The increase in the London Area may have stalled as this species was seen in fewer sites this year than last year, being recorded at 50 sites (66 sites in 2021, 53 in 2020 and 38 in 2019). There were only five counts of two or more birds, with a peak of three at Rainham Marshes in January (and seven at Maple Lodge NR in October 2021). The highest numbers of site records were in January and December; last year's highest numbers were in February and March. Counts of more than one are given, along with sites that have more than ten records.

Great White Egret: number of sites by month

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	13	6	6	6	6	2	5	9	5	8	4	14

Essex: Reported from 12 sites (17 in 2021). North Ockendon, two on Oct 22nd. Rainham Marshes, at least one in every month except February, October and November, with three on Jan 1st and two on Jul 29th and Aug 13th. Walthamstow Wetlands, one on 31 dates from Nov 13th to Dec 31st.

Herts: Reported from 12 sites (19). Tyttenhanger GP, one on 33 dates from Sep 27th to Dec 15th.

Middx: Reported from 9 sites (11).

Bucks: Reported from 2 sites (3).

Kent: Reported from 8 sites (12).



Great White Egret has become a more regular bird in the London Area. This bird was at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth). (Dave Harris)

Surrey: Reported from 7 sites (4). Beddington Farmlands, singles on Jan 1st, Mar 19th & 26th, Apr 19th, 28th & 30th, Jul 17th, Oct 15th-22nd and Dec 21st. Richmond Park, two on Oct 10th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Status: scarce breeder and increasingly common winter visitor. **RBBP**

Breeding was confirmed from ten sites that all had nests in 2021; no report was received from Wraysbury GP (one nest in 2021). There was a total of 97 nests, which just exceeds the previous highest total for the London Area of 94 nests in 2019. The three largest colonies were at Walthamstow Wetlands (25 nests in both 2022 and 2021), Netherhall GP (16 in 2022, 8 in 2021) and Warren Gorge (12 in 2022, 8 in 2021).

Little Egret nests 2012-2022

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of nests	36	45	51	54	58	68	94	-	84	97

Outside the breeding season, the highest count of 48 came from Rainham Marshes, down from the peak count of 55 at Walthamstow Wetlands in 2021. They were recorded at six sites in Inner London (six sites were also recorded in 2021).

Below are all records of nests with the number in brackets, together with some notable counts for each sector outside the breeding season and all records for Inner London. Once again, the LNHS thanks the BTO for providing data from its Heronries Census.

Essex: Clay Tye Wood (2). Netherhall GP (16). Rainham Marshes, 48 on Jun 18th.

Walthamstow Wetlands (25); 40 on Dec 14th. Warren Gorge (12), 26 juv.

Herts: Amwell NR (8). Hilfield Park Res, 29 on Nov 30th. Maple Lodge NR, 37 on Aug 10th. Stanborough Lakes (10). Stocker's Lake (10). Verulamium Park (10).

Middx: Broadwater Lake (1). Little Britain Lake, 13 on Feb 14th.

Bucks: Wraysbury, 28 on Oct 24th.

Kent: Kelsey Park (3). Sevenoaks WR, 11 on Jan 7th.

Little Egret. (Phil Ayles)



Surrey: QE II Res, 24 on Jul 19th.

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, two on Jul 17th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Jul 25th. London Bridge, one on Dec 5th. Primrose Hill, singles on Mar 11th and Apr 16th. Regent's Park, one on Aug 16th. Victoria Park, singles on Mar 23rd and Sep 14th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Status: increasing breeding resident and common on suitable water-bodies elsewhere, especially in winter.

There were 229 pairs this year at six sites (compared with 216 pairs at seven sites in 2021). There was little change at the sites, with full counts in both years, apart from Amwell NR where there was a slight decrease from 41 to 34 pairs.

The peak count was 1,470 at Q. Mother Res on September 23rd, a considerable increase from the peak count of 820 at Staines Res in August 2021. This is the highest ever count in the London Area, beating the 1,316 seen at Staines Res on September 29th 2006, and is the first four-figure count since 1,106 were recorded at Q. Mary Res in September 2016.

The table below shows the monthly maxima at sites with larger numbers. Breeding records (with no. of pairs in brackets) and higher peak counts from other sites (excluding counts of flyovers) are shown below the table.

Cormorant	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Walthamstow Wetlands	111	30	117	50	78	117	48	240	300	280	65	102
MX Q. Mary Res	122	5	5	21	67	131	42	300	82	-	3	295
Staines Res	3	1	3	3	1	2	566	185	4	8	64	4
Wraysbury Res	18	-	-	-	3	7	61	310	418	-	12	-
BU Q. Mother Res	8	12	11	16	7	60	200	50	1470	700	4	1
SY Island Barn Res	29	18	13	42	56	19	10	20	20	30	83	22
QE II Res	190	140	95	55	35	43	116	392	195	270	171	235
Walton Res (K&B)	138	6	2	13	7	2	139	360	148	220	209	24
Wetland Centre	224	324	266	38	7	6	10	30	22	30	33	25

Essex: Holyfield Lake (35). KGV Res, 315 on Sep 1st. Walthamstow Wetlands (117). Warren Gorge, 126 at roost on Nov 1st.

Herts: Amwell NR (27). Hilfield Park Res, 75 on Oct 16th. Stocker's Lake (3).

Middx: Broadwater Lake (21). Q. Mary GP (26); 60 on Jan 29th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 50 on Aug 13th.

Kent: Crossness, 64 on Dec 17th.

Surrey: R Thames: Putney Bridge to Battersea Bridge, 96 on Dec 10th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, 160 on Feb 8th and 100 at roost on Nov 16th. Regent's Park, 120 at roost on Feb 25th.



Osprey Pandion haliaetus

Status: scarce passage migrant.

The total of 26 birds recorded this year is similar to the 25 recorded in 2021. There were 19 in spring and just seven in autumn.

The first was on March 9th at Rainham Village, with a further two birds in March, twelve in April and five in May (with the last on May 15th). The first bird of the autumn was on August 27th, followed by four in September and three in October (with the last on Oct 31st).

All records are given below.

Essex: Dagenham Chase, one S on Sep 13th. Gallions Reach, one on May 12th and juv on Oct 29th. KGV Res, one N on May 3rd. Rainham Marshes, singles S on Mar 9th, NW on Apr 10th and Oct 20th. Roding Valley Meadows NR, one on Aug 27th.

Herts: Watford, one SW on Mar 17th.

Middx: Bounds Green, one NW on Apr 9th. Oakwood, one on Mar 18th. KGVI Res, one W on Apr 9th. Warren Farm Sports Centre, one N on May 15th. West Harrow, one N on Apr 11th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one from SE on Apr 9th.

Kent: Crossness, one N on Apr 4th. Crystal Palace Park, one SE on Oct 31st. Kelsey Park, one on Sep 14th. Lamorbey Park, one NW on Apr 8th. Watermeadows OS, one W on Apr 6th. Woodlands Farm, Shooters Hill, one on Apr 9th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles N on Apr 10th and on May 2nd, also seen in Streatham Vale. Richmond Park, singles on Sep 12th & 22nd. Surbiton, one on May 14th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), one W on Apr 8th.

Honey-buzzard Pernis apivorus

Status: scarce visitor.

This year, there has been one accepted record in September. The table shows a reduction in the number of records since 2017. Descriptions would be very welcome for reported birds listed in App III.

Honey-buzzard records 2013-2022: 22 records, 22 birds

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of records	5	1	2	5	5	1	0	1	1	1

Surrey: Nore Hill, one on Sep 13th (B Thomas, SG Thomas).

Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus

Status: common breeding resident.

There was a noticeable decrease in the number of confirmed breeding records this year (from 19 to 14) and a greater decrease in the number of reported territories (from 51 to 28) but some of the decrease may be accounted for by the vagaries of reporting. Essex held the highest number of reported territories this year (held by Middlesex last year). The species was recorded at as many as 187 sites between May and July (285 sites in 2021), and hence the breeding figures almost certainly under-represent the number of breeding territories, although many of the site records will involve foraging birds breeding elsewhere.

Prey items included: Feral Pigeon, Collared Dove, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker, Blue Tit and Starling. Other species pursued included Mandarin Duck, Common Sandpiper, Woodpigeon, Ring-necked Parakeet, Carrion Crow, Redwing, Chaffinch and Goldfinch.

Sparrowhawk	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	9	2	5	0	2	10	0	28
Proved	5	1	2	0	1	5	0	14

Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus

Status: scarce but increasing passage migrant; has recently bred. **RBBP**

Over 71% of nearly 400 records came from Rainham Marshes and a further 15% from six other sites within the Lower Thames. The rest were from 26 sites away from the Lower Thames. One pair fledged two young at Rainham Marshes; another pair was present but it was not known if they attempted to breed. The exact number of birds remains difficult to establish, owing to the probable interchange of birds between sites and the probability of some birds remaining for more than one day. The highest daily total was seven birds at Rainham Marshes on January 19th.

All records are given below, summarised for some Lower Thames sites.

Essex: Dagenham Chase, singles on Jan 4th, Apr 3rd and Dec 17th. Gallions Reach, one on Dec 18th. Grays, one on Nov 9th. Ingrebourne Valley, singles on May 15th, Aug 24th and Oct 22nd. KGV Res, two on Nov 28th. Rainham Marshes (1+), present in every month with a peak of seven on Jan 19th. Walthamstow Marshes, one on Nov 25th. Woodford Green, one on Oct 15th.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Apr 10th & 27th and Dec 17th. Cheshunt GP, one on Jan 13th. Coursers Farm, one on Aug 25th. Coursers Road GP, singles on Aug 4th, 10th & 30th and on Sep 3rd. North Mymms Park, one on Aug 23rd. Rye Meads, singles on Feb 5th, April 4th-7th & 9th, Aug 31st and Dec 20th. Stocker's Lake, one on Apr 2nd. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Aug 16th, 20th & 27th, and from Sep 30th to Oct 1st. Wildhill, one on Sep 10th.

Middx: St Margarets, Twickenham, one flew S over a suburban garden on Aug 7th. Staines Moor, one on Dec 24th. Staines Res, singles on Apr 10th and Oct 11th.

Bucks: Horton GP, singles on Jan 7th and Dec 21st.

Kent: Crayford/Dartord Marshes, mostly singles seen every month, except April, June and August. Crossness, mostly singles seen in January, March, April, May, October, November and December. Swanscombe Marshes, mostly singles seen in every month, except August and November.

Surrey: Banstead, one flew over on Oct 11th. Beddington Farmlands, singles on Apr 7th & 25th, Jul 28th, Sep 13th and Oct 9th. Brockwell Park, one on Apr 18th. Hammersmith Bridge, one on Sep 20th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Aug 28th, Oct 17th & 23rd and Dec 22nd. QE II Res, one on Sep 24th. Richmond Park, one on Mar 16th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), singles on Feb 8th, Apr 8th & 14th, Oct 18th & 31st and Dec 22nd.

Marsh Harrier	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records	46	31	32	46	36	23	20	29	28	40	29	32
Records (not Lower Thames)	3	2	1	15	1	0	1	12	6	9	2	6

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Status: scarce migrant; formerly a regular winter visitor to the Thames-side marshes.

There were three accepted records but none from Rainham Marshes, which was the most reliable site in the London Area to see this species. It appears to be becoming scarcer in our area with about nine records each year between 2010-2019, but only two in 2020 and three in 2021 and 2022. Another record in September appears in App III, for which a description would be very welcome.

Essex: West Thurrock Marshes, one on Feb 3rd (P Lambert).

Herts: Stanborough GP, female/imm on Oct 24th (S Blake).

Kent: Oxleas Wood, male E on Mar 28th (J Reid).

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Status: rare vagrant.

One at Staines Moor in September was the first accepted record for the London Area. Nationally, there has been an increase in records of this species in recent years, so this is perhaps not totally unexpected. For a full account of the sighting see page 222. In 2015, the *BBRC* considered that one at Brent Res in August was either a Montagu's or Pallid Harrier.

Middx: Staines Moor, juv on Sep 1st (P Hyde, RE Innes, KL Purdey).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Status: increasingly common resident, and scarce breeder, fairly regular migrant.

There were over 4,700 records for this year, very close to the number of records last year. As usual, the number of records peaked in spring (see table below). The highest count was 32 at Langleybury on December 4th. Other gatherings of over 15 birds included 24 at roost at an undisclosed site in north-east Surrey on November 22nd (55 in 2021 and 74 in 2020); 21 at Ten Acres, Yeading on January 9th and 16 going to roost at Knockholt on November 15th. Carrion prey items observed being eaten by Red Kites include Rabbit and Black-headed Gull.

Red Kite records by month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	444	409	597	585	466	340	311	368	346	351	257	283

Red Kite by sector	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
Sightings	416	1739	1406	143	229	789	35
Percentage	9	36	29	3	5	17	1

The number of territories was 26 (compared with 21 in 2021 and 18 in 2020), with only four confirmed breeding reports (of which there were six in 2021 and nine in 2020).

Red Kite breeding pairs	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Number of sites in June	23	42	47	5	12	30	4	163
Territories	1	8	11	1	2	3	0	26
Confirmed	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4



Red Kite continues to do well and is seen frequently in the outer districts of London. (Dave Harris)

In Lond: 35 sightings, all singles except where indicated, from 18 sites (12 sightings from eight sites last year). Canada Water, Apr 20th. City of London, Apr 18th. Earl's Court, Mar 4th and May 27th. Farringdon, May 14th. Fulham, Jun 1st. Hammersmith Cemetery, Mar 26th and Apr 18th. Holborn, Apr 18th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Mar 9th, 24th & 26th, May 7th, Jul 9th (two) and Dec 14th. Lord's Cricket Ground, Jul 20th. Paddington, Nov 11th and Dec 15th. Paddington Green, Jun 28th. Pimlico, Apr 17th. Primrose Hill, Apr 10th and Sep 12th. Regent's Park, Feb 28th, Apr 14th (two), May 5th & 28th, Jun 1st, Aug 18th and Oct 8th. Russia Dock Woodland, May 12th. St James's Park, Aug 18th. Victoria, Jun 28th, Oct 30th and Nov 27th. Victoria Park, Apr 16th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Status: rare vagrant.

This year, there was one over Parliament Hill on Hampstead Heath in April; the first accepted record since 2018. This brings the total number of records for the London Area to 14, of which five have been in April. Descriptions would be very welcome for birds listed in App III.

Black Kite arrival dates 1979-2022: 14 records, 14 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	0	0	0	5	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	0

Middx: Hampstead Heath, one NW on Apr 21st (P Mantle).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Status: rare vagrant with birds from reintroduction schemes.

A released individual from the Isle of Wight reintroduction scheme was seen in Essex and Middlesex on the same day in March and again in April. Another bird was seen in Hertfordshire in March that may have been the same bird. Descriptions would be very welcome for reported birds listed in App III.

Essex: Walthamstow Wetlands, imm G818 on Mar 30th (C Farthing). Dagenham Chase, imm G818 on Apr 27th (V Halley-Frame).

Herts: Panshanger Park, one E on Mar 29th (A Wan).

Middx: Lower Clapton, immature G818 on Mar 30th (BirdGuides).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Status: common breeder in the outer parts of the London Area; regular migrant/visitor.

There were 79 territories reported this year (65 territories in 2021, 40 in 2020 and 67 in 2019), and the number of pairs proved breeding was 15 (29 pairs in 2021, 15 in 2020 and 30 in 2019). The annual variation in these figures probably reflects changes in reporting and interpretation rather than changes in abundance, except for in 2020 where the reduction may reflect restrictions due to Covid-19. The Essex sector held the highest totals, as in the previous two years.

Buzzard	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	22	16	20	0	4	17	0	79
Proved	10	2	2	0	0	1	0	15
Young fledged (min.)	20	0	2	0	0	1	0	23

The maximum spring count was at least 35 over Richmond Park on April 26th, with other double-figure counts including at least 20 over Beddington Farmlands on Apr 9th and Richmond Park on May 5th, and 17 at Canons Farm on Mar 15th. The maximum autumn count was at least 16, also over Richmond Park on October 6th, and 16 over Orpington on October 18th. Other double-figure counts in autumn included 15 over Balham on August 26th, 13 over Brent Res on September 3rd, 12 over Leatherhead on September 14th and 15 over Richmond Park on September 28th.

In Lond: Reported from 16 sites (ten last year). Battersea Park, Camberwell, Farringdon, Holborn, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Kennington, Lincoln's Inn Fields, Mayfair, Mile End Park, Paddington Green, Primrose Hill, Regent's Park, Russia Dock Woodland, South Bank, Tate Modern and Victoria Park.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Status: common winter visitor; scarce breeder.

Reported numbers in the first and last four months of the year were 159 and 188 (176 and 165 in 2021). Records came from 115 sites (compared with 116 last year), including four sites in Inner London (six sites last year). Probable or confirmed breeding was recorded at four sites.

Below are counts of five or more birds, along with breeding records (no. of pairs/territories are in brackets) and all records for Inner London.

Water Rail: winter totals of birds

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
First winter	32	36	14	4	24	45	4	159
Second winter	41	41	24	1	25	54	2	188

Essex: Dagenham Chase, six on Jan 9th. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Rainham Marshes (5+); peak of 12 on Mar 14th. Warren Gorge, five on Dec 13th.

Herts: Amwell NR, peak of six on Jan 9th. Rye Meads (2); five on Nov 19th and Dec 24th. Seventy Acre Lake, five on Dec 11th.

Kent: Crossness (1). Foots Cray Meadows, seven on Dec 16th. Swanscombe Marshes, 5 on Mar 29th.

Middx: Princes Lake, six on Dec 16th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, peak of eight on Jan 9th. London Wetland Centre, peak of 16 on three dates in December. South Norwood CP, seven on Nov 25th and five on Dec 12th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), peak of seven on Nov 25th.

In Lond: Burgess Park, up to two on four dates in January. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Feb 16th. Regent's Park, one on 12 dates from Jan 3rd to Feb 17th, and one on six dates from Oct 31st to Dec 13th. Russia Dock Woodland, one from Dec 12th-14th.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Status: very common breeding resident.

Moorhens were reported from 726 sites (compared with 300 in 2021), including 74 in Inner London (17 last year). The reason for these increases is reporting or interpretation differences although the Breeding Bird Survey shows a 30% increase in London from 2016-21. Evidence of breeding was reported at 84 sites, including four in Inner London. Most notable was a pair with chick in the lion enclosure at London Zoo.

Below are breeding records (in brackets) from sites with five or more pairs/territories and peak counts from sites with 35 or more.

Essex: Barking Park, 43 on Jan 30th. Connaught Water, 40 on Oct 14th. Cornmill Meadows, 42 on Nov 12th. Dagenham Chase, 39 on Jul 15th. Harrow Lodge Park, 72 on Oct 21st. Ingrebourne Valley, 44 on Feb 22nd. Mar Dyke Valley, 62 on Feb 22nd. QE

Olympic Park, 36 on Jan 23rd. Rainham Marshes (16+); 100 on Jul 6th. Walthamstow Wetlands, 61 on Dec 10th. Wanstead Flats, 62 on Aug 20th. Wanstead Park, 65 on Mar 20th. Warren Gorge, 40 on Dec 4th.

Herts: Maple Lodge NR, 37 on Sep 27th. Ruislip Lido, 35 on Feb 20th. Rye Meads (53); 77 on Sep 9th.

Middx: Brent Res, 53 on Dec 18th. Bushy Park, 57 on Jan 30th. Tottenham Marshes (6). Walpole Park, 47 on Nov 19th.

Kent: Danson Park, 36 on Dec 15th. Lamorbey Park, 40 on Dec 3rd. South Mere, 62 on Apr 12th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (41 territories); 170 on Dec 12th. Crystal Palace Park, 35 on Oct 9th. Holmethorpe SP, 37 on Jan 23rd. Kew Gardens, 50 on May 7th. London Wetland Centre, 182 on Feb 21st. Priory Park, Reigate, 40 on Nov 13th. R Wandle: Butter Hill to Morden Hall Park (45 territories). R Wandle: Carshalton Ponds to Wandsworth, 148 on Dec 27th. R Wandle: Mitcham Bridge to Morden Hall Tram Crossing, 35 on Jan 22nd.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 52 on Aug 19th. London Zoo (1). Regent's Park (1); 44 on Sep 15th. Russia Dock Woodland (1). St James's Park (1); 50 on Feb 8th and Aug 26th.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Coots were reported from 611 sites this year (336 last year), including 81 in Inner London (30 last year). Like Moorhen, the reason for this increase is reporting or interpretation differences. Breeding was reported at 91 sites (125 in 2021 and 174 in 2020). The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 22% decline in the South East from 2011-2021. The highest count was 1,174 on Holyfield Marsh on October 8th, an increase from 963 at KGV Res on September 12th 2021.

Below are peak site counts of over 300 (200 in Inner London) and breeding records of five or more pairs (no. of pairs/broods in brackets).

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (10). Highams Park (16). Holyfield Marsh, 1,174 on Oct 8th. KGV Res, 1,143 on Oct 8th. Rainham Marshes, 350 on Jul 1st. Walthamstow Wetlands (5); 737 on Sep 10th. Wanstead Park (8). William Girling Res, 601 on Aug 14th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 305 on Nov 12th. Broxbourne GP (5). Cheshunt GP (46); 300 on Jan 1st. Rye Meads (69); 370 on Oct 6th. Troy Mill Lake, 397 on Dec 24th.

Middx: Brent Res, 472 on Sep 8th. Bushy Park (5). Hampstead Heath (5). Q. Mary Res, 341 on Jan 22nd. Stain Hill Res, 334 on Oct 9th. Wraysbury Res, 614 on Aug 14th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (70 territories); 330 on Oct 10th. Holmethorpe SP, 338 on Nov 13th. Island Barn Res, 332 on Sep 5th. R Wandle: Butter Hill to Morden Hall Park (14 territories). Waddon Ponds (6). Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), 451 on Sep 11th.

In Lond: Breeding reported from eight sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 232 on Feb 16th.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

After two years with no accepted records, there were four during 2022. There have now been 36 records this century, all of single birds, which includes eight years with none.



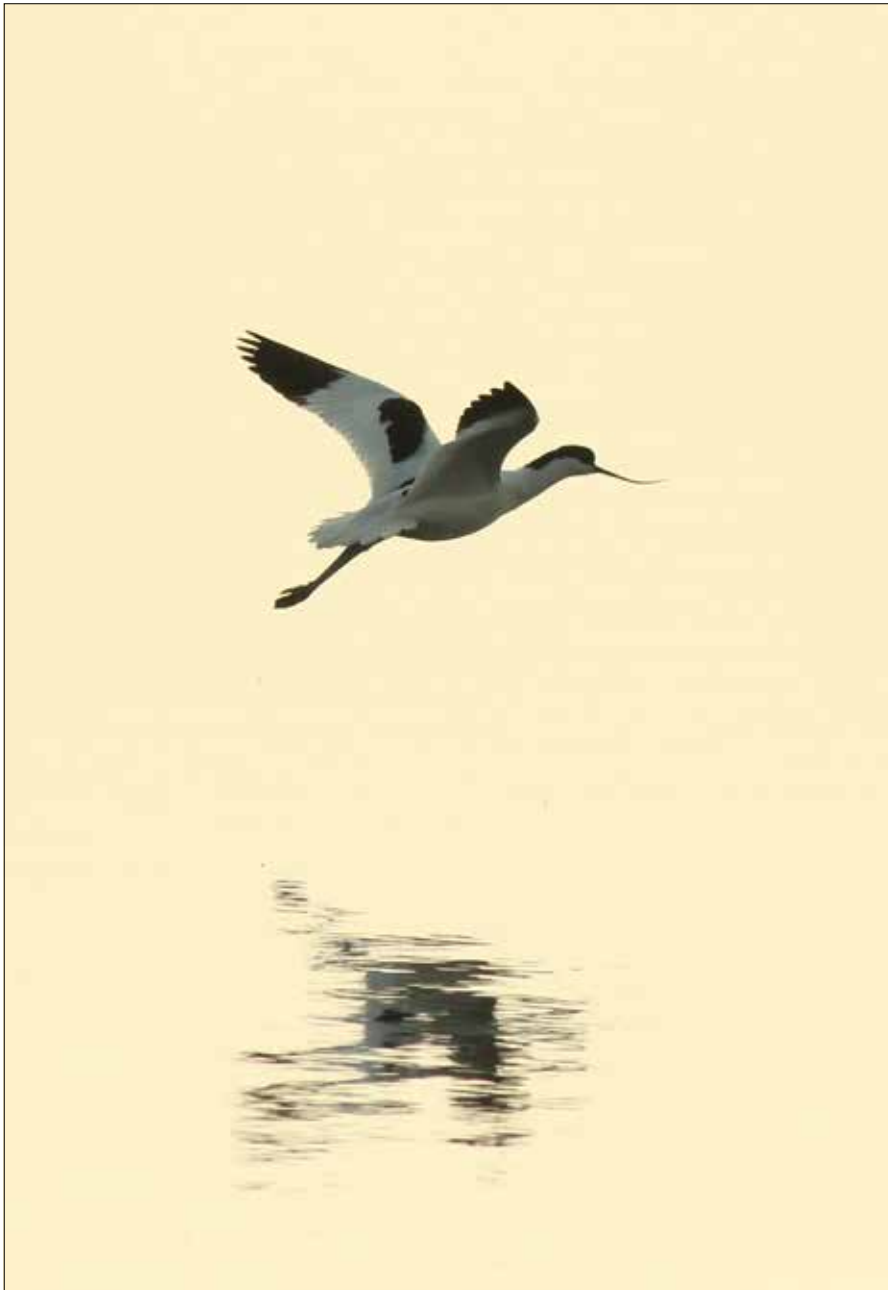
This Coot was photographed at Greenwich Park. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

The best years during this period have been 2007, 2008, 2013 and now 2022 with four records.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one flew over the Thames on Sep 23rd (A Self).

Herts: St Albans, one sound recorded passing overhead at 23:00 on Mar 22nd (C Ruis). Stanborough GP, one on Mar 29th (R Evershed *et al*).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one flushed at 08:50 on Apr 29th (G Jones, C Owens).



Avocet continues to do well in London. (Dave Harris)

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Status: localised breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Oystercatchers were seen in all months of the year, although the majority of records were between late January and the end of September. Records in January and from October to December are typically unusual in the area, but this year there were regular reports of one or two on the Thames at the beginning of the year, and seven sites produced records in the last three months - mostly away from the Thames.

Eight confirmed breeding pairs were reported, with three at Rainham Marshes, two at the London Wetland Centre and single pairs at Crossness, Tyttenhanger GP and Wraysbury GP. As usual, Oystercatchers were reported from localities all over the London Area on passage and during the summer, and as many as 17 additional pairs may have been present, with regular presence at nine sites during the breeding season in addition to those already mentioned.

In Lond: Tower Bridge, one on structure near HMS Belfast on Jul 7th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Status: rare vagrant.

One at Beddington Farmlands on May 3rd was the thirteenth record for the London Area, and was on a typical spring date. The four records since 2016 have been during the spring between April 8th and May 10th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, female stayed for the afternoon on May 3rd (Z Pannifer, A Ramesh *et al*).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Status: scarce visitor in all months of the year, with small numbers wintering on Lower Thames; occasional breeder. **RBBP**

Avocets continue to reinforce their status in the London Area, with at least two of the 18 pairs present at Rainham Marshes during the breeding season hatching chicks. The maximum single count during the year was 62 at Dartford Marshes in December, but all months produced counts of at least 22. Ten sites away from the Lower Thames had passage records between March 1st and May 14th, or from June 21st to September 4th.

All records are given, summarised in places.

Essex: Barking Bay/Marsh, nine on Sep 21st & 23rd. Beckton SW, one on Jan 1st. Holyfield Lake, two on Mar 1st. KGV Res, four on Jul 11th. Rainham Marshes, 18 pairs summered, with at least two hatching chicks; peaks counts were of 50 on Jan 21st and 51 on Dec 17th & 29th. Walthamstow Wetlands, one on Mar 14th, five on Mar 29th and Apr 11th, and one on Jun 21st. West Thurrock Marshes, 57 on Feb 3rd.

Middx: Kempton NR, one on Apr 11th. Q. Mary Res, one on Mar 20th. Staines Res, singles on Feb 19th and Sep 22nd.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, peaks of 33 on Jan 3rd and 43 on Dec 6th. Crossness, up to nine irregularly during the year. Dartford Marshes, peaks of 41 on Jan 19th and 62 on Dec 20th. Erith Reach, peak of 48 on Dec 30th. Swanscombe Marshes, one on Jan 14th and four on Dec 25th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Apr 11th & 29th. London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 15th, two on Apr 26th and one on Jul 28th & 31st. QE II Res, singles on Mar 20th, May 9th & 14th and Sep 4th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), one on Apr 29th.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Status: widespread breeding species, common winter visitor and passage migrant.

The total number of breeding pairs/territories was lower than last year, with 141 reported from 35 sites (compared with 179 pairs from 41 sites in 2021), but this was similar to the numbers in 2020 (143 pairs from 35 sites). This includes sites where no breeding activity was reported but pairs were seen on several dates during April, May and June.

Numbers were generally fairly low during the winter periods, with counts of 100 or more from just 20 sites. Rainham Marshes remains the main wintering locality, with counts of at least 500 reported on 20 dates during the year, while there were only seven counts of at least 250 from other sites, and all but two of these were from Sevenoaks WR.

Below are sector totals for breeding pairs/territories, high counts for each sector and all records for Inner London.

Essex: 71 pairs/territories. Gallions Reach, 167 on Dec 18th. Hall Marsh Scrape & Hooks Marsh Lake, 200 on Jan 27th. Rainham Marshes (67 territories); peaks of 1,000 in February and Dec 4th.

Herts: 18 pairs/territories. Rye Meads, 236 on Dec 7th.

Middx: 12 pairs/territories. Highest count was 112 at Staines Res on Jan 23rd.

Bucks: One pair/territory. Highest count was 30 at Horton Brook Quarry on Jun 20th.

Kent: 8 pairs/territories. Crayford Marshes, 300 on Dec 4th. Dartford Marshes, 200 on Dec 8th. Otford, 207 on Jan 15th. Sevenoaks WR, peaks of 270 on Jan 28th and 400 on Dec 23rd.

Surrey: 31 pairs/territories. Beddington Farmlands (11 territories); 195 on Dec 20th. Hershams GP, 220 on Dec 22nd. London Wetland Centre (9 territories); 119 on Dec 19th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), 200 on Dec 22nd.

In Lond: City Hall, one on R Thames foreshore on Dec 12th & 14th. Fulham, two on Dec 16th.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Status: regular winter visitor to parts of the area, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor elsewhere.

The northern and eastern parts of the area continue to produce the bulk of Golden Plover records, with four-fifths of this year's 126 records coming from the Hertfordshire and Essex sectors. The highest single count came from Rainham Marshes, but only one other of the 19 counts of 50 or more came from Essex, compared with 17 from Hertfordshire. Fairly large winter flocks were present at three localities in Hertfordshire, but only Stanborough GP had birds reported during both winter periods. A much smaller flock was also present at Fairlop Waters, Essex in both winter periods.

Many records involved birds flying overhead, with evidence of cold weather movements at both ends of the year but especially in mid-December when there were also reports at sites where they would not usually be seen following snow falls. Several large counts



Golden Plover winter in London in small numbers. (Phil Ayles)

came from London Colney but only during April, which may indicate spring passage, with the last eight of the spring reported from this site on April 19th. The first returning bird of the autumn was at Amwell NR on August 28th, with no more reported until October 8th when a nocturnal migrant was sound recorded over Wanstead Flats.

Below are sector totals where reported and high counts for each sector.

Essex: Reported from 13 sites. Fairlop Waters, peaks of 40 on Jan 30th and 29 on Dec 3rd & 12th. North Weald Bassett, 50 on Jan 1st. Rainham Marshes, peak of 200 on Jan 2nd.

Herts: Reported from 15 sites. Hatfield Garden Village, peak of 136 on Dec 8th. London Colney, peak of 191 on Apr 8th. Stanborough GP, peaks of 59 on Apr 2nd and 150 on Nov 26th. Theobalds Park Farm, peak of 60 on Mar 2nd.

Middx: Reported from four sites. Q. Mary Res, ten with Lapwings on Dec 17th.

Bucks: Reported from two sites. Iver, 40 flew over on Jan 3rd.

Kent: Reported from three sites. Sidcup, 40 flew NW on Mar 21st.

Surrey: Reported from six sites. Hershams GP, five on Dec 20th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor.

At the beginning of the year, there were just two January records, both on the 2nd at Rainham Marshes and over West Horndon. Spring passage then involved about 23 individuals



This Grey Plover was at QE2 Reservoir. (Dave Harris)

at six sites, including reservoirs and gravel pits, between March 20th and May 28th.

The first autumn migrant was at Staines Res on September 21st, with 20-25 then recorded before the end of September, including counts of five at both Crayford Marshes and Rainham Marshes on 25th. Small numbers were then recorded regularly from sites on the R Thames from October 1st until the end of the year, with the highest single count being ten at Rainham Marshes on December 9th. An additional December record involved one at Walthamstow Wetlands on 13th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Status: localised breeder and winter visitor; common passage migrant.

During the first winter period, there were records from eight sites along the Lower Thames between January 7th and March 9th, with maximum counts of eight at Crossness on January 26th and Erith Reach on February 7th. Away from the Thames, there were three at the London Wetland Centre on February 15th.

Spring passage commenced on April 15th, with two at Aldenham CP, and continued until at least June 8th, with records from 16 localities. Flocks of 49 at Rainham Marshes on May 11th and 28 at Courser's Road GP were the highest counts but most reports involved four or less. For the third consecutive year, no observers reported breeding attempts in the area, but there was a juvenile reported at Rainham Marshes on June 11th - perhaps locally bred, but potentially indicating the start of autumn passage. Return migration was certainly underway by mid-July and continued until November 1st, with records coming from 18 sites including maximum counts of 13 at both QE II Res and Rainham Marshes on August 23rd. There were no reports after November 1st.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. **RBBP**

Stanborough GP and Staines Res both recorded their first Little Ringed Plovers of the year on the early date of March 3rd (the earliest date in March this century with only February 27th in 2010 being earlier), with a more widespread arrival from March 10th onwards. Migrants passing through the area are very difficult to separate from breeding pairs, but a count of 16 at Stanborough GP on April 10th was likely to include passage migrants.

Breeding numbers were again low, but with nine confirmed breeding pairs and 22 pairs present, there was a slight improvement on the very low totals reported in 2021 (5 confirmed pairs, 20 present in total).

Little Ringed Plover	Pairs confirmed breeding	Pairs probably breeding	Other pairs present	Total
Essex	3	0	0	3
Herts	6	1	4	11
Middx	0	0	2	2
Bucks	0	0	1	1
Kent	0	0	2	2
Surrey	0	3	0	3
Total	9	4	9	22



Little Ringed Plover is one of the earliest Spring arrivals. (Eugene Dillon-Hooper)

The summer and autumn saw peak counts of 15 at Stanborough GP on June 29th and July 1st, and 13 at Rainham Marshes on July 30th. The final report of the year was of one at Rainham Marshes on August 30th, which is slightly earlier than usual, with September - or even early October - records in most recent years.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Status: regular passage migrant.

As tends to be the case for this species, passage migrants, including some only seen passing overhead, were recorded from widely scattered locations across the whole recording area, although the majority of records came from reservoirs and sites along the Thames.

Numbers during the spring were down on recent years, with 150-180 recorded between April 11th (at Dartford Marshes) and May 20th - the lowest spring total since 2016 when

about 112 were reported. The highest single count was 13 flying south-east over Headley Heath on May 7th, with no other count being above six. Neither were very many seen during the autumn, with a maximum of just 18 between July 10th and September 25th (at London Wetland Centre) and no more than two reported together.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

Curlew were present in the London Area throughout the year, with the majority seen at localities along the R Thames in the Essex and Kent sectors. Double-figure counts were reported regularly until April and again from October, with the highest being 19 at Rainham Marshes on October 10th. The lowest numbers were between April 24th and September 11th, when four at Rainham Marshes from July 20th to 24th was the only count above three.

Away from the Thames, there were 36 records from 14 widely-scattered sites during all months except August and September. Of these, 18 records were between March 2nd and May 31st during spring passage and 12 were during autumn passage between June 17th and October 20th. The highest count away from the Thames was three at Stanborough GP on March 5th.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

Between January 13th and February 16th, there were winter records of up to two birds from Rainham Marshes, London Wetland Centre and Crossness on four dates, with at least four individuals involved.

The first two spring migrants were at the London Wetland Centre on April 1st, but no more were then reported until the period between April 22nd and May 12th when between 190 and 250 birds passed through the area. Peak passage was during the last four days of April, with flocks of 46 at Crossness and 38 at Barking Bay on April 27th (which could have potentially involved movement between the sites) and smaller numbers recorded from many other localities. Away from the Thames, the largest spring counts were 13 at Q. Mother Res and seven at Rye Meads - both on April 23rd.

A maximum of just six individuals were recorded during the autumn, with one at Rainham Marshes on July 29th and then one or two at Barking Bay, Crossness and Rainham Marshes between September 18th and 22nd.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

The first winter period saw counts of 100 or more birds made on several days in January at two sites on the Lower Thames, including peaks of 170 at Rainham Marshes on January 7th and 130 at Erith Reach on January 12th. Away from the Thames, one was reported from the London Wetland Centre on January 30th.

Spring passage saw eight sites away from the Thames visited between March 22nd and April 22nd, although no more than five birds at a time were seen at any of these sites. Spring counts on Lower Thames sites peaked in the second half of April, with 76 at

Rainham Marshes, before rapidly falling away before the last two birds of the spring were seen on May 14th.

The first returning bird of the autumn was seen at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) on June 26th, with seventeen sites away from the Thames visited between then and the end of October. The highest autumn count was 166 at Crossness on October 12th, with the maximum count away from the Thames being 17 birds at William Girling Res on July 13th.

The second winter period saw the highest count of Black-tailed Godwits in the London Area, when 750 were recorded at Rainham Marshes on December 8th; the previous highest was 620 in January 2012. During November and December, there were another five counts of 200 or more at Rainham Marshes and Erith Reach. There were also reports of up to four birds from four sites away from the Thames.

*Autumn passage numbers of Black-tailed Godwit were impressive in 2022.
This bird was at Walthamstow Wetlands in May. (Ann Playford)*



Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

Small numbers were recorded at Swanscombe Marshes during both winter periods, with up to five present from early January until April 13th and up to two between November 23rd and December 8th. The only other winter record was seven at Grays Riverside on February 3rd - the highest single count of the year.

Spring passage from April 29th to May 16th involved just 12 individuals at six sites: Rainham Marshes, and reservoirs in north and west London. In autumn, 23 birds passed through eight sites between July 25th and October 15th, again with passage migrants seen at both sites along the Thames and at various reservoirs.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

It was an extremely poor year for this species, with just two birds seen during the year. This is the lowest number recorded in the London Area since 1989, when there was just a single record of two birds. The only years since 1989 that had fewer than ten records were 1992 and 2001, each with six records.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, singles on Feb 13th (G Stewart) and Sep 2nd (P Hart).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Status: regular passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Rainham Marshes remains the only regular wintering location of this bird, with maximum winter counts of five on February 5th and seven on December 7th. The only other winter record came from Crayford Marshes, where there was one bird on November 4th.

Spring passage was between March 19th and May 16th, with several counts of five at Rainham Marshes during this period. The only spring records from elsewhere were ten at Rye Meads on March 22nd and ten flying over St Albans on May 17th.

Return passage commenced on August 7th and continued until at least October 21st. Nine widely scattered localities produced records during the autumn, with the highest single count being six at Rainham Marshes on October 6th.

All records are given below, summarised in places.

Essex: KGV Res, one on Sep 9th. Rainham Marshes, up to two regularly during January and February, with four on Feb 5th; peak passage counts of five on Apr 5th & 16th and six on Oct 5th, then up to four regularly, with a maximum of seven on Dec 7th.

Herts: Amwell NR, four on Sep 29th. Coursers Farm/Coursers Road GP, one from Aug 30th to Sep 7th, two from Sep 8th-9th, one on Sep 10th and one from Oct 20th-21st. Rye Meads, ten on Mar 22nd. St Albans, ten flew over on May 17th.

Middx: Staines Res, singles regularly between Sep 18th and Oct 2nd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Aug 29th and Sep 1st-3rd and two on Oct 8th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Nov 4th. Crossness, singles on Sep 21st & 23rd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Sep 19th & 30th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Sep 1st, 5th & 18th. QE II Res, one on Sep 22nd. Walton Res, (Chelsea & Lambeth), one on Aug 7th.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, mainly in autumn.

At least seven individuals were seen during the year, with one in the spring and six or seven on return passage in the autumn. This was a fairly typical showing.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 23rd & 25th and two on Sep 24th.

Middx: Staines Res, juv on Sep 23rd with another, or the same, bird on 25th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two on Sep 14th.

Kent: Crossness, one on Sep 22nd.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.

Around 65 birds were recorded this year, compared with 73 in 2021 - the lowest total since 2010. As is typical, spring records dominated with 57 birds, then seven birds in autumn and one in winter.

There were two birds in April: singles at Q. Mother Res on 10th and QE II Res on 26th. The main passage began on May 7th, with one at Rainham Marshes, then migrants were seen almost daily until the end of the month. The western half of London received the vast majority of birds, with the bulk recorded at Q. Mother Res and QE II Res; elsewhere there were records from KGV Res, Q. Mary Res, Staines Res, Stanborough GP and Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough). The highest count was eight at Q. Mother Res on May 29th. In the east, there were odd records on the Thames at Dartford and Rainham Marshes and at Cheshunt Gps, and five birds were at Walthamstow Wetlands on May 11th. The last spring migrants were three in the first week of June: at Rainham Marshes on 2nd, Coursers Road GP on 5th and KGV Res on 6th.

The return passage began on July 23rd, with one at Q. Mother Res, followed by singles at Coursers Road GP on July 26th, Q. Mother Res on August 4th, 6th & 17th, QE II Res on August 19th and finally Q. Mother Res again on October 20th. The sole winter record was at KGV Res on December 13th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The highest winter count along the Thames was 1,851 at Rainham Marshes on December 13th, compared with 1,100 last year.

Dunlin peak site counts along Lower Thames marshes

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	1100	1100	1100	15	95	1851
West Thurrock Marshes	-	330	-	-	-	-
KT Crayford/Dartford Marshes	1000	500	-	5	1000	1000
Crossness	150	300	3	1	200	340
Erith	400	-	-	-	150	200

Dunlin records away from Lower Thames

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	0	1	7	9	12	7	7	11	9	5	6	1
No. of records	0	1	19	13	27	11	16	19	23	11	6	1
Minimum no. of birds	0	1	30	14	54	21	20	36	43	26	37	1

It was a very poor year for 'downed' passage migrants, with prolonged spells of fine weather allowing birds to pass straight overhead unseen. The only double-figure counts were a flock of 28 over Horton Brook Quarry on November 15th, 19 on the adjacent Q. Mother Res on September 22nd and ten at the same site on October 20th.

In Lond: Charing Cross Hospital, one brought into the nest by a Peregrine on Mar 4th.

A Dunlin at Walthamstow Wetlands. (Sam O'Donnell)



Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Status: rare late autumn and winter visitor.

2022 was a good year, with two records of this less than annual visitor. Since 2000, there have been two records in three other years: 2003, 2006 and 2018. The record from Q. Mother Res is particularly noteworthy, as spring birds are exceptionally rare, and this is the first ever May record in the London Area.

Purple Sandpiper arrival dates 1900-2022 :48 records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Arrival dates	2	3	2	-	1	-	1	5	6	8	15	5

Essex: KGV Res, one on Sep 17th (N Smith).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on May 3rd (CDR Heard).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Status: scarce passage migrant in variable, but usually small numbers, rare in winter.

One bird was recorded at the end of spring migration and eight were present in autumn, of which four were in a single flock. Last year, there were no spring records and 13 in autumn.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Sep 21st.

Herts: Coursers Road GP, one on Jun 5th, four on Sep 29th, with two remaining to Oct 8th and one until Oct 15th.

Middx: Staines Res, one on Sep 22nd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one from Sep 22nd-23rd.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, one on Oct 1st.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Status: localised breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were records from 37 sites during January and February, which is about average after last year's high count of 52 sites. The highest count was just three at several sites, also well below the peak of 13 in 2021. There was an obvious passage during March when birds were seen at 30 sites (33 in 2021); most records were of single birds, with no counts higher than three. The last spring migrant was at Brent Res on April 5th.

Roding birds were recorded at three locations, but the only site with a record between May and July was Epsom Common.

In autumn, the only October records were from Tilehouse Lakes on 28th and Hampstead Heath on 31st. There was a large arrival during the last two months of the year, with records from 55 locations compared with 47 last year. The peak counts were 16 in the Ingrebourne Valley on November 18th and 13 at North Ockenden on November 30th.

In Lond: Chelsea, one W on Dec 12th. City of London, one found dead and another dazed on Nov 17th, and one grounded on Nov 24th. Fulham, one flew over on Dec 17th. Lambeth, one found dead on Dec 11th. Primrose Hill, one on Mar 14th. St Bartholomew's Hospital, one flew S on Mar 7th. St Pancras, one flew SE on Nov 7th. Victoria Park, one flew E on Dec 15th.



Jack Snipe usually remain unseen, relying on supreme camouflage to stay hidden. This bird, at Walthamstow Wetlands, strayed out into the open allowing wonderful views. (Phil Ayles)

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

There were no influxes, despite some cold spells, and the usual three sites recorded the highest counts, with a peak of 11 at Beddington Farmlands on January 30th and December 15th and at Rye Meads on December 2nd, while at the London Wetland Centre there were seven on January 1st and 12th.

Monthly totals of peak counts for each sector are given below, followed by a selection of sites in each winter period (first winter:second winter).

Jack Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	2	5	4	4	-	1	2	1	11
Herts	4	4	5	2	-	1	8	12	15
Middx	3	3	2	-	-	-	1	3	7
Bucks	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Kent	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Surrey	19	13	10	11	-	2	5	8	15
Monthly total	30	25	22	18	-	4	16	25	53

Essex: Walthamstow Wetlands (0:4).

Herts: Rye Meads (5:11). Stanborough GP (0:4).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (11:11). London Wetland Centre (7:4).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, former scarce breeder.

Six sites recorded totals of 30 or more birds between January and March, the same as the last two years; however, the highest count of 142 at Beddington Farmlands on January 1st was higher than the previous two years. Other peak counts were 98 at Rainham Marshes on January 1st, 50 at Broxbourne GP on January 14th and 50 at London Wetland Centre on January 1st.

There was not much sign of migration during spring, and two sites still retained good numbers in April with peaks of 37 at Rainham Marshes on 18th and 25 at London Wetland Centre on 2nd. Small numbers lingered through into June, with the last birds being at Rainham Marshes on 4th, London Wetland Centre on 8th and Staines Moor on 14th.

The first returning bird was at Rye Meads on July 16th followed by a handful of birds at a further six sites during the month. Numbers increased rapidly from the beginning of August, with a peak of nine at Rainham Marshes and Q. Mother Res in August rising to 18 at Staines Moor in September. Unlike last year, there was no further surge during the last three months of the year, with numbers only gradually rising at the main sites and peaking at 44 at Beddington Farmlands on December 14th.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, one on Mar 24th.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Status: rare passage migrant.

The sole record was of a juvenile which spent eight days on a Lee Valley reservoir - the first record since 2018. The previous three records have all been juveniles on large concrete reservoirs.

Essex: KGV Res, one from Sep 1st-8th (I Lycett *et al*).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Status: rare visitor, normally in late autumn and winter.

As with the previous species, this phalarope is typically seen in autumn on the large reservoirs. This year's bird was at Staines Res. They may have been occurring more frequently since 2000, as shown in the table below.

Grey Phalarope records by decades since 1990s: 39 records, 39 birds

Decade	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
No. of records	7	15	15	2

Middx: Staines Res, one from Oct 9th-10th (KL Purdey, RE Innes *et al*).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

The main wintering area is along the Lower Thames; there were records from 12 sites between January and March, with peaks of 13 at Rainham Marshes on January 24th and six at Crayford Marshes on March 9th. Elsewhere, one to two birds were seen at six sites.

Spring migration began at Beddington Farmlands on April 10th, but only a few arrivals were seen until the 18th when four were at the same site. Migrants then became more

This Common Sandpiper was photographed at Walthamstow Wetlands in August. (Phil Ayles)



widespread but numbers were relatively low, with London-wide peaks of 20 on April 26th and 29th and 34 on May 4th. The last spring migrants were two at Sevenoaks WR on June 6th.

Just ten days later the first autumn migrant was seen - at Brent Res on June 16th. A further six sites recorded migrants during June but passage really got going in July, especially towards the end of the month when there were high counts of 12 at both KGV Res on 23rd and Walthamstow Wetlands on 30th. Peak counts in August were at the same two Lee Valley sites, with 20 at KGV Res on 6th, 17th and 20th and at Walthamstow Wetlands on 25th. The only other sites with double-figure counts were Staines Res with 10 on 9th and Swanscombe Marshes with 13 on 11th and 19th. Across London, the peak day was August 25th when 54 birds were counted. Unusually, the year's highest count occurred in September when 21 were seen at Crayford Marshes on 2nd. There were also counts of ten or more at four other sites during the first week of the month, with the autumn migration tailing off after the middle of September.

In the last three months of the year there were records from 26 sites, with a high of six at Swanscombe Marshes on October 1st.

In Lond: Battersea Bridge, one on Sep 22nd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on May 10th, five on May 15th, one on Jul 10th, and two on Aug 16th and Sep 10th. Regent's Park, one on May 4th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Status: widespread winter visitor and passage migrant (mainly in autumn).

During the first two months of the year birds were seen at 29 locations (30 in 2021); the highest counts were 11 at Beddington Farmlands on February 16th and nine at Rainham Marshes on January 16th. Spring passage was unusually light in March with a more widespread movement in April, particularly in the middle two weeks, ending abruptly on May 8th. Apart from one at Swanscombe Marshes on May 17th, the last birds were two at Ingrebourne Valley on June 3rd.

For the third year in a row, the first autumn migrants arrived on June 10th, with four at Ingrebourne Valley, and most of the main sites recorded arrivals during the following two weeks. Passage was at its highest in July and August and two sites recorded double-figure counts, with peaks of 18 at Beddington Farmlands on July 15th and 11 at Brent Res on August 6th and 19th. There were also ten at Crossness on September 5th.

Beddington Farmlands held the most birds between October and December, with the only other high count being ten at Rainham Marshes on October 8th.

Green Sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	9	-	1	3	-	2	1	4	1	10	1	-
HR Rye Meads	2	1	2	2	-	3	7	8	12	6	5	2
KT Crossness	1	-	4	4	1	-	-	5	10	2	1	-
MX Brent Res	1	-	3	2	-	4	10	11	6	3	4	3
SY Beddington Farmlands	9	11	11	10	1	4	18	16	12	12	11	5

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

Status: rare vagrant.

An adult that spent a day in June on QE II Res was the ninth record for the London Area and the first since one at Amwell NR in 2002. All the previous records were between August and October.

Surrey: QE II Res, one on Jun 2nd (C Turner).

Lesser Yellowlegs is an extremely rare vagrant in London. (Dave Harris)



Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, localised breeder.

Unlike last year, the highest count just crept over 200. Away from the Lower Thames, the peak count was just four at London Wetland Centre on March 15th. The table below shows monthly peak counts from the main sites along the Lower Thames.

Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	200	100	100	65	34	30	5	2	20	56	120	114
KT Crayford Marshes	50	60	50	5	2	-	-	-	5	20	70	50
Crossness	120	130	30	20	1	1	2	47	118	137	150	63
Dartford Marshes	205	105	38	30	-	-	-	-	45	124	137	44
Swanscombe Marshes	32	4	17	14	-	-	-	-	-	8	40	46

The only breeding record was from Rainham Marshes where the total of 107 pairs increased again from last year's total of 101 pairs.

Essex: Rainham Marshes (107).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

Up to 13 birds were seen during spring compared with seven in 2021. The first was at Beddington Farmlands on April 27th, with up to three more seen there during May. Elsewhere, there were: one at Amwell NR and singles at Stanborough GP on May 2nd and 7th; four at Rainham Marshes on May 8th; two at Amwell NR from May 12th-13th; and one at Holmethorpe SP on May 16th.

Autumn passage began with one at Rainham Marshes on June 30th, followed by singles at London Wetland Centre on July 1st and Fairlop Waters on July 5th. In August, there were singles at Belhus Woods CP on 2nd, Staines Res from 7th-8th, Brent Res from 14th-30th, London Wetland Centre from 21st-24th, Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) on 24th and Rainham Marshes on 31st. There were two at William Girling Res on September 3rd, one at Coursers Road GP on September 13th, and the last of the year was at Stanborough GP on October 13th. With 13 records in autumn, the year's total reached 26 compared with last year's total of 21 birds.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Status: scarce passage migrant with occasional winter records.

In recent years this migrant has become much scarcer, and only seven birds were seen this year. All were spring migrants apart from singles in August and November.

Essex: Fishers Green Goosefield, one from May 1st-3rd, also seen at Holyfield Lake on May 2nd. KGV Res, one on Nov 3rd. Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 27th and juv on Aug 22nd. Walthamstow Wetlands, one on Apr 29th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, two on Jun 27th.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Status: regular passage migrant, rare in winter.

The only records in the first three months of the year were at Rainham Marshes on March 10th and Swanscombe Marshes on March 23rd. The main spring passage commenced on April 3rd at Crossness and continued through to early June, with the last at Rainham Marshes on the 5th. Around 43 birds were recorded, lower than last year's total of 55 and continuing the decline of this fine wader (63 in 2020, 78 in 2019, 40 in 2018 and 100 in 2017). The peak count was three at London Wetland Centre on April 23rd.

Early returners were at Rainham Marshes and Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) on June 11th, with another at Rainham Marshes on June 16th. The fine weather in July resulted in very few 'downed' migrants, with four at Rye Meads on 8th and one at Rainham Marshes from July 28th-31st, while nine sites recorded about 21 birds during August. A further ten birds were seen in September, and the last one of the year was at London Wetland Centre on October 7th, resulting in an autumn total of around 40 birds compared with 89 in 2021.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Status: regular, but scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

It was a distinctly poor year for Kittiwake, with just 22 birds seen (following 175 in 2021). This year's total was the lowest since 2019, and only four records were of more than one

Kittiwake passage numbers dropped markedly in 2022. (Dave Harris)



bird. There was no autumn passage, although unsettled weather at the year's end did produce a late flurry of records.

An adult at Island Barn Res on February 22nd was the first of the year. Six in April included adults at Q. Mother Res on 1st, Broadwater Lake from 4th to 15th, singles at Crossness on 8th and 23rd, and further birds at Staines Res on 11th-12th and Hilfield Park Res on 23rd. Three birds were seen in May; a moribund adult was at Island Barn Res on 4th and two adults were at Q. Mother Res on 31st. A further adult at Q. Mother Res on June 4th was the final record of a poor spring.

Autumn passage was non-existent, although seven records in the November and December period were more noteworthy. In November, a 1st-winter bird was at Island Barn Res on 7th, joined by an adult the next day that lingered until the 11th. A 1st-winter was at Q. Mother Res on 8th, and then singles were at Hilfield Park Res and over Sidcup on the 23rd. The last and only December record was three 1st-winter birds at Q. Mother Res on 14th - the highest count for the year.

Kittiwake monthly records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	-	1	-	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	7	3

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Status: rare autumn vagrant.

A single record of a late juvenile was the first in the recording area since 2020. It was also the first in the Hertfordshire sector since one was at Hilfield Park Res in September 1988.

Herts: Amwell NR, juv intermittently from Nov 16th to 24th (B Reed *et al*).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Status: very common winter visitor and passage migrant, increasing breeder.

This is the commonest wintering gull across London, with an established breeding population that has risen rapidly over the past two decades. There were at least 1,073 pairs at 11 sites, compared with 934 pairs in 2021 and 1,034 pairs in 2020. Breeding success was poor at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) where an outbreak of avian influenza was confirmed in adults. Breeding success was also poor at Amwell NR and Rye Meads because of predation.

Wintering concentrations appear to be in decline, with peak counts this year and last year being only high four-figure counts compared with the five-figure peak counts of the previous decade. This year's peak count was 9,950 at Kingston-upon-Thames on February 1st (9,100 in 2021 and 10,000 in 2020). There were 91 counts of 2,000 or more birds, and six sites recorded more than 5,000 birds (seven in 2020 and 2021). A single observer accounted for 93% of all these counts, as last year. Ringed birds from Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden and The Netherlands were noted, along with leucistic birds at Colnbrook, Hilfield Park Res and Q. Mother Res. Below are peak counts for each sector along with breeding pairs (in brackets). See page 215 for an update on foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls by Alan Gibson.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 3,500 on Jan 1st. Walthamstow Wetlands (c33), 101 juvs.

Herts: Amwell NR (77). Hilfield Park Res (43), 15 young; 1,200 on Mar 13th. Maple Lodge

NR (c60). Rye Meads (301), 40 juvs. Seventy Acres Lake (c120), 150-200 fledged. Stocker's Lake (45).

Middx: Bushy Park, 7,000 on Oct 24th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 800 on Aug 4th. Wraysbury GP (12).

Kent: Crossness, 2,132 on Jul 16th.

Surrey: Kingston-upon-Thames, 9,950 on Feb 1st. London Wetland Centre (53), 45 young. Richmond Park (39), 30 young. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (290), 26 broods on May 22nd but later many dead adults and young.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 1,137 on Aug 16th.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Status: regular passage migrant, occasional in summer and winter.

It was a below average year, with at least 251 birds seen (compared with 358 in 2021 and 348 in 2020) - the lowest total since 2018. Typically, April saw the strongest passage, with two sites peaking at over 20 birds (compared with four in 2021). The year's highest count was 30 at KGV Res on April 23rd (the same date as last year's peak number), while Staines Res was solidly the most reliable site for the species across the year with its highest count being 22 on April 11th, as well as hosting the first and last birds of the

Little Gull passage was weaker than in recent years. (Dave Harris)



year. Spring passage was steady from April 11th to 29th, with no distinct pulse as in some years.

Little Gull monthly records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	-	2	48	177	7	1	-	4	2	2	7	1
No. of sites	-	1	7	11	7	1	-	2	2	2	3	1

Two birds at Staines Res on February 21st started off the year, prior to passage starting in March. Peak counts of over two birds in March were five at Rye Meads on 22nd, 19 at Staines Res on 23rd, seven at Island Barn Res on the same day and three at Stanstead Innings on 30th. The first ten days of April saw a trickle of birds through four sites, and there were 25 at Staines Res on 11th (with 14 on 12th and 17th, and 15 on 20th) with the year's highest count being the 30 at KGV Res on 23rd. Other decent peak counts in late April included six at Amwell NR on 24th and 20 at Staines Res on 27th but overall, the peak spring passage period was distinctly average. Singles were seen at seven sites in May, and there was a 1st-summer bird at Staines Res on June 11th.

August records included three at KGV Res from 13th-14th and one at Crayford Marshes on 27th. Autumn passage was extremely lean, with just two seen in both September and October. There was a slight upturn in November, with up to six seen at Staines Res on 15th, and a further bird was seen at Tottenham Marshes and Walthamstow Wetlands on 20th. The year's final record was a 1st-winter bird that remained at Staines Res until December 3rd.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

Status: regular winter visitor, passage migrant and has recently bred. **RBBP**

It was another good year for this species, although the typical April peak of 114 birds was much lower than in the last three years (224 in 2021, 211 in 2020, 299 in 2019). Successful breeding was recorded for the second time in the recording area, with a pair fledging a juvenile at the same site in the Surrey sector as last year, although unfortunately one of the adults died on June 23rd (presumably of avian influenza).

There were only two counts of ten or more birds this year (compared with 12 in 2021 and eight in 2020). A 'super flock' of 122 birds (115 adults and 7 juveniles) over QE II Res on July 20th was a record count, superseding the 87 at Rainham Marshes on April 10th 2019. The first juveniles (away from the breeding pair) arrived at Q. Mother Res, QE II Res and Staines Res on July 10th, with a further 23 seen by the end of July. The number of wintering birds was comparable to the previous couple of years. Birds ringed in Belgium, Poland and The Netherlands were noted.

Mediterranean Gull records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds		22	33	40	114	15	34	179	13	9	18	24
No. of sites		14	19	21	24	8	15	23	10	8	10	13

In Lond: Burgess Park, regular adult (first seen in 2008) until Jan 28th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, juv from Aug 16th-17th, another juv on Sep 4th and singles on Oct 10th and 28th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant.

It was a comparatively poor year, with just 75 counts of 100 or more (from 27 sites), compared with 148 (from 34 sites) in 2021 and 126 (from 27 sites) in 2020. There were just two counts of 500 or more birds (compared with 11 in 2021 and ten in 2020), with this year's peak count being 1,200 at Wanstead Flats on January 15th (compared with 1,800+ at the same site in 2021).

The first juvenile was one at Q. Mother Res on July 15th, three days earlier than last year at the same site. Small numbers of 1st-summer birds remain to over-summer in the recording area, but the species does not breed and is largely absent from early May to early August.

Below are details of peak counts from sites with 100 or more (50 in Inner London).

Essex: Creekmouth, Barking, 240 on Jan 10th. Dagenham Chase, 100 on Nov 18th. Mar Dyke Valley, 100 on Oct 16th. Rainham Marshes, 113 on Jan 14th. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 110 on Dec 29th. Walthamstow Wetlands, 137 on Dec 13th. Wanstead Flats, 1,200 on Jan 15th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 130 on Nov 26th. Brookmans Park, 155 on Mar 12th. Hilfield Park Res, 300 on Feb 26th. Rye Meads, 137 on Dec 22nd. Woodside, Hatfield, 112 on Jan 16th.

Middx: Brent Res, 327 on Jan 3rd. Finsbury Park, 100 on Nov 12th. Home Park, 100 on Dec 13th. Pitshanger Park, Ealing, 100 on Jan 11th and Mar 4th. Totteridge Valley, 330 on Feb 2nd. Woodberry Wetlands, 150 on Dec 13th. Yeading Brook Meadows, 327 on Jan 2nd.

Kent: Greenwich Park, 100 on Nov 29th. Sevenoaks WR, 100 on Mar 9th.

Surrey: Putney Heath, 210 on Feb 14th. Marden Park Woods, 550 in fields on Dec 26th. QE II Res, 360 on Mar 10th. Richmond Park, 270 on Mar 4th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), 192 on Dec 19th. Warren Barn Farm, 100 on Apr 14th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 100 on Feb 7th. St James's Park, 50 on Mar 6th. Victoria Park, 50 on Jan 4th.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers, less common at other seasons; has bred recently.

There was no confirmed breeding (last confirmed breeding was in 2020), although a pair was present on a roof at Molesey Industrial Estate on May 6th. The highest count of the year was a paltry 93 at Rainham Marshes on January 19th (250 in 2021 and 200 in 2020). Though there were far fewer counts than previous years from Rainham Marshes, where typically high counts are noted, there does appear to be a marked decline in the species across London.

Below are peak counts where 20 or more birds were seen.

Essex: Creekmouth, Barking, 20 on Jan 10th. Rainham Marshes, 93 on Jan 19th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 30 on Jan 3rd.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 30 on Nov 19th. Dartford Marshes, 49 on Sep 27th.



Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Status: scarce winter visitor, more regular in cold weather.

It was a lean year for the species with just two records (compared with ten in 2021 and five in 2020), and single juveniles seen in each winter period. Despite the paucity of records this year, it does continue to be recorded with considerably more regularity than Glaucous Gull, the other 'white-winged gull' (of which there were no accepted records this year).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, juv on Nov 15th (CDR Heard).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, juv on Apr 17th (O Dewhurst).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

A common winter visitor to London, with a small but under-recorded breeding population; 15 pairs and 15 young were noted this year. There were only 15 counts of over 1,000 birds (compared with 36 in 2021 and 45 in 2020) from seven sites. The year's largest total was 5,000 at Rainham Marshes on January 14th (compared with a peak of 10,000 there in 2021).

There does appear to be a genuine decline in large numbers at traditional sites, with a shift of waste disposal away from landfill sites as well as warmer winters potentially reducing London's attractiveness. Leucistic birds were seen at Island Barn Res, QE II Res and Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough).

Below are all confirmed breeding records (no. of pairs/nests in brackets), as well as peak counts of over 500 birds.

Essex: Gallions Reach, 500 on May 12th. Orsett Fen, 900 on Mar 10th. Rainham Marshes, 5,000 on Jan 14th.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, 1,000 on Jan 15th. London Colney (5+).

Middx: Finsbury Park (1), 1 young. Home Park, 850 on Dec 18th. Lordship Lane RG (1), 1 young. Northolt & Greenford CP (1), 1 young. Q. Mary Res, 1,022 on Aug 14th. Tottenham Marshes (4), 7 young.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 1,450 on Aug 12th.

Kent: Crayford Recycling Centre, 1,000 on Dec 30th. Erith Reach, 500 on Feb 19th and Jul 19th. Thamesmead, 500 on Aug 5th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 1,784 on Jan 20th. Dickerage RG, 500 on Dec 10th. Island Barn Res, 800 on Nov 3rd. Kingston-upon-Thames, 1,300 on Dec 15th. Leatherhead (1), 3 young. Molesey Industrial Estate (1), two young.

In Lond: Paddington Green (1).

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Status: scarce visitor mainly in winter.

A now regular but still scarce species, predominantly a winter visitor but also a mid-summer to early autumn passage migrant. Numbers were similar to the previous year and despite the westward spread of the species on the continent, changes in landfill practices and cold weather periods becoming more infrequent have curtailed any increase in records.

Opposite: This Caspian Gull was on the river at Thamesmead. (Richard Bonser)

About 135 birds were seen (compared with 130 in 2021 and 170 in 2020), though there is always a likelihood of duplication of individuals between sites due to the mobile nature of London's gulls. The peak count was eight at Thamesmead on February 5th (compared with last year's peak of six), with the January to March period once again significantly better for records than November and December. Thamesmead was the best site for records, with c30 birds seen during the year, while Beddington Farmlands continued its resurgence in records with c20 birds noted. The table below shows the number of birds reported from traditional sites by month.

Caspian Gull monthly records

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	10	2	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
BU Q. Mother Res	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	2	3	1	-	3
KT Thamesmead	10	12	4	4	-	1	1	6	3	-	1	3
SY Beddington Farmlands	7	4	2	2	-	-	5	4	1	-	1	1

The first juvenile was at QE II Res on the early date of July 14th, with a further three juveniles in July and a further seven in August. The adult that returned in both winter periods to Eagle Pond was the most well-watched bird, while colour rings included birds from Czech Republic, Germany and The Netherlands. A Dutch-ringed 1st-winter bird seen at Crayford Recycling Centre in December had been seen in Aberdeenshire in August. A couple of birds with German rings appeared to show plumage characteristics suggestive of Caspian x Herring Gull hybrids (see App II).

Below is a summary for each sector.

Essex: c35 seen at nine sites, with a large reduction to c19 seen at Rainham Marshes (compared with c40 in 2021) and a peak day count of five on Jan 6th. Records of more than one bird away from Rainham Marshes were two at Creekmouth, Barking on Jan 30th and Dec 10th, and two at Walthamstow Wetlands on Dec 17th. The returning adult at Eagle Pond was popular in both winter periods.

Herts: about ten seen at eight sites (Amwell NR, Bowyer's Water, Coursers Road GP, Hilfield Park Res, Rye Meads, Seventy Acres Lake, Stocker's Lake and Tyttenhanger GP). All singles, with three January to March, then about seven July to December.

Middx: one seen - a juv at Staines Res on Sep 2nd.

Bucks: c14 seen, all at Q. Mother Res and singles on all dates except two 1st-winter birds on Sep 25th and Dec 5th.

Kent: c45 seen at six sites, the R Thames at Greenhaven Drive, Thamesmead dominating with c30 birds and a peak of eight on Feb 5th. Five were recorded at Crayford Marshes, at least ten at Crossness (with significant overlap with Thamesmead individuals) and four at Erith.

Surrey: c30 birds seen at six sites. c20 at Beddington Farmlands, and a peak count of seven on Jan 3rd. Two were at Kingston-upon-Thames on Dec 29th while all other records were of single birds with total annual records including three at Island Barn Res, two at London Wetland Centre, four at QE II Res (including three juvs) and one at Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough).

In Lond: Rotherhithe, juv from Aug 2nd to 6th.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Status: regular late summer and autumn visitor, widely reported in smaller numbers at other times of year.

There was a further decline in numbers, with a peak count of just 20 at Crayford Marshes on July 20th (compared with 56 in 2021 and 62 in 2020). Despite increased observer awareness, particularly of non-adult plumages, the changes in landfill practices are inevitably having a detrimental effect on London attracting this species.

There continues to be a peak in mid to late summer, with continental birds moving north into London, but small numbers are present on the R Thames to the east of the Thames Barrier all year round. The first juveniles, two at Beddington Farmlands and one at Blackwall Basin, were seen on the late date of July 16th. A juvenile present at Thamesmead from August 22nd to the year end was ringed as a chick in the Camargue, southern France on June 8th.

Yellow-legged Gull monthly maxima

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	5	1	3	-	-	-	6	3	8	1	1	1
BU Q. Mother Res	2	-	-	-	1	5	12	11	7	1	1	1
KT Crayford/Dartford Marshes	5	2	1	1	1	-	20	18	10	4	1	3
Erith	1	6	-	-	1	2	10	3	1	-	-	1
Thamesmead	11	5	3	2	-	1	7	8	4	2	3	8

In Lond: Cremorne Gardens, 1st-winter on Jan 11th. Gabriel's Wharf, juv on Sep 4th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Feb 16th, Sep 16th and Dec 20th. Lambeth Bridge, one on Mar 7th. Primrose Hill, one on Jul 22nd. Regent's Park, two on May 22nd. Rotherhithe, ten birds seen throughout the year, with a peak of six on Aug 4th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Status: common breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant, most numerous in autumn.

At least 27 breeding pairs with seven young were seen (52 pairs in 2021 and 90 pairs in 2020). Breeding numbers were fewer than in previous years, although the inaccessible nature of rooftop colonies and a lack of concerted observer effort continues to thwart the true status of this species as a breeding species in London.

There were 11 counts of 300 or more birds (compared with two in 2021 and 11 in 2020), with the peak count for the year being 913 at William Girling Res on July 16th (500 in 2021 and 800 in 2020).

Below are all breeding records (no. of pairs/nests in brackets), as well as peak counts from sites with 100 or more.

Essex: Creekmouth, Barking, 112 on Aug 5th. KGV Res, 664 on Aug 14th. Orsett Fen, 121 on Mar 10th. Rainham Marshes, 150 on Apr 23rd. Walthamstow Wetlands (1); 120 on Aug 10th. William Girling Res, 913 on Jul 16th.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, 660 on Aug 14th. London Colney (20+). Rye Meads, 150 on Sep 24th.

Middx: Barnsbury, 100 on Mar 17th.



Sandwich Tern can be seen on the river or on reservoirs as they pass through London in the spring. This bird was at Erith. (Richard Bonser)

Kent: Crossness, 107 on Jul 16th. Greenwich (1), three young.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, 112 on Jan 17th. Molesey Industrial Estate (4), three young. Upper Norwood (1), one young.

In Lond: Tate Modern, 125 on Jul 19th.

SUBSPECIES: Baltic Gull *L. f. fuscus*

A bird showing features consistent with the northern Scandinavian and Russian nominate subspecies, known as 'Baltic Gull', was recorded in 2021 and has been accepted by the BBRC. This is the first record for the London Area and the 15th record of this subspecies in Britain. For full account see page 220.

2021 Addition

Kent: Thamesmead, 1st-summer on Aug 18th (R Bonser).

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in small flocks.

The first of the year was on March 26th at Brent Res (March 31st in 2021, February 5th in 2020 and April 4th in 2019). In April, there were 13 birds: singles at Amwell NR on the 9th and Bowyer's Water on the 12th, four at Staines Res also on the 12th with one the

following day when there was also one at Q. Mother Res, one at Rainham Marshes on the 17th and two at QE II Res and two at Tyttenhanger GP both on the 23rd. In May, there was one at Rainham Marshes on the 1st, two at Amwell NR on the 3rd, singles at Q. Mother Res and Island Barn Res on the 10th, four at QE II Res on the 12th, one at KGV Res on the 16th, two at Island Barn Res on the 19th and one at Staines Res and Q. Mother Res on the 28th. In June, there were another seven records: one at Walton Res (Chelsea and Lambeth) on the 6th, possibly the same three at both QE II Res and Walton Res (Chelsea and Lambeth) on the 9th, two at Q. Mother Res on the 10th and another one there on the 23rd when there was also one at Walton Res (Chelsea and Lambeth) and one at Woolwich on the 24th. The spring total was at least 38 (23 in 2021, 28 in 2020, 35 in 2019).

In July, there were two at Dartford Marshes on the 5th, which may have been the first of autumn or late spring birds. They were only seen on one other day in July, the 16th, when singles were seen on the Thames at Battersea Bridge and Erith Reach and the presumed same bird at both Island Barn Res and QE II Res. In August, there were three at Brent Res on the 1st, followed with one at QE II Res on the 7th and three on the 10th, which were also seen at Walton Res (Chelsea and Lambeth), two were at Staines Res on the 15th with one the following day, one at Chessington on the 20th and four at Gallions Reach on the 25th. In September, there were five at QE II Res on the 5th and five at Q. Mother Res on the 14th when there were also three at QE II Res, which were presumed to include two that were at Island Barn Res earlier in the day. The only October record was of two at Rainham Marshes on the 19th, which is the latest this century, apart from a wintering bird in December 2002. The autumn total of around 35 is a very poor showing (305 in 2021, 109 in 2020, 87 in 2019); the lowest total since 2013 when 29 were seen.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Status: uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant.

The first bird of spring was one flying upriver on April 19th at Rainham Marshes. The next one was at KGV Res on April 23rd and 24th, then followed a series of records from Staines Res with one on April 26th followed by six there on the 27th and one on the 29th. The last record of spring - and the only May birds - were two at Rainham Marshes on the 14th. A maximum of 13 birds was about average for recent years (17 in 2021, 11 in 2020, seven in 2019).

For the first time since 2008, there were none in autumn (eight in 2021, six in 2020, 17 in 2019).

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Status: rare passage migrant.

An adult at Staines Res in May was the 21st record since 2000 compared with 14 records from 1950-1999. May accounts for about 50% of the records.

Roseate Tern records by decade 1953-2022: 35 records

Decade	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
No. of records	1	7	5	1	0	7	10	4

Middx: Staines Res, adult on the south basin with Common Terns on May 9th (RE Innes).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first spring bird was one on March 29th at Staines Res (April 4th in 2021, March 21st in 2020, March 23rd in 2019), which was the only March record. In April, they were recorded on most days from the 5th, with the first double-figure count of 10 on the 14th at Gallions Reach. The highest count for the month was 76 on the 23rd at Staines Res. In May, the highest counts were 86 at Walthamstow Wetlands on the 30th, which may have

Common Tern. (Phil Ayles)



included breeding birds, 75 at Crossness on the 5th and 54 at Staines Res on the 3rd. In June, the highest counts were 43 at Ponders End Lake on the 18th and 40 at Walthamstow Res on the 6th and 7th.

It is pleasing to report that at least 107 pairs bred at 17 sites; last year, the total dipped below 100 pairs (95 pairs from 15 sites) for the first time this century. The highest number of pairs was at least 25 at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), but productivity was poor with many adults and young dying from avian influenza. Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, the most productive site last year, had around 15 pairs with 35 chicks being seen (20 pairs with 28 fledged in 2021).

As ever, it is difficult to separate post-breeding gatherings from autumn passage. The peak count at Walthamstow Wetlands of 75 on July 20th would almost certainly have included breeding birds from that site. However, the highest count of the year of 220 at Gallions Reach on August 25th would almost certainly relate to migrants. The only other sites with counts of 50 or more were 60 at Q. Mother Res on August 9th and 50 at Crossness and Thamesmead - both on August 27th. The only double-figure count in September was 11 at QE II Res on the 5th. The last bird of the year was one at the London Wetland Centre on October 4th.

Below are breeding numbers (pairs shown in brackets) with all records for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (1), chick seen. North Ockendon (1). Walthamstow Wetlands (12+).

Herts: Amwell NR (7). Rye Meads (19), all nests predated. Seventy Acres Lake (3).

Stocker's Lake (6+), young seen.

Middx: Brent Res (4), fledged young seen. Ponders End Lake (1), chick seen.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res (1).

Kent: Crossness (1). Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (c15), 35 chicks seen. Sevenoaks WR (1), three chicks seen.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (2), young seen. QE II Res (1), two chicks seen. Richmond Park (7), c11 chicks seen. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (25+), young seen but many died from avian influenza.

In Lond: Burgess Park, one on Jun 6th. Greenland Dock, two from Jun 23rd-24th. Hertford Union Canal, one on Jun 24th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on May 12th & 20th. Kensington, one on Jul 6th. Limehouse, two on Jun 12th. Regent's Canal, Kings Cross, singles on Jun 28th and Jul 16th. Regent's Park, singles on Jun 25th and Aug 10th. St James's Park, two from Jul 21st-22nd, singles on Jul 23rd, 30th and Sep 29th. St Mary's Hospital, one on Sep 18th. Victoria Park, two on Jul 2nd.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, often in small flocks with numbers varying annually.

The first spring migrant was at Island Barn Res on April 7th (April 16th in 2021, April 5th in both 2020 and 2019). There was one at Gallions Reach the following day with two there on the 12th, after which they were seen most days in April. The only double-figure counts were ten at KGV Res on the 23rd and 15 at Staines Res on the 26th. In May, they were seen most days until the 14th and then became more irregular, with the peak being

five at Staines Res on the 12th. In June, reports came from three sites, with the last on the 12th at QE II Res and Staines Res.

Autumn passage was very light with only two records. The highest count of the year of 18 was at Gallions Reach on August 25th and the last of the year was one at Q. Mother Res on October 9th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, with numbers varying annually.

The first migrants were singles on April 12th (April 22nd in 2021) at Staines Res and Wraysbury GP. The next record was one at Staines Res on the 21st, with two the next day. There was one at Walthamstow Wetlands on the 26th, and Staines Res had one on the 27th and two on the 28th, with the final April bird at KGV Res on the 29th. In May, there was one at Staines Res on the 4th and 5th and one at Q. Mother Res on the 29th. The only record in June was two at Staines Res on the 1st. A maximum of 13 birds was recorded (24 in 2021, 76 in 2020, 182 in 2019), which is the lowest this century.

Autumn passage was poor too. The first was at Q. Mother Res on August 18th (July 3rd in 2021). On the 25th, there was a small movement, with four at Gallions Reach, five at Q. Mother Res and one at Walthamstow Wetlands. In September, there were three at Q. Mother Res and one at KGV Res on the 2nd. On the 4th, there were single birds at Hilfield Park Res and KGV Res. Staines Res accounted for nearly all the remaining September records, with birds present from 6th to 13th including four on the 11th. There were two at Island Barn Res on the 26th-27th, and the last bird of the year was one at Staines Res on the 28th. A maximum of 35 birds was recorded (54 in 2021, 34 in 2020, 103 in 2019), but as with spring, there will be some duplication involving lingering birds.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Status: regular but scarce autumn migrant; rare in other seasons.

There was just one late autumn record away from the Thames and reservoirs. Surprisingly, this was the only species of skua seen in the recording area this year.

Surrey: Epsom Downs, one flew NW on Nov 14th (S Gale).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor, subject to occasional winter influxes.

This year, three birds were seen, roughly in line with the recent average. All were in September, one of the likeliest months of the year in which to see a Guillemot in the London Area. The Inner London records were the first since 2016, and the Buckinghamshire record was the first since the invasion year of 1986, also at Q. Mother Res.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Sep 11th later found dead (CDR Heard).

In Lond: R Thames, one by the Millennium Bridge on Sep 3rd (G Robin). R Thames, one upriver at Westminster Bridge on Sep 14th (R Braddock, E Dillon-Hooper).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Status: rare visitor, mainly in winter.

One on the Thames in September was the first record since 2016 and the fourth since 2000. Most records are in autumn.

Razorbill arrival dates from 1911 to 2022: 28 records, 56 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	6	-	2	1	-	-	1	5	7	3	3
No. of birds	-	6	-	2	1	-	-	1	5	31	7	3

In Lond: Festival Pier, imm on Sep 1st (B Siviour).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Status: abundant feral resident.

This year, this species was recorded from a massive total of 966 sites. This is more than double last year's figure, reflecting improved reporting; it is astonishing to realise that not so long ago the main problem with Feral Pigeons was one of serious under-recording. There were ten records of flocks of over 500 birds, nine of which came from the Inner London parks, the only exception being a flock of 500 in January at Finsbury Park. The highest total recorded was a flock of 1,000 birds in Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens on June 23rd, the first four figure total since 2015.

As usual breeding records were very low, with only five sites confirming breeding (the same as last year) and another 24 recorded probable or possible breeding (down from 40 last year).

Below are peak counts from sites with 150 or more (200 from Inner London).

Essex: Harold Hill, 220 on Dec 3rd & 9th. Harrow Lodge Park, 263 on Oct 15th. Hollow Pond, 220 on Jan 15th. Leyton Flats, 200 on Feb 2nd. Rainham Marshes, 300 on Jan 1st. South Park, Ilford, 150 on Feb 13th. Three Mills, 164 on Sep 15th. Valentines Park, 180 on Mar 6th. Waltham Abbey, 200 on Nov 8th. Wanstead Flats, 285 on Aug 20th. West Ham Park, 192 on Nov 1st.

Herts: St Albans, 150 on Jan 16th. Verulamium Park, 150+ on Nov 11th.

Middx: Brent Res, 200 on Nov 12th. Bushy Park, 250 on Aug 20th. Finsbury Park, 500 on Jan 18th. Forty Hall, 224 on Aug 31st. Hammersmith, 150 on Oct 21st & 22nd. Osterley Park, 200 on Oct 1st. Warren Farm Sports Centre, Hanwell, 150 on Oct 16th.

Kent: Beckenham Place Park, 250 on Apr 15th. Crystal Palace Park, 205 on Dec 20th. Erith Reach, 270 on Jan 9th & 10th. Greenwich Park, 167 on Apr 22nd. Kelsey Park, 240 on Jan 11th.

Surrey: Clapham Common, 150 on Apr 6th. Kingston-upon-Thames, 450 on Dec 24th. New Malden, 200 on Jul 28th. Queens Promenade, 400 on Apr 15th. R Thames: Kew to Richmond, 190 on Aug 15th. South Croydon, 445 on Jan 13th. Three Kings Pond, 230 on Oct 16th. Wandsworth, 150 on Jun 15th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, 200+ on Nov 2nd. Green Park, 700 on Aug 26th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 1,000 on Jun 23rd. Regent's Park, 300 on Sep 4th. St James's Park, 650 on Sep 2nd. Tate Modern, 200 on Dec 28th. Vauxhall Bridge, 250 on Sep 24th.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.

The number of sites recording this species showed a slight drop from 672 in 2021 to 597 in 2022. This is unlikely to be significant, probably reflecting the activities of birders rather than birds. Unsurprisingly, though, this decline was also reflected in the number of sites holding probable/confirmed breeding pairs/territories, which fell from 112 to 79; the number of pairs recorded at those sites also fell, from 177 to 114. Indeed, no individual site recorded more than four pairs/territories. The Breeding Bird Survey shows an increase of 71% in London from 2011-21.

The highest count was 500 at Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross in April (500 at Navestock

Stock Dove. (Rudraksha Chodankar)



Heath in February 2021). The largest flock in the London Area was 1,251 also at Woodoaks Farm in April 2009. There were counts of 100 or more from 15 sites (13 in 2021).

Stock Dove: sites and pairs

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Sites	88	71	145	6	92	159	36	597
Sites with pairs	21	10	16	2	11	18	1	79
No. of pairs	34	22	19	2	14	22	1	114

Below are peak counts from sites with 50 or more birds (30 or more for Inner London) and number of sites for Inner London.

Essex: Chigwell Row, 54 on Oct 21st. Lee Valley Riding Centre, 96 on May 12th. Mar Dyke Valley, 60 on Mar 11th. Navestock Heath, 170 on Jan 22nd. North Ockendon, 75 on Dec 15th. Orsett Fen, 83 on Nov 24th. Warley, 65 on Feb 11th.

Herts: Ellenbrook Fields, 80 on Dec 29th. Essendon, 70 on Apr 29th. North Mymms Park, 75 on Sep 10th. Northaw Great Wood, 50 on Oct 5th. Stanborough GP, 60 on Mar 26th. Tyttenhanger GP, 70 on Feb 12th. Wildhill, 78 on Dec 6th. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, 500 on Apr 13th.

Middx: Hampstead Heath, 75 on Dec 13th. Holly Hill Farm, 400+ on Oct 17th. Osterley Park, 70 on Nov 28th. Park Farm, Enfield, 75 on Oct 10th. Sipson, 180 on Jan 9th. Totteridge Valley, 170 on Oct 6th.

Kent: Cudham, 120 on Sep 12th. Hockendon, 50 on Jan 23rd. Knockholt, 250 on Oct 18th. Lamorbey Park, 50+ on Nov 26th. Orpington, 100 on Mar 3rd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 70 on Jan 30th. Canons Farm, 300 on Apr 8th. High Breach, 400 on Nov 18th. Langley Vale, 200 on Nov 26th. Priest Hill, 83 on Apr 19th. Reigate, 250 on Jan 12th. Rushett Farm, 100 on Sep 29th. Worcester Park, 100 on Nov 10th.

In Lond: Reported from 36 sites (23 sites in 2021). Primrose Hill, 32 on Dec 3rd. Regent's Park, 35 on Jun 13th. St James's Park, 30 on Aug 2nd.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Status: abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This remains one of the commonest species in the London Area. There was a slight, but welcome, increase in the number of sites recording breeding activity, with probable breeding noted at 42 sites (18 in 2021) and 21 sites where breeding was confirmed (13 in 2021). Clearly, these figures do not reflect anything like the true position and more breeding records would be welcome.

The late autumn passage of Woodpigeons through London remains one of the most impressive sights the capital can offer, and many observers were out at dawn to witness it. This year, the number of sites recording 3,000 or more birds went back up to ten (eight last year). Passage was again at its peak during the first few days of November, with Brook Farm, Upminster not only recording the highest total but also the highest individual daily count of 30,180 birds recorded on November 5th.

Woodpigeon: highest autumn counts

Site	Total	No. of counts	Highest count (date)
Brook Farm, Upminster	71,587	5	30,180 (Nov 5th)
Mill Wood	15,546	2	15,273 (Nov 2nd)
Belhus Woods CP	10,245	1	10,245 (Nov 4th)
Brent Res	7,648	7	5,340 (Nov 2nd)
Rainham Marshes	6,656	3	4,200 (Nov 4th)
Hampstead Heath	4,860	8	1,900 (Nov 2nd)
Primrose Hill	4,661	11	725 (Nov 4th)
Wanstead Flats	4,062	5	1,807 (Oct 28th)
Greenwich Park	3,640	4	1,650 (Nov 2nd)
Bonnett's Wood	3,063	1	3,063 (Nov 7th)

There were five counts of 1,000 or more outside the peak autumn migration period (3 counts last year). The first of these was 1,000 at Reigate on January 10th, followed by 1,500 at Stanborough GP on January 24th, 1,200 at Orsett Fen on February 9th, 1,500 at Beddlestead Farm on February 14th and 1,000 at Stanborough GP on February 28th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Status: rare summer breeding visitor and scarce passage migrant. **RBBP**

The marginal improvement in the fortunes of this species in London over the last two years was sadly not maintained in 2022. Only four birds were recorded - three in spring and one in autumn - and all were single birds on single days. Hopefully, there will be an improvement in 2023 but there is little cause for optimism.

Essex: Thorndon Common, one singing on Jun 1st. Upminster, one on Aug 19th. Wanstead Flats, one on May 1st.

Herts: Oxhey, one on May 10th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Status: common breeding resident, scarce in central London.

This year's records suggest that this familiar colonist is maintaining its status. The number of sites recording this species in 2022 rose slightly to 552 from 538 in 2021, a figure which itself showed a slight increase from the previous year's total. As might be imagined, there was little change in the position with individual sectors: most of the increase came in Surrey although it was pleasing to see a slight increase also in Inner London. In terms of breeding records these were scattered throughout the area but there were indications at only a few sites of more than one pair being present. Perhaps surprisingly, the Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 40% in London from 2011-21.

There were some pleasing developments in terms of sites recording more than 30 birds. Not only did the number of such sites rise from six to eight but two sites recorded totals of over 100 birds: London Colney with 105 on September 28th and Rectory Farm with 175+ on October 27th, having also recorded 150 the week before. These were the first records of 100 or more birds since 2018 and the Rectory Farm count was the highest

since the 175 at Hogsmill SW in November 2016.

Below are the number of sites in each sector (with the number of sites in 2021 in brackets), breeding records from sites where the evidence indicated the presence of more than one pair (no. of pairs/territories in brackets) plus some of the larger sector counts.

Essex: Reported from 85 sites (93 last year). Belhus Woods CP (3). Orsett Fen (3). Rainham Marshes (10); 22 on Jan 1st. Valentines Park, 31 on Feb 10th. Warren Gorge (5).

Herts: Reported from 65 sites (64). Blackbirds Farm, 38 on Sep 2nd. London Colney, 105 on Sep 28th. Rye Meads (7). Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, 28 on Aug 22nd.

Middx: Reported from 135 sites (140). Headstone Manor, 60+ on Nov 9th. Rectory Farm, 175+ on Oct 27th.

Bucks: Reported from four sites (three).

Kent: Reported from 90 sites (94). Swanley, 30 on May 21st.

Surrey: Reported from 151 sites (132). Ashted Common (6). Hogsmill NR, 42 on Mar 27th. Molesey Heath (4). Surbiton Cemetery, 31 on Jan 2nd. Waddon Ponds (2).

In Lond: Reported from 22 sites (12). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, ten on May 18th. Regent's Park, ten on Aug 15th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The number of sites recording this much-loved summer visitor dropped slightly in 2022 to 162, the 2021 figure being 178. There were no substantial differences in the sector spreads. Birds were reported from 132 sites between March and May (136 last year), 71 sites in June (76) and 17 sites between July and September (29). Again, these figures seem to represent a generally stable situation.

As far as breeding success is concerned the records, as usual, defied easy interpretation. Breeding was confirmed at Rye Meads where two males and two females were present and four Reed Warbler nests had either eggs or chicks. At Rainham Marshes, there were four males and two females. Other sites recorded possible breeding, territorial display and the presence of females, as well of course as the sighting of juvenile birds. The best one can say is that there is no evidence to suggest any significant shift in the breeding situation and that the bulk of the records continue to come from Essex and Hertfordshire.

In terms of migration, the earliest birds of the year were not noted until April 12th, when single birds were seen at both Amwell NR and Stocker's Lake. This is in marked contrast to the trend in recent years: this is the latest first arrival date since 2002 although much closer to April 14th, the date that tradition ascribes to the Cuckoo's first appearance. Birds were recorded on a more or less daily basis from then on into June, with the highest daily total being four to five birds at Crayford Marshes on May 4th. It is not always easy in July to distinguish passage birds from birds still in their breeding areas: suffice to say that only six sites recorded Cuckoos in August and September, the last bird being a male at Wanstead Flats on September 4th.

Cuckoo: sites where reported

	Spring (Apr-May)	Summer (June)	Autumn (July-Oct)
Essex	41	19	5
Herts	30	23	3
Middx	22	12	5
Bucks	5	2	-
Kent	13	6	1
Surrey	20	9	3
Inner London	1	-	-

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Apr 29th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Status: rare breeding resident and scarce winter visitor.

There were reports from 72 sites, more than in 2021 (58) and 2020 (63). There were sightings throughout the year with sightings at 39 sites during the first and second winter periods and 38 during the summer (see table below). Eight pairs were confirmed to have bred (four in 2021): four in Essex (two fledged from one site and three at two other sites), one in Kent and three in Surrey (three fledged from one site). Also, another pair probably bred (one in 2021) in Essex and there were two birds present at five other sites during the breeding season, which indicates that breeding may have occurred (five in 2021).

Barn Owl: sites where reported

	Winter (Jan-Apr)	Summer (May-Aug)	Winter (Sep-Dec)
Essex	12	11	13
Herts	14	9	9
Kent	3	5	2
Middx	3	6	8
Surrey	7	7	7

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Status: common breeding resident in the outer parts of the London Area, scarce towards the centre.

This owl was reported from 185 sites, a decrease on 2021 (200) and 2020 (228). There were ten pairs from nine sites where breeding was confirmed, compared with nine pairs at nine sites in 2021 and 16 pairs from 15 sites in 2020. There were five pairs in Surrey, two pairs at one site in Hertfordshire and one pair each in Essex and Middlesex. One pair was confirmed to have bred in Inner London (none in 2021). This species is likely to be under-recorded as there were two or more birds present at another 16 sites between March and August, a decrease from 24 sites in 2021.

The number of sites where they were reported is shown below together with confirmed breeding pairs (in brackets) and all records from Inner London.

Essex: Reported from 34 sites. Orsett Fen (1), two fledged.

Herts: Reported from 26 sites. Rye Meads (2).

Middx: Reported from 40 sites. Trent Park (1), at least two fledged.



This Barn Owl was photographed in November at Rectory Farm. (Eugene Dillon-Hooper)

Bucks: Reported from one site.

Kent: Reported from 30 sites.

Surrey: Reported from 50 sites. Beddington Farmlands (1). Kings Wood (1). Sanderstead Plantation (1). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (1). Wimbledon Common (1).

In Lond: Reported from four sites. Battersea Park (1), three fledged. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one in January, March to June and October. Regent's Park, one on Aug 4th & 30th. West Brompton, one on Oct 12th.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Status: localised breeding resident.

Records were received from 100 sites; a decrease from 2021 (125) and 2020 (123). Twelve pairs were confirmed to have bred (five in 2021 and nine in 2020) and another pair probably bred (six in 2021), giving a total of 13 pairs (11 in 2021 and 49 in 2020). The

annual variation is likely to be due to differences in reporting and the interpretation of breeding status, so it is unclear whether any real change has occurred.

The number of sites at which birds were reported is shown below together with confirmed breeding pairs (in brackets), some high counts and all records from Inner London.

Essex: Reported from 12 sites. Wanstead Flats, six on May 25th and Aug 14th.

Herts: Reported from 22 sites. St Albans (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Verulamium Park (1).

Middx: Reported from 27 sites. Bushy Park (1). Marble Hill Park (1). Totteridge Valley (1); eight on Dec 20th. Warren Farm Sports Centre (1).

Bucks: Reported from one site.

Kent: Reported from four sites. Cudham (1).

Surrey: Reported from 29 sites. Little Woodcote (1). Nonsuch Park (1). Richmond Park (1); ten on Jun 13th.

In Lond: Reported from five sites. Brompton Cemetery, one on Mar 17th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1), three fledged; recorded every month except February, April, May and September. London Zoo, one on Sep 6th. Regent's Park, one on Jan 31st. Victoria Park, one on Oct 23rd.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; rare breeder. **RBBP**

Eight birds were reported at four sites this year (eight birds at three sites in both 2021 and 2020). Most records were in winter but there was one record in June.

Essex: Mar Dyke Valley, two calling on Mar 17th and one being mobbed by Jays on Dec 7th. North Ockendon, one being mobbed by Jays on Oct 7th. Rainham Marshes, one on Jun 21st.

Kent: Site B where they have been present in the breeding season, one on Dec 4th and three on 29th.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, with occasional influxes; rare breeder. **RBBP**

There were reports from 18 sites, fewer than in 2021 (23) and in 2020 (45). Between January and March they were seen at only five sites, but between September and December there were records at 17 sites.

Short-eared Owl sites

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	3	1	2	-	1	-	1	-	3	4	9	3

Nearly all records this year were of single birds, except for two at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) in November and Rainham Marshes on December 26th. The last bird remaining in the first winter period was on May 22nd at Rainham Marshes (May 14th in 2021). Between June and August, there was one on July 5th at Dartford Marshes. Apart from the July record, the first returning bird was on September 10th at Richmond Park (September 21st in 2021).

All records are given below, summarised in some places.

Essex: Fairlop Quarry NR, one on Nov 8th. Galleyhill Wood, one on Oct 3rd. Navestock Heath, one on Dec 17th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Mar 23rd, May 22nd, Nov 30th and Dec 2nd & 23rd and two on Dec 26th. Walthamstow Wetlands, one on Oct 22nd. Wanstead Flats, singles on Jan 10th and Sep 14th.

Herts: Bury Lake, one on Sep 29th.

Middx: Staines Moor, singles on Jan 16th and Nov 18th. Staines Res, one on Oct 13th. Woodberry Wetlands, one on Nov 17th. Wormwood Scrubs, one on Oct 29th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Nov 29th. Dartford Marshes, singles on Jul 5th and Nov 30th. Sidcup, one on Dec 12th. Swanscombe Marshes, singles on Jan 4th, 5th, 21st, 23rd & 28th, Feb 13th and Nov 23rd.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Sep 17th and Nov 13th. Richmond Park, one on Mar 19th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), up to two on Nov 6th and 11th-13th.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Status: rare passage migrant, occasionally breeding.

Encouragingly, birds were present in the breeding season at one site in Kent and four sites in Surrey, although there was no evidence of breeding. Two of the four Surrey sites have not had birds since 2000. Last year, they were seen in the breeding season at three sites (the same site in Kent, the same and a different site in Surrey). There are reports of three birds that appear in App III, for which descriptions would be very welcome.

Kent: Site B, one churring and a female on May 19th.

Surrey: Site B, one churring and a second bird on Jul 17th. Site E, a pair on five dates from Jun 23rd to Jul 19th. Site F, one churring on Jun 12th & 13th, two possibly three churring on Jul 3rd, and one churring on 5th. Site G, one on Aug 10th.

Swift *Apus apus*

Status: common, though probably declining, breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first arrival was at Orsett Fen on April 13th (April 15th in 2021), followed by three at Sevenoaks WR on April 19th, then daily from 22nd, reaching an April maximum of 48 at Walthamstow Wetlands on the 29th. This was a significant decrease from 600 at Staines Res by the end of April in 2021. The highest counts of the year were 800 at Walthamstow Wetlands on May 25th and Brent Res on July 2nd (the 2021 maximum was 3,200 at Staines Res on May 25th). The last of the year were singles at Alexandra Park on October 26th and Leatherhead on November 17th (September 19th in 2021). The previous latest date this century is October 24th 2004 and the latest date is December 11th 1994.

There were reports of at least 149 pairs this year, an increase on 65 pairs in 2021 and 45 in 2020. This large increase is in part due to a concerted effort in Hertfordshire, which accounted for 89 pairs. Obtaining evidence of breeding and counting pairs is difficult for this species, with some observers recording one-plus or two-plus pairs, so it is undoubtedly under-recorded. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decrease of 62% in London from 1995-2021.

Below are breeding records (no. of pairs in brackets), together with peak counts.

Essex: Grays (4). Walthamstow (3+). Walthamstow Wetlands, 800 on May 25th.

Herts: Abbots Langley (1). Hertford (67). Hilfield Park Res (1), 500 on May 12th.

Hoddesdon (1). Mill End (1). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (1). St Albans (14). Watford (2). Welwyn Garden City (1).

Middx: Ashford (4). Brent Res, 800 on Jul 2nd. Chiswick (1). Finsbury Park (5). Fulham Reach (2). Potters Bar (1). South Harrow (1).

Kent: Blackheath Standard (3). Hilly Fields (1). Lee (5). Sidcup (7).

Surrey: Brixton (1). Clapham (2). East Dulwich (1). Stockwell (2). Streatham Hill (6). Tolworth (1). Wallington (1).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Status: locally common breeding resident with additional birds in winter.

There were reports from 331 sites, more than in 2021 (280) and 2020 (306). Four were seen together at eight sites during the two winter periods of January to March and November to December, an increase from two in 2021. Between April and June, birds were reported from 65 sites on more than one occasion (60 in 2021 and 57 in 2020) and 15 pairs were confirmed to have bred (21 in 2021 and 20 in 2020), although there were also reports of probable breeding at several other sites.

Below is the number of sites where they were reported for each sector, with breeding records (no. of pairs in brackets), and records for Inner London, summarised in places.

Essex: Reported from 60 sites. Belhus Woods CP (1). Brook Farm, Upminster (1), this pair had two broods with seven fledged. QE Olympic Park (1). Warren Gorge (1). Waterworks NR (1).

Herts: Reported from 51 sites. Frogmore Lakes (1). Rye Meads (2), five broods. Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: Reported from 79 sites. Eel Pie Island (1). Hackney Marsh (1). Hampstead Heath (1).

Bucks: Reported from 7 sites.

Kent: Reported from 44 sites. Brookmill Park (1).

Surrey: Reported from 83 sites. Richmond Park (1).

In Lond: Reported from 7 sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Apr 26th, Jun 23rd, Aug 1st, Oct 28th, Dec 3rd & 4th. Mile End Park, singles on Feb 16th and Nov 30th. Regent's Park, singles on eight dates from Jun 14th to Nov 18th. Rotherhithe, one on Aug 8th. Russia Dock Woodland, up to two on six dates from Jan 18th to Mar 6th and nine dates from Oct 9th to Dec 14th. St James's Park, singles on Jan 1st, Jun 18th, Sep 27th and Oct 11th. Victoria Park, one on 16 dates from Sep 14th to Dec 25th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There was just one record in early May for this near annual visitor. Another record appears in App III for which a description would be very welcome.

Hoopoe records 2013-2022: 14 records, 14 birds

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of records	2	0	1	2	0	4	0	2	1	2

Middx: Vicarage Farm, one on May 2nd & 3rd (RM Callf *et al*).

Opposite: A portrait of a Kingfisher from Walthamstow Wetlands. (Phil Ayles)





This Wryneck was photographed on autumn passage at Rainham. (Chris Farthing)

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

This year, there were records of singles from five sites with one in August and four in September, the most common month for this species. A bird stayed at Rainham Marshes for five days in August, the rest for only one day with two being seen on September 2nd. Another three records appear in App III for which descriptions would be very welcome.

Essex: Dagenham Chase, one on Sep 2nd (V Halley-Frame). Rainham Marshes, one from Aug 21st-25th (B Rumsby *et al*). Wanstead Flats, one on Sep 2nd (N Croft *et al*).

Middx: Hampstead Cemetery, one on Sep 10th (R Burdett). Vicarage Farm, one on Sep 7th (RM Callf).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*

Status: scarce and declining breeding resident. **RBBP**

This species was reported from 23 sites, which was fewer than in 2021 (32) and 2020 (40 sites). They were seen at many more sites north of the Thames (14 in Essex, four in Hertfordshire and one in Middlesex) than south of the Thames (four in Surrey). There were reports of two territories in Essex (one site in 2021), but there were no other probable breeding reports (one in 2021). At Richmond Park, a female was regularly seen during the breeding season but never a male. Elsewhere, most records were of single birds with two birds being reported at two sites (three in 2021, five in 2020 and two in 2019). Birds were recorded in every month and were present at the largest number of sites in January and April. Birds were reported at fewer sites between June and December, but more than in 2021.

All records are given below.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: sites where recorded each month

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	8	7	7	8	3	1	3	1	4	3	2	3

Essex: Site A, seen visiting nest hole with up to three on Mar 25th, Apr 15th and May 2nd and up to two on six other dates between January and September. Site B, one seen on 12 dates from Apr 13th to May 5th. Belhus Woods CP, singles on Feb 3rd, Mar 4th and Sep 22nd. Bonnett's Wood, one on Jan 2nd. Dagnam Park, singles on Sep 5th and Oct 22nd. Duck Wood, one on Jan 16th. Hall Marsh Scrape, one on Jan 8th. Harold Hill, one on Dec 1st. Highams Park, one on Feb 14th. North Ockendon, one on May 3rd. Ongar Park Wood, pair on Mar 6th. Thorndon CP North, one on Mar 18th and two on Apr 1st.

Thorndon CP South, singles on Feb 23rd, Mar 28th and Apr 3rd, 13th & 16th. Woodford Green, singles on Feb 28th, Apr 11th & Oct 8th.

Herts: Brickendon, one on Oct 10th. Brookmans Park, singles on Jan 17th, Feb 3rd & Dec 12th. Rye Meads, singles on Jan 1st, Apr 13th and Nov 29th. Stocker's Lake, singles on Jan 12th and Feb 25th.

Middx: Trent Park, one on Jan 14th.

Surrey: Ham Lands, one on Dec 26th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 19th and Jul 8th. Richmond Park, one or two on 30 dates from Mar 14th to Apr 28th, Jun 19th, Jul 14th & 19th, Sep 3rd and Nov 26th. Sanderstead Plantation, one on Mar 26th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Status: common breeding resident.

Birds were reported from 840 sites, fewer than the 862 sites in 2021 but more than the 807 sites in 2020. The number of pairs confirmed breeding was 80 although at least another 42 territories were reported making a total of 122 confirmed or probably breeding (128 in 2021, 171 in 2020 and 99 in 2019). Breeding is undoubtedly under-recorded as birds were present at many sites throughout the year and there were no territory counts from some of the sites where they are usually reported. The Breeding Bird Survey shows an increase of 71% in London from 1995-2021.

Below is the number of sites where they were reported for each sector, with breeding records for sites where two or more pairs were reported (no. of pairs in brackets), some of the higher counts and a summary of records for Inner London.

Essex: Reported from 136 sites. Belhus Woods CP (3). High Beach (3). Manor Farm, Upminster (2). Mar Dyke Valley (3); 13 on Jun 1st.

Herts: Reported from 86 sites.

Middx: Reported from 228 sites. Hampstead Heath, 11 on Apr 2nd. Trent Park (3).

Bucks: Reported from 12 sites.

Kent: Reported from 129 sites. Beckenham Place Park, 15 on Mar 9th, 16th & 29th. Greenwich Park (2).

Surrey: Reported from 211 sites. Ashted Common (5). Banstead Wood (5). Beddington Farmlands (3). Canons Farm (5). Esher Common (2). Richmond Park, 13 on Apr 4th. Sanderstead Plantation (3+). Selsdon Park (4).

In Lond: Reported from 38 sites (20 between April and July). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, up to five in every month with three drumming on Feb 22nd. Primrose Hill, up to two in March and from July to December. Regent's Park (1); up to five in every month. Russia Dock Woodland (1). Somers Town (1). Victoria Park, up to five, recorded in every month.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Status: common breeding resident.

Birds were reported from 619 sites, fewer than the 678 in 2021 and 657 in 2020. There were 55 confirmed breeding pairs plus another 34 territories making a total of 93, up from 79 in 2021 but down from 121 in 2020. Breeding numbers were probably higher than reported as birds were present during the breeding season at many other sites. The



Green Woodpecker is a hard bird to photograph like this. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

Breeding Bird Survey shows a decrease of 34% in London from 1995-21.

Below is the number of sites where they were reported for each sector, with breeding records for sites where two or more pairs were reported (no. of pairs in brackets), some of the higher counts and a summary of records for Inner London.

Essex: Reported from 108 sites. Belhus Woods CP (4). Bonnett's Wood (2). Cely Woods (4). Mar Dyke Valley (4). Orsett Fen (2). Rainham Marshes (2).

Herts: Reported from 76 sites. Munden Estate (5).

Middx: Reported from 166 sites. Hampstead Heath, ten on Jan 23rd, Home Park, ten on Feb 11th.

Bucks: Reported from ten sites.

Kent: Reported from 96 sites. Beckenham Place Park, nine on Mar 21st. Darenth Wood, at least six on Mar 14th. Foots Cray Meadows (3).

Surrey: Reported from 155 sites. Ashted Common (2). Banstead Wood (4). Canons Farm (2). Richmond Park, 18 on Apr 4th.

In Lond: Reported from eight sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one or two reported in every month. Regent's Park (1); up to three reported in every month.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Status: uncommon breeding resident.

Kestrels were reported from 571 sites, not so different from the 580 in 2021. The number of confirmed breeding pairs was 35, compared with 31 in 2021 and 32 in 2020. There

were at least another 50 pairs, making a minimum total of 85 territories (69 in 2021 and 58 in 2020). These figures fluctuate from year to year and the changes may be at least partly due to differences in reporting. The highest count was eight at two sites (Denham and Richmond Park).

As usual, the vast majority of prey items noted were small rodents and insects.

Kestrel	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Territories	19	12	20	1	7	25	1	85
Proved	4	5	10	0	0	15	1	35

In Lond: Reported from 30 sites, the same number as 2021.

A female Kestrel at Walthamstow. (Phil Ayles)



Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

There were ten accepted records from eight sites this year, compared with five records from three sites last year. As in previous years, Rainham Marshes was the most productive site with single birds being seen on two dates, one in each winter period. Stanborough GP also had records in October and November. More records appear in App III; descriptions are required away from the Lower Thames and would be very welcome.

Essex: Beckton SW, male on Dec 5th (D Morrison). Rainham Marshes, female on Jan 10th (D Leach) and one on Dec 3rd (V Wakering, A Kidd). Wanstead Flats, female on Apr 23rd (J Heal *et al*).

Herts: Panshanger Park, one on Oct 15th (I Jackson). Stanborough GP, one on Oct 24th and Nov 22nd (R Evershed). Woodoaks Farm, one on Mar 23rd (B Wilson *et al*).

Middx: Brent Res, one on Apr 4th (A Self). Totteridge Valley, one on Dec 20th (S Levy, K Chauhan)

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. **RBBP**

Records were received from 247 sites this year, the same as 2021 but many fewer than the 316 in 2020, when there was probably greater coverage of smaller local sites during lockdown walks. Between June and July, the species was reported from 59 sites, with multiple day sightings from 35 of these. Breeding was confirmed from 17 sites, one more than in 2021. The number of territories was 34, compared with 26 in 2021, but many sites lacked consistent coverage, so it is difficult to accurately evaluate the breeding season.

The first bird of the year was at Hammersmith on the very early date of March 19th (April 4th last year), followed by another March bird at Richmond Park on the 24th. The largest spring count was six at Rainham Marshes on May 8th. Autumn passage saw birds recorded every day through August and September, with the largest count being four at Cely Woods on August 2nd, Mar Dyke Valley on August 9th, Rainham Marshes on August 23rd and Totteridge Valley on August 31st. Sightings fell away rapidly in October, with the last bird recorded on the 16th at Hackney.

Hobby	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Territories	9	8	9	1	3	4	0	34
Proved	5	3	5	0	1	3	0	17

In Lond: Seven records from four sites with no evidence of breeding.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Status: uncommon, but now becoming a more widespread breeding resident. **RBBP**

There were a similar number of sightings reported this year, compared with 2021, with Alexandra Palace, Beddington Farmlands and the Wanstead area topping the list of the most frequent sightings away from nesting areas. Not surprisingly the nesting density of Peregrines is greatest towards the centre of London, with a dotting of outlying pairs scattered around the perimeter of our area. It would appear that many of the pairs stay



Peregrine continues to enjoy the urban habitat of London. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

on their territory all year round, perhaps because they can easily find enough prey items close to home, as well as to prevent opportunistic birds occupying the nest site.

The regular prey items reported this year were Woodpigeon, Feral Pigeon and Ring-necked Parakeet. Little Egret, Green Sandpiper and Snipe had some close shaves when pursued by Peregrines, as did Collared Dove, Stock Dove, Lapwing and Black-headed Gull.

The number of breeding pairs dropped slightly to 54 (down from 60 in 2021), although they still successfully fledged 83 juveniles (same as in 2021). This means that the productivity per pair has risen from 1.38 juveniles (in 2021) to 1.53 per pair this year. It is difficult to explain why this is the case, although more experienced adults will be able to raise more juveniles, particularly when they return to the same nest site. Although, as was mentioned last year, the majority of the best nest sites are occupied, eight of the breeding pairs in 2022 were at new locations. [The final totals for 2021 have been updated since LBR 2021 No. 86 was published]

Once again, many thanks to Dave Morrison, as well as Stuart Harrington and Dave Johnson from the London Peregrine Partnership, for providing the majority of the breeding information, without which this account would be very incomplete.

Peregrine breeding records	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of pairs present	23	21	25	25	25	27	41	53	51	60	54
No. of successful pairs	10	15	18	16	21	17	25	26	28	31	30
No. of young fledged	28	38	51	47	53	41	63	69	72	83	83

Essex: Nine pairs were present, of which five pairs fledged 13 juvs.

Herts: Two pairs were present and fledged four juvs.

Middx: 12 pairs bred, of which four pairs fledged ten juvs.

Bucks: One pair bred and fledged three juveniles.

Kent: Nine pairs were present, of which seven pairs fledged 25 juvs.

Surrey: Ten pairs bred, of which five pairs fledged 12 juvs.

In Lond: 11 pairs bred, of which six pairs fledged 16 juvs.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Status: naturalised breeding resident.

Parakeets were reported from 1,062 sites, a record number and substantially higher than the 544 sites in 2021 reflecting improved reporting. However, counts at individual sites were often lower year-on-year, particularly in the species' strongholds in the Surrey and Middlesex sectors. There were 16 reports of confirmed breeding and 34 of probable breeding, both higher than last year.

Ring-necked Parakeet most often commute across Wanstead Flats, but a few now live in the area permanently. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



Ring-necked Parakeet peak roost counts of 500 or more

HR	Stanborough Park/Lakes	521 (Mar)
	Stocker's Lake	517 (Jan)
MX	Hackney Marsh	600 (Oct)
	Northolt & Greenford CP	1,000 (Dec)
	Wormwood Scrubs	1,000 (Jan & Mar)
KT	Danson Park	4,000 (Sep)
SY	Brockwell Park	4,600 (Sep)
	Kingston-upon-Thames (Athelstan RG)	5,150 (Mar)

For each sector, the number of sites where parakeets were reported and high counts (other than at the roosts listed above) are listed. These may also be at, or on the way to or from, roosts.

Essex: Reported from 130 sites (73 in 2021). Roding Valley Meadows NR, 118 on Nov 11th. Walthamstow Marshes, 300 on Nov 12th. Wanstead Park, 250 on Oct 22nd. Wanstead Flats, 442 on Sep 4th.

Herts: Reported from 101 sites (86). Frogmore Lakes, 350+ at roost on Aug 19th. Garston, 130 on Aug 24th. Tyttenhanger GP, 428 on Oct 22nd.

Middx: Reported from 278 sites (148). Fryent CP, 429 on Oct 26th. Home Park, 780 on Dec 18th. Hounslow, 350 on Nov 10th. Northolt (Target Roundabout), 400+ SW on Jun 23rd. South Ruislip, 268 on Nov 20th. Tottenham Marshes, 265 on Jan 11th. Woodberry Wetlands, 200 on Nov 3rd.

Bucks: Reported from 13 sites (5). Denham, 28 on Jul 9th.

Kent: Reported from 153 sites (70). Hawkwood Estate, 100+ on Oct 23rd.

Surrey: Reported from 275 sites (129). Alexandra RG, 1,220 SW on Dec 3rd. Beddington Farmlands, 500 on Jul 16th and Oct 12th. Berrylands 1,300 NW on Jul 4th. Hogsmill LNR, 960 SE on Mar 4th. Kingston-upon-Thames, 2,300 on Jan 29th. Ravens Ait, 780 SW on Feb 26th. Surbiton Cemetery, 3,550 on Feb 5th.

In Lond: Reported from 112 sites (33). Battersea Park, 43 on Aug 30th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 100 on Nov 29th. Primrose Hill, 37 N on Dec 8th. Regent's Park, 40 on Aug 18th. Victoria Park, 61 on Jan 30th.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Status: rare passage migrant.

An individual seen for just one day in Sewardstone was the first record of this species since 2020. One a year is in line with the recent average - between 2000 and 2021 there were 23 birds seen in the 22 years, although prior to that it was more frequently recorded (an average of 1.5 per year in the decade to 1999).

Red-backed Shrike arrival dates 1990-2022: 39 records, 39 birds

Month	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
No. of records	8	4	6	6	12	2	1

Essex: Picks Farm, Sewardstone, male on May 11th (I Lycett *et al*).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Status: rare passage migrant, most often in May.

There was one accepted record this year at Rainham Marshes in June, only the fourth occurrence in this month since 1990. There was one further report in June listed in App III for which a description would be very welcome.

Golden Oriole arrival dates 1990-2022: 38 records, 38 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	-	-	1	31	4	1	-	1	-	-	-

Essex: Rainham Marshes, female/imm on Jun 18th (I Ellis, P Bateson).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Status: common breeding bird, the resident population boosted by immigrants in the autumn and winter.

There were only five reports of confirmed breeding, the lowest in recent years and markedly lower than the 21 reported in 2021. However, the 36 reports of probable breeding was in line with the previous two years (36 and 38 respectively).

Below are breeding records for sites where breeding was confirmed or where the number of pairs was surveyed, and peak non-breeding counts of ten or more (five or more in Inner London).

Essex: Cely Woods (1). Chingford Plain, ten on Oct 29th. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Roding Valley Meadows NR, ten on Sep 1st. Tylers Common, ten on Oct 12th.

Herts: Moor Park, 16 on Apr 10th. Munden Estate, 12+ on Nov 25th.

Middx: Blackwall (A13 Bridge), 40 on Sep 21st. Brentford (1). Hampstead Heath, ten on Oct 12th. Southgate (1). Totteridge Valley, ten on Apr 19th.

Surrey: Ashted Common, ten on Apr 8th. Happy Valley, 16 on Apr 18th. Kew Gdns, 18 on Sep 28th. Molesey Heath (1). Morden Hall Park, 14 on Apr 3rd. Riddlesdown, 11 on Mar 9th. Thorpe Water Park, ten on Oct 9th.

In Lond: Reported from 55 sites (39 in 2021). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, five on Jul 17th and Sep 18th. Onslow Gdns, five on Mar 31st. Regent's Park, eight counts of between five and nine between Jan 24th and Oct 15th. R Thames: Battersea Bridge-Vauxhall Bridge, five on Dec 8th. Russia Dock Woodland, six on Apr 6th. Victoria Park, nine on Oct 21st.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

There were no counts of over 100 (three in 2021). The highest was 98 leaving the roost at Warren Gorge in Essex in January. Other high counts also reflected winter roost gatherings, but there is some evidence that individual counts were lower year-on-year, particularly in the Essex and Herts sectors.

Below are breeding records for sites with two or more pairs (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), and the highest count for each site that had at least 40.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (2). Cely Woods (2). Grays Gorge, c50 on Jan 23rd. KGV Res, 50



Jay breeds only in low numbers in London, but is easily seen in autumn when migrant birds arrive. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

on Oct 24th. Manor Farm, Upminster (3). Mar Dyke Valley (3). Rainham Marshes (4). Roding Valley Meadows NR, 42 on Oct 18th. Warren Gorge (3); 98 on Jan 11th.

Herts: Rye Meads, 45 on Jan 4th. Tyttenhanger GP, 46 on Feb 19th.

Middx: Fryent CP, 45 on Oct 10th. Grovelands Park, 40 on Feb 2nd. Hampstead Heath, 50 on Mar 5th. Vicarage Farm, 57 pre-roost on Mar 9th. Warren Farm Sports Centre, Hanwell, 40 on Nov 20th.

Kent: R Pool Linear Park, 52 on Jan 31st. Sidcup, c40 on Feb 11th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 43 on Feb 16th. Little Woodcote, 50 on Dec 29th. Morden Hall Park, 63 at roost on Jan 22nd. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), 55 at roost on Feb 8th.

In Lond: Reported from 133 sites (22 in 2021). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 50 on Dec 29th.

Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in the inner suburbs and city centre.

Breeding counts were received from nine sites and confirmed breeding, without counts, was reported from another six. The larger flocks were at, or moving to or from, roosts or feeding in fields in winter, often with other corvids. A leucistic bird was recorded in Richmond Park in October. In Inner London, Jackdaws were reported from 24 sites, the

highest number in recent years and up from only six in 2021. Breeding was again suspected, but not confirmed in Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens.

Below are breeding records from sites with five or more pairs (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), along with high counts for each sector.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (5). Brook Farm, Upminster (17); 700 on Sep 14th. Cely Woods (7). Chigwell Row, 460 on Oct 27th. Clay Tye Wood, 800 at roost on Feb 4th. Fairlop Quarry NR, 600 on Nov 8th. Manor Farm, Upminster (15). Holyfield Hall Farm, 520 on Nov 18th. Mar Dyke Valley (14). Roding Valley Meadows NR, 190 on Dec 28th. Warren Gorge (5). West Horndon, c700 feeding in ploughed field on Feb 9th.

Herts: Frogmore Lakes, c550 into roost on Dec 24th. Maple Lodge NR, 1,000 at roost on Jan 29th. Stanborough Lakes, 565 at roost on Mar 4th. Stocker's Lake, 1,200 on Jan 5th.

Middx: Brent Res, 1,000 leaving roost on Nov 11th. Bushy Park, 2,750 on Oct 25th. Hampstead Heath, 76 on Oct 11th. Home Park, 456 on Mar 10th. Queen Mary GP, 210 on Nov 26th. Queensbury, c250 on Jan 23rd. Totteridge Valley, c250 on Oct 19th.

Bucks: Denham School of Flying, 50+ on Nov 11th. Langley Park, 146 on Sep 22nd.

Kent: Burstled Wood, c150 on Dec 5th. Orpington, 200+ on Mar 3rd. Sevenoaks WR, 200 on Jan 7th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 2,000+ to roost on Mitcham Common on Jan 1st, 3rd, 4th & 9th. Colley Hill, 1,200 leaving roost on Oct 19th. Mitcham Common, 6,000+ roosting on Feb 9th & 24th. Morden Hall Park, 1,670 to roost on Mitcham Common on Mar 6th. Richmond Park, 1,000 on Nov 1st.

In Lond: Reported from 24 sites (six in 2021). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 20 on May 29th. Regent's Park, ten on May 8th, Sep 7th and Oct 8th. St James's Park, 20 on Mar 8th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Status: common breeding resident in the outer part of the London Area, much scarcer in urban localities.

There were nest counts from 27 rookeries, compared with 41 in 2021. The decrease is explained by poorer coverage this year in Hertfordshire; the Herts Bird Club conducted a full survey in 2021. This year, there were ten rookeries in the Herts sector (27 in 2021). Nesting was also confirmed at five other sites.

Below are details of all rookeries where counts were made (no. of nests in brackets), along with high counts for each sector.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster (52); c500 on Sep 14th. Bumbles Green (14). Clay Tye Wood (52); c600 at roost on Feb 4th, Nov 18th and Dec 18th. Lambourne End, 40 on Aug 19th. Loughton (4). Navestock Church, 70 on May 12th. Orsett Fen (2); 108 on Oct 2nd. Rainham Marshes, 40+ on Sep 24th. Roding Valley Meadows NR (4). Stapleford Tawney, 40 on May 27th. Tyler's Green, 80 on Feb 23rd.

Herts: Bayfordbury (30). Borehamwood (Villa Scalabrini care home) (15). Brookmans Park, c34 over on Nov 6th. Chiswell Green (14+). Elstree Hill (10). Frogmore Lakes, 47 on Jan 9th. Garston (18). Holwell Court (34). Munden Estate, 80+ on Jan 7th. Sopwell (3+); 80+ on Sep 27th. St Albans (6); 55 on Mar 25th. Stanborough GP, 80+ on Nov 9th. Theobalds Park (5). Tyttenhanger GP, 135 on Jan 28th. Woodside, Watford (4).

Middx: Hayes Shrub (15+). Heathrow Terminal 5, 30 on Mar 17th. Totteridge Valley (Darlands Lake) (14); 86 at roost on Dec 29th.

Bucks: Denham School of Flying, 40+ on Nov 11th.

Kent: Bromley (Brook Wood), 20+ on Jul 1st. Pratt's Bottom, 10+ on Jan 6th. Westerham, 20 on Jan 20th.

Surrey: Beddington Park (2). Fetcham (9). Marden Park Woods (13). Tandridge (Southlands) (34+). Titsey (9+, in two rookeries at Pilgrims Farm). Titsey Hill (18). Titsey Park (19, in two rookeries). Woldingham, 35 on Jan 1st.

In Lond: Reported from one site (four in 2021). Primrose Hill, singles over on Mar 8th, 22nd & 25th and Apr 9th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Confirmed or probable breeding was reported from 86 sites, including three in Inner London, but breeding counts were only received from eight sites.

Below are breeding records for sites with four or more pairs (no. of pairs in brackets) along with highest counts at each site with 100 or more (50 in Inner London).

Essex: Chigwell Row, 100 on Oct 28th. Fishers Green, 200 on Dec 30th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 510 on Nov 18th. KGV Res, 100 on Mar 19th. Lambourne End, 200 on Jun 14th and Aug 19th. Mar Dyke Valley (5); 200 on Oct 16th. Orsett Fen, 244 on Jun 1st. Rainham Marshes, c200 on May 28th. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 140 on Dec 23rd. Valentines Park, c130 on Apr 19th. Walthamstow Marshes, 100 on Dec 5th. Walthamstow Wetlands (4). Wanstead Flats, 130 on Mar 22nd. William Girling Res, 350 on Mar 19th.

Herts: Rye Meads (5). Stanborough GP, c100 on Mar 22nd.

Middx: Brent Res, 181 on Feb 6th. Fryent CP, 150 on Oct 10th. Hackney Marsh, 400 on Jun 8th. Hampstead Heath, 310 on Dec 14th. Home Park, 172 on Mar 10th. Isleworth Ait, 188 on Oct 1st. Lordship Lane RG, 110 on Jun 18th. River Crane, Cranford, 106 on Aug 22nd. Tottenham Marshes (4). Wormwood Scrubs, 160 on Oct 5th & 14th.

Kent: Beckenham Place Park, 100+ on Jun 21st. Princess of Wales Pond, Blackheath, 100 on Sep 1st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 539 on Jul 26th. Beddington Park, 100 on Feb 19th. Canons Farm, 200+ on Mar 18th. London Wetland Centre, 200 on Mar 26th. Mitcham Common, 800 on Feb 24th. Peckham Rye Park, 119 on Aug 23rd. Queen's Promenade, Kingston, 200 on Apr 15th. Rushett Farm, 137 on Mar 29th. South Croydon, 150 on Jan 1st. Tooting Common, 150 on Mar 19th.

In Lond: Reported from 156 sites (33 in 2021). Battersea Park, 70 on Nov 16th. Burgess Park, 171 on Mar 28th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 150 on Mar 30th and Jul 19th. Paddington Green, 70+ on Dec 27th. Regent's Park, 110 on Aug 14th. Southwark Park, 100+ on Feb 1st. Tate Modern, 58 on Nov 8th. Victoria Park, 70 on Oct 28th.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Status: scarce but increasing visitor and recent breeder.

Raven was reported throughout the year, although most often in January, from 240 sites. This compares with 196 in 2021, 159 in 2020 and only two in 2004. The Essex and

Hertfordshire sectors showed little change in the number of sites in the last two years but all the other sectors showed an increase this year. Breeding was confirmed at four sites and was probable at another six. Of these ten, seven were sites where breeding has not been reported in the past.

Below are breeding records in each sector and sites where three or more birds were reported.

Essex: Reported from 48 sites (47 in 2021). Breeding confirmed at one site and probable at another. Brook Farm, Upminster, four on Jan 22nd and Sep 15th. Ingrebourne Valley, three on Oct 22nd. Rainham Marshes, four on Jan 1st & 30th and Mar 30th.

Herts: Reported from 53 sites (52). Breeding confirmed at two sites and probable at three. Gobions Wood NR, four on Sep 21st. Hatfield Park, three on Aug 23rd. Maple Cross, four on Oct 20th. North Borehamwood, four on Jan 29th. North Mymms Park, six on Jun 1st. Rye Meads, four on Mar 18th. Stanborough GP, four on Sep 25th. Stanstead Abbots, three on Jun 12th & 16th. Verulamium Park, three on Mar 12th.

Middx: Reported from 33 sites (25). Probable breeding at one site. Vicarage Farm, four on Feb 23rd.

Bucks: Reported from 19 sites (9). Horton GP, family party of six on Jun 19th. Q. Mother Res, five on Jun 27th. Wraysbury GP, family party of six on May 29th.

Kent: Reported from 32 sites (22). Breeding confirmed at one site. Footscray Meadows, three on Sep 19th. Knockholt, four on Oct 18th. Swanscombe Marshes, three on Dec 22nd.

Surrey: Reported from 55 sites (41). Probable breeding at one site. Beddington Farmlands, four on Apr 10th & 12th and Sep 3rd. Canons Farm, four on Oct 24th. Nore Hill, six on Oct 21st. Richmond Park, four on Jan 17th. Wandle Meadow Nature Park, three over on Jan 5th. Woldingham, three on Jan 1st, Mar 5th & 17th.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Status: common breeding species.

The number of territories/pairs reported was 38, lower than the 43 in 2021, 39 in 2020, and 48 in 2019 (all totals exclude singing males). Below are confirmed breeding records for sites where two or more pairs were recorded (no. of territories/pairs in brackets), plus a summary for Inner London and some of the higher counts.

Essex: One pair. Ongar Park Wood, 28 on Mar 5th. Grays Cemetery, five on Jun 6th and Jul 1st, four on Jul 31st. High Beach, four on Apr 17th & 27th.

Herts: Five pairs. Symondshyde Great Wood, 20 on Jul 17th. North Mymms Park, ten on Apr 13th and 12 on Jun 15th.

Middx: Nine pairs. Grovelands Park (2). Gunnersbury Park, eight on June 5th. Hampstead Heath, eight on Aug 20th. Totteridge Valley, eight on Jun 27th. Trent Park (2); nine on Mar 16th. Walpole Park, seven on May 20th and eight on Jun 5th.

Bucks: One pair. Black Park, five on Mar 7th.

Kent: Four pairs. Keston Ponds, 20 on Jan 10th. Greenwich Park, six on Aug 8th, Sep 27th and Oct 8th.

Surrey: 16 pairs. Banstead Wood (6). Esher Common (4); 18 on Feb 8th. Riddlesdown, ten on Feb 13th. Wimbledon Common, ten on Jun 10th.

In Lond: Two pairs. 38 sites (30 in 2021, 32 in 2020, 35 in 2019). Singing males reported from four sites (Fulham, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Kilburn Grange Park and Victoria Park). Holland Park, 12 on Jun 27th. Regents Park, nine on Jan 23rd and Feb 16th.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Status: localised and declining breeding resident and scarce winter visitor.

This species was reported from 23 sites (30 in 2021, 29 in 2020, 38 in 2019); with reports from 17 sites between March and July (18 in 2021, 17 in 2020, 14 in 2019). Breeding was confirmed at Epsom Common and Strawberry Bank, and probable at Banstead Wood, Kings Wood and Northaw Great Wood. Two or more birds were recorded at nine sites, one more site than 2021.

All records are given below, summarised for some sites.

Herts: Brookmans Park, singles on Jan 31st, Jun 8th and Dec 12th. Northaw Great Wood, up to four on four dates from Jan 11th to Mar 10th, one on Jun 7th, five on Aug 15th and up to three on five dates from Sep 21st to Dec 7th. The Commons LNR, one on Jun 18th.

Middx: Kempton NR, up to two on 21 dates from Oct 3rd to Dec 22nd.

Kent: Crystal Palace Park, one on Jan 25th. Cudham, one on Mar 2nd and up to two on six dates from Sep 10th-28th. Hazelwood, one on Apr 27th. High Wood, Cudham, one on Mar 21st. Pratt's Bottom, one on Sep 10th. Strawberry Bank, pair with young on Jun 11th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, up to two on ten dates from Jan 1st to Apr 9th and up to two on 11 dates from Jul 15th to Dec 27th. Bookham Common, singles on Mar 15th, Jul 16th & 30th and two on Sep 22nd. Canons Farm, one on Apr 15th. Dollypers Hill, one on Feb 5th. Epsom Common, singles on Jan 11th, Apr 12th, pair with young on Jun 10th and one on Oct 16th. Fetcham, one on Nov 27th. Headley Heath, singles on Jan 23rd, Oct 18th and Dec 6th. Hutchinson's Bank, one on May 13th. Juniper Bottom, one on Mar 15th. Kings Wood, up to three in March, singles on Apr 15th and May 13th. Langley Vale, singles on Feb 20th, Apr 12th & 15th, Aug 22nd, Oct 11th and Nov 16th. Nower Wood, Headley, four on Apr 1st. Selsdon Wood, one on Nov 23rd.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Breeding was confirmed at 74 sites, probable breeding at 38 sites and possible breeding at 34 sites. There were 12 sites where we have breeding counts for both this year and last year: six went up, four went down and two were the same. Breeding activity is under-recorded for this widespread and common species and changes are likely to reflect differences in reporting rather than a real change in abundance. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decrease of 19% in London from 2011-21.

Below are the number of pairs for sites where six or more pairs were reported (probable/confirmed breeding excluding singing males) and some of the higher counts, and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (20); 94 on Jun 8th. Bonnett's Wood (12). Cely Woods (14). Gilbert's Slade, Epping Forest, 50 on Jan 15th. Grays Cemetery (8). Hangman's Wood (12). Manor Farm, Upminster (12). Mar Dyke Valley (29); 80 on Jun 7th. North Ockendon (7). Orsett Fen (10). Warren Gorge (9).

Middx: Home Park, 54 on Mar 10th.

Kent: Avery Hill Park, 43 on Apr 24th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (8). Ashtead Common (44); 62 on Mar 22nd. Banstead Wood (23). Beddington Farmlands (17). Canons Farm (20). Esher Common (8). Lloyd Park, Croydon, 60 on Aug 17th. Richmond Park, 56 on Apr 4th. West End Common (12); 99 on Jan 25th.

In Lond: Burgess Park, 33 on Mar 28th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 15 on Sep 15th. Regent's Park, 56 on Jan 14th. St James's Park, 15 on Jul 4th. Victoria Park, 15 on 12th Jun.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Breeding was confirmed at 65 sites, probable breeding at 46 sites and possible breeding at 79 sites. There were 15 sites where we have breeding counts for both this year and last year: seven went up and eight went down. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decrease of 9% in London from 2011-21.

Below are the number of pairs for sites where six or more pairs were reported (probable/confirmed breeding excluding singing males) and some of the higher counts, and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (17); 56 on Jun 8th. Cely Woods (9). Grays Cemetery (6). Grays Gorge (9). Hangman's Wood (7). Manor Farm, Upminster (6). Mar Dyke Valley (18). Orsett Fen (12). Warren Gorge (6).

Middx: Brent Res, 43 on Feb 25th. Home Park, 49 on Mar 10th.

Surrey: Ashtead Common (15). Banstead Wood (21). Beddington Farmlands (32); 48 on Feb 16th. Canons Farm (20). West End Common (7).

In Lond: Burgess Park (1). Fulham (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1). Regent's Park (1); 49 on Jan 24th. Russia Dock Woodland (1).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, scarce breeder. **RBBP**

Birds were reported at five sites, as was the case in 2021. Birds were seen at three sites in the first two months of the

Left: Bearded Tit are a rare visitor to London in the winter, but also breed at Rainham Marshes in small numbers, where this bird was photographed. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

Opposite: Blue Tit. (Rudraksha Chodankar)



year (one fewer in 2021 for that period) and at three sites in the last two months (the same as 2021 for that period). Breeding was confirmed at Rainham Marshes (seven pairs) and Swanscombe Marshes.

All records are given below, summarised for some sites.

Essex: Rainham Marshes (7); seen in every month with 15 on July 20th.

Herts: Rye Meads, seen from Oct 11th to Dec 17th with ten on Oct 29th and Nov 12th. Tyttenhanger GP, male from Mar 11th-14th.

Kent: Crossness, one on Jan 19th and six on Oct 22nd. Swanscombe Marshes (bred); on 12 dates from Jan 1st to Jun 5th with ten on Jan 4th, up to four on three dates from Sep 11th to Dec 4th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Status: scarce passage migrant and occasional rare breeder. **RBBP**

For the fifth year running, there was no evidence of breeding. There were just four sightings at four sites (17 at 14 sites in 2021). There was only one spring record in April and three autumn records: one in September and two in October.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one over on Oct 19th (A Self). Wanstead Flats, one from Sept 29th-30th (N Croft *et al*)

Kent: Cudham, one W on Oct 15th (A Wells).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one N on Apr 25th (G Jones).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 14 winter flocks of 50 or more at 12 sites (compared with 17 at 17 sites in 2021). Eleven of these were in the second winter period. The highest count was 250 at Longfield, Kent on December 16th.

A minimum of 303 territories was counted or suspected (compared with 322 in 2021 and 257 in 2020) from 81 sites (72 in 2021 and 61 in 2020). Although this marks a small reduction compared with 2021, it is nonetheless the second-highest total of the last decade. The annual totals can reflect differences in reporting effort rather than or as well as abundance changes, but the Breeding Bird Survey shows an increase of 18% in South East from 2011-21; hence the increases may be genuine. The largest concentration of territories was, as usual, at Rainham Marshes with 43, compared with 50 in 2021, 25 in the partial-survey year of 2020 and 43 in 2019.

Once again, autumn passage was light, with 100 at Walton Downs on October 6th being the only count larger than 50.

Below are the number of territories for each sector, breeding records for sites where three or more pairs were recorded (no. of territories in brackets), plus some of the higher counts and all the Inner London records.

Essex: 152+ territories at 22 sites (135+ at 15 in 2021). Bonnett's Wood (3). Manor Farm, Upminster (11). Mar Dyke Valley (3). Navestock Heath, 100 on Jan 22nd. North Ockendon (15), at Fair Play Farm; 56 on Dec 15th. Orsett Fen (26). Parkers Farm Road (12). Park Farm, Havering, 52 on Dec 20th. Rainham Marshes (43). Thorndon CP South (3). Wanstead Flats (3). West Horndon, 66 on Dec 18th.

Herts: 47+ territories at 19 sites (36+ at 20 sites). Ellenbrook Fields (6). Frogmore Lakes (4). Munden Estate (3). Nashe's Farm, 200 on Nov 30th. Stanborough GP (15+); 100 on Jan 17th and 200 on Dec 18th. Tyttenhanger GP, 60+ on Dec 15th. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (3); 100 on Dec 12th.

Middx: 34 territories at 15 sites (38+ at 12 sites). Holly Hill Farm (6). Home Park (9). Sloemans Farm, 50+ on Nov 12th.

Kent: 25+ territories at 13 sites (44+ at nine sites in 2021). Crayford Marshes (4). Longfield, 250 on Dec 16th. Upper College Farm (3). Wilmington (6+).

Surrey: 45+ territories at 12 sites (67+ at 16 sites in 2021). Canons Farm (9). Farthing Downs (3). Richmond Park (12+). Riddlesdown (8). Rushett Farm (4).

In Lond: Primrose Hill, singles over on Oct 9th, 16th & 31st, Dec 13th and four, one of which landed briefly, on Dec 15th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Status: common summer visitor, localised breeder and passage migrant.

The first of spring was one at Rainham Marshes on March 5th, a fairly typical date. Small numbers were then seen on many days in March, until a bigger arrival on April 1st, when there were 70 at the London Wetland Centre. Spring passage was generally light, the largest count being 200 at Staines Res on May 1st.

Breeding was confirmed or probable at nine sites (13 in 2021 and 12 in 2020), with at least 182 nests at the seven sites with counts. In 2021, there were at least 250 nests at the ten sites with counts. At the artificial bank at the London Wetland Centre, 80

A skilled capture of a Sand Martin in flight. (Rudraksha Chodankar)



chambers had nests with eggs (92 in 2021), 44 second clutches and one third brood with 198 young ringed.

The first large count of autumn was 100 at Hilfield Park Res on September 8th. Just three other counts of 100 or more were recorded during autumn passage, the biggest being 137 at Beddington Farmlands on September 13th. The last bird of autumn was at Beddington Farmlands on October 20th, but there was also a subsequent winter record of one at Troy Mill Lake on the very unseasonal date of December 7th.

Breeding sites are given below, with the number of pairs in brackets, along with all Inner London records.

Essex: Mill Meads (bred), Walthamstow Marshes (bred).

Herts: Stanborough GP (35+).

Middx: Limehouse Cut (1+). Tottenham Marshes (1+).

Surrey: Kingston (8+), nesting in drainage holes near Kingston Bridge. Holmethorpe SP (45+), London Wetland Centre (80), 198 young ringed. Richmond Park (12).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, three on Apr 28th and 15 on 29th, one on Jun 4th and two on Aug 9th. Little Venice, one on May 10th. Regent's Park, five on Jun 18th, one on 26th and two on 30th. Rotherhithe, two on Apr 25th. Southwark Park, two on May 10th. Victoria Park, two on Apr 20th, 25 on 28th, 20 on Jul 19th and a total of 37 on five dates from Aug 19th to Sep 24th. Westminster, one on May 13th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, breeding confined to rural areas.

The first spring arrival was one at Tyttenhanger GP on March 27th, a fairly typical date. Small numbers were seen almost daily from then until April 27th, when a larger arrival included 110 at Fairlop Waters and 100 at Hilfield Park Res. There were spring day counts of 100 or more at eight sites (compared with ten sites in 2021 and three in 2020), all in the period April 27th to 30th, the largest being 350 at Hilfield Park Res on April 29th.

Breeding, or probable breeding, was recorded at 13 sites, compared with 24 last year, and more than one nest was confirmed at four of these (compared with six last year).

The first large count of autumn was 200 at Bushy Park on July 21st. Autumn passage was heavier than last year, with 20 day counts of 100 or more (compared with nine in 2021 and 15 in 2020), the largest being 293 south at Brook Farm, Upminster on September 9th and 207 over Wanstead Flats on September 13th. The last record was of one at Walthamstow Wetlands on November 21st that had been present since November 10th.

Breeding sites are given below, with the number of nests in brackets, along with all Inner London records.

Essex: Aldborough Hatch, at Equestrian Centre (bred). Brook Farm, Upminster (3). Navestock Church (1+).

Herts: Munden Estate (1). Sopwell (bred).

Middx: Bury Farm (bred). Strayfield Road (2). Trent Park Equestrian Centre (1). Vicarage Farm (1).

Surrey: Claygate, at Surbiton Golf Course (4). Garsons Farm (3). Kingston Bridge (1). Richmond Park, at Holly Lodge (bred).

In Lond: Burgess Park, one on May 12th. Fulham, two on Apr 28th and Sep 24th. Green

Park, two on Sep 28th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 50 on Apr 29th, five on three dates from Aug 3rd to Sep 18th. Kensington, one on Jul 6th. Kilburn Grange Park, one on Apr 28th. London Zoo, two on May 21st. Millennium Bridge, one on Jun 24th. Primrose Hill, six on four dates from Apr 6th to May 6th and 138 on four dates from Sep 12th to Oct 4th, including 104 on Sep 14th. Regent's Park, 12 on six dates from Apr 14th to Jun 12th and 26 on seven dates from Aug 4th to Sep 12th. Russia Dock Woodland, six on Apr 28th. St James's Park, four on Jun 24th. Tate Modern, one on Apr 28th. Victoria Park, five on May 29th and two on Jul 21st.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Spring passage started late and was light. The first birds were two at Sevenoaks WR on April 1st and there were just three counts of 50 or more (compared with 25 in 2021 and 12 in 2020), the largest being 60 at Walthamstow Wetlands on June 3rd. The latter count is likely to involve breeding birds rather than passage birds as a longstanding breeding colony is present at Walthamstow FB but is rarely viewed and counted as the site is private.

At least 123 active nests were counted at 31 sites. This is a decrease compared with 2021, when there were 143 active nests at 32 sites. All records of apparently active nests are given below.

Post-breeding gatherings or early passage movements included 150 at KGV Res on September 1st and 100+ at Totteridge Valley on 2nd. Autumn passage was heavier than last year, with 39 counts of 100 or more in September and the first week of October (compared with ten in 2021 and 52 in 2020). The highest counts were on October 5th: 1,600+ at St Paul's Cray, 946 at Beddington Farmlands and 800+ at Sidcup; 500 were counted at Stocker's Lake on September 26th and 650 at Staines Res on 27th. The last birds of autumn were 30 at Hampstead Heath on the very early date of October 10th.

Breeding sites are given below, with the number of nests in brackets.

Essex: Aldborough Hatch, at Equestrian Centre (bred). Grays (13). North Woolwich (2). Orsett Fen, at Ockendon Hall (12). Wanstead Flats (5). Warren Gorge (9).

Herts: Bell Bar (2). Chiswell Green (1). Ellenbrook Fields (8). Essendon (2). Frogmore GP (1). Hunton Bridge (1+). St Albans (1). Turnford (10).

Middx: Ashford Hospital (14). Chiswick (1). Poplar, at Lime Kiln Dock (16). Ruislip Lido (1). Staines Res (14).

Kent: St Paul's Cray (3).

Surrey: Barnes (1). Berrylands (2). Epsom (1). Godstone (1). Kew (2). Putney (1). Walton-on-Thames (1+). Winterhouse Farm (2).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1+). Primrose Hill (5+). Regent's Park (3). Southwark Park (1+).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Status: localised breeding resident.

The best year ever with another slight increase in the number of sites where the species was recorded and a substantial rise in the number of territories. There were records from 217 sites (compared with 215 last year and 204 in 2020) and at least 519 territories



A stunning full-frame portrait of a Cetti's Warbler. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

(compared with 369 last year and 340 in 2020).

Below are sector totals, breeding records for sites with five or more singing males (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), plus a summary of Inner London records.

Essex: Reported from 60 sites. Belhus Woods CP (7). Creekmouth, Barking (10). Dagenham Chase (7). Ingrebourne Valley (11). Mar Dyke Valley (11). Rainham Marshes (103). Walthamstow Marshes (12). Walthamstow Wetlands (13). West Thurrock Marshes (15).

Herts: Reported from 38 sites. Amwell NR (11). Cheshunt GP (7). North Met Pit (18). Rye Meads (14). Stocker's Lake (5).

Middx: Reported from 52 sites. Brent Res (7). Springwell Lakes (5).

Bucks: Reported from seven sites.

Kent: Reported from 26 sites. Crossness (40). Dartford Marshes (20). Swanscombe Marshes (26).

Surrey: Reported from 34 sites. Beddington Farmlands (16). London Wetland Centre (24). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (6).

In Lond: Reported from seven sites. Battersea Park, up to two on 16 dates from Feb 19th to Oct 10th. Burgess Park, singles on Sep 23rd and Oct 2nd & 22nd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, up to three on many dates throughout the year. Regent's Park, present throughout the year. Tate Modern, one on Aug 30th. St James's Park, up to two on many dates from Mar 28th to Dec 23rd. Victoria Park, one on many dates from Sep 15th to Nov 13th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

There were 194 pairs reported this year (163 in 2021 and 135 in 2022). Doubtless this is a major underestimate since there are no breeding data from many sites with suitable habitat. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 39% decrease in London from 2016-21.

Below are records for sites where three or more pairs were counted (no. of pairs/territories in brackets) and all pairs in Inner London, plus high sector counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (9); 72 on Jul 1st. Bonnett's Wood (4). Cely Woods (7). Hangman's Wood (3). Mar Dyke Valley (11); 42 on Oct 7th and Nov 21st. Orsett Fen (5). Rainham Marshes (9). Walthamstow Wetlands (9). Warren Gorge (3).

Herts: Rye Meads (17); 30 on Oct 27th. Stocker's Lake, 44 on Dec 10th.

Middx: Broadwater Lake, 53 on Dec 3rd. Hampstead Heath, 47 on Nov 22nd. Mudchute Farm, 52 on Jan 15th. Tottenham Marshes (10).

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 35 on Jun 28th.

Surrey: Ashtead Common (4). Beddington Farmlands (4). Canons Farm (3). Little Woodcote, 40 on Nov 25th.

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery (2); 30 on Jun 26th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 30 on Oct 23rd. Southwark Park (1). Victoria Park, 40 on Oct 12th.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Status: scarce passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

There were three spring records and two autumn records this year, similar to the two spring and two autumn records last year. The dates of this year's records are all typical. As numbers have been so low in recent years, from 2023 descriptions should be sent in for any records.

Essex: Walthamstow Wetlands, one on Aug 24th (D Callahan).



Long-tailed Tit. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

Middx: Hampstead Heath, one singing on May 14th (N Baker).

Bucks: Shreding Green, one singing on May 2nd (S Dungey).

Surrey: Richmond Park, one on Aug 7th (A Westenberger). Wimbledon, one singing by R Wandle south of Plough Lane on Apr 25th (M Bravery).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There were just three records this year, the lowest number since 2015. All three birds were seen for just one day on typical autumn dates; there were no overwintering birds as there have been in recent years.

Yellow-browed Warbler records 2013-2022: 109 records, 110 birds

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of records	2	3	3	37*	15*	12	10	18*	6**	3
No. of birds	2	3	3	37*	16*	12	10	18*	6**	3

*plus one over-wintering bird ** plus three over-wintering birds

Middx: Edmonton, one on Oct 14th (A Middleton).

Kent: Upper College Farm, one on Sep 20th (I Stewart).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Oct 5th (A Salmon).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Status: rare vagrant

The long-staying bird from 2021 was seen this year until April 30th, so was at the site for over four and a half months. But there were no new records, so the total remains at three for the London Area.

Essex: Walthamstow Marshes, one over-wintering from December 2021 was present until Apr 30th (many observers).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant, declining as a breeding species.

The first of the year was singing on March 22nd at the London Wetland Centre, ten days later than the first last year. There were daily records from March 31st until late May.

There were 27 territories at 18 sites, with 23 of the sites in Essex and Hertfordshire. Compared with 33 territories reported at 19 sites last year, this is a slight decrease in territories and sites. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a significant decrease in breeding numbers in the South East from 2021-22. There were reports of 'mixed singers' with some Chiffchaff bits in Willow Warbler songs at Frogmore Lakes, Hilfield Park Res, Oxshott Heath and Richmond Park.

Autumn passage started in early July with the highest site counts in August or September. There were records from 15 sites in October with the last at the London Wetland Centre on 29th.

Below are all breeding records (no. of territories in brackets), plus a summary of Inner London records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (1). Bonnett's Wood (6). Cely Woods (2). High Beach (1). Ingrebourne Valley (1). Manor Farm, Upminster (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Roding Valley Meadows (1). Walthamstow Marshes, 22 on Aug 14th. Warren Gorge (1).

Herts: Ellenbrook Fields (3). Essendon (1). Frogmore Lakes (2). Hertford Heath (1). Rye Meads, 15 on Sep 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: Bushy Park, 17 on Aug 7th. Totteridge Valley (1).

Kent: Crystal Palace Park, four on Aug 11th and Sep 4th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood (1). London Wetland Centre, 15 on Sep 12th. Oxshott Heath (1). Richmond Park (1).

In Lond: Reported from 13 sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, at least four on Aug 20th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Status: common and widespread breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, and increasingly widespread in winter.

Birds were reported from 109 sites in the period January to February, similar to the 107 last year. The highest count in this period was 12 at Beckton Creekside NR on February 17th.

There are 22 sites listed below where we have breeding evidence for this year and last year: 14 showed an increase this year, six showed a decrease and two no change. This suggests there may have been an increase in breeding numbers this year in London. This

Chiffchaff. (Eugene Dillon-Hooper)



reflects the Breeding Bird Survey which shows a significant increase in England from 2021-22.

Birds were reported at 141 sites in the period November to December, much higher than the 77 last year. In fact, this is the highest since we started reporting these figures in 2010. The highest count in this period was 21 at Broadwater Lake on December 27th.

Below are breeding records for sites where five or more pairs were reported (no. of territories in brackets), some high counts and a summary of Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (23). Bonnett's Wood (8). Cely Woods (13). Manor Farm, Upminster (5+). Mar Dyke Valley (13). North Ockendon (9+). Rainham Marshes (19). Walthamstow Marshes (16+). Walthamstow Wetlands (5). Wanstead Flats, 35 on Sep 13th. Wanstead Park (39).

Herts: Ellenbrook Fields (6+). Frogmore Lakes (13). Munden Estate (5). Rye Meads (28); 60 on Sep 17th.

Middx: Hampstead Heath (5+). Hatherop Park (5+). Tottenham Marshes (26). Totteridge Valley (9+); 58+ on Sep 2nd.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (8+); 18 on Apr 16th.

Kent: Beckenham Place Park (5+). Crossness, c60 on Sep 19th. Sevenoaks WR (8+). Swanscombe Marshes (5+).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (5). Ashtead Common (29). Banstead Wood (24). Beddington Farmlands (13). Bookham Common (6+). Canons Farm (8). Esher Common (10). Happy Valley (6+). London Wetland Centre, 45+ on Oct 6th. Molesey Heath (27). Riddlesdown (5+). The Ledges, Esher (19). West End Common (14).

In Lond: Burgess Park (1). Holland Park (1+). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2+). Regent's Park (1+). Russia Dock Woodland (2+). Victoria Park, 30 on Sep 22nd. There were records in January at Burgess Park, Regent's Park, South Bank, Southwark Park and Westbourne Green. There were also records in January and February at Russia Dock Woodland and Tate Modern. There were records in November and December from Russia Dock Woodland and Southwark Park. There were also records in November at Victoria Park and in December at Mile End Park.

SUBSPECIES: Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis*

Status: rare winter visitor and passage migrant.

There were three or possibly four birds seen in January at two sites (Beckton SW and Mitcham Common), with at least one of the Beckton SW birds remaining until March. In March, there were additional birds at two sites: Ingrebourne Valley and up to three birds at Walthamstow Marshes/Wetlands. At the end of the year, the only accepted records were at Beddington Farmlands and Rye Meads. This suggests a total of nine or possibly ten birds this year, similar to the totals in 2020 and 2021 (eight and seven birds respectively). There are four additional reports listed in App III for which descriptions would be welcome.

Essex: Beckton SW, two or possibly three on Jan 30th with one or more staying to Mar 24th (J Partridge *et al*) (also reported at Creekmouth, Barking). Ingrebourne Valley, one trapped and ringed on Mar 26th (F Simpson, P Hawkins). Walthamstow Marshes/Wetlands, up to three from Mar 2nd-31st (R Evans, C Farthing *et al*).

Herts: Rye Meads, singles on Jan 9th and Dec 24th (Rye Meads Partnership).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Nov 14th (J Bartley) & 19th (Z Pannifer). Mitcham Common, one on Jan 7th (A Dutta).

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*

Status: rare vagrant. **RBBP**

This is only the third record for the London Area but one that summered and is believed to have bred. This was the only record in Great Britain accepted by the *BBRC* for 2022. It was considered to be paired with a Chiffchaff and seen feeding young, and a faecal sample has been collected from one of the chicks and sent for analysis to hopefully confirm it as a hybrid Iberian Chiffchaff x Chiffchaff.

The only previous London records were in 1972 at Brent Res for a day and in 2020 at Ponders End Lake for almost a month.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one from May 4th to Sep 8th which was singing from May to end of June (D Johnson *et al.*).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first of the year was on March 24th at Rainham Marshes, five days earlier than last year. But there were no records anywhere else until April 11th after which there were daily records. There are seven sites listed below where we have breeding evidence for this year and last year: three show a decrease, three no change and one an increase; so, not much evidence of any real change. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 30% decrease in the South East from 2011-21.

In September, there were records at 27 sites (seven more than last year) but there were just two records in October: at Edgware Bury on 2nd and at Rainham Marshes on 8th.

Below are breeding records for sites where two or more pairs were recorded (no. of territories in brackets), plus all Inner London records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Cornmill Meadows, 17 on Apr 27th. Ingrebourne Valley (3+). QE Olympic Park (5). Rainham Marshes (108). Walthamstow Marshes (7). Walthamstow Wetlands (7).

Herts: Broxbourne GP (3). Rye Meads (46). Stocker's Lake (2).

Middx: Brent Res (2). Staines Moor, 12 on May 6th.

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes, nine on May 10th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (3). London Wetland Centre (8). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (2+).

In Lond: Regent's Park (1). Also reported at Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Limehouse, Russia Dock Woodland, South Bank, St James's Park and Tate Modern.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first of the year were at the London Wetland Centre and Roding Valley Meadows NR, both on April 11th, nine days later than last year, with daily records occurring from then on. There are 34 sites listed below where we have breeding evidence for both this year and last year: 14 went down, 11 went up and nine stayed the same; so, perhaps a

decrease this year. The only significant change shown by the Breeding Bird Survey are a 13% increase in England from 2016-21.

There were records at 33 sites in September, with six sites having records in October. The last of the year was on October 11th at Stocker's Lake, two days earlier than last year.

Below are breeding records for sites where two or more pairs were reported (no. of territories in brackets), some high counts and a summary of Inner London records.

Essex: Beckton Creekside NR (2+). Belhus Woods CP (11). Church Lane Flood Meadows LNR (2). Dagenham Chase (2+). Mar Dyke Valley (9). Orsett Fen (8). QE Olympic Park (6+). Rainham Marshes (186). Roding Valley Meadows NR (3). Walthamstow Marshes (8). Walthamstow Wetlands (22). Wanstead Park (2+). Warren Gorge (4). Waterworks NR (3+). West Thurrock Marshes (7+).

Herts: Cheshunt GP (2+). Ellenbrook Fields (4). Hilfield Park Res (6+). Rye Meads (95). Stocker's Lake (2). Tyttenhanger GP (6+).

Middx: Brent Res (3+). Bushy Park (5+). East India Dock Basin (3). Hampstead Heath (4). Q. Mary GP (8). Springwell Lake (3+). Woodberry Wetlands (15); 60 on Jul 30th.

Kent: Crossness (4+). Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (2+). Sevenoaks WR (5). Swanscombe Marshes (6+).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (42). Esher Common (3). London Wetland Centre (70). Mayflower Park (6). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (22).

In Lond: Burgess Park (1+). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2+). Regent's Park (1+); eight on Jun 16th. St James's Park (1).

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Status: rare summer visitor and passage migrant, has bred. **RBBP**

One was suspected to be breeding at a site in Kent for the second year running; it was heard singing several times before it was ringed. Another bird at Rainham Marshes appears in App III, for which a description would be very welcome.

Kent: Site A (1).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

There were reports from just ten sites this year, much lower than last year's 29 sites. Breeding was probable at just three sites and involved five territories. This is the lowest breeding count since 2018, when there was just one breeding site but six territories.

The first was on April 10th at Chingford Plain, three days later than last year and the last was on September 25th at Beddington Farmlands. All records are given below.

Essex: Chingford Plain, one on Apr 10th. Cornmill Meadows, singles on Apr 17th & 25th, then three singing on 30th. Mar Dyke Valley, one singing on May 18th. Rainham Marshes (3). Tylers Common, one on Aug 30th.

Herts: Rye Meads (1).

Middx: Kempton NR, one singing on Apr 12th.

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes (1).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one singing on Apr 14th, singles on Sep 19th & 25th. Richmond Park, one singing on Jul 13th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Status: common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

There were 216 birds reported at 153 sites in the period January to February, which is an increase on the 203 birds at 132 sites in the same period in 2021. But this is still below the 247 birds reported at 179 sites in this period in 2019. The first report of singing birds was on February 8th, nearly a month later than last year.

Of the sites listed below, there were 33 where we have breeding evidence for both this year and last year. Eighteen of them show a decrease, ten an increase and six no change; this suggests breeding numbers are slightly down on last year. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 20% increase in London from 2016-21.

There were 163 birds reported at 118 sites in the period November to December, which is more than twice as many birds as in this period in 2021, when there were 78 birds at 52 sites.

Below are breeding records for sites where five or more pairs were reported (no. of territories in brackets) and all breeding records in Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (19+). Bonnett's Wood (10). Cely Woods (9+). Chigwell (5+). Grays Gorge (6). High Beach (5+). Lion Gorge (5). Manor Farm, Upminster (8). Mar Dyke Valley (18). North Ockendon (11). Orsett Fen (13). Rainham Marshes (36). Walthamstow Marshes (8+). Walthamstow Wetlands (18). Wanstead Park (8+). Warren Gorge (5+). West Thurrock Marshes (5+).

Herts: Brickendon (5+). Brookmans Park (8+). Ellenbrook Fields (6+). Frogmore Lakes (11). Munden Estate (9). Rye Meads (40). Tyttenhanger GP (5+).

Middx: Hampstead Heath (5+). Tottenham Marshes (41). Totteridge Valley (13+). Trent Park (5+). Yeading Brook Meadows (5+).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (13+).

Kent: Beckenham Place Park (6+). Ladywell Fields (5+). Sevenoaks WR (25). Swanscombe Marshes (6+).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (12). Ashted Common (36). Banstead Wood (26). Beddington Farmlands (36). Bookham Common (7). Canons Farm (18). Chertsey (7+). Esher Common (9). Happy Valley (9+). London Wetland Centre (25). Molesey Heath (34). Riddlesdown (8+). West End Common (27). Wimbledon Common (8+). Woodcote, Purley (5).

In Lond: Battersea Park (1+). Buckingham Palace Gdns (1+). Burgess Park (5+). Holland Park (1+). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (7+). Regent's Park (2+). Russia Dock Woodland (3+). Southwark Park (2+). St James's Park (1+). Victoria Park (3+).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first birds of the year were on the relatively late date of April 13th at Bowyer's Water and Fairlop Water; in the last five years, the first date has been between April 1st to 4th. From 15th, records were almost daily. Of the 30 sites where we have breeding records for last year and this year, 16 show no change, eight have decreased and six have increased. This suggests no real change since last year. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 23% decrease in the South East from 2011-21. The last of the year was on September

20th at Wanstead Park (the same date as last year).

Below are all breeding records (no. of territories in brackets) and all Inner London records.

Essex: Cely Woods (4). Chingford Plain (2+). Fishers Green Island (2). High Beach (1+). Mar Dyke Valley (1+). North Weald Bassett (1). Rainham Marshes (1). Strawberry Hill Ponds (1). Walthamstow Marshes (1). Waterworks NR (1).

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Broxbourne GP (1). Ellenbrook Fields (4+). Essendon (1+). Frogmore Lakes (1). Hilfield Park Res (2). Maple Lodge NR (1+). North Mymms Park (1+). Northaw Great Wood (1). Rye Meads (16). Stocker's Lake (1+). Troy Mill Lake (1+). Tyttenhanger GP (2+).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (1). Brent Res (1). Fir & Pond Woods (1). Hampstead Heath (1). Hatherop Park (1). Hounslow Heath (1). Q. Mary GP (1+). Springwell Lake (1+). Staines Moor (1+). Tottenham Marshes (1). Totteridge Valley (2). Trent Park (1).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res (1). Wraysbury GP (8).

Kent: Sevenoaks WR (6).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (2). Ashtead Common (13). Bookham Common (1+). London Wetland Centre (1). Molesey Heath (3). Putney Heath (1). Sanderstead (1). Wimbledon Common (2).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1+). Regent's Park (1).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

A wintering bird was seen in a garden in Highbury on January 30th and then relocated there from March 11th to April 3rd. There were then two records of wintering birds at the end of the year: in Croydon on November 13th (see below) and at Rye Meads on December 13th. Looking at LBR records, these appear to be the seventh, eighth and ninth such records since 2000. The previous six records were: Wraysbury GP on November 11th 2001, Chafford Hundred from January 21st to March 18th 2005, Seventy Acres Lake from December 2008 to January 2nd 2009, Highgate on March 28th 2015, East India Dock Basin from November 24th-26th 2015 and Richmond from December 18th 2017 to April 21st 2018.

The first migrants of the year were on April 13th (four days earlier than last year) when there was one at Richmond Park. There were then daily records from 15th. There are 25 sites where we have breeding records for this year and last year: 14 show no change, seven have decreased and three have increased. This suggests no overall change since last year.

Apart from the November and December records mentioned above, most birds had left by late September with the last being on October 2nd at Waterworks NR.

Below are all breeding records (no. of territories in brackets), some higher counts and all Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (2). Bonnett's Wood (4). Cely Woods (1). Chingford Plain (1+). Corbetts Tey (1). Dagenham Chase, nine on Aug 17th. KGV Res (2+). Lion Gorge (1). Manor Farm, Upminster (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (1). Rainham Marshes (7). Roding Valley Meadows NR (1). Upminster (1). Walthamstow Marshes (4). Wanstead

Flats (1+). Wanstead Park (1). West Thurrock Marshes (2+).

Herts: Brookmans Park (1). Broxbourne GP (1+). Cheshunt GP (1). Ellenbrook Fields (2+). Frogmore Lakes (1). Stanborough GP (1+). Tyttenhanger GP (1+). Wildhill (1).

Middx: Gutteridge Wood (1+). Guy Lodge Farm (1). Hampstead Heath (1). Hounslow Heath (1). Staines Moor (1). Ten Acres, Yeading (1). Tottenham Marshes (2). Totteridge Valley (1+). Vicarage Farm (1). Wormwood Scrubs (1+).

Bucks: Colnbrook (1). Denham (1).

Kent: Eynsford (2). Crossness (1). St Paul's Cray (1). Swanscombe Marshes (1); nine on May 10th.

Surrey: Ashtead Common (1). Beddington Farmlands (1). Canons Farm (1). Fetcham Mill Pond (1). Island Barn Res (1).

In Lond: Lincoln's Inn Fields, one on Apr 15th. Regent's Park, singles on May 7th and Aug 20th. Tate Modern, one on May 3rd.

SUBSPECIES: Siberian Lesser Whitethroat *S. c. blythi*

Status: rare vagrant.

The winter record in Croydon included in the main species text above was accepted as being one of the Siberian races. This is the second confirmed Siberian Lesser Whitethroat following the bird wintering at Richmond in the 2017-18 winter, which was confirmed by DNA testing to be *S. c. blythi*. Field identification to subspecies is difficult and there is a good chance that some of the other winter records listed above were also from one of the eastern races.

Surrey: Croydon, one on Nov 13th (L Offer).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

There was one March record this year at Brent Cross Shopping Centre from 27th to 29th. Apart from birds on April 1st at Beddington Farmlands and Rainham Marshes, there were then no more until April 11th. For the sites listed below, there were 12 where we had records for this year and last year; six of these decreased, four increased and two had no change, so this suggests numbers are broadly stable or may possibly have decreased slightly. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 14% decrease in the South East from 2011-21. There were just three records after September: singles at Bushy Park and North Ockendon on October 2nd and at Mar Dyke Valley on 16th.

Below are breeding records for sites where ten or more pairs were recorded (no. of territories in brackets) and all Inner London records.

Essex: Fairlop Waters (10). Mar Dyke Valley (18). North Ockendon (17). Rainham Marshes (102). Walthamstow Marshes (15).

Herts: Ellenbrook Fields (10+). Frogmore Lakes (11). Rye Meads (19).

Middx: Osterley Park (12+). Tottenham Marshes (31).

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes (12+).

Surrey: Ashtead Common (18). Beddington Farmlands (55). Canons Farm (11). Molesey Heath (24).

In Lond: Burgess Park (1). Camley Street Natural Park, one on May 9th. Hyde Park/

Kensington Gdns, singles on May 18th, Jun 19th and two on Jul 9th. Regent's Park (1+). Somers Town, one on May 2nd. Tate Modern, one on Aug 30th.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Status: rare breeding species, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. **RBBP**

This proved to be quite a remarkable year with records including the first confirmed breeding since 2007 and very high numbers in the last four months. During January, a total of seven birds were reported at six sites. Apart from Esher Common, perhaps all the other six were over-wintering from 2021. There were two additional new birds noted in March so a total of at least nine birds at the start of the year. In Surrey, a pair fledged three young at one site and a bird was singing in June at another site.

In July, two were at Bushy Park with three there in August. From September onwards, there were a very large number of records with probably nine birds appearing in September, another 12 in October, eight in November and then six more in December.

Given that Dartford Warblers can be quite skulking birds and that there may have been some movements between sites, it is hard to know how many of these records were for different birds but there could have been as many as 38 birds in the London Area during this end of the year. That would bring the total for the year to six over-wintering from 2021, three more in the first three months plus another during June and 38 during the period July to December: 42 new birds in total. This is more than double the highest estimate of new birds in recent years (20 in 2020).

All records are given below, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Barking Bay/Marsh, one reported on Dec 2nd. Dagenham Chase, one on Sep 27th, two, possibly three, on 28th & 29th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Dec 10th. Rainham Marshes, one from 2021 remained until Feb 25th, with a second on Jan 21st and Feb 23rd & 25th; singles on Oct 10th and Nov 12th, two on Nov 25th and Dec 20th with one on Dec 24th. Wanstead Flats, one from Sep 30th to Nov 14th, two intermittently from Nov 16th to Dec 21st, then one on Dec 29th.

Middx: Bushy Park, one from Jan 2nd-12th, Feb 17th, Jul 20th with two on 21st and then intermittently to Dec 13th, with three on Aug 6th and Oct 24th. Osterley Park, one heard on Oct 8th. Rectory Farm, one from Sep 30th to Nov 13th. Staines Moor, one on Jan 14th and one intermittently from Oct 4th to Dec 18th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Nov 30th. Crossness, one from Oct 29th to end of year. Swanscombe Marshes, one intermittently from Oct 6th to Dec 12th. Upper College Farm, one from Sep 7th to Oct 13th.

Surrey: Site A, three young seen. Site B, singing male on Jun 16th. Beddington Farmlands, two from Sep 19th to Dec 27th, with three on Nov 22nd and five on Dec 13th. London Wetland Centre, one from Oct 13th, then two from 17th to end of year and three on Dec 11th. Mogador, one on Oct 8th. Oxshott Heath, one on Dec 1st. Putney Heath, one from Oct 13th-14th and one heard on Dec 7th. Richmond Park, one on Jan 7th & 17th and Feb 7th, two on Mar 11th, one from Sep 25th to Dec 9th, with three on Nov 4th then four on 18th & 28th and two on Dec 2nd. Walton Downs, two on Oct 7th, one on 8th & 18th. Wimbledon Common, one on Jan 22nd, one from Oct 3rd to Dec 13th, with two on Nov 10th & 16th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

This year there were reports from 144 sites, an increase on the 119 sites of last year. One pair was reported at a site in Kent between May and August. Singing males were reported at nine sites: two in Herts, three in Kent, one in Middlesex and three in Surrey. This is similar to the eight territories reported last year.

Firecrest: number of sites

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Jan-Mar	16	3	9	0	20	20	1	69
Oct-Dec	17	3	13	0	33	20	3	89
Jan-Dec	29	7	22	0	44	35	7	144

In the first winter period, several sites had birds for prolonged periods, most notably: Foots Cray Meadows, Golders Hill Park, Grovelands Park, Hampstead Heath, Little Woodcote, Rainham Marshes, St Albans and Wanstead Park. In April, there were reports from 12 sites, then 19 in May, eight in June and three in July.

In August, birds were reported at 14 sites with the first being on August 6th at Woodford Green, then from 24 sites in September. From October, the numbers increased with birds being recorded from 60 sites with long-staying birds at Alexandra Park, Greenwich Park, Kemnal Woods, Lamorbey Park, Little Woodcote, Oxleas Wood, Southwark Park and Victoria Park.

The largest numbers reported were eight at Oxleas Wood on November 4th, eight at The Oaks Park on November 20th and eight at St Paul's Cray on October 31st.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This year 58 territories were reported, a decrease on the 75 reported for the last two years. There was a decrease in the number of sites where ten or more birds were reported, with only 28 this year compared with 57 last year.

Breeding records are given below for sites where two or more territories or singing males (no. in brackets) were reported, plus the total number of territories in each sector, along with counts of over fifteen and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: Nine territories. Belhus Woods CP, 25 on Nov 4th and Dec 1st. Cely Woods, 17 on Sep 8th and Nov 11th. Grays Cemetery (2). Manor Farm, Upminster, 19 on Nov 1st. Mar Dyke Valley (2).

Herts: Seven territories. Rye Meads (3).

Middx: 12 territories. Broomfield Park (2). Forty Hall (2). Hampstead Heath (2); 15 on Aug 21st and 20 on Sep 4th. Totteridge Valley, 20 on Jan 2nd, 15 on Jan 3rd and 16 on Nov 26th.

Kent: One territory. Lamorbey Park, c20 on Nov 20th. Oxleas Wood, 15 on Oct 23rd, 17 on Oct 26th and 19 on Dec 25th.

Surrey: 29 territories. Canons Farm (3). Esher Common (6). Kew Gdns (4). Kingston-upon-Thames (2). Riddlesdown (3). Surbiton Cemetery (2). The Ledges, Esher (3).

In Lond: No territories. Fulham, 20+ on Feb 16th. Russia Dock Woodland, seven on Nov



Goldcrest. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

19th. Southwark Park, five on Dec 17th. Victoria Park, five on Jun 8th, five to seven from Oct 21st to Nov 30th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

Comparing the 17 sites where we have breeding estimates for both this year and last, seven are lower, seven are higher and three were the same. Thirty-nine sites reported ten or more territories, much higher than the twenty sites of last year. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 9% in London from 2016-21.

Below are breeding records for sites with ten or more territories or singing males (no. in brackets), along with some of the higher counts. Inner London sites with two or more territories or singing males are also listed.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (23). Bonnett's Wood (14). Cely Woods (14). High Beach (12). Manor Farm, Upminster (15). Mar Dyke Valley (27). North Ockendon (10). Orsett Fen (19). Rainham Marshes (67). Walthamstow Marshes (35). Warren Gorge (14).

Herts: Frogmore Lakes (15). Maple Lodge NR (12). Rye Meads (60).

Middx: Grovelands Park (13). Hampstead Heath, 35 on May 14th. Home Park (23). Springwell Lake (17). Trent Park (23).

Kent: Ladywell Fields (18). Sevenoaks WR, 45 on Apr 22nd.

Surrey: Alexandra RG & Allotments (16). Ashted Common (42). Banstead Wood (49).

Beddington Farmlands (99). Berrylands (10). Canbury Gdns (14). Canons Farm (41). Elmbridge OS (17). Esher Common (19). Fishponds OS, Surbiton (17). Hogsmill SW (15). Kingston-upon-Thames (20). Molesey Heath (17). Raeburn OS (26). Rose Walk OS (11). Surbiton Cemetery (12). The Ledges, Esher (10). Trevereux (15). West End Common (29).
In Lond: Battersea Park (5). Bloomsbury (2). Burgess Park, 41 on May 25th. Tate Modern (2).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Status: common breeding resident.

Nuthatches were seen at 500 sites this year (almost identical to the 503 in 2021). This year, 71 pairs/territories were reported, again very similar to the 78 of last year. The Breeding Bird Survey shows an increase of 17% in the South East from 2011-21. In Inner London, they were seen at the same number of sites as last year (seven in both years, 13 in 2020).

Below are sector totals for sites where reported and number of territories; all breeding records of two or more pairs/territories or singing males (no. in brackets); plus all Inner London records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: 62 sites. Four territories. Ongar Park Wood, 20 on Mar 6th.

Herts: 62 sites. Five territories. Northaw Great Wood, 11 on Apr 6th.

Middx: 120 sites. 18 territories. Grovelands Park (4). Hampstead Heath, ten on Aug 21st. Monken Hadley Common, 12 on May 31st. Trent Park (2); ten on Jan 10th.

Bucks: Five sites. One territory.

Kent: 77 sites. Four territories. Keston, 13 on Jan 23rd. Petts Wood, at least ten on Mar 26th.

Surrey: 167 sites. 38 territories. Ashted Common (2). Banstead Wood (11); 11 on Mar 25th and Jun 20th. Canons Farm (7). Happy Valley, 12 on Sep 28th. Riddlesdown, ten on Jan 14th. The Ledges, Esher (2). West End Common (2).

In Lond: Seven sites. One territory. Victoria Park (1). Battersea Park, singles on Mar 25th and Sep 7th. Green Park, two on Jan 14th. Holland Park, singles on Jun 27th, Nov 30th and three on Dec 14th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Mar 13th & 20th, Apr 23rd, May 2nd, Aug 28th and Sep 29th. Paddington Green, one on Sep 9th. Regent's Park, one to four throughout the year. Victoria Park, one to two throughout the year.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Status: common breeding resident.

There were 39 territories reported this year, slightly up from the 28 pairs/territories reported last year. Reports came from 214 sites, which is similar to reports from the last two years (224 in 2021 and 228 sites in 2020). The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 21% in the South East from 2011-21.

Below are sector totals for sites where reported and number of territories; all breeding records of number of pairs/territories/singing males (no. in brackets); plus all Inner London records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: 30 sites. Six territories. Belhus Woods CP (2); ten on Jun 16th and 11 on Jul 1st. Cely Woods (1). Ongar Park Wood (3).

Herts: 33 sites. Four territories. Broxbourne GP (1). Rye Meads (1). Stocker's Lake (1). Wildhill (1).

Middx: 48 sites. 17 territories. Bushy Park (2). Forty Hall (1). Grovelands Park (1); eight on May 26th. Hampstead Heath (1); eight on Mar 5th. Hatherop Park (1). Home Park (3); seven on Feb 25th. Little Beechill Wood (1). Monken Hadley Common (1). Queen's Wood (1). Stanwell Moor (1). Trent Park (3); six on Jun 18th and nine on Jun 24th. Whitewebbs Wood (1).

Bucks: Three sites.

Kent: 39 sites. One territory. Sevenoaks WR (1).

Surrey: 58 sites. 11 territories. Banstead Wood (2). Canons Farm (1). Esher Common (1). Kew Gdns (1). Putney Heath (1). Richmond Park (1); six on Jul 14th and Sep 3rd. The Ledges, Esher (3). West End Common (1).

In Lond: Three sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles seen throughout the year. Regent's Park, singles on May 8th, Jun 3rd & 23rd. Victoria Park, one on Oct 31st.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Status: common, but declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This year, the largest flock was an estimated 3,800 at Staines Res on June 24th. Large flocks were once again on the landfill at Rainham Marshes, where there was a peak of 2,500 in January and counts of over a thousand in February, July and August.

Starling are overlooked, but are vocal masters as well as being highly attractive, as this bird at Walthamstow Wetlands shows (Phil Ayles)



Passage over London was light this year. It was most noticeable from October 9th to November 12th, however there were few reports of large migrant flocks. We would welcome more records next year indicating flock sizes and direction of flight.

Below are some of the highest counts and some breeding records.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster, 140 W on Oct 19th. Grays Cemetery (6). Hangman's Wood (15). Manor Farm, Upminster (2). Orsett Fen (5), 1,000 on Nov 24th. Rainham Marshes, 2,500 on Jan 1st & 5th, 1,000 on 14th, 1,520 on 19th, 1,000 on 27th, 2,000 on Feb 15th, 1,000 on 26th, 800 on Apr 23rd, 600+ on Jul 23rd, 1,500 on 30th, 1,000 on Aug 13th, c500 on Oct 21st, 800 on 22nd.

Herts: Stanborough GP, 700 on Mar 3rd and 1,000 on Oct 28th. Tyttenhanger GP, 500+ on Aug 8th and 650 on Aug 29th.

Middx: Staines Res, 3,800 on Jun 24th.

Kent: Crossness, 500+ on Aug 16th. Greenwich Park, 360 W on Oct 21st. Swanscombe Marshes, 610 on Sep 25th. Thames Road Wetland, Barnes Cray, 600+ on Oct 18th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, peak monthly counts of 546 on Feb 16th, 2,148 on Jul 26th, 2,000 on Aug 19th, 1,000 on Oct 22nd and 1,165 on Nov 22nd. Brockwell Park, 532 on Nov 5th and 556 on 12th. Colley Hill, 150 SW on Oct 19th, High Breach, 600 on Nov 18th. Kingston-upon-Thames, 1,500 on Jan 2nd. Priest Hill, 500+ on Sep 19th. Worcester Park, 181 W on Oct 9th.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, 121 S on Oct 28th, 260 WSW and 335 S on Oct 31st, 170 SW on Nov 10th. West Brompton, c600 on Feb 18th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

Spring passage began on March 29th, the same day as in 2021, with a male at Rainham Marshes. The final birds of the spring passage were on May 2nd, four days earlier than 2021, with one at Q. Mother Res and a male at Stanborough GP. After removing the possibility of double counting, 29 birds were reported over this period, a large decrease on the 62 birds reported in 2021, similar to the 33 reported in 2020, but a drop from the average of 58 birds reported over the prior ten years. The peak counts were two on April 13th at Nunhead Cemetery, April 16th at Little Woodcote and April 19th at Crayford Marshes.

The first recorded bird of the autumn passage was on August 15th at North Ockendon, over six weeks earlier than in 2021. The last time that a bird occurred before September was on July 16th, 2008 at the London Wetland Centre. The next record was on the more usual date of September 11th at Aimes Green, Claverhambury. The last sighting of the autumn passage was on November 25th at Dulwich Village, 11 days later than in 2021. During this period, 25 birds were seen - a decrease from the 40 birds seen in 2021 but similar to the 23 birds seen in 2020. The peak counts were three on October 6th at Bonnett's Wood, October 17th at Mogador and October 19th and 22nd at Beddington Farmlands.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The number of sites reporting at least five territories has decreased to 23 this year, from 48 in 2021. This translates into a decrease in overall territory numbers with only 282

territories this year at sites with at least five territories. Of the 15 sites with territory counts from both last year and this year, 12 showed declines in the numbers of territories and only three showed increases. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a significant decline from 2021-22 and a decline of 38% from 2016-21 in London. The discovery of the Usutu virus in Blackbirds in London in 2020 coincided with these declines (see paper by Rob Robinson on page 226).

Breeding records are given below at sites where five or more pairs were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), as well as year-round high sector counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (12). Bonnett's Wood (6). Cely Woods (6). Cornmill Meadows (6).

High Beach (5). Mar Dyke Valley (12). Orsett Fen (7); 34 on Jan 2nd. Rainham Marshes (15).

Herts: Colney Heath, 23 on Apr 24th. Stanborough GP (6). Rye Meads (21).

Middx: Bushy Park, 30 on May 11th. Trent Park (5).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, ten on May 20th.

Kent: Hilly Fields (6). Sevenoaks WR, 27 on Dec 14th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (10). Ashtead Common (24). Banstead Wood (35). Beddington Farmlands (23). Canons Farm (23); 53 on Nov 18th. Croydon Crematorium (6). Esher Common (11). Kingston-upon-Thames (18). London Wetland Centre (13). Molesey Heath (13). Surbiton (7). West End Common (13).

In Lond: Burgess Park, 18 on May 28th. Regent's Park, 21 on Jan 24th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were 25 sites with counts of 100 or more birds during the year (45 in 2021), and 13 sites with counts of 200 or more birds (31 in 2021). The highest count during the first winter period was 426 on February 9th at Orsett Fen. The last bird of the first winter period was on May 6th at Primrose Hill, similar to 2021.

The first birds of the autumn were at Dagenham Chase on September 29th, one week later than 2021. There was no obvious peak in migration, with counts of at least 200 recorded from October 19th to December 14th. The highest count was at St Albans, where 360 individuals were recorded on October 19th.

Both the first and second winter period high counts were much lower than during the previous two years and the highest year-count was also the lowest since 2014.

Below are counts of 100 or more for each sector.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster, 102 on Dec 12th. Fairlop Waters, 200+ on Dec 12th.

Grays, 223+ on Nov 30th. Hayes Hill Farm, c320 on Jan 24th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 200 on Feb 10th. North Ockendon, 340 on Feb 8th. Orsett Fen, 426 on Feb 9th. Rainham Marshes, 250 on Dec 14th. West Horndon, 161 on Jan 2nd.

Herts: Batlers Green, 120 on Jan 22nd. Cheshunt GP, 200 on Feb 28th. Essendon, c100 on Mar 3rd. Nashe's Farm, 150 on Nov 30th. Potters Crouch, 250 on Feb 3rd. Rye Meads, 120 on Apr 2nd. Silvermeade, Broxbourne, 250 on Jan 27th. St Albans, 360 on Oct 19th. Stanborough GP, 200 on Jan 17th, Mar 14th and Nov 6th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, 146 on Dec 15th. Hampstead Heath, 104 on Dec 15th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 150+ on Nov 30th. Dartford Marshes, 200+ on Dec 8th. Greenwich Park, 100 on Oct 19th.



Fieldfare. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

Surrey: Canons Farm, 100 on Dec 3rd. Itchingwood Common, 140 on Feb 12th. Richmond Park, 195 on Oct 22nd.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the first winter period, there were nine counts of 200 or more birds (44 in 2021), with only three flocks over 300 being seen in the first three months of the year (14 in 2021). The highest count was 512 on March 29th at St Albans. The final bird of the first winter period was on May 4th at Q. Mother Res, two days later than in 2021.

The first birds of the autumn were at Banstead on September 20th, two days earlier than last year. Birds were then seen almost daily from September 21st to the end of the year. Autumn saw counts of 200 or more birds at 23 sites, fewer than in previous years (59 in 2021, 91 in 2020, 49 in 2019). Of these 23 counts, 18 occurred in October which, although much lower numbers than in 2021, indicates this to be an important month for migration. The peak count of 1,870 occurred at Colley Hill on October 19th.

Below are counts of 200 or more for each sector.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster, 243 on Oct 19th. Fairlop Waters, 400+ on Dec 12th. Hayes



Redwing. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

Hill Farm, c400 on Jan 24th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 200 on Jan 18th. Rainham Marshes, 250 on Dec 14th. Walthamstow Wetlands, 480 on Oct 19th. Wanstead Flats, 382 on Oct 19th.
Herts: Cheshunt GP, 200 on Nov 29th. Silvermeade, Broxbourne, 200 on Jan 27th. St Albans, 512 on Mar 29th and 1,300 on Oct 19th.
Middx: Alexandra Park, 448 on Oct 20th. Bushy Park, 750 on Oct 25th. Hampstead Heath, c230 on Mar 5th and 1,100 on Oct 19th. Hounslow Heath, 313 on Oct 21st. Oakwood, 250 on Oct 19th. Ponders End, c200 on Jan 27th. Stanwell Moor, 502 on Oct 22nd. Totteridge Valley, 335 on Jan 6th and c225 on Oct 19th.

Kent: Crossness, 200+ on Nov 30th. Greenwich Park, 280 on Oct 19th.

Surrey: Banstead, 1,000 on Oct 21st. Banstead Wood, 400 on Oct 22nd. Beddington Farmlands, 1,304 on Oct 21st. Colley Hill, 1,870 on Oct 19th. Richmond Park, 200 on Mar 4th and 508 on Oct 19th. Riddlesdown, 425+ on Oct 21st. Rushett Farm, 200 on Jan 1st. Warlingham, 300 on Oct 21st.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, 236 over on Dec 15th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Status: common, but locally declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were five sites where we have breeding counts for both this year and last year: two were down, one up and two were the same. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 42% in London from 1995-2021.

Below are breeding records for sites where five or more pairs were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets) and high sector counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (9). Cely Woods (5). Manor Farm, Upminster (5). Mar Dyke Valley (6). Orsett Fen (9). Rainham Marshes (12). Wanstead Flats, 31 on Oct 23rd. Wanstead Park (10).

Herts: Bricket Wood Common (6). Essendon, 14 on Feb 19th. Frogmore Lakes (8). Munden Estate (5). Rye Meads (12).

Middx: Hampstead Heath, 100 flying W on Oct 10th. Tottenham Marshes (12). Trent Park (6).

Kent: St Paul's Cray, 25-30 on Oct 14th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (8). Asstead Common (9). Banstead Woods (7). Beddington Farmlands (10); 37 on Jan 20th and 39 on Dec 21st. Canons Farm (6). London Wetland Centre (6). Molesey Heath (6). Richmond Park, 491 flying SW on Oct 19th. West End Common (12).

In Lond: Primrose Hill, eight on Oct 25th. Regent's Park, nine on Apr 14th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Status: common, but declining, breeding resident.

There were 49 reported territories, similar to the 54 in 2021 (94 in 2020). The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 45% in London from 2016-21.

Below are breeding records for sites where two or more pairs were

Song Thrushes often sing at dawn in the early months of the year.

(Rudraksha Chodankar)



recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets) and high counts for each sector.

Essex: 13 territories (ten in 2021). Belhus Woods CP (2). Mar Dyke Valley (2). Thorndon CP South (3). Valentines Park, 13 on Aug 17th. Walthamstow Marshes, 18 on Sep 4th.

Herts: 14 territories (nine). Essendon (2). Nashe's Farm, 24 on Sep 3rd. Stanborough GP, 20 on Sep 29th.

Middx: 13 territories (20). Totteridge Valley, 17 on Aug 16th. Walpole Park, 15 on Aug 22nd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 10 on Jul 4th.

Kent: Three territories (12 in 2020). Greenwich Park (2). Pratt's Bottom, 15 on Sep 10th. Woolwich Common, 15 on Aug 21st.

Surrey: Five territories (two in 2020). Colley Hill, 17 on Oct 19th. London Wetland Centre, 18 on Apr 22nd.

In Lond: One territory (one in 2020). Victoria Park (1), 17 on Jul 7th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Status: scarce breeder and uncommon passage migrant, both much declined.

In spring, there were 29 birds from 18 sites (45 birds from 35 sites in 2021). Passage was late, with the earliest record on May 11th at Regent's Park (May 3rd in 2021). It was also extremely abrupt, with 19 of the passage birds passing through on May 14th alone.

There was one confirmed breeding record at Park Wood, Potters Crouch, with at least two young fledging. Two other sites had birds showing evidence of probable breeding. Last year, there was only a single breeding record and five the previous year.

In autumn, there were records from 106 sites, far higher than the more typical 71 sites from last year. The earliest passage bird was on July 29th at Tyttenhanger GP. The highest single site count was 11 at Wanstead Flats on September 14th, one of many sites that had high counts until late September (in most years numbers tend to decrease sharply after the first week of September). The last bird of the year was at Regent's Park on October 16th, the only later bird this century was on October 18th 2003.

Below are breeding records (no. of pairs in brackets), number of sites with records in spring/autumn, highest counts in the sector and all Inner London records, summarised for Regent's Park.

Essex: Spring four sites, autumn 27 sites. Wanstead Flats, 11 on Sep 14th. Navestock Church (1).

Herts: Spring two sites, autumn 17 sites. Redwell Wood Farm, four from Aug 17th-18th. Cheshunt Park, four on Sep 14th. Park Wood, Potters Crouch (1), fledging at least two young.

Middx: Spring four sites, autumn 32 sites. Totteridge Valley, five on Sep 14th. Belsize Park (1).

Kent: Spring two sites, autumn six sites. Greenwich Park, two on May 12th.

Surrey: Spring five sites, autumn 14 sites. Richmond Park, five on Aug 26th.

In Lond: Spring one site, autumn ten sites. Camley Street Natural Park, singles on Aug 30th, Sep 2nd and two on Sep 5th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Sep 25th. Lincoln's Inn Fields, two on Sep 3rd. Maida Vale, one on Sep 4th. Regent's Park, singles on May 11th & 28th, Jun 10th, up to three on 17 dates from Aug 13th to Sep 20th with six on Aug 26th and one on Oct 16th. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Aug 27th. Somers

Town, one on Aug 23rd. Southwark Park, two from Sep 2nd-3rd. Victoria Park, singles on Sep 19th & 21st. West Brompton, one on Aug 23rd.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

This year, 29 sites reported ten or more breeding pairs, up from 20 last year, and the highest number of sites in recent years (though probably due to the dedication of a handful of recorders in Surrey, rather than a significant population trend). The Breeding Bird Survey shows an increase of 85% in London from 1995-2021.

Below are breeding records for sites where ten or more pairs were reported (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), plus the very few Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (20). Bonnet's Wood (11). Cely Woods (13). High Beach (24). Manor Farm, Upminster (13). Mar Dyke Valley (15). Orsett Fen (10). Rainham Marshes (34).

Herts: Rye Meads (51).

Middx: Brent Res (54). Hatherop Park (10). Home Park (31). Queen's Wood (11).

Surrey: Alexandra RG & Allotments (23). Arbrook Common (11). Ashted Common (39). Banstead Wood (53). Beddington Farmlands (67). Beddington Park (21). Berrylands (28). Canbury Gdns (14). Canons Farm (42). Esher Common (23). Fishponds OS (25). Hogsmill NR (10). Kingston-upon-Thames (48). Molesey Heath (18). Raeburn OS (38). Rose Walk OS (11). Surbiton (55). Surbiton Cemetery (10). West End Common (22).

In Lond: Regent's Park (3). St James's Park (1). Victoria Tower Gardens (2).

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers, scarce passage migrant.

It was a relatively poor year for this species, the number of sites with records declined from 31 to 17. The first bird of the year was one at Holmethorpe SP on April 13th, the same date as last year. Birds were recorded at 13 sites in April, followed by only six in May and three in June. Only seven males were holding territory at three sites, compared with 16 at 12 sites in 2021 and 17 at 13 sites in 2020. The last bird of the year was one at Epsom Downs on September 5th, a typical date for this species.

All records are given below with numbers of territories in brackets.

Essex: Fishers Green Island (3). Gunpowder Park, one on Apr 21st. Ingrebourne Valley, one from Apr 16th-20th. Mar Dyke Valley, one on Apr 14th. Pages Wood, one on May 7th. Tylers Common, two on Apr 18th and one on Apr 22nd. Walthamstow Marshes, one on Apr 17th. Wanstead Flats, one on Apr 15th.

Middx: Ashford, one on May 24th. Hampstead Heath, singles on Jun 9th and Aug 16th. Rammey Marsh, one on Apr 23rd.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (1).

Kent: Dartford Marshes, one on Apr 25th. Swanscombe Marshes (3).

Surrey: Epsom Downs, one on Sep 5th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Apr 13th. Horton CP, one on Apr 21st.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.

Spring passage was, as usual, light with four birds at four sites (six birds at six sites in 2021). The earliest was one at Regent's Park on April 13th and the last another single bird at Woodberry Wetlands on May 19th. Autumn passage, however, was the heaviest in recent years. Approximately 110 birds passed through 70 sites (28 birds from 24 sites in 2021 and 45 from 40 sites in 2020). Even 2010, the last year to record particularly high numbers, only had 64 birds. The earliest record was one at Enfield Chase on July 5th, but the bulk of birds were recorded in August. Notable site counts included six at Alexandra Park on August 23rd and five at Regent's Park on August 22nd. The last records were a juvenile at Cudham/Greenwich Park on September 22nd. Below are all Inner London sightings, summarised for Regent's Park.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Aug 20th. Lincoln's Inn Fields, one on Sep 3rd. Regent's Park, one on Apr 13th and up to two on 16 dates from Aug 11th to Sep 7th with five on Aug 22nd. Rotherhithe, one on Aug 26th. Russia Dock Woodland, one from Sep 5th-6th. Southwark Park, singles on Aug 23rd & 26th. Victoria Park, singles on Aug 13th and Sep 17th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Status: breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

RBBP

Breeding reports this year showed a slight increase on last year, with 19 records having at least possible breeding evidence (17 last year). There were three confirmed breeding records, three other pairs and another 13 singing males. Outside the breeding season, the species was more widespread than usual, recorded at around 63 sites, compared with 46 in 2021. Breeding records are shown in the table and records for other sites are given below.

Black Redstart	Pairs proved breeding	Other pairs present	Additional singing males
Essex	1	2	-
Middx	-	-	1
Kent	1	-	-
Surrey	-	-	2
In Lond	1	1	10

Essex: Banbury Res, one on Mar 28th. Beckton SW, one on Feb 17th and two on Dec 5th. Forest Gate, one on Oct 2nd. Gallions Reach, one on Apr 5th. Hainault, one on Dec 19th. KGV Res, singles from Jan 9th to Apr 26th, Oct 16th, Nov 29th and Dec 10th. Lakeside Retail Park, one from Jan 15th-18th. Lee Valley Riding Centre, singles on Mar 24th and Oct 11th. Mayesbrook Park, one on Dec 17th. QE Olympic Park, one on Aug 27th and two on Sep 18th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Apr 8th and Sep 25th. Walthamstow Marshes, singles from Apr 11th-24th and May 13th. Walthamstow Wetlands, singles on five dates from Mar 28th to Apr 30th and one on four dates from Nov 21st-28th. West Ham Park, one on Jul 31st.

Herts: Bayfordbury, one on Mar 26th. Ellenbrook Fields, one on Mar 19th. Hilfield Park

Res, one on Apr 10th. Marshalswick, singles on Mar 31st and Apr 3rd. St Albans, singles on Oct 27th and Nov 28th. Stanborough GP, singles on Apr 3rd, Jul 10th and Dec 2nd-3rd.

Middx: Alexandra Park, singles on Mar 28th and Apr 6th. Blackwall, one on Sep 7th. East India Dock Basin, two on Nov 9th and singles on Nov 10th, 13th and 19th. Finchley, one on Jan 17th. Hackney Wick, one on Feb 23rd. Heathrow Airport, up to two on five dates from Jul 24th to Sep 29th. Isle of Dogs, one on Dec 26th. Millfields Park, Clapton, singles on Mar 31st, Apr 2nd and Sep 25th. Parkside Farm/Res, one on Nov 10th. Teddington, one on Apr 12th. Vicarage Farm, one on May 3rd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Mar 26th, Jul 5th, Oct 25th and on four dates from Nov 6th-17th.

Kent: Belvedere, one on Oct 31st. Blackheath, one on Jan 17th. Crossness, one on Dec 9th. Erith Reach, one on Jan 7th. Longlands RG, one on Mar 28th. Ruxley, one on Apr 9th. Sidcup, one on Mar 28th.

Surrey: Banstead, one on Mar 20th. Beddington Farmlands, one on Mar 26th. Canons Farm, singles on Aug 13th and Nov 12th. Croydon, one on Sep 11th. High Breach, one on Nov 25th. Island Barn Res, one on Nov 13th. Little Woodcote, one on Apr 14th. London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 29th. Nore Hill, singles on Mar 24th and Sep 27th. QE II Res, one on Oct 23rd. Richmond Park, singles on Mar 22nd and Apr 8th. South Croydon, one on Mar 23rd. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), one on Nov 13th. Woldingham, one on Sep 19th.

In Lond: Camden Town, one on Jul 8th. Charing Cross Hospital, singles on Jan 25th and 28th. City of London, one on Feb 8th and two on Nov 1st & 4th. Farringdon, two on Nov 1st. London Bridge, two on Nov 4th. Victoria Park, singles on Mar 23rd and Oct 31st.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Status: passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

Spring migration was the worst in the last decade, with only 12 birds recorded at 12 sites (49 at 33 sites in 2021). Passage began late with a male at Rainham Marshes on April 11th, and the last bird was a female at Island Barn Res on May 14th.

By contrast, autumn passage was among the heaviest in recent years, with around 124 birds passing through (59 birds in 2021). The earliest was a male at Ellenbrook Fields on July 4th, with the main influx not arriving until August. Hampstead Heath saw the highest single day count by far, with eight birds on August 26th. The last bird of the autumn was in a private garden at Putney on October 24th, the second latest bird this century (second only to 2019's October 25th bird at Walthamstow Marshes). The table shows spring and autumn birds since 2013, and below are all Inner London sightings.

Redstart totals	2013-2022	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Spring		126	30	33	120	53	23	25	16	49	12
Autumn		72	133	120	100	83	79	74	126	58	124

In Lond: Brompton Cemetery, one on Aug 16th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Apr 23rd and Aug 30th. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 14th, Aug 24th-25th, three on Sep 2nd, 4th & 6th and two on Sep 7th-9th & 12th.



Whinchat is a regular passage migrant in London. (Ann Playford)

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

Spring passage was the heaviest in recent years, with approximately 92 birds at 50 sites, when usually between 50 and 85 birds pass through. The earliest was a male at Richmond Park on April 12th, a fairly typical date, and the latest was a female at Vicarage Farm on May 19th.

The first birds of autumn were two at Bushy Park on July 10th, followed by a trickle of birds from late July, with numbers picking up from August 20th. Passage was slightly heavier than usual, with birds seen at 96 sites (83 in 2021, 88 in 2020 and 89 in 2019) and peaked on September 3rd with 84 birds at 28 sites. Richmond Park saw the largest single site count with 20 birds on September 3rd. Other high counts included 13 birds each at Wanstead Flats and Priest Hill NR on September 2nd. The last bird was at Coursers Road GP on October 10th.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, one on May 6th. Regent's Park, two on Apr 28th and singles on May 6th & 8th, Aug 18th-19th, and Sep 2nd, 4th & 9th.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

The low numbers of birds wintering in the capital at the end of 2021 rose slightly at the beginning of the year, with birds at 45 sites in January and 45 in February (62 sites overall), up from 35 in December 2020. The maximum daily count was 28 on January 1st.

This year saw confirmed breeding from Richmond Park with nine pairs (six in 2021). Three other pairs held territory at two other sites with two juveniles being seen in late June at Stanborough GP, which may not have fledged on site. There were no details of breeding success at Rainham Marshes.

Autumn passage was exceptional this year. From August to October, they were recorded from 141 sites with a highest single day count of 196 birds from 33 sites on September 25th. This also saw some noteworthy single site counts, with 72 at Richmond Park on September 28th (smashing the previous site record of 42) and 65 at Walton Downs on October 6th; most years single site counts rarely get above 20. Moving into winter, numbers settled down to more typical levels with 43 sites recording birds in December, and a maximum daily count of 13 birds at Beddington Farmlands on December 10th.

Below are breeding records (no. of territories/pairs in brackets) and all Inner London records.

Essex: Rainham Marshes (2).

Herts: Stanborough GP (1).

Surrey: Richmond Park (9), 31 fledged young.

In Lond: Regent's Park, two on Sep 20th.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

The first bird of spring was a male at Orsett Fen on March 10th, a fairly typical date, though numbers remained low throughout March, with numbers only picking up around April 4th. Passage was in general moderate, with only 76 sites reporting birds (122 in 2021, 99 in 2020 and 88 in 2019). Passage peaked on April 13th with 68 birds recorded across the area, and the last bird was at Belvedere on May 23rd.

Two very early returning birds (presumably failed breeders) were

Autumn Stonechat passage was very high in 2022, with many sites seeing high counts. This bird was at Walthamstow Wetlands. (Phil Aylen)



recorded in June, a female at Wraysbury Res on June 6th and another female at Walthamstow Wetlands on June 10th. Aside from these, the earliest autumn bird was a juvenile at Rainham Marshes on July 14th. Autumn passage was slightly lighter than spring; although 81 sites had records (more than in spring), the peak daily count was only 26 on September 9th. There was however a noteworthy number of very late records. Four sites - KGV Res, Richmond Park, Rainham Marshes and Walthamstow Wetlands - had birds in November, with the Walthamstow bird staying from November 30th until December 5th, the latest record this century, the previous latest being November 27th 2011.

Reports of birds of the race *leucorhoa* 'Greenland Wheatear' were relatively uncommon compared with recent years. Six birds were recorded at five sites in spring (with three other sites reporting possibles), but no records of the subspecies in autumn. The earliest was at Osterley Park on April 16th and the latest were at Walthamstow Marshes and London Colney on May 11th. This race was also recorded at Alexandra Park and Richmond Park.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Sep 20th.

Wanstead Flats is one of the top sites in London to encounter passage Wheatear. (Tony Brown)



House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Status: breeding resident, declined severely since 1990s.

The highest count was 250 at Rainham Marshes in April (150 at the same site in 2021). Counts of 100 or more came from six sites (five in 2021). The Breeding Bird Survey in London shows a long-term decline with a 61% decline from 1995-2021, but an upturn of 34% from 2016-21.

Below are those sites where breeding counts come from a survey and all breeding records for Inner London (no. in brackets) together with some of the higher counts.

Essex: Rainham Marshes (40); 250 on Apr 14th. Upminster, Latchford Farm, 138 on Dec 17th. Lloyd Park, Walthamstow, 80 on Dec 15th. Walthamstow Wetlands (6). West Horndon, 65 on Feb 9th.

Herts: Brookmans Park, 35 on Sep 9th and Nov 14th. Courser's Farm, 30 on Jul 21st. Garston, 34 on Apr 22nd. Stanborough GP, 40 on Jun 15th. Stocker's Farm, 30 on Jan 9th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, 113 on Aug 16th. Bow, 50 on Aug 22nd. Chiswick Pier, 50 on Apr 8th. Woodberry Wetlands, 50 on Dec 1st.

Kent: Avery Hill Park, 54 on Apr 22nd. Crayford Marshes, 50 on Feb 25th and May 9th. Cudham, 68 on Oct 3rd. Swanley, 100 on May 22nd. Swanscombe Marshes, 50 on Nov 14th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (29); 61 on Jul 26th. Canons Farm (25). Hogsmill NR, 65 on Mar 4th. Kingston-upon-Thames, 70 on Jan 15th. Little Woodcote, 80 on Aug 6th. Molesey Heath (4). Rushett Farm, 70 on Feb 3rd.

In Lond: Bermondsey, 45+ on Dec 7th. Burgess Park, 75 on May 25th. Hemans Estate Community Gdn (1). Limehouse Basin, 68 on Jun 11th. London Zoo, 30 on Jul 2nd. St James's Park, 30 on Aug 31st. South Hackney (10+); 120 on Jun 24th. Southwark (1). Tate Modern (1).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Status: former breeding resident (last bred 2021); scarce passage migrant or dispersing visitor.

This year, Tree Sparrow did not breed in the London Area. None bred at Coursers Farm/Tyttenhanger GP area, where conservation measures led to seven broods last year, though two birds that were seen in December 2021 remained into April. Elsewhere, they were seen at two sites (two last year) in Essex.

Essex: Mar Dyke Valley, singles on Aug 15th and Sep 18th. Wanstead Flats, one from Sep 2nd-4th.

Herts: Coursers Farm area, up to two on 24 dates from Jan 3rd to Mar 30th, one on Apr 15th & 26th.

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

There are five sites where we have breeding counts for both this year and last year - one has shown a decrease and four an increase. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 16% in London from 2016-21. Breeding records are given below for sites where ten or more territories or singing males were recorded, along with some of the higher counts.



Dunnock. (Ann Playford)

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (21); 30 on Feb 11th. Bonnett's Wood (12); 21 on Oct 6th. Cely Woods (11). Mar Dyke Valley (21); 25 on Apr 14th. Orsett Fen (14); 29 on Nov 16th. Rainham Marshes, 20 on Mar 3rd. Walthamstow Marshes, 26 on Mar 17th.
Herts: Amwell NR, 15 on Mar 1st. Stanborough GP, 12 on Mar 27th. Frogmore Lakes, 18 on Feb 27th. Rye Meads (32). Tyttenhanger GP, 18 on Jan 18th.
Middx: Brent Res, 21 on Feb 25th. Hampstead Heath, 11 on Feb 12th and Oct 11th. Home Park, 12 on Mar 10th. Minet CP, 19 on Feb 25th. Wormwood Scrubs, 25 on Feb 28th.
Kent: Crossness, 12 on Dec 26th. Swanscombe Marshes, 14 on Apr 10th.
Surrey: Ashtead Common (13). Beddington Farmlands (80). Canons Farm (21). Little Woodcote, 18 on Nov 20th. Riddlesdown, 19 on Feb 15th.
In Lond: Reported from 72 sites (ten in 2021). Burgess Park, seven on May 25th. Victoria Park, seven on Mar 16th.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing, now scarce, breeder.

The first bird of the year arrived at Upminster on March 21st, then records were almost daily during April, the spring passage. There were six records of ten or more birds (14 in 2021, one in 2020 and 2019). The highest count for the year was 42 at Beddington Farmlands on May 3rd.

Breeding activity was recorded at six sites, with at least 10 pairs present, all in Essex or Hertfordshire (six sites in 2021, nine sites in 2020 and one in 2019). Orsett Fen seems to be the most consistently reported breeding site for this species, with three territories reported here this year and between two and four territories every year since 2014.

The autumn passage saw six counts of at least ten birds, which is much lower than in recent years (13 in 2021, 27 in 2020, 30 in 2019). The last bird was at Stanborough GP on November 8th.

In total, birds were recorded at 115 sites. Below are the breeding records (no. of territories in brackets) and all Inner London records.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster (1), juvs seen. North Ockendon (2), juvs seen. Orsett Fen (3), juvs seen. West Horndon (2).

Herts: Frogmore Lakes (1), Stanborough GP (1), juvs seen.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on May 15th.

SUBSPECIES: Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava*

Status: passage migrant, more commonly seen in spring than in autumn.

There were two records this year (four in 2021, one in 2020, four in 2019 and two in 2018) in May, most previous records were in April.

Herts: Stanborough GP, one from Apr 12th-13th (S Pearce, J Bailey).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on May 4th (A Salmon).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 44 breeding/singing males in 2022, slightly down from 48 in 2021 and 51 in 2020. In the first winter period, there were counts of ten or more at Walthamstow Wetlands (ten on February 7th) and Stanborough Lakes (11 on March 4th). In autumn, two sites had counts of ten or more at Beckton SW (12 on October 6th) and KGV Res (12 on September 19th). In the second winter period, there were counts of ten or more at Beckton SW (12 on December 24th) and R Wandle: Carshalton Ponds to Wandsworth (12 on December 27th).

All breeding records are given below. The number of territories/singing males is one for all sites.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP. Brook Farm, Upminster. Mar Dyke Valley. North Ockendon. Orsett Fen. Valentines Park. Walthamstow Wetlands. Waterworks NR.

Herts: Bayfordbury. Frogmore Lakes. Hilfield Park Res. Sopwell. Tyttenhanger GP.

Middx: Alexandra Park. Boxer's Lake, Enfield. Brentford. Broomfield Park. Forty Hall. Oakwood. Perivale. Southgate. Totteridge Valley. Wildwoods, Enfield. Woodberry Wetlands.

Kent: Danson Park. Ladywell Fields. St Paul's Cray.

Surrey: Beddington Park. Carshalton Ponds. Culvers Island. Kew Green. Leatherhead. London Wetland Centre. Mitcham Common. Priory Park, Reigate. Summerstown. Tulse Hill. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough). Wandle Park, Croydon. Watermeads. Wilderness Island, Carshalton.

In Lond: Islington. Paddington. Regent's Park.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

There were 38 counts of probable or confirmed breeding this year, a slight increase from last year (34 in 2021), but a decrease on the previous two years (58 in 2020 and 52 in 2019) and the lowest total since the 26 reported in 2016. In the first winter period, large

roost sites included 108 at Epping on March 9th and 100 at Staines Res on March 31st. During the autumn, the largest count was 100 feeding in fields at Hatfield Garden Village on November 27th. In the second winter period, roost counts included 90 flying to roost over St Paul's Cray on October 14th, 60 at Welwyn Garden City on October 26th and 50 at Hertford on December 6th.

All breeding records are given below. The number of territories/singing males is one for all sites, unless indicated otherwise in brackets.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster. Manor Farm, Upminster (2). North Ockendon. Roding Valley Meadows NR. Walthamstow Marshes.

Herts: Aldenham CP. Cheshunt Park. Cockfosters. Essendon. Hilfield Park Res. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross.

Middx: Alexandra Park (2). Blackwell. Enfield Town. Guy Lodge Farm. Muswell Hill GC. Oakwood. Parkside Farm/Res. South Lodge Farm. Staines Res. Totteridge Valley. Vicarage Farm. West Harrow.

Kent: Beckenham Place Park. Hilly Fields.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (2). Beddington Farmlands (2). Cobham Services. Island Barn Res. Kingston-upon-Thames. London Wetland Centre. Raynes Park.

In Lond: Paddington Green. Tower Bridge.

SUBSPECIES: *White Wagtail M. a. alba*

Status: passage migrant, more commonly seen in spring than in autumn.

As usual, most records were in spring, with the first of the year on January 1st at Walthamstow Marshes. Birds were then reported mainly throughout March until mid-May, with a peak of five at Stanborough GP in April; with the last seen on May 13th. In autumn, there were no accepted records but reports appear in App III for which descriptions would be very welcome.

All accepted records, summarised in places, are given below.

Essex: Dagenham Chase, singles on Apr 26th and May 4th. KGV Res, one on Apr 5th. Walthamstow Marshes, singles on Jan 1st and Mar 30th.

Herts: Coursers Road GP, one on Apr 24th. Stanborough GP, up to three mostly on 19 dates from Mar 13th to May 12th with five from Apr 12th-13th and 15th.

Middx: KGV Res, singles on Apr 15th and May 1st. Staines Res, up to three on eight dates from Mar 14th to Apr 30th. Vicarage Farm, four on Mar 28th, singles on Apr 4th, 10th & 29th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Apr 10th, May 1st, 12th & 13th.

Kent: Crossness, one on Apr 25th. Crystal Palace Park, one on Apr 2nd. Ruxley, one on Mar 28th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on May 4th. QE II Res, one on Mar 28th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), singles on Mar 12th and Apr 27th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, localised breeder.

There were four winter flocks of 50 or more (11 in 2021, four in 2020 and seven in 2019); the highest being 100 at Canons Farm on November 4th.

Spring passage saw four flocks of 50 or more (14 in 2021, one in 2020 and 12 in 2019); the highest being 150 at Holly Hill Farm on April 4th and 134 at Beddington Farmlands on April 9th.

Breeding records came from eight sites with 33 territories (12 in 2021, 17-19 in 2020 and 11 in 2019). The increase follows a survey at Rainham Marshes where 18 territories were found (one last year when there was no survey).

Autumn passage started earlier than previous years with several sites noting movements on September 9th, including 67 at Beddington Farmlands. There were 42 flocks of 50 or more (28 in 2021, 30 in 2020 and 46 in 2019); this includes seven counts of 100 or more (ten in 2021, 23 in 2020 and 12 in 2019). The highest autumn count was at least 216 at Beddington Farmlands on September 10th.

All breeding records are given below (no. of territories/singing males in brackets).

Essex: Rainham Marshes (18).

Herts: Frogmore Lakes (1). Stanborough GP (2).

Middx: Home Park (2). Staines Moor (4).

Kent: Crayford Marshes (3). Dartford Marshes (1). Lullingstone Park (2).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Status: passage migrant and scarce former breeder (last bred 2011).

The first record of the year was on March 26th at Thamesview GC, slightly earlier than April 2nd last year. In spring, 18 birds were seen with some passing over but some staying for a few days. The last spring bird was on May 12th at Richmond Park.

The first bird in the autumn was on August 6th at Chingford Plain, with sightings most days from mid-August to mid-September, before tapering off to the last birds being seen on October 22nd at Cheshunt Park.

The species was seen at 37 sites this year (35 last year) with the highest count being four at Hampstead Heath on August 27th. All records, summarised in places, are given below.

Essex: Aimes Green, Claverhambury, one on Sep 27th. Bonnett's Wood, one on Aug 16th.

Chingford Plain, one on Aug 6th. Dagenham Chase, one on Aug 13th, two from 23rd-24th and one on 26th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Sep 9th. KGV Res, one on Jul 6th. North Ockendon, one on Sep 6th. Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 16th. Walthamstow Marshes, singles on Aug 22nd and Sep 5th. Wanstead Flats, one on Apr 15th, up to two on 14 dates from Aug 9th to Sep 23rd and one on Oct 6th.

Herts: Cassiobury Park, two on Apr 22nd. Cheshunt Park, one on Oct 22nd. Coursers Farm, one on May 1st. Letchmore Heath, one on Sep 2nd. Stanborough GP, two on Apr 24th and one on Sep 24th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, two on May 1st and one on Sep 18th. Brent Res, one on Aug 14th. Broadwater Lake, two on Sep 17th. Frays Valley LNR, one on Aug 22nd. Hampstead Heath, singles on Apr 4th & 24th, May 1st, one on seven dates from Aug 16th to Sep 17th with four on Aug 27th. Home Park, singles on Apr 5th and May 5th. Millfields Park, Clapton, one on Sep 25th. Osterley Park, two on Aug 26th. Ponders End Lake, one on Aug 9th. Trent Park, one on Sep 13th.

Bucks: Denham, one on Aug 29th.

Kent: Cator Park, one on Sep 16th. Sidcup, one on Apr 9th. Sidcup Place, one on Sep 9th. Thamesview GC, one on Mar 26th and two on Apr 30th. Upper College Farm, one on Sep 10th.

Surrey: Balham, one on Sep 20th. Beddington Farmlands, one on Apr 15th, singles on six dates from Aug 28th to Sep 22nd and one on Oct 17th. Canons Farm, one on Aug 23rd. Kew Gdns, one on May 9th. Richmond Park, singles on May 12th and Sep 2nd. Wandsworth Common, one on Sep 11th.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Status: regular but localised winter visitor and passage migrant.

There were reports from 17 sites (21 in 2021, 22 in 2020 and 19 in 2019). The highest count was 12 at Beddington Farmlands on October 19th. The last bird in spring was on April 13th (April 18th in 2021, April 6th in 2020) at Rainham Marshes, and the first bird to return was on September 30th (October 9th in 2021, September 26th in 2020) at Beddington Farmlands.

Monthly maxima are given for sites with records in five or more months. All other records follow, summarised in some cases.

Water Pipit monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	4	3	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1
MX Staines Moor	3	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2
Staines Res	1	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
SY Beddington Farmlands	6	6	6	5	-	-	-	-	1	12	5	6
Wetland Centre	2	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-

Essex: KGV Res, one on Mar 20th.

Herts: Rye Meads, singles on Mar 12th, Apr 4th, up to two on eight dates from Oct 21st to Nov 13th. Stanborough GP, singles on Mar 13th & 27th and Apr 3rd.

Middx: KGV Res, six on Mar 17th, nine on Apr 8th, two on Nov 10th & 27th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one from Dec 4th-5th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on Feb 23rd, Mar 9th, two on Nov 4th and one on 30th.

Crossness, one on Feb 1st. Dartford Marshes, one on Jan 2nd, up to three on Oct 25th and one on Dec 8th. Otford, two on Apr 4th and one on 5th. Swanscombe Marshes, singles on Jan 2nd & 14th, Feb 13th, Dec 8th, 12th & 29th.

Surrey: QE II Res, one on Oct 15th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were reports from 15 sites this year, which is down from last year (26 in



Rock Pipit. (Chris Farthing)

2021, 26 in 2020 and 20 in 2019). Rainham Marshes was the best site for this species, with the peak count of nine on January 5th (eight in 2021, 12 in 2020 and 16 in 2019). The last bird in spring was on March 25th at Rainham Marshes (April 29th in 2021) and the first bird to return was one on September 19th at Rainham Marshes (September 19th in 2021).

Monthly maxima are given in the table below for sites with records in three or more months. All other records follow.

Rock Pipit monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Beckton Creekside	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1
KGV Res	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Rainham Marshes	9	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7	4
BU Q. Mother Res	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
MX Staines Res	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
KT Crayford Marshes	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Crossness	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1
Dartford Marshes	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Erith Reach	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Swanscombe Marshes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6

Essex: Walthamstow Wetlands, two on Oct 11th, singles on 16th & 21st. Wanstead Flats, one on Oct 6th.

Herts: Nashe's Farm, two over Oct 18th. Stanborough GP, two on Oct 19th and one on 20th.

Surrey: QE II Res, singles from Oct 15th-16th & 28th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

There were about the same number of sites having 100 or more birds as the previous two years but slightly fewer sites having counts of 200 or more birds (see table). In the first winter period, there were counts of 100 or more at 11 sites with peaks of 800 at Reigate in January and 400 at Bonnett's Wood in February. Autumn passage started in early October with seven sites having counts of 100 or more; the highest being 150 at Colley Hill and Totteridge Valley. From November, there were counts of 100 or more from five sites; the highest being 250 at Cheshunt GP.

At the eight sites where we have breeding surveys for both this year and last year, four showed an increase and four a decrease. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decrease of 81% in London from 2011-21.

Below are breeding records from surveys (no. of territories in brackets) plus counts of 100 or more, summarised in places, and records of ten or more for Inner London.

No. of counts	2022		2021		2020	
	Counts	Sites	Counts	Sites	Counts	Sites
100 or more	48	23	58	26	63	25
200 or more	19	7	24	14	28	16
300 or more	7	3	7	5	11	8

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (10). Bonnett's Wood, 400 on Feb 17th. Clayton Hill, 120 on Jan 14th. Fishers Green Goosefield, 200 on Dec 30th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 300 on Nov 5th. Mar Dyke Valley (4). Navestock Heath, 200 on Jan 18th & 28th. Orsett Fen (8). Rainham Marshes (11). Walthamstow Wetlands (6). Wanstead Flats, 122 on Oct 12th. West Horndon (5).

Herts: Rye Meads (5). Tyttenhanger GP, 150 on Jan 26th and 100 on Feb 22nd. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, up to 200 from Jan 4th to Feb 19th.

Middx: Alexandra Park (6). Bushy Park, 100 on Oct 24th. Home Park (15). Totteridge Valley, peak of 150 on Oct 4th. Trent Park (5).

Kent: Coldblow, 100 on Jan 24th. Dartford Marshes, 100 on Dec 8th. Sidcup, 100 on Mar 15th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (7). Banstead Wood (2). Beddington Farmlands, 104 on Oct 19th. Canons Farm (11); 100 on Feb 13th and 114 SW on Mar 21st. Esher Common (2). Colley Hill, 150 SW on Oct 19th. High Breach, 180 on Nov 18th. Itchingwood Common, 120 on Feb 24th. Reigate, monthly peaks of 800 on Jan 11th and 100 on Feb 6th. Richmond Park, 100 on Oct 12th. Worcester Park, 100 on Oct 25th.

In Lond: Reported from 27 sites (15 in 2021). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, ten on Apr 10th. Primrose Hill, monthly peaks of 61 on Mar 15th, 30 on Oct 7th & 28th and 37 on Nov 10th. Regent's Park, seen throughout the year with 25 on Apr 1st. Victoria Park, 12 on Feb 22nd and ten on Mar 23rd.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

This year was exceptional with counts of 100 or more at six sites with peaks of 1,100 feeding on cereal crops at Clifton's Lane, Reigate and 400 at Navestock Heath, both in January. The only higher count in the London Area is 3,000 at Westerham during February and March 1951. (A count of 2,500 at Moorhouse in 2007 that appears in The Birds of London by Andrew Self should be 250.) Last year, the highest count was 100, which was the highest count since 2010. There were 63 counts of ten or more birds from 23 sites (40 counts from 16 sites in 2021). The last bird of spring was on May 5th at Richmond Park (April 4th in 2021) with birds returning on September 1st at the London Wetland Centre (October 7th in 2021).

Below are high counts for each sector and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Navestock Heath, 100 or more on nine dates from Jan 10th to Feb 6th with peak of 400 on Jan 27th & 28th.

Herts: Cheshunt GP, 50 on Jan 13th. Wormley West End, 22 on Mar 17th.

Middx: Muswell Hill, 15 on Jan 7th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, ten on Apr 13th.

Surrey: Buckland, 100 on Jan 20th. Canons Farm, 100 on Feb 11th. Colley Hill, 200 on Jan 30th. Reigate, 550 on Jan 7th then counts of 1,100 on 10th, 1,000 on 12th, 700 on 21st, 750 on Feb 1st, 300 on 5th and 60 on 28th.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, 12 on Mar 22nd, 11 on 23rd, three on 26th, five on Oct 11th and four on 19th. Regent's Park, singles on Jan 3rd, 18th & 19th, two on Feb 17th, singles on Feb 21st & 27th, Mar 12th, 15th & 17th. Russia Dock Woodland, singles on Oct 26th and Nov 12th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant. **RBBP**

This year, there were 31 records from 19 sites, similar to the 35 from 27 sites in 2021 and 30 from 22 sites in 2020. The highest count was eight at Ongar Park Wood on March 6th. More sightings were reported in the first winter period and spring, with most records in January, following on from the small influx in the autumn and winter of 2021. There was no evidence of breeding. The table below shows the monthly summary followed by all records.

Hawfinch records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	6	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	2
No. of records	11	8	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	2

Essex: Bonnett's Wood, one NW on Nov 7th. Bury Wood, one on Feb 20th. Duck Wood, up to four on nine dates from Jan 15th to Feb 19th. Harold Hill, two on Jan 15th. Ongar Park Wood, eight on Mar 6th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Jan 29th. Broxbourne Woods, four on Jan 21st and Feb 27th. Hertford, one at All Saints Churchyard on Dec 7th. Wormley West End, singles on Jan 15th, Feb 18th, four on Feb 28th, three on Mar 11th and one on Mar 17th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one N on Oct 27th. Hampstead Heath, one on Apr 13th. Hilly Fields Park, one on Jan 13th. Totteridge Valley, one E on Jan 13th.

Kent: Bexleyheath, one over on May 31st. Greenwich Park, one on Sep 18th.

Surrey: Banstead Heath, two on Dec 16th. Beddington Farmlands, one on Oct 20th. Headley Heath, four on Nov 11th.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, one N on Apr 13th.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Status: uncommon breeding resident, particularly in the inner part of the London Area.

There was again a fall in the number of sites reporting this species following the fall in 2021 but a slight increase in the number of pairs reported breeding. The table shows declines from 2020 on most measures. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decrease of 32% in the South East from 2016-21. There was one Inner London record following two years without records.

	2022	2021	2020
No. of sites	153	168	206
No. of sites from mid-March to June	68	82	101
No. of sites where reported breeding	33	25	33
No. of pairs/territories reported breeding	35	28	37
No. of pairs seen once between mid-March to June	6	7	12
Total pairs	41	35	49

Below are sector totals for sites where reported, all breeding records (no. of pairs/territories in brackets) and pairs reported from mid-March to June.

Essex: Reported from 28 sites. Belhus Woods CP (1). Bonnett's Wood (1). Dagenham

Chase (1). Ingrebourne Valley (1). Manor Farm, Upminster (1). Roding Valley Meadows NR (1). Tylers Common (1).

Herts: Reported from 26 sites. Brookmans Park (1). Essendon (1). Ellenbrook Fields (1). Frogmore Lakes (1). North Mymms Park (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Watercress LNR, pair on May 4th.

Middx: Reported from 20 sites. Stanmore CP (1). Totteridge Valley (1).

Bucks: Reported from four sites. Colnbrook (1). Wraybury GP, pair on May 4th.

Kent: Reported from 25 sites.

Surrey: Reported from 49 sites. Ashted Common (3). Banstead Wood (1), two pairs on May 7th. Bletchingley (1). Bookham Common (1). Canons Farm (1). Epsom Common, pair on April 17th. Farthing Downs (1). Happy Valley (1). Holmethorpe SP (1). Horton CP (1). Hutchinson's Bank, pair on June 3rd. Lloyds Park (1). Riddlesdown (1),

In Lond: Victoria Park, one on Nov 18th.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 23 counts of 30 or more birds from ten sites compared with 32 counts from 15 sites in 2021. The highest count was in Inner London at Victoria Park with 145 in January (113 in November 2021). At the five sites where we have breeding surveys for both this year and last year, the London Wetland Centre showed an increase of one territory and four showed a decrease. However, only for Ashted Common (12 in 2021) and Beddington Farmlands (14 in 2021) was the decrease more than one territory. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decrease of 38% in London from 2016-21.

Below are breeding records from surveys (no. of territories in brackets), followed by counts, summarised in places, of 20 or more for each sector and records of ten or more for Inner London.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster, 21 on Feb 4th and 24 on Sep 23rd. Mar Dyke Valley (7). Rainham Marshes (8). Walthamstow Wetlands (2); 30 on Jul 15th. Wanstead Flats, 20 on Feb 10th. Wanstead Park, 28 on Feb 17th.

Herts: Watford, 30 on Dec 1st.

Middx: Broomfield Park, monthly peaks of 39 on Jan 14th, 36 on Nov 16th and 60 on Dec 3rd. Bushy Park, 90 going to roost on 25th. Enfield Town, monthly peaks of 33 on Jan 13th and 29 on Feb 7th. Hampstead Heath, monthly peaks of 40 on Feb 26th, 22 on Mar 30th, 25 on Apr 2nd, 20 on May 7th, 20 on Sep 17th & 24th and 60 on Oct 8th. Totteridge Valley, monthly peaks of 35 on Aug 26th and 40 on Oct 9th. Wormwood Scrubs, monthly peaks of 32 on Feb 28th and 24 on Apr 11th.

Surrey: Ashted Common (9). Beddington Farmlands (7); 20 on Sep 11th. Canons Farm (7). Hogsmill NR, 70 on Mar 27th. London Wetland Centre (15); monthly peaks of 39 on Jan 14th, 20 on Feb 26th and 25 on Oct 18th.

In Lond: Reported from 33 sites (13 in 2021). Primrose Hill, 22 on Mar 22nd. Regent's Park, 21 on Feb 27th. Victoria Park, monthly peaks of 145 on Jan 12th and 60 on Feb 2nd & 4th.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Status: common but declining breeding resident and passage migrant.

With 76 counts of 100 or more birds, the number of large flocks was relatively low compared with recent years (93 in 2021, 64 in 2020, and 80 in 2019). The peak count was 600 at Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (1,000 in 2021, 500 in 2020 and 600 in 2019). There has been a consistent decline in breeding pairs over recent years with 100 compared with 112 in 2021, 120 in 2019 and 132 in 2018. In 2020, no survey was conducted at Rainham Marshes (49 pairs in 2021) due to Covid-19 restrictions so the total of 76 pairs is low. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decrease of 38% in the South East from 1995-2021.

Below are all records of breeding (no. of breeding pairs/singing males/territories in brackets), with counts from sites with 100 or more and all Inner London records.

Essex: Barking Bay/Marsh, 120 on Sep 27th. Bonnett's Wood, 118 on Jan 2nd. Cranham (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). North Ockendon (3); 116 on Aug 24th, 135 on Sep 6th. Orsett Fen (1); 117 on Jan 2nd. Rainham Marshes (44); monthly peaks of 122 on Jan 1st, 150 on Oct 18th & 27th. West Horndon (3).

Herts: Coursers Farm, monthly peaks of 150 on Sep 11th, 150 on Nov 20th. Ellenbrook Fields (1). Frogmore Lakes (1). Highfield Farm, 200 on Dec 29th. Maple Cross, 100 on

Linnet at Rainham Marshes. (Russ Sherriff)



Aug 28th. Potters Crouch, 100 on Sep 27th & 30th. Sopwell (1). Stanborough GP (1); 100 on Apr 9th and 100 or more on eight dates between Oct 6th and Dec 20th peaking at 250 on Oct 21st. Tyttenhanger GP (1); 150 on Jan 3rd and 110 on Nov 30th. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (1); 100 or more on 19 dates in January and February peaking at 600 on Feb 9th & 15th.

Middx: Guy Lodge Farm (1). Holly Hill Farm, 100 on Oct 17th. Park Farm, Enfield (1). Parkside Farm/Res (1). Tottenham Marshes (1). Vicarage Farm (1). Warren Farm Sports Centre (1).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 100 on Sep 4th.

Kent: Erith Reach, 100 on Jan 7th & 12th. Orpington, 150 on Oct 2nd. Swanscombe Marshes (1). Wilmington, 100 on Mar 14th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (28); 120 on Sep 10th, 100 on Oct 20th & 22nd. Bletchingley (1). Canons Farm (3); 100 or more on five dates from Feb 13th to Mar 27th, peaking at 200 on Feb 15th, 200 on Oct 24th and Nov 12th. Reigate, monthly peak of 150 on Jan 10th. Riddlesdown (2). Rushett Farm, 120 on Jan 1st and Dec 29th.

In Lond: Camley Street Natural Park, one on Jun 30th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Jun 23rd. Primrose Hill, seen on seven dates from Mar 2nd to Apr 24th with peak of three on Apr 11th, 20th & 24th and on 11 dates from Oct 3rd to Oct 31st with peak of 11 on 3rd. Southwark Park, ten S on Oct 13th.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Status: scarce irruptive winter visitor.

There was just one bird compared with four records of at least three birds in 2021. There were 20 records in 2014 but since then there has never been more than six in one year.

Middx: Trent Park, one on Nov 29th (RM Callf).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor; former breeding resident.

There was a large decrease in the number of records compared with recent years (417 compared with 1,012 in 2021 and 890 in 2020), the lowest number since 2019 (300). There was also a decrease in the highest count of 55 (compared with 100 at two sites in 2021 and 104 in 2020), the lowest since 50 in 2016. There were 188 records between January and March (566 in 2021, 42 in 2020 and 184 in 2019), with 208 records between October and December (291 in 2021, 741 in 2020 and 82 in 2019). The monthly totals with peak counts are shown in the table, and high sector counts and all Inner London records are given below.

Lesser Redpoll records by month

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	87	55	46	17	2	1	1	-	-	57	101	51
Peak count	23	17	16	7	1	1	2	-	-	55	25	12

Essex: Bonnett's Wood, 11 on Jan 13th. Wanstead Flats, at least ten on ten dates from Jan 1st to Mar 13th with peak of 23 on Jan 11th. Wanstead Park, at least ten on six dates from Feb 19th to Mar 14th with peak of 17 on Feb 20th.

Herts: St Albans, 20 on Nov 15th.

Middx: Ruislip Lido, 11 on Dec 3rd. Ten Acres, 12 on Dec 26th.

Bucks: Horton GP, seven on Jan 14th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 13 on Nov 4th. Crystal Palace Park, 25 on Nov 29th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 11 on Oct 29th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Mar 20th. Primrose Hill, singles on five dates from Nov 9th to Dec 14th. Russia Dock Woodland, two on Nov 4th and one on 18th.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

With the lack of an irruption, the number of records was the lowest since 2002 (seven compared with six) whilst the number of birds was the lowest since 1996 (13 compared with two). The last irruption from June 2020 to April 2021 resulted in around 1,100 birds being seen. The table below shows the monthly records and number of birds followed by all records.

Crossbill records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	2	1	-
No. of birds	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	-	2	4	-

Essex: Hornchurch, one on Jun 17th. Mill Wood, four S on Nov 2nd.

Herts: Cassiobury Park, four NW on Aug 11th. St Albans, one on Jul 7th.

Kent: Cudham, one on Oct 15th.

Surrey: Epsom, one N on Jul 2nd. London Wetland Centre, one NW on Oct 14th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant, now common throughout the year.

There were 39 counts of 100 birds or more from eight sites compared with 21 counts at 11 sites in 2021. The highest count was 500 birds at Stanborough GP in October. Most of the large flocks were in north London. At the five sites where we have breeding surveys for both this year and last year, Beddington Farmlands showed a decrease (15 territories in 2021) and the other sites showed little change. The Breeding Bird Survey shows an increase of 51% in London from 2011-21. One interesting observation was a Goldfinch chasing a Sparrowhawk at Roundwood Park, Willesden on January 29th.

Below are breeding records from surveys (no. of territories in brackets), followed by counts, summarised in places, of 80 or more for each sector and records of 30 or more for Inner London.

Essex: Grays Cemetery (8). KGV Res, 100 on Jan 25th and 81 on Nov 24th. Rainham Marshes (32); monthly peaks of 80 on Aug 22nd, 132 on Sep 3rd, 125 on Nov 26th and 127 on Dec 3rd. Tottenham Marshes (3). Tylers Hall Farm, 300 on Jan 11th. Walthamstow Wetlands (1).

Herts: Essendon, 80 on Sep 19th. St Albans, 85 on Mar 5th. Stanborough GP, monthly peaks of 100 on Mar 29th, 150 on Aug 17th, 250 on Sep 17th, 500 on Oct 17th and 100 on Dec 18th.

Middx: Staines Moor, 80 on Aug 2nd and 90 on Sep 3rd. Totteridge Valley, peak in August of 190 on 16th.



Goldfinch. (Rudraksha Chodankar)

Bucks: Colnbrook, 80 on Dec 12th.

Kent: Crossness, 80 on Aug 16th and 85 on Sep 22nd. Crystal Palace Park, 95 on Nov 17th.

Surrey: Ashted Common (6). Beddington Farmlands (7); monthly peaks of 105 on Jul 26th, 150 on Aug 16th, 178 on Sep 13th, 135 on Oct 19th, 88 on Nov 22nd and 96 on Dec 21st. Canons Farm (7). Rushett Farm, 120 on Sep 29th and 100 on Oct 28th.

In Lond: Reported from 115 sites (68 in 2021). Burgess Park, 50 on Jan 1st. Marylebone, 45 on Jan 15th. Primrose Hill, 46 on Nov 9th. Regent's Park, 48 on Jan 24th, 30 on Feb 9th and Apr 1st. Southwark Park, 30 on Nov 30th. Tower Bridge, 30 on Jan 24th. Victoria Park, monthly peaks of 60 on Jan 1st and Feb 19th, 30 on Sep 26th, 50 on Oct 16th, 30 on Nov 30th, 50 on Dec 3rd & 30th.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

Status: rare vagrant.

A first-winter was present at Maple Cross in the first three months of the year associating with Chaffinches and Linnets. It was the first in the London Area since 2018 and the 11th since 2000. Most records have been between January and May and several have stayed for more than one day; at Rainham Marshes, there were stays of more than a month in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Herts: Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, first-winter from Jan 27th to Mar 23rd (P Lewis *et al*).

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant; occasional in summer and has bred.

There were nine counts of flocks of 100 or more compared with 16 in 2021 but only two

in 2020 and four in 2019. The largest flock was at Broxbourne Woods with 300 in February. Counts of over 50 were received from 24 sites (17 sites in 2021) with most sites having their peak in the first winter period following the high numbers in December 2021. Birds were seen at three sites in May (11 sites in 2020), two in June (three), two in July (eight) and one in August (one).

Below are sector counts of 50 or more and all records for Inner London, summarised in places.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 74 on Feb 11th and 115 on Mar 15th. Brentwood, 50 on Feb 19th. Hall Marsh Scrape, 50 on Jan 1st and Feb 21st. Hooks Marsh Lake, 80 on Dec 9th and 70 on 24th. Wanstead Park, 65 on Jan 6th and 70 on 21st.

Herts: Broxbourne Woods, 300 on Feb 9th. Cheshunt GP, 75 on Feb 28th and 200 on Nov 29th. Frogmore Lakes, 83 on Jan 16th and 70 on 23rd. Maple Lodge NR, 120 on Dec 23rd. North Met Pit, 135 on Feb 12th. Panshanger Park, 110 on Feb 20th. St Albans, 56 on Mar 6th. Stansted Innings, 70 on Feb 19th. Stocker's Lake, monthly peaks of 100 on Jan 23rd, 50 on Feb 16th and 100 on Dec 5th.

Middx: Bentley Priory NR, 60 on Jan 16th. Broadwater Lake, 90 on Feb 5th and 54 on Mar 5th. Grovelands Park, 80 on Jan 15th. Hampstead Heath, monthly peaks of 60 on Jan 23rd, 70 on Feb 23rd, 60 on Mar 5th and 50 on Nov 12th. Springwell Lake, 50 on Mar 1st. Totteridge Valley, 78 on Jan 2nd and 50 on Feb 9th.

Bucks: Rowley Farm, 50 on Jan 3rd.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, monthly peaks of 100 on Jan 12th, 98 on Feb 24th and 54 on Mar 16th.

Surrey: Bay Pond, Godstone, 100 on Jan 4th. Gatton Park/Lake, 60 on Feb 20th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Jan 15th. Primrose Hill, up to three on four dates from Feb 26th to Mar 26th, 12 dates in October with 13 on 12th and four dates in December with five on 16th. Regent's Park, one on Mar 22nd. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Oct 15th. St Pancras, four on Mar 17th. Victoria Park, two on Oct 31st and one on Dec 25th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.

There was a single record this year on a very typical date. November has provided half the accepted records since 1990 (40 of 81 records).

Essex: KGV Res, one E calling on Nov 3rd (A Middleton).

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident.

Birds were reported from 15 sites this year (12 in 2021). Disappointingly, this featured just eight territorial males from four sites (14 from seven in 2021). However, there was very little data from the Wilmington area in Kent, which accounted for eight territorial males in 2021. It was encouraging to receive records from two sites in Hertfordshire including two potential territories as no data was received for this sector in 2021. Below are all records, summarised in some cases, with no. of singing males/territories in brackets.

Essex: Beckton Creekside NR, one on May 2nd. Bretons Farm, present on Dec 9th. Damyns Hall Aerodrome, one on Apr 3rd. Mar Dyke Valley, one on Aug 15th, three on Sep 4th, singles on Sep 9th and Oct 28th. North Ockendon, singles on Mar 9th, Sep 27th and Oct 2nd at Fair Play Farm. Orsett Fen, seven records from Sep 1st to Dec 20th, with a peak of ten on Dec 20th. Rainham Marshes (1); ten records between Apr 10th and Jun 1st and three on Nov 30th. West Horndon (2); two juvs on Jul 5th.

Herts: Nashe's Farm, two on May 1st. Stanborough GP (1); recorded from Apr 10th to Aug 15th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, at least two on Feb 23rd, four on Nov 27th and two on 30th, at least two on Dec 23rd. Dartford Marshes, three on Mar 15th and three on Dec 15th. Longfield, one on Sep 15th. South Darenth (4). Wilmington, one on Mar 14th at Shirehall Farm.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Status: widespread but declining breeding resident, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

Reported from 105 sites this year (121 in 2021) and there were at least 89 pairs/territories/males (93 in 2021), as well as several additional sites where birds were present during the breeding season. The Essex and Hertfordshire sectors remain the strongholds and accounted for 58% of the sites and 68% of the breeding records.

Below are sector totals for sites where reported, all breeding records (no. of breeding pairs/territories/males in brackets), some unusual records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Reported from 27 sites, 39+ pairs. Aimes Green, Claverhambury, 27 on Feb 19th. Belhus Woods CP (1). Brook Farm, Upminster (2). Cely Woods (2). Corner Farm, 18 on Nov 19th. Fair Play Farm, North Ockendon (11); bred with ten juvs on Aug 15th and peaks of 17 on Aug 15th and Oct 18th. Manor Farm, Upminster (2). Mar Dyke Valley (1+); peak of 16 on Feb 27th. Orsett Fen (17), bred with 12 juvs seen in flock on Aug 12th; peaks of 34 on Jan 12th and 49 on Nov 24th. Walthamstow Marshes, singles on Apr 8th and Oct 14th. Walthamstow Wetlands, one on Oct 14th (presumed same as Walthamstow Marshes). Wanstead Flats, singles on Jan 3rd and Sep 17th & 25th. West Horndon (3), at Dunning Lane included three juvs; peak of 34 on Oct 9th.

Herts: Reported from 34 sites, 21+ pairs. Aldenham (1). Cole Green (1). Coursers Farm (1); peak of 24 on Mar 6th. Coursers Road GP (1+). Ellenbrook Fields (2); peak of c25 on Oct 16th. Essendon (1); peak of 35+ on Feb 19th. Hatfield Garden Village (1). Maple Cross (1+), bred, juv seen. Nashe's Farm (2). North Mymms Park, c35 on Feb 12th. Potters Crouch (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1), bred with two juvs seen on Aug 18th. Rye Meads, 42 on Mar 4th. Stanborough GP (5), bred; peak of 40 on Apr 10th. Tyttenhanger GP (1). Wildhill (1+); peak of 17+ on Nov 5th. Woodoaks Farm (1).

Middx: Reported from 12 sites, six pairs. Enfield Chase Area: Holly Hill Farm (3), bred, juv seen; 17 on Oct 14th. Rectory Farm (1). Sloemans Farm (1). Hampstead Heath, one on Oct 14th. Whitewebbs Farm (1).

Kent: Reported from 14 sites, eight pairs. Chelsfield (1); peak of c60 on Dec 9th. Crossness, singles on Mar 6th and Oct 31st very unusual here. Cudham (1); peak of 44 on Oct 3rd. Eynsford (2); peak of 18+ on Jan 1st. Hazelwood (3); peak of 20+ on Apr 27th. Lullingstone Park (1). Shoreham (4).

Surrey: Reported from 18 sites, 15-16 pairs. Banstead Heath (1). Bletchingley (1). Canons Farm (4-5); peak of 15 on Mar 15th. Downside (1). Farthing Downs (3+). Happy Valley (2+). Itchingwood Common, 12 on Feb 12th. Mogador, 12 on Oct 17th. Park Farm, Chessington (2). Rushett Farm (1).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Status: rare vagrant.

Two individuals included the overwintering bird in Kent, which stayed until early February, and a new Surrey bird in December which represented the 13th record for the London Area. With Covid-19 restrictions becoming more relaxed the latter bird in particular was well twitched.

Kent: Upper College Farm, one from Jan 1st to Feb 6th, having first been seen in December 2021. On occasions this bird was also seen at Fooks Cray Meadows and on playing fields at Bexley (I Stewart *et al*).

Surrey: Worcester Park, one from Nov 30th to Dec 14th. Initially near the stables at the Lower Morden Equestrian centre and later on the Hamptons Estate (C Northwood *et al*).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Status: fairly common, probably declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A minimum of 147 pairs/territories (129 in 2021, 88 in 2020). There were also birds present at several additional sites during the breeding season. Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey provided over 80% of the breeding season records. The number of pairs has shown an increase in the last three years but is subject to the vagaries of reporting. In 2015, at least 219 pairs were found. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 15% in the South East from 2016-21.

Below are all breeding records (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), some unusual records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Reported from 44 sites, 46+ pairs. Belhus Woods CP (1), bred, three juvs seen. Cornmill Meadows (1). Manor Farm, Upminster (1). Mar Dyke Valley (2). North Ockendon (2), bred at Fair Play Farm. Orsett Fen (2), bred with five juvs seen; peak of 13 on Sep 1st. Rainham Marshes (27). Roding Valley Meadows NR (3+). Walthamstow Marshes (3). Walthamstow Wetlands (2+). West Horndon (2) at Dunning Lane.

Herts: Reported from 33 sites, 26+ pairs. Broxbourne GP (1). Cheshunt GP (1). Coursers Farm (1). Ellenbrook Fields (1+); peak of 20 on Nov 2nd. Frogmore Lakes (1). Hilfield Park Res (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). Munden Estate (1). Rye Meads (13); peak of 18 on Oct 22nd. Sopwell (1). Stanborough GP (1). Stocker's Lake (1). Troy Mill Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1+); peak of 15 on Jan 26th.

Middx: Reported from 44 sites, 11+ pairs. Alexandra Park, singles on Oct 8th and Nov 20th. Brent Res (1). Broadwater Lake (1). Bushy Park (1+). East India Dock Basin, one on Nov 22nd. Fir & Park Woods (1). Hampstead Heath, singles on Jul 30th, Oct 3rd & 21st and Nov 4th. Kempton NR (1). Northolt & Greenford CP (1). Springwell Lake (1). Staines Moor (1). Ten Acres, Yeading (2). Woodberry Wetlands (1). Wormwood Scrubs, three on Jan 10th, singles on Jan 26th, Apr 30th, Oct 8th and Dec 7th.

Bucks: Reported from three sites. Wraysbury GP, present during breeding season
Kent: Reported from 12 sites, 18+ pairs. Crayford Marshes (1+). Crossness (7+). Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (1). Sevenoaks WR (1). Swanscombe Marshes (8).
Surrey: Reported from 20 sites, 46+ pairs. Beddington Farmlands (2); peak of 14 on Jan 20th. Brockwell Park, singing male on Apr 18th. Esher Common (1). Fetcham Mill Pond (1). Hogsmill OS (1). Holmethorpe SP (1+). London Wetland Centre (11). Morden Hall Park (1). Richmond Park (22). Rushett Fen, 22 on Feb 3rd. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (5). Wey Manor Meadows (1+).
In Lond: Reported from three sites, one pair. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1); singing male between Feb 28th and Jun 2nd. Primrose Hill, five on Oct 18th. Regent's Park, two on Mar 12th with singles on Mar 15th & 17th, Apr 2nd & 10th.

Reed Bunting is a regular London breeder. (Rudraksha Chodankar)



APPENDIX I: ESCAPES

The following records relate to birds known, or presumed, to be of captive origin. In addition to those listed, there are fully-winged individuals of several species of wildfowl in collections such as at St James's Park and Regent's Park.

Greater Rhea *Rhea americana*

Herts: Maple Cross, two on Aug 11th.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Essex: Connaught Water, four on Apr 3rd & 5th, two on Oct 1st. KGV Res, three on Sep 19th. The Birbeck, two on May 28th. Warren Pond, two on May 25th & 28th (presumed same as The Birbeck).

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Essex: Connaught Water, one on Oct 1st. Waltham Abbey, one from Jan 23rd-24th.

Herts: Seventy Acres Lake, one on Jan 22nd (presumed same as Waltham Abbey).

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Middx: Shepperton, one with flock of Barnacle Geese on Jan 17th & 27th.

Surrey: Esher, one on Jan 3rd. Island Barn Res, one with flock of Barnacle Geese on Jan 1st. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one roosting from Jan 5th to Feb 9th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), one on Jan 23rd. (All sightings presumed to be same bird.)

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Surrey: Bourne Hall Park, one all year.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Essex: Barking Park, singles on Jan 23rd and Feb 19th. Fairlop Waters, one on Feb 5th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jun 10th and Jul 21st. Millbank, one on May 8th. Victoria Park, one on Jan 13th.

Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*

Surrey: Ewell Court Pond, one on Nov 13th.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Herts: Stockers Lake, one on Mar 17th.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Essex: Harrow Lodge Park, one from Jun 27th-28th, two on Aug 26th, one on Sep 12th and Oct 4th, 12th & 15th. Leyton Flats, one from Jan 8th-22nd, one on May 7th, two on May 18th, singles on Jul 10th and Oct 21st. Netherhall GP, one on Nov 11th. Rainham Marshes, two on Jan 14th, singles on Jan 15th and Apr 19th.

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one on Feb 11th.

Middx: Alperton, one on 12 dates from Jan 31st to Apr 4th. Brentford, singles on May 15th and Jul 14th. Furnival Gdns, one on Jul 25th. Isleworth Ait, two on Apr 30th and one on Oct 1st.



Escaped Black Swan are present in small numbers in London. (Russ Sherriff)

Surrey: Barnes, singles on Jul 11th and Nov 12th. Beddington Farmlands, one on Oct 19th. Claremont Landscape Gdn, singles on Jan 16th, Feb 25th and Mar 19th. Hammersmith Bridge, singles on Jul 25th and Nov 6th. R Thames: Kew, singles on May 28th, Jun 28th and Aug 3rd. R Thames: Putney Bridge to Barnes Bridge, singles on Sep 10th, Oct 10th and Nov 14th. Royal Mid Surrey GC, one on Jun 25th. Wandsworth Common, one on Feb 20th.

In Lond: R Thames: Battersea, singles on Jul 31st, Aug 15th and Nov 27th. Green Park, one on May 18th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Mar 8th, one on Nov 30th, Dec 1st, 22nd-23rd, 26th and 31st.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Middx: Feltham, two on May 18th. Hounslow Heath, two on Mar 11th and Apr 25th. Staines Res, two on Jan 10th & 13th and Apr 26th. (Presumed to be same birds).

South African Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

Surrey: Richmond Park, present on Jan 26th.

In Lond: Burgess Park, one on Jan 25th.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Essex: Hainault Forest CP, singles on Jan 22nd, Feb 20th and Apr 17th.

Herts: Frogmore Lakes, four on Jan 2nd, one on Apr 18th & 23rd-24th.

Kent: Otford, singles on Jan 29th and Jun 29th.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Essex: Connaught Water, singles on Jan 3rd & 23rd, Apr 3rd, Jul 20th & 31st, Aug 15th & 27th and Oct 1st, 12th, 14th & 26th. Hooks Marsh Lake, one on Mar 19th.

Herts: Batchworth Lake, Bury Lake & Rickmansworth Aquadrome, long-staying male seen regularly throughout the year. Cassiobury Park, one on Mar 5th & 7th. Cheshunt GP, singles on Jan 1st, 13th & 15th, Feb 11th and May 3rd & 6th.

Kent: Kelsey Park, up to three throughout the year.

In Lond: Waterloo Bridge, one on south bank of R Thames on Nov 14th.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, singles on Aug 22nd and Oct 4th. Connaught Water, one on Jan 3rd, three on Jan 22nd, two on Feb 12th, one on Feb 23rd and Apr 3rd, two on Apr 3rd & 5th, one on Apr 29th, two on May 8th & 25th, one on Aug 27th.

Herts: Verulamium Park, one on Jan 7th, 23rd & 30th.

Crested Duck *Lophonetta specularioides*

Surrey: South Norwood CP, present on Apr 3rd.

Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota*

Middx: Brent Res, one on 13 dates from Aug 6th to Sep 23rd.

Yellow-billed Teal *Spatula flavirostris*

In Lond: Southwark Park, one on Oct 24th & 28th and Nov 3rd.

New Zealand Scaup *Aythya novaeseelandiae*

Surrey: Richmond Park, one on 27 dates from Jan 3rd to May 5th.

Hooded Merganser *Lyphodytes cucullatus*

Essex: Connaught Water, female from Jul 27th-30th (awaiting decision from BBRC). William Girling Res, one from Jan 23rd to May 16th.

Middx: Grovelands Park, male from Jan 1st-10th (presumed returning bird from January 2021). (Presumed to be same as William Girling Res). The BBRC report for 2021 considered male at Grovelands Park in January was an escape and did not appear in the BBRC report for 2022.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

Herts: Hoddesdon, one on Mar 27th.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numidia meleagris*

Herts: Essendon, singles on Apr 1st & 9th and Jul 1st. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 29th and May 1st.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Herts: Essendon, two on Mar 29th, one on Apr 15th & 17th, two on Apr 21st and one on Jun 24th. Essendonbury, one on Apr 17th. Stanborough GP, singles on May 3rd & 8th, Jun 26th, Jul 10th, Aug 14th and Oct 21st, two on Dec 10th.

Diamond Dove *Geopelia cuneata*

Surrey: Morden Hall Park, one on Mar 6th.

White-cheeked Turaco *Tauraco leucotis*

Essex: Wanstead Flats, one first seen in 2008 was present all year.

Fischer's Turaco *Tauraco fischeri*

Middx: Hampstead Cemetery, one on Apr 29th and Sep 2nd.

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*

Essex: North Weald Bassett, one on Feb 16th & 18th.

Northern Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*

Surrey: Barnes Common, one on Mar 21st. Putney, one (probably same) on Mar 20th.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Middx: Isle of Dogs/Mudchute Farm, present every month except September and December with peaks of 13 on Jan 15th and 12 on Feb 25th.

Green-cheeked Parakeet *Pyrhura molinae*

In Lond: Paddington Green, one on Jul 22nd.

Scarlet Macaw *Ara macao*

In Lond: Primrose Hill, two on Aug 10th.

Blue-crowned Parakeet *Pyrhura molinae*

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on May 5th.

Green Parakeet *Psittacara holochlorua*

Herts: Colney Heath, five on Oct 4th.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

Herts: Stanborough Lakes, one on Jan 14th.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Surrey: Epsom, one on Sep 4th. Sutton, one on Jul 29th.

White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis*

Middx: Gladstone Park, one on Mar 19th.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Essex: Chingford, singles on Jan 2nd and Feb 10th.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

Middx: Woodberry Wetlands, one on Apr 24th.

Atlantic Canary *Serinus canaria*

Kent: Sidcup, one on Aug 9th.

APPENDIX II: HYBRIDS

The following records are of wild or feral hybrids, but records of Canada x Greylag Goose and unspecified Canada Goose, Greylag and Mallard hybrids are not reported here. All are reported as described by the observers and are listed in order of the first species involved. **It would be helpful if observers could send photographs of hybrids, where available.**

Canada x Egyptian Goose

Surrey: South Norwood CP, one on Dec 17th.

Barnacle x Emperor Goose

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Jan 23rd and Aug 25th. Frogmore Lakes, one on eight dates from Jan 20th to May 28th and Aug 30th, Oct 2nd, 16th & 23rd. Munden Estate, one on Dec 25th.

Bar-headed x Greylag Goose

In Lond: Victoria Park, singles on Feb 10th, Mar 17th and Apr 11th.

Muscovy Duck x Mallard

Middx: Finsbury Park, singles on Feb 12th, Jun 26th and Jul 4th, two on Aug 22nd & 24th, one on Nov 12th.

Surrey: Barnes Green Pond, one on Nov 7th. Kew Gdns, three on Sep 24th. Tooting Common, four on Jan 18th, two on Jan 19th, one on 33 dates from Feb 22nd to Jun 10th. Wandsworth Common, one on Jan 10th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on May 18th. Southwark Park, two on Aug 29th.

Gadwall x Mallard

Surrey: Kew Gdns, singles on Oct 29th and Dec 1st & 7th.

Aythya hybrid

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one on Mar 27th.

Middx: Staines Res, one on 11 dates from Mar 1st to Apr 2nd.

Surrey: Thorpe Water Park, one on Feb 20th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Sep 23rd.

Pochard x Tufted Duck

Essex: KGV Res, singles on Jan 2nd, 13th & 16th, Feb 5th, Mar 20th and Apr 11th-12th. Walthamstow Wetlands, singles on Feb 26th, Mar 5th & 23rd, Apr 8th and Jul 28th. Wanstead Flats, one on Apr 23rd.

Middx: Finsbury Park, one on Feb 12th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, one on Jan 22nd. London Wetland Centre, singles on Jan 3rd & 26th and Nov 18th, two on Nov 22nd, singles on Dec 10th & 30th. Tooting Common, one on Jan 23rd and 15 dates from Mar 27th to May 3rd. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one on Oct 31st.

Glaucous x Herring Gull

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 2nd.

Herring Gull x Caspian Gull

Essex: Thames Barrier, one on Dec 20th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Feb 20th.

Kent: Erith Reach, one on Sep 4th. Thamesmead, one on Jan 8th & 15th and Dec 17th.

In Lond: Rotherhithe, one on Aug 23rd.

Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull

Herts: Stocker's Lake, one on Dec 5th & 7th.

Kent: Crossness, one on Aug 3rd, 6th, 15th & 28th. Greenwich Peninsula, one on Jun 23rd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Oct 5th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Feb 9th. R Thames: Battersea Bridge to Vauxhall Bridge, one on Jan 10th. Tate Modern, one on Aug 30th.

Caspian Gull hybrid

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, adult on Jan 23rd, 1st-summer on May 7th and Jun 4th, 15th, 17th, 19th & 23rd.

APPENDIX III: NON-PROVEN & NON-SUBMITTED RECORDS

Non-proven records

The following records were submitted to the LNHS but have not been accepted, either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or by our Rarities Committee, which abides by the decisions of adjacent county bird clubs if the record relates to their county.

Glossy Ibis	Molesey Heath	Apr 10th
Honey Buzzard	St Albans	Mar 23rd
Goshawk	Roding Valley Meadows NR	Jun 8th
Black Kite	West Molesley	Apr 18th
Temminck's Stint	Rainham Marshes	Apr 25th
Iceland Gull	Chessington	Mar 24th
Hoopoe	Spring Park Woods	May 6th
Merlin	London Wetland Centre	Oct 12th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Poulter Park	Jan 7th, 12th & 19th
Common Redpoll	London Wetland Centre	Feb 25th
Snow Bunting	West Brompton	Nov 3rd

Non-submitted records

The following records have been reported but to date no details have been received by the LNHS or adjacent county bird clubs. Photos and descriptions (or notes where appropriate) for any of these records would be welcomed, so that in due course they may be published as accepted records.

Pink-footed Goose	Denham	Nov 11th
Pink-footed Goose	Kingston-upon-Thames	Apr 2nd
Pink-footed Goose	Rainham Marshes	Apr 15th
Pink-footed Goose	Walthamstow Wetlands	Jan 1st
Pink-footed Goose	Wanstead Flats	Sep 16th
Tundra Bean Goose	Walthamstow Wetlands	Jan 1st
Whooper Swan	Ardleigh Green	Nov 30th
Whooper Swan	Bushy Park	Mar 4th
Whooper Swan	Crayford Marshes	Nov 29th
Whooper Swan	Woodford Green	Dec 8th
White Stork	Hilfield Park Res	May 10th
Glossy Ibis	Cheshunt GP	Jun 1st
Glossy Ibis	Chess Valley	Jan 24th
Honey Buzzard	Cudham	Sep 10th
Honey Buzzard	Rainham Marshes	Aug 10th
Honey Buzzard	Sidcup	Sep 21st
Honey Buzzard	Walthamstow Wetlands	Sep 16th
Hen Harrier	Banstead	Sep 10th
Goshawk	Bletchingley	Jan 28th
Goshawk	Chingford Plain	Oct 10th
Goshawk	Epping	May 6th
Goshawk	Gallions Reach	May 8th
Goshawk	Gallions Reach	Apr 14th
Goshawk	Hornchurch	Dec 3rd
Goshawk	Oakwood	Jun 21st
Goshawk	Priest Hill NR	Oct 3rd

Black Kite	Beddington Farmlands	Apr 18th
Black Kite	Gallions Reach	Apr 24th
Black Kite	Hackney Marsh	May 21st
Black Kite	Water End/Brookmans Park	Apr 30th
White-tailed Eagle	Hampton	Mar 22nd
White-tailed Eagle	Hillingdon	Apr 26th
White-tailed Eagle	Petersham	Mar 25th
White-tailed Eagle	Rainham Marshes	Apr 27th
White-tailed Eagle	Stoke Newington	Apr 30th
White-tailed Eagle	Trent Park	Apr 8th
Purple Sandpiper	Dartford Marshes	Nov 24th
Glaucous Gull	Hornchurch	Dec 18th
Iceland Gull	Southwark	Oct 29th
Guillemot	St James's Park	Sep 29th
Nightjar	Brompton Cemetery	Sep 11th
Nightjar	East India Dock Basin	May 25th
Nightjar	Winchmore Hill	May 18th
Alpine Swift	Eltham	May 31st
Hoopoe	Headley Heath	Apr 16th
Wryneck	Cudham	Sep 27th
Wryneck	KGV Res	Sep 2nd
Wryneck	Rainham Marshes	Sep 6th
Merlin	Dagenham Chase	Oct 1st
Merlin	Knockholt	Oct 18th
Merlin	North Ockendon	Dec 8th
Merlin	Queen Mother Res	Nov 26th
Merlin	Wanstead Park	Oct 18th
Merlin	West Horndon	Nov 20th
Merlin	Woodford Green	Oct 21st
Great Grey Shrike	Staines Moor	Oct 19th
Golden Oriole	Claybury Woods & Park	Jun 16th
Woodlark	Chingford Plain	Sep 29th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Beckenham Place Park	May 5th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Broadwater Lake	Feb 1st
Siberian Chiffchaff	Broadwater Lake	Dec 24th
Marsh Warbler	Rainham Marshes	May 30th
White Wagtail	Coursers Farm	Sep 11th
White Wagtail	Cray Valley GC	Sep 27th
White Wagtail	Cudham	Sep 28th
White Wagtail	Ellenbrook Fields	Sep 18th
White Wagtail	Rye Meads	Oct 24th
White Wagtail	St Paul's Cray	Sep 27th
Olive-backed Pipit	Ellenbrook Fields	Oct 31st
Common Redpoll	Woodford Green	Dec 5th
Ortolan Bunting	Wanstead Flats	Sep 12th-13th

Records still in circulation

The following record is still being considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Arctic Redpoll	Grays	Dec 4th-6th
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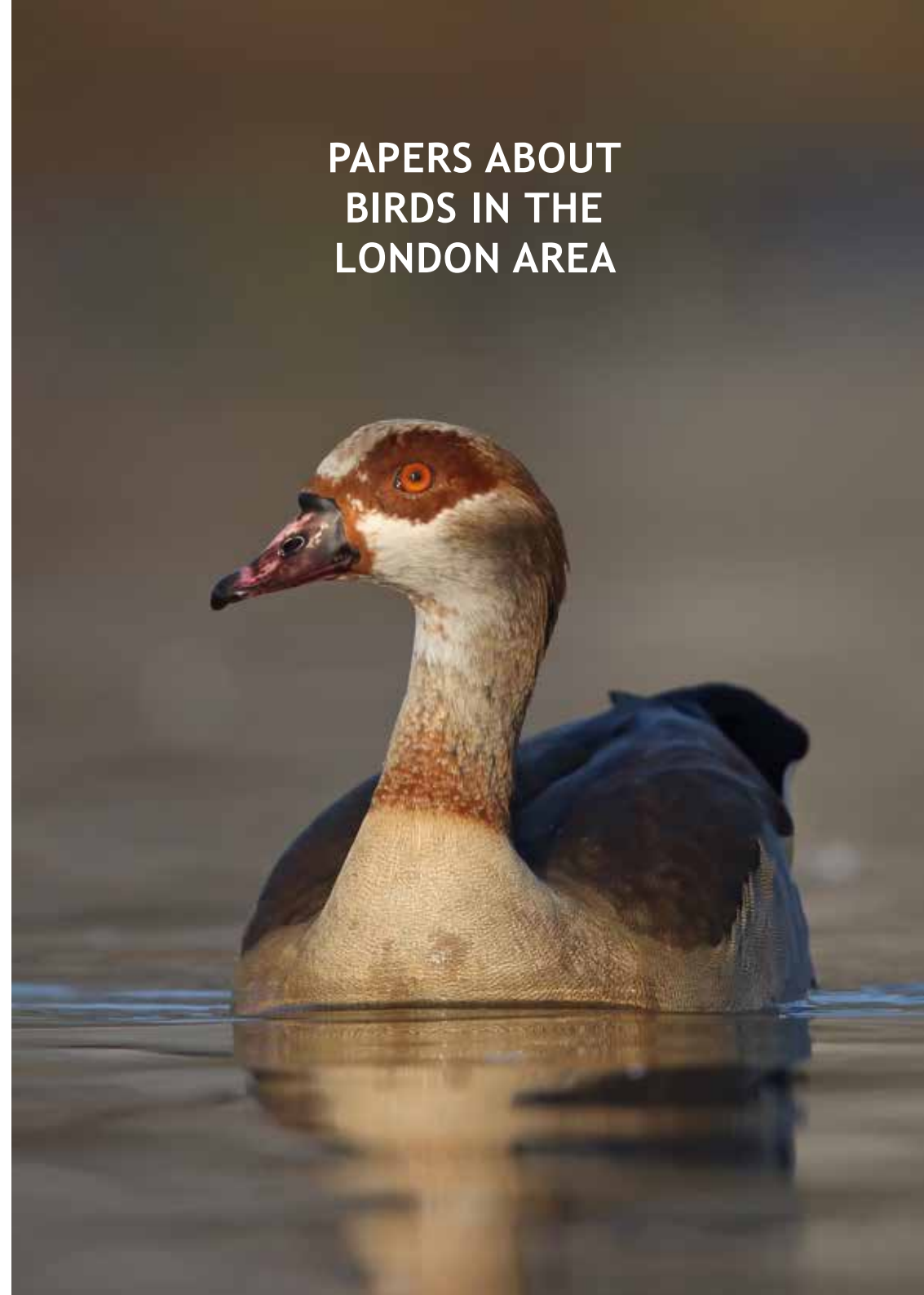
FIRST AND LAST DATES OF REGULAR MIGRANTS

Summer Migrants	Arrival	Departure
Garganey	15 Mar KGV Res	9 Oct Island Barn Res
Osprey	9 Mar Rainham	31 Oct Crystal Palace Park
Little Ringed Plover	3 Mar Staines Res/Stanborough GP	30 Aug Rainham Marshes
Whimbrel	11 Apr Dartford Marshes	25 Sep London Wetland Centre
Sandwich Tern	26 Mar Brent Res	19 Oct Rainham Marshes
Little Tern	19 Apr Rainham Marshes	none
Common Tern	29 Mar Staines Res	4 Oct London Wetland Centre
Arctic Tern	7 Apr Island Barn Res	9 Oct Q. Mother Res
Black Tern	12 Apr Staines Res?Wraysbury GP	28 Sep Staines Res
Turtle Dove	1 May Wanstead Flats	19 Aug Upminster
Cuckoo	12 Apr Amwell NR/Stocker's Lake	4 Sep Wanstead Flats
Swift	13 Apr Orsett Fen	17 Nov Leatherhead
Hobby	19 Mar Hammersmith	16 Oct Hackney
Sand Martin ^W	5 Mar Rainham Marshes	20 Oct Beddington Farmlands
Swallow	27 Mar Tyttenhanger GP	21 Nov Walthamstow Wetlands
House Martin	1 Apr Sevenoaks WR	10 Oct Hampstead Heath
Wood Warbler	25 Apr Wimbledon	24 Aug Walthamstow Wetlands
Willow Warbler	22 Mar London Wetland Centre (LWC)	29 Oct London Wetland Centre
Sedge Warbler	24 Mar Rainham Marshes	8 Oct Rainham Marshes
Reed Warbler	11 Apr LWC/Roding Valley Meadows NR	11 Oct Stocker's Lake
Grasshopper Warbler	10 Apr Chingford Plain	25 Sep Beddington Farmlands
Garden Warbler	13 Apr Bowyer's Water/Fairlop Water	20 Sep Wanstead Park
Lesser Whitethroat ^W	13 Apr Richmond Park	2 Oct Waterworks NR
Whitethroat	27 Mar Brent Cross Shopping Centre	16 Oct Mar Dyke Valley
Ring Ouzel	29 Mar Rainham Marshes	25 Nov Dulwich Village
Spotted Flycatcher	11 May Regent's Park	16 Oct Regent's Park
Nightingale	13 Apr Holmethorpe SP	5 Sep Epsom Downs
Pied Flycatcher	13 Apr Regent's Park	22 Sep Cudham/Greenwich Park
Redstart	11 Apr Rainham Marshes	24 Oct Putney
Whinchat	12 Apr Richmond Park	10 Oct Coursers Road GP
Wheatear	10 Mar Orsett Fen	5 Dec Walthamstow Wetlands
Yellow Wagtail	21 Mar Watford	8 Nov Stanborough GP
Tree Pipit	26 Mar Thamesview GC	22 Oct Cheshunt Park

Winter Migrants	Departure	Arrival
Smew	1 Jun Cheshunt GPs	20 Nov Cheshunt GPs
Goosander	16 Jun Harefield	1 Oct Broadwater Lake/Island Barn Res
Bittern	9 Apr Rainham Marshes	24 Jul London Wetland Centre
Jack Snipe	27 Apr Horton	21 Sep Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth)
Fieldfare	6 May Primrose Hill	29 Sep Dagenham Chase
Redwing	4 May Q. Mother Res	20 Sep Banstead
Water Pipit	13 Apr Rainham Marshes	30 Sep Beddington Farmlands
Rock Pipit	25 Mar Rainham Marshes	19 Sep Rainham Marshes
Brambling	5 May Richmond Park	1 Sep London Wetland Centre

W = excludes wintering birds

PAPERS ABOUT BIRDS IN THE LONDON AREA



Ringling Report by *Daniel Whitelegg* 207

Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls: The Gibson Theory Vindicated by *Alan Gibson* 215

The Breeding Bird Survey in London, 2022 by *Richard Arnold & Ben Hillier* 216

Baltic Gull *Larus Fuscus Fuscus* at Thamesmead: The First Record for London by *Richard Bonser* 220

Pallid Harrier *Circus Macrourus* at Staines Moor: First for the London Area by *Rob Innes* 222

Emerging Effects of the Usutu Virus on London's Blackbird Population by *Rob Robinson* 226

Observations on the Birds of a North London Suburban Garden, 1963-1978 by *Jeremy Galton* 228

Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls by *Alan Gibson*

Data on foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls, observed by Alan Gibson in four Inner London parks and three parks in Middlesex, now include records from 2023.

These are part of the composite datafile of his records, which are arranged on worksheets in date order, in order of metal and plastic ring markings, and in order of the metal rings in each of the 15 foreign countries in which the gulls were originally ringed (Croatia being added to the list in 2023).

The 2013-2023 file can be downloaded from the LNHS website:
<http://www.lnhs.org.uk> > Publications > London Bird Report > London Bird Report additional materials > 'Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls 2023'

Previous page: *Egyptian Goose continues to enjoy breeding success in London.*
(Jonathan Lethbridge)

RINGING REPORT

DANIEL WHITELEGG



Adult Cuckoo ringed at Ingrebourne Valley, a record year for this species in London. (Paul Hawkins)

In London, bird ringing is undertaken by a variety of groups, partnerships and individuals who, collectively, cover a wide range of sites throughout the capital. Full details of ringing that took place in 2022 can be found on the BTO website at: <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports>

The number of ringed birds for many species varies each year due to a range of factors. These include ringer effort and coverage, as well as weather conditions, and can all have a marked effect on catching success and final totals for a year. These variables mean that in a report such as this one, any changes in species numbers are not a reflection on population levels but are more often a reflection on ringer activity. A much better reflection of population levels can be seen through Constant Effort Sites (CES), and there are a number running in the London area. The data for CES is pooled nationally and can be found on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) website at: <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/surveys/ces>

Table 1 gives totals for each species, and annual totals are also given for the previous two years to enable comparison.

Like 2021, 2022 was a poor year for the number of birds ringed, with the second lowest total since 2010. However, species diversity was up, with the inclusion of two new species, probably never ringed before in London, amongst other noteworthy highlights. The largest increases were for Chiffchaff (up by 495) and Redwing (up by

264). These were about equal to the largest decreases: Starling (down by 419) and Whitethroat (down by 254).

An adult and gosling from a pair of Barnacle Gese that bred (unsuccessfully) at Walthamstow Wetlands were ringed. This is probably the first time any have been ringed in the London area. Greylag numbers were at their highest in a decade, bolstered by a colour ringing project in The Royal Parks. Six of the eight species of ducks to have been historically ringed saw increases, with access reinstated at Rye Meads allowing good numbers of Gadwall and Mallard to be ringed. Inclement weather affected access to the heron and egret colonies in the Lee Valley, reflected in poor returns for both these species. Both Moorhen and Coot numbers remain low, although the latter contributed to over 20% of national totals.

Aided by the use of thermal imaging cameras, ringers were able to tag three Woodcock – the first time this species has occurred in this report since 2016. By using the same technology, Jack Snipe numbers reached an all-time high, mirroring a five-fold national increase over the last decade. It was a usually meagre year for other wader species. A combination of limited access and predation of chicks meant the ringing of both Black Headed Gull and Common Tern was well down. All three ‘common’ large gulls were ringed for the first time since 2019.

It was an exceptionally good year for Barn Owls, possibly indicting a bounty of small mammals, as ringing effort remains fairly consistent between years for this species. Peregrines had their best year and Ringed-necked Parakeets the worst, though despite the former’s taste for the non-native escapee, there is no causal link. A Rook was ringed by the Maple Cross Ringing Group, marking only the second London record for this bird. It was a fairly average year for tits, with the exception of Marsh Tit, which had the best year since 2010. After an eight-year hiatus, Skylark were once again ringed, helped by the use of thermal cameras.

Ringing sites around the capital’s major rivers continue to do well for Cettis Warblers, whose numbers have increased yet again. For other warblers, it was a mixed year. Out of the nine common species, five increased, two remained the same and two decreased. A Marsh Warbler ringed at Swanscombe Marshes was probably the first to be ringed inside the LNHS recording area and may have bred.

2022 was a good year for winter thrushes, but a mediocre year for breeders like Song Thrush. Nightingales bred and were ringed at Swanscombe, a welcome return from this scarce breeding migrant. 27 Stonechat and six Pied Flycatchers, mainly ringed in autumn, represented good passages across the capital for both species. Sadly, the Tree Sparrow has now become extirpated from this area, with only one bird being retrapped at Tyttenhanger. Only Meadow Pipit was ringed from this family, in stark contrast to last year.

It was a below-average year for all finch species, with both Bullfinch and Greenfinch still in long-term decline. Yellowhammers remain a scarce but reasonably distributed bird on the edges of the recording area, as reflected in the only ringing records coming from the Rye Meads and Maple Cross areas. In summary, despite low overall totals, it was a good year for scarce species and it is hoped that some of these species will remain on the ringing list over the following years.



Adult male Marsh Warbler ringed at Swanscombe Marshes. This bird was heard to mix Goldfinch song into its own song while displaying. (Terry Hilsden)

Table 1. Species totals of birds reported as ringed in the London Area during 2022.

2022 Pullus	2022 Full Grown	2022 Total	Species	2021 Total	2020 Total
25	139	164	Canada Goose	193	41
1	1	2	Barnacle Goose	0	0
11	58	69	Greylag Goose	33	11
48	96	144	Mute Swan	206	116
0	1	1	Egyptian Goose	0	0
0	2	2	Mandarin Duck	5	0
0	1	1	Shoveler	0	0
3	30	33	Gadwall	0	1
4	49	53	Mallard	14	4
0	9	9	Teal	5	4
1	0	1	Pochard	0	1
1	4	5	Tufted Duck	1	2
17	1	18	Grey Heron	31	1

2022 Pullus	2022 Full Grown	2022 Total	Species	2021 Total	2020 Total
9	0	9	Little Egret	19	12
0	1	1	Cormorant	1	0
0	12	12	Sparrowhawk	12	13
0	1	1	Buzzard	4	1
0	2	2	Water Rail	2	3
3	16	19	Moorhen	17	10
3	92	95	Coot	60	68
4	0	4	Lapwing	5	8
0	26	26	Jack Snipe	14	10
0	5	5	Snipe	7	6
0	0	0	Common Sandpiper	1	0
0	8	8	Green Sandpiper	8	7
0	0	0	Greenshank	1	0
45	125	170	Black-headed Gull	313	214
0	1	1	Common Gull	0	0
0	5	5	Herring Gull	0	0
2	0	2	Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	0
11	0	11	Common Tern	25	45
20	1	21	Stock Dove	30	48
0	36	36	Woodpigeon	37	58
1	11	12	Collared Dove	16	26
2	3	5	Cuckoo	3	2
32	7	39	Barn Owl	18	7
6	1	7	Tawny Owl	8	1
6	1	7	Little Owl	13	1
8	8	16	Swift	9	5
0	38	38	Kingfisher	28	28
0	71	71	Great Spotted Woodpecker	61	61
0	17	17	Green Woodpecker	12	16
24	2	26	Kestrel	19	25
0	0	0	Hobby	0	3
17	5	22	Peregrine	13	6
0	19	19	Ring-necked Parakeet	33	65
0	13	13	Jay	23	19
18	25	43	Magpie	40	56
6	14	20	Jackdaw	35	50
0	1	1	Rook	0	0
3	1	4	Carrion (or Hooded) Crow	3	1
8	71	79	Coal Tit	75	111
8	13	21	Marsh Tit	0	2
1,397	2,162	3,559	Blue Tit	3,713	3,844
709	1,049	1,758	Great Tit	1,525	1,645
0	2	2	Bearded Tit	4	1
0	12	12	Skylark	0	0

2022 Pullus	2022 Full Grown	2022 Total	Species	2021 Total	2020 Total
206	9	215	Sand Martin	306	69
5	67	72	Swallow	18	43
0	0	0	House Martin	0	6
5	289	294	Cetti's Warbler	213	89
0	591	591	Long-tailed Tit	450	576
0	272	272	Willow Warbler	132	156
6	1,882	1,888	Chiffchaff	1,393	1,620
0	0	0	Yellow-Browed Warbler	0	1
33	284	317	Sedge Warbler	263	317
41	1,071	1,112	Reed Warbler	1,093	806
0	1	1	Marsh Warbler	0	0
0	4	4	Grasshopper Warbler	4	4
1	2,613	2,614	Blackcap	2,452	2,775
0	149	149	Garden Warbler	241	309
0	86	86	Lesser Whitethroat	87	60
0	448	448	Whitethroat	702	622
0	7	7	Firecrest	4	3
0	254	254	Goldcrest	123	256
6	420	426	Wren	359	349
0	16	16	Nuthatch	12	32
0	40	40	Treecreeper	23	30
17	1,179	1,196	Starling	1,615	2,049
1	292	293	Blackbird	292	336
0	5	5	Fieldfare	0	4
0	400	400	Redwing	136	286
1	175	176	Song Thrush	168	139
0	0	0	Mistle Thrush	2	0
35	713	748	Robin	642	720
0	2	2	Nightingale	0	0
0	0	0	Spotted Flycatcher	0	2
0	6	6	Pied Flycatcher	1	1
0	1	1	Redstart	2	4
0	0	0	Whinchat	0	1
0	27	27	Stonechat	11	15
0	0	0	Wheatear	2	0
0	235	235	House Sparrow	319	422
0	0	0	Tree Sparrow	17	31
1	468	469	Duncock	469	556
0	0	0	Yellow Wagtail	0	2
20	5	25	Grey Wagtail	21	14
0	1	1	Pied Wagtail	6	2
0	168	168	Meadow Pipit	80	296
0	0	0	Tree Pipit	1	10
0	0	0	Water Pipit	5	1

2022 Pullus	2022 Full Grown	2022 Total	Species	2021 Total	2020 Total
0	0	0	Rock Pipit	2	0
0	102	102	Chaffinch	65	118
0	3	3	Brambling	4	3
0	8	8	Bullfinch	20	17
0	195	195	Greenfinch	241	322
0	30	30	Linnet	26	17
0	0	0	Redpoll Sp*	0	2
0	0	0	Common Redpoll	1	0
0	20	20	Lesser Redpoll	174	440
1	528	529	Goldfinch	725	1,016
0	37	37	Siskin	92	1
0	26	26	Yellowhammer	11	39
8	124	132	Reed Bunting	137	240
2,831	17,523	20,354	Total	19,857	21,897

*Taken from the National Ringing Database, which offers three selection options: Common, Lesser or Redpoll sp.

One of the main reasons for ringing birds is to obtain information about the longevity and movement of a species from the recoveries of ringed individuals. Recoveries can be from dead birds, from other ringers catching birds from elsewhere or from field sightings of colour-marked birds that are easily identifiable, providing some excellent life histories on individual birds. There are now many sources on the internet that list data collected from recovered birds; the most recognised source detailing all the London recoveries can be found on the BTO website at:

<https://app.bto.org/ring/countyrec/results2022/recGBLO2022.htm>

Male Shoveler, and worn German ring, that was ringed in north-east Germany in 2011 before being recaptured at Rye Meads in 2022. (David Spensley)



For the purpose of this report, highlights from the BTO's summary of recoveries are illustrated here:

The provenance of the wintering flock of Barnacle Geese around the Esher area was discovered when a colour-ringed gosling from Merseyside was seen in November. A colour-ringed Cormorant chick, also from this area, was seen in August at Hatfield. An adult male Shoveler that was ringed in north-east Germany in June 2011 was recaptured at Rye Meads in December 2022. The original ring was very worn, so was replaced with a new BTO ring and a colour ring. It was subsequently seen three times up until April 2023.

The Little Egret from Walthamstow Wetlands that was reported in Belgium in 2021 was resighted, this time from The Netherlands in January. Although a breeding bird in London, a large proportion of wintering Water Rails arrive from the continent. This was demonstrated by a bird ringed near Frankfurt, Germany in March, which was then retrapped at Lemsford Springs in late October.

A Coot chick ringed in 2011 at Rye Meads was re-encountered and still present at the site 11 years later. A Dunlin ringed near Aberystwyth in May 2019 on spring migration was seen at the King George V Reservoir three years later on the same journey north. Another wader, a Redshank, was seen at the same reservoir in July, having been ringed seven years earlier while wintering at Chichester Harbour.

New longevity records for Green Sandpipers were set by a bird from Lemsford Springs at eleven years and four months. Despite the low numbers currently ringed, there were three good recoveries of Common Tern chicks ringed in London: a 14-year-old bird from Rye Meads that was hit by a plane at Paris Airport, a bird from Bedfont Lakes that was recruited into the breeding colony at Brownsea Island and a fledging from Walthamstow that was seen on autumn migration in Cadiz, Spain. Two Peregrine siblings, born in 2012 at Vauxhall, were observed breeding at opposite ends of the country; the male in Nottingham and the female in Southampton. A three-year-old Marsh Tit was retrapped in a garden in Banstead, South London. The origin of wintering Chiffchaffs has been known for a while, nevertheless it was nice to see a Danish-ringed bird return to Rye Meads for its 3rd consecutive winter.

A male Blackcap from West Dorset was found dead, having been predated by a domestic cat near Hampstead Heath, highlighting the risk many birds face by migrating through London. Like Water Rail, many Blackbirds arrive in the UK from further east in Europe. Birds from Norway, Germany and The Netherlands were recorded around the capital during the winter of 2022. One of the more unusual recoveries was of a Redwing found freshly dead in Estonia. Ringed at Queen Mary Reservoir in December 2017, it was discovered in late April 2022, presumably on its way to breeding grounds. There aren't many recoveries of songbirds from London this far into eastern Europe, and seeing them return in the autumn demonstrates just how far these birds have travelled.

References

ROBINSON, R.A., LEECH, D.I. & CLARK, J.A., 2023. The Online Demography Report: bird ringing and nest recording in Britain & Ireland in 2022. BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 23 June 2023)

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Paul Hawkins, Terry Hilsden and David Spensley for providing their pictures. Gratitude is also extended to the various ringers who provided notable information for inclusion in this report.

In future reports, we aim to include details on some ringing projects currently in the works. Ringers in London are encouraged to write up short projects or notes on ringing activity for inclusion in this report and to send in photographs of interesting birds caught. Photographers are also invited to send in pictures of birds with colour or metal rings and details of these birds that may be of interest. Material can be sent to danielwhitelegg@gmail.com.

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FOREIGN-RINGED BLACK-HEADED GULLS THE GIBSON THEORY VINDICATED

—
ALAN GIBSON

My theory arose from observing, over the past few years, the declining numbers of new Black-headed Gulls with foreign rings. I reiterate that the theory supposes, by and large, that older birds continue to visit their old haunts while younger ones short-migrate.

I have since thought that the theory could apply to other species. The Bewick's Swans at Slimbridge seemed the best example to study for evidence of this. I wrote to Slimbridge and enquired whether the percentage of new birds had declined in recent years. I got a reply together with a copy of a research paper. Slimbridge answered that the Bewick's Swans travel in family groups and have a strong family bond, with the young following the adults – therefore, the theory could not apply to them.

However, the research paper also mentioned Barnacle Geese and Black-tailed Godwits. Some of the juvenile Barnacle Geese are using a stop-off point not used by the adults, and some of the juvenile Black-tailed Godwits are using a stop-off point proportionally more than the adults are. This provided a good indication that the Gibson theory can apply to other species as well.

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THE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY IN LONDON, 2022

RICHARD ARNOLD & BEN HILLIER

The *BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey* (BBS) is a long-running national monitoring programme for breeding birds in the UK and is coordinated by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Volunteers survey randomly selected 1km squares in each county twice every year, once in spring and once in early summer, recording birds along predetermined transects. From this data, trends in breeding bird populations are calculated at the national level and at the regional level for England. A summary of the results is provided each year in an annual report (Heywood, *et al.*, 2023). Details about the survey can be found on the BTO website (BTO, 2023), and the reports can be downloaded for every year from 1994 onwards. Greater London is one of the English regions for which trends are reported – a summary of these results for most years has been provided in the London Bird Report (Coleman) (Woodward) (Arnold & Schalz, 2023).

During the seven years before the pandemic, the average number of 1km squares surveyed in Greater London was 103; this fell to 38 in 2020 at the height of the COVID pandemic, recovering to 81 in 2021 and 87 in 2022 (Table 1). These numbers differ slightly from earlier articles due to late submission of data.

Table 1. Number of squares surveyed in Greater London over the last ten years.

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
112	107	106	103	107	97	89	38	81	87

Data from BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey.

Greater London is the smallest of the regions in England for which trends are reported. It therefore has relatively few 1km squares included in the survey, making trends in bird populations more difficult to elucidate. For trends to be published for a species, it must have been recorded in a minimum number of squares per year over the survey period being reported.

Trends were possible to determine for 33 species. Of these, Feral Pigeon, Stock Dove, Moorhen, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Ring-necked Parakeet, Blackcap and House Sparrow showed significant increases over a five-year period starting from 2016, while Green Woodpecker, Long-tailed Tit, Wren, Starling, Mistle Thrush, Blackbird, Dunnock, Chaffinch and Greenfinch showed significant decreases. Feral Pigeon and Great Spotted Woodpecker have joined the list of species increasing significantly, Wren has joined the list of species declining significantly and recent increases in Carrion Crow, Jackdaw and Goldfinch appear to be slowing, being not significant for the 2016-2021 period. Details are provided in Table 2. Importantly, the percent change should not be interpreted as a precise measure, as there is varying uncertainty depending on the sample size – details of this can be found in the BBS report (Heywood, *et al.*, 2023).

Table 2. Bird population trends for the Greater London region. Sample is the mean number of 1km squares covered during the time period indicated, excluding 2020. Change is the percentage change in population over the three periods: 2-year, 10-year and 26-year periods. Statistically significant changes are shown in bold, with those for the 5-year trend in blue. Data from BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey.

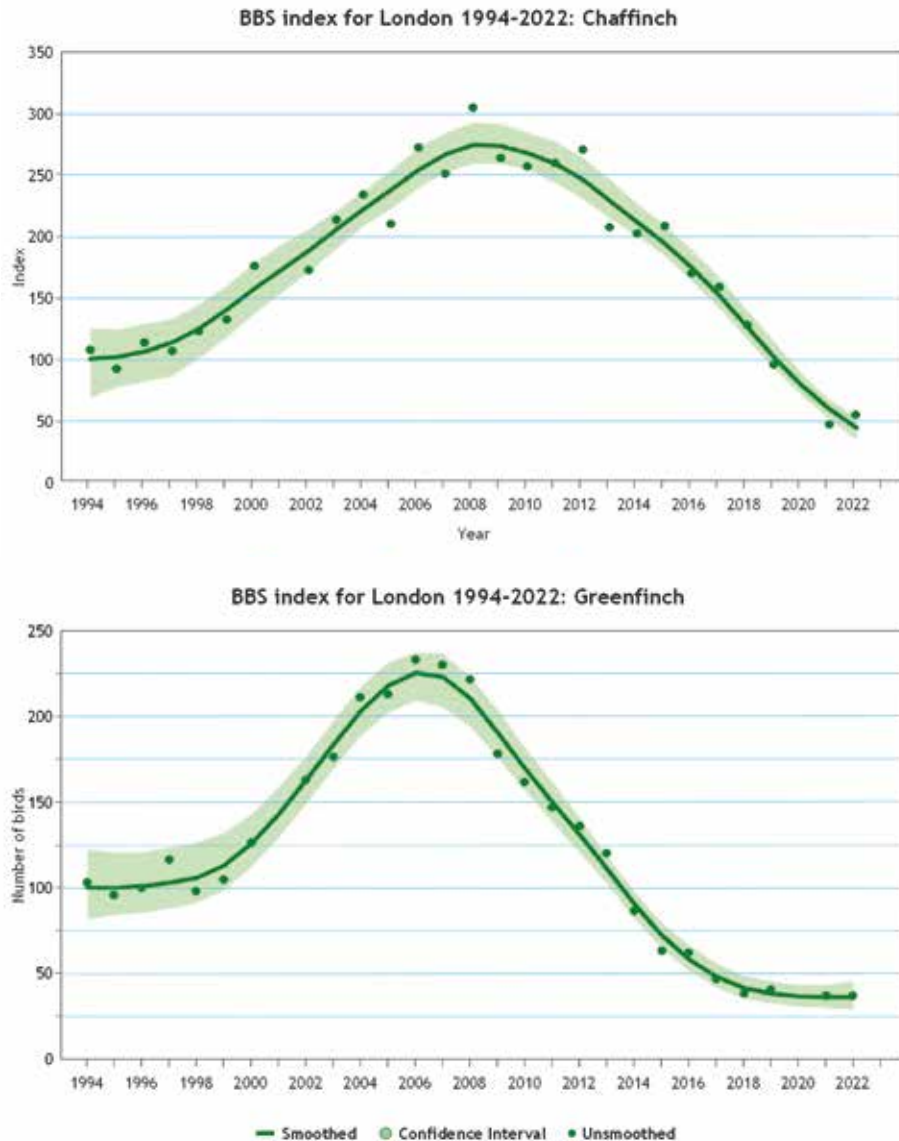
London England trends	All time, 26-year trends (1995-2021)		10-year trends (2011-2021)		5-year trends (2016-2021)		1-year trends (2021-2022)
	Sample	Change	Sample	Change	Sample	Change	Change
Canada Goose			31	-15	28	-10	-1
Mallard	43	-31	50	-19	45	-11	2
Swift	57	-62	58	-34	54	-11	-20
Feral Pigeon	75	-14	86	8	84	15	7
Stock Dove			30	71	33	44	30
Woodpigeon	84	43	97	-7	93	-4	-10
Collared Dove	52	-27	58	-40	54	-11	3
Moorhen (Cormorant)			35	16	33	30	7
(Grey Heron)			25	-39			-2
			28	-29	26	-22	17
Great Spotted Woodpecker	39	71	48	-3	47	22	2
Green Woodpecker	31	1	35	-34	31	-26	-18
Ring-necked Parakeet	50	26266	82	106	84	29	-2
Jay	40	-27	45	-26	44	-14	-24
Magpie	82	41	96	11	92	5	-4
Jackdaw			39	38	40	12	-19
Carrion Crow	83	63	97	7	92	9	-14
Blue Tit	82	1	96	-19	92	-6	-12
Great Tit	78	117	94	-9	90	2	16
Long-tailed Tit	34	11	41	-39	38	-39	-25
Chiffchaff	35	161	47	10	46	9	19
Blackcap	50	229	68	36	70	20	3
Wren	78	28	93	-1	89	-9	11
Starling	80	-69	90	-41	84	-25	-10
Song Thrush	51	-42	58	-6	55	-12	6
Mistle Thrush	32	-75	32	-50	26	-45	-41
Blackbird	84	-56	97	-41	92	-38	-11
Robin	81	85	96	6	92	-1	7
House Sparrow	70	-61	78	26	76	34	-11
Dunnock	63	5	76	-1	72	-16	-6
Chaffinch	55	-42	64	-77	48	-66	16
Greenfinch	55	-64	52	-76	37	-38	1
Goldfinch	56	454	81	51	81	1	-21

The two species in brackets are colonial nesting species, for which trends are not readily determined by the BBS; the results for these species should therefore be treated

with caution.

The decline in the Chaffinch population is ongoing, while the Greenfinch population appears to have stabilised for now, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Chaffinch and Greenfinch population trends for Greater London. Data from BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey.



In 2022, the total number of species recorded for the BBS in Greater London was 82, which is the average number recorded annually for the same area previously (excluding 2020), with a peak of 96 species recorded in 2013. The most widespread species in 2022 were Robin, Woodpigeon and Carrion Crow, which were recorded in every square surveyed, and Blue Tit and Magpie, which were recorded in 86 of the 87 squares. The six most numerous species (those with the highest sum of all records from all squares surveyed) were, by most numerous first: Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, House Sparrow, Carrion Crow, Starling and Ring-necked Parakeet. The seven least widespread and least numerous species were Black Swan, Red-legged Partridge, Raven, Willow Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Treecreeper and Bullfinch, which were all recorded just once in the 2022 BBS. Other species that are generally infrequently recorded in BBS squares in Greater London but were recorded in 2022 include Shoveler, Red Kite and Cetti's Warbler.

The summary data from the BBS for Greater London is freely available on the BTO website, and trend graphs can be downloaded for all the species for which trends are available. Unfortunately, it appears that some volunteers retired from the survey for good during the pandemic, and it may take some time to build up surveyor numbers so that 110 or more squares are covered in the survey each year once again.

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BBS information: www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs

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BALTIC GULL *LARUS FUSCUS FUSCUS* AT THAMESMEAD: THE FIRST RECORD FOR LONDON

RICHARD BONSER

I was throwing bread out into the River Thames from Greenhaven Drive in Thamesmead on August 18th 2021. This is something I do on a regular basis, particularly at this time of year, as there is always a steady stream of juvenile Yellow-legged Gulls, as well as the off-chance of seeing a juvenile Caspian Gull. As I alternated between the naked eye and using my binoculars, it was by the former method that a particular first-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull suddenly caught my attention. Our usual first-summer Lesser Black-backed Gulls (of the subspecies *graellsii*) are normally dark-billed and in obvious wing moult at this time of year, giving them a worn appearance. This bird's mature look (its bill colour in particular) and complete, neat looking wings therefore made it stand out as something potentially different.

The bird came in extremely briefly to investigate the bread and, seeming not too bothered by the food on offer, promptly flew off. I managed to capture one decent image showing the key features of its primary moult with P1 and P2 markedly black, white-edged third-generation feathers and P3 to P10 second-generation feathers. There was a worn look to its mantle and a slightly auburn hue, with the appearance of an overall frostiness to its coverts formed by the obvious white edgings. The tail had a neat dark terminal band with no obvious feather moult. Its bill was dark-tipped with the basal

First-summer Baltic Gull over the Thames on August 18th 2021. (Richard Bonser)



A close-up shot showing the white-edged third generation P1 and P2 feathers. (Richard Bonser)

two-thirds yellow. In terms of size, it seemed within the usual range of Lesser Black-backed Gull and was not overly small, but gave a slender, long-winged impression in the limited time that I observed it.

Wondering if it might be a Baltic Gull (the nominate subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gull, breeding from Scandinavia eastwards to the White Sea), and before heading home to collect my daughter from nursery, I sent a couple of friends a back-of-the-camera shot of my only photo

of the bird, later sending edited images after I had consulted the literature. Jamie Partridge, Josh Jones, Niall Keogh and Dante Shepherd all helped with the initial identification confirmation, while that evening, further confirmation came from Ian Lewington, Tom Lowe and Thomas Miller.

The bird was not seen again on subsequent visits, but that was not a surprise given the transiency of London's gulls along The Thames during the mid- to late-summer period. This represented the first record for London and the 15th British record of this nominate subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gull. The record has been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Acknowledgements

Josh Jones, Niall Keogh, Ian Lewington, Tom Lowe, Thomas Miller, Jamie Partridge and Dante Shepherd all provided invaluable assistance in helping to confirm this bird's identification.

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PALLID HARRIER *CIRCUS MACROURUS* AT STAINES MOOR: FIRST FOR THE LONDON AREA

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ROB INNES

At about 14:30 on September 1st 2022, Ken Purdey glimpsed a ringtail Harrier, with obviously rufous underparts, as it flew among the scrub in the north-west corner of Staines Moor. After Ken had seen it briefly for a second time at roughly 15:00 - when it was distant, right down at the southern end of the moor - I made my way to the site.

I first saw the bird at long range (over 500m away) at 15:45, then caught occasional sightings of increasing proximity (to about 150m away) until roughly 16:55, when it flew north west over the River Colne and out of view behind a stand of tall willows. Surprisingly, it was not seen again; my final sighting accorded with the observations of Ken, who was stationed elsewhere on the moor.

When in view, the bird was quartering the grassland in typical harrier fashion. I also saw it perched on a low snag at the edge of the woodland strip on the eastern side of the moor, about 500m away. It was constantly mobile and, while foraging, kept most of the time to the periphery of the moor, seldom crossing the open grassland to come within closer range.

First impressions were of an obvious ringtail Harrier, with a white rump and very dark, strongly suffused rufous underparts. Overall it was quite rakish in appearance, with its long tail held shut during active flight. When I saw it at its closest, it was flying side-on, swiftly and buoyantly, with sequences of shallow flaps interspersed with glides on slightly raised wings. This offered quite a good study of its structure, in particular the wing tips.

At closer range, I was impressed by the beautiful, almost glossy blackish-brown upperparts, relieved by a strongly contrasting whitish-buff diagonal bar on the upper wing coverts. The rump 'patch' was in fact a U-shaped white band. The underwing coverts and underside of the body were a rich cinnamon brown, which could from some angles (notably the front) appear deeply coloured, almost mahogany in shade (Fig. 2); it was striking that on a perched view, the underparts looked at their palest, almost a tan or tawny orange colour. The whole ventral side of the body appeared to be unstreaked.



The underside of the outer wing was barred white and blackish, with a dark smoky background on the secondary feathers, masking the barring. From a couple of views, the long tail also appeared to be barred white and blackish.

I concentrated mainly on the wing

Figure 1: Dorsal view of the Pallid Harrier, showing the striking buff bars across the nape and on the median coverts. (Pippa Hyde)



Figure 2: Rich cinnamon underparts on Pallid Harrier, with no dark streaks visible. (Pippa Hyde)

structure and head pattern. Seen in flight from about 150m away, the neck showed a broad blackish-brown collar extending down as far as the sides of the throat. The ear coverts looked very solid blackish-brown, and between the cheeks and the basal collar was a crisp narrow buff collar, which often looked whitish. This extended into a pale bar across the nape - a feature that was striking from a suitable angle and could be clearly seen when the bird was perched within a 500m range. On the closest views, a restricted whitish area - hardly more than a spot - could be seen and looked like a 'white drop' below the eye in the middle of the uniformly blackish sides of the head.

Side-on views of the bird while gliding revealed the shape of the wing tip. The outer wing was obviously tapered, becoming narrower than the arm, and in the clearest views, four 'free' primary tips could be seen, with the outermost ('leading') primary tip falling well short of the main wing tip (Fig. 3). I also noted that the white colour of the underside of the primaries appeared to dominate, leaving only a minimal impression of a blackish wing tip. I did not get any useful looks at the legs, bill or eye colour.

Several times the harrier made dashes or swoops after small birds and also spent plenty of spells out of sight, no doubt on the ground. It was certainly hunting actively and may well have fed several times while I was there.

Having gained some reasonable field views, I was convinced that this was a typically well-marked juvenile Pallid Harrier and stated to Ken at about 16:00 that I was confident it was a Pallid - the first record for the London area. At that point, we publicised the presence and probable identity of the bird. We both considered it was likely to remain during the evening and possibly overnight, meaning many observers could see it. In fact, our last sighting came about two hours before sunset, and it seemed that the harrier had perceived a window of time during which it could move on, and duly did so.

Independent sighting and photos

The following day, September 2nd, Pippa Hyde posted on Facebook about her sightings of the same bird, which she described as



Figure 3: White 'boomerang' that curls around the carpal area - a feature of the Pallid Harrier. (Pippa Hyde)



Figure 4: Pallid Harrier, like many passage raptors, attracting the attention of corvids. (Pippa Hyde)

being between 13:00 and 15:00 on September 1st. She also uploaded some invaluable record shots. Pippa did not suggest an identification apart from stating that she had photographed a harrier. When Pippa's images came to light, the identification was demonstrated for all to see, and in her photos I was able to note, for example, the well-marked 'boomerang' of sparsely barred white around the carpal area - a Pallid Harrier feature which I unfortunately had been unaware of while watching the bird.

The Staines Moor record was submitted to the British Birds Rarities Committee, which included the record in its 2022 report on rare birds in Britain (Bacon, *et al.*, 2023).

The national context

Since the 1990s, records of Pallid Harrier in the UK have greatly increased. This trend is matched by a surge of records in western and north-western mainland Europe, and by a larger increase in France and Iberia. In the latter regions, many more Pallid Harriers are being recorded in winter as well as on passage, which according to the species account in *Birds of the World* (Orta, *et al.*, 2020) suggests "the establishment of a new migratory route".

In the UK, the current national average, according to the 2022 BBRC report, is about four accepted records; the report refers to two influxes, 29 accepted records in 2011 and 14 currently accepted records for 2022 (Bacon, *et al.*, 2023). The autumn of 2022 produced the second largest national influx of the species thus far. In some years, juvenile Pallid Harriers appear in the UK from August, but for 2022 the Staines Moor bird on September 1st is, at the time of writing, the earliest accepted autumn record.

In recent decades, many southern English counties have added Pallid Harrier to their avifauna, including Surrey, which hosted a spectacular male in March 2013. For the London Area, surely other records will follow before long, given the suitable habitat and coverage around the Lower Thames, for example.

It is poignant to contrast this data with the recent national status of Montagu's Harrier, which has declined in numbers as Pallid Harrier's have increased. For example, during



Figure 5: Tapering 'hand' and four primary 'fingers' of the Pallid Harrier. (Pippa Hyde)

the months of August and September 2022, Rare Bird Alert reported a mere two Montagu's sightings in the entire UK. On current form, a slender rufous-bellied ringtail Harrier seems more likely to be a Pallid than a Montagu's.

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Full credit and congratulations to Pippa Hyde and Ken Purdey, who independently found and reported the Staines Moor Pallid Harrier.

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EMERGING EFFECTS OF THE USUTU VIRUS ON LONDON'S BLACKBIRD POPULATION

ROB ROBINSON

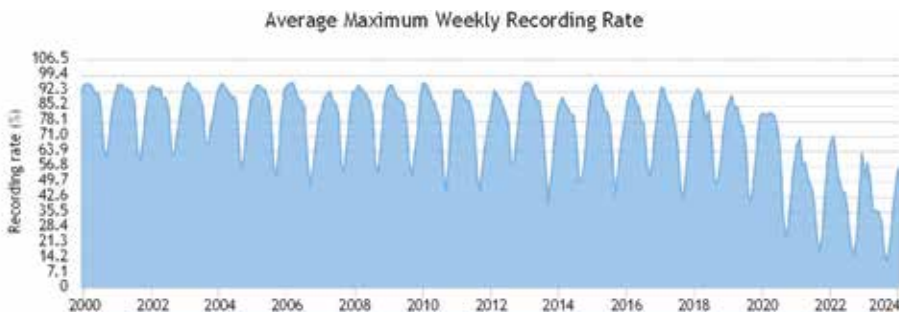
One of the effects of climate change is the spread of organisms into new areas and habitats, and we have seen this widely among birds in recent years, with several species breeding in increased numbers or for the first time in Britain. But what is true for birds is true for other organisms too, including some that might be less welcome, such as mosquitoes and, even less welcome, the diseases they spread.

One such disease is the Usutu virus, which is known to infect birds. Usutu was first recorded in South Africa in the 1950s but was not recorded in European bird populations until 1996 (in Italy). It belongs to group of viruses called flaviviruses (which includes the virus that causes yellow fever) and is of particular interest due to it being zoonotic. This means that not only can it infect birds but, like many others in the group, it can also infect humans, resulting in deadly consequences (although so far, thankfully, only two deaths have been reported globally). While the exact reasons for its spread may be unclear, its impact is certainly not, with substantial declines reported in Blackbird populations where it occurs. Corvids and owls can also be hosts and succumb to its effects.

In Britain, the disease was first detected in 2020 at London Zoo and was the first mosquito-borne zoonotic virus to emerge in one of the zoo's animals. In that year, five dead Blackbirds (and one House Sparrow) tested positive for the virus. Subsequent testing of mosquitoes (by analysing DNA in their blood meal) found that Blackbirds were the most frequently bitten wild bird species (although Starling, Robin and Blue Tit were also recorded). Furthermore, analysis of reports submitted to the Garden Wildlife Health scheme, run by ZSL in partnership with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and others, found a distinct cluster of reported mortality in Blackbirds centred near west London, suggesting the virus was present more widely.

Usutu virus has been recorded subsequently in each of the following years, leading to

Figure 1: Graph showing the recording rate of Blackbirds in London between 2000 and 2024. Thank you to the BTO for their permission to publish this graph. For further information about Garden BirdWatch, visit: www/bto.org/gbw.



concerns that it has become established in the population and is indeed spreading. This is clearly seen in the BTO's Garden BirdWatch survey (Fig. 1). In London, as elsewhere, the proportion of gardens reporting Blackbirds is high through the winter and spring, before tailing off in the late summer to reach a low point in the autumn. Whereas a few years ago, around 95% of gardens in London in winter would be reporting Blackbirds, this figure decreased to below 70% in the winter of 2022 and to 15% for the autumn of 2022 (down from 50-60% previously).

A paper reporting on the Usutu outbreak in UK birdlife was also recently published in *Scientific Reports* (Lawson *et al.*, 2022). Although their findings did not show evidence of pathology or clinical signs that would be consistent with Usutu virus infection, based on the combined circumstantial evidence of the clustering of reported disease near the original outbreak at London Zoo, the greatly reduced number of Blackbirds reported in London gardens in 2022 and the presence of Usutu virus RNA in the local mosquitoes, the authors suggested that the decline in number of Blackbirds in London gardens was disease-mediated, with the inference that the virus was the causal agent.

Following on from this first detection in Britain, a group of organisations (the Animal & Plant Health Agency, the BTO, the UK Health Security Agency and the Institute of Zoology) came together to initiate a project to better understand the link between the virus, its mosquito carriers, and the birds it affects. You can follow their progress on the Vector-Borne RADAR project website at: <https://www.vb-radar.com/>.

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EVENING BLACKBIRDS AT LLANDDEUSSANT

Somewhere far off
a blackbird sings.

The sun is sinking.
Pure light
pales the hills
a lucid silver-green.
Lean shadows ease
across the fields.

Far off
a blackbird sings,
finely dappling
the breathless air.
Here, another
sits half-hidden,
sits and listens,
speaks a shy phrase,
sits and listens,
finds some more to say,
tweaks a feather,
wipes his beak,
whistles a few last words,
falls darkly silent.

The sun has gone.
Night steals blind
upon the land.

But still, far off
a blackbird sings.

Text and photo
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OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS OF A NORTH LONDON SUBURBAN GARDEN, 1963-1978

JEREMY GALTON

Introduction

From the mid-1950s, my childhood was spent in Whetstone, N20, back in the days when front gardens were gardens, buddleia bushes were covered in butterflies and an open window would lead to countless moths and craneflies fluttering around the light bulb. We lived in a house in Buckingham Avenue (Ordnance Survey grid reference TQ267948) with a back garden measuring 30m by 11m and a front garden measuring 10m by 14m, typical of all the neighbouring properties. Together, they provided an extensive habitat with ponds, plenty of shelter and an abundance of invertebrates and plant food, making them well-suited to many garden birds as well as small mammals and amphibians. In this paper, I describe the gardens briefly and how, from an early age, I began to record the birds I saw, presented here species by species, and some of their behaviours.

Although I have not returned to the area for nearly 40 years, I expect there have been many changes, not least to the sheer abundance of bird and insect life. Swift, House Martin, Starling and House Sparrow were abundant, and Lesser Redpoll and Bullfinch common. In the 1950s (before I made any notes), I remember often hearing a Cuckoo. On the other hand, I had recorded only one occurrence of Blackcap and, up to 1984, had only one visit each from a Green and a Great-spotted Woodpecker, but four visits from Lesser-spotted Woodpeckers. Long-tailed Tit and Nuthatch were both rare, but their numbers started increasing in the eighties. I was excited to see my first London Collared Doves in 1968 and the odd Ring-necked Parakeet in the early seventies.

The gardens and habitat

The front garden had a small lawn and various trees and shrubs, including a mature berry-bearing *Cotoneaster frigidus*, a spindle tree, an ornamental cherry and a Guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus*. There were lavender and rose bushes. *Clematis montana* and ivy climbed up the front of the house. The back garden had a small lower lawn and a larger upper lawn with a pond and wide flower beds, rich in shrubs and plants that provided flowers from spring to autumn. Beyond the lawns was a mature cherry tree, which most years produced a heavy crop of fruit. Three large, tangled clumps of *C. montana* had invaded this tree. At the far end of the garden was a vegetable plot and five fruit-bearing apple trees. Beyond the rear fence was a row of Lawson cypress; the only other conifer that I remember was a small cypress in the adjoining garden to the left. Climbing roses grew in profusion up the side fences.

Each year, up to 11 species would nest in our front and back gardens alone. These included the following: Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Blue Tit, Wren, Starling, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Dunnock, Robin, House Sparrow, Chaffinch and, probably, Goldcrest (on the other side of our back fence). In fact, nests were sometimes built so close to each other that unusual interactions between species would take place (see the species accounts of Blackbird and Dunnock). To the east, by 100m, were some large oaks, and

almost due south was a very large ash. To the west by 500m is the eastern extension to Brook Farm Open Space through which the Dollis Brook runs, an extra 300m away. Many species bred or spent the winter here and probably accounted for the occasional visits of, for example, woodpeckers, Kestrel, Magpie and Jay to our garden.

Recording

I began to record sightings centred around our house in 1963, in my early teens, having been inspired by the suggestions offered by the RSPB's Young Ornithologists Club. I started, rather sporadically at first, to follow their guidelines of recording the species, locality, number, weather, time and anything else of interest in a series of A4 hard-backed notebooks, continuing on and off till 1984. The latter years produced few, but interesting, records during my visits to the parental home.

In addition, from September 1968 to October 1969 I recorded all bird species daily on a wall-mounted tick-off list and indicated which days I was not at home. Also included were contributions from all other members of the family, particularly my brother, Simon. From September 1971 to July 1973 inclusive, rather more detail for each species was added daily in a large ledger book. I will refer to this latter period as 1971-1973 and to the 36 months of the two periods combined as 1968-1973.

Any numerical data I give in the systematic list refers mostly to records taken from the close vicinity of home, but also includes a few of the less common birds spotted further afield to a 300m radius. The species counts of the scarcest birds include the total number seen between 1963 and 1978. A few extra records of scarcer birds made by other family members or myself up until 1982 are also included. Recently, I have transferred all the data collected onto spreadsheets, and these have been invaluable in assessing the trends given in the species accounts below.

Systematic list

Presentation of data

The number of days that each species was seen or heard from September 1st 1971 to July 31st 1973 is given in parentheses after each species's name. These scores include flyovers and are presented to simply give an idea of the relative abundance, or observability, of each bird. The total number of days I was present for at least a short while during this period is 612.

Goose sp.: (1) Many heard 'honking' as they passed overhead for three or four minutes at 01:00 on April 26th 1972.

Mallard: (58) A not-infrequent flyover and occasional visitor from January (earliest 1st) to July (latest 4th), but particularly from March to May. Complete absence from August to November. 1971-1973: On four occasions, birds came down to land in our garden or a neighbouring garden (once in March and three times in April). Of 67 sightings, 43% were of parties of three birds, 25% were of twos and 27% were of singles. A party of four birds flew over three times and a party of five flew over once.

Grey Heron: (5) Occasional visitor. Sightings on 25 days in the 1963-1978 period, seven of which involved birds landing at garden ponds, often mobbed by gulls and crows. Records are scattered throughout the year but occur mostly from March to June and

September to November. There were no sightings in February and August.

Lapwing: (10) Occasional overhead. 45 flights observed on 38 days in the 1963-1978 period, mainly from June to July and October to March. By far the greatest number of flights per month each year, and the greatest number of birds involved, occurred in June, mainly in the latter half. These 17 June flights were usually very high and presumably involved continental immigrants (for examples, see *Lond. Bird Rep.* 36, 1971). 81% headed between W and N. From October to March, flight directions were more varied with only 55% flying between W and N. Typically, flights involved up to ten birds but occasionally had many more, eg about 70 were sighted on December 27th 1963.

Gulls: On 17 days during the period from November 1971 to March 1972, I recorded all the gulls flying to roost (from the first to the last flight) that I could see looking S from my home. Most of the gulls followed a definite broad eastbound fly line, with a few outliers passing almost overhead. The number of gulls counted each day are shown in Table 1 and give a grand total of 1951 birds.

Nov	Nov	Nov	Nov	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Feb	Mar	
12	17	21	24	25	1	8	13	16*	21	10	12	19	21	28	4	10
11	18	85	20	36	30	75	60	246	145	113	192	253	84	212	274	97

Table 1. Total number of gulls counted flying to roost on the given dates from 1971-1972. *See Common Gull account below.

Of these, 38% were Black-headed, 23% Common, 2% Lesser Black-backed, 1% Herring, and 37% were too far away to identify.

From December 1st, I began to note the flight directions of all the gulls (1781 identified in total for the remaining 12 days). Most winter flights involved birds heading ENE towards King George's Reservoir in the Lea Valley (assuming an unwavering direction of flight). Some tended to fly due E towards the William Girling Reservoir and a few flew ESE. The percentage of identified gull species heading towards the reservoirs (that is, between ENE and ESE) is shown in Table 2. Otherwise gulls, particularly Lesser Black-backed and Herring, seemed to head in any other direction.

	Number of birds flying to roost	Percentage heading between ENE and ESE
Black-headed	678	90%
Common	403	96%
Lesser Black-backed	20	53%
Herring	9	50%

Table 2. Number of each gull species counted flying to roost on 12 days in the period from December 1st to March 10th 1972, and the percentage of each gull species heading between ENE and ESE.

In contrast, in September 1971 all gulls flew to roost SSE or SE in the direction of the Walthamstow Reservoirs. However, during the Septembers of both 1968 and 1975 the gulls flew due S to roost. Note, the numbers in parentheses in the species accounts

below include records from days when birds were flying to roost, as well as records of local birds.

Black-headed Gull: (217) Abundant winter visitor and post-breeding visitor. Birds first spent the day, or part of the day, in the suburb from the middle of October. Numbers increased till January, then fell until the birds left in the middle of March. 1971-1973: monthly maxima of these local birds are shown in Table 3.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1971										3	15	18
1972	50	30	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	11	7
1973	17	13	11	-	-	-	-					

Table 3. Monthly maxima of local Black-headed Gulls during the winters of 1971/1972 and 1972/1973 ('-' = a count of zero; a blank space is when no count was made).

Post-breeding moulting birds occasionally arrived in the middle of July, mostly in ones or twos, drifting slowly at rooftop height. Later, in August and to a lesser extent in September, large mixed flocks of gulls would circle overhead, catching flying insects (possibly ants). In February, Black-headed gulls would dive-bomb crows and Collared Doves, forcing them off their TV aerial perches. In December, one mobbed and drove off a flying Heron.

Common Gull: (109) Local wintering birds appeared in October or November and had mostly left by mid-March. There were a few flyovers after this period, including the odd record in April. There were no records in May and June. Post-breeding flyovers included a single record of one flying N at 13:40 on July 24th 1973 and a few in August and September. In Table 1, the high total of December 16th includes a tight flock of at least 200 gulls, probably mainly Common Gull, which flew due E to roost at 15:38. This flock is not included in other totals.

Herring Gull: (15) Scarce, overhead on flights to roost only. No local sightings.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: (68) Winter visitor locally. From November to the beginning of March, single birds occasionally accompanied the Black-headed Gulls to spend some of the day locally. Otherwise, all sightings were of flyovers at any time of day and were seen in all months except May. Scarce in June and July but with greater numbers in August through to April.

Feral Pigeon: Flyovers only. I only made records of this species between December 1st 1971 and September 30th 1972. Within that period, I logged 44 days of occurrences, with one to ten sightings per month.

Woodpigeon: (388) Breeding was at least attempted in all months of the year except November and December. I observed copulation occurring as late as the 25th October (in 1972), for which young appeared in November. From the 20th January 1977, a bird was sitting on its highly visible nest that eventually produced one well-grown nestling (first observed on the 23rd February). The nest was empty on the 27th, having either fledged or been predated. To have survived for this long was remarkable considering the torrential rain and freezing conditions the birds had to endure (Galton, 1978). In 1971, I noted a continual movement both SSE and NNW happening throughout the day on most days from the latter half of July to the middle of October. From then on, movements

continued mainly NNW but also in almost any other direction. Andrew Self notes that thousands flew SW over parts of London during November 1971 (Self, 2014). This was not the case over Whetstone, where SW is the one direction they did not fly in. Evening flights to roost from at least the end of November 1971 headed ENE to NNE, and these considerably decreased in numbers during the January of 1972. Few flights occurred from March 1972 till July 1972 when, again, birds flew over both SSE and NNW at all times of the day. This pattern more or less repeated itself until, yet again, the flights were exclusively SSE and NNW during July 1973.

Collared Dove: (284) My first sighting here (and second ever) was of a single bird that arrived on 2nd July 1968 and often appeared and subsequently sang. There was much song and courtship in February 1971 by a pair that nested in our garden in a clematis tangle in the cherry tree during April that year. The doves sang every month except for November. From February 25th to July 5th 1973, a red-ringed Barbary Dove *Streptopelia risoria* (domesticated) often sang in our garden and was sometimes accompanied by another dove (possibly Barbary or Collared). Collared Doves seemed to be unpopular with other species, often being chased long distances (by, for example, Black-headed Gull and House Sparrow). Flyovers were frequent, particularly from August to January; of 64 flights noted, 92% were in a N or S direction (33 N, 26 S).

Tawny Owl: (40) Noted vocalising on 101 nights from 1963-1978 in every month but especially September and October. Heard calling ('keewick' or similar) in all months, but mainly during August through to January with a peak in September. In contrast, 'hooting' occurred in all months except July and November, with a peak in January. On only seven occasions did I hear calling and hooting in the same night.

Swift: (113) Many pairs nested in the roofs of houses locally. On August 16th 1974, huge numbers of Swifts migrated due S. Firstly, at 20:27, a stream of at least 40 screaming birds passed over, each flying in a straight line without the usual twisting and turning. A low-lying sheet of cloud was drifting slowly W while, to the N, the sky was clear. The birds were very high, just below the cloud. About five minutes later, while looking with binoculars through a hole in the cloud at the blue sky beyond, I could just make out many more Swifts flying above the cloud layer. This was a late occurrence, since autumn passage had largely ceased by 2nd August that year (*Lond. Bird Rep.* 41, 1976).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: (1) Four visits to the garden: one each on March 22nd 1973, July 24th 1974, August 11th 1979 and October 15th 1982.

Great Spotted Woodpecker: (1) One record of a bird flying low and heading E on November 21st 1971 at 15:24.

Green Woodpecker: (1) One heard on June 5th 1973 at 08:50.

Kestrel: (39) A not-infrequent visitor. Occurred, usually singly, in all months but particularly in May, June and July when the birds would drop into gardens and sometimes carry off prey such as a fledgling Blackbird.

Ring-necked Parakeet: (2) Occasional visitor. First occurrence was a bird flying low heading W on January 26th 1973. Then one was sighted high up heading E on March 20th 1973. Finally, a male stayed in the vicinity of our garden from June 14th to August 1st 1974, feeding on cherries from our tree and discarding the stones.

Jay: (16) Infrequent visitor. Seen in October through to April. 18 records (1968-1973) in all. Singles, except on four occasions (from October to February) when two birds appeared.

Magpie: (85) Infrequent visitor, increasing over the time period. There was an average of one sighting per month from September 1968 to October 1969. From September 1971 to July 1973 the average had increased to nearly five per month. By 1977, I noted that the Magpie was numerous. Of 106 records, 54% occurred in September to November, with October being the peak month. Visits were less frequent during the breeding season, but then their main purpose in visiting appears to be to raid nests; I saw nestling Chaffinches and Blackbirds being taken as well as adult sparrows. 35% of all records were flyovers. On November 23rd 1972, a Magpie flew N for a considerable distance with four Fieldfares in tow. All birds were calling but the Magpie showed excellent mimicry, sounding very much like the Fieldfares.

Jackdaw: One record only: a single bird flew SSW on October 28th 1969.

Carrion Crow: (284) Commonly seen throughout the year, particularly from October to May. Birds were usually single or in pairs but occasionally in groups of up to ten in the winter months. In November 1971, I noted that pairs flew N, fairly high, most afternoons and evenings, presumably to roost.

Waxwing: (4) A pair frequented our front garden from the 23rd to the 30th March 1972, feeding on the berries of Guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus* and *Cotoneaster frigidus*, especially the former. Both birds were in immaculate plumage, although one (presumably the male) was 'smarter' than the other. On several occasions one bird passed a berry to the other.

Coal Tit: (185) Present all year and frequently seen and/or heard.

Blue Tit: (377) Seen or heard on most days. Nested in nest box in back garden every year from 1972 to at least 1977. Blue Tits appeared to be dominant over several other species, chasing them away from the vicinity of their nest or from a food source. These species included Coal Tit, Great Tit, Goldcrest, Wren, Dunnock, Bullfinch (male and female), Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Siskin. Conversely, Blue Tits were at times chased by Great Tit, Blackbird, Fieldfare, House Sparrow and Greenfinch.

Great Tit: (217) Compared to Blue Tit, records are almost exactly in the Great:Blue ratio of 2:3. There are few records in June to August, and these birds seemed to vanish entirely in July. For most years, nesting took place in a neighbouring garden's nest box.

Skylark: (4) Autumn overhead passage migrant. There are seven October records of groups of up to four birds in 1971, 1973 and 1976, and a single September record in 1972, all heading between NW and NE, except on October 29th 1976 when a single bird headed SE. Flights were always high to very high.

Swallow: (6) Spring and autumn overhead passage migrant. During the period 1968-1973, I noted spring passage on 19 days in May and two in June. Autumn passage was heavier, occurring on 25 days in September (with the earliest on the 6th) and seven in October (with the latest on the 20th). Many hundreds would pass over on some of these days, with a large proportion often being young birds. Those occasions in which I noted flight direction, including multiple records per day, give a total of 71 (36 in spring, 35 in autumn). Of the 35 autumn records, 90% flew against the wind and only 34% headed S or SE as follows: S=10, SE=2, E=1, NE=1, N=10, NW=4, W=4, no fixed direction=3. Of the 36 spring records, 76% flew against the wind but 81% headed NW-NE as follows: NW=2, N=26, NE=1, E=2, SE=1, S=1, W=3. This suggests that the spring migrants were more determined to head N, regardless of wind direction.

House Martin: (139) Many pairs nested under the eaves of houses in several of the local roads (but not in Buckingham Avenue). First arrivals were usually in May, although for two years (1966 and 1969) they appeared on April 28th. In September, counts of up to 50 would be the norm. On September 15th 1972, many migrating parties of up to 14 birds flew fast and direct, heading N or NE (into a NE wind) just over rooftop height, while our 'resident' birds continued with their aerobatics at a considerably greater height. At 08:45 on September 21st 1972, 87 martins rested, mostly on a single roof, with 20 or more in the air above. The next day they were gone. The local birds usually departed in September or early October, the latest sighting being October 10th (in 1966).

Long-tailed Tit: (1) Rare visitor but evidently increasing. One on December 6th 1971, when a single bird approached from the W, high up, and suddenly dropped to land in a bush. Four more records were made more than 10 years later in February and August 1982, August 1983 and February 1984. This apparent increase parallels the general London trend (LNHS, 2002).

Willow Warbler: (0) One bird sang from the Oakleigh Park railway embankment, 285m away, from April 27th to May 10th 1971 and possibly stayed to breed. One was sighted in the garden on April 30th 1970. Four August records: one on the 24th in 1968 (this one chased a Blackbird), one on the 17th in 1974, one on the 11th in 1977 and two or three on the 11th in 1979. In addition was the occasional unidentified leaf warbler.

Chiffchaff: (5) Four September and two October records of singing birds.

Blackcap: (1) One record only of a bird in full song on July 2nd 1973.

Goldcrest: (51) The first Goldcrests appeared in January 1969. Numbers were rather variable from year to year, but in general they were present (or at least noticeable) from November to June. There are only three records from July to October (out of a 1969-1977 total of 96). Song was given, sometimes from the conifers at the end of the garden, every year in the period of 1969-1973, exclusively from February to June and peaking in May; nesting is very likely to have occurred. Goldcrests in our garden were particularly fond of foraging among roses, but also foraged in clematis and the cherry tree.

Wren: (259) Common breeding resident, frequently seen or heard throughout the year. For several years, a pair nested in the same location at the back of the garden close to the compost heap. One year, for three days running, a Wren systematically took fine threads of material from an old Blackbird nest that was sat in a rose climbing the house. Another year, a bird collected moss and white feathers to take to the nest.

Nuthatch: (0) Perhaps beginning to colonise the area in the 1980s, as evidenced by these four late records: one bird in a nearby large oak on July 31st 1983, one tapping on our cherry tree (by now dead) on August 18th 1983, one on a TV aerial on August 21st 1983 and one on a TV aerial on September 5th 1984. This apparent increase parallels the general London trend of the time (LNHS, 2002).

Starling: (400) Resident. Mostly nested on ledges under eaves of houses, although in 1969 a pair nested together with many House Sparrows in the ivy growing up the front of our house. The dominant sounds during the latter half of May and into June were the hunger cries of nestling and fledgling Starlings. In our garden, the Starling seemed to be low in the pecking order: I recorded 13 instances of them being attacked or chased - by Common Gull (2 occasions), male Blackbird (2), Fieldfare (1) and House Sparrow (8). In contrast, I recorded only three occasions in which Starling was the aggressor - Woodpigeon

(1), female Blackbird (1) and House Sparrow (1). I remember endless parties flying due S in the evenings to roost, perhaps to Central London (14km S). It appears from my notes of the time that these southward flights began in June and continued until October. In November, they switched direction when many hundreds now headed NW, N or NE, perhaps to some of the many well-known Starling roosts in Hertfordshire (Sage, 1959). This continued through to January. In March and April, they headed E to roost in very small and decreasing numbers, with no evening movements at all in May. I noted in January 1972 that their roosting flights began earlier in the afternoon and finished earlier in the evening than those of the gulls.

Blackbird: (429) Resident. In most years, a pair attempted three broods in a nest in the clematis climbing beside our front door. Another pair in the back garden would habitually build in one of the many climbing roses and once built in a three-year-old Dunnock's nest. Less favoured sites were in the ivy climbing the front of the house (where sparrows also nest) and on arris rails where their nests were supported by shrubbery or a trellis. More isolated sites included the tangle of clematis in our cherry tree and, in adjacent gardens, a hawthorn, a holly bush, an ornamental cherry and a small cypress. Two instances of unusual behaviour, probably as a result of overcrowding, were as follows: first, in July 1968 an incubating female alternated feeding nestling Dunnocks with attending her own nest 2.5m away. Her mate even more enthusiastically fed the Dunnocks as if they were his own (Galton, 1971a). Second, in May 1970 a male Blackbird, and possibly his mate, removed an entire clutch of five Dunnock's eggs from a nest only 1.2m from the Blackbird's nest (Galton, 1971b). Regarding Blackbird chasing other species, Song Thrush suffered the most aggression, followed by House Sparrow, Mistle Thrush, Fieldfare, Starling (fledgling), Chaffinch and Magpie. Conversely, the only three occasions when I witnessed a Blackbird (female) being chased was by a Fieldfare, a Starling and a House Sparrow, the latter rather feebly. In February 1972, a male Blackbird attempted to defend a piece of bread on the lawn against a mob of 10 Starlings and 15 sparrows. Chasing away each bird in turn, after three minutes he gave up and the bread was immediately demolished by the other birds.

Fieldfare: (28) Occurred all months from October (earliest record on the 24th in 1972) to March (latest record on the 22nd in 1970). From November to January, they fed on apples on trees or on windfalls; in February they fed on holly berries and/or rose hips. The presence of a Fieldfare caused considerable anxiety from other species; for example, on November 21st 1972 the appearance of a Fieldfare initiated a plethora of anxiety calls from Blackbird, Dunnock and Robin, among others. Once it had become absorbed with eating an apple or flew from the garden, the other birds became silent. A Blue Tit remained unconcerned throughout and continued to feed close to the Fieldfare. On October 31st 1972, a Fieldfare, newly arrived in the area, was immediately chased by a male Blackbird until it descended to a bush, where it was repeatedly dive-bombed by a House Sparrow. On at least four days in November 1973, between 15:10 and 16:10, singles flew off between N and NNE to roost.

Redwing: (11) Flyovers most years, particularly in October and November. My earliest sighting from home was September 21st and the latest was February 1st (both in 1972). I have January records of birds feeding on berries of holly and probably *Cotoneaster*. Redwings never landed on our or neighbouring lawns. I now suspect that Redwings were

more abundant than I thought, owing to my inexperience at recognising them in flight.

Song Thrush: (367) A pair would build a nest in our back garden or in an adjacent garden every year, either in a shrub beside a wall or fence (climbing rose, Oregon grape or *Forsythia*), or isolated (in the *Clematis montana* clump in the cherry tree, the bank of the Lawson cypress or in a holly bush). A second, and once a third, brood was attempted. Usually another pair would have a territory two or three gardens away. Song Thrushes were often threatened and chased off by Blackbirds, both male and female, and once by a Fieldfare, but I never saw a thrush threatening another species.

Mistle Thrush: (72) Seen in all months except July and August. Breeding each year occurred locally, with song delivered in December through to April. A single juvenile appeared one June in our garden to feed on fallen cherries. The months with the most sightings were September to November, and these included many flyovers, with by far the greatest number in October. One bird, calling continuously, on September 22nd 1971 alighted on our TV aerial and immediately attracted a male Blackbird and three or four sparrows that quickly saw it off, pursuing it closely for a fair distance. It did look rather like a hawk with its upright stance and long tail.

Robin: (368) A common bird in the area. A pair nested most years in a nest box in our back garden. In 1977, the birds abandoned an incomplete nest in the box and instead built in the ivy climbing the front of the house. They collected material from the back garden, possibly from the nest box, and flew round to the front with it. At least one young fledged. I never saw a Robin threatening another species. On September 12th 1972, after much hopping about and peering into the pond, a Robin took a late frog tadpole, placed it on the ground, flew away and never retrieved it.

House Sparrow: (404)* Probably the most abundant species in the area. Every year several nested in the ivy up part of the front of our house. From 1972, after the ivy had to be removed, the sparrows nested in the highest clump of clematis in the cherry tree at the back. One November I watched some sparrows and Goldfinches feed on lavender seeds. The sparrows were less adept and more clumsy than the finches, having difficulty clinging to the lavender stems, losing balance and frequently having to flutter to new positions. Whenever a car passed, the sparrows would fly off temporarily while the Goldfinches remained. I noted that sparrows would feed on red ants and bread on the lawn, and peanuts hanging in a nut bag. While a female Greenfinch and a Blue Tit quickly learnt to remove nuts from a hole torn in the bag, none of several sparrows grasped this idea until the next day. On a still, warm September afternoon, 15 Starlings and, rather less enthusiastically, several sparrows were repeatedly flying upwards vertically from a roof and TV aerial to catch flying ants. In May they frequently flew after aerial insects. House Sparrows appeared to be one of the most dominant birds; I recorded them threatening or chasing off eleven different species, while only Siskin (on the nut feeder) and Blackbird showed any aggression towards the sparrows.

*Lower score than expected: sparrows were present and seen every day, and many sightings were not recorded.

Dunnoek: (372) A pair nested every year in our back garden, usually in climbing roses and once in holly. I have described unusual interactions with Blackbirds in the Blackbird species account. In two consecutive Octobers, on fine cloudless days, Dunnocks ascended to great heights and either returned to the garden or flew until out of sight.

Grey Wagtail: (2) Three sightings: two flew SW on October 30th 1970, one flew NE very high on October 13th 1972 and one flew up from a nearby garden and headed N on October 6th 1972.

Pied Wagtail: (6) Infrequent migrant. 16 records from 19'69-1976, which were all flyovers in June to December, with most records occurring in September and October. Their flight direction varied from due S through W to NNW.

Meadow Pipit: (1) Seven records in total. There was one bird sighted in April and one in June (both flying N); there were three September to October birds heading S or SE, one bird recorded in November heading S and one in December heading W. All birds called as they flew.

Chaffinch: (306) Common breeding species. Present in all months except July and August when they would completely disappear. In September, October and November a constant trickle of small parties would often fly over, always heading N. They nested each year in our or an adjacent garden: in an apple tree, in roses (once 1m from a sitting Blackbird), twice in the clematis high up in the cherry tree. On June 14th 1973, all the nestlings in one of the clematis nests, one at a time, were taken by a Magpie. After each visit, the Magpie carried the nestling in the same direction, most likely to feed its own nestlings.

Bullfinch: (53) Frequent visitor. There were up to seven sightings per month in all months except August. There were virtually no sightings from April to July, except in 1973 when breeding probably occurred locally and birds continued to appear into July. Of 43 sightings in which I noted the sexes involved, 44% were single males, 7% were single females and 42% were paired birds. Other combinations came in January and February occasionally. I noted that rose hips and berries of *Pyrocantha* were taken. Twice, when near a Blue Tit's nest, Bullfinches were vigorously chased away.

Greenfinch: (341) Common resident, present all year. Although they never nested or even sang in our garden, they did nearby and throughout the suburb. In late July they were one of the few species still singing. By each September they became relatively scarce, many records being flyovers. Small foraging parties would appear in the gardens from November, increasing till January and February when a major food source appeared to be peanuts from feeders, although I once noted three birds feeding on shrivelled rose hips. Many, together with Chaffinches, flew N at twilight to roost during November at least.

Linnet: (18) Uncommon. 31 records in total during the period of August 1968 to July 1973. Occurred in all months from March to October, mainly as flyovers. Of the ten flights in which I had recorded their directions, six flew N, two W, one S and one E. In 1972, two birds settled on an apple tree on March 23rd, and singles visited our garden on April 15th, June 2nd and June 10th that year. For several years, I found a Linnet's nest only 550m away in a hedge by the eastern extension to Brook Farm Open Space, and flocks of up to 100 frequented the fields there in September 1971.

Lesser Redpoll: (45) Mainly a summer breeding visitor from late April to August, advertising their presence with their song flights. Nesting must have occurred close by, in 1974 at least, since adults fed fledglings in our garden in July and August that year. There were occasional winter records, such as those feeding in our apple trees and in a roadside silver birch (once with Goldfinches) in several Januarys.

Goldfinch: (171) Mainly a summer breeding visitor. Seen in all months, although very scarce in January, February and March. Nesting occurred locally with much song,

courtship and mating. Young birds appeared in August, September and October and were especially fond of feeding in our apple trees, probably on aphids. In November and December, Goldfinches fed on our lavender.

Siskin: (5) Nine records from 19'69-1973, with two in February and seven in March, mostly feeding at our garden nut bag, but also in conifers and taking seeds from mullein. There was a more recent record of 12 sighted in a nearby silver birch on January 27th 1982.

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CHECKLIST BREEDING CRITERIA INDEX



CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA AND GUIDE TO CONTRIBUTORS OF RECORDS

The total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times is 374, with the addition this year of Pallid Harrier. Of these, the 12 species marked with an * in the checklist were recorded at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since. The Checklist follows the order of the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) List, 9th edition, February 2019 and its nomenclature (apart from Feral Pigeon).

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 a guide to our requirements.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive, and contributors are asked to use their own guidance and common sense, but it does serve as a reference point for the type of records required. For example, with many common breeding species, comparative yearly breeding counts are especially welcomed. The Rarities Committee needs details of any rarities (denoted by R), and also reserves the right to request full details for any record, eg, out-of-season migrants. This guide does not apply to Inner London, where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed.

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.

Key to records required:	N	=	brief notes required (how identified, view, distance, etc); form available on LNHS website (see Details of an Unusual Bird on page 3).
A	=		all records.
B	=		all breeding records.
BBRC	=		full description required; form from www.bbrc.org.uk. <i>British Birds</i> Rarities Committee makes the decision.
D	=		full description required; form available on LNHS website (see Details of an Unusual Bird on page 3).
F&L	=		first and last dates for any site.
MM	=		dated monthly maximum counts.
	NR	=	all records from sites where bird not seen regularly.
	P	=	passage movements.
	S	=	all records mid-May to mid-July.
	ST	=	annual statement of status at a site.
	T	=	all territory counts.
	W	=	records outside breeding season.

Previous page: Mistle Thrush has declined more than Song Thrush in London.
(Rudraksha Chodankar)

Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	A
Red-breasted Goose*	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	R BBRC
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	MM, B, ST
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	A
Snow Goose	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	R A, D (unless obvious escape)
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	R A, D
Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>	R A, D
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	A
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	R A, N
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	R A, N
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	A
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	A
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	A
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Spatula discors</i>	R BBRC
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	A
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MM, B, ST
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	A
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	R A, D
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	A
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	R BBRC
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	R A, D
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	A
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	R A, D
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	R BBRC
Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	R A, N
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	R A, D
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	A
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	R A, N
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	A
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	A
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	A
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	A
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	A, B, ST
Black Grouse*	<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	R A, D
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	A
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	A
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	A

Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	R A, N
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	R A, N
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	A
Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	R A, D
Leach's Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	R A, D
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	R A, D
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>	R A, D
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	R A, D
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	R A, D
Barolo Shearwater	<i>Puffinus baroli</i>	R BBRC
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	R BBRC
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	A
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	A
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	A
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	R BBRC
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	R A, D
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	R A, D
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	A
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	R BBRC
Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	R A, D
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	R BBRC
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	R A, D away from Lea Valley or Rainham Marshes
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	R A, D
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	A
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	R A, N away from Lower Thames
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	A
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	A
Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	R A, D
Golden Eagle*	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	R A, D
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	A
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	R A, D
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	R A, D for all May to Sep records
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	R BBRC
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	R A, D
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	A
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	R A, D

White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	R A, D
Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	R A, D
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Great Bustard*	<i>Otis tarda</i>	R BBRC
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	A
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	R A, D
Little Crane*	<i>Porzana parva</i>	R BBRC
Baillon's Crane	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	R BBRC
Spotted Crane	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	R A, D
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	MM, B, ST
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	MM, B, ST
Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	R A, D
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	R A, D
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	A
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	R A, D
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	A
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	MM, NR, B, P
Sociable Plover	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	R BBRC
White-tailed Plover	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	R BBRC
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	R BBRC
American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	R A, D
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	A
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	A
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	A
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	R BBRC
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	R A, D
Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	R A, D
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	A
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	A
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	A
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	A
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	A
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	A
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	R BBRC
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	R BBRC
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	A
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	R A, D
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	A
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	R A, D
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	R BBRC
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	A
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	R A, D

Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	R	A, D
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	R	A, D
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	R	BBRC
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	R	BBRC
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		A
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>		A
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	R	BBRC
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		MM, NR, P, S
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	R	BBRC
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	R	A, D
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	R	A, D
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		A
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	R	BBRC
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		A
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	R	BBRC
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	R	BBRC
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		MM, NR, P, S
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	R	BBRC
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		A
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		A
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		A
Cream-coloured Courser*	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	R	BBRC
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	R	BBRC
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		A
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	R	A, D
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	R	BBRC
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		MM, B, ST
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>		A
Laughing Gull	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>	R	BBRC
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	R	BBRC
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>		A
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		MM, ST
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	R	A, D
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		MM, NR, B, ST
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	R	BBRC
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	R	A, D away from Lower Thames, West London reservoirs or Beddington.
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	R	A, D away from Lower Thames, West London reservoirs or Beddington.
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		MM, B, ST
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>		A
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		A
Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>	R	BBRC

Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		MM, B, ST
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	R	BBRC
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	R	BBRC
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		A
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		A
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	R	BBRC
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	R	A, D
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		MM, NR, B, P, F&L, ST
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		A
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	R	BBRC
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	R	A, D
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		A
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	R	A, D
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	R	A, D
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	R	A, D away from Lower Thames.
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	R	A, D
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	R	A, D
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	R	A, D away from Lower Thames
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	R	A, D
Black Guillemot*	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	R	A, D
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	R	A, D
Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrphantes paradoxus</i>	R	BBRC
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		MM, B, ST
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		MM, NR, B, ST
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		MM, B, P, ST
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		A
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>	R	BBRC
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		MM, NR, B, ST
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	R	BBRC
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		A, F&L
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		A
Scops Owl*	<i>Otus scops</i>	R	BBRC
Snowy Owl	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	R	BBRC
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		A
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		A
Tengmalm's Owl*	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	R	BBRC
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>		A
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		A
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	R	BBRC
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	R	A, N
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	R	A, D
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		MM, B, P, F&L, ST
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	R	BBRC
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		T
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	R	A, D

Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	R	A, D
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	R	A, D
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		T
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		T
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		T
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	R	BBRC
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		MM, NR, B, ST
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	R	A, D
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	R	A, N away from Lower Thames.
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		MM, NR, B, ST
Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	R	BBRC
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		MM, NR, B, ST
Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		MM, NR, B, ST
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	R	BBRC
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	R	A, D
Daurian/Turkestan Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus/</i> <i>phoenicuroides</i>	R	BBRC
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	R	BBRC
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	R	A, D
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	R	A, D
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	R	A, D
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		MM, NR, B, P, ST
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		MM, B, ST
Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	R	BBRC
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		MM, NR, B, P, ST
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		MM, NR, B, P
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		MM, B, ST
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	R	A, N
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		A
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>		A
Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>		MM, NR, T, ST
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	R	A, D
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		A
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	R	A, D
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		MM, T, ST
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		MM, T, ST
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	R	A, D
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>		A
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		A
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		A, B, P, W
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	R	BBRC
Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	R	A, D
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	R	A, D
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		MM, NR, B, P, F&L, ST
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		MM, NR, B, P, F&L, ST

House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		MM, NR, B, P, F&L, ST
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	R	A, D
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		A
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		MM, NR, T, ST, W
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		A
Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	R	BBRC
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		A
Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	R	A, D
Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	R	A, D
Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	R	A, D
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		A, T, F&L
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		MM, NR, T, F&L, ST, W
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	R	BBRC
Eastern Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i>	R	BBRC
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	R	BBRC
Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	R	BBRC
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		MM, NR, T, F&L, ST
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	R	BBRC
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	R	A, D
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		MM, NR, T, F&L, ST
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	R	A, D
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	R	A, D
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	R	A, D
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>		A
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	R	BBRC
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		MM, NR, B, T, F&L, ST, W
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		A, T, F&L
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	R	A, D
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		MM, NR, B, T, F&L, ST
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		MM, NR, B, T, F&L, ST
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		A
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	R	BBRC if identified to subspecies, otherwise A, D
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	R	BBRC
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		A
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		MM, NR, T, ST, W
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		MM, T, ST
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		T
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		T
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	R	BBRC
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	R	A, D
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		MM, B, P, ST
Grey-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	R	BBRC
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>		A
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		MM, T, ST

Naumann's Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	R	BBRC
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		MM, NR, P, F&L
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		MM, NR, P, F&L
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		MM, NR, T, P, ST
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		MM, NR, T, P, ST
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	R	BBRC
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		A
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		MM, T, ST
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	R	A, D
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		A
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		A
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	R	A, D
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		A
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		A
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		A
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		A
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		A
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	R	BBRC
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	R	A, D
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		MM, NR, B, P, ST
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		A
Alpine Accentor*	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	R	BBRC
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		MM, T, ST
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		A
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	R	A, D
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		MM, NR, B, ST, W
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		MM, NR, B, ST
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	R	A, D
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	R	BBRC
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		MM, NR, B, P, ST, W
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		A
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	R	A, D
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	R	BBRC
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	R	BBRC
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		A
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		A
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		MM, B, P, ST
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		A
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		A
Pine Grosbeak*	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	R	BBRC
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		A, B, ST
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	R	A, D
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		MM, NR, B, P, ST
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	R	A, D
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		MM, NR, B, W

Common Redpoll [Mealy]	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>		A
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>		MM, NR, P, S
Arctic Redpoll	<i>Acanthis hornemanni</i>	R	BBRC if identified to subspecies, otherwise A, D
Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	R	A, D
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		A
Two-barred Crossbill*	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	R	BBRC
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		MM, NR, B, P, ST
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	R	A, D
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		MM, NR, P, S
Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	R	A, D
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	R	A, N
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		A
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		A
Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	R	BBRC
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	R	A, D
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	R	A, D
Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	R	A, D
Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	R	BBRC
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	R	BBRC
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		MM, NR, T, P, ST
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	R	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.

BREEDING CRITERIA

When sending in breeding records, please enter: 'possible breeding', 'probable breeding' or 'confirmed breeding' in the Notes section on the electronic records form according to the definitions below. Additional information should also be given, such as number of territories, broods, nests, young fledged, etc.

Possible breeding

- Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat
- Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable habitat

Probable breeding

- Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
- Permanent territory presumed on at least two different days, a week or more apart
- Courtship and display (judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat)
- Visiting probable nest-site
- Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting nest or young near by
- Brood patch on adult examined in the hand, suggesting incubation
- Nest-building or excavating nest-hole

Confirmed breeding

- Distraction-display or injury-feigning
- Used nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey)
- Recently-fledged young (for warblers and other birds whose young are fed at the nest for some time after hatching, 'nidicolous species') or downy young (for ducks and other birds where the young leave the nest soon after hatching, 'nidifugous species')
- Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest
- Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
- Nest containing eggs
- Nest with young seen or heard

The above breeding categories are as used in the BTO Atlas project.

INDEX OF SPECIES - COMMON NAMES

This alphabetical index lists the common name of each species in the systematic list with its page number in roman type. Page numbers of illustrations and photographs are in *italic type*. Papers on particular species have their first page number in **bold type**.

Avocet 88, 89	Egret, Little 76, 77	Gull, Mediterranean 110
Bittern 72, 72	Fieldfare 168, 169	Sabine's 108
Blackbird 167, 227	Firecrest 163	Yellow-legged 115
Blackcap 39, 159	Flycatcher, Pied 174	Harrier, Hen 82
Brambling 186	Spotted 172	Marsh 81
Bullfinch 187	Gadwall 51	Pallid 82, 222
Bunting, Corn 193	Garganey 47, 48	Hawfinch 187
Ortolan 195	Godwit, Bar-tailed 95	Heron, Grey 74
Reed 195, 196	Black-tailed 95, 96	Night, see Night-heron
Snow 193	Goldcrest 163, 164	Purple 75
Buzzard 19, 84,	Goldeneye 3, 62	Hobby 136
Honey, see Honey-buzzard	Goldfinch 191, 192	Honey-buzzard 80
Chaffinch 185	Goosander 63	Hoopoe 130
Chiffchaff 155, 155	Goose, Barnacle 42, 42	Ibis, Glossy 71
Iberian 157	Brent 41	Jackdaw 141
Siberian ssp 156	Canada 41	Jay 140, 141
Coot 86, 87	Egyptian 45, 205	Kestrel 134, 135
Cormorant 78, 79	Greylag 43	Kingfisher 130, 131
Crossbill 191	Pink-footed 44	Kite, Black 84
Crow, Carrion 143	White-fronted 44	Red 82, 83
Cuckoo 125, 207	Grebe, Black-necked 70	Kittiwake 107, 107
Curlew 95	Great Crested 68, 69	Knot 97
Stone, see Stone-curlew	Little 67	Lapwing 90
Diver, Great Northern 67	Red-necked 68	Linnet 189, 189
Red-throated 67	Slavonian 70	Magpie 140
Dove, Collared 124	Greenfinch 188	Mallard 52
Stock 122, 122	Greenshank 107	Martin, House 151
Turtle 124	Guillemot, Common 120	Sand 149, 149
Duck, Ferruginous 57	Gull, Baltic ssp, 116, 220	Merganser, Red-breasted 64
Mandarin 47	Black-headed 108, 215	Merlin 136
Ring-necked 58, 58	Caspian 112, 113	Moorhen 85
Tufted 58, 59	Common 111	Night-heron, 73
Dunlin 98, 99	Great Black-backed 111	Nightingale 173
Dunnock 179, 180	Herring 113	Nightjar 129
Eagle, White-tailed 84	Iceland 113	Nuthatch 165
Egret, Cattle 73	Lesser Black-backed 115	Oriole, Golden 140
Great White 75, 76	Little 109, 109	Osprey 80

Ouzel, Ring 167
 Owl, Barn 126, 127
 Little 127
 Long-eared 128
 Short-eared 128
 Tawny 126
 Oystercatcher 89
 Parakeet, Ring-necked 138, 138
 Partridge, Grey 64
 Red-legged 64
 Peregrine 136, 137, *obc*
 Phalarope, Grey 102
 Red-necked 102
 Pheasant 65, 66
 Pigeon, Feral 121
 Pintail 53
 Pipit, Meadow 182
 Rock 184, 184
 Tree 183
 Water 184
 Plover, Golden 90, 91
 Grey 91, 92
 Little Ringed 93, 94
 Ringed 93
 Pochard 55, 56
 Red-crested 55
 Quail 65
 Rail, Water 85
 Raven 143
 Razorbill 121
 Redpoll, Common 190
 Lesser 190
 Redshank 106
 Spotted 106
 Redstart 175
 Black 174
 Redwing 169, 170
 Robin 173
 Rook 142
 Ruff 97
 Sanderling 98
 Sandpiper, Common 103, 103
 Curlew 98
 Green 104

Sandpiper, Purple 100
 Wood 106
 Scaup 60, 60
 Lesser 61
 Scoter, Common 61, 62
 Serin 192
 Shelduck 46
 Shoveler 49, 50, 212
 Shrike, Red-backed 139
 Siskin 192
 Skua, Arctic 120
 Skylark 148
 Smew 63
 Snipe 102
 Jack 101, 101
 Sparrow, House 179
 Tree 179
 Sparrowhawk 80
 Spoonbill 71
 Starling 166, 166
 Stilt, Black-winged 89
 Stint, Little 100
 Stonechat 177, 177
 Stone-curlew 86
 Stork, White 70
 Swallow 150
 Swan, Mute 45
 Whooper 45
 Swift 129
 Teal 54
 Blue-winged 49, 49
 Tern, Arctic 119
 Black 120
 Common 118, 118
 Little 117
 Roseate 117
 Sandwich 116, 116
 Thrush, Mistle 171, 239
 Song 171, 171
 Tit, Bearded *ofc*, 146, 146
 Blue 145, 147
 Coal 144
 Great 146
 Long-tailed 153, 153
 Marsh 145

Treecreeper 165
 Turnstone 97
 Wagtail, Blue-headed ssp 181
 Grey 181
 Pied 181
 White ssp 182
 Yellow 180
 Warbler, Cetti's 151, 152
 Dartford 162
 Dusky 154
 Garden 159
 Grasshopper 158
 Marsh 158, 209
 Reed 157
 Sedge 157
 Willow 154
 Wood 153
 Yellow-browed 154
 Wheatear 177, 178
 Whimbrel 94
 Whinchat 176, 176
 Whitethroat 161
 Lesser 160
 Siberian-type Lesser ssp 161
 Wigeon 52
 Woodcock 100
 Woodlark 148
 Woodpecker, Great Spotted 133
 Green 133, 134
 Lesser Spotted 132
 Woodpigeon 123
 Wren 164
 Wryneck 132, 132
 Yellowhammer 194
 Yellowlegs, Lesser 105, 105

INDEX OF SPECIES - SCIENTIFIC NAMES

This alphabetical index lists the scientific name of each species in the systematic list with its page number in roman type. Page numbers of illustrations and photographs are in *italic type*. Papers on particular species have their first page number in **bold type**.

Acanthis cabaret 190
flammea 190
Accipiter nisus 80
Acrocephalus palustris 158, 209
schoenobaenus 157
scirpaceus 157
Actitis hypoleucos 103, 103
Aegithalos caudatus 153, 153
Aix galericulata 47
Alauda arvensis 148
Alca torda 121
Alcedo atthis 130, 131
Alectoris rufa 64
Alopochen aegyptiaca 45, 205
Anas acuta 53
crecca 54
platyrhynchos 52
Anser albifrons 44
anser 43
brachyrhynchus 44
Anthus petrosus 184, 184
pratensis 182
spinoletta 184
trivialis 183
Apus apus 129
Ardea alba 75, 76
cinerea 74
purpurea 75
Arenaria interpres 97
Asio flammeus 128
otus 128
Athene noctua 127
Aythya affinis 61
collaris 58, 58
ferina 55, 56
fuligula 58, 59

Aythya marila 60, 60
nyroca 57
Botaurus stellaris 72, 72
Branta bernicla 41
canadensis 41
leucopsis 42, 42
Bubulcus ibis 73
Bucephala clangula 3, 62
Burhinus oedicephalus 86
Buteo buteo 19, 84
Calidris alba 98
alpina 98, 99
canutus 97
ferruginea 98
maritima 100
minuta 100
pugnax 97
Caprimulgus europaeus 129
Carduelis carduelis 191, 192
Certhia familiaris 165
Cettia cetti 151, 152
Charadrius dubius 93, 94
hiaticula 93
Chlidonias niger 120
Chloris chloris 188
Chroicocephalus ridibundus 108, 215
Ciconia ciconia 70
Circus aeruginosus 81
cyaneus 82
macrourus 82, 222
Coccythraustes
coccythraustes 187
Coloeus monedula 141
Columba livia 121
oenas 122, 122
palumbus 123

Corvus corax 143
corone 143
frugilegus 142
Coturnix coturnix 65
Cuculus canorus 125, 207
Cyanistes caeruleus 145, 147
Cygnus cygnus 45
olor 45
Delichon urbicum 151
Dendrocopos major 133
Dryobates minor 132
Egretta garzetta 76, 77
Emberiza calandra 193
citrinella 194
pusilla 195
schoeniclus 195, 196
Erithacus rubecula 173
Falco columbarius 136
peregrinus 136, 137, *obc*
subbuteo 136
tinnunculus 134, 135
Ficedula hypoleuca 174
Fringilla coelebs 185
montifringilla 186
Fulica atra 86, 87
Gallinago gallinago 102
Gallinula chloropus 85
Garrulus glandarius 140, 141
Gavia immer 67
stellata 67
Haematopus ostralegus 89
Haliaeetus albicilla 84
Himantopus himantopus 89
Hirundo rustica 150
Hydrocoloeus minutus 109, 109
Ichthyophaga melanocephalus 110

Jynx torquilla 132, 132
Lanius collurio 139
Larus argentatus 113
cachinnans 112, 113,
canus 111
fuscus 115
fuscus fuscus 116, 220
glaucoides 113
marinus 111
micahellis 115
Limosa lapponica 95
limosa 95, 96
Linaria cannabina 189, 189
Locustella naevia 158
Loxia curvirostra 191
Lullula arborea 148
Luscinia megarhynchos 173
Lymnocyptes minimus 101,
 101
Mareca penelope 52
strepera 51
Melanitta nigra 61, 62
Mergellus albellus 63
Mergus merganser 63
serrator 64
Milvus migrans 84
milvus 82, 83
Motacilla alba 181
alba alba 182
cinerea 181
flava 180
flava flava 181
Muscicapa striata 17
Netta rufina 55
Numenius arquata 95
phaeopus 94
Nycticorax nycticorax 73
Oenanthe oenanthe 177, 178
Oriolus oriolus 140
Pandion haliaetus 80
Panurus biarmicus ofc, 146,
 146
Parus major 146
Passer domesticus 179
Passer montanus 179

Perdix perdix 64
Periparus ater 144
Pernis apivorus 80
Phalacrocorax carbo 78, 79
Phalaropus fulicarius 102
lobatus 102
Phasianus colchicus 65, 66
Phoenicurus ochruros 174
phoenicurus 175
Phylloscopus collybita 155,
 155
collybita tristis 156
fuscatus 154
ibericus 157
inornatus 154
sibilatrix 153
trochilus 154
Pica pica 140
Picus viridis 133, 134
Platalea leucorodia 71
Plectrophenax nivalis 193
Plegadis falcinellus 71
Pluvialis apricaria 90, 91
squatarola 91, 92
Podiceps auritus 70
cristatus 68, 69
griseogena 68
nigricollis 70
Poecile palustris 145
Prunella modularis 179, 180
Psittacula krameri 138, 138
Pyrrhula pyrrhula 187
Rallus aquaticus 85
Recurvirostra avosetta 88, 89
Regulus ignicapilla 163
regulus 163, 164
Riparia riparia 149, 149
Rissa tridactyla 107, 107
Saxicola rubetra 176, 176
rubicola 177, 177
Scolopax rusticola 100
Serinus serinus 192
Sitta europaea 165
Spatula clypeata 49, 50, 212
discors 49, 49

Spatula querquedula 47, 48
Spinus spinus 192
Stercorarius parasiticus 120
Sterna dougallii 117
hirundo 118, 118
paradisaea 119
Sternula albifrons 117
Streptopelia decaocto 124
turtur 124
Strix aluco 126
Sturnus vulgaris 166, 166
Sylvia atricapilla 39, 159
borin 159
communis 161
curruca 160
curruca blythi 161
undata 162
Tachybaptus ruficollis 67
Tadorna tadorna 46
Thalasseus sandvicensis 116,
 116
Tringa erythropus 106
flavipes 105, 105
glareola 106
nebularia 107
ochropus 104
totanus 106
Troglodytes troglodytes 164
Turdus iliacus 169, 170
merula 167, 227
philomelos 171, 171
pilaris 168, 169
torquatus 167
viscivorus 171, 239
Tyto alba 126, 127
Upupa epops 130
Uria aalge 120
Vanellus vanellus 90
Xema sabini 108

1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Source	SLcode	SPECIES	Location	Date:D	Number	NumberIn
4511	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Upshire	26-Mar-17	1	10
4512	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Fairlop Waters	16-Jun-17	1	10
4513	ELBF	305	Little Owl	King George V Reservoir	23-Jul-17	1	10
4514	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Sewardstone Marsh	30-Jul-17	1	10
4515	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Sewardstone Marsh	19-Aug-17	1	10
4516	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Wanstead Flats	27-Aug-17	3	30
4517	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Fairlop Waters	02-Sep-17	1	10
4518	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Fairlop Waters	09-Sep-17	1	10
4519	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Wanstead Flats	15-Sep-17	2	20
4520	ELBF	305	Little Owl	King George V Reservoir	16-Sep-17	1	10
4521	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Sewardstone Marsh	30-Sep-17	1	10
4522	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Abridge	03-Oct-17	1	10
4523	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Fairlop Waters	08-Oct-17	1	10
4524	ELBF	305	Little Owl	King George V Reservoir	08-Oct-17	1	10
4525	ELBF	305	Little Owl	King George V Reservoir	14-Oct-17	2	20
4526	ELBF	305	Little Owl	Fairlop Waters	22-Oct-17	1	10

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Wigeon <i>Mareca penelope</i>		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Rainham Marshes	479	500	552	6	4	-	-	3	18	15	73	500
HR	Amwell NR	97	250	120	5	-	-	-	-	8	4	75	150
	Hilfield Park Res	127	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	25	10	6	36
	Stocker's Lake	140	54	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	12	5
	Troy Mill Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	72	172	40	
MX	Broadwater Lake	200	25	15	8	-	-	-	-	-	24	122	-



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MOON, A.V., 1988. The influx of Sabine's Gulls and other Seabirds in October 1987. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 52: 121-132.

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