



LONDON BIRD REPORT 2011

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society publishes ornithological and other natural history records for the area within 20 miles 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.

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LONDON BIRD REPORT

NO.76 FOR THE YEAR 2011

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<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2011>

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LONDON BIRD CLUB

The London Bird Club is the section of the London Natural History Society
for those with a particular interest in birds.

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LONDON BIRD REPORT FOR 2011

This London Bird Report has been produced by an Editorial Board, comprising:

Chair of Editorial Board	Pete Lambert
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Introduction

This is the second report that we have published this year, catching up on the backlog of reports. This is very much due to the hard work of all those involved with the production process, and I'd like to thank them for their efforts in achieving this.

Sadly, since the publication of *LBR 2010*, we heard of the death of Ken Palmer. Ken will be known to many members from the field trips he organised and led with such skill on the North Kent Marshes for many years. As a tribute to Ken, a summary of these trips is included on pages 229 to 232, based on the records he kept so meticulously, and a full version is posted on the LNHS website.

Nigel Partridge, our Designer since *LBR 2009*, has stepped down from this post. I would like to thank Nigel for the new design style that he introduced, which has received so many positive comments. He is continuing to act as design consultant.

There are several changes in this report. We have changed the map of the LNHS area (shown on page 9); one of the changes is that it shows the built-up parts of our area. The large proportion of our area covered by buildings is one of the unique features of our recording area, compared to other county reports. The map is not completely new; it is based on one that appeared in *British Birds* in 2012 and a similar map appeared in our publication *The Breeding Birds of the London Area* published in 2002.

We have also decided to limit the length of the report to a maximum of 256 pages. In order to do full justice to the main section of the report (Birds of the London Area) this has meant reducing the length of some other sections, including the Review of the Year and all the Bird Highlights papers. The majority of this data is already included in the systematic list of Birds of the London Area. We have also had to reduce the length of some of the other papers but, where we have done this, a full copy of the paper is published on our website. We have reinstated the Checklist of Birds of the London Area and Guide to Contributors of Ornithological Record, together with Breeding Criteria, in response to feedback. Our Gazetteer of Sites is not printed in the report but is posted on our website. We hope these changes will not cause you too much inconvenience.

As always, your comments on this issue are very welcome, especially any suggestions as to how we could improve things even more. My contact details are given below.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the London Natural History Society, I 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.

I would also like to thank all those who helped with the production of the report: the 22 authors of the Systematic List (listed above); Jan Wilczur for his illustrations; all the photographers who kindly donated their photos; Garganey Consulting Ltd for the ringing recovery maps; Nigel Partridge for advice and for designing the covers; Derek Turner who has provided help with data problems; and Andrew Verrall who proof-read the text. Thanks also to all the members of the Editorial Board.

I am 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. I 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 let me know. 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,
Hertfordshire Natural History Society, Kent Ornithological Society,
Londonbirders Yahoo group, Surrey Bird Club

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RARITIES COMMITTEE AND RECORDERS

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RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>

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.

The names for sites used in this Report are listed in our Gazetteer of Sites (see page 9). These site names may differ from those on OS maps. There has been confusion when people use different place names for the same site, so please use these site names if you can when sending in records. **For sites not listed in the Gazetteer, please give an OS Grid Reference for the site.**

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. Many of the common birds in London are under-recorded. Regular reports from the same sites are a great help in seeing population trends, and such reports, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. Our Guide for Contributors of Ornithological Records on pages 240-248, together with the Breeding Criteria on page 10, give guidance on what information we would like for each species. Records should be sent to the appropriate Recorder listed on page 7 but if you are not sure which Recorder to send them to, send your records to the Chair of the LBR Editorial Board.

It would be very helpful if you could send in records on a spreadsheet; a sample and instructions are on our website (under 'Subject Group', then 'London's Birds', then 'LNHS Bird Recording Form'). Otherwise contact one of our Recorders or the Chair of the Editorial Board. It would also help if you list different species in the order used in this Report (see pages 240-248). Separate sheets 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 Guide for Contributors. Please send these as soon as possible after the sighting.



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

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/ornithology1.htm>

There are two versions: the Short Gazetteer lists open spaces mentioned in this Report, but no longer lists the names of towns, villages, etc; the Full Gazetteer lists all these. Both Gazetteers are online at the above address. Neither Gazetteer lists 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 vice-county 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 Chair of the Editorial Board if you need information on any site (details on page 6).

BREEDING CRITERIA

When sending in breeding records, please enter: 'possible breeding', 'probable breeding' or 'confirmed breeding' in the Comments section on the electronic records form according to the definitions below. Additional information can 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.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2011

Highlights included the UK's second (and London's first) Eastern Crowned Warbler. Other notable records included London's first Razorbill since 1996, first Night Heron since 2004, first Long-tailed Duck since 2005, first Purple Sandpiper since 2006, first Roseate Tern since 2007 and first Ortolan Bunting since 2008, with London's fifth Glossy Ibis, tenth Black Kite and Barred Warbler, 14th Shore Lark and 17th Long-tailed Skua. Species enjoying good years included Manx Shearwater, Sabine's Gull, Iceland Gull, Stone Curlew and Curlew Sandpiper. Unusual records included a January Arctic Skua, August Guillemot, September Red-rumped Swallow and December Pectoral Sandpiper. Other scarcities included Temminck's Stint, Alpine Swift, Grey Phalarope, Kumlien's Gull, White-winged Black Tern, Spoonbill and Hoopoe. Increased sightings of Great Egret, Buzzard, Red Kite, Raven and Peregrine reflected national trends.

The first winter period was relatively mild. Numbers of sawbills were down on 2010, as were Bittern, Jack and Common Snipe, and Woodcock. However, good Avocet numbers were recorded, with a new London record total of 80 at QE II Bridge in February. Six Iceland Gulls were present, while six Caspian Gulls were in the Rainham Marshes/Crayford Marshes area. Large Waxwing numbers included records from the heart of London.

High Bar-tailed Godwit numbers were recorded in spring, which saw good passage of Sanderling, Whimbrel, Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper and Little Gull. Passerines enjoying good passage included Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Spotted Flycatcher and Redstart. Red Kite sightings peaked in March/April, with six Inner London records, and over 100 Hobby were recorded in April. Numbers of Turtle Dove, Yellow Wagtails and Whinchat were down.

Despite a cool, wet summer, species enjoying improved breeding success included Little Egret, Cormorant, Sparrowhawk, Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Ring-necked Parakeet, Stock Dove, Nightingale, Reed Warbler and Whitethroat. More breeding sites were recorded for Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, including seven in Richmond Park. Black-necked Grebes bred at Hilfield Park Res. Confirmed breeding numbers of Black Redstarts increased in Inner London, while Bearded Tits bred at Rainham Marshes for the first time since 2003.

However, decreased breeding numbers were reported of Redshank, House Martin, Meadow and Tree Pipits, Sedge Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Starling, and House and Tree Sparrows. No Ruddy Ducks, Marsh Harriers, Ringed Plovers or Woodlark were recorded breeding successfully.

Autumn saw relatively poor passage of many migrants, including Ring Ouzel, Spotted Flycatcher, Pied Flycatcher, Redstart and Whinchat. The autumn saw two records of Great Skua, and the first October Long-tailed Skua since 1985. At least 62,688 Woodpigeons were recorded on passage between September and December. Two Sabine's Gulls were seen, and six Caspian Gulls were at Q. Mother Res between August and October. An influx of Short-eared Owls was recorded in October and November.

The second winter period saw an exceptionally mild November followed by a wet December. Numbers of Bitterns, Jack and Common Snipe, Stonechats, Blackcaps and Siskins were low. A small influx of Kittiwakes occurred in December and the only Great

Grey Shrike appeared at the end of November. Six Caspian Gulls were at Crayford Marshes and six Iceland Gulls were recorded, while single Greenshank and Spotted Redshank wintered. Up to six Water Pipits were at Staines Res and 12 Rock Pipits at Rainham Marshes. By the year end, 22 Smew had arrived.

January: On 1st, 18 Bewick's Swans were at Harmondsworth; 18 at least were at Cobham Floods on 9th and 10th. Also on 1st, a Snow Bunting was at Crayford Marsh, with 60 Pink-footed Geese there on that day, while 18 Smew were at Wraysbury GP. A single Velvet Scoter was at KGV Res/Staines Res from 2nd through to April, with another at Q. Mother Res from 1st to 22nd. On 2nd, an Arctic Skua was at Rainham Marshes. Three Barnacle Geese were at Fairlop Waters on 4th-5th. An Eider was at QE II Res on 3rd and 24th and at Buckland SP from 22nd-24th, and a second was at Walthamstow Res from 22nd to March 6th. A Glaucous Gull was at Rainham Marshes on three dates. A pair of Firecrests was at Regent's Park from 9th through to March, with a single at Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns on 17th-18th. On 10th, a Lapland Bunting was at Orsett Fen. On 29th, a Dartford Warbler was at Ripple NR.

February: On 1st, 785 Redshank were counted between Purfleet and West Thurrock Marshes. On 3rd, year peak counts of 86 Mandarin Duck and 78 Red-crested Pochard were at Regent's Park, with five Teal also there, while 89 Gadwall were at Battersea Park. On 17th, a Glaucous Gull was at Rainham Marshes. A Mediterranean Gull was at Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns on 23rd. Two Rooks at Regent's Park on 25th were the year's only Inner London record.

March: On 5th, 16 Mealy Redpolls were at Thurrock Services. A Mediterranean Gull was at Regent's Park on 6th, and a Woodcock was there on 14th. Three Garganey were at Harold Court Woods on 21st, with three at Rainham Marshes on 22nd-23rd and five at Dagenham Chase on 30th. Regent's Park saw a Water Pipit and Osprey on 23rd. On 26th, 47 Little Gulls were recorded on 26th, including 17 at Rainham Marshes and 13 at Staines Res. A Stone Curlew was at Barking Bay on 27th.

April: On 5th, 14 Little Ringed Plovers were at Dartford Marshes. A Stone Curlew was at Wanstead Flats on 5th-6th. On 6th, a Wryneck was at Hoddesdon. The spring's only Pied Flycatcher was at Rainham Marshes on 7th-8th. An influx of Green Sandpipers was recorded on 9th, including ten at Holmethorpe SP. Ten White Wagtails were at Q. Mother Res on 10th, a day which saw a total of 110 Wheatear, including 26 at Crayford Marshes. On 13th, a Ring Ouzel was in Regent's Park, followed by four on 15th at William Girling Res. On 16th, an Alpine Swift was at Rainham Marshes, which also hosted 350 Sand Martins and 26 of the day's 118 Wheatears. Also on that day, two Cranes were over Beddington Farmlands and 66 Little Gulls were recorded, including 49 at Staines Res. Four Wood Sandpipers were at Rainham Marshes on 23rd. On 30th, a Wryneck was at Regent's Park, while 22 Hobby were at Rainham Marshes.

May: On 1st, totals of 191 Bar-tailed Godwits and 56 Common Sandpipers were recorded. A Great Egret was at Mar Dyke Valley on 4th. Peak Arctic Tern passage occurred on 5th, with 25 at six sites, while a Kittiwake was at Bankside and an Ortolan Bunting at Richmond Park. Single Roseate Terns were at Q. Mother Res on 9th-13th, and



2011 was the best ever year for Great Egret with six records. This fabulous image shows the huge size difference with Little Egret. (Dave Harris)

at KGV1 Res and Staines Res on 10th. A Temminck's Stint was at Ingrebourne Valley on 10th. On 13th, a Spoonbill flew over Amwell NR. A Quail was singing at Wormwood Scrubs on 17th, and on 31st-1st June. A Hobby was at Paddington Green on 28th and an Arctic Skua at Q. Mother Res on 31st.

June: On 5th, a Spoonbill was at Hilfield Park Res. A Temminck's Stint was at Ingrebourne Valley on 15th. On 19th, a Night Heron was at Stocker's Lake and nine Common Scoters were at Barking Bay.

July: On 6th, 190 Shelduck were at Barking Bay. Two early Shags were at Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve on 7th. On 12th, a Brent Goose was at Grays. A Black Kite was at Beddington Farmlands on 15th. Fifteen records of Common Scoter during the month included nine at KGV1 Res on 16th. On that date, 28 Green Sandpipers were at Beddington Farmlands and 21 at William Girling Res. A Gannet was at Q. Mother Res on 18th, while a Night Heron was at Stocker's Lake on 19th.

August: A Hoopoe was at Farthing Downs from 14th-20th and a Wryneck was at Alexandra Park from 18th-28th. A Dartford Warbler was at Richmond Park on 19th. On 21st, 90 Yellow-legged Gulls were at Wraysbury Res. Passage of Arctic Terns peaked on 23rd, and that day saw the autumn's only Little Terns. On 23rd, a Razorbill was seen from Crayford Marshes/Rainham Marshes, with a Guillemot also in the area that day. Whinchats were recorded from 15 sites on 24th. On 26th, a White-winged Black Tern was at Crayford Marshes/Rainham Marshes; 17 Black Terns were also at the latter site on that day. On 25th, three Garganey were at Radlett and ten Ruff were at London Wetland Centre. On 26th, 410 Golden Plover were at Rainham Marshes, while 32 Whimbrel flew past there and 150 Black-tailed Godwits flew west at Cassiobury Park.

September: On 2nd, 20 Black Terns were at London Wetland Centre. On 3rd, a Wood Warbler was at Regent's Park, with a Hobby also there. On 7th, there were sightings of single Manx Shearwaters at Rainham Marshes/Crayford Marshes and at Horton GP, while an Osprey was at London Bridge. On 8th, a Red-rumped Swallow was at Crayford Marshes. Whinchat passage peaked on 9th, with 30 birds at 14 sites. A Sabine's Gull

stayed at KGV Res from 10th-13th. On 10th, eight Spotted Flycatchers were at Regent's Park. A single Grey Phalarope was at Q. Mother Res from 12th-15th, and one was at Q. Mary Res on 14th. On 16th, three Great Skuas were seen at Crossness, and later at Sidcup, while an adult male Hen Harrier was at Rainham Marshes. On 18th, a Pectoral Sandpiper was at Beddington Farmlands, staying until 20th, when a Little Stint was at Q. Mother Res. On 21st, three Curlew Sandpipers were at Crayford Marshes, while 41 Yellow Wagtails were at Woodoaks Farm. On 25th, two Roseate Terns were at Crossness and 23 Black Terns were at QE II Res. On 26th, a Barred Warbler was at East India Dock Basin, while 17 Black Terns were at Rainham Marshes and a Great Skua was at Staines Res. On 30th, a Spoonbill was at Rainham Marshes, staying until October 1st.

October: Arctic Skuas were seen on 6th at Rainham Marshes and Staines Res, with further sightings at Rainham Marshes/Crayford Marshes on several dates, including four on 13th. On 7th, a Sabine's Gull was at Rainham Marshes and a Long-tailed Skua was at Crayford Marshes. On 12th, a Woodlark was at Regent's Park. A Glossy Ibis was at Horton on 22nd, 24th and 25th. On 23rd, a Dartford Warbler was at Barking Bay. A Shore Lark was at QE II Res from 25th to November 1st. A Short-eared Owl at Regent's Park on 25th was followed by two on 28th. A Hen Harrier was at Crayford Marshes on 27th. On 28th, a Great Egret was at QE II Res, while single Little Stints were at Crayford Marshes, Dartford Marshes and Rainham Marshes and 2,000 Starlings were at Regent's Park. 29th witnessed large Starling movements, including 2,500 over Holmethorpe SP, while eight Bramblings were at Rainham Marshes, with a Lapland Bunting also there. On 30th, an Eastern Crowned Warbler rewarded the ringers at Hilfield Park Res.

November: A Little Stint remained at Rainham Marshes from 1st-2nd. On 2nd, a Spoonbill was over Lakeside Shopping Centre, while passage of Wood pigeons peaked, with 16,558 recorded. The main influx of Brent Geese began on 5th, with 39 over Canons Farm on 6th; one was found grazing on Hampstead Heath on 17th. On 6th, two Snow Buntings were at Q. Mother Res, with high counts of 106 Ringed Plovers at Rainham Marshes and about 1,000 Common Gulls at Hilfield Park Res that day. Also on 6th, a Stone Curlew was at KGVI Res. A Whooper Swan was on Round Pond on 7th. A Long-tailed Duck found on 7th at Hayes Trout Farm Lake stayed until December 19th. On 8th, a Purple Sandpiper was at Q. Mother Res, while a Great Skua was at Brent Res on 9th. On 17th, a Lapland Bunting was at Barking Bay. A Grey Phalarope was at QE II Res on 23rd. On 24th, a Long-eared Owl was at London Wetland Centre, mobbed by a Peregrine. A Tundra Bean Goose was at Tyttenhanger GP on 26th, staying until December 1st. On 27th, a Ferruginous Duck was at Wraysbury GP. Finally, the only Great Grey Shrike of the year was at Brunel University on 29th.

December: A late Swallow was at Valentines Park on 3rd, with a House Martin at Woodford Green that day. A Kumlien's Gull was at Beddington Farmlands on 6th and another on 28th. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Rainham Marshes from 7th-8th. On 9th, a possible *abietinus* Chiffchaff was at Wraysbury GP, and a Snow Bunting was at Q. Mother Res from 9th-24th. On 13th, a Great Egret flew over Crayford Marshes. 560 Black-tailed Godwits were at Rainham Marshes on 14th. On 16th, an unexpected Hawfinch was at Cable Street in Inner London. On 18th, 20 White-fronted Geese flew past Crossness. Twelve Kittiwakes were at Grays Riverside on 24th. On 29th, a Gannet flew upriver at Crayford Marshes.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

All contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 2011 are listed below. We apologise if any names have been omitted inadvertently.

Abbott SD	Audrey S	Baxter P	Blake K	Bright-Thomas P
Abel B	Avci E	Beach C	Blake S SBL	Britton T
Abrahams D	Ayers R	Beale J	Blake T	Brodie E
Abrahart S & J	Bacon S	Beaney V	Blakestone R	Brooks E
Abrams M	Bagley A	Beard L	Bletchy SA	Broom F
Ackroyd R	Bagley J	Beatley M	Block SJ	Brown A
Adams ATB	Bailey A	Beaumont R	Blow M	Brown B
Agar N NA	Bailey J	Beckenham P	Bloys R	Brown E
Alderman C	Bailey K	Beddard R	Blumire J	Brown J
Aldred J	Baines S	Beddington Farm	Blumire T	Brown M
Alexander IF	Baird J	Bird Group	Blundell L	Brown P
Alexandra Park	Baker H	Bedford J	Blunden VE	Brown T
Ornithological	Baker R	Beech C	Bodini L	Browne A & N
Group APOG	Ball D	Bell A AAB	Bodman L	Browne R
Alfrey P PA	Ball P	Bell R	Bonser RH RHB	BTO WeBS Unit
Allan C	Balmer D	Belman P	Bookless D	BTO Heronries
Allan JP JPA	Banks A	Benajeh N	Booth DJ	Buchanan J
Allday S	Banks CM	Benham A	Bosanquet R	Buckee J
Allen C	Barber M	Benham J	Boswell P	Buckel V
Allen D	Barclay F	Bennell I IB	Boudreau K	Buckingham S
Allen M	Barfoot A	Bennell T	Bound D	Buckinghamshire
Allen S	Barker D DBa	Bennett B	Bournat M	Bird Club
Allott MG	Barker F	Benton D	Bourne O	Bullock RJ
Amos S	Barker T	Berks Bird Club	Bowden C	Burbanks M
Anderson B	Barlow G	Bessant C	Bowes A	Burden M
Anderson J	Barnes D	Bessant N	Bowne M	Burgess CC
Anderson Ja	Barnes E EB	Best J	Boyes G	Burgess R
Anderson Jo	Barnes R RBs	Beswick F	Boyle D	Burgom N
Anderson N	Barnett S	Beynon D	Brackenbury C	Burkett D
Andrews D	Barrett D	Birch M	Bradley G	Burnett C
Andrews M	Barrie E	Bird C	Bradley SM	Burrows A
Andrews R RAn	Barrow K	Bird S	Bradnum D DBr	Burrows-Smith P
Andrews RD	Barter G	Birdforum	Bradnum S	Burrus I
Angus P	Bartholomew C	BirdGuides BG	Bradshaw D	Bush P
Arbon J	Bartlett R	Birkett J	Bradshaw H HB	Bushel J
Archer J	Bartrum J	Birks A	Bradshaw I	Butler A
Archer JK JKA	Bassett AD ADB	Bishop B	Braggs J	Butler J
Archer L	Bast D	Bishop P	Bray R	Butler M
Arnold L	Bates G	Bishop W	Brice I	Butler P
Arwood L	Batten LA	Black R	Bridgland H	Butler W
Astley J JA	Batten N	Blackman A	Briggs P	Butson P
Atkins D	Baxter A	Blake AE	Bright J	Buxton R

Byrne T	Clark F	Cope H	De Silva D	Ellis IS	
Cahalane T	Clark FC	Cope R	Dean D	Ellis JM	
Caiden M	Clark JM	Corcoran T	Dear G	Ellisdon D	DE
Caine T	Clarke J	Corvill B	Debenham E	Ellwood M	
Cairns D	Clarke JR	Cottingham FJ	Dee C	Elmes JP	
Cake M	Clarke K	Cottridge D	Delaloye P	Elsdale C	
Callahan D	Clarke M	Courtney A	Denison N	Elson S	
Callf RM	Clarke T	Cousins R	Dent D	Emery P	
Campbell D	Clarkson E	Couzens D	Dent J	English P	
Cannings F	Clayton B	Cowan D	Dent M	Erickson-Hull D	
Capper D	Clayton M	Cowley D	Derbyshire I	Etheridge E	
Carlill P	Cleal D	Cox A	Dewey R	Evans A	
Carmichael J	Cleary J	Cox G	Dewhurst O	Evans C	
Carpenter C	Cleere N	Cox J	Dickens J	Evans D	
Carr D	Clements-	Cox M	Dickerson J	Evans LGR	
Carr G	Partridge A	Crabtree G	Dingain L	Evans M	
Carruthers P	Clews BD	Crathorne B	Dixon J	Evans R	
Carter D	Cliffe G	Craven A	Dodd M	Evans S	
Carter S	Cliffe P	Crawford J	Dodd N	Everett CM	
Carter SJ	Clifford S	Creasey M	Donetti A	Evershed R	
Carter T	Coath M	Crick J	Dorkett H	Ewart M	
Cass J	Cobb T	Cripps B	Dorman A	Facer R	
Casselton P	Coe D	Cripps RJ	Downman S	Fair G	
Cassidy L	Coffey B	Croft J&G	Doyle C	Falkner R	
Catchpole A	Coffey J	Croft N	Drake S	Fallen P	
Cater I	Colbeck S	Cropper PM	Draper R	Farmer M	
Celor M	Coleman DA	Croucher K	Drummond L	Farmer R	RFa
CFBW Bird Group	Coleman J	Culshaw AJ	Dryden R	Farroway K	
Chalmers S	Colenis P	Culshaw C	Duckett AR	Farrell C	ARD
Chambers K	Collins I	Cumming S	Duffield I	Faulkner G	
Chandler F	Collins M	Cunningham G	Duffield P	Fearnside J	JF
Chapman C	Collins P	Cunningham J	Duhrsen R	Fell J	
Chapman D	Collins S	Cunningham M	Duncan KP	Feltham A	
Chapman J	Collinson I	Czapski S	Duncan PJ	Fennell C	
Chapman P	Colmans J	Dagnall GJR	Dykes I	Fenton H & R	
Chapman R	Colson R	Daly J	Eades N	Ferguson DM	
Chapman T	Condon M	Daniel M	Eagles R	Ferris P	
Charles E	Connor N	Darbyshire I	Earp M	Field A	
Charter J	Connor S	Darrell-Lambert	East London	Fisher IJ	
Chastell S	Continental	D	Birders Forum	Fisher J	
Chasteneuf P	Landscapes staff	Davies D	Edelsten S	Fisher K	
Cheadle K	Conway M	Davies M	Edwards D	Fisher S	
Cheeseman A	Cook CN	Davies P	Edwards EY	Fitz L	
Chilvers J	Cook D	Davies P Snr	Edwards I	Fitzsimmons D	
Christlieb J	Cook M	Davies WD	Edwards J	Flack I	JE
Churches B	Cook R	Davis J	Edwards P	Flanagan T	
Clancy A	Coombs T	Dawson A	Ekins G	Fleming G	
Clancy T	Coope B	Dawson D	Ellam C	Flesher R	
Clark BAJ	Cooper A	Dawton B	Elliott R	Fletcher D	
Clark D	Coote J	Dawton R	Ellis C	Flinn G	

Flower L	Gentry G	Guiver J	Harvey Sh	Hopkins R
Foakes M	Gibbard C	Gunkel P	Hatton WA	Hornby K
Fogg S	Gibson S	Gurr P	Hawgood G	Housden M
Foley K	Giddens S	Guy H	Hawkins J	Housley D
Folkerd G	Gilbert M	Guy O	Hawkins KJ	Houston T
Ford A	Gilbert T	Gwyn M	Hawkins P PH	Howard C
Ford J	Giles P	Hack R	Hawthorne S	Howard P
Fordham J	Gilham R	Hadden D	Hay G	Howard T
Forrest R	Gill E	Hadden N	Hayes D	Howarth I
Forsyth E	Gill M	Hague PM	Haylock M	Howdon D
Fortune-Jones K	Gilry A	Haines B	Haynes A	Hubbard AD
Fox D	Ginnaw S	Haines W	Heard CDR CDRH	Hudson J
Fox S	Girvan DA	Hale P	Hearnshaw P	Huggins S
France M	Girvan M	Hall A	Heathcote P	Hughes C
Francis R RF	Given Q	Hall D	Hechstetler W	Hughes E EH
Franklin J	Gladwin T	Hall J	Herbert C	Hughes J
Franklin T	Glanville C	Hallam M	Herbert R	Hughes M
Fraser B	Glassborow J	Halley-Frame V	Herne P	Hull C
Frearson S	Goddard AP	Hamilton S SH	Heron K	Hulls T
Free J	Godfrey S	Hammond S	Hibbett S	Hunt I
Freedland-	Gompertz D	Hammonds	Hickman M	Hunt M
Haynes L	Goodall A	J & A	Hickman P	Hunter D
Freelord L	Goodall G	Hampson S	Hicks B	Hunter P & E
Freestone MR	Gooding J	Hancock R	Hicks R	Hurford C
French J & J	Goodman M	Hand A	Higgins M	Hurst A
Friends of West	Goodman P	Hanley K	Higgs N	Husband R
Ham Park	Goodwin A	Hannam J	Hilfield Park	Huscroft K
Frost P	Gordon P	Harden J	Reservoir	Hutchins PE PEH
Fuller D	Goroghan C	Harding C	Bird Report	Hutchinson C CH
Fuller P	Goss N	Harper M	Hill A	Hutley D DHu
Fure A	Gotts B	Harris A	Hill J	Ilett M
Furniss L	Gower P	Harris B	Hills B	Imperial
Gale S	Gowrley R	Harris C	Hilton A	College
Gallagher K	Grant I IG	Harris D	Hipperson A	University
Gannaway C	Gravatt JC	Harris DM DMH	Hoare J	Ingham JB
Garcia M	Gray A	Harris G	Hobbs D	Ingman M
Gardener A	Gray J	Harris NG	Hobbs R	Ingold R
Gardiner A	Gray P	Harris R	Hobson A	Innes A
Gardiner AH	Graystone P	Harris T	Hoctor M	Innes RE REI
Gardiner G	Green G	Harrison A	Hodges A	Jackman N
Gardiner J	Green N NGr	Harrison L	Hodgson P	Jackson A
Gardner N	Green R	Harrison P	Hoggan C	Jackson B
Gardner R	Greenwood G	Harrison R	Hollands BJ	Jackson D
Gardner S	Grey B	Harrison S	Holman D	Jackson I
Garrett R	Griffin G	Harris N	Holt K	Jackson P
Gartshore N	Griffin MA	Hart M	Holtby C	Jackson R
Gatley SJ	Griffin W	Hart P	Honey MR	Jacobs G
Gearing R	Griffith H	Hart S	Hooper MS	Jailey J
Geary R	Gross RD	Hartnett K	Hooper R	James A
Gent S	Guest K	Harvey Sa	Hopkins P	James C

James G		Kitchen S		Litt S		Matthews C		Moor A	
James GA		Kite P		Lockhart W		May N		Moore A	
James S		Kleeberry T		Lodge Howe M		McCallum L		Moore C	
Jarnac E		Knight G		London Bird Club		McCarthy D		Moore D	
Jarvis KM	KMJ	Knott A		wiki		McDonald G		Moore J	
Jeffries D	DJe	Knott C		Long D		McEnzie D		Moore KE	KEM
Jenkins P		Knott N		Longstaff G		McGee B		Moore P	
Jenner B	BJe	Knott S	SK	Lord R		McGilvray K		Moore PD	
Jennings S		Kukielka Z		Lordan M		McGough D	DMcG	Moore RC	
Jobbins D		Lacey H		Lovegrove AO		McKee M	MMcK	Morgan J	
John J		Lachhar T		Lowe C		McKenzie DT	DTM	Morris D	
John R		Lambert P	PLT	Lowe S		McKinnon F		Morris DJ	DJM
Johnson D	DCJ	Lambert SJ		Lowen D		McLaughlin J		Morrison D	DMn
Johnson F		Lamsdell C		Lowen J		JMcL		Morton R	
Johnson M		Langsdon C		Lukes N		McManus M		Morton T	
Johnson S		Langsdon P		Luscombe A		McTaggart L		Moss A	
Johnston M		Langston L		Lycett I		Meacock T		Moss J	
Johnston N		Lapworth G		Lyness D		Meier J		Moss P	
Jones B		Las D		Lyons D		Melzack R	RM	Moulds J	
Jones E		Last B		Lyons L		Mercer D		Moule J	
Jones G		Laurie P		Lyons P		Merchant P	PMt	Mummery RV	
Jones GW		Lawrence J		Mac M		Merchant V	VMT	Murphy N	
Jones I		Lawrence P		Mackay AF		Messenger C		Murray I	
Jones R		Lawry L		Mackenzie-Davies		Messenger K		Murray J	
Jones RJ		Lawson AR		C		Messenger M		Murray K	KMy
Jones Rosy	Ro	Lea D		Maclean A		Middleton R		Murray S	SMY
Jones SD		Leach D		Maddison G		Mike Wallen		Musk N	
Jordan D		Leaderman T		Makengo J		Milan D		Nasir J	
Jordan M		Leahy B		Malins D		Millar A		Natali G	
Judd I		Leahy E		Manfield F		Millar J		Naylor P	
Jull S		Leahy EJ		Manhire WE		Miller A		Ndunge T	
Jupp C		Leckie G & K		Mantle P		Miller B		Neal J	
Katy M		Lee A		Manville Cl		Miller D		Neale T	
Kaye R	RK	Leeke S		Manville P		Miller I	IM	Neville L	
Keeble EF		Legge C		Maple Lodge Bird		Miller J-L		Newbigging G	
Kehl I		Lester A		Report		Miller M		Newbound PJ	
Kellett A		Lethbridge J	JL	Marchant G		Miller N		Newham J	
Kendrick J		Lever N		Marett A		Miller P		Newman H	
Kennedy R		Levy J		Margetts C		Milopoulos A		Newmark P	
Kennelly T		Lewis A		Marks W		Milton K		Newnham W	
Kerry P		Lewis E		Maroevic F		Milton S		Newsome M	
Kerslake I		Lewis GH		Marsh B		Minney M		Newton D	
Keymer F		Lewis H		Marsh G		Mitchell D	DML	Nicholls G	
Khan N		Lewis M	ML	Marshall O		Mitchell K		Nichols AJ	
Kilby W		Lewis P		Marshall SK		MKA Ecology		Nicholson D	
Kilminster R		Lin Y-H		Marshall W		Mobley L		Noaks B	
King M		Lindo DJ		Martin J		Monk D		Noble K	
King S		Lindsell D		Mason S		Montier DJ	DJMo	Norcott B	
Kirk P		Lindsey C		Massey A		Moody S		Norcott D	
Kitchen C		Ling D		Massey L		Moon AV	AVM	North P	

Northam R	Pettican G	Rare Bird Alert	RSPB	Simms OJ			
Northwood C	Petts S	Rawcliffe G	RSPB Croydon	Simpson C			
Nuttall R	Philips P	Rawlins P	Ruggins M	Simpson J			
Oakland M	Phillips B	Rawlins T	Ruislip & District	Simpson M			
Oakley-Martin D	Phipps T	Ray B	NHS	Sims M			
Oates S	Picton J	Rayment K	Rumsbold M	Sinden L			
O'Hallaran K	Pilbeam M	Read S	Runnymede	Sinden N			
Oliver P	Pinnock A	Reed B	BR	Ringling Group	Skotnicki A		
Oliver W	Pipkin P	Reed M	MR	RRG	Slack C		
Orchard MJ	Pitcher L	Regan R	Rusbridge M	Slaughter J			
O'Reilly R	Platt A	Reid A	Rush M	Sleep D			
O'Riordan L	Pleass N	Reid J	Russell B	Sluman N			
Orton GR	Pledge D	Reid M	Ryan P	Smith A			
Osario N	Podmore A	APo	Ryder G	Smith C			
Osborn S	Polley D	Reynolds A	Rye Meads	Smith D	DSm		
Page C	Pollintine J	Richards Ga	GR	Partnership	Smith DW		
Page R	Pope N	Richards Ge	Saha B	Smith E	ES		
Paice M	Porritt D	Richardson D	Salmon A	Smith H			
Painter D	Posen SG	Richardson J	Sanderson G	Smith J			
Palmer J	Potter B	Richmond Park	Sanderson RF	Smith JC			
Palmer M	Potter D	Bird Group	Sanderson T	Smith JG			
Papps S	Poynter S	Ridge J	Sapwell J	Smith K			
Parish J	Prater F	Rigby P	Scheller G	Smith KW			
Parish NM	Prater G	Righelato R	Scott A	Smith L			
Parr M	Pratt D	Rimes D	Seargent RJ	Smith M			
Parrott R	Prentice N	Rix A	Searle M	Smith MJ			
Partner U	Pressland D	Rizvi P	Selby D	Smith N	NS		
Partridge J	Prest F	Roberts A	Self ASM	ASMS	Smith P		
Pash S	SPa	Roberts D	Senior NP	NPS	Smith R		
Pashby C	Preston P	Roberts S	Shailer TE	Smith S			
Patel S	Priaux MJ	Robins SJ	Shand S	Smith T			
Patton G	Price A	AP	Robinson ME	Sharp C	Smout C		
Paul D	Priestnall S	Robinson S	Robinson S	Shaw A	Snelgreve R		
Payne D	Prior M	Robinson T	Shaw I	Shearman A	Snow J		
Payne R	Pritchard J	Robson A	Sheehan M	Shenton L	Solomon R		
Pearce K	Proddow SK	Roffey B	Shpherd M	Shepherd W	Southcott M	MSo	
Pearce S	Prokop E	Rooney S	Sherriff R	RS	Shenton L	Southwell J & S	
Pearson A	Pryce C	Root T	Sherlock C	Spall TS	Shepherd M	Spall TS	
Pearson M	Purdey KL	KLP	Roper P	Spencer G	Sheppard S	Spencer G	
Pearson MJ	Pyrah RJ	Rose C	Rose I	Spencer PA	Sherlock C	Spencer PA	
Pearson R	Quail J	Rose T	Ross P	Spicer MJ	Sherwood A	Spicer MJ	
Peck A	Quinn A	Rossor M	MRo	Spiller P	Shinebaum L	Spills P	
Pedder B	Radley K	Rowe A	Shippy S	Spinks GM	Shippy S	Spoons J	
Peel A	Rae A	Rowling C	Siggins A	Spooner SJ	SJJS	Spoons SJ	SJS
Peel C	Ralphs G	Rance M	Simmonds J	Spottiswood J	Simmonds Y	YS	Spottiswood J
Pepper G	Randall A	Randon N	Simmonds Y	Squires C	Simms D	Simms G	Squires C
Perfect E	Randall A	Roy JC	Simms D	Stachnicki IA	Simms G	Stafford D	Stachnicki IA
Perfect S	Randall A	Roy K	Stafford D				Stafford D

Stallard B	Taylor M	Tweed A	AT	Waterhall C	Wilkinson C	
Stanbridge D	D Sg Taylor N	Twyford N		Waterman H	Wilkinson M	
Stanforth H	Taylor P	Uhlig J		Waters D	Willett JD	
Stanger A	Taylor R	Unite R		Waters S	Williams B	
Stanley M	Taylor-Pearce P	Unwin P		Watson J	Williams O	
Stansfield RH		Utton BM		Watts RC	Williams P	
Statham H	Tennessee B	Van Der Veen N		Watts RJ	RJW Williams S	
Steele A	Terry J	Van M		Weale S	Wills D	
Stevens M	Terry JH	Van Steenis JH		Webb S	Wilson AH	
Stevens P	Thatcher VA	JHvS		WeBS	Wilson C	
Steventon A	Thomas Al	Van T		Weir J	Wilson G	
Stewart A	Thomas An	Vaughan A		Weller R	Wilson M	MWi
Stewart G	Thomas BJ	Vaughan H	HV	Welsh Harp	Wilson T	
Stewart I	IS Thomas R	Vaughan L		Conservation	Winn AC	
Stillar J	Thomason E	ET Vaughan P		Group	Winstanley A	
Stills R	Thompson J	Veale K		West D	Winter LF	
Stock S	SSt Thompson L	Velasco M		West R	Witt J	
Stockwell B	Thompson S	Vereycken J		West S	Witts A	
Stone T	TSt Thornley P	Verlander N		West V	Woo H & T	
Storey L	Thorpe S	Verrall AG	AGV	Westenberger A	Wood A	
Street P	PSt Thrush P	Vickers D		Westley G	Wood TJ	
Strevens C	Thrusell D	von Hagen C		Weston D	Woodchips	
Strickland I	Thurman M	Waite M		Westwick R	Conservation	
Stroud A	Timms N	Wakerling V	VW	Westwood R	Group	
Stubbs D	DSt Tingley M	Waldron P		Wheatcroft D	Woodham C	
Sturgess I	Todd B	Walford MF		Wheatley M	Woodward I	IW
Summers M	Todd R	Walker P		Whelan G	Woodward R	RW
Surrey Bird Club	Tomczynski A	Walker V		Whelan M	Woolcock B	
Surry E	Tomkins TJ	Wallace J		Wheller L	Wooldridge D	
Surtees S	Toombs K	Wallen MS		Whiskin B	Woolfenden S	
Sutton C	Townsend A	Wallis G		Whitaker W	Worby M	
Sutton G	Tranter B	Walters C		Whitbread J	Wormald L	
Sutton K	Tregenza P	Walters M		White F	Worman M	
Sutton P	Trenerry S	Ward I		White GJ	Wren A	
Swallow M	Trevis B	Ward J		White I	Wright BE	
Sweetland J	Trim C	Ward P		White M	Wright T	
Sweetland T	Tubbey D	Wardell A		Whiteman P	Wyatt M	
Swithinbank J	Tuck D	Warden M	MW	Whitfield P	Wyatt R	
Symes A	Tucker R	Warden R	RWa	Widdowson D	Wwyer J	
Tafilaku J	Turner C	Ware G		Wilczur JPP	JPPw Yates J	
Tanner C	Turner D	Warne P		Wildfowl &	Youles E	
Tanner N	NT Turner J	Warren D		Wetlands Trust	Young GT	
Taplin C	Turnham C	Warrington S		Wileman A	Younger S	
Tarran R & D	Tusa F	Warson T		Wileman T		
Taylor G	Tusa S	Wasse J		Wilkinson A	AW	

BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA, 2011

WITH SOME ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

A Report on Bird-life within Twenty Miles of St Paul's Cathedral

The nomenclature of species in the systematic list of this report is based on the *Birds of Britain: the Complete Checklist*, Fourth Edition (Mitchell and Vinicombe, 2012). The sequence of species still follows *Birds of Britain: the Complete Checklist*, Third Edition (Mitchell and Vinicombe, 2010). A Checklist of Birds of the London Area appears on pages 240 to 248.

The six 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 9). Other abbreviations are:

BBS	= Breeding Birds Survey	o/h	= overhead
CP	= Country Park	OS	= Open Space
FB	= Filter Beds	PF	= Playing Field(s)
GC	= Golf Course	PS	= Power Station
GP	= Gravel Pit(s)	QE II	= Queen Elizabeth II
KGV	= King George V	Q. Mary	= Queen Mary
KGVI	= King George VI	Q. Mother	= Queen Mother
LBR	= London Bird Report	R	= River
LNR	= Local Nature Reserve	Res	= Reservoir(s)
m, f/fem	= male, female	RG	= Ringing Group
imm, juv	= immature, juvenile	SF/W	= Sewage Farm/Works
NR	= Nature Reserve	SP	= Sand Pit(s)
N, S, E, W	= North, South, East and West	WR	= Wildfowl Reserve

Observer abbreviations are shown only against records for species which are rare in the London Area. A list of all the observers who have contributed records for 2011 appears on pages 15 to 20. The abbreviation 'mo' used for some records, indicates 'many observers'. 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 R Thames from Crossness 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.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Status: Common breeding resident.

Once again it is impossible not to draw the conclusion that this species is under-recorded. For example, the highest count from Kent was just eight birds. However, with the total number of breeding records down again, 87 this year compared with 105 in 2010 and 110 in 2009, perhaps a real decline is taking place. They bred in many urban areas, including Battersea Park and Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens in Inner London.

Mute Swan breeding records (incl. nest-building)

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
No. of records	18	29	19	3	14	4	87

Counts of 50 or more were made at 13 sites (ten last year), but only three of these were over 100 (ten last year). Some of the highest counts are given below.

Essex: Harrow Lodge Park, 237 on Jan 2nd. Holyfield Lake, 91 on Oct 30th. Royal Victoria Dock, 49 on Jan 5th.

Herts: Aldenham CP, 46 on Jan 12th. Bowyer's Water, 55 on Dec 29th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 50 on Aug 14th. Stocker's Lake, 50 on Nov 14th.

Middx: Brent Res, 48 on June 12th. Bushy Park, 50 on Jan 3rd. Hampton Court Park, 70 on Nov 2nd. Home Park, 59 on Dec 12th. Ruislip Lido, 121 on Jan 1st.

Bucks: Horton GP, 71 on Jan 2nd. Wraysbury GP, 119 on Jan 2nd.

Surrey: QE II Res, 48 on May 26th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 83 on Nov 9th.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Status: scarce migrant, usually in autumn, and winter visitor.

Five records of probably 21 birds was significantly down on 2010 (nine records of 94 birds) but better than most recent years. The West London birds had been present at the end of 2010, but the East London birds were new arrivals, although no doubt these too were part of the major influx from last December. The West London birds (or at least most of them) were also seen at several sites in Surrey later in January. There were no records at the end of the year.

Essex: Barking Bay and Rainham Marshes, three on Jan 1st (PH, HV *et al*).

Middx: Harmondsworth, 18 on Jan 1st and 16 on Jan 24th (IG, JE).

Surrey: Cobham Floods, 18 (15 adults and three juvs) on Jan 9th & 10th (SJS). Sixteen on Jan 18th-19th were presumed to be part of the earlier flock, as were the 14 there on 21st. Hersham GP, 16 flew N on Jan 23rd (SJS). Walton Res, 18 roosted on Jan 9th, after being flushed from Cobham Floods (DMH).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Status: rare winter visitor.

Just one record this year, after last year's four although there were reports of others (see App III for details). Remarkably this was in Inner London. It is not recorded every year as the table below shows.

Whooper Swan records 2000-2010

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of records	0	0	1	1	0	5	2	0	0	1	4
No. of birds	0	0	5	1	0	16	2	0	0	1	8*

*perhaps 13

In Lond: Hyde Park, one on Round Pond on Nov 7th (MR).

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Status: occasional migrant and rare winter visitor.

Back to normal this year with just one record. The table below shows recent records.

Bean Goose records 2000-2010

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of records	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	4
No. of birds	0	6	0	18	3	0	0	17	0	0	30

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one 1st-winter from Nov 26th to Dec 1st (SBl *et al*) was of the tundra form *rossicus*.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Status: scarce winter visitor.

For the second year running a big flock (60) was seen in January at Rainham Marshes and across the river at Crayford/Dartford Marshes, but since this made up the vast majority of the year's birds 2011 was not as good as the previous year. Elsewhere, up to two were seen at several sites in the Lee Valley in January, and single birds were seen at Roding Valley Meadows NR, Tyttenhanger GP and Sevenoaks WR. There were no records at the end of the year.

Essex: Holyfield Lake, one remained in the Lee Valley from 2010, being seen at several sites near by. A second bird was present on several dates from Jan 25th until the last sighting of two birds on May 8th (mo). Singles at Roding Valley and in Herts (see below) may have been one of these birds. Rainham Marshes, 60 on Jan 1st (KMJ *et al*).

Herts: Amwell NR, one flew in from the east with Greylags on Jan 16th. Presumably the same bird was seen again on Jan 18th and there was another or the same on Mar 13th (JHvS, BR). All these birds may be the same as those seen on the Essex side of the Lea.

Kent: Crayford/Dartford Marshes, 60 flew N on Jan 1st (KMJ), the same as those at Rainham Marshes.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

This was a better year than average, with at least 65 birds, though records vary a great deal from year to year, as the table below shows. There were records from both ends of the year, though the majority were in January and March: up to April 8th and from October 24th. The lion's shares was at sites along the Thames and Lea with some sharp-eyed observers picking up over-flying birds.



Mute Swan. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

White-fronted Goose records 2000-2010

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of records	1	1	3	10	7	1	16	8	4	3	20
No. of birds	354	3	8	95	49	100	221	85	48	7	587

At the start of the year, one was at Rainham Marshes on January 1st and nine flew SE over London Wetland Centre the next day. Another was at Rainham Marshes on 12th, with a second from 14th-17th and three on 19th. Six flew SE over Crayford Marshes on 21st and singles were at Holyfield Lake from 21st to 25th and at Roding Valley Meadows NR on 23rd. Following these, what were presumably the same four were seen at Ingrebourne Valley on 28th, 29th and 31st, and at Rainham Marshes on 30th.

In February there was one at Amwell NR on 2nd & 8th, four at Belhus Woods CP on 4th which were also seen at Ingrebourne Valley on 6th & 12th (presumably the same birds from the end of January) and one at Holyfield Lake on 19th. Singles in March on 3rd at Holyfield Hall Farm and Rainham Marshes and from 9th-10th at Holmethorpe SP were followed by six on 10th at Ingrebourne Valley and Rainham Marshes. The only other winter 2010/11 records were one at Amwell NR intermittently from March 13th-April 8th and presumably the same one at Royal Gunpowder Mills on March 16th.

The first at the end of the year were two over London Wetland Centre on October 24th followed by one N over Leyton the next day. On November 8th, six circled over Q. Mother Res before flying off E and on 12th three were at Rainham Marshes. On 16th one appeared at Tyttenhanger GP and stayed, being joined by a second from 21st to

December 1st. The last of the year was a flock of 20 W at Crossness on December 18th, over half of which were juveniles.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Status: common breeding resident, controlled.

There was a fall in breeding records from 82 pairs/broods in 2010 to 69 this year. The two main breeding sites were Walthamstow Res, and Sevenoaks WR. No breeding records were received from Buckinghamshire, Middlesex or Inner London this year. Once again the biggest count was at Sevenoaks WR, with 430 in September, though this was well down on 2010's peak of 523. A bird with a neck collar at Holyfield Lake in January had been ringed in Sweden in 2000 and had wintered in Cornwall until late December 2010. All breeding records are given below (no. of pairs/broods if known in brackets) followed by some of the highest counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (bred, 18 juvs in May); 149 on Jun 19th. Connaught Water (1). Fairlop Waters (1). Holyfield Lake (4); 110 on Dec 3rd. Kennington Park, Aveley (1). Rainham Marshes, 386 on Jan 16th. Thorndon CP (1). Waltham Abbey (5). Walthamstow Res (29); 163 on Jun 21st. Warren Gorge (1).

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Cheshunt GPs (5); 90 on Jan 23rd. Hampermill Lake (3). Lynsters Farm (5). Lynsters Lake (5). Stocker's Lake (2); 130 on Oct 21st. Troy Mill Lake (1).

Kent: Otford to Filston (1). Sevenoaks WR (bred, 100 goslings in May); 430 on Sep 3rd. Sutton at Hone (6).

Surrey: Gatton Lake, 70 on Jan 16th. Holmethorpe SP (2); 200 over on Aug 27th. Trevereux, 131 on Nov 29th was the highest site count.

In Lond: Battersea Park (3). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1); 228 on Sep 26th. St James's Park (1).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Status: occasional migrant and winter visitor.

The total of 136 birds was well down on 2010's bumper score of 283, but the 26 records involved birds at 15 sites which is a typical number for the past decade. The majority of birds were seen in the first two weeks of November, including the unusual sight of one grazing on Hampstead Heath. A record of one on July 12th was an unusual date.

The first of the year was one on January 14th at Crayford Marshes and Rainham Marshes, with one at Rainham Marshes the next day, and one W at Staines Res on 18th. At the end of the month there was one on 30th at Dagenham Riverside, Crayford Marshes and Dartford Marshes. Just one February record, six at Rainham Marshes on 19th, then the last of winter 2010/11 were singles on April 3rd at Cornmill Meadows and on 5th at Wanstead Flats. There was an unusual mid-summer record of one at Grays on July 12th.

Returning birds arrived on October 14th, when two E at Crossness were also seen at Crayford Marshes. There were then two at Rainham Marshes on 24th; on 29th, one was at Q. Mother Res as well as three more E, and two were at Rainham Marshes. One the next day at Rainham Marshes may have been part of these two. On November 1st one was at Staines Res and KGV Res and one was at Crayford Marshes on 3rd. The main influx of the year began on 5th when there were 12 at Rainham Marshes, up to four birds at Horton

GP/Q. Mother Res and two at QE II Res. On 6th, 39 (the largest flock of the year) went SW over Canons Farm as well as ten W at Crossness and later, another six W which were also seen at Rainham Marshes. Another two flew W on 7th at Crossness, then four W at Grays and two at Q. Mother Res. Even more on 8th, with 11 at Crayford Marshes and Rainham Marshes, 20 over Staines Res, which landed at KGVI Res before flying W later, and one at Q. Mother Res. The next day there was one at Arthur Jacob NR, seven at Crayford Marshes, six at Rainham Marshes, four E over Staines Res, one E over KGVI Res and two at Q. Mother Res. Just singles after that: at Crayford Marshes and Grays on 10th, Crayford Marshes on 11th, Rainham Marshes on 12th, Rainham Marshes and Crayford Marshes on 15th, followed by the last of the year on 17th; unusually, this was grazing on Hampstead Heath.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional visitor from self-sustaining population outside the London Area.

As last year, we have split the records into winter wanderers and those believed to be resident/summer birds. The latter appear in the Escapes section, the rest are below. Some of those below remained from 2010 and none were seen at the end of the year. With the WeBS national index at its highest ever level, we may see increasing numbers here (*WeBS 2010/11*).

Essex: Rainham Marshes, three remained from 2010 on Jan 1st-2nd; then two on 16th & 22nd (DCn, RSPB). Fairlop Waters, three on Jan 4th-5th may have been the Rainham birds (BJe, EB).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 15 remained from 2010 on Jan 2nd; presumably the same 15 on Feb 1st-2nd (CDRH, MMCK).

Surrey: Walton Res, 42 on Jan 30th, the same flock seen on Dec 6th 2010 (DMH).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Status: very common, introduced breeding resident, controlled.

There were many records but breeding is probably still under-reported. There was a marked decline in the number of broods recorded, from about 250 in 2010 to about 158 this year. At the site with most breeding pairs, Walthamstow Res, the fall was particularly dramatic, numbers declining from 51 broods to 30. Breeding records of three or more pairs are given below (no. of pairs/broods in brackets), followed by a selection of the highest counts for each sector. Most of the largest counts were of mid-summer moulting groups. The count of 704 at Walthamstow Res exceeds the WeBS qualifying levels (*WeBS 2010/11*). There were no breeding records for Inner London this year. One found dead at Amwell NR in March was first ringed at Nazeing GP in July 1995, making it at least 15 years old (Ringing Report 2011, online).

Essex: Holyfield Hall Farm, 300 on Feb 22nd. Holyfield Lake, 580 on Oct 30th. South Park, Ilford, 143 on Jun 23rd. Walthamstow Res (30); 704 on Jun 21st. Wanstead Flats (4); 349 on Feb 18th.

Herts: Amwell NR (7); 257 on Aug 14th. Cheshunt GPs (10). Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 205 on Jul 17th. Stocker's/Bury Lakes, 182 on Jul 19th and Oct 16th. Tyttenhanger GP, 162 on Aug 16th.

Middx: Brent Res (3); 162 on Jul 17th. Ruislip Lido, 133 on Jan 1st. Town Park, Enfield (4). Wildwoods, Enfield (3).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 695 on Aug 25th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 275 on Oct 9th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (21). Gatton Lake, 125 on Nov 20th. Holmethorpe SP, 223 on Sep 1st. London Wetland Centre (3); 145 on Feb 16th. Richmond Park (3); 111 on Jul 3rd. Trevereux, 132 on Aug 24th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1); 139 on Jul 25th. Regent's Canal, 18 on Dec 12th. Victoria Park, 29 on Feb 8th.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Status: increasing, introduced breeding resident.

These only started appearing in the LBR Systematic List in 1990; before that they appeared as escapes. The first breeding record was in 1992 and breeding is still very patchy, with breeding reported one year at a site and then not again. More information on the status at sites would be welcomed. The table below shows the breeding estimates in recent years. This year, 32 broods/pairs at 22 sites is less than last year but above all previous years. It was recorded at 119 sites, slightly up on 116 last year. The split between sectors is given below. The largest counts were 38 at both the London Wetland Centre and Q. Mother Res. All breeding records are given below, with number of broods/pairs in brackets, along with some high counts.

Egyptian Goose breeding 2000-2010

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of broods/pairs	6	9	10	8	8	10	6	15	15	15	34
No. of sites	4	7	7	6	6	6	4	8	9	11	25

Essex: 23 sites. Connaught Water (1). Holyfield Lake (2), one last year; 23 on Dec 3rd. Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Res (1). Wanstead Park (1).

Herts: 23 sites. Maple Cross, 30 on Sep 30th.

Middx: 19 sites. Broadwater Lake (2). Bushy Park (2); 17 on Aug 22nd. Hampton Court Park (1). Hampstead Heath (1). Teddington Lock (1).

Bucks: 8 sites. Q. Mother Res, 38 on Aug 18th.

Kent: 16 sites. Crayford Marshes (1). Crystal Palace Park, a pair here on Feb 13th was the first site record. Lamorbey Park (2). Sevenoaks WR (2); 14 on Mar 30th.

Surrey: 19 sites. Clapham Common (3). Cobham Floods, 28 on Jan 10th. Holmethorpe SP, 24 on Oct 4th. London Wetland Centre, 38 on Jan 2nd. QE II Res (1); 22 on Nov 11th. Richmond Park (3); 18 on Nov 18th. Tooting Common (1). Wandsworth Common (1).

In Lond: 11 sites. Battersea Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2); 30 on Jan 11th. Shadwell Basin (1). St James's Park (1); ten on May 16th.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

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

There were 15 broods this year (13 last year) and a further 16 pairs, at least, summered (12 pairs last year). The species had most success at Walthamstow Res with a site-record of four broods. There were two broods at Q. Mother Res and two at Crossness. The biggest count was 190, well down on 275 last year. All breeding records are given, with the number of broods in brackets.

Essex: Barking Bay, 190 on Jul 6th. Purfleet to West Thurrock Marshes, 43 on Feb 1st. Rainham Marshes (1), four young; 83 on Apr 2nd. Walthamstow Res (4), 43 young. West Thurrock Marshes (1), seven young.

Herts: Rye Meads, four pairs summered but no young seen.

Middx: Hampton FB (1), three young. Staines Res (1), eight young.

Bucks: Horton Brook Quarry (1), three young. Q. Mother Res (2), 12 young.

Kent: Crossness (2), 11 young; 128 on May 13th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP (1), one young. QE II Res (1), one young; 29 on Jun 12th. Walton Res, 29 on Apr 11th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, a pair on Mar 7th & 23rd.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Status: introduced breeding resident, established and locally common.

The number of broods this year was 33 down from 43 in 2010, although breeding was suspected at a number of additional sites. Peak counts were also down at several sites, so there may have been a reduction in numbers. All breeding records (numbers in brackets) and significant counts are given below.

Essex: Connaught Water (1); 30 on Mar 5th and 33 on Nov 29th. Strawberry Hill Ponds, 44 on Dec 17th.

Mandarin Duck is a popular resident of Epping Forest. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



Herts: Aldenham CP, 39 on Jan 6th. Beech Farm GP (7). Bricket Wood (1). Dyrham Park (1). Hatfield Park (1). Hertford (1). Northaw Great Wood (1). Queenswood (1).

Middx: Bushy Park (2). Grovelands Park (1); 50 on Oct 28th. Hampstead Heath (2). Town Park, Enfield (1). Trent Park (2). Whitewebbs Wood (1). Wildwoods, Enfield (2); 35 on Dec 7th.

Bucks: Black Park, 37 on Dec 27th.

Surrey: Richmond Park (3); 35 on Feb 8th, 31 on Nov 21st. Walton Res (1). Wimbledon Common (1).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1). Regent's Park (2), two broods swimming in canal; 86 on Feb 3rd.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Status: common winter visitor with occasional summer records.

Birds continue to summer in very small numbers, although only at Staines Res did one stay for any length of time. There was a return to four-figure counts this year at Rainham Marshes, with the January count probably being weather-assisted. Monthly peaks from sites recording one total of 100 or more are given in the table, with other significant counts below.

Eurasian Wigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Belhus Woods CP	338	187	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	33
Holyfield Lake	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	246	-	-
Netherhall GP	189	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	12	-	-
Rainham Marshes	1500	52	1000	56	3	-	2	-	6	56	113	300
HR Aldenham CP	26	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	107	156	214
Amwell NR	100	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	53	50
Bowyer's Water	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	190	220	237
Hilfield Park Res	253	167	45	-	-	-	4	-	34	114	122	113
Radlett Aero GP	300	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MX Kempton NR	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	25	-	100
Staines Res	307	173	93	6	-	-	1	1	29	143	123	71
BU Horton Fields	300	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-
Horton GP	130	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
SY Cobham Floods	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wetland Centre	81	76	74	9	-	-	-	-	17	100	78	93
Walton Res	212	171	119	5	-	-	-	-	18	70	91	128

Herts: Helicon/Pynesfield Lakes, 53 on Jan 16th. Hertford, 50 on Nov 25th. Stocker's Farm, 47 on Mar 11th.

Middx: Q. Mary Res, 51 on Dec 18th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 43 on Feb 8th, 42 on Sep 24th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 43 on Nov 17th. Dartford Marshes, 51 on Feb 17th, 80 on Nov 23rd.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, 44 on Nov 29th. Richmond Park, 58 on Dec 10th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Jan 9th and Feb 11th, two on Dec 28th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

The very cold New Year weather undoubtedly played a part in a staggering 1,004 at Wraysbury GP on January 2nd. Counts of 600 or more are of international significance for WeBS counts (*WeBS 2010/11*). There were no records from Creekmouth/Barking Bay this year. There was a slight increase in the number of broods, 55 compared to 50 in 2010. But almost all of these were at Rye Meads again, including one female with an impressive brood of 15 ducklings. Just as remarkable was the successful breeding at KGVI Res, with this large concrete banked site hardly being a typical breeding location for this species. Counts for the major sites are in the table, with other peaks and all breeding records and Inner London records given below.

Gadwall		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Holyfield Lake	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	552	-	300
	Rainham Marshes	391	97	55	36	8	12	28	50	12	10	-	27
HR	Aldenham CP	312	-	13	-	-	-	-	48	30	178	171	314
	Amwell NR	146	58	69	11	18	19	16	21	36	134	269	220
	Bowyer's Water	51	4	39	-	-	-	-	4	2	21	76	266
	Rye Meads	156	117	115	40	170	279	25	260	155	91	104	104
MX	KGVI Res	5	215	194	29	14	1	7	36	21	18	-	8
BU	Wraysbury/ Horton GPs	1004	832	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	66
KT	Crossness	270	270	90	26	26	45	10	1	14	26	56	100
SY	Island Barn Res	32	37	222	17	4	3	-	4	26	20	37	48

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Cheshunt GPs (5). Hilfield Park Res (1). Rye Meads (35).

Middx: Brent Res (1); 169 on Oct 17th. KGVI Res (1).

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes (1).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (2); 166 on Oct 10th.

In Lond: Battersea Park (8); 89 on Feb 3rd. Cremorne Gardens, two on Apr 23rd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 11 on Mar 17th. Regent's Park, 24 on Feb 3rd. Victoria Park, nine on Feb 8th.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

Although the huge numbers at Rainham Marshes in January are consistent with the eastern part of the Thames remaining a stronghold, the previously overlooked R Thames count from Putney Bridge to Barnes Bridge also had some very high numbers in November and December. Numbers from Abbey Mills were well down on last year, and no records were received from Hackney Marshes. Counts of 2,100 or more, as at Rainham Marshes, are of national significance for WeBS counts (*WeBS 2010/11*). Birds were present at a number of sites in all months of the year, but with no evidence of breeding. Figures for the major sites are recorded in the table below, with significant counts from other sites and all Inner London records.

Eurasian Teal	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Barking Bay	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	-
Rainham Marshes	2500	126	50	107	2	7	9	90	70	274	255	1350
HR Rye Meads	279	143	105	22	2	2	4	26	41	78	86	113
MX Brent Res	123	100	63	39	2	-	1	27	123	152	146	110
E India Dock Basin	275	181	163	13	2	-	5	40	87	127	283	358
KT Crossness	300	960	-	-	1	10	37	160	350	422	30	515
Sevenoaks WR	145	67	31	4	2	-	3	18	13	39	58	78
SY Beddington												
Farmlands	325	350	200	25	-	1	1	37	120	160	270	270
Wetland Centre	435	223	334	36	1	5	17	75	140	181	174	253

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, 120 on Jan 8th. Purfleet to West Thurrock Marshes, 150 on Feb 1st. Walthamstow Res, 150 on Jan 2nd and 130 on Nov 21st.

Herts: Amwell NR, 60 on Jan 11th. Radlett Aero GP, 71 on Jan 16th.

Middx: KGVI Res, 98 on Jan 22nd and 96 on Nov 17th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 120 on Dec 6th. Dartford Marshes, 110 on Dec 14th. Swanscombe Marshes, 200 on Jan 11th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, 77 on Jan 9th and 90 on Dec 17th. Putney Bridge - Barnes Bridge, 355 on Nov 25th and 281 on Dec 18th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, four W on Jan 4th, six on Mar 5th, with one on 23rd. Regent's Park, five on Jan 11th and four on 19th, five on Feb 3rd and then two on Dec 28th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Status: very common and widespread breeding resident.

Another increase in breeding with 345 broods/territories (323 last year), including 100 at the River Wandle again, although probably still under-reported. Remarkably, the breeding season lasted from March until December. The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows no statistically significant change in London numbers. The table below records sites that have a maximum count of 200 or more and breeding/territory records are summarised below.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Belhus Woods CP	59	97	29	21	36	20	224	329	318	334	355	272
Connaught Water	1	-	1	-	-	-	125	2	-	-	180	272
HR Panshanger Park	150	173	126	70	92	83	300	300	300	300	200	150
SY Wetland Centre	311	176	230	205	160	172	173	257	220	228	202	212
Putney Br-Barnes Br	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	263	239	430	322
R Wandle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	372

Essex: 36 broods from 19 sites.

Herts: 47 broods from 6 sites.

Middx: 83 broods from 27 sites.

Kent: 124 broods/territories from 13 sites.

Surrey: 52 broods from 8 sites.

In Lond: 3 broods from 2 sites.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

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

There was no summering this year, with the last on April 2nd and one early record on July 9th before the main returning birds in September. Feral birds may account for some records at unlikely sites or at less likely times of the year. The table gives counts for the key sites, with all records for other sites below.

Northern Pintail		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Rainham Marshes	25	18	18	6	-	-	-	-	3	9	10	12
KT	Crayford Marshes	2	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	4
SY	Wetland Centre	7	8	12	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	5

Essex: Connaught Water, two on Feb 5th and Mar 5th, one on Oct 24th, two on Oct 29th, singles on Nov 6th & 19th and two on Dec 17th. Dagenham Chase, singles on Feb 26th, Mar 5th-6th & 13th. Holyfield Lake, three intermittently in Jan, two on Nov 18th, one to two intermittently in Dec. Walthamstow Res, one from Jan 2nd-9th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one or two intermittently from Jan 1st-19th and from Feb 2nd-13th. Hilfield Park Res, four on Mar 23rd & Nov 13th. Stocker's Lake two on Jan 2nd. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Nov 23rd.

Middx: Bow Creek, one intermittently from Jan to Mar 20th and on Jul 9th and Dec 17th. Brent Res one on Nov 15th. Kempton NR, one on Feb 19th. KGVI Res, four on Oct 9th. Staines Res, two on Nov 13th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Nov 12th. Wraysbury, ten NE on Nov 6th. Wraysbury GP, two on Nov 13th.

Kent: Crossness, one on Oct 14th. Sevenoaks WR, two on Mar 16th and one on Dec 18th.

Surrey: Cobham Floods, four on Jan 19th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Oct 20th. Island Barn Res, two on Mar 9th. South Norwood CP, one on Dec 21st. Walton Res, one on Nov 14th, Wandle Creek, three on Feb 23rd.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

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

The first bird was on March 21st, although remarkably a first-winter bird lingered until December 29th at Holmethorpe SP. Although many of the birds seen were part of a pair, there was no evidence of breeding. They were recorded at 23 sites, up on the 16 in 2010. All records are given, although summarised for some sites.

Essex: Cornmill Meadows, two from Aug 20th-21st. Dagenham Chase, five on Mar 30th and two on Apr 9th. Harold Court Woods, three on Mar 21st. Ingrebourne Valley, three on Jul 4th & 7th. KGV Res, one on Apr 28th. Rainham Marshes, seen on 19 dates between Mar 22nd and Jun 3rd, with a max of three from Mar 22nd-23rd and then again in Aug. William Girling Res, one on Apr 16th.



This Garganey lingered at Walton Reservoir for three days in April. (Dave Harris)

Herts: Cheshunt GPs, two on Aug 21st. Rye Meads, two on Apr 9th, singles intermittently from Aug 8th to Oct 12th. Tyttenhanger GP, two from Apr 17th-23rd.

Middx: Brent Res, one on May 15th. Kempton NR, one on May 11th. Parkside Farm/Res, two on Apr 18th.

Bucks: Horton GP, one on May 8th. Q. Mother Res, one on May 8th flew S and was presumed to be the one seen at Horton.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Mar 31st. Crossness, one from Sep 25th-Oct 10th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Aug 31st. Holmethorpe SP, one intermittently from Dec 7th-29th. London Wetland Centre, one from May 13th-21st then one to two intermittently from Aug 14th-Sep 1st. QE II Res, one on Apr 14th. Richmond Park, one on Apr 23rd. Walton Res, one from Apr 14th-16th.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

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

Breeding at two sites again, both in Herts this year, and nine other sites had birds in both May and June. Most of our wintering population had left by mid-April and returned from late July. Numbers were generally lower this year and the WeBS national index has fallen for the second year running (*WeBS 2010/11*). Monthly figures for the key sites are given in the table. Significant records for other sites are given below and Inner London records. There were no records from Creekmouth, Barking for this species this year, which has historically been a stronghold.

Northern Shoveler		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Belhus Woods CP	7	17	24	-	-	-	-	-	37	30	54	20
	Rainham Marshes	50	60	113	57	2	-	11	72	64	108	69	45
HR	Amwell NR	21	38	53	4	2	3	-	10	74	27	72	37
	Rye Meads	49	52	44	27	7	7	12	20	47	51	53	25
	Stocker's & B Lakes	42	59	124	-	-	-	3	10	25	13	43	125
MX	Brent Res	16	6	5	1	2	9	1	46	111	104	27	34
	Staines Res	80	277	93	6	3	2	-	12	77	74	47	13
SY	Wetland Centre	133	208	214	26	3	9	6	54	98	109	80	81
	Walton Res	10	6	13	11	2	1	4	30	97	102	43	74

Essex: Holyfield Lake, 66 on Oct 30th. Walthamstow Res, 175 on Oct 10th. Warren Gorge, 45 on Oct 23rd.

Herts: Maple Lodge NR (1), two young seen. Stocker's Lake (1), two young seen.

Middx: KGV Res, 72 on Mar 13th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 56 on Sep 24th.

Kent: Crossness, 25 on Jan 11th. Danson Park, 50+ on Jan 4th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 150 on Jan 15th and 80 on Dec 17th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, 89 on Feb 3rd, 36 on Oct 31st. Canada Water, up to five in Jan. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 34 on Jan 31st and 11 on Dec 28th. Regent's Park, 48 on Feb 3rd. Southwark Park, two on Jan 3rd.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

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

The highest count again came from Inner London, with 78 at Regent's Park (a peak of 88 there last year). The best total outside the heart of the capital was 24 at Richmond Park. Breeding was greatly under-reported this year, with broods confirmed at only two sites in Inner London and possible or probable breeding at four other sites. Records of pinioned birds in collections, such as in St James's Park, should not be submitted.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one from Jan 2nd to Mar 13th. Holyfield Lake, two on Oct 30th. Walthamstow Res, one on Jun 20th.

Herts: Aldenham CP, singles on Mar 3rd, 16th & 20th, Sep 21st and Oct 9th. Amwell NR, three from Jan 2nd to Feb 5th, two on Feb 27th, singles on Feb 14th and Dec 15th-17th. Bowyer's Water, one on Dec 29th. Bury Lake, recorded from January to May, with peaks of eight at the start of the year and 14 at the end. Lynsters Lake, a pair on Apr 6th. Maple Cross, a pair on May 20th. Maple Lodge NR, singles on May 6th & 8th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, a peak of six in Mar and Apr. Stocker's Lake, recorded every month except September with a peak in the first-winter period of 11 on Feb 5th and 17 on Nov 12th. Tyttenhanger GP, three on Oct 15th.

Middx: Alperton, one on the Grand Union Canal on May 22nd. Bushy Park, ten on Jan 20th and Feb 19th, with up to seven on nine other dates. Hampton Court Park, 19 on Nov 18th. Home Park, reported in January, March and December, with a peak of 22 on Dec 3rd. Stoke Newington Res, one on several dates in March. Teddington, six flew along the Thames on Sep 16th. Teddington Lock, two on May 6th and 20 on Sep 18th.

Bucks: Horton GP, three on Jan 13th. Orlytt Lakes, two on Jan 29th. Wraysbury GP, two on Jan 26th and singles on Feb 13th, Nov 10th & 26th, the last a leucistic adult male.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, one from Feb 10th-Mar 5th. London Wetland Centre, two on Mar 16th and Nov 22nd, singles on Mar 17th, May 29th and Nov 4th. Richmond Park, reported regularly with a peak of 24 on Nov 1st. Walton Res, one on Aug 25th.

In Lond: Battersea Park (1); two on Apr 4th & 18th, three on Jun 6th and five on Jul 11th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, recorded Jan-Apr, with peaks of 11 on Apr 3rd and 14 on Aug 25th. Paddington Green, one flew towards Regent's Park on Oct 19th. Regent's Park (5); 78 on Feb 3rd and 51 on Feb 15th.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

There were no big flocks this year, perhaps reflecting the lack of prolonged spells of hard weather that often drive birds onto the larger reservoirs in search of unfrozen water. The highest count was 237 at Wraysbury GP in February (629 at Staines Res last year), followed by 210 at Regent's Park, also in February. Counts of 290 or more are nationally significant for WeBS counts (*WeBS 2010/11*). Fewer pairs were reported breeding, just 45 pairs/broods from nine sites compared to 61 pairs from 20 sites last year. There was an increase to 11 broods at Walthamstow Res, however (only four last year). The table below shows all monthly peak counts of more than 60 birds. Breeding records (no. of broods/pairs in brackets) follow.

Common Pochard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Creekmouth,												
Barking	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KGV Res	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	-
Rainham Marshes	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walthamstow Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	126	151	-	-	-
HR Hilfield Park Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	118	74	-	-	-	80
MX Broadwater Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	135	-	-
BU Wraysbury GP	100	237	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
SY Walton Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	126	-	-	-
IL: Hyde Park/												
Kens Gdns	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regent's Park	-	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Essex: South Park, Ilford (1). Walthamstow Res (11).

Herts: Cheshunt GPs (4). Maple Lodge NR (4). Rye Meads (16), 56 young. Stocker's Lake (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park (2).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (5).

In Lond: Regent's Park (1).

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Status: rare vagrant.

A more typical showing for this near-annual species after last year's exceptional five records. The table below shows the records since 1990.

Ferruginous Duck records 1990-2009

Year	1990	1991	1992	1999	2000	2001	2002	2006	2007	2008	2010
No. of records	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	5

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, a 1st-winter drake on Nov 27th (CDRH).



Tufted Duck. (Mick Southcott)

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

The regular August moulting flock at Walthamstow Res reached an impressive 2,715 this year with another 290 on the near-by Banbury Res, making a similar total to the 2,939 recorded at Walthamstow Res in 2004. Last year's highest count was 1,369 at Wraysbury GP. There were four counts of 1,000 or more from three sites (seven from four last year) and counts of 250 or more came from 16 sites (29 last year). The WeBS national threshold count is just 1,100 (*WeBS 2010/11*). In Inner London, the highest totals were 190 at Regent's Park in February and 172 at Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens in March.

The total of 160 breeding pairs/broods was down on last year's 202 and the number of sites reporting breeding, 41, was also down from last year's 49, but the same figure as 2008 and 2009. Nationally, numbers in England fell by 20 per cent in 2010/11 after rising by 33 per cent in 1995-2010 (BTO website, BBS data).

Marked birds included a summering pair with red bill saddles fitted at São Jacinto Dunes NR in Portugal at East India Dock Basin. A returning French-marked female with a turquoise nasal saddle marked 'JA' was also at Staines Res. The table shows peak monthly counts of 100+ at the principal sites (where 500 or more were recorded). The bigger breeding concentrations (no. of broods in brackets) are listed in the notes section.

Tufted Duck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Creekmouth,												
Barking	580	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KGV Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	825	-	-	425	460
Walthamstow Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	2476	2715	-	-	-	-
MX KGV Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	880	789	184	313	129	219
Staines Res	129	195	196	169	-	128	916	1083	111	186	294	438
Wraysbury Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2000	-	-	-	-
BU Wraysbury GP	603	743	441	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	739
SY Island Barn Res	265	132	-	-	-	-	-	286	334	618	489	178
Wetland Centre	620	381	275	259	311	267	262	-	214	101	125	156
Walton Res	370	127	147	144	-	128	454	479	280	679	340	222

Essex: 33 broods: Belhus Woods CP (4). Walthamstow Res (19).

Herts: 54 broods/pairs: Cheshunt GPs (6). Rye Meads (30 pairs, 159 young).

Middx: 8 broods: Alexandra Park (3).

Kent: 12 broods: Crossness (4). Sevenoaks WR (3).

Surrey: 48 broods: Beddington Farmlands (9). London Wetland Centre (31).

In Lond: 7 broods: Regent's Park (2). Russia Dock Woodland (2). St James's Park (3).

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

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

About 34 birds from 15 sites was a sharp fall from last year's impressive total of 58 birds from 25 sites but still a decent showing. In the years 2007-9, the figures were 16, 18 and 30. The largest group was seven at Gallion's Reach, followed by the four birds from 2010

that commuted between Rotherhithe and the Isle of Dogs. All records are given below.

Essex: Barking Bay, one upriver on Jan 1st. Creekmouth, Barking, two on Jan 2nd and one on Jan 15th. Gallion's Reach, seven on Jan 22nd. Walthamstow Res, one on Jan 14th and one or two intermittently until Apr 6th. William Girling Res, one from Jan 24th-Mar 6th and one on Dec 17th.

Middx: Millwall Docks, the four birds wintering since 2010 were present intermittently from Jan 1st-9th (also seen Inner London, see below). Staines Res, three on Jan 10th, up to two until Feb 26th, one until Mar 28th; one from Nov 30th to end of year, joined by a second from Dec 27th. Wraysbury Res, singles on Mar 1st and Aug 11th.

Bucks: Horton GP, three from Jan 21st-29th, two from Feb 2nd-8th and one to Mar 14th. Q. Mother Res, one from Nov 15th-19th.

Kent: Crossness, two W on Jan 1st.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one from Jan 5th-Feb 9th. Walton Res, one wintering from 2010 until Apr 18th; one on Dec 28th.

In Lond: Battersea PS, one upriver on Feb 12th. Greenland Dock, the four wintering birds from 2010 were seen on most dates from Jan 9th-16th, with three on 18th. These were also seen on the nearby R Thames and at Millwall Docks (see Middlesex).

Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Status: scarce visitor, usually in winter.

Two birds is above average for this attractive sea duck: last year's total of six records of 23 birds was exceptional. There were only four records between 2000 and 2009. Most turn up in winter but two were at KGV Res on April 27th 2007.

Essex: Walthamstow Res, fem/imm from Jan 22nd-Mar 6th. (PLt *et al*).

Surrey: Buckland SP, 1st-winter on Jan 22nd-23rd (DSt). QE II Res, 1st-winter on Jan 3rd & 24th, same as Buckland SP bird (DMH).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Status: scarce but annual visitor.

The first record since 2005 of this formerly dependable visitor, with two to five records the norm before then.

Kent: Hayes Farm Trout Lake, fem/imm from Nov 7th-Dec 19th. (ET, TSt).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

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

The total of 49 birds was a sharp drop from 2010's above-average total of 97 but the number of sites was the same (12) and there were more records (26 compared to 22). As usual the Lower Thames was the most reliable location, accounting for 23 birds. The biggest groups were nine at Barking Bay in June and KGV Res in July. This species is unusual among sea-ducks in often arriving in numbers in July: 15 were recorded in that month this year. Small flocks of this regular overland migrant are often found on the larger reservoirs, but a London record of 90 was at Q. Mother Res on November 8th 2004. All records are given below.

Essex: Barking Bay, nine on Jun 19th and one on Nov 17th. Holyfield Lake, two on Mar 13th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Apr 5th & 10th, two on Jun 17th and Dec 2nd. William Girling Res, two on Mar 5th.

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one from Nov 9th-15th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Nov 8th. KGVI Res, nine on Jul 16th. Staines Res, two on Jul 4th (same as Q. Mother Res below), one on Aug 2nd, two on Nov 29th and three on 30th then four from Dec 1st-7th. Wraysbury Res, one on Aug 1st.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two on Jul 4th (same as Staines Res), one on Aug 1st and two on 2nd, then one from Nov 8th-19th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on May 5th, two on Jun 17th and one on Nov 17th. Crossness, two on Jul 27th and one on Nov 17th.

Surrey: Walton Res, one on Mar 13th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

No new arrivals this year, with two wintering birds remaining from 2010. Last year's eight records of five birds was a remarkable total for this less-than-annual species.

Middx: KGVI Res, the first-winter female from Nov 2010 was again present Jan 16th-Apr 18th. Staines Res, the same bird intermittently from Jan 2nd-Apr 22nd (REI, KLP *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, Jan 1st-22nd, the adult female found on Dec 29th 2010 (CDRH).

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Status: common winter visitor, occasional summer record.

This was another year without any big totals. Eight sites had 15 or more birds this year (nine in 2010) with the highest count 59 at Staines Res (54 at Wraysbury GP last year) and two others over 50, both at Staines Res. Peak monthly counts of 15 or more are shown in the table: there were another 60 such counts at these sites (33 last year). A female that lingered at Stocker's Lake until June 16th was the latest spring record and the earliest autumn arrival was on July 10th at KGVI Res. There were no summering birds, though a female at Troy Mill Lake briefly in mid-May, suggested that last year's summering bird had returned. The average highest count from 2002-2011 was 72 birds, with the lowest annual total 49 at Wraysbury GP in 2008 and the highest 108 at Staines Res in March 2003.

Common Goldeneye	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX KGVI Res	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Connaught Water	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walthamstow Res	19	22	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
William Girling Res	18	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HR Stocker's Lake	22	20	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
MX Broadwater Lake	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Staines Res	45	55	59	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	57
BU Wraysbury GP	26	51	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	38

A few late spring and early autumn records are listed below.

Essex: William Girling Res, three on Jul 16th.

Herts: Troy Mill Lake, one on May 17th.

Middx: KGV Res, one on Jul 10th and 23rd-24th. Wraysbury Res, three on Jul 26th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Status: winter visitor in highly variable numbers.

Numbers were lower this year with counts of ten or more from three sites and records from only 24 sites (47 last year). The highest count was 18 at Wraysbury GP on January 1st (20 in December there last year). The main arrival was in January and there were no spring reports after March 20th. The earliest returning bird was at Thorney CP on November 12th and 22 birds had arrived by the end of the year. Numbers were much lower at the end of the year.

The number of wintering Smew has declined sharply since the 1950s, and especially since 2000; 116 were present in early 2000 compared to about 40 in 2009. Bigger flocks wintered in the early to mid-1950s, especially at Brent Res and the former Barn Elms Res (now the London Wetland Centre) with a UK record of 144 at Brent in February 1956. Counts of five or more, or monthly peak counts from the main sites are given below.

Essex: No more than four at any site.

Herts: Amwell NR, monthly peaks of ten on Jan 22nd, Feb 19th and Mar 3rd. Cheshunt GPs, five on Jan 15th & 29th, eight on Feb 4th.

Middx: Bedford Lakes CP, ten on Feb 14th. Staines Res, eight on Jan 4th and Feb 8th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GPs, 18 on Jan 1st and ten on Feb 19th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

A fall this year to 33 records of about 21 birds at 16 sites (68 records of 40 at 20 sites in 2010). The biggest count was four at Rainham Marshes (seven in flight at Beddington Farmlands last year). Birds were more evenly spread, with only seven at Rainham Marshes, which provided a third of last year's records. The latest bird in spring was one at Amwell NR on April 19th and the first arrival of the autumn was at Staines Res on October 14th.

Essex: Banbury Res, a female on Feb 6th, 12th & 13th (the same as the Walthamstow Res bird below). Barking Bay, a female on Jan 1st and one on Nov 25th. Holyfield Lake, a female on Mar 13th. KGV Res, a female on Feb 20th and two on Apr 16th. Rainham Marshes, one on Nov 8th, four on 14th and two on Dec 2nd. Walthamstow Res, the female that has returned every winter since at least Dec 2005, was seen intermittently from Jan 14th to Mar 22nd. William Girling Res, a female on Jan 24th & 30th, male and female on Mar 12th, a female on Dec 17th. (Records of single females in the Lee Valley probably all involve the returning Walthamstow Res bird).

Herts: Amwell NR, an imm male on Apr 19th.

Middx: Staines Res, a male on Jan 25th, a female on Mar 26th, a male on Apr 2nd and a female on October 14th. Wraysbury Res, a pair on Jan 1st, one from Jan 2nd-3rd; male and female on Feb 1st and a female from Feb 15th-Mar 12th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, a female on Dec 10th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one E on Nov 8th, seen earlier at Crossness and Rainham Marshes. Crossness, one on Jan 1st, one E on Nov 8th.

Surrey: Records of males at Island Barn Res on Jan 24th & 28th, QE II Res from Jan 23rd-Feb 19th, and Walton Res on Feb 5th were considered to refer to the same bird. Walton Res, male, imm male and female on Nov 12th.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

Reports came from 63 sites, fewer than last year's impressive 84 but still an above-average total. There were seven counts of 20 or more birds (ten in 2010) and the highest count was 39 at Weald Park (25 there and at KGV Res last year). The latest spring record was on April 16th at Banbury Res and the earliest autumn arrival was on the early date of September 21st at Hertford on the River Lee Navigation. Counts of ten or more are given, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Holyfield Lake, 15 on Feb 6th. Nazeing GP, ten on Dec 17th & 22nd. Weald Park, 38 on Jan 9th and 39 on 12th; ten on Dec 29th.

Herts: Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 13 on Jan 16th. Turnford Marsh GP, 12 on Jan 15th and 11 on Feb 1st.

Middx: Wraysbury Res, 34 on Mar 3rd.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 14 on Jan 22nd and 20 on 29th, 19 on Feb 19th, 15 on Mar 16th, and seven other counts of ten or more.

Surrey: Oxted, 12 on Dec 30th. QE II Res, 30 on Jan 25th, 21 on Feb 9th and 18 on Dec 22nd. Walton Res, 20 on Jan 9th and 11 on Feb 8th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Status: widespread winter visitor of non-native origin, localised breeder; declining due to nationwide cull.

The continuing cull has had a dramatic effect on numbers with records received from only 19 sites (26 last year and 36 in 2009), just one count of ten or over (17 at KGV Res in January) and no reports of breeding. Last year there were five counts of ten or more and the highest count was 46, also at KGV Res in January. The figures should be treated with a little caution as some birders who oppose the cull do not report the species or withhold exact locations. Nationally, the population has fallen from about 4,400 when the cull began in 2005 to about 90 birds (*UK Ruddy Duck Eradication Programme Project Bulletin April 2011, Defra/Fera*). The cull was launched in response to the spread of the Ruddy Duck to Spain, where it was feared hybridisation could lead to the extinction of the native and endangered White-headed Duck. The table below gives peak monthly counts of four or more.

Ruddy Duck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX KGV Res	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HR Hilfield Park Res	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MX Brent Res	4	-	5	6	6	-	-	-	8	7	5	9
Staines Res	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SY Wetland Centre	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The only Inner London record was a drake at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens from January 11th to March 29th. Reports also came from two sites in Bucks, seven in Essex, one in Herts, one in Kent, two in Middlesex and four in Surrey.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Status: breeding resident, of introduced origin.

Again the vast majority of records are from farmland in Essex and Herts north of the River Thames, and to a lesser extent farms in the Enfield Chase part of Middx. Birds are still being released in the Herts sector. Otherwise the species was a rare sight. All records are given for Kent (just three records) and Surrey, elsewhere high counts, and all breeding records (number of pairs/territories in brackets).

Essex: Baker Street, 30 on Feb 9th. Claverhambury (6); 21 on Jul 26th. Copped Hall, 40 on Jan 17th. Grange Waters, 41 on Nov 13th. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (3); an incredible 162 on Nov 2nd. Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 30th. Sabine's Green, 35 on Dec 28th. Stapleford Tawney (2). Upshire, present in breeding season at Fernhall Lane. Waterworks NR, one for a few days from Apr 13th.

Herts: Brickendonbury, 20 on Oct 20th. Cattlegate Farm (1). Cromerhyde Farm, 12 on Jan 3rd. Essendon, 20 on Nov 19th. Hatfield, 13 on Dec 10th. Maple Cross (1). Newgate Street (1+); 11 on Sep 2nd. North Mymms Park (1+). Redwell Wood Farm, probably bred; 15 on Feb 5th. Tyttenhanger Farm, 71 on Jan 19th. Tyttenhanger GP, probably bred; 32 on Oct 9th. Water End (1). Welham Green, eight on Dec 3rd. Wildhill, 31 on Oct 8th.

Middx: Bay Farm, max four on Aug 30th. Brayside Farm (2). Crews Hill, five on Mar 8th. Ferny Hill Farm (1); seven on Jan 12th. Millwall Docks, one on Jan 1st was present from late Dec 2010 in the car park of the Westferry printers. Park Farm, Enfield (1). Parkside Farm/Res (2). Rectory Farm (1); eight on Oct 8th. Sloemans Farm (2). South Lodge Farm (1). Vicarage Farm (1).

Kent: Knockholt Pound, four on Feb 24th. Sevenoaks WR, two on Jun 18th, one on Dec 7th.

Surrey: Bookham Common, two on Apr 10th and one on Aug 3rd. Canons Farm, one on Apr 7th. Colley Hill, two on Nov 30th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Apr 15th. Moorhouse, singles on Feb 22nd and Aug 9th, and two on Aug 29th. South Croydon, one from Oct 4th-5th feeding on the roadside verges. Woldingham, 50 on Oct 21st were game releases.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Status: former breeding resident, declining.

Perhaps an improvement this year, with pairs in the breeding season at five sites in Herts indicating probable breeding, as well as a pair in May in Essex and a pair in June in Middlesex. Some of the Herts and Surrey records are considered leftovers from releases. All records are given, with numbers in brackets for breeding pairs.

Essex: Grey Goose Farm, four on Mar 15th, two on May 5th and Dec 6th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Apr 29th.

Herts: Cole Green, one on May 24th. Cole Green Tip (1). Hadley Wood (1). North Mymms

Park (1). Panshanger Aerodrome, four on Mar 30th. Redwell Wood Farm (1). Salisbury Hall Farm (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Willows Farm, singles on Feb 25th and Mar 27th probably involved a survivor from the local winter shoot.

Middx: Hadley Wood, a pair Jun 19th. Vicarage Farm, one on May 22nd.

Surrey: Upland Road, three on Apr 29th were thought to be game releases.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Status: rare summer visitor.

This was a good year, with five or six birds, including an urban record (or two) at Wormwood Scrubs. A return to a more typical spread of records with three or four in May and one each in June and July. The Orsett observer continues an amazing track record recording the species for the fifth year running. Nationally, 2011 was the biggest quail year on record (Rare Breeding Birds in the UK 2011, *BB Sep 2013*).

Essex: Orsett Fen, male on May 20th (RBs).

Middx: Wormwood Scrubs, male singing in grassland May 17th (NS *et al*); perhaps the same from May 31st-Jun 1st (AP *et al*).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singing male from Jul 20th-21st (KMJ). Crockenhill, one calling six times at midday on Jun 3rd (DJMo).

Surrey: Canons Farm, singing male on May 21st (DCa *et al*).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Status: common breeding resident, of introduced origin.

Again limited records received though it remains the most widespread and commonest game bird with significant populations around the edges of the sector. All breeding/territorial records (number of pairs/territories in brackets) are given below, with other records.

Essex: Breach Barns (1). Rainham Marshes, 18 on Mar 22nd. Roding Valley Park, four on Mar 31st. Walthamstow Marsh, from May 30th heard occasionally through the summer/autumn. Walthamstow Res, occasional records of birds from Tottenham Marshes (see below).

Herts: Cassiobury Park, a male on Nov 23rd in cress beds was only the fifth modern day record. Coopers Green Lane (1). Croxley Common Moor, two on May 15th. Essendon (1). Fir & Pond Woods (1+). Hatfield Park (1). Micklefield Hall, a melanistic male on Jan 24th. North Mymms Park (1). Rye Meads RSPB (3); 16 on Jan 1st. Tyttenhanger Farm, one all white bird on Jan 6th. Woodoaks Farm (1). Woodside, Hatfield (1).

Middx: Brent Res, male on Apr 6th. Horsenden Hill, five records of singles. Staines Moor (1). Staines Res, male on Apr 30th on causeway. Tottenham Marshes (4-5). Totteridge Valley (4). Vicarage Farm (1).

Bucks: Chalfont Park, a pure white fem on Feb 8th.

Kent: Bexley, calling male on May 6th. Brockley, a male in a school playground on Feb 8th. Brookmill Park, male on Feb 13th. Crossness (2). Dartford Marshes, one on Jul 17th. Foots Cray Meadows, calling male on Aug 21st. Greenwich Park, two males from Oct 26th into 2012 were the fourth record since 1996, one of which was chasing a fox! Lamorbey Park, a male on Nov 3rd was unusual here. Manor Farm, 30 on Feb 11th

included five melanistic birds. Greenwich, a male on Mar 13th on Maze Hill. Petts Wood, at least three males on Apr 15th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, seven on Mar 15th. Bookham Common, four on Apr 10th. Canons Farm (1); 25 on Jan 8th. Cobham, single on Jan 19th. Holmethorpe SP (1+); ten on Oct 30th. London Wetland Centre, one on Dec 8th. QE II Res, male from 25th-26th Apr. South Norwood CP, ten on Nov 17th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

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

In the first winter, three juveniles remained from 2010 on the south-western reservoirs. As usual, they were mobile, but Wraysbury Res and KGVI Res were favoured in January and February, with the last record of three individuals together occurring at Wraysbury Res on February 22nd. Q. Mother Res and Staines Res were favoured in March and April, with two birds remaining until at least April 25th, and the last remaining stayed at Staines Res until May 14th. Possibly the same bird was seen flying west from Wraysbury Res on May 21st.

During the second winter, the first record was from Q. Mother Res on November 24th. Two juveniles were seen here on December 1st, but all other records in the south-west were of single birds at either this site or Staines Res, with some overlapping dates suggesting both juveniles may have remained present in the area. Another bird was seen at Nazeing GP from 10th-24th.

Essex: Nazeing GP, one from Dec 10th-24th (EH *et al*).

Middx: KGVI Res, one to two from Jan 16th to Feb 25th (AVM *et al*). Staines Res, one to two from Jan 23rd to May 14th (RWa *et al*), juv from Nov 29th to Dec 31st (RWa, KLP *et al*). Wraysbury Res, one to three juvs on seven dates from Jan 1st to Feb 22nd (mo), one flew W on May 21st (DJM).

Bucks: Arthur Jacob NR, first-summer flew ESE on Mar 3rd, relocated and aged on Wraysbury Res (CDRH). Horton GP, one on Mar 13th-14th (CDRH, JMC). Q. Mother Res, one on Jan 19th (PEH, MMcK), one from Mar 4th joined by another from 17th (both first-summer), then one to two regularly until Apr 27th (MMcK *et al*), one juv from Nov 24th, two juvs on Dec 1st, then one juv 2nd-11th and 15th-17th (CDRH *et al*). Wraysbury GP, two on Jan 2nd (SJS).

Surrey: Island Barn Res, one Jan 16th to Feb 21st, Mar 7th and 15th (DMH, SJS). Walton Res, one on Jan 16th & 19th and Mar 8th (SJS, DMH).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

Breeding records increased slightly with c111 pairs reported (c101 pairs in 2010). Numbers from most sectors were remarkably similar to last year, and the change in the London area is due to an increase in Surrey from 20+ pairs to 29 pairs. However, breeding records in Inner London dropped from 5-6 pairs in 2010 to 2-3 pairs this year. BBS data shows a gradual decline from about 2003 (BTO website).

Looking at the Essex records for this year and last year, it seems that the species was more widespread than usual in Essex throughout the 2010/11 winter (Nov 2010-Feb 2011).

Number of sites where Little Grebe reported at start and end of year

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
Jan/Feb	14	13	13	2	9	16	4
Nov/Dec	7	13	12	1	11	15	0

Breeding information is given below for all sites in Inner London and Middlesex, and the more significant sites elsewhere (number of pairs unless stated). The maximum count for each sector is also shown.

Essex: 24 broods at nine sites. Rainham Marshes (5 broods); c20 on Aug 13th. Walthamstow Res (12 broods).

Herts: 39 pairs at 11 sites. Hilfield Park Res (5); 38 on Oct 16th. Rye Meads (21); 34 on Sep 16th.

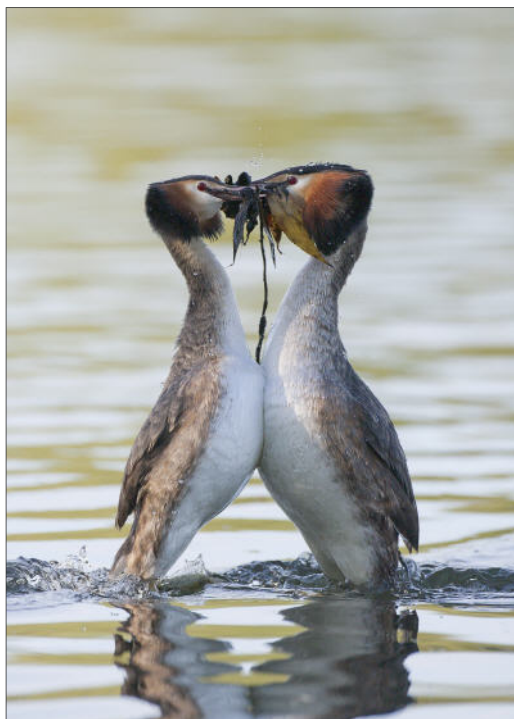
Middx: Alexandra Park (1 pair, 2 broods). Brent Res (1); 24 on Oct 17th. Grovelands Park (2). Kempton NR (1). Oakwood Park (1). Parkside Farm/Res (2).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, six on Jan 2nd.

Kent: Eight pairs at seven sites. Foots Cray Meadows, 11 on Dec 19th.

Surrey: 29 pairs at 11 sites. Holmethorpe SP, 65 on Jan 29th. London Wetland Centre (10 broods). South Norwood CP (1), first for site. Walton Res (7 broods).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1), but four young all taken by gulls. Battersea Park (2 broods).



Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Around 115 breeding pairs were recorded, with the majority of records again coming from Essex and Herts. Breeding records have dropped slightly for the second year in a row, and this change was particularly marked in Inner London where numbers halved to five pairs, although this may relate to reduced recording effort rather than a real decrease. BBS data shows a gradually increasing trend since about 2003 (BTO website).

Great Crested Grebe is still a regular breeder in the London area. (Mick Southcott)

Monthly counts from the more significant sites are shown in the table below, with breeding totals and significant counts from other sites shown below that.

Great Crested Grebe counts

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MX KGV I Res	92	2	-	8	27	-	-	28	48	34	112	21
Q. Mary Res	23	23	-	16	15	7	66	195	-	142	117	199
Staines Res	16	10	15	24	30	42	71	88	99	117	34	37
SY QE II Res	83	13	16	30	47	60	41	46	33	31	25	25

Essex: 32+ pairs/broods from 14 sites. KGV Res, 85 on Aug 1st. Walthamstow Res (17 broods, 31 young fledged).

Herts: 38+ pairs/broods from 11 sites. Cheshunt GPs (9 broods). Hilfield Park Res (9 broods); 76 on Dec 18th. Tyttenhanger GP (5 broods); 24 adults on Jul 24th.

Middx: 18 pairs at eight sites. Brent Res (10). Wraysbury Res, 420 on Jan 1st, 132 on Aug 13th, 111 on Oct 14th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 149 on Jan 4th. Wraysbury GP, 38 on Mar 14th.

Kent: 11 pairs/broods from eight sites. Sevenoaks WR (4 broods); 80 on Oct 9th.

Surrey: 12 pairs from eight sites. Island Barn Res, 42 on May 10th.

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3); 24 on Mar 25th. Regent's Park (1).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

There were just three birds this year, one of which toured three West London reservoirs during its long stay. The table below shows recent records.

Red-necked Grebe records 2000-2010

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of birds	8	8	4	6	4	1	2	1	3	2	7

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one on Jan 15th (SMY).

Middx: KGV I Res, one from Jan 16th to Apr 2nd (mo). Staines Res, the same bird on Feb 9th (mo). Wraysbury Res, the same from Jan 1st-3rd and on Feb 1st (mo).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Jan 5th (ADB, KEM).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

This was another good year for this species, following a run of poor years in the mid-2000s. The table below shows recent records. It is difficult to assess numbers due to potential movement between sites but perhaps ten individuals were involved in these records. Several of the records at West London reservoirs may be the same birds. Details of all sightings are given.

Slavonian Grebe records 2000-2010

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of birds	8	11	16	14	6	3	7	4	2	10	9

Essex: KGV Res, two on Jan 28th-29th (mo). William Girling Res, singles on Jan 29th-30th and on Feb 6th & 12th (RW *et al*), on Sep 16th (IW) and on Oct 16th (DHu *et al*).

Middx: KGV Res, one from 2010 was seen from Jan 1st-3rd (REI *et al*) and from Jan 16th - Feb 25th (AVM, KLP *et al*), then two from Feb 27th to Apr 10th, with one moulted into summer plumage by April, the other remaining in full winter plumage; two on Oct 29th then one on Nov 10th & 13th (REI, KLP, DJM, AVM, SJS). Staines Res, two on Jan 4th, one in summer plumage from Apr 15th to May 4th, then again from May 13th-20th (KLP, DHo *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one in summer plumage on Apr 15th (MMcK, KEM *et al*), and a 1st-winter on Nov 9th (CDRH *et al*).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Status: passage and winter migrant and rare breeder.

Numbers continue to be encouraging at the regular breeding site which Herts Bird Club have now publicly named as Hilfield Park Res. A summary of these records appears in the latest Herts report (*Herts Bird Report 2011 P76*). Breeding was also confirmed at a second site, with a pair being seen at a nest. Sadly this attempt failed, and a predated nest was subsequently found.

Wintering numbers peaked early with 34 on William Girling Res on July 31st, and another four on the adjacent KGV Res on the same date. Numbers remained high for the remainder of the year. Staines Res remains the only other regular wintering site in our area, but up to five birds also frequented KGV Res in 2011 during autumn and early winter. All records are given below, summarised for KGV Res, Staines and William Girling Reservoirs.

Black-necked Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX W. Girling Res	20	21	10	-	-	-	34	34	29	20	38	24
MX King George VI Res	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	4	5	5	-
Staines Res	-	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	4

Essex: Banbury Res, one on Feb 12th. Fairlop Waters, one on Apr 14th. Holyfield Lake, one on Mar 13th, then singles intermittently between Dec 3rd & 23rd. KGV Res, one found dead on Mar 11th, four on Jul 31st and two on Sep 13th. Walthamstow Res, one on Dec 10th.

Herts: Site B (1), pair bred but failed. Aldenham CP, one on Mar 3rd. Cheshunt GPs, one on Mar 13th, then singles on Dec 4th, 10th-11th & 23rd. Hilfield Park Res (7 pairs), but only one young seen; max count 36 on Mar 30th.

Middx: Brent Res, summer plumage adult on Apr 16th-17th and a pair on Jun 9th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, adult in summer plumage on Mar 23rd.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one from Jan 2nd to Mar 2nd and one on Nov 30th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, first-winter on Oct 12th. Island Barn Res, one on Mar 12th and a pair in summer plumage on May 1st. QE II Res, one on Jan 18th-19th, and a juv on Aug 18th. Walton Res, two on Sep 29th and one on Nov 3rd.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Status: rare visitor, usually in autumn.

Most likely three birds were involved in the four records given below. Two of the three records on September 7th were the same bird seen at different sites along the R Thames in the morning. The third was at the other side of London, later in that day. While it would have been possible for this to be the Thames bird, it seems more likely to be another bird. This is the best year since three were seen in 1998. The September dates are typical; nine out of the previous 13 records have been in September.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Sep 7th (HV).

Bucks: Horton GP, one in the late afternoon on Sep 7th (CDRH). Q. Mother Res, one on Sep 17th (CDRH *et al*).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one at 11:20 on Sep 7th (KMJ), also reported at Greenhithe.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Status: scarce visitor.

A return to more typical numbers, with just two records after last year's exceptional influx. The Q. Mother Res bird was initially seen on the water before circling the reservoir and flying off SE. Neither of these dates was typical of recent records, as the table below shows. The June record is only the second since 2000.

Northern Gannet dates 2000-2010 32 birds/records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	18	5	0	4

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, an adult on Jun 18th briefly, before flying off SE (CDRH).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, a juv flew upriver on Dec 29th (KMJ).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Breeding was confirmed at six sites this year, with the first breeding at Netherhall GP. Numbers recorded at the main site at Walthamstow Res increased from 154 to 280 occupied nests. But this change probably reflects the difficulty of counting the birds, which nest on islands, rather than any real dramatic change in breeding numbers. There were 308 breeding here in 2005. The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows a 324% increase in London over the period 1994-2011, and a 68% increase in surrounding areas for the same period.

The table below shows monthly maxima from regularly counted sites with larger numbers. The counts of 345 and 328 at two sites below are very close to the nationally significant counts of 350 (*WeBS 2010/11*). Breeding records (number of nests in brackets) and notable counts from other localities are shown below that.

Cormorant	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MX KGV I Res	43	3	-	1	7	5	-	2	3	6	328	2
Q. Mary Res	20	30	-	6	12	7	21	31	-	8	12	292



When seen with Cormorant, the smaller size of Shag is easy to ascertain. It remains a rare bird in London, photographed here at Staines Reservoir in November. (Andrew Moon)

Staines Res	5	8	5	3	4	4	13	45	16	191	8	14
SY QE II Res	345	190	225	77	16	51	115	195	215	245	230	195
Walton Res	35	21	8	2	3	11	58	173	166	170	48	10
Wetland Centre	86	236	202	4	6	10	11	10	35	45	133	90

Essex: Holyfield Lake (28). KGV Res, 114 on Aug 1st. Netherhall GP (1). Walthamstow Res (280).

Herts: Amwell NR (15); 56 on Nov 19th.

Middx: Broadwater Lake (37). Q. Mary GP (bred).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 337 on Oct 31st.

Kent: Crossness, 65 on Oct 21st.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, 116 on Nov 21st.

In Lond: Battersea Park, 110 roosting on Feb 14th, 70 roosting on Dec 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 29 on Oct 25th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Status: irregular visitor, usually in winter, occasionally in good numbers.

Up to ten individuals, if all the West London sightings were the same birds. The majority of Shag records are single birds in winter, but this year there were two records of multiple arrivals, one of which occurred on the unusually early date of July 7th. As the

table below shows, all the arrivals this year were at quite early dates, being between March 8th and September 15th. Only about a third of the previous 57 records have arrived between March and September.

Shag dates 2000-2010 57 birds/records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	9	5	4	1	0	1	1	6	5	1	11	13

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Mar 16th (DE). Grays Riverside, one on Aug 26th (JA). KGV Res, imm on Sep 10th (RW).

Middx: Brent Res, one on Apr 30th (ASMS). KGVI Res, one on Dec 4th was the Staines Res bird (REI). Staines Res, imm from Sep 19th to end of year (KLP *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, three imms from Sep 15th-18th, with two still on 19th and one remaining to Oct 1st, then an imm on Dec 3rd, 18th, 20th & 22nd (CDRH *et al*).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, adult on Mar 8th (KMJ). Sevenoaks WR, two on Jul 7th (PTP).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

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

Although far from a bumper year, there were still plenty of opportunities to catch up with this species in the London area. Records came from 14 sites in the first winter period (compared with 21 in 2010), but only nine sites in the second winter period (compared with 15 in 2010). Most surprisingly, there was just one record from Cheshunt GPs in the second winter period, although birds were recorded elsewhere in the Lee Valley. As in 2010, at regular sites, birds had departed by the second half of March and had typically returned by mid-November. Unusually, two birds had returned to the London Wetland Centre by October 22nd. This site also recorded the peak count: six on January 1st. One at Amwell NR on September 25th was an unusual date for London. All sites at which birds were recorded are given below, together with peak counts for each site.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, up to two in Jan; then recorded between Oct 28th and Nov 5th, with a peak count of three on Nov 2nd. Weald Park, one on Dec 14th.

Herts: Amwell NR, up to three in Jan, one in Feb and two in Mar; then following one on the early date of Sep 25th, one on Nov 27th and then one on four dates in Dec. Cheshunt GPs, up to two in Jan and two on Nov 19th. Rickmansworth, one found dead on Feb 1st. Rye Meads, one in Jan and up to two in Feb; one on Nov 1st-2nd.

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Nov 10th and then one on three dates in Dec. Hampstead, one flew S over the Royal Free Hospital on Jan 31st. Staines Moor, one on Feb 22nd. Stanwell, one flew E at 16:30 on Feb 3rd.

Bucks: Thorney CP, singles on Jan 1st and on Nov 9th. Wraysbury GP, one on Feb 8th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one on three dates in Jan and one on Feb 5th; then one from Dec 18th to the end of the year.

Surrey: Godstone, one at Bay Pond on Jan 23rd was present for about two weeks. London Wetland Centre, present from Jan to Mar 16th, with a peak of six on Jan 1st; then, after one on Oct 15th, seen regularly until the year end, with a peak of three on Nov 27th.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Status: rare vagrant.

Given the changed status of many herons, it is perhaps surprising just how rare a vagrant this species continues to be in London. This is only the 13th record and the first since 2004. Five of the previous 12 records were in May and only one in June. The table below shows the years when there have been records.

Night Heron records 1970-2004

Year	1970	1978	1980	1983	1987	1989	1990	1992	1994	1998	2004
No. of records	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Herts: Stocker's Lake, an imm on Jun 19th was the fifth for Herts (RF *et al*).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Status: rare breeder and visitor in ever increasing frequency and number.

This year, records were received from c151 sites, compared to c175 sites in 2010. The species was most widespread in Herts, with records from 51 sites. The year's peak counts were also in Herts: 25 at the Stocker's Lake roost on December 7th and at Stanborough Lakes on December 16th.

The small colony at Walthamstow Res continues to grow: 15 broods and a total of 44 young in 2011 (ten broods, 34 young in 2010). Breeding occurred at Wraysbury GP for the third time, where there was one brood of four young (two broods and five young in 2010). Three further sites recorded their first breeding. In Essex, at Warren Gorge, there were four nests and eight young; in Herts, one nest at Amwell NR produced four young and they also bred at Stocker's Lake. These were the first breeding records for Herts. Other notable counts are given below, together with all records for Inner London.

Essex: KGV Res, 15 on Sep 11th. Orsett Fen, nine on Aug 12th. Rainham Marshes, 13 on Mar 30th and 16 on Aug 3rd (well down on the peak of 35 in Jul 2010).

Herts: Amwell NR, 13 on Jul 24th and ten on Dec 18th. Stanborough Lakes, 17 roosting on Feb 6th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, nine on Sep 28th. Sevenoaks NR, five on Oct 9th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one over on Mar 26th. Regent's Park, one on Sep 15th.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Status: rare vagrant.

Three records this year, the same as last year. Perhaps it will not be long before this is added to the Area's list of breeding species. The table below lists all the previous arrival dates and none of this year's records are on unusual dates.

Great Egret dates 1997-2010

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records by month	0	0	1	3	2	2	1	0	5	2	1	2

Essex: Mar Dyke Valley, one on May 4th (RBs).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Dec 13th flew NE at 10:00 (KMJ).

Surrey: QE II Res, one flew SE on Oct 28th (DMH).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident.

Grey Heron remains a widespread and common bird in the London Area throughout the year. However, The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows it has declined as a breeding species by 38% since 1994. A total of c437 nests were reported in 2011, a fall on the c472 in 2010 (and c523 in 2009). Details of all heronries are given below, with the no. of nests in brackets, followed by a few of the highest counts away from known heronries or outside the breeding period.

Essex: Fairlop Waters (1). Holyfield Lake (9). Ingrebourne Valley (3). Mayesbrook Park (3). Netherhall GP (28). Thorndon CP (2). Valentines Park (1). Walthamstow Res (71). Warren Gorge (5). Rainham Marshes, the peak count of 14 on Jul 27th was well down on the 33 recorded in the same month in 2010.

Herts: Amwell NR (15). Frogmore Lakes (3). Stocker's Lake (c20), census data lost. Tyttenhanger GP (2). Verulamium Park, (14).

Middx: Broadwater Lake (10). Frays Valley LNR (7). Little Britain Lake (11). Wildwoods, Enfield (1).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (21).

Kent: Crystal Palace Park (2). Kelsey Manor (25). Sevenoaks WR (1). Swanscombe Marshes (9).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, several high counts, with a peak of 75 on three dates. Beddington Park (9). Bookham Common (24). Corporation Island (13). Gatton Lake (28). Horton CP (7). London Wetland Centre (1). Morden Hall Park (13). Richmond Park (10). Thorpe Water Park (4). Watermeads (15).

In Lond: Battersea Park (22). Hyde Park (1). Regent's Park (26).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Status: rare vagrant.

This is only the 5th record for London. The table below shows all records and the month of their arrival.

Glossy Ibis records 1974-2010

Year	1974	1977	2008	2009
Month of arrival	Apr	May	Oct	Sep

Bucks: Horton, one on Oct 22nd, 24th & 25th (CDRH).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Status: rare migrant not recorded annually.

This is the seventh consecutive year for this species in London. The table below shows recent records.

Spoonbill records 2000-2010

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of records	0	1	1	1	0	1	4	10	3	5	4

Essex: Lakeside Shopping Centre, an adult flew over at 09:00 on Nov 2nd (RBs). Rainham Marshes, a juv from Sep 30th-Oct 1st (BC, RBs, VW); a 1st-winter on Oct 28th (AT *et al*).
Herts: Amwell NR, one flew W at 10:07 on May 13th (SK). Hilfield Park Res, one flew W at 06:45 on Jun 5th (MRo, RM, JF).

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Status: scarce visitor.

There was just one accepted record this year, an autumn bird, although there were several reports where no details were received (see Appendix III).

Kent: Crossness, a pale juvenile on Sep 16th (JKA).

2010 Alteration

Kent: Chessington, one on Sep 5th. This record should have been under Surrey, not Kent.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Status: rare vagrant.

This is the 10th record for London, and the first in July. The last record was in Essex, seen on four dates at four sites in May. This is the second Surrey record, but a first for Beddington Farmlands. The table below shows all the records.

Black Kite 1979-2010		Nine records					
Year	1979	1980	1986	1994	2003	2004	2009
Number of records	1	1	1	1	2	1	2

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one N on Jul 15th (JPA, PA).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Status: scarce but increasing visitor, and rare but increasing breeder.

Another quantum leap for this amazingly adaptable raptor with about 1,100 records being received this year, compared to approximately 770 records in 2010. Every county had a substantial increase in sightings and indeed in some parts of Hertfordshire they are now more regularly seen over urban areas than farmland or woodland - testimony to the number of people (not just birders) who put out food for them. As has been the case in previous years there is an obvious peak of sightings in spring, with March and April again being the best months and presumably this reflects some movement within or across the area.

Red Kite sightings	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	103	82	188	216	138	97	83	60	56	64	36	49

Up to 14 birds were seen together near St Albans and most of the larger counts come from sites close to areas where they either breed or are suspected of breeding, although there were several counts of four birds together from KGV Res, Richmond Park and Hertford that perhaps do not relate to breeding birds. Interestingly, there were well over 200 sightings that involved two or more birds, an indication, perhaps, as to how well established they are becoming. At least five pairs were confirmed to have bred in

the Herts sector, at least one of which successfully reared two young; it seems likely that many more pairs are now breeding within London; however it seems that they are decidedly secretive during the breeding season.

Red Kite by county	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
No. of records	73	887	82	22	24	77	7

All Inner London records are given below:

In Lond: Camberwell, one on Mar 13th. Greenland Dock, one on Apr 7th. Islington, one on Jul 25th. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 28th and Apr 25th. St Stephen's Gardens, W2, one on Mar 13th. Waterloo Station, one on Mar 14th.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Status: scarce, but increasing passage migrant, has recently bred.

A total of about 139 records this year was a marked reduction on last year's total of approximately 208, although 77 of these (55%) came from Rainham Marshes; sadly, there was to be no repeat of the breeding success in 2010. Nevertheless the decline in the number of records is unlikely to be explained away by the lack of any breeding attempt. The peak month was April with 22 birds (down from 33 in 2010) and September with 19 birds (13 in 2010). However there were far fewer birds present during the winter at each end of the year, compared to last year.

Marsh Harrier	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	4	2	8	22	8	6	6	15	19	5	5	3

Essex: Abridge, one on Mar 21st. Barking Riverside, one on Aug 5th. Bonnett's Wood, one on Apr 7th. Ingrebourne Valley, singles on Jan 4th, 15th, Apr 17th, Jun 25th, Oct 3rd & 8th. Orsett Fen, one on Jul 19th. Rainham Marshes, up to two in January and February, three in March, April and May, two in June, three in July, two in August, five (on 15th) in September, three in October and two in November. Roding Valley Park, one on Jul 11th. South Ockendon, one on Jul 19th. Theydon Bois, one on Apr 17th. Walthamstow Res, three on Aug 31st.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Apr 30th, Aug 21st and Sep 3rd. Hatfield Aerodrome, three on Sep 2nd. Rye Meads, singles on Apr 26th and May 4th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on May 14th.

Middx: Brent Res, singles on Apr 3rd & 16th. Edgware, one on Aug 22nd. Hanwell, one on Sep 7th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 17th. Staines Res, one on May 1st. Stoke Newington Res, singles on Apr 6th, 8th & 10th.

Bucks: Horton GP, singles on Jun 24th, Nov 19th and Dec 24th. Q. Mother Res, singles on Jan 1st, Apr 30th and Sep 16th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on Jan 24th, Mar 23rd, Apr 8th, 20th, Aug 22nd, 24th, Oct 14th, 24th, and Nov 16th. Crossness, singles on Apr 3rd and Oct 15th. Dartford Marshes, one on Feb 9th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, singles on Apr 19th and Dec 20th. Holmethorpe SP, singles on May 1st and Sep 27th. Kingswood, one on Dec 20th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 16th & 26th, Apr 3rd, Aug 18th & 21st and two on Sep 15th. Richmond Park, singles on Apr 10th and Sep 30th.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

There were four records this year, well down from 18 in 2010, although there were several records lacking descriptions (details in Appendix III). All records refer to females/immatures unless stated.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one intermittently from Jan 1st to Apr 4th (mo); an adult male on Sep 16th (mo).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one intermittently from Mar 24th to Apr 6th; another on Oct 27th (KMJ).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Status: rare migrant.

There was one record this year, the first since 2009. Since 1990 there have only been twelve records. The previous eleven are shown in the table below.

Montagu's Harrier 1990-2010		Eleven records								
Year	1990	1992	1994	1995	2000	2001	2002	2006	2009	
Number of records	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, a male flew N on Apr 20th (SMY).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Status: common breeding resident.

The number of records this year was about 1,245, which was just below last year's total; it remains a very common and familiar raptor within our area. Remarkably, there was very little to choose between Essex, Herts, Middlesex and Surrey in terms of the number of records with about 250 each. Prey items included: Blackbird, Starling, Collared Dove and even a vole; the following species were observed mobbing Sparrowhawks: Mistle Thrush, Pied Wagtail and Swallow. Breeding season records were improved this year with the number of territories increasing to 53 (42 in 2010) and the number of successful pairs rising to 34 (26 in 2010); as has been the case in previous years the true number of successfully breeding pairs is probably considerably higher. Up to six birds were seen together over the Galleyhill Wood/Holyfield Hall Farm area and over Richmond Park. Interestingly, the results of an RSPB survey in Croydon revealed that birds were reported from 44% of participating gardens - it is not unreasonable to assume that similar concentrations are present in many urban areas around London.

Sparrowhawk	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	8	17	6	1	7	13	1	53
Proved	4	10	6	0	4	10	0	34

In Lond: Records were received from: Battersea Park, Camberwell New Cemetery, Holborn WC1, Holland Park, Kensington Gardens, King's Cross Station, Park Street SE1, Regent's Park, Rotherhithe, Russia Dock Woodland, St Paul's Cathedral, and Victoria Park.



Despite only 11 records in 2011, this Hen Harrier represented a good opportunity to see it in the London area, staying faithful to Rainham Marshes for several months. (Les Harrison)

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Status: scarce but increasing breeder, regular migrant/visitor.

Numerically, this remains the most widely reported raptor in London with about 1,300 records, although it is rapidly being caught up by Red Kite. Herts reasserted its premier status as the most favoured county with about 450 records, followed by Middlesex with 256, Surrey with 242 and Essex with 226 (all totals approximate). It was an excellent year for breeding birds with at least 16 pairs breeding successfully and a minimum of 40 pairs on territory; however it seems likely that the figures for Herts are the only ones that are close to the correct total and it is difficult to believe that there is only one pair in the Surrey sector.

The peak months for records were April with 272, then March with 205 and September with 125; there were some impressive counts in August and September most of which were moving east or south - it would seem likely that these birds relate to continental birds moving through in autumn.

Common Buzzard

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	7	23	8	1	0	1	0	40
Proved	1	12	3	0	0	0	0	16

Essex: At least seven pairs were on territory, with at least one breeding successfully. Copped Hall, 17 on Feb 13th.

Herts: An absolute minimum of 23 territories were logged, of which 12 bred successfully - an exceptionally good total. Howe Green, 13 on Mar 27th.

Middx: Birds were reported from eight territories, of which at least three were successful. Brent Res, 17 on Sep 15th.

Bucks: One pair on territory.

Kent: There were no reports of breeding. Sevenoaks WR, eight on Apr 2nd.

Surrey: One pair on territory. An impressive gathering of 19 birds over Woldingham on Mar 23rd was the highest ever count in London.

In Lond: Records were received from: City of London, Farringdon EC1, Holborn WC1, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Paddington Green, Regent's Park (max seven on Sep 15th), Tower 42, Vauxhall and Walworth.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Although a total of about 31 records this year (51 in 2010) might have seemed impressive ten or more years ago, these days the bar has been raised a lot higher and one almost expects a better showing. However it has to be borne in mind that the appearance of this species in London is very much dependent on the vagaries of the weather and wind direction, so is bound to fluctuate from year to year.

The first bird of the year was at South Mimms on the exceptionally early date of March 14th, but this is an early spring migrant and birds tend to arrive back at Rutland Water by mid-March and to Scottish breeding sites not long afterwards. Further records followed at Hilfield Park Res on 21st and Regent's Park on 23rd; five more records followed in the first nine days of April; one more in April was followed by six more birds in May and the last bird of the spring over Rickmansworth on June 1st (seen at three different localities).

The first bird of the autumn was over Maple Cross on July 28th, with two further birds in August and six birds in the first half of September. Four more records in October might have concluded the year, but for a late record over Holmethorpe SP on November 9th, which was then completely trumped by the very late sighting of one over Broxbourne GP on December 5th. All records are singles unless stated.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, May 21st. Rainham Marshes, Sep 9th & 10th. Romford, Apr 1st. Walthamstow Res, Apr 3rd and Oct 3rd. Weald Park, May 11th.

Herts: Broxbourne GP, Dec 5th. Hilfield Park Res, Mar 21st and Sep 14th. Hoddesdon, Apr 23rd. Maple Cross, Jul 28th. Mill End, Apr 9th. Rickmansworth, one seen independently at three localities on Jun 1st. Rye Meads, Oct 2nd & 16th. South Mimms, Mar 14th. Welwyn Garden City, Apr 7th.

Middx: Teddington, May 28th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Apr 2nd, May 1st & 9th and Sep 7th.

Kent: Crossness, Aug 10th. Lewisham, Oct 22nd.

Surrey: Canons Farm, Sep 8th. Holmethorpe SP, May 12th and Nov 9th. London Wetland Centre, Aug 24th.

In Lond: London Bridge, Sep 7th. Regent's Park, Mar 23rd.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Status: common breeding resident.

With only about 760 records this year this is very much the 'forgotten' raptor in London and much less frequently reported than Red Kite, Common Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Hobby and Peregrine: is this down to observer complacency, or is it genuinely less common these days? Breeding records were near enough identical to 2010 totals with 40

pairs proved to have bred (36 in 2010) and 13 additional pairs being present (22 in 2010); interestingly the distribution across the area was very similar to last year. Richmond Park with four pairs and Wimbledon Common with at least three pairs (maybe up to five) were the most favoured sites. Ten birds were seen in Regent's Park and up to nine were present at Rainham Marshes in September.

Kestrel	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Proved	4	12	7	0	4	12	1	40
Probable	4	6	1	0	1	1	0	13
Overall totals	8	18	8	0	5	13	1	53

In Lond: Bedford Avenue, WC1, one on Sep 29th. Burgess Park, one on Dec 18th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, a male in early Mar. New Covent Garden, one on Feb 17th. Nine Elms, one on Nov 12th. Regent's Park, one pair nested and raised three young, although ten birds were seen on Jul 5th, which were stated to be 'two families'. Stockwell, SW8, no breeding for first time for many years. Victoria Park, one on May 5th.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

There were 19 records this year (down from about 41 in 2010), although the actual number of birds is clearly far fewer. At least two birds were present at Rainham Marshes from January until March 21st and presumably accounted for records from the adjacent Crayford Marshes; the last bird of the spring was at Beddington Farmlands on April 13th. The first autumn arrival was on October 22nd at Rainham Marshes followed by one at Brent Res on 30th, and two records on November 8th. After that there were just two records at Rainham Marshes on November 21st and December 7th. All records were of single birds. There were reports of a further 12 birds where no description was received (see App III for details of these).

Essex: Orsett Fen, Nov 8th. Rainham Marshes, Jan 1st, 13th, 23rd, 30th & 31st, Feb 21st, Mar 3rd & 21st; Oct 22nd, Nov 8th & 21st and Dec 7th.

Middx: Brent Res, Oct 30th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, Jan 4th, Feb 28th and Mar 2nd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, Jan 5th and Apr 13th.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

This remains a fairly common and widely reported raptor although, inevitably, many of the sightings are from well-watched sites where this speedy raptor finds ideal feeding conditions. The most favoured county remains Hertfordshire, both in terms of the number of sightings (330) and breeding records (7), followed by Middlesex (172 and 5) and Surrey (145 and 4). The breeding totals are close to last year's figures, but well down on the 2009 figures, which were boosted by up to 24 pairs in Herts, and are likely to be an under-estimate of the true figures. Breeding occurred in Inner London, for the first time ever.

The first bird of the year was over Maple Cross on the early date of March 27th, with the next at the London Wetland Centre on 30th, another at the same site on April 8th preceded the main vanguard which arrived en masse from 12th followed by about another 100 sightings by the end of the month. The highest spring counts were headed by an astonishing peak of 22 birds at Rainham Marshes on April 30th (with many lesser counts there) followed by ten at Coopers Green Lane (Herts) on May 4th and a rather later peak of 11 at Horton GP on June 11th.

Autumn gatherings were pretty mediocre with the best being six at Amwell NR on September 3rd; as was the case last year there were daily sightings right up until October 2nd, with further records at Amwell NR on 4th, Rye Meads on 6th and 9th and the last of the year at Richmond Park on 15th.

Prey items reported this year were rather conservative with just singles of Sand Martin, Blue Tit and Starling, as well as numerous dragonflies.

Finally it is worth reflecting on the rather disappointing totals for Inner London this year - just four, down from an impressive minimum of 25 in 2010.

Hobby pairs breeding

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Proved	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Probable	2	6	5	1	4	0	18
Totals	2	7	5	1	4	1	19

In Lond: Site A, a pair bred, producing four young. Paddington Green, one on May 28th. Regent's Park, singles on Sep 3rd, 5th & 16th.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Status: scarce but increasingly regular breeding resident and winter visitor.

A new peak was reached for this fantastic raptor with about 890 sightings during the year and, impressively, there were records on an almost daily basis throughout the year somewhere in London - excellent proof of their successful spread in and across London. The most favoured county is Surrey with about 276 records, although this figure is slightly skewed by the huge total of 171 observations from the London Wetland Centre; Rainham Marshes also claimed about 127 records. Multiple sightings were mostly restricted to breeding areas, although there were plentiful reports of two or more birds in other areas.

At least 28 pairs were present this year (up from 22 in 2010) and, of these, nine bred successfully rearing 23 juveniles to the flying stage (an increase on eight juveniles last year). Thanks again to DMn for this information.

Prey items reported this year included: Lapwing, Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gull, Rock Dove, Woodpigeon and Ring-necked Parakeet, however the last species was the most commonly seen with five incidents - perhaps their garish colours make them an obvious target.

Essex: Seven pairs present, of which three were known to have bred successfully rearing six juvs.

Middx: Three pairs bred successfully, rearing seven juvs.

Kent: Six pairs present during the breeding season; none were known to have bred successfully.

Surrey: Four pairs present, of which one pair bred successfully raising three juvs.

In Lond: Eight pairs were present during the breeding season, two pairs of which bred successfully rearing seven juvs.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Status: common, but elusive, winter visitor; scarce breeder.

Reported from 77 sites; the table below shows these by county. Breeding numbers were down (eight this year, 14 last year), but numbers do vary considerably from year to year. Counts of 15 at London Wetland Centre and 12 at Rainham Marshes are nationally significant (*WeBS 2010/11*). All breeding records are given below (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), records of birds present during the breeding season, peak counts of three or more birds and all records for Inner London.

Water Rail by county

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
20	24	8	1	13	9	2

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, seven on Oct 28th. Rainham Marshes (1), two young seen; 12 on Mar 21st.

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Cheshunt GPs, five on Jan 1st. Hilfield Park Res, five on Dec 18th. Maple Lodge NR, two calling Aug 15th. Rye Meads (3); six on Dec 10th.

Sightings of Hobby remain high during the summer months, especially around water bodies. (Andrew Moon)



Water Rail breeds in London but is most often seen (or more likely heard) during the winter months.
(Les Harrison)



Middx: Alexandra Park, three on Jan 1st and Dec 30th. Brent Res, four on Oct 17th and Nov 21st.

Kent: Foots Cray Meadows, three on Mar 2nd. Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, three on Nov 27th & 30th. Sevenoaks WR, three on Nov 5th. Sydenham Wells Park, one on May 23rd. Thames Road Wetland, one on May 17th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, three on Jan 3rd. London Wetland Centre (3); 15 on Nov 8th. South Norwood CP, up to three in both winter periods.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Dec 31st. Regent's Park, up to two between Jan 11th and Feb 25th, and one on Sep 27th and Nov 1st.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Status: very common breeding resident.

They were recorded at 138 sites, an increase on 123 sites in 2010 and 111 in 2009. The highest count was 188 on a walk along the River Wandle between Carshalton Ponds and Wandsworth on December 28th, although this was down from last year's highest count of 248 along the same stretch on the same date. This count of 188 and the 172 at London Wetland Centre are nationally significant (*WeBS 2010/11*). One unlucky bird, ringed as a youngster at Rye Meads in December 2010, was eaten by an Eagle Owl, its ring being found in an Eagle Owl pellet in Denmark in November 2011 (Ringing Report 2011, online). So although we think of our Moorhens as resident, clearly not all are.

Breeding was reported from 60 sites (well up from 43 in 2010) but this is likely to be a considerable under-estimate of the breeding population. In addition birds were present in the breeding season at a further 28 sites. In England there has been a long-term decline of 22% from 1994-2010 (BBS). All breeding records with five or more nesting pairs are given below (no. of pairs, broods or nests in brackets), as well as peak counts of 30 or more outside the breeding season and all Inner London records.

Essex: Harrow Lodge Park, 37 on Jan 2nd. Walthamstow Res, 30 on Nov 13th.

Herts: Hampermill Lake, 32 on Mar 13th. Maple Cross, 30 on Feb 7th. Maple Lodge NR, 48 on Feb 4th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 32 on Dec 18th. Rye Meads (52); 80 on Sep 16th. Tyttenhanger GP (5); 50 on Sep 2nd.

Middx: Alexandra Park (7). Brent Res, 51 on Sep 18th. Hackney Marsh, 47 on Dec 6th. Hampstead Heath (10). Horsenden Hill (10-14); 39 on Dec 28th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 49 on Feb 9th. Sutton at Hone, peak of 32 on Jan 27th.
Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (40); 100 on Dec 17th. Holmethorpe SP, 35 on Jan 24th. London Wetland Centre (30); 172 on Oct 17th. R Wandle, Butter Hill-Morden Hall Park (48); 65 on Mar 26th. R Wandle, Carshalton Ponds-Wandsworth, 188 on Dec 28th. Richmond Park (9). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (8).
In Lond: The Barbican, two on Jan 12th. Battersea Park (10). Cremorne Gardens, two on Apr 23rd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2). Holland Park, two on Apr 23rd. Regent's Canal (9); 14 on Dec 12th. St Katherine's Dock, one on Mar 7th. Victoria Park, max 17 on Feb 8th.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Records came from 140 sites, up from 135 in 2010 and 2009. The highest count was 1,115 at Horton GP on January 2nd during a cold snap, a little higher than last year's peak count at Brent Res. A leucistic bird was at KGV Res on September 13th and a partial albino at Millers Pond on July 19th. A migrant was heard flying over South Norwood at night on an unspecified date in April.

Breeding was reported from 80 sites, up from 67 in 2010 and 56 in 2009. In addition, birds were recorded during the breeding season at a further 27 sites. The true breeding population is likely to be higher than these totals would suggest. In England, although there has been a long-term increase of 30% from 1994-2010, there has been a 13% decrease from 2010 to 2011 (BTO website, BBS data). All breeding records with ten or more pairs, and all Inner London breeding records, are given below (nests/pairs in brackets), as well as peak counts of 200 or more (100 or more in Inner London).

Essex: Connaught Water (14). Harrow Lodge Park (10+). Holyfield Lake, 938 on Dec 22nd. KGV Res, 226 on Aug 1st.

Herts: Aldenham CP, 305 on Oct 16th. Amwell NR (24); 691 on Dec 17th. Bowyer's Water, 394 on Jan 15th. Cheshunt GPs (74). Hilfield Park Res, 309 on Dec 18th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome (19); 284 on Jan 16th. Rye Meads (62); 582 on Sep 16th. Stanstead Abbots GP (16). Stocker's Lake, 350 on Jan 15th. Troy Mill Lake, 512 on Jan 21st. Tyttenhanger GP (12); 214 on Sep 2nd.

Middx: Alexandra Park (16). Bedfont Lakes CP, 286 on Jan 12th. Brent Res, 820 on Nov 21st. Hampstead Heath (14). Horsenden Hill (11). KGV Res, 207 on Sep 18th. Limehouse Cut (20). Q. Mary Res, 215 on Nov 12th. Ruislip Lido, 230 on Jul 7th. Staines Res, 590 on Aug 14th.

Bucks: Horton GP, 1,115 on Jan 2nd. Wraysbury GP, 470 on Jan 2nd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (35). Island Barn Res, 207 on Nov 1st. London Wetland Centre (24); 334 on Aug 31st. R Wandle, Butter Hill-Morden Hall Park (24). Richmond Park (17). Waddon Ponds (16). Walton Res (13); 369 on Aug 28th.

In Lond: Battersea Park (24). Hermitage Basin (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 158 on Nov 25th. Limehouse Basin (1). Regent's Canal (6). Shadwell Basin (3). St James's Park (1). Victoria Park (1); 125 on Feb 8th.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

Status: very rare vagrant.

Another good year for this London rarity with two records, following three records in 2010, bringing the London total to 15. As the table below shows, four of the previous 13 records have been in May and two in April, so these records are on typical dates.

Common Crane dates 1924-2010

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	1	0	0	2	4	2	1	0	1	1	0	1

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, two on Apr 16th (DSg). Reigate, one on Apr 6th (CH).

Crane sp

Herts: Cassiobury Park, one on Apr 8th flew in high from the east and headed off SW at 13:00 (IB).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

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

It was another very typical year for this species with the vast majority of records falling between February 12th and August 31st. There were just nine other records, four in September, two in October, one in November, and two in December. Records were fairly evenly distributed across the London Area, with many reservoirs and gravel pits visited as well as sites adjacent to the Thames, and a few additional reports involved fly-overs, and birds on farmland. As usual there was a clear bias towards the Thames to the east of London, with all records of more than five together coming from there. There were, however, no breeding reports received from sites along the Thames this year, with the four confirmed and one possible breeding attempts coming from the Hertfordshire and Middlesex sectors. Records are summarised below, with confirmed breeding pairs in brackets.

Essex: Records came from nine sites on the Thames between Feb 12th and Aug 31st, and seven other sites between Feb 24th and Aug 11th, with five later seen at Rainham Marshes on Oct 2nd, two at West Thurrock Marshes on Dec 5th, and one at Creekmouth, Barking on Dec 14th. Peak counts included 14 at Barking Bay and 12 at Hornchurch Marshes in Feb, seven at Rainham Marshes in Jul, eight at West Thurrock Marshes on May 2nd, and four inland at Roding Valley Park on Jul 11th.

Herts: Thirteen sites had records between Feb 19th and Aug 14th. Amwell NR (1); peaks of three on Mar 25th, and up to five, including juvs, in Jul and Aug. Maple Cross, display seen on Jun 1st. Redwell Wood Farm (1). Rickmansworth, three over on Apr 15th. Rye Meads, three on Mar 25th. Tyttenhanger GP (1); peaks of five on three dates in Apr.

Middx: Ones and twos reported from eight sites between Mar 5th and Aug 23rd, with one at Q. Mary Res on Nov 8th. Broadwater Lake (1). East India Dock Basin, a peak of five on Apr 18th.

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Feb 20th, two on May 1st. Q. Mother Res, 1-2 on ten dates between Mar 22nd and Aug 23rd.

Kent: Seen at six sites on the Thames between Feb 12th and Oct 21st. Crayford Marshes, a peak of seven on Feb 20th, one on Oct 21st. Crossness, eight counts of over ten Feb 20th-Mar 31st with a peak of 17 on Mar 20th; regular counts of 5+ at other times, up to four until Sep 16th. Dartford Marshes, a peak of three on Jul 14th.

Surrey: Up to two at five sites between Feb 19th and Aug 17th.

In Lond: Bankside, two flew upriver at 06:53 on May 18th before returning two minutes later; one upriver at 13:30 on Aug 4th.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Status: scarce visitor in all months of the year; occasional breeder.

Avocets continue to do well in the Thames estuary just outside the London Area, with over a hundred pairs now breeding, and counts of 1,000 or more. In 2010 this included 1,000 at East Tilbury, Essex and 1,050 at Cliffe Pools, Kent. It is not therefore surprising that a count of 80 at the QE II Bridge in February was a new London Area record, and that there were 53 at West Thurrock Marshes on February 1st. No other count exceeded 14, and there were no breeding records this year. Most reports came from sites on the Thames, but there was also a clear spring passage, with inland records between March 5th and 8th, and March 26th and April 2nd, two at Beddington Farmlands on May 25th, and a single inland record at Wraysbury Res on July 31st.

Essex: Barking Bay, in Feb a peak of 12 on 20th, one on Nov 9th. Fairlop Waters, one on Mar 26th. Grays Riverside, five on Feb 13th. QE II Bridge, 80 in Feb. Rainham Marshes, recorded in all months except Dec, with peaks of 16 on Feb 20th and 14 on Aug 23rd-24th. West Thurrock Marshes, 53 on Feb 1st.

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, eight on Mar 7th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Mar 30th. KGVI Res, one on Apr 2nd, seen earlier at Staines Res. Staines Res, one on Apr 2nd. Wraysbury Res, one on Jul 31st.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two on Mar 5th.

London has nationally significant counts of Moorhen. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



Kent: Crayford Marshes, recorded most months, with peaks of 11 on Feb 20th and 14 on Aug 23rd-24th. Crossness, two on Feb 21st and on Jun 2nd, and singles on Nov 9th & 14th, and Dec 8th. Dartford Marshes, two on Jan 11th, three on Feb 9th, two on Oct 16th, six on Nov 21st and seven on 23rd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, two on May 25th. Holmethorpe SP, two on Mar 29th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 17th and Apr 19th. QE II Res, two on Mar 8th.

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Three reports this year is more than last year, but as the table below shows, they are not recorded annually. They do seem to be increasing in frequency, as there were three records in the 1980s, five in the 1990s and 13 in the 2000s. This coincides with an increase in UK breeding numbers since 1985 (RSPB website). An indication of how easily the species may be overlooked came from the Wanstead Flats record, with the bird disappearing after being seen early in the morning on April 5th, but then reappearing the next morning. The KGVI Res bird was only the third November record, on the same date as at Dartford Marshes in 2010. In addition, one record for 2010 is added below.

Stone Curlew records 2000-2010

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of records	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	4	4	0	3*

* including the record below.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Mar 27th (DMn). Wanstead Flats, one on Apr 5th-6th (NC, JL).

Middx: KGVI Res, one on Nov 6th (KLP *et al*).

London has high numbers of Coot. Over 1,100 were registered at Horton GP in January - imagine counting them! (Jonathan Lethbridge)



2010 Addition

Surrey: Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, one flushed from a heather patch on Apr 2nd, which flew off SE (APo).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of the spring were at the London Wetland Centre and Wraysbury Res on March 9th, a very typical arrival date. A more widespread arrival followed very quickly with records from new sites on an almost daily basis over the next couple of weeks. The numbers passing through on spring passage tend to be confused by the presence of breeding pairs, which means that it can be very difficult to judge numbers, but there were highs of eight at Crayford Marshes on April 4th-5th, 14 at Dartford Marshes on April 5th, and nine at Sevenoaks WR on April 17th. Counts from Sevenoaks WR of up to ten in May, and up to 15 in June are probably best treated as referring to local breeders. The number of breeding and summering pairs in each sector is summarised in the table below:

Little Ringed Plover

	Pairs confirmed breeding	Pairs probably breeding	Other pairs present	Total
Essex	0	1	2	3
Herts	3	5	4	12
Middx	4	2	3	9
Bucks	1	0	0	1
Kent	0	1	7	8
Surrey	3	0	1	4
Total	11	9	17	37

Autumn passage was light with the maximum count being six at Wraysbury Res on July 23rd. Few reports were received after the end of July, the last being one at Staines Res on September 3rd.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

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

At the beginning of the year there were reasonable numbers present on the Lower Thames in January and February, principally at three sites, with peak counts of 14 at Crayford Marshes and 31 at Rainham Marshes in January, and 15 at Dartford Marshes in February. Away from the Lower Thames, the only records were from Tyttenhanger GP, where there were two on February 8th and one on 26th.

Spring passage was from late February or early March until early June, with records from 29 different sites, two thirds of these away from the Thames. Passage was relatively light though, with the only counts of ten or more coming from Rainham Marshes with a peak of 12 on March 10th, and Crossness, where there were 16 on May 7th, and the only report of more than three away from the Thames being five at Q. Mother Res. on May 7th; also one showing characters of the *tundrae* race at Horton GP on May 24th.

Although Ringed Plovers were present during the breeding season at five Thames-side sites, and two sites in Herts, there was no confirmed breeding this year, although a pair at Hatfield Garden Village were seen acting as if they had a nest or young near by, and one at Swanscombe Marshes appeared to be on a nest on April 23rd.

Higher numbers passed through during the autumn than in the spring. The highest counts were 17 at Beddington Farmlands on July 27th, 36 at Rainham Marshes on August 27th, 29 at Crayford Marshes on August 30th, seven at Wraysbury Res on September 19th, 21 at Greenhithe on September 29th, and six at Q. Mother Res on October 6th.

During the remainder of the year most records again came from the Lower Thames, including an unusually high count of 106 at Rainham Marshes on November 6th. No other count from October to December exceeded the 29 at Rainham Marshes on October 8th, and the only record away from the Thames was a single at Q. Mother Res on November 13th.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

The Herts and Essex sectors continue to produce the bulk of records of this species, with reports from elsewhere erratic and mostly involving overhead migrants. The only exception was Crayford Marshes where small numbers were regular during both winter periods, peaking at 48 on two dates in December.

The last report of the spring was 37 at Amwell NR on April 14th, and the first returning individual at Rainham Marshes on August 1st. Flocks seen from Regent's Park, Rainham Marshes, and Crayford Marshes on August 25th-26th were unseasonally large, with no other autumn records of more than three together before October 16th when 30 circled Coopers Green GP.

Essex: Bonnett's Wood, 30 on Jan 7th. Fairlop Waters, 55 on Nov 13th. Ingrebourne Valley, monthly maxima of 54 on Mar 17th and 45 on Apr 3rd. Rainham Marshes, monthly maxima of 119 on Jan 16th, 164 on Mar 5th, 410 on Aug 26th, 71 on Oct 30th, 622 on Nov 21st and 200 on Dec 29th. But it is worth noting that there was only one other Aug record, and the next highest count in Nov was 200.

Herts: Amwell NR, peak of 200 on Apr 1st. Coursers Farm, 100 over on Dec 11th. Hatfield Garden Village, a peak of 350 on Dec 11th. Hatfield Park, 125 on Jan 15th. Mill End, 150 on Nov 18th. Radlett Aero GP, 120 on Apr 2nd. Rye Meads, 100 on Apr 2nd. St Albans, 400 on Mar 6th. Theobalds Park, 102 on Jan 29th. Tyttenhanger GP, a high of 100 on Mar 6th. Woodoaks Farm, 200 on Dec 11th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one over on Nov 22nd was only the third record for the site. Q. Mary Res, one E on Nov 12th. Staines Moor, one W on Nov 8th. Vicarage Farm, nine on Feb 20th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, up to eight on the foreshore Jan 3rd-Mar 14th, but with 31 SE on Mar 13th; 140 over the Thames on Aug 26th, up to 48 on the foreshore Nov 10th-Dec 31st, and 72 over on Dec 8th. Crossness, one on Nov 12th. Dartford Marshes, three on Feb 23rd & 28th, five on Dec 14th.



There was no confirmed breeding of Ringed Plover this year in London. (Dave Harris)

Surrey: Canons Farm, four on Mar 4th, singles on Mar 13th and Nov 16th, two on Dec 29th; all overhead apart from the Mar 13th sighting. London Wetland Centre, four W on Jan 5th, one E on Feb 22nd, singles NW on Nov 8th & 11th. Walton Res, one on Mar 13th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, 25 on Aug 25th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

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

Wintering Grey Plovers were regularly seen at sites on the Lower Thames from January until April 5th, and again from October 8th until the end of the year. There were between 12 and 23 at three sites during January, and 43 at Rainham Marshes on November 9th. There were also five records away from the Thames during these periods, all involving single birds seen on just one day.

Spring passage between April 29th and June 3rd probably involved at least 30 individuals at 13 sites, mostly on the Lower Thames and West London Reservoirs. In contrast the only autumn records before October were from Staines Res, where there were two on July 18th and one on September 28th.

Essex: Barking Bay/Creekmouth, up to five in Jan, one on Mar 17th, eight on Apr 30th, 2-3 on May 1st-3rd. KGV Res, one on Feb 23rd. Rainham Marshes, recorded all months except Jul-Sep; highs of 12 on Jan 2nd, five on May 7th, and 43 on Nov 9th. West Thurrock Marshes, nine on Feb 1st and three on May 2nd.

Herts: Rye Meads, one on Nov 22nd.

Middx: Staines Res, one on Feb 22nd, two on May 1st and on Jul 18th, singles on Sep 28th and Dec 10th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two on Apr 29th and May 1st, one on May 7th.

Kent: Belvedere, one on R Thames Apr 30th. Crayford Marshes, records in all months except Apr and Jul-Sep, with monthly maxima of 18 on Jan 3rd, four on Oct 25th, and eight on Dec 7th. Crossness, records on nine dates from Jan 1st-Mar 6th with 23 on Jan 1st; eight on Apr 30th, one on Oct 14th and up to five in Dec. Dartford Marshes, 1-2 in Feb, one on Nov 23rd. Sevenoaks WR, two on May 4th. Swanscombe Marshes, six on Jan 1st.

Surrey: Canons Farm, one over on Nov 18th. London Wetland Centre, one on May 8th, three on Oct 15th. QE II Res, a winter-plumaged bird on May 6th, with one in summer plumage on 7th. Walton Res, one on May 4th.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

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

As has been standard in recent years, the majority of the larger wintering flocks were found towards the north and east. About 81 confirmed pairs, or occupied breeding territories, were reported, although as usual this is an underestimate of the actual numbers present because the breeding data received from many areas was limited.

Winter movements were reported from a few sites, but there were no wide-scale movements reported. The number of breeding pairs or territories reported in each sector is given, along with peak counts.

Essex: Nine pairs/territories. Belhus Woods CP, 200 on Dec 3rd. Fairlop Waters, peak of 400 on Feb 6th. Rainham Marshes, peaks of 3,500 on Jan 16th and 1,800 on Dec 6th. West Thurrock Marshes, 162 on Dec 5th.

Herts: 24+ pairs/territories. Amwell NR, peaks of 276 on Jan 21st and 300 on Nov 27th. Panshanger Park, 150 on Sep 18th. Rye Meads, peak of 250 on Dec 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP, peaks of 495 on Feb 23rd and 300 on Dec 17th.

Middx: 12 pairs/territories. Hampton FB, 144 on Dec 24th. Kempton NR, 125 on Feb 8th. Staines Res, 100 on Feb 8th, 126 on Dec 29th. Stanwell Moor, 145 on Dec 29th.

Kent: Two pairs/territories. Crayford Marshes, peaks of 500 on Jan 27th, and 1,200 on Dec 20th. Crossness, peaks of 200 on Feb 4th and 261 on Dec 18th. Dartford Marshes, peaks of 700 on Jan 27th and 300 on Dec 14th. Sevenoaks WR, peaks of 275 on Jan 9th and 360 on Dec 21st.

Surrey: 34 pairs/territories. Holmethorpe SP, peaks of 300 on Jan 5th, and 658 on Nov 30th. Trevereux area, not recorded for the first time in 27 years. Walton Res, peaks of 373 on Jan 22nd and 295 on Nov 24th.

In Lond: Paddington Green, two flew east at 11:53 on Jan 22nd.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

Passage was relatively light, with somewhere in the region of 20 individuals passing through during both the spring and autumn. Spring records all fell between March 3rd and May 5th, and included the only flock of more than four - eleven over the London Wetland Centre. Autumn passage, with no more than two birds seen together, occurred over a longer period from August 10th until November 12th and there was a single winter record at Barking Bay in December. All records are given below.

Essex: Barking Bay, singles on Sep 24th and Dec 22nd. Holyfield Lake, one on Sep 15th. Rainham Marshes, one most days from Mar 3rd-8th, two on Apr 5th, four on May 3rd with two on 4th, one on Aug 16th, two on 26th & 31st, and singles on Oct 25th and Nov 12th. Walthamstow Res, one on Nov 6th.

Herts: Amwell NR, a juv from Oct 10th-13th.

Middx: Staines Res, an adult on May 4th and a 1st-winter on Oct 2nd. Wraysbury Res, an adult on Aug 10th and a juv on 17th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two juvs from Aug 15th-19th with one remaining until 20th. One on Nov 5th flew in from the E and departed NE at 08:36.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on Mar 7th, May 5th and Oct 25th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, 11 E at 07:30 on May 2nd. QE II Res, the juv from Walton Res from Sep 14th-15th. Walton Res, a juv on Sep 13th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

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

Sanderlings usually pass through the London Area fairly late in spring, and in larger numbers in spring than during the autumn, and this year was no exception. Even with allowances made for duplication between sites it is likely that at least 110 individuals were seen between May 3rd and June 8th, often in small flocks. This should be treated as a conservative estimate because some sites reported that individuals quickly moved through but were replaced later in the day, or the next day, by new birds in different stages of moult. In other cases, records on consecutive days have been treated as if they refer to the same lingering individuals. In contrast, the much lighter return passage, from July 18th to November 4th, involved only 25 individuals (if all records are treated as separate), with only one report of more than two together.

Most were seen on the Thames foreshore or larger reservoirs, with just a few reports from gravel pits. None were seen during the winter periods.

Essex: Grays Riverside, two on Aug 14th. Rainham Marshes, up to six on four dates in May, singles on Jul 23rd, Aug 24th, and Oct 25th, with five on Aug 9th.

Middx: KGV I Res, up to eight between May 20th and Jun 1st. Q. Mary Res, one on May 15th. Ruislip Lido, one on May 10th. Staines Res, one on May 7th, three on May 11th. Wraysbury Res, two on Aug 9th.

Bucks: Horton GP, singles on May 7th & 31st, eight on May 30th. Q. Mother Res, several records from May 7th-31st with peaks of 11 on 29th and 12 on 30th, then singles on five dates between Jul 18th and Nov 4th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, up to five on three dates in May, singles on Jun 8th, Jul 23rd, Aug 30th and Oct 25th, with two on Aug 9th. Crossness, recorded on five dates between May 11th and 30th with highs of seven on 18th and four on 28th.

Surrey: QE II Res, recorded on seven dates May 9th-31st with a maximum of seven on 24th; singles on Aug 3rd, 27th & 28th-29th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

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

Another average year with two records of four birds in early May, and six records of four

to six birds during the autumn. Apart from one at Rainham Marshes from October 28th until November 2nd, all were seen on just a single day. The records at Crayford and Dartford Marshes on October 28th may well be the same individual, which later found its way to Rainham Marshes.

Essex: Barking Bay, two on May 1st. Rainham Marshes, two on May 6th, one from Oct 28th-Nov 2nd, one on Nov 23rd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, a juv on Sep 26th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, a juv on Oct 28th. Dartford Marshes, one on Oct 28th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Sep 8th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Status: rare passage migrant, predominantly occurring during May.

Two short-staying singles in May and June made for a very average showing of this less than annual species. Early May is a very typical time for migrant Temminck's Stints, but mid-June is a more unusual date and could have been either a late north-bound bird, or an early returning migrant. As both records occurred at the same site, it may be that the same individual could have been involved on both dates.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, singles on May 10th (DJe *et al*) and Jun 15th (DMcG, RS).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Status: rare passage migrant, mostly during September.

A juvenile during September, while rare in the London Area, is not completely unexpected; a December record, on the other hand, is extremely unusual anywhere in the British Isles. However this is not the first time for London, as one was seen at Harefield Moor on December 29th 1964 (later found dead on January 2nd 1965). The vast majority of London records have been during August to October, the exceptions being these two December records, plus one in May, one in June, four in July, and one in November.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Dec 7th-8th (PMt, VMt, DMn).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, a juv from Sep 18th-20th (JPA).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Two or three individuals in late April and early May, and about 12-15 during the autumn was more than in any year since 2005 when the number recorded was very similar if not slightly higher. Details are in the table below. The majority of this year's records came from the Lower Thames, with the birds often reported as feeding on the foreshore, and it seems likely that there was movement between sites.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Apr 30th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Jul 22nd, Sep 2nd, 4th-8th, 26th & 29th, and two on Oct 2nd.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on May 4th and Jul 22nd, then from Sep 2nd-9th, with three on 21st, followed by singles on 24th-25th & 30th, and from Oct 4th-6th.

Crossness, singles on Apr 30th and Sep 17th. Dartford Marshes, one on Jul 25th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, a juv on Sep 9th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Status: very scarce late autumn and winter visitor.

One in early November was the first since 2006 when there were two records. In the five years before this there had been at least one record every year, including previous records at Q. Mother Res on September 24th 2001 and September 20th 2002.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one found at 08:55 on Nov 8th was present until late morning but not seen later after an attempted attack by a Peregrine Falcon (CDRH).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Wintering flocks continue to be found along the Lower Thames, although numbers can be very variable with the flocks presumably regularly feeding outside our area. Numbers drop sharply during the first half of March, and don't build up again until the end of October. Counts were lower than last year with none exceeding 1,200. In 2010, there were three counts of over 2,000, including 3,000 at West Thurrock Marshes on December 10th.

As there are irregular reports from localities across the area, including inland sites, during all months of the year, it can be very difficult to separate spring and autumn passage migrants from displaced wintering birds which may have found their way inland following poor weather or for other reasons. This year the main spring movement seems to have been between February 22nd and June 9th, with autumn passage from July 11th until perhaps as late as the end of November. As usual, records were more widely distributed during the peaks of spring and autumn passage than during the winter, as indicated by the table below which gives a rough idea of comparative numbers by totalling up the maximum monthly counts from each site.

Dunlin counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Thameside	2406	2410	756	13	10	3	77	24	55	637	3168	2447
Elsewhere	4	17	16	33	42	1	37	38	33	14	13	1
Total	2410	2427	772	46	52	4	114	62	88	651	3181	2448

No. of sites	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Thameside	5	7	7	5	4	1	5	5	3	4	7	6
Elsewhere	4	4	7	11	10	2	12	8	8	8	7	3

Essex: Barking Bay, peaks of 500 on Jan 29th and 400 on Dec 22nd. Rainham Marshes, peaks of 800 on Jan 2nd and 1,063 on Nov 28th. QE II Bridge, 400 in Feb. Smaller numbers were reported from four other sites on the Thames and ones and twos from four inland localities.

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, nine on Feb 22nd & 23rd; up to three on many dates from Mar 5th-Jul 30th, up to two in Nov. Single birds reported at four other sites on various dates.

Middx: Staines Res, 15 on Apr 23rd; ten on May 30th, Jul 30th, and Sep 2nd; up to eight on various other dates. Wraysbury Res, 21 on Aug 15th; up to eight on three other dates. Five additional sites produced records of up to two together.

Bucks: Horton GP, one to two on five dates in May. Q. Mother Res, passage from Mar 19th-May 31st and Jul 12th-Nov 25th with peaks of seven on May 30th and 16 on Sep 17th; one on Dec 19th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, peaks of 700 in Jan and Feb, then 1,000 in Nov. Crossness, peaks of 500 in Feb and 1,200 on Dec 22nd. Dartford Marshes, a peak of 80 on Nov 23rd. Sevenoaks WR, singles on Apr 1st and Nov 12th were the only reports from the sector that were away from the Thames.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, peak of six on Aug 23rd. QE II Res, up to eight on five dates. Walton Res, peak of eight on May 14th. One or two at Beddington Farmlands and Holmethorpe SP on several dates.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Status: regular passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Up to three could be found at sites along the Lower Thames at either end of the year. Passage migrants were recorded across the London Area between April 19th and May 3rd, and from July 30th to October 12th. All records are given or summarised.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Apr 30th. Cornmill Meadows, one on Sep 2nd-3rd. Holyfield Lake, three on Aug 27th-29th. Rainham Marshes, one-two regularly from Jan 5th-Mar 26th, with three on Feb 6th; singles on Aug 23rd & 29th, and one-two on six dates between Oct 25th-Dec 7th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Oct 12th. Hilfield Park Res, four W at 09:30 on Aug 28th. Potters Bar, eight low W at 17:10 on Sep 11th. Rye Meads, a juv from Aug 25th-Sep 7th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 19th and three on 30th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Aug 24th. KGVI Res, three NW on Aug 31st. Staines Res, singles on Aug 9th, 24th & 27th and Sep 11th. Wraysbury Res, one on Aug 10th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on eight dates between Jan 1st and Mar 14th and on Sep 27th. Crossness, singles on Feb 9th & 11th and on Apr 30th. Dartford Marshes, singles on Jan 1st and Feb 14th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Sep 17th & 19th. London Wetland Centre, four on Apr 30th and on May 1st, five on 2nd and two on 3rd, then ten on Aug 25th, two on 28th and three on Sep 2nd. QE II Res, one on Jul 30th. Walton Res, one on Oct 2nd.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

2011 was a poor year for Jack Snipe in London, with low numbers at the start of the year, and even lower numbers during the second winter period.

Jack Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Combined monthly												
maxima	13	8	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	7

Reports came from just 19 different sites, with most being those that regularly have at least one or two winter records. The last of the spring was on April 2nd at Rye Meads, and the first to return was at Rainham Marshes on October 2nd. All records are given or

summarised below, with the numbers in brackets indicating the maxima at either end of the year for the sites with more than two records.

Essex: Abbey Mills, one on Jan 2nd. Barking Bay, singles on Feb 20th and Mar 17th. Fairlop Waters, singles on Jan 23rd and Mar 25th. Rainham Marshes (1:2). Woodlands Road Rough, one on Feb 14th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Oct 18th. Rye Meads, (1:0). Stanborough Reedmarsh, one on Jan 2nd-3rd. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Mar 11th.

Middx: Brent Res (1:2). Hounslow, one on Jan 25th. Yeading Brook Meadows, one on Feb 11th.

Bucks: Horton GP (2:2).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Jan 22nd. Crossness, one on Jan 2nd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Feb 24th and Mar 12th. Holmethorpe SP, (3:0). London Wetland Centre (2:2). Walton Res, singles on Feb 27th and Dec 6th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

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

There were fewer Snipe present in January compared to last year; the highest count was 55 at Sevenoaks WR on 5th. Counts of at least 30 were made at six other sites: 43 at Abbey Mills on 2nd; 42 at Rainham Marshes on 19th; 40 at Crossness on 5th; 35 at Beddington Farmlands on 15th; and 30 at both Holmethorpe SP on 1st and Yeading Brook Meadows on 22nd. Numbers declined across London during February with no counts reaching 30.

Passage birds were in evidence in March with peaks of 47 at Rainham Marshes on 17th and 44 at Rye Meads on 12th. The last one of spring was at Walton Res on May 20th-21st. The only summer sightings were at Rye Meads on June 7th-8th and London Wetland Centre on June 15th.

The first autumn migrant was also at the latter site on July 12th and another early returner was at Rainham Marshes on July 22nd; the only other sites to host Snipe during August were Amwell NR, Beddington Farmlands and Tyttenhanger GP. They were more widespread in September and October but numbers remained low; the maximum count was 15 at both Rainham Marshes and London Wetland Centre.

In the second winter period numbers were again lower than in 2010 with a peak of just 34 at London Wetland Centre on December 20th.

Inner London records are given below.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Jan 13th. Regent's Park, one on Sep 16th.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

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

Woodcock were much scarcer in January compared to last year with records received from just 35 sites (73 in 2010); the maximum count was seven at Well Wood on January 22nd. There were fewer in February with counts from just 27 locations including a coordinated watch at Sidmouth Wood in Richmond Park where eight flew out at dusk on February 16th. Fewer migrants were also noted on the spring passage compared to last year with the last one being seen on April 3rd in Banstead Wood.

Autumn migrants started to appear from October 21st and sightings became more widespread in November with records from 23 sites. The only location with more than two birds in the second winter period was Hounslow Heath where eight were seen on December 22nd.

Records in the breeding season are listed below, followed by all Inner London records.

Essex: Deershelter Plain, two in May. Great Monk Wood, one on Apr 16th. Long Running, two in May and June.

Herts: Broxbourne Woods, one roding in June.

Middx: Ruislip Woods, two roding in May/June.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one found dead on Oct 25th. Regent's Park: three on Jan 11th; singles on Mar 14th and Oct 24th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

Up to 200 were present on the Lower Thames Marshes between Barking and Swanscombe Marshes during January and February. This is the second successive year that the peak count has fallen. Away from the Lower Thames, in February there were singles at London Wetland Centre on 17th, at Kempton NR on 22nd and five east at London Wetland Centre on 24th. After the middle of February no more than a dozen were seen until March 13th when 20 were at Crossness. None were seen elsewhere until March 30th when three flew over London Wetland Centre.

During spring they were slightly more widespread with one at several sites in the Lee Valley on April 2nd; two at Walton Res from April 9th-11th; one at Tyttenhanger GP on April 22nd; three at Amwell NR on April 24th; one at Holyfield Lake on May 8th; as well as several records from Rainham Marshes. Unusually there were two June records: one at Rye Meads on 25th and three at London Wetland Centre on 29th.

There was a flurry of records in July with sightings from 13 locations across London including 44 at Rainham Marshes on 9th and 25 at London Wetland Centre on 12th. They were slightly more widespread in August but the numbers were low apart from a flock of c150 that flew W over Cassiobury Park at 09:00 on 26th. This was the largest flock in London this year away from the Lower Thames and the largest ever seen in Herts. During September there was a gradual build-up on the Lower Thames with a peak of 27 at Crayford Marshes on 30th; elsewhere there were two at London Wetland Centre on 4th, two at Tyttenhanger GP on 5th and one at Wraysbury Res on 6th.

In the last three months of the year, all sightings were along the Thames, mostly in the east, with just three records from London Wetland Centre in November. Numbers increased on the Lower Thames with peak monthly counts at Rainham Marshes of 323 on October 30th, c550 on November 27th and 560 on December 14th, the last being a new London high. These last two counts are internationally significant, as the WeBS level is 470 (*WeBS 2010/11*).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

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

There was only one in the first three months of the year: at Crossness on January 10th. Two were seen at both Rainham Marshes and Staines Res on April 5th but the main spring

passage didn't start until late April. However the passage was exceptional, exceeding the recent peaks of 2002 and 2007 and may be the highest ever recorded. After a single bird at Rainham Marshes on April 27th, there were 21 across London the following day. A total of 177 were counted on April 29th although there may have been some duplication on the Lower Thames sites; the highest count was 45 at Rainham Marshes. Away from the Lower Thames there were 15 at London Wetland Centre, 14 at Q. Mother Res, nine at Wormwood Scrubs, five at both Amwell NR and Walton Res, four at Brent Res, two at KGV Res and one at Tyttenhanger GP. Another 109 were seen on the last day of the month with 44 at Rainham Marshes being the highest count.

Passage intensified on May 1st with a maximum of 191, most of which were seen flying over in the evening, particularly at the west London reservoirs where a flock of about 33 was seen over Q. Mother Res and also from Staines Res where further flocks of 17 and 30 flew over; there were also 75 at Rainham Marshes. Migrants continued to be seen flying over during the next few days with 43 recorded at London Wetland Centre on May 2nd and the last one of spring was at Crossness on May 7th. A combined maximum total of 612 were counted in spring compared to just 51 last year. This was part of a general movement on the south coast. For example, at Dungeness, over 18,000 birds passed through from April 27th-May 3rd, including a record breaking 7,317 on April 28th.

Autumn was significantly quieter with about 28 seen between August 14th and September 18th; the only flock was 22 over Newgate Street on the first date. Just one was seen in the second winter period, at Crayford Marshes on November 14th.

Bar-tailed Godwit spring passage 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of birds	88	14	370*	101	146	18	139	419*	19	39	51	612

Bar-tailed Godwit autumn passage 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of birds	0	1	32	7	116	8	8	74*	5	2	22	28

* Highest of possible range given.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Status: regular passage migrant.

Unusually one was seen in winter, at Rainham Marshes on February 22nd. The first spring migrants were two at Rainham Marshes on April 5th but no more were recorded until one at Crossness on the 16th. After this they were seen daily until May 11th followed by a few on 13th and 15th. Although less than last year's mammoth total of 407, this year was still well above average with around 222 birds seen. The largest flock was 22 over Regent's Park at 07:20 on April 30th; this was also on the best day of spring when a total of 69 were recorded from ten locations including 13 at Tyttenhanger GP, 12 at Rainham Marshes and ten at London Wetland Centre.

Autumn migrants were recorded between July 8th and September 17th; it is much harder to calculate a total as some birds spent a few days feeding at various sites along the Lower Thames. Up until the middle of August the largest count was six at Rainham Marshes but there was an obvious passage along the Thames on August 26th with 22 past

Crossness and 32 past Rainham Marshes, most probably involving some duplication. Away from the river there were autumn records from Brunel University, Horton, London Wetland Centre, QE II Res, Q. Mother Res, Roding Valley Park, Rye Meads, Sevenoaks WR, Staines Res, Walthamstow Res and William Girling Res.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

Monthly peaks along the Lower Thames Marshes during January and February were 14 on January 22nd and 25 on February 5th, both at Rainham Marshes. There were more records away from the Thames than in 2010 with two at Q. Mary Res on January 1st; four at Hilfield Park Res on 2nd-3rd; and singles at Walthamstow Res on 3rd and 28th, Roding Valley Meadows NR on 6th, London Wetland Centre on February 17th, Canons Farm and also North Mymms Park on 20th, KGV Res on 23rd, QE II Res and Staines Res on 24th, Walton Res on 25th and Holmethorpe SP on 28th.

Some of the latter records were probably early spring migrants and a few more were seen during March with overland birds at Brent Res on 5th, Q. Mother Res on 8th and 25th, Sevenoaks WR on 19th and two at Amwell NR on 27th. Numbers peaked on the Thames with 35 at Rainham Marshes on 21st. Fewer were seen during the rest of spring with the maximum being ten at Rainham Marshes on April 10th although a flock of eight flying along the Thames past London Wetland Centre on May 3rd was particularly notable.

In the first half of June, the only records were on 13th, with ten SW over Ridlands and one over Crayford Marshes. But they gradually became more widespread as autumn proper began, although numbers remained in single figures until October 16th when 12 were at West Thurrock Marshes. Most records in the second winter period were again from the Lower Thames with a peak of 21 at Rainham Marshes on December 30th. Away from the Lower Thames, one at Cole Green Tip on December 2nd was one of the few Herts records for the year.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

Recorded from 12 sites during the first winter period compared to 18 last year; the highest count was three at Bow Creek in February. The only ones away from the Thames were at Rye Meads on January 2nd, Staines Res on 4th and Wanstead Flats on March 16th.



Common Sandpiper is always a welcome patch list addition in spring. This bird was on Wanstead Flats in May. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Spring migrants began to arrive during the first week of April but numbers remained very low until May 1st when 56 were recorded including 13 at Q. Mother Res and 12 at QE II Res; these were the highest counts all spring. The highest Herts count for the year was in this time, seven at Hilfield Park Res on May 8th.

There was a three-week break in sightings after May 30th and the first autumn migrant appeared on June 20th. The largest counts in July were 19 at Crayford Marshes on 14th and 21 at Barking Bay on 23rd. The peak passage occurred in early August with 25 at KGV Res on 1st and c20 at Walthamstow Res on 6th. Other high counts included 19 at Barking Bay on 12th and 16th, and 16 at William Girling Res on 27th; there were no double figures counts after August.

During the last two months of the year the peak count was three at both Bow Creek and Creekmouth, Barking; there were records away from the Thames at Q. Mary Res, Staines Res, Tyttenhanger GP and Wimbledon Common. Inner London records are listed below (singles unless stated).

In Lond: Bankside, Aug 25th. Battersea PS, three on Apr 22nd. Embankment, May 4th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, May 6th. Regent's Park, Apr 29th, May 1st and 3rd. Tower Bridge, Dec 2nd. Westminster Bridge, two on May 6th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

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

They were recorded at 45 sites during the first three months of the year, compared to 40 in 2010 and 45 in 2009. The peak counts were nine at Beddington Farmlands and seven at William Girling Res, both on February 12th. The spring passage commenced in late March but unlike last year overlapped with wintering birds so it was hard to tell when the long-staying birds departed. There was an obvious influx on April 9th with ten counted at Holmethorpe SP. Fewer were seen in May with a high count of three at Holmethorpe SP on 3rd. None were seen between May 16th and June 3rd.

One at Brent Res on June 4th-5th could have been a very early autumn migrant as birds were seen at various sites almost daily from then on; by June 27th there were eight in the Ingrebourne Valley. The peak passage was in July with 28 at Beddington Farmlands on 26th and 21 at William Girling Res, on 16th. Both these counts are above the WeBS levels of National significance which is 20 (*WeBS 2010/11*). Most migrants had passed through by the middle of September, leaving only over-wintering birds.

Monthly maxima for the main sites are listed below.

Green Sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
HR Rye Meads	3	4	3	2	1	2	10	12	7	6	5	4
SY Beddington Farmlands	8	9	6	3	-	3	28	18	10	7	9	4

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There was probably just one spring migrant, with one seen at various locations along the Lower Thames between April 29th and May 2nd. Only six were seen in autumn, one of which over-wintered on the Lower Thames. As the table below shows, this is a similar

pattern to most recent years, with most records in the autumn. But winter records are less than annual. All records are given below (singles unless stated).

Spotted Redshank 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of spring birds	2	2	14*	2	0	1	1	4	3	0	2	1
No. of autumn birds	8	8	11	8	5	8	4	5	4	3	7	6
No. of winter birds	0	1	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1

* Including a flock of 12 which was the largest ever.

Essex: Dagenham Riverside, on May 1st-2nd (JA, JKA). Rainham Marshes, on Apr 29th, May 1st, Aug 18th, Oct 20th to Dec 21st with two on Oct 29th (mo).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, on Sep 9th (CDRH).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, on Apr 29th, also seen at Dartford Marshes; on Dec 15th & 19th (KMJ).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, on Jul 12th (NPS, MW) and Sep 1st (RK, YS).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Status: common passage migrant, rare in winter.

There was a particularly strong passage in spring with about 155 recorded between the first at Tyttenhanger GP on March 12th and the last at Crossness on June 4th, compared to only 63 in 2010. The peak period was from the end of April to early May with 25 on May 1st being the peak day. The highest counts were nine at Tyttenhanger GP on April 30th and ten at Rainham Marshes on May 6th.

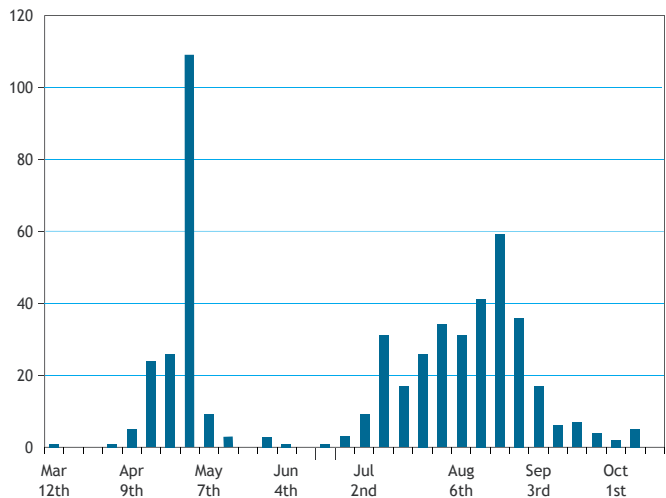
The first of autumn was at Tyttenhanger GP on June 20th. Few were seen until the second half of July with the monthly high being seven at Rainham Marshes on 29th. The same site held ten on August 3rd; then there were no further counts above five until 21st when seven were at Walthamstow Res. There were further high counts during the

Greenshank

Weekly passage counts

Key

■ Number recorded in week commencing





Greenshank. (Andrew Moon)

last third of August with eight at Beddington Farmlands on 23rd; seven at Crayford Marshes on 25th; eight at Crayford Marshes and nine at Rainham Marshes on 26th. On September 2nd there were six at both Crayford Marshes and over Hilfield Park Res; numbers tailed off after 8th with no more than two being seen at any site and the last autumn migrant being at Crossness on October 14th. The chart above shows the weekly passage details.

There was one winter record, at Island Barn Res from December 24th into 2012.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

For the second year running there was an above-average passage in spring with 19 birds seen. There were also more birds seen in spring than in autumn, quite unlike the previous pattern of passage (details in the table below). The first was at Crossness on April 12th, followed by singles at Wanstead Flats on 19th, at Rainham Marshes from 20th-23rd with four on the last day, at Crossness on 22nd, and Ingrebourne Valley on 25th. There were three at Dartford Marshes on 26th with two remaining until 29th, which were also seen at Crayford Marshes. Two more singles arrived on the Lower Thames Marshes, at Rainham Marshes on 29th and at Crossness on 30th.

One finally appeared in the western half of London on May 1st, at London Wetland Centre. There were two at Rush Green on 4th with one at Sevenoaks WR the same day. Yet another arrived at Rainham Marshes on 6th and the last spring migrant spent two days at Beddington Farmlands on 14th-15th.

Autumn migrants began appearing in late July with singles at Rainham Marshes on 24th, Amwell NR on 28th and a long-staying bird at Rye Meads from 28th until August 6th. Two more were at Rainham Marshes from 30th to August 2nd. One flew over Crayford Marshes on 3rd and another was at Rainham Marshes on 4th and 6th. After a three-day break in sightings there was a second passage with two at both Amwell NR and Beddington Farmlands on 10th followed by one at Rainham Marshes on 12th and the final two at Tyttenhanger GP on 15th making it 14 in autumn, about average for the last few years.

Wood Sandpiper 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of spring birds	6	5	2	5	6	2	0	5	8	6	18	19
No. of autumn birds	6	28	17	11	25	9	20	12	12	15	12	14

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

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

Although there were no counts from a single site exceeding 400 along the Thames there was probably in excess of a thousand over-wintering; the largest count was 785 from Purfleet to West Thurrock Marshes on February 1st. Peak monthly counts at the most-watched sites on the Lower Thames are listed below.

Common Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	110	400	253	10	6	3	8	2	21	170	100	69
KT Crayford Marshes	-	20	-	-	5	-	-	3	12	220	-	36
KT Crossness	130	-	110	90	-	-	4	3	120	402	-	199

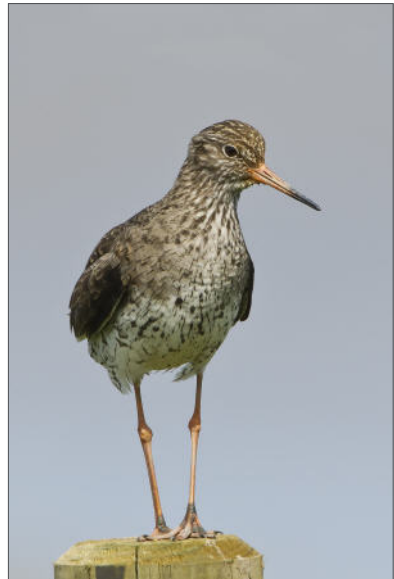
The largest count away from the Thames was 13 at Tyttenhanger GP on May 7th. Only seven or eight pairs were noted this year, representing yet another decline in the breeding population; all breeding records are listed below.

Herts: Amwell NR, one pair bred. Stanborough Lakes, one pair possibly bred. Tyttenhanger GP, 2-3 pairs probably bred.

Middx: Staines Moor, one pair bred.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, two pairs attempted to breed.

Redshank is unfortunately a declining breeder, but still winters in good numbers on the Thames. (Tony Coombs)



Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

The year began with five along the Lower Thames foreshore: three at Swanscombe Marshes and two at Crayford Marshes; a similar number were present until the end of February and a single bird was seen in mid-March. Spring migrants arrived on April 30th with two at both Barking Bay and Crossness. May was the peak month with 22 birds recorded up to the 28th. One at QE II Res on June 15th could have been a late spring migrant or an early autumn one.

The first genuine autumn migrant returned on July 19th at Q. Mother Res where it remained until 21st. This was followed by singles at Rainham Marshes and Wraysbury Res on 23rd and another at Q. Mother Res from 29th to August 1st. A few more were seen on the west London reservoirs during August while on the Thames there were groups of six at Rainham Marshes on 23rd and 13 flying west past Crayford Marshes and Rainham Marshes on 24th. Staines Res had a near monopoly of records during September with up to four on 11 days; elsewhere there was just one at Crayford Marshes on 28th. No more were seen until December with singles at Rainham Marshes on 11th, Creekmouth, Barking on 14th and Grays on 27th.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

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

There were three records this year, two in mid-September and one in November, all on the west London reservoirs. These are typical months for these to turn up; the table below shows the months birds have arrived since 1990. Since 2005, they have been recorded every year, making seven successive years, which is unusual.

Grey Phalarope arrival dates 1990-2011

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	1	0	1	7	5	8	4

Middx: Q. Mary Res, on Sep 14th (AVM *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, on Sep 12th-15th (CDRH *et al*).

Surrey: QE II Res, on Nov 23rd (DMH).

Skua *sp*

Essex: Lakeside Shopping Centre, one over on May 2nd was thought to be a possible Pomarine Skua (DGDL).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Status: regular but scarce autumn migrant; rare in other seasons.

An excellent year for this pelagic species with 12 seen (just singles in 2009 and 2010), including an impressive seven at Rainham Marshes. Most were during September and October, but with one in January (the first since 1987) and one in May. The table below shows the monthly distribution of records from 1990-2010.

Arctic Skua dates 1990-2010 70 records

Month	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	8	2	1	25	17	11	5	1

Essex: Rainham Marshes, singles on Jan 2nd, Oct 6th, Oct 11th-13th with four additional birds upriver on 13th, then one on 20th (MWi, BCh, HV, AT, PSt, DSm).

Middx: Staines Res, pale-phase SE on Oct 6th (KLP).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, pale-phase adult NE on May 31st (CDRH).

Kent: Belvedere, one on Oct 12th, seen also at Crayford and Rainham Marshes (IM, KMJ). Crayford Marshes, three dark-phase and one pale-phase W on Oct 13th, seen also at Rainham (KMJ). Crossness, three adults (two dark-phase and one pale-phase) S at 12:25 on Sep 16th (JKA). Sidcup, three adults SW on Sep 16th were the Crossness ones, having taken seven minutes to reach here (IS).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Status: rare autumn migrant.

There was just one record of this less-than-annual vagrant. It was only the 17th for London and the first since 2009. (Incorrect totals were printed in LBR 2007 and 2009.) This was also the first October occurrence since two at Barn Elms Res on October 8th 1985, which were the latest birds ever recorded.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, juv on Oct 7th W along R Thames (KMJ).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Status: regular but scarce migrant.

Two records make this the fifth successive year for this species. Recent records are summarised in the table below

Great Skua records 1990-2010

Year	1991	1994	1995	1996	1998	1999	2003	2004	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of records	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1
No. of birds	1	4	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1

Middx: Brent Res, one on Nov 9th briefly, before flying N at 11:28 (AGV). Staines Res, adult from 17:30 to 17:45 on Sep 26th, flew in from S in heavy rain, landed and then flew off W after the rain had stopped (REI).

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Status: rare autumn vagrant.

With two records, including a well-watched adult, this is the best year since 1997. Apart from 1987, when the Great Storm blew in a minimum of 64 birds, there have only been 17 records, all singles. All records are in the table below.



Two records this year made 2011 the best year for Sabine's Gull since 1997. This confiding adult was photographed on KGV Reservoir. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Sabine's Gull records

Year	1950	1975	1978	1987	1988	1989	1993	1994	1997	1998	1999	2000	2003	2007	2009
No. of records	2	1	1	?	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
No. of birds	2	1	1	64+*	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

* between 64 and 84 brought in by the hurricane.

Essex: KGV Res, adult from Sep 10th-13th, which then flew south at 09:30 (SH *et al*).
Rainham Marshes, juv on Oct 7th (AT, HV).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

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

A total of 34 birds were seen, up slightly on 32 in 2010. Most records were of single birds, though unsettled weather towards the year-end caused a minor influx, though paling into insignificance compared with the 1,100 on January 26th 1993. Monthly records are summarised in the table below.

The first winter period saw a handful of records; singles at Crayford Marshes on January 15th, Island Barn Res on February 20th, Crayford Marshes again on 28th and two at Rainham Marshes on the same day. Spring passage was lean with six records of eight birds; two over Blackheath on March 10th, two at Brent Res on April 23rd, and singles at Bankside (Inner London) on May 5th, Rainham Marshes and Wraybury GP both on June 12th and Rainham Marshes on 17th.

There were late summer records of singles at Wanstead Park on August 19th, Q. Mary Res on 20th, two at London Wetland Centre on 23rd and singles at Rainham Marshes on

30th & 31st. Autumn passage was poor, with just singles at Rainham Marshes on September 16th, QE II Res on October 13th and Q. Mother Res on November 4th and 11th. December proved to be the year's best month, and following an adult at Q. Mother Res on 14th, there were 12 at Grays Riverside on 24th, still four on 27th, six on 28th (when two were seen at Rainham Marshes) and again on 29th but just one on 31st.

Kittiwake monthly records 2011

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	1	3	2	2	1	3	0	4	1	1	2	13

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

Status: very rare vagrant.

1983 Alteration

The Rarities Committee has removed the Barn Elms record and asked the BBRC to review it. This was the only record in London.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

Breeding was recorded at nine sites, the same total as last year but breeding occurred for the first time at Walthamstow Res and Amwell NR. There were no breeding reports from Broadwater Lake or Walton Res this year. Breeding pairs were 230, well up on 158 last year, so their expansion continues.

Leucistic birds were recorded at Brent Res, Crossness, Hilfield Park Res, QE II Res, Q. Mother Res, Rainham Marshes and Tyttenhanger GP. Atypical moult was noted on a breeding plumaged adult at Pymmes Park on December 14th with an adult in full summer plumage and ringed birds came from Ireland and Poland. One trapped at Rainham Tip in October had been ringed as a nestling in Hampshire, nine years before (Ringing Report 2011, online).

The highest single count was c8,000 at Hilfield Park Res (compared to 11,250 at Beddington Farmlands in 2010). Counts of over 2,000 came from seven sites (eight in 2010). Peak counts and breeding records are given below.



Essex: Rainham Marshes, c3,500 on Mar 17th and c2,000 on 21st. Walthamstow Res (2).

Herts: Amwell NR (5). Hilfield Park Res (14); c8,000 on Jan 19th & 30th and Nov 6th. Rye Meads (42); 1,000 on Aug 24th. Seventy Acres Lake (14). Stocker's Lake (7).

2011 was an excellent year for Little Gull. This bird was photographed at KGVI Reservoir in April. (Andrew Moon)

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (23). Brent Res, 3,100 on Aug 17th. Clissold Park, 3,040 on Jan 15th. Staines Res (121). Stoke Newington Res, c3,200 on Feb 5th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 300 on Jun 3rd. Wraysbury GP (2).

Kent: Crossness, 800 on Aug 5th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 5,420 on Jan 27th, c7,700 on Dec 23rd. Holmethorpe SP, c4,000 on Jan 28th, c3,000 on Dec 6th. R Thames, Putney Bridge to Barnes Bridge, 1,680 on Dec 18th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 460 on Nov 25th. Paddington Green, 900 over on Jan 9th.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

An excellent year with 349 records from 20 sites (160 records from 26 sites in 2010). The table below summarises these records. The big change this year was the large numbers seen in March and April.

Little Gull records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011	0	6	84	186	25	5	0	9	15	3	15	1
2010	0	1	1	41	19	0	7	32	22	8	16	8

With no January records, two adults east at Crossness on February 20th were the first for the year, and four flew past Rainham Marshes on 21st. There were 295 records from March to May, compared to 61 last year. In fact, over 80% of this year's records were in this period. Following singles at Rainham Marshes on March 12th and Staines Res on 22nd, an excellent spring passage began with 47 on 26th, which included counts of 17 at Rainham Marshes, 13 at Staines Res and seven at Hilfield Park Res. An adult over Maple Lodge NR on 28th was unusual.

In April, four were at KGVI Res on 2nd and up to three lingered at Staines Res until 4th, before nine arrived at Q. Mother Res on 9th, with singles at Staines Res most days after that, peaking on 17th when 49 were there out of 66 in London that day including 12 E at Crossness. A second movement occurred on 25th with six at Q. Mother Res, 13 at Staines Res, four at London Wetland Centre and two at Rainham Marshes. May's peak count was 11 at Staines Res on 1st-3rd. All five June records involved single birds (two at Staines Res and Q. Mother Res and one at KGVI Res). Autumn passage, however, was disappointing with just 41 birds from August to November (53% of 2010's records were in this period). August passage peaked with five upriver on 23rd past Crayford Marshes, Rainham Marshes and Barking Bay.

September records were restricted to ones and twos apart from four at KGV Res and five at William Girling Res, both on 13th. The only October records were two at London Wetland Centre on 14th and one at Crossness on 30th. In November, a 1st-winter lingered at Walthamstow Res from 5th to 13th. Eleven were seen on 7th: seven at Q. Mother Res, three at Grays and one at Rainham Marshes. The last of the year was a 1st-winter found at Hilfield Park Res on November 29th, which remained there until December 30th.

There were no Inner London records this year, after the two in 2010.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Status: regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Records of this attractive species of gull continue to increase. At the start of the year most of the records were of singles, including regular adults at Burgess Park, Valentines Park and a new adult at Wormwood Scrubs. Records tailed off from March, as wintering birds presumably left. In June, records increased, mostly due to wandering adults. There were more records in July, including the first juvs and the year's peak count of ten at Staines Res. This appears to be the highest count ever for London. The peak number of records in July (as last year) may be due to the dispersal of juvs and adults from nearby breeding sites in the outer Thames and Medway estuaries. September was the leanest month, and all were 1st-year birds. Numbers increased from then on including a regularly returning adult at Brent Res. Ringing recoveries from Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland, suggest our wintering birds are from there. The table below shows the number of individuals recorded each month and the number of sites they were reported at.

Mediterranean Gull records

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	21	27	21	20	11	20	33	14	5	13	18	17
No. of sites	18	20	17	9	10	9	12	8	4	11	12	15

In Lond: Burgess Park, regular adult from Jan to Feb 3rd and again from Nov 13th to 26th (RHB); Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 1st-winter on Feb 23rd (DTM). Regent's Park, adult on Mar 6th (AW) and juv on Aug 31st (DCJ *et al*).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant.

There were 46 counts of 100 or more (from 27 sites), compared to 38 counts in 2010, 23 in 2009 and 15 in 2008. There were two counts of c1,000 birds (one last year), but only one of 500 or more (six last year). Most had left by the end of March, with a few 1st-summer birds seen in May and June. The first returning adult was on July 2nd. Details of high counts are given below.

Essex: Grays, 200 on Dec 29th. Gidea Park, 200 on Jan 13th. Tylers Hall Farm, 272 on Feb 27th. Wanstead Flats, 200 on Mar 7th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 460 on Dec 20th. Hilfield Park Res, c1,000 on Jan 19th and Nov 6th. Tyttenhanger GP, 218 on Mar 12th.

Middx: Brent Res, 470 on Jan 16th, 420 on Feb 18th. Horsenden Hill, 240 on Jan 15th and 200 on Feb 20th. Lake Farm CP, 285 on Nov 20th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 100 on Feb 12th. Sevenoaks WR, 100 on Jan 16th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, 252 on Feb 9th. QE II Res, 210 on Dec 22nd. Walton Res, 190 on Nov 8th. Woldingham, 500 on Feb 14th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 119 on Jan 11th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Status: common, most regular in autumn and winter; breeds in small but increasing numbers.

Breeding in small but increasing numbers, though the 21 confirmed breeding pairs are a considerable under-estimate of the true total. This species can be found throughout the spring and summer months in urban areas, with the species' favoured rooftop colonies, often mixed with Herring Gulls, difficult to monitor and record accurately. Juveniles were seen widely across London from July 5th.

For numbers, it was a good year with nine counts of 300+ from six sites (just one in 2010 and three in 2009) and 26 counts of 100+ (18 in 2010 and 22 in 2009). The highest counts were 724 at Rye Meads on September 30th, 600 at Rainham Marshes on January 28th and 520 at Amwell NR on October 19th. All breeding records (number of pairs/nests in brackets) are shown below, as well as high counts.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 600 on Jan 28th. Walthamstow Res (6+), several pairs bred on overgrown island making numbers difficult to estimate.

Herts: Amwell NR, 210 on Feb 18th and 520 on Oct 19th. Croxley Common Moor (1), at industrial estate at Tolpits Lane. Croxley Green (1). Hilfield Park Res, 304 on Sep 18th and 200 on Nov 6th. Rye Meads, 430 on Aug 24th and 724 on Sep 30th. Watford, possibly bred.

Middx: Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (3); 50 on Apr 19th. Edmonton (3), with five young. Horsenden Hill (2). Tottenham (1). Tottenham Marshes (2), four young. Willesden (1).

Kent: Crossness, 100 on Sep 27th. Dartford Marshes, 65 on Feb 9th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 436 on Dec 23rd. QE II Res, 350 on Feb 16th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 19 on Apr 27th. Kemble St, WC2 (1). Oval Road, NW1 (1). Tower Bridge, ten on Mar 31st.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

The true status of this species in London is unclear. Both high counts and breeding records probably under-estimate the true status of this species in London; particularly with the breeding records, as with Lesser Black-backed Gull, rooftop colonies and islands with long grass make breeding difficult to confirm. Juveniles were a regular sight at many locations from mid-July, suggesting locally bred birds.

There were 18 counts from three sites of over 1,000 birds, with the annual maxima being 3,600 that roosted at Island Barn Res on



Herring Gull. (Mick Southcott)

December 7th, and 56 counts of over 200 birds, up from 39 counts in 2010 and 25 in 2009. The leucistic orange-ringed bird 'SH1T' was seen at four sites in the Essex sector between January 3rd and March 8th. Listed below are all breeding records, as well as high counts.

Essex: Walthamstow Res (3), at least three pairs successfully fledged young. Grays, 184 on Oct 16th. Rainham Marshes, 500 on Jan 14th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 500 on Jan 23rd and 250 on Nov 27th. Hilfield Park Res, 492 on Mar 8th and 202 on Sep 14th.

Middx: Edmonton (4). Horsenden Hill (10+). Staines Res, 800 on Apr 29th.

Kent: Greatness Pits, 500 on Jun 30th and 400 on Nov 4th. Sevenoaks WR, 200 on Jan 5th and 850 on Nov 23rd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 2,715 on Jan 27th, and 3,226 on Oct 21st. Holmethorpe SP, 1,000 on Jan 2nd and 1,600 on Nov 19th. Island Barn Res, 2,320 on Jan 4th and 3,600 on Dec 7th.

In Lond: Oval Road, NW1 (3); in this and two adjacent roads. Paddington Green, 38 on Mar 14th. Tower of London, 30 on Mar 31st. Wandsworth Road, SW8 (1).

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Status: regular late summer and autumn visitor, widely reported in smaller numbers at other times of year.

A good year, with a continued trend of peak counts during July and August, following post-breeding dispersal of adults from their breeding grounds further south, with a peak count of 90 at Wraysbury Res on August 21st (2010 and 2009 peaks of 85 and 65). Observer awareness still plays a key role in explaining the distribution of records, although generally peak annual counts come from late summer gull roosts on West London reservoirs, while the species can be most consistently found throughout the year at the Lower Thames Marshes. It is still rare in Herts, two at Amwell NR on November 1st being the highest count. The first juvenile was seen at Staines Res on July 20th, though this age is still heavily under-recorded by observers.

The following table shows monthly maxima for all sites where counts of seven or more were noted during the year.

Yellow-legged Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Barking Bay	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grays	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	7	6	12	1
Rainham Marshes	14	-	7	1	1	8	22	48	33	3	4	9
MX KGV1 Res	-	-	-	-	-	3	12	2	1	1	-	1
Wraysbury Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	90	12	1	1	1
BU Colnbrook	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	53	11	-	1	-
Horton	-	-	-	1	-	-	57	22	-	-	1	-
Q. Mother Res	3	2	2	1	-	10	55	70	25	-	3	-
KT Crayford Marshes	8	7	3	-	-	2	7	16	12	18	12	4
Crossness	5	6	2	1	2	-	4	6	4	4	7	3
Dartford Marshes	-	7	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	1	-	5

In Lond: Battersea PS, one on Aug 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Jan 19th and a 3rd-winter from Mar 25th-30th. Paddington Green, on Apr 3rd, the same 3rd-winter as at Hyde Park. Regent's Park, one on Mar 14th. Rotherhithe, a 1st-summer on May 24th, a juv on Jul 29th and Aug 23rd.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Status: scarce visitor, mainly in winter.

A continued upward trend in records, as observers become more familiar with the salient identification features at all ages. Observers should be aware of hybrids when identifying this species. A 1st-winter gull at Beddington Farmlands and Island Barn Res on January 27th was considered to show mixed Caspian/Herring Gull characters.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, total of 16 seen Jan-Apr and Oct-Nov with peak count of six on Jan 15th.

Herts: Amwell NR, an adult on Nov 11th and a 2nd-winter on Nov 20th.

Middx: Q. Mary Res, adult on Jan 1st and Oct 30th (returning bird).

Bucks: Colnbrook, 2nd-winter on Jan 15th and a 3rd calendar year intermittently from Aug 16th-Oct 2nd. Horton GP, 1st-winter on Dec 11th and 3rd winter on Dec 26th. Langley, 2nd-winter on Sep 17th. Q. Mother Res, a total of six birds throughout the year, including a 3rd-calendar-year from Aug 16th-Oct 2nd (also seen at Colnbrook). Wraysbury GP, 3rd-winter on Oct 29th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, six Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec including a Polish-ringed 2nd-winter on Jan 3rd. Dartford Marshes, adult from Mar 7th-19th and one Dec 2nd (same as Crayford Marshes). Greenhithe, 1st-winter on Dec 26th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, adult on Jan 15th, 1st-winter on Jan 27th and Dec 6th. Walton Res, 1st-winter on Mar 21st and adult on Sep 18th.

2009 Alteration

Essex: KGV Dock, adult in Nov. This record is now withdrawn, as it is believed to be a hybrid Caspian x Herring Gull

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Status: scarce winter visitor, more regular in cold weather.

This was the best year since 1998, with at least 11 birds. There were six in the first winter period to April 18th and five in the second winter period from December 6th. Most were in Surrey.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, juv Feb 11th & 17th (AT, HV *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 2nd-winter (from Dec 27th 2010) seen on eight dates to Mar 8th (mo), juv Dec 27th & 30th (CDRH).

Kent: Crossness, one Jan 3rd (IM) and juv on Mar 26th (JKA, MSo).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, juv on Jan 15th, Mar 16th & 18th, juv displaying a number of characteristics of Kumlien's Gull from Dec 6th-28th, 2nd-winter from Dec 22nd-28th (JPA, DAC *et al*). Island Barn Res, juv on Jan 21st and on Dec 6th an adult plus the juv displaying a number of characteristics of Kumlien's Gull seen earlier at Beddington Farmlands (DMH). QE II Res, 2nd-winter on Dec 28th (DMH). Walton Res juv on Apr 18th (SJS).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Status: scarce winter visitor in varying numbers, more regular in cold weather.

A poor year with only two birds seen; this compares to 12 records in 2010, four in 2009 and seven in 2008 - making 2011 the worst year for records of this species since 2001. Both records were at Rainham Marshes, and typically on the landfill site.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, juv on Jan 8th, 19th & 20th (DBr, DML); adult on Feb 17th (NGr).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers, less common at other seasons.

There was no confirmed breeding, although a pair at London Wetland Centre were seen mating and nest-scraping from March 16th to April 2nd. A juvenile at Q. Mother Res on August 14th was noted by the observer as being very early. A 1st-winter at Island Barn Res on January 20th and February 8th had been ringed in Norway as a chick.

Records were slightly up on 2010, though the species is certainly under-recorded in some areas, as reflected by the Middx peak annual count of two, and one observer commented that at Horton GP it seems far less common nowadays. The peak count was 140 at Q. Mother Res on January 2nd (2010 and 2009 peak counts being 107 and 170 respectively). There were 17 counts of over 50 (11 last year), from six sites. Listed below are counts of 50 or more (summarised in some cases) and all Inner London records.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, c100 on Jan 14th and c50 on Mar 5th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 100 on Jan 23rd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 140 on Jan 2nd and 94 on Dec 26th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 65 on Dec 4th.

Surrey: Holmehorpe SP, 50 on Jan 29th then 50 or more on seven dates from Nov 29th to Dec 30th with peak 108 on Dec 26th. Walton Res, 57 on Jan 4th and 67 on Dec 10th.

In Lond: Battersea PS, two on Feb 12th prospecting for a nest site. Cremorne Gardens, one on Apr 23rd. Rotherhithe, 12 on R Thames on Dec 30th. Shadwell Basin, two on Aug 12th. St James's Park, three on Jan 19th, two on Feb 18th and one on Sep 18th. Tower of London, one on Mar 31st.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Status: uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant.

Twenty-three records this year, double the number in 2010. Thirty-two birds seen, which is more than last year, but less than the very high 2008 total.

Most records were on spring passage, involving about 23 birds between April 19th and June 16th, compared to about 14 between April 28th and May 9th last year. The first was one at Island Barn Res on April 19th, followed by two at London Wetland Centre on 30th and another one there on May 2nd. May 4th was the day on which most were seen, with five birds at Staines Res, which stayed only a few minutes, and three at Wraysbury Res. There was one at QE II Res on 5th, then two at Staines Res and singles at Crayford Marshes and at Rainham Marshes, all on 6th. There were two more singles in West London on 7th; at Q. Mother Res and Staines Res. The only other May records were singles on 13th at Q. Mother Res and on 18th at Crossness. No records then until June

4th, with two at Rainham Marshes; then June 16th with one seen at both QE II Res and Island Barn Res.

In the autumn, there were only three records of probably nine birds, all on August 23rd: five each at Crayford Marshes and Rainham Marshes which were probably the same birds, and four at London Wetland Centre. In 2010, there were five records of about ten birds between July 11th and September 22nd.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, with numbers varying annually with weather conditions and breeding success on the continent.

Passage involved about 365 birds, 158 in spring and 207 in autumn. Spring passage was very short, covering just 19 days, with most in the last nine days. The first on April 19th was at Staines Res, four days earlier than in 2010. This was followed on 21st by eight at Staines Res and one at Island Barn Res. Then on 22nd, there were eight at KGV Res and one at Staines Res; on 23rd, three at Q. Mother Res and two at Staines Res. There was a break then until 29th, when two were at Amwell NR, followed by daily records to May 5th. Most of the spring birds appeared in this time, with peak counts from May 3rd to 5th. This included 22 at Staines Res and ten at QE II Res, as well as smaller numbers at seven other sites, all on 3rd. Finally, on May 7th there were three at Staines Res and one at KGV Res, plus singles at Holmethorpe SP, KGV Res and Walthamstow Res.

Autumn passage began on June 22nd with one at Island Barn Res. But there were no more until four at Rainham Marshes on July 21st. On the 22nd there was one at Crossness, but then no more until August 1st, when two were at Staines Res with one there on 3rd. Passage resumed on 18th in West London and the Lower Thames Marshes and birds were recorded almost daily until September 8th. Most were between August 23rd and 28th, the peak being 17 at Rainham Marshes on 26th, but there were also 20 at London Wetland Centre on September 2nd. There was a break after 8th until 16th and from then almost daily records until late September. Peak counts were 23 at QE II Res on 25th and ten at William Girling Res on 17th. The last were two on September 27th at Staines Res, compared to October 6th last year and September 16th in 2009.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Status: rare vagrant.

A single late-August record of a juv going west along the Thames was the fourth successive year for this less-than-annual vagrant. The table below shows the arrival dates over recent years; six of the previous 16 records have been in August, like this one.

White-winged Black Tern arrival dates 1990-2010

Month	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
No. of records	1	1	3	6	5

Essex: Rainham Marshes, a juv on Aug 26th, seen first at Crayford Marshes (HV, PSt).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, a juv W at 13:00 on Aug 26th (KMJ).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in small flocks.

There were fewer birds than last year, 94 rather than 156, after allowance for likely duplicate records. Spring passage involved 19 birds, similar to last year. The first was one at Staines Res on April 2nd, then four at Rye Meads on 3rd and one at Tyttenhanger GP the next day. There were no more until the 10th, when there were singles at Crossness and Tyttenhanger GP; followed by two at Crayford Marshes and one at Rainham Marshes on 19th. There were just five May records; one at Rainham Marshes on 3rd, two at Crossness on 4th, one at Amwell NR on 9th, two more at Crossness on 19th, followed by one at KGV Res on 30th. The last of the spring passage was one at Q. Mother Res on June 1st, which was also seen at Horton GP.

As usual, more were seen on autumn passage, with 39 records of about 75 birds. Passage was lighter than last year and there were no large counts unlike last year, the highest being six at London Wetland Centre and Rainham Marshes. It began on June 27th with one at London Wetland Centre, as well as one at QE II Res, which was also seen at Staines Res, Walton Res and Island Barn Res. More singles were at Staines Res on July 1st, at Crossness on 3rd and 4th, and at Grays on 10th but then it was almost two weeks before the next appeared. Two at Rainham Marshes on 23rd, and one at Dartford Marshes on 25th, were followed by two at Crossness on 30th; then singles at Q. Mother Res on August 2nd and Rainham Marshes on 4th. After this there was steady passage from 13th-22nd of one or two birds at Rainham Marshes, Wraysbury Res, Q. Mother Res and London Wetland Centre. There was a peak in late August, mostly at the Lower Thames Marshes but also at London Wetland Centre and at Chiswick Eyot. In September, there were records up to 15th from Rainham Marshes, Q. Mother Res, Walthamstow Res and Staines Res, and two over Greenwich Park which were believed to be the first record for the site. After that there was a gap until 27th when there were records from Staines Res, Q. Mother Res, Crayford Marshes, West Thurrock Marshes and Rainham Marshes before the final record of five on October 3rd at Wraysbury Res.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Although crude total counts are higher than in 2010, the mean number of birds per record was lower, so overall, with allowance for duplicates, there may be little change. The first of the year was at Hilfield Park Res on March 28th, the same date as last year, after which passage numbers increased fairly gradually, typical records being of one to three birds, until a sharp rise from April 8th-10th, with 52 recorded at KGV Res on 9th, and 20 on 10th at Barking Bay/Crossness. Another rise was noted on 15th-16th, but the peak was from 22nd-30th with counts of 41 at KGV Res, 40 at Crossness and at Brent Res, 45+ at Amwell NR and 150 at Barking. Breeding records came from 22 sites, an increase on the 17 last year, with two now in Inner London.

Autumn saw counts rising from mid-August, with 60 at Barking Bay on 16th and 81 at Rainham Marshes on 18th, but much greater numbers on 23rd, with 380 at Crayford Marshes, 329 at Rainham Marshes and 562 west at the London Wetland Centre. Moderate gatherings were also recorded over the next fortnight, notably with 93 at Crayford

Marshes on September 8th, 72 at Staines Res on 9th and 73 at Rainham Marshes on 16th. The last record was at Rainham Marshes on October 30th, two weeks later than in 2010. All breeding records (with no. of pairs/nests in brackets), and all Inner London records are given below.

Essex: Barking Bay (29). Belhus Woods CP (4). Walthamstow Res (39).

Herts: Amwell NR (16). Cheshunt GPs (23). Hilfield Park Res (22); 13 broods seen. Maple Lodge NR (3). Rye Meads (13). Stocker's Lake (10). Tyttenhanger GP (probable breeding).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (14). Blackwall Basin (3). Brent Res (26). Broadwater Lake, none bred due to Black-headed Gulls using the rafts. East India Dock Basin (2), both failed. One of these birds was ringed as a chick ten years ago at the Bedfont Lakes CP colony. Staines Res (5).

Bucks: Horton GP (13).

Kent: Hayes Common, two held territory on a nesting raft for ducks, but didn't breed.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (9). QE II Res (2). Richmond Park (1).

In Lond: Battersea, one over on Jun 20th. Battersea Park, two on Jun 30th and Jul 1st & 12th and one on 19th. Greenland Dock, one on May 10th. Regent's Canal, one on Jun 8th & 23rd. Regent's Park, two on May 1st, four on 3rd, then two on Jun 25th and on Sep 26th. Shadwell Basin (1). Surrey Water (2). Tower Bridge, four on Jul 22nd.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Status: rare passage migrant.

Three records this year, the highest number so far. These are the first since 2007 and the table below shows previous records by decade. Half the previous records have been in May, like two of these; the September record is the latest ever.

Roseate Tern records by decade 1953-2007 21 records						
Decade	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
No. of records	1	7	5	1	0	7

Middx: KGV I Res and Staines Res, one on May 10th (RWa *et al*).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one from May 9th-13th, which was different from the one at Staines Res (MMcK, DBa *et al*).

Kent: Crossness, an adult feeding a 1st-winter, on Sep 25th (RHB, JKA).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, often in small flocks with numbers varying annually.

It was a lighter passage this year with 441 rather than the 625 last year. The spread of records was very different though, with 60% of the records in the autumn, whereas last year 83% were in the spring. Spring passage began earlier, and ended later; autumn passage began about the same time and was essentially over by the same time, except for a very late individual in November.

The first arrivals were seven at Rainham Marshes on April 5th, but no more were seen until 13th when one was at Staines Res, with five there the next day. A week later there

were singles at Stoke Newington Res on 20th and at Staines Res the next day. Passage was fairly steady from 24th until May 6th with reports from the Lee Valley, London Wetland Centre and West London Reservoirs as well as the Lower Thames Marshes, plus inland reports from Hampstead Heath and Regent's Park. The peak was on May 3rd, when 25 were at six sites. Reports then dropped off with records on 9th, 13th and 22nd, before a flurry in late May, the peak being ten at Staines Res on 28th. After May 29th, there was just one on June 3rd at Q. Mother Res.

The first of the autumn was one at Q. Mother Res on July 24th, followed by one at Staines Res on 29th. No more until August 13th, when two were at East India Dock Basin, followed by a few more from 15th to the 19th at Staines Res, Rainham Marshes, Crayford Marshes, KGV Res, Q. Mother Res and London Wetland Centre; the highest count being eight at Crayford Marshes and Rainham Marshes. There were almost daily records from 23rd to 30th, with peaks on 23rd (when there were an amazing 74 at London Wetland Centre and 24 at Rainham Marshes) and on 26th (with 20 at Rainham Marshes as well as three inland at Wanstead Flats). A short break then, before steady passage from September 4th to 29th, with peaks of 31 on 10th and 18 on 13th. These were mostly at reservoirs or the Thames, but included two at Beddington Farmlands on 9th, two at Holmethorpe SP on 17th, one at Stubbers OPC on 18th and the only record from Greenhithe, of three W on 29th. The only records after that were three on October 7th at Rainham Marshes, two at Crayford Marshes and Rainham Marshes on 13th and then the very late one at Q. Mother Res on November 7th. The only other November record appears to have been in 2005 at West Thurrock Marshes on November 6th.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor, subject to occasional winter influxes.

For the fourth year running a single bird was seen on the R Thames. Since the last influx in 1986 when 90+ individuals were seen, there have been 18 previous sightings. Most of these have been in September and October; this is only the second August record and is the earliest ever in autumn.

Essex/Kent: One assumed to be the same bird on R Thames on Aug 23rd was seen at Rainham Marshes, Crayford Marshes, Barking Bay and Crossness. It then flew off W at 13:15 (PH, IW, KMJ, IM *et al*).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Status: rare visitor, mainly in winter.

The first record since 1996 was a welcome return. Up until 1984, there had been 24 and 21 records for Razorbill and Guillemot respectively (see MOON, A.V., 1983. The occurrence of pelagic seabirds in the London Area, *Lond. Bird Rep.* 48: 106-119). Since then there have been four Razorbills and 21 Guillemots (excluding the influx in 1986). All records have been between September and February with single sightings in April, May and now August. Interestingly, it was seen on the same day as a Guillemot.

Essex/Kent: One on R Thames on Aug 23rd seen from Rainham and Crayford Marshes. Several observers saw it at about the same time but another or the same bird was seen earlier in the day (AT *et al*).

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Status: abundant feral resident; controlled in some locations.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decrease of 9% in London (13% across the UK) between 1994 and 2011. The decline in London has been attributed to control measures but predation by Peregrine and Sparrowhawk could also be a factor. Records were only received from 41 sites (five breeding reports) so it remains severely under-recorded. Peak counts for sites with over 200 birds (50 for London boroughs) and records for Inner London are given below.

Essex: Barking Abbey, 250 on Jun 3rd. South Park, Ilford, 100 on Jul 3rd. West Ham Park, 68 on Oct 13th and Nov 17th.

Herts: Hatfield University, 112 on Jul 19th was the highest count for the sector.

Middx: Alperton, 100 on Jan 18th. Hayes, 500 on Nov 28th. Horsenden Hill, 370 on Oct 30th. Lake Farm CP, 450 on Oct 10th. Wormwood Scrubs, 70 on Jan 5th.

Kent: Bexleyheath, 88 on Nov 28th. Greenwich Park 182 on Dec 13th.

Surrey: Croham Hurst, 117 on Oct 15th. South Norwood CP, 539 on Sep 27th. Waddon Ponds, 70 on May 17th and Jul 9th. Wimbledon Common, 55 on Jan 26th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 390 on Jul 25th. Victoria Park, 30 on May 14th. There was only one other Inner London record.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.

A total of at least 160 breeding pairs (92 in 2010) from 66 sites were reported this year. The increase is almost two-fold and so unlikely to represent a true increase; it is more likely to reflect changes in reporting for a species that is under-reported and often difficult to confirm breeding. The table below shows that there have been differences in reporting, particularly in Herts where there were a large number of Birdtrack records. Until reporting is more consistent, it is impossible to determine a London trend. The national trend from the Breeding Bird Survey shows an 11% increase between 1995 and 2011.

Stock Dove sightings	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
Sites where reported							
2011	39	50	44	3	31	24	6
2010	48	9	34	3	15	33	4
Sites where pairs reported							
2011	4	33	16	-	5	7	1
2010	2	2	10	-	5	8	2
No. of pairs reported							
2011	7	45	33	-	18	53	4
2010	4	11	33	-	13	29	2

There were no high pre-breeding season counts from the Maple Cross area this year. Breeding records for sites with more than five breeding pairs (number of pairs in brackets), higher counts and all Inner London records are given below.

Stock Dove. (Mick Southcott)

Essex: Fairlop Waters, 74 on Apr 28th. Orsett Fen, 300 on Jan 10th and Feb 4th. Rainham Marshes, 264 on Mar 8th.

Herts: Essendon, 50 on Dec 11th. Potters Crouch, 76 on Mar 24th. Rye Meads (8). Woodoaks Farm, 200 on Apr 9th.

Middx: Alexandra Park (8). Harlington Fields, 65 on Mar 23rd. Horsenden Hill (9-10). Stoke Newington Res (8). Wormwood Scrubs, 40 on Jun 22nd.

Bucks: Horton GP, 80 on Oct 16th.

Kent: Crossness, 60 on Nov 27th. Foots Cray Meadows (10).

Surrey: Canons Farm, 450 on May 2nd. Holmethorpe SP, 450 on Dec 5th. London Wetland Centre, 35 on Feb 17th. Richmond Park (25). Wimbledon Common (20).

In Lond: Battersea Park, two on Jul 29th. Greenland Dock, one flew over on May 5th. Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns, peak count of 20 with four attending nest holes on Mar 23rd. Paddington Green, two flew over on Mar 14th. Regent's Park, peak count of 30 on Apr 19th. Victoria Park, two on three dates between May and Sep.



Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

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

The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows an increase of 65% in London between 1994 and 2011 (40% across the UK). Breeding occurs earlier in urban areas but few reports are received: the first juveniles were seen on April 3rd and the last on September 23rd. The autumn passage receives better coverage, with a minimum of 62,688 counted (50,076 in 2010), but it is still much lower than numbers recorded in the past (105,420 in 2006). Many birds must go uncounted, especially if peak passage does not coincide with a weekend. Usually most birds are reported flying in a southerly direction but this year there were a number of reports of birds flying in a northerly direction. Passage commenced on September 17th and continued until December 6th peaking at 16,558 on November 2nd. Sites where more than 2,000 birds were counted are listed below.

Woodpigeon - highest autumn counts

Site	Total	No. of counts	Highest count (date)
Q. Mother Res	11,000	4	3,700 (Nov 18th)
Brent Res	10,306	14+	1,550 (Oct 29th)
Hampstead Heath	5,000	1	5,000 (Nov 2nd)
Tottenham Marshes	4,030	1	4,030 (Nov 2nd)
Wormwood Scrubs	3,950	2	3,000 (Oct 2nd)
Holmethorpe SP	3,630	5	1,200 (Oct 29th)

Woodpigeon - highest autumn counts (contd)

Greenwich Park	3,610	3	2,700 (Nov 2nd)
Wraysbury Res	3,100	1	3,100 (Nov 6th)
London Wetland Centre	3,086	8	710 (Nov 2nd)
Regent's Park	2,960	5	1,500 (Oct 28th)
Horsenden Hill	2,052	6	490 (Oct 28th)

Two wintering flocks of over 500 were reported: 800 at Tyttenhanger GP on December 24th and 620 at Richmond Park on December 6th. The only large roost reported was 600+ at Hilfield Park Res on November 9th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Status: common breeding resident, scarce in central London.

The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows an increase of 39% in London (19% across the UK) between 1994 and 2011. This species is severely under-reported. In a survey carried out by the Croydon Group of the RSPB, it was reported from 72 gardens in the borough (85% of gardens participating), yet was reported from only seven other sites in Surrey. It does seem to be scarcer towards central London. The Croydon RSPB survey found it less prevalent in the north of the borough (just 50%) than in the south (90%). It was reported from five sites in Inner London and three more sites from inner London boroughs. More reports on the status of Collared Dove in your area would be welcome. Peak counts of 25 or more birds and all records from inner London boroughs are listed below.

Essex: Reported from 12 sites. Bulphan Fen, 62 on Dec 4th. Hangman's Wood, 184 on Oct 13th. Newham City Farm, two on Jan 5th. Rainham Marshes, 56 on Feb 3rd. Orsett Fen, 44 on Nov 8th. South Ockendon, 31 on May 7th. West Ham Park, three on Jun 19th.

Herts: Reported from 5 sites. Woodoaks Farm, 160 on Sep 17th.

Middx: Reported from 23 sites. Rectory Farm, 27 on Sep 10th. Tottenham Marshes, four on Jul 9th.

Kent: Reported from 4 sites. Sutton at Hone, 55 on Feb 17th and Oct 21st.

Surrey: Reported from 7 sites, excluding Croydon gardens. Holmethorpe SP, 48 on Oct 17th.

In Lond: Greenland Dock, two on May 10th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one E on Jan 11th. Regent's Park, one on Sep 16th. Rotherhithe, one over on Mar 25th. Victoria Park, four on May 14th and singles on Jul 9th and Nov 12th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Status: localised summer breeding visitor and scarce passage migrant.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 85% across the UK between 1995 and 2011. There was a total of 26 records this year (46 in 2010) with 12 records (32) in April and May, 12 records (13) in June and July and just two in August (none in 2010 but two in September). Trevereux reported the first year with no records.

The first of the year was on April 21st at Holmethorpe SP and until the end of the

month, there were a further five records: singles at Wormwood Scrubs on 26th and 27th, Holmethorpe SP on 27th, Crossness and Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath on 30th. There was then a gap until another six records between May 7th and 19th: singles at Alexandra Park on 7th, Weald Park on 11th, Rye Meads on 12th, Stanford Rivers on 14th, Codham Hall on 16th and Amwell NR on 19th.

Singles in June at Sevenoaks WR on 4th and Banstead Woods on 6th, were most likely late passage birds. At Thorndon Park, birds probably bred, as one was singing on 2nd and two were singing on 28th and 30th. Singles at Lullingstone Park on 23rd, Chipping Ongar on 24th and Little End on 24th suggest possible breeding.

In July, one at the well-watched London Wetland Centre on 12th was presumably a migrant but it is possible that one at Godstone on 13th may have been breeding. Passage birds were seen at Alexandra Park on July 15th, Rainham Marshes on 29th and in August at Leyton on 13th, and the last for the year was at Totteridge Valley on 21st.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Status: naturalised breeding resident, increasing in range and numbers.

They were reported from a total of 226 sites this year (173 in 2010). The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows an increase of over ten-fold in London from 1994 to 2011, and there has been a notable spread into the Herts and Essex sectors during this period. There were at least 30 breeding records relating to one or two pairs except for 20+ pairs on Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath. Roost counts were only received from three sites, compared with six sites in 2010.

Peak roost counts of Ring-necked Parakeet

	2011	2010
MX Wormwood Scrubs	3,000 (Jan)	2,770 (Dec)
KT Sutcliffe Park		400 (Feb)
SY Hersham GP		15,353 (July)
Holmethorpe SP	450 (Oct)	300 (Oct)
Mitcham Common	2,800 (Oct)	1,000 (Jan)
West Ewell		500 (Nov)

A summary for each county is given below.

Essex: Reported from 42 sites with 20+ at eight sites. Mar Dyke Valley, four pairs breeding. Rainham Marshes, 155 on Dec 6th. Wanstead Flats, 80 on Aug 15th.

Herts: Reported from 97 sites (a large increase on the 43 in 2010) with 20+ at five sites. Aldenham CP, 60 on Sep 11th. Cassiobury Park, 45 on Sep 19th.

Middx: Reported from 39 sites with 20+ at 13 sites. Brent Res, 150 flying to roost on Dec 13th. Bushy Park, 100 on Jan 3rd and Feb 20th. Grovelands Park, 100 on Dec 8th. Horsenden Hill, 195 on Nov 26th.

Bucks: Reported from 5 sites with 20+ at two sites. Q. Mother Res, 80 flying to roost on Feb 12th. Wraybury, 845 on Dec 11th may relate to roosting birds.

Kent: Reported from 20 sites with 20+ at 13 sites. Many high counts were birds flying to roost. Burstled Wood, 72 on Dec 9th. Eltham, 500 on Oct 26th. Sidcup, 200 on Apr 21st. Foots Cray Meadows, 120 on Dec 26th.



*Ring-necked Parakeet is an ever-increasing London resident.
(Jonathan Lethbridge)*

Surrey: Reported from 15 sites with 20+ at ten sites. In a survey carried out by the Croydon Group of the RSPB, it was reported from 73 gardens in the borough (86% of gardens participating). Undoubtedly under-recorded in this county where it is taken for granted (in 2005, it was reported from 96 sites). Many high counts were birds flying to roost.

In Lond: No records were received from its stronghold at Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns. Up to eight recorded from Cremorne Gardens, Greenland Dock, Holland Park, Paddington Green (where it bred for the first time), Regent's Park, Southwark Park, St James's Park and Victoria Park.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Birds were reported from a total of 139 sites this year (129 in 2010): 126 sites in spring, 28 in summer and 13 in the autumn (see table). The corresponding figures for 2009 were 109, 31 and 12. Most of the spring records are of just one bird at one site. There is insufficient data from The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) to determine a London trend. Nationally, the survey shows a 50% decline in the UK from 1995 to 2011 with numbers decreasing in the south and east and increasing in the north and west. The first of the year was on April 5th with a prolonged passage with the majority of records between April 16th and May 21st. The only Inner London record was one calling in Regent's Park on April 9th.

Breeding was confirmed at just two sites: Hatfield Aerodrome and Rainham Marshes (being fed by a Reed Warbler). However, breeding is difficult to confirm for this species and breeding may be more widespread. Birds were only reported on five or more dates in June from the confirmed breeding sites but juveniles were seen in June or July at Lakeside Shopping Centre, Richmond Park, Stocker's Lake, Thorney CP, Tyttenhanger GP and Waltham Abbey. If these criteria are taken to indicate breeding, then there would have been eight breeding records. If all birds reported in June were breeding, then there would have been 28 breeding records. Of these 28 breeding records, eight were in London boroughs. Last year, the comparable figures were: three confirmed, ten sites with juveniles and 32 sites in June, so all the breeding records were lower than last year. After July there were just 12 records: ten in August and two in September with the last being on September 19th.

Sites where Cuckoo were reported

	Spring (Apr-May)	Summer (June)	Autumn (July-Oct)
Essex	25	9	4
Herts	68	12	4
Middx	14	2	3
Bucks	3	1	1
Kent	4	3	0
Surrey	11	1	1
In Lond	1	0	0

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Status: rare breeding resident.

Another excellent year for this species, with five confirmed breeding pairs, the same as last year: one pair in Essex, one in Kent, and three in Herts where one pair had four young and one had three. Another pair probably bred at a second Essex site and a third Herts site. In London as a whole, there were fewer winter records (22 in January-April 2010) but more summer records (10 in May - August 2010). Birds were recorded at 36 sites (42 in 2010), the same number of sites as in 2009.

Sites where Barn Owl were reported

	Winter (Jan-Apr)	Summer (May-Aug)	Winter (Sep-Dec)
Essex	4	6	2
Herts	10	10	4
Middx	1	1	2
Kent	2	2	1
Surrey	1	1	3
Total	18	20	12

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Status: localised breeding resident, introduced to UK in the 19th century.

Records were received from 115 sites, slightly more than in 2010 (104) although fewer than 2009 (126). Thirty-six pairs were reported as breeding, most in the Herts sector, although this is almost certainly an underestimate as there were many other records of birds present throughout the breeding season. Breeding estimates are given below.

Essex: Recorded from 24 sites. Holyfield Hall Farm (2). Seen on more than four dates at Copped Hall, Holyfield Hall Farm, Ingrebourne Valley and Orsett Fen.

Herts: Recorded from 66 sites with 23 pairs breeding. Aldenham CP (1). Batlers Green (1). Battlers Wells Farm (1). Brightwells Farm (1). Cassiobury Park (1). Croxley Green (2). Elstree Aerodrome (1). Essendon (1). Howe Green (1). Merry Hill (1). Moor Park GC (1). Newgate Street (1). Panshanger Aerodrome (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1). Rickmansworth (1). Ridge (1). Roe Hyde (1). Smug Oak (1). Stocker's Farm (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Upper Dollis Valley (1). Woodoaks Farm (1).

Middx: Recorded at 11 sites. Pinner Park Farm (1). Totteridge Valley (2). Birds were seen on more than four dates at Bushy Park (with four on Jun 26th), Horsenden Hill, Park Farm and Vicarage Farm.

Kent: Recorded at five sites. Crayford Marshes (1), one young seen.

Surrey: Recorded at nine sites. Canons Farm (3). Holmethorpe SP (1), one juv seen. Richmond Park (1), three young seen. Walton Res (1).

In Lond: Regent's Park (1), successfully fledged two young.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Status: common breeding resident in the outer parts of the LNHS Area, scarce towards the centre.

They were reported from 113 sites, compared with 99 in 2010. Young birds were only recorded at eleven sites (19 in 2010), two of which were in Inner London. Only one site reported more than one confirmed breeding pair. This species is clearly under-recorded as there were two or more birds reported during the breeding season at 24 other sites. The number of sites at which Tawny Owls were recorded is shown below together with estimates of 27-28 breeding pairs.

Essex: Reported from 16 sites. Harold Hill (1). Lee Valley Camp Site (1). Lippitts Hill (1). Netherhouse Farm (1).

Herts: Reported from 49 sites. Beech Farm GP (1). Bottom Wood (1). Frogmore Lakes (1). Howe Green (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1). Rye Meads (2). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Wildhill (1).

Middx: Reported from 22 sites. Alexandra Park (1). Bedfont Lakes CP (1). Horsenden Hill (2). Woodside Park (1).

Kent: Reported from seven sites.

Surrey: Reported from 16 sites. East Sheen Common (1). Richmond Park (1), but birds calling at 20 locations. Riddlesdown (1). Sydenham Hill Wood (1). Wimbledon Common (4-5). Breeding probably also occurred at Banstead Woods, Canons Farm, Croydon (reported from 16 gardens).

In Lond: Holland Park, one on Apr 23rd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1). Regent's Park (1).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant: rare breeder.

Just one pair bred (two pairs last year), at the site in Essex where they bred last year. There was only one winter record (three in 2010 and five in 2009).

Essex: Site A, a pair successfully bred and young birds were seen.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one flew SE on Nov 24th at 12:45, mobbed by a Peregrine (RK, DW).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, with occasional influxes; rare breeder.

They were reported from 36 sites (21 in 2010) with a large influx in October/November. Early in the year there were just 12 records all singles, often flying over; at the end of the year six sites had two or more birds, with a maximum of four at Beech Farm GP/Hatfield Aerodrome. Several sites had birds present on many dates during the second winter period.

Essex: Barking Bay, singles on Apr 21st and Nov 9th. Fairlop Waters, two on Oct 20th and singles on Oct 23rd and Nov 12th. Netherhouse Farm, one on Oct 31st. Rainham Marshes, singles on Feb 24th and three dates in Mar; then from Oct 13th, with up to three in Nov and one on Dec 21st. Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 3rd.

Herts: Beech Farm GP/Hatfield Aerodrome, one on Feb 23rd, up to four birds in Nov and up to two in Dec. Croxley Common Moor, one on Sep 25th. Hilfield Park Res, singles on Oct 13th and Nov 9th. Mill Green, one on Jan 19th. Rye Meads, one on Nov 5th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Dec 4th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Oct 29th (first site record). Brent Res, one on Oct 22nd. Harefield, one on Oct 15th. Hayes, one on Oct 28th. Ruislip Lido, one on Nov 5th. Staines Moor, one on Apr 8th. Staines Res, singles on Mar 9th and Nov 9th-11th. Stoke Newington Res, one on Apr 3rd. Tottenham Marshes, one on Oct 25th. Totteridge Valley, one on Oct 26th. West London Shooting Grounds, one on Oct 30th. Yeading Brook Meadows, one on Oct 31st.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Oct 16th, 20th & 31st.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles reported on five dates between Nov 23rd and Dec 1st. Crossness, one on Dec 14th. Dartford Marshes, singles on Oct 28th, Nov 23rd and Dec 1st.



Rainham Marshes holds regular Short-eared Owl in winter. (Les Harrison)

Surrey: Canons Farm, one roosted on April 6th and one on Nov 13th-14th. Farthing Downs, one on Nov 13th. Holmethorpe SP, singles on Oct 28th and Nov 7th. Island Barn Res, one on Mar 9th. London Wetland Centre, one on Nov 7th. QE II Res, singles on Oct 27th and Nov 9th. Richmond Park, one on Nov 9th. South Norwood CP, singles on five dates in Nov. Richmond Park, one flushed on Aug 8th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one W on Oct 25th and two W on 28th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Status: common, though probably declining, breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first arrival was on April 14th at Fairlop Waters (March 20th was the earliest date in 2010). The next was on 21st and birds were reported daily thereafter. Numbers were relatively low until May when c500 were reported from Staines Res and c200 at Rainham Marshes. The highest counts were in July with at least 2,500 at Brent Res. The last was one at London Wetland Centre on September 30th.

There were three reports of leucistic birds with one each at Staines Res, Brent Res and Hilfield Park Res. The Staines Res bird is suspected to have been one seen there occasionally since 2003 and the Brent bird was seen last year too. There were relatively few breeding records, as is usual for this species, but The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows a 41% decline in London from 1994 to 2011. Breeding records are noted below with numbers of pairs in brackets, most being of adults visiting nests. Peak counts are also given below.

Essex: Chingford (1). Gants Hill (1). Grays (4). Orsett Fen (1). Hornchurch (3). Rainham (2+). Rainham Marshes, 230 on Jul 16th. Tye Green (1+). Upminster (5+). Walthamstow (1+).

Herts: Chiswell Green (1+). Northaw (1+). St Albans (1+). Welwyn Garden City (1+). Hilfield Park Res, 500 on May 22th & 28th. Tyttenhanger Farm, c300 on Jul 20th.

Middx: Brent Res, 2,500 on Jul 13th. Edgware (1+). Hayes (c10). Horsenden Hill (1). Totteridge Valley (2+).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 75 on Aug 16th.

Kent: Crossness, c130 on May 26th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, 400 on Aug 12th. London Wetland Centre, 400 on Jul 3rd.

In Lond: Regent's Park, 50 on Jul 5th.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

Status: vagrant.

After the five records last year, there was just one this year. The table below shows the records for recent years.

Alpine Swift records 2000-2010

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of records	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	5

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 16th (PSt *et al*).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Status: locally common breeding resident with additional birds in winter.

They were recorded at 147 sites, slightly fewer than the 157 last year. Four or more together were seen at Sutton at Hone, Sevenoaks WR, Rye Meads (where there were up to seven) and Stocker's Lake. Despite many sightings, there were only 12 confirmed breeding pairs (ten in 2010), although breeding probably also occurred at other sites where pairs were seen throughout the breeding season. This total is similar to recent years. The number of sites where Kingfishers were recorded is shown below for each county with confirmed breeding records. All records for Inner London are listed. A bird ringed as a fledgling at Rye Meads in June was re-trapped at Crossness in August, presumably dispersing from where it was born, down the R Lea to the Thames (Ringing Report 2011, online).

Essex: Recorded at 28 sites. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Rainham Marshes (1). South Park, Ilford (1). Walthamstow Res (1).

Herts: Recorded at 45 sites. Amwell NR (1). Rye Meads (2), Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: Recorded at 30 sites. Wildwoods, Enfield (1).

Bucks: Recorded at five sites.

Kent: Recorded at 17 sites.

Surrey: Recorded at 18 sites. R Wandle, Wallington (1). Spencer Road Wetland (1).

In Lond: Norway Dock, one on Dec 28th. Regent's Park, one on Aug 29th. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Dec 28th. St James's Park, one on Sep 7th.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Status: vagrant.

One record of this beautiful bird, down from four last year. This was the first August record since 2000 but it was present for seven days allowing many observers to see it. The table below shows the pattern of recent records.

Hoopoe dates 2000-2010

Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
No. of records	1	6	3	2	0	1	1	3

Surrey: Farthing Downs, one from Aug 14th-20th (JMCL *et al*).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There were five records; two in the spring and three in the autumn. This is a little unusual; as the table below shows, of the previous 40 records, 34 have been in autumn and only six in spring. As last year, one was a long-stayer, seen intermittently at Alexandra Park for 11 days.

Wryneck dates 2000-2010

Month	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct
No. of records	5	1	8	25	1

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Sep 24th (PH).

Herts: Hoddesdon, one on Apr 6th (SSt).

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Aug 18th, 20th-21st & 27th-28th (RAn, GR *et al*).

Surrey: Raynes Park, one on Aug 29th (name of observer lost).

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Apr 30th (ARD).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Status: common breeding resident.

Recorded from 258 sites, which is much higher than the 157 last year. Evidence for breeding is not always readily available but 129 pairs were reported to have bred, which is more than in previous years (115 in 2009 and 85 in 2010). The true figure is probably higher, as there were many records of birds present throughout the breeding season at other sites. Interestingly, the BBS data shows an 8% UK decline from 2010-11 (BTO website). This is against a background of a long-term increase with The Breeding Bird

Survey in London (page 195) showing a 90% increase in London from 1994 to 2011. Breeding estimates are given below (no. of territories in brackets) as well as peak counts.

Essex: Recorded from 71 sites. Beam Parklands (1). Belhus Woods CP (1+); 17 on Jul 24th. Bulphan Fen (1). Grays Cemetery (1). Grays Gorge (1). Hangman's Wood (1). Harold Wood Park (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (1). Walthamstow Res (1). Wanstead Flats (1). Warren Gorge (1).

Herts: Recorded from 81 sites. Beech Farm GP (1+). Bell Bar (1). Brookmans Park (1). Cole Green Tip (4). Coopers Green GP (2). Coopers Green Lane (1). Croxley Common Moor (1). Croxley Hall GPs, (1). Cuffley (1). Epping Green (1). Essendon (1). Fir & Pond Woods (1). Gobions Wood (1). Hatfield (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (2). Hatfield Park (1). Hilfield Park Res (1). Howe Green (1). Maple Cross (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). Moor Park GC (1). North Mymms Park (2). Northaw (1). Potters Bar (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (1). Ridge (1). Roe Hyde (1). Rye Meads (1). South Mimms (1). Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). University of Herts (1). Water End (1). Welham Green (1). Welwyn Garden City (1); 12 on Dec 27th. Wildhill (1). Woodoaks Farm (1). Woodside, Hatfield (1). Wrotham Park (1).

Middx: Recorded from 47 sites. Alexandra Park (3). Bay Farm (1). Brayside Farm (1). Brent Res (1). Capel Manor College (1). Enfield Grammar School (1). Forty Hall (1). Grovelands Park (1). Horsenden Hill (5+); 14 on Jul 17th. Lake Farm CP (1). Lavender Hill Cemetery (1). Oakwood Park (1). Park Farm, Enfield (1). Parkside Farm/Res (1). Pennyfather Lane (1). Rectory Farm (1). South Lodge Farm (1). Strayfield Road (1). Trent Park (1). Vicarage Farm (1). Whitewebbs Wood (1). Wrotham Park (1).

Kent: Recorded from 39 sites. Blackheath (1). Chalk Wood (1). Danson Park (1). Foots Cray Meadows (4). Greenwich Park (2). Lamorbey Park (1). Sevenoaks WR, ten on Apr 6th.

Surrey: Recorded from 15 sites. Banstead Woods (3). Canons Farm (3); eight on Jul 21st. East Sheen Common (5). London Wetland Centre (1). Richmond Park (1). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (c20).

In Lond: Recorded from Battersea Park, Camberwell New Cemetery (1), Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Regent's Park (1) and Victoria Park.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Status: common breeding resident.

Recorded from 279 sites, which is unusually high. 241 pairs were confirmed to have bred (177 in 2010) and another 51 probably bred. This is probably much less than the actual number of breeding birds, as there were pairs and drumming males at many other sites. The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows a 29% decline from 2010 to 2011, which is not reflected in the records sent to us. There has been a long-term increase since 1994 of 136%. Breeding estimates are given below (no. of territories in brackets) for sites with two or more pairs (all for Inner London) and peak counts.

Essex: Recorded from 61 sites. Belhus Woods CP (1+); 11 on Jul 17th. Mar Dyke Valley (2). Thorndon CP (4).

Herts: Recorded from 83 sites. Bishop's Wood (3). Cole Green Tip (3). Hoddesdonpark Wood (19). Northaw Great Wood (5). Rye Meads (3). Welwyn Garden City (2). Wormley Wood (27).

Middx: Recorded from 52 sites. Alexandra Park (6). Bushy Park, 12 on Jan 3rd and Feb 20th. Grovelands Park (3). Hampstead (2+). Hilly Fields Park (2). Horsenden Hill (9+); 12 on Apr 3rd. Monken Hadley Common (3). Perivale Wood (4). Rectory Farm (2). Trent Park (5+). Whitewebbs Wood (4+).

Kent: Recorded from 53 sites. Bexley Wood (2). Blackheath/Greenwich Park (3+). Foots Cray Meadows (4). Lamorbey Park (2). Sevenoaks WR, seven on Mar 2nd & 26th.

Surrey: Recorded from 22 sites. Banstead Woods (6). Canons Farm (5). East Sheen Common (14). Richmond Park (15+). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (50+).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, five on Jan 13th and two drumming on Feb 15th. Victoria Park (1). Also recorded at Bankside, Battersea Park, Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, Camberwell New Cemetery, Regent's Park and Russia Dock Woodland.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Status: scarce and declining breeding resident.

Recorded at 71 sites which is more than usual (69 in 2010 and 55 in 2009), although 37 were reports of just one bird on one date. Breeding was confirmed at four sites (two in 2010) and probable breeding at seven sites (three last year). So, it was recorded at more sites, with more confirmed and probable breeding; it would be nice if this was a sign of a change in their long-term decline. Breeding was possible at another 18-22 sites (15-18 last year). All records are given below, with no. of territories/breeding in brackets.

Essex: Bedfords Park, one on three dates. Belhus Woods CP (1). Connaught Water, two drumming males on Mar 15th & 27th. Copped Hall, one on Mar 7th. Cornmill Meadows, one on Feb 28th. Dagenham Chase, one on Feb 22nd. Dagnam Park, one on Mar 17th. Grange Waters, one on Nov 13th. Hainault Forest, one on Jan 10th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Sep 18th. Orsett Fen (1), four young seen. Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 3rd. Wanstead Flats/Park (2). Weald Park, one on three dates.

Herts: Beech Farm GP, one on Apr 22nd & 24th. Bricket Wood Common, one on May 5th. Brookmans Park, one on Jan 13th. Broxbourne Woods, one on Feb 14th. Cassiobury Park, one or a pair on four dates. Croxley Common Moor, one on Mar 19th and Apr 8th. Croxley Green, one on Jun 23rd. Fir & Pond Woods, one on Mar 12th. Gobions Wood, one on Jun 19th. Goffs Oak, one on garden feeder on Sep 22nd. Hampermill Lake, one on Dec 24th. Hatfield Aerodrome, one on Apr 16th & 22nd. Hertford, one on Jun 23rd. Hilfield Park Res, one on three dates. Hoddesdonpark Wood, one on Apr 4th. Northaw (1), young in nest hole. Panshanger Park, one on Nov 12th. Praewood Farm, one on Mar 23rd. Redwell Wood Farm, one on Jul 2nd. Rickmansworth, one on Mar 22nd. Rickmansworth area (1). Tyttenhanger GP, one on three dates. Welwyn Garden City, one on Jun 16th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Mar 30th. Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Jan 26th. Brent Res, one on eight dates. Brunel University, one on Jan 21st. Bushy Park, singles on Jan 21st and Feb 12th, with two on 21st. Copse Wood, one on Mar 15th. Cowley, one on Jan 24th and Apr 25th. Hillingdon Court Park, one on Dec 30th. Mill Hill, one on Oct 9th. Osterley Park, one on four dates in Mar and Apr. Park Wood, one on Feb 12th and Mar 4th. Ruislip Woods (2). Waterlow Park, one on Apr 4th and May 24th. Wembley, one

bird at garden feeder from Jan to Apr. Whitewebbs Wood, pair on Mar 8th. Wildwoods, Enfield (1).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, one on Mar 5th.

Kent: Chalk Wood, three on Apr 9th and drumming on two dates. Crayford Marshes, one on Nov 14th. Joyden's Wood, one on Apr 9th. Maryon Wilson Park, one drumming male on Feb 15th.

Surrey: Banstead Woods (2). Bookham Common, singles on Jan 9th and Apr 6th. Canons Farm (1), young seen. Forestdale, one drumming male on Mar 23rd & 24th. Littleheath Woods, one from March to June. Richmond Park (7), three broods of young seen. Sanderstead Plantation, singles on Mar 26th and Dec 27th. Selsdon, one on Jun 17th, 20th and July. Wimbledon Common, one on Mar 28th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Status: scarce passage migrant and occasional rare breeder.

For the fourth year running, there was no evidence of breeding or even of sightings at recent breeding sites. Is that it? Just seven sightings this year; unlike last year, they were not all in autumn or winter. There were four sightings in October, which in recent years has been the month with easily the most records. Unusually for recent years, one of this year's sightings was in May.

Essex: Woodford Green, one on Oct 9th (KMy).

Middx: Alexandra Park, one NE on Oct 8th (RJW).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one over on Jan 1st (KMJ).

Surrey: Hogsmill SW, two SW on May 11th (NT). London Wetland Centre, one W on Aug 23rd (NPS). Walton Res, one flushed on Oct 25th (SJS).

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Oct 12th (ARD).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

In urban areas they are now mostly seen on passage and in winter movements, with breeding and winter flocks being mostly on surrounding farmland. This year the winter counts were lower, with the highest being 80 at Holmethorpe SP in January, and 75 at Orsett Fen in December; last year there were 17 sites with counts of 100 or more. Most passage records were in October but, in contrast to last year, there was no marked peak of movements. In the breeding season,

This Shore Lark at QE II Reservoir was only the 14th record for London, and is a major rarity for the area. (Dave Harris)



196 territories were reported from 44 sites, which is more than last year (136 from 34 sites). From the data below this may just be due to variation in observer reports rather than any real change. BTO data shows a continuing recent decline in England, with a long-term decline of 24% from 1994-2010 (BBS). The details below give the number of territories for each county and some breeding details and high counts.

Essex: 39 territories (down from 67 last year) from 6 sites. Belhus Woods CP (4). Grange Waters, 50 on Jan 16th. Grey Goose Farm (3). Mar Dyke Valley (2). Orsett Fen (13). Rainham Marshes (6); 80 on Oct 16th. Wanstead Flats (11).

Herts: 84 territories (up from one last year!) from 22 sites. Beech Farm GP (7). Cole Green Tip (23). Coopers Green Lane (2). Coursers Farm, 60 on Nov 22nd. Cromerhyde Farm (6). Hatfield Aerodrome (6). Tyttenhanger Farm, 55 on Jan 19th. University of Herts (14). West Hyde, 150 passage birds on Oct 15th.

Middx: Six territories (down from 23 last year) from 4 sites. Alexandra Park, 50 on Oct 29th. Ferny Hill Farm, 27 on Jan 4th. Lake Farm CP (2). Parkside Farm/Res (1). Vicarage Farm (2). Yeading Brook Meadows (1).

Bucks: Colnbrook (2).

Kent: 24 territories (up from 11 last year) from six sites. College Farm (3). Crayford Marshes (9); 32 on Sep 28th. Crossness (1). Greenwich Park, 20 over on Oct 14th. Otford to Filston (2). Ruxley (2). Swanscombe Marshes (7).

Surrey: 36 territories (up from 26 last year) from five sites, but also several territories at Farthing Downs. Banstead Wood (3). Canons Farm (5); 40 on Oct 9th. Holmethorpe SP (1); 80 on Jan 29th. Richmond Park (17), 13 last year. Riddlesdown (10).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles over on Jan 11th and Feb 9th. Paddington Green, one over on Sep 23rd. Regent's Park, singles on Jan 9th, Feb 3rd and Oct 19th with two on Oct 28th.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Status: rare visitor.

This is only the 14th record for London and the first for 13 years. A stay of eight days is unusual - most previous records were just for one day; but there has been one over-wintering (1971-2), one staying for ten days (1985) and another recorded from time to time over a period of six weeks (1963). The date is typical; almost half of the previous records arrived in October or November.

Shore Lark records 1957-2010 13 records

Year	1957	1961	1963	1971	1972	1979	1980	1983	1985	1996	1998
Number of records	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1

Surrey: QE II Res, one from Oct 25th-Nov 1st (DMH).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

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

As last year, the first sighting was on March 9th, with three at Island Barn Res. Next day there were four at Staines Moor and one at Walthamstow Res. Records became daily

from 15th, with the first double-figure count on 24th and the first three-figure counts on April 2nd, with 116 at the London Wetland Centre, 130 at Q. Mother Res and 150 at Rye Meads.

Passage in April and May was moderate to good, with the top count being 350 (300 last year) at Rainham Marshes on April 16th. Other sites with counts of 100 or more were Holmethorpe SP, Island Barn Res and also at Tyttenhanger GP which had the peak count for Herts of 200. Passage was most marked in April, but at some sites it was greater in early than in late April whereas in others this was reversed.

This was a good year for breeding. The pair in Kent was the first for at least ten years running, Brent Res had its first ever breeding records, there was breeding at two Inner London sites and breeding pairs were increased in number compared with last year at Tottenham Marshes, Beddington Farmlands and London Wetland Centre. Although for the fourth year there was no definite breeding in Herts, a failed attempt at breeding was reported from one site, with probable breeding at another.

There were no obvious peaks in return passage although there were a remarkable 500 birds resting on the bank at Wraysbury Res after heavy rain on August 13th. There were just five records in October, with the last being four birds at Rainham Marshes on the 18th. All breeding records and Inner London sightings are given below.

Essex: Barking, R Roding (8). Walthamstow Res (2).

Herts: Coursers Road, probable breeding with 35 exploring old nest sites. Stanborough Lakes (3), nest holes were made but then disturbed by excavations.

Middx: Brent Res (2). East India Dock Basin (3). Limehouse Cut (1). Tottenham Marshes (14).

Kent: Deptford Creek (1).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (8). Holmethorpe SP (bred, no count given). London Wetland Centre (64).

In Lond: Shadwell Basin (2). Hermitage Basin, 25 on May 9th, six on Jun 11th and six on 23rd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, six on Mar 29th. Regent's Park, 15 on Sep 16th. Rotherhithe (1). Russia Dock Woodland, one on Apr 9th. Rotherhithe (1). Victoria Park, 21 on Sep 10th. Wapping, 30 on Jul 11th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, breeding confined to rural areas.

In general, spring passage produced very low numbers. In each of the past few years several sites have reported three-figure numbers: this year not a single site did. The first of the year was at South Norwood Lake on March 21st, which is mid-way between the first dates for the past ten years (16th to 26th). There was another single bird next day, none the following day but continuous records from March 24th onwards. With two exceptions, all counts were then in single figures until April 5th, when there were records from 19 sites and two counts of 25. More movement followed on April 26th-27th, including 79 at London Wetland Centre. Numbers in May were low, the highest being 50 at Staines Res on the 15th.

Breeding returned to around the levels of 2006-2008 with 17 sites reporting breeding, following the downward trend of the past two years. The map below shows the distribution of breeding records.

Post-breeding congregation and return passage was seen from mid-August and was very pronounced in September. There were records of 300-530 on September 3rd, 6th and 7th; 4,200 hirundines in an hour along the river between West Thurrock Marshes and Greenhithe on September 12th; then the peak from September 15th-17th when eight sites recorded 300-500 birds, and over 2,000 flew over the Canons Farm/Banstead Woods area. The flood became a stream in early October and a trickle by the 8th. There were then daily records until the 19th and then one on the 22nd, another on the 26th. But the latest was a single on December 3rd at Valentine's Park. This might be the latest ever, the latest since 1990 being November 23rd in 1991. Sites where breeding was reported are given below, with the number of nests in brackets, where known.

Essex: Breach Barns. Ingrebourne Valley. Little End. Mar Dyke Valley. Orsett Fen (3). Thorndon CP.

Herts: Arkley Fields (2). Goffs Oak (5).

Middx: Bay Farm (1). Strayfield Road (6). Ten Acre Wood (1). Totteridge Valley.

Kent: Crayford Marshes (1). Pratt's Bottom (1).

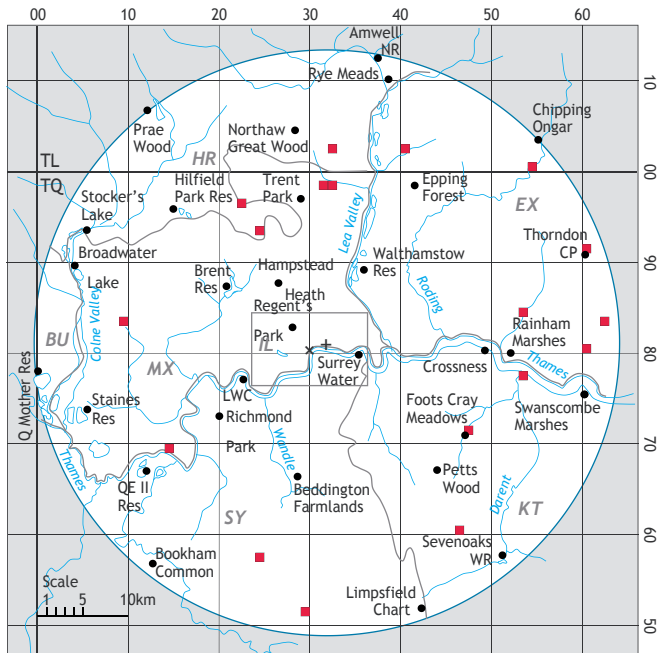
Surrey: Canons Farm (1). Holmethorpe SP (1 possible). Richmond Park (2).

In Lond: Battersea Park, five on Apr 5th and one on May 29th. Battersea PS, 92 on Sep 16th. Burgess Park, two on May 9th. Regent's Park, one on Apr 13th, ten on Apr 30th, four on May 3rd and nine records in Sep, including 160 on 13th, 480 on 15th and 360 on 16th. Rotherhithe, five on Apr 10th and one on 25th. Russia Dock Woodland, five on Apr 9th. Victoria Park, eight on Sep 10th.

Swallow

Breeding records

- Breeding record(s) in 1-km square
- LNHS Area
- County boundaries



Based on data mapped by Greenspace Information for Greater London
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House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first records of the year were on March 24th, with two in Langley and one in Rickmansworth. In the past ten years, first dates have been between March 9th and 29th. There were only 12 sightings in March, but they were daily from April 2nd. There were three counts of ten or more in the first half of April and 13 in the second half. Passage was then steady with no obvious peaks, the highest counts being only 75 at Hampton FB and 80 at Rye Meads, both on May 28th. For the first year there were no counts of 100 or more. The table below shows the number of such counts over recent years, showing a recent downward trend.

House Martin spring counts 2002-2011

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of counts of 100 or more	7	7	12+	12	9	7	6	5	3	0

There were reports of 174 breeding at 38 sites, down on the 223 breeding last year. In England, they have been declining since about 2004, with a long-term decline of 14% from 1994-2010 (BTO website, BBS data). More regular counts of active nests would be very welcome.

Post-breeding congregations and return passage began in earnest in mid-August, the highest being 500 at Wraysbury Res on the 13th. There was then a lull until early September, the highest being 600 at Staines Res on the 6th. Numbers started building up again from 11th to a peak on the 17th and 18th (which coincided with the peak of Swallow migration). This included 6,000 at Canons Farm/Banstead Wood. The other notable record was 520 at the London Wetland Centre on the 26th. Thereafter, passage tailed off, apart from 103 over South Norwood CP on October 20th. The last October record was of five at Crayford on the 27th. None were recorded in November, but one at Woodford Green on December 3rd, was the latest record of the past ten years.

Essex: 92 breeding, 15 sites. Grays Riverside (18). KGV Res, 200 on Sep 11th. Lambourne End (bred, no count possible). Pilgrims Hatch (14). Purfleet (5). Rainham Marshes, 200 on Sep 15th. St Georges Hospital, Hornchurch (10). Thorndon CP (8). Walthamstow FB (7). Warren Gorge (18).

Herts: 19 breeding, six sites. Croxley Green (4). Epping Green (2). Goffs Oak (3). Hatfield Aerodrome (3). Munden Estate (6). Rye Meads, 200 on Sep 6th. Woodoaks Farm, 180 on Sep 17th.

Middx: 39 breeding, ten sites. Brent Res, 300 on Sep 18th. Bulls Cross (3). Ruislip Lido (15). Staines Res, 600 on Sep 6th. Uxbridge (11). The Broadway, West Hendon (bred, no count). Wraysbury Res, 500 on Aug 13th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 300 on Aug 16th.

Kent: Five breeding, three sites. Beckenham, 1,000 nearly all House Martins, SW in one hour on Sep 17th. Bexley (2). Crayford (1). Greenwich (2). Sutcliffe Park, 500 S in one hour on Sep 17th.

Surrey: 19 breeding, four sites. Canons Farm/Banstead Wood, 6,000 on Sep 17th. Carshalton Beeches (7). Hackbridge (5), down from 27 in 2009. Holmethorpe SP (4); 750 NW on Sep 17th. London Wetland Centre, 520 S on Sep 26th. Sanderstead (3).

In Lond: Battersea Park, one on Jul 19th and 12 on Sep 7th. Hermitage Basin, two on May 9th, one on Jun 12th and two on 23rd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, some nested at Kuwaiti Embassy; eight on Jul 25th. Regent's Park, 16 on Apr 29th and four on Jun 25th; five records in Sep with 230 on Sep 15th and 210 on 16th and one on Oct 12th. Tower 42, one on Sep 16th. Victoria Park, one on May 14th and 20 on Sep 10th. Wapping Canals, two on May 9th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Status: rare vagrant.

This is the 15th record for London and the first in September. Twelve of these records have been in April or May, with one in June and one in October. As the table below shows, the frequency of records has been increasing recently.

Red-rumped Swallow records

Year	1964	1966	1973	1975	1982	1987	1992	1996	1999	2000	2003	2007	2009
No. of records	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1

Kent: Crayford Marshes, an adult SW at 11:40 on Sep 8th (KMJ).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Status: passage migrant and scarce, seriously decreasing breeding summer visitor.

Passage began on April 2nd with one at Dagenham Chase. There were no more records until 11th, when two flew north over Stoke Newington Res calling, followed by two the next day at London Wetland Centre. One at Fairlop Waters on 16th was followed by singles at Netherhouse Farm, Rainham Marshes and Wanstead Flats on 19th. On 22nd singles flew over Crayford Marshes and Crossness and two were reported at Netherhouse Farm. Singles again at Fairlop Waters and Rainham Marshes on 23rd were followed by one at Thorndon CP on 24th. Just four more singles were seen on spring passage: over Barking on 25th, at Regent's Park on 29th, over Crossness on 30th and at Scadbury Park on May 3rd.

This was another poor year for breeding. Only three sites had singing birds for more than a day, all in Essex. Breeding was probable at Thorndon CP, but only possible at Netherhouse Farm and Long Running.

More were seen on autumn passage, beginning with one at Crayford Marshes on August 1st, then one over Canons Farm on 6th and steady passage from 14th. The table below shows the pattern of this passage. In these weeks, the highest counts were four at Hampstead Heath on 18th; three at Wanstead Flats on 24th; two at Wanstead Flats on 28th and 29th; two at Crayford Marshes on September 9th and two at Osterley Park on 28th, which were the last of the year.

Tree Pipit weekly autumn totals

Week commencing	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28	Sep 4	Sep 11	Sep 18	Sep 25
No. of birds	12	9	11	9	5	3	3
No. of records	6	7	9	8	5	3	2

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

There were few large winter flocks, with no reports of 50 or more (six last year), well below the recent average. By contrast, spring passage was more marked this year than last. It was most noticeable in the last week of March, when the two highest counts were recorded, with 75 feeding at Howe Green on the 27th and 60 at Q. Mother Res on the 25th. Of the three other counts of 30 or more, two were also in this week and the other on February 19th.

There were nine breeding records (ten last year) making this the worst year in the last decade apart from 2008. This is in line with national trends, BTO data showing a 16% decline in England from 1995-2010 (BBS).

Autumn passage was much heavier than spring passage, and most marked from the second week in September to mid-October. There were just two records of 100 or more (much less than the ten last year); 155 at Regent's Park on September 13th and 200 at Canons Farm on 22nd. There were also 23 records of 50 or more.

Essex: Barking Bay (1).

Herts: Cole Green Tip (2). Cuffley (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (4). Hatfield, University of Herts (1).

Middx: Lake Farm CP (1). Wormwood Scrubs (2).

Kent: Crayford Marshes (3).

Surrey: Riddlesdown (1).

In Lond: Bankside, one on Sep 30th. Battersea PS, two on Sep 16th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Feb 23rd, three on Mar 29th and one on 30th, one on Oct 21st. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 28th & 31st and May 1st; eight records Sep-Oct with peak of 155 on Sep 13th. Victoria Park, one on Sep 10th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

An unusual sight was one at Q. Mother Res on May 5th and 6th in summer plumage which was clearly of the race *littoralis*. Apart from this, birds were recorded from the start of the year until March 28th and then again from September 18th. The only sites with birds wintering were at the Lower Thames Marshes. As usual, Rainham Marshes had the highest counts and monthly maxima are shown in the table. All other records are given below.

Rock Pipit monthly maxima

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	14	16	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	12

Essex: Barking Bay, up to six in Jan. Holyfield Lake, one on Oct 30th. KGV Res, one on Mar 17th. Rainham Marshes, recorded up to Mar 27th and from Oct 3rd (peak counts above). Walthamstow Res, two on Mar 19th (one staying to 20th). Wanstead Flats, one on Jan 9th. West Thurrock Marshes, one on Oct 16th.

Middx: KGV Res, two on Oct 16th and one on Nov 1st. Staines Res, one from Mar 26th-28th and two on Oct 17th. Wraysbury Res, singles on Oct 2nd and 22nd-23rd.



Rock Pipit is most often a wintering bird in London. (Dave Harris)

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Mar 5th, May 5th-6th, Sep 30th, Oct 20th. Then two on Oct 27th.

Kent: Belvedere, one on Feb 20th. Crayford Marshes, recorded up to Mar 17th with peak of five, then from Oct 7th with peak of seven. Crossness, one on Jan 1st, eight on Feb 20th, then singles on Dec 4th, 9th & 11th. Dartford Marshes, up to five in Feb then seven on Nov 23rd. Greenwich Peninsula, singles on Feb 20th & 26th and Mar 24th. Swanscombe Marshes, two on Jan 11th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one S on Sep 18th, then recorded on 13 dates from Oct 8th to Nov 9th with four over on Oct 13th, followed by one on Dec 27th. QE II Res, one from Sep 27th-29th. Walton Res, one on Mar 6th and two on Oct 21st.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Status: regular but localised winter visitor and passage migrant.

Apart from one at Tottenham Marshes on May 11th (a first for the site), birds were recorded up to April 1st and then from October 14th. Monthly peak counts for the most productive sites were notably lower than in the past two years. All records are given below.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, one on Jan 29th. Rainham Marshes, present up to Mar 27th with peak of six on Mar 17th; then from Oct 29th when all were singles except for two on Dec 14th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Nov 1st.

Middx: KGVI Res, one on Jan 16th; then singles on Oct 26th & 29th, from Nov 12th-26th (with three on 13th) and two on Dec 18th. Staines Moor, up to four present until Apr 1st, then from Nov 1st, with peak count of six. Staines Res, singles on Jan 24th, then up to three from Nov 20th. Tottenham Marshes, one on May 11th.



Yellow Wagtail is often seen associating with cattle. (Andrew Moon)

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two on Oct 23rd.

Kent: Belvedere, singles on Feb 20th and Nov 22nd. Crayford Marshes, one to two present to Mar 29th, then singles Oct 28th, Nov 8th-10th & 23rd and Dec 9th. Crossness, one or two to Feb 5th and one over on Mar 26th; up to two present from Oct 21st. Dartford Marshes, one on four dates in Feb. Swanscombe Marshes, one on Jan 11th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, up to three until Mar 20th, then up to two from Nov 9th. London Wetland Centre, one or two present until Mar 20th, then singles Oct 14th-15th and Nov 11th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Mar 23rd.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing, now scarce breeder.

The first of the year were six at Hatfield Aerodrome on March 19th, but there were no more until 28th with one over Crayford Marshes. After another single on 30th, there were daily records from April 1st, with a peak in mid-April. Counts were low, with only two counts of ten or more and 14 at KGV Res on April 17th being the highest.

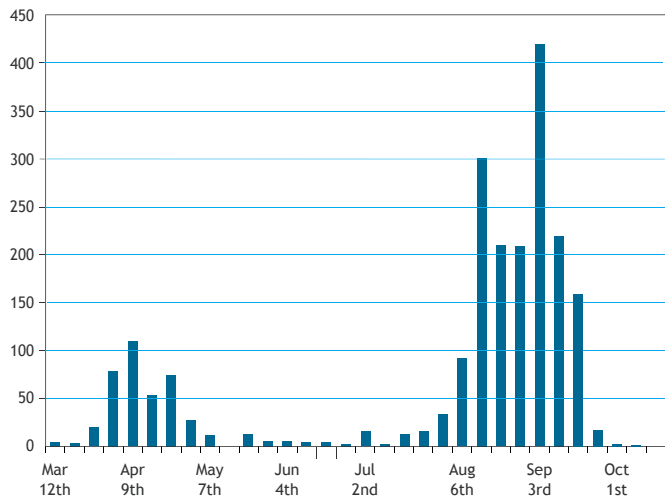
The best year for breeding since at least 2002, for a species that for some years has seemed in danger of falling off the area's breeding list (although 25 years ago there were at least 75 breeding records). There were eight records of breeding, and the breeding in Middlesex was the first for at least ten years. All breeding records and all Inner London records are given below.

Autumn passage was heavier than in the spring, beginning on July 20th with one SE over Crayford Marshes and continued lightly until August 8th when there were six at Rainham Marshes. There was heavier passage in mid-August, with ten at Crayford

Yellow Wagtail
Weekly counts

Key

■ Number recorded
in week
commencing



Marshes on 16th, 16 at Rainham Marshes on 17th, 25 at Staines Moor on 20th and 19 at Amwell NR on 23rd. There were more a week later, with 19 at Q. Mother Res on 28th (17 of these flying over in one group) and 25 at Staines Moor on 30th. There was another movement from mid-September, with 40 at Woodoaks Farm and 17 at Staines Moor on 10th, followed by 30 at Rainham Marshes on 11th and a peak of 46 at Woodoaks Farm on 21st. Most had gone by October 1st, with only eight records after that. These were two at Rainham Marshes on 3rd, one at Regent's Park on 4th, one at Crayford Marshes and two at QE II Res on 6th, singles at Crayford Marshes and Staines Res on 7th, one at Q. Mother Res on 8th and the last at London Wetland Centre on 13th. The chart above shows the weekly counts.

Essex: Corner Farm (2). Orsett Fen (2). Wennington (1).

Herts: Cole Green Tip (1). Cromerhyde Farm (1). Potters Bar (1). Woodside, Hatfield (1).

Middx: Parkside Farm/Res (1).

In Lond: Battersea PS, one on Apr 22nd, two on Aug 20th and one on Sep 16th. Regent's Park, singles on May 1st and on Sep 5th, two on Sep 10th & 15th.

SUB-SPECIES: Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava*

There were four records this year.

Essex: Fairlop Waters, one on Apr 29th (AAB).

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Apr 11th (NA).

Middx: Staines Moor, one on Apr 17th (NS, DJM, REI).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 18th (NPS).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 44 breeding records, which was about average for the past three years. Once again, the River Wandle, Butter Hill to Morden Hall Park came up trumps with four territories. In addition there were another 17 records of two birds at a suitable site in the breeding season but where it was not stated whether they were a pair. Noted below are all breeding records, with number in brackets; peak counts and all Inner London records.

Essex: Barking (1). Padnall Lake (1). Paines Brook, Harold Wood (1). Pimp Hall Park (1). Rainham Marshes, five on Oct 16th. Walthamstow Res (2).

Herts: Howe Green (2). Maple Lodge NR (1). Park Street (2). Rye Meads (2); ten on Aug 27th. Stanborough Reedmarsh (1). Stocker's Farm (1). Welwyn Garden City (2).

Middx: Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (1). Edgware (1). Edmonton (1). Hampton FB (1). KGV1 Res (1). Q. Mary Res (1). Stonebridge Park Station (1). Strayfield Road (1). Uxbridge (1). Whitewebbs Wood, at Cuffley Brook (1).

Kent: Brookmill Park (1). Crossness (1). Foots Cray Meadows (1).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, five over on Oct 16th. Poulter Park (1). R Wandle, Butter Hill to Morden Hall Park (4). R Wandle, Carshalton (1). R Wandle, Carshalton Ponds to Wandsworth, ten on Dec 28th. Ravensbury Park (1). Richmond Park (1). Waddon Ponds (1). Wandle Creek (1). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (1).

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Battersea PS, two on Feb 12th, Aug 20th and Sep 16th. Cremorne Gdns, one on Apr 23rd. Hermitage Basin (1). High Holborn, WC4, adult and juv on Jun 30th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Apr 27th and May 29th. Limehouse Basin, singles on Mar 7th and Apr 5th. Paddington Green, one on Jul 28th. Regent's Park, present on seven dates from Aug 14th-Nov 10th, with six on Sep 16th. Tower of London, three on Oct 7th. Victoria Park, one on May 14th, then four on Sep 10th and one on Nov 12th. Wapping Canals, one on Jun 23rd.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

There were only 19 breeding records, presumably due to under-reporting. The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows a large increase from 1994-2011 of 231%. All breeding records are given below in brackets as well as peak counts, maximum roost sizes, and all Inner London records.

Essex: Grays Gorge (1). Harold Hill, up to 305 roosting Jan-Mar. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (1+). Roding Valley NR, 45 on Feb 11th. Romford Station, 100 roosting on Dec 7th. Walthamstow Res, 31 on Mar 6th.

Herts: Cheshunt, 100+ roosting on Nov 5th. Cuffley, 63 feeding on Dec 30th. Hertford, up to 100+ roosting Dec 19th. Rye Meads (1). Welwyn Garden City, up to 200 roosting in Feb and Nov.

Middx: Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (1). Horsenden Hill (1). KGVI Res (1); 108 on Sep 18th. Saffron Avenue Pond (1). Vicarage Farm (1). Wormwood Scrubs (1). Wraysbury Res, 100 on Oct 14th.

Bucks: Horton GP (1), bred on a crane in daily use. Wraysbury GP, 39 on Dec 27th.

Kent: Blackheath (1). Lamorbey Park (1). Sevenoaks WR, 48 on Oct 30th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (1). Canons Farm (2). Croydon, 150 roosting on Dec 1st. High Street, Sutton, 75 roosting on Dec 21st. Holmethorpe SP (1); 70 on Feb 18th. London Wetland Centre (1). Waddon Ponds (1).

In Lond: Cremorne Gardens, one on Apr 23rd. Hermitage Basin, pair on May 9th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Jan 3rd and four on Mar 30th. Paddington Green, one on Oct 21st. Regent's Park, one on Sep 9th and eight on Oct 19th. Tower of London, one on Mar 31st. Victoria Park, one on Nov 12th.

SUB-SPECIES: White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

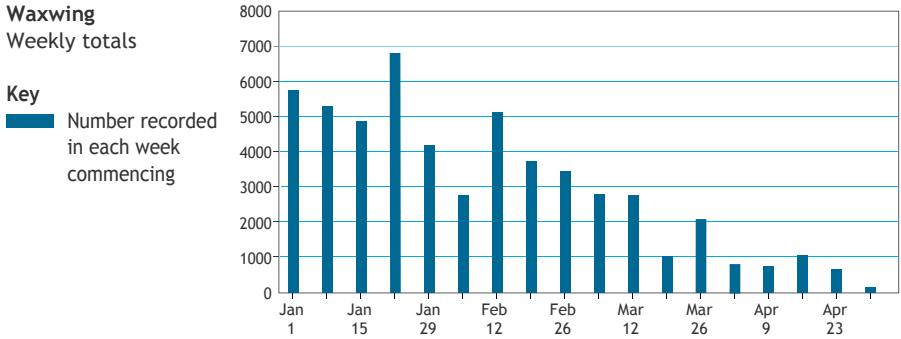
Status: passage migrant, more commonly seen in spring than in autumn.

Only 54 records this year, compared with 82 last year. As then, some of the records are of the same bird seen on consecutive or near consecutive days. Spring passage was from March 7th to May 19th and autumn passage from September 1st to November 10th. The only counts of more than three were at Q. Mother Res, with ten on April 6th and five on 14th, then five on September 18th.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Status: uncommon but sometimes numerous irruptive visitor.

The Waxwing invasion that started in October 2010 and reached peaks of over 800, was



even larger at the start of 2011 with 1,000 or more recorded on five dates in January and February. Numbers dropped off by the end of February, although even as late as April 27th, 230 were recorded in a day. The last was on June 10th at Marshalswick. They appeared to have spread out over the area this year as they were recorded from 334 sites compared with 131 last year. Waxwing invasions often start in the north of the UK and move south and this was illustrated by one of the Sunbury Cross birds below. It was colour-ringed in Aberdeen on October 31st 2010, appeared in Shropshire in early December, Hampshire in mid-December, and reached London in mid-January. At the

After feeding on berries, the Waxwings would descend to drink from the puddles in the car park at Lakeside. (Jonathan Lethbridge)



end of the year, there was no sign of another invasion, with just one record of two birds at Belhus Woods CP on November 6th. The chart above shows total weekly numbers including records taken from the London Bird Club Wiki site. The most notable are listed below, along with all Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, max 70 on Feb 13th. Chafford Hundred, max 105 on Mar 29th. Cranham, 100 on Jan 30th. Debden, 160 on Jan 1st. Grays, max 123 on Apr 27th. Lakeside Shopping Centre, max 370 on Mar 17th. Loughton, max 200 on Jan 4th. Rainham Marshes, max 80 on Feb 1st. Upminster, max 200 on Feb 12th. Woodford, 100 on Jan 9th.

Herts: Abbots Langley, max 73 on Jan 23rd. Bushey, 100 on Jan 8th. Cassiobury Park, max 130 on Jan 11th. Chiswell Green, max 120 on Jan 1st. Garston, max 50 on Jan 28th and Mar 22nd. Hatfield, max 200 on Jan 23rd. Hertford, max 70 on Jan 27th and Feb 9th. Oxhey, 100-200 on Jan 7th-9th. Oxhey Park, 100 on Feb 26th. Panshanger, 120 on Jan 15th. Rickmansworth, max 116 on Mar 3rd. St Albans, max 60 on Jan 5th. Watford max 200 on Jan 7th. Welham Green, 175 on Jan 5th.

Middx: Ealing, 200 on Feb 27th. Hampstead, 100 on Jan 28th. Highbury, 170 on Jan 15th. Isleworth, 100 on Jan 16th. Islington, 140 on Feb 2nd. Mill Hill, 200 on Jan 1st and 250 on 2nd. Muswell Hill, 285 on Jan 27th. Perivale, 140 on Feb 19th and 150 on 20th. Sunbury Cross, 100-200 on Feb 13th-16th. Sunbury Cross Shopping Centre, max 224 on Feb 13th. Tufnell Park 100 on Jan 12th and 120 on 13th. West Hampstead, 100 on Feb 1st. Wood Green, 100 on Jan 27th.

Kent: Bexleyheath, max 100 on Mar 29th. Crayford, max 160 on Feb 12th. Dartford, 154 on Feb 20th.

Surrey: Chertsey, 170 on Jan 26th. Clapham Common, 100 on Feb 15th. Redhill, max 65 on Jan 13th. Streatham, 120 on Jan 29th. Wallington, max 200 on Jan 23rd.

In Lond: Battersea, 15 on Mar 21st. Canonbury, 30 on Jan 14th. Clerkenwell, 43 on Jan 27th. Holborn, WC2, 25-40 on Jan 22nd-24th. Islington, present Jan 8th-Mar 15th; max 140 on Feb 2nd. Leicester Square, 200 over on Jan 21st. Paddington Green, four on Mar 15th. Peckham Rye Station, five on Jan 13th. Regent's Park, five on Jan 11th, four on 9th, two on 19th, 25 on Mar 17th and 12 on 31st. Somerset House, 50 on Jan 23rd.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

Despite an increase in numbers of breeding records this year, which is appreciated, we still receive very few records of this very common and widespread species. Consequently it is impossible to make meaningful year for year comparisons. BBS data shows a 17% UK decline since 2010 (BTO website). Breeding records are given below at sites where ten or more were recorded (no. of territories in brackets), along with some of the higher counts, and all Inner London breeding records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (12). Grays Gorge (11). Lion Gorge (11). Mar Dyke Valley (30); 32 on Dec 15th.

Herts: Amwell NR (14). Cheshunt GPs (32). Chess Valley Walk (17). Cole Green Tip (17). Hatfield Park (19). Maple Lodge NR (10). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (17). Rye Meads (70). University of Herts (11+). Welwyn Garden City (15).

Middx: Home Park, ten on Dec 3rd. Horsenden Hill, 28 on Nov 11th.

Kent: Lamorbey Park (10+). Sevenoaks WR, 40 on May 14th & 25th. Sutton at Hone, 33 on May 12th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood (72). Beddington Farmlands (71). Canons Farm (43). Croydon, reported from 75% of gardens participating in a local survey. East Sheen Common (58).

In Lond: Holland Park, ten on Apr 23rd. Shadwell Basin (1).

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

This is another hugely under-recorded and widespread species, again with too few records to show any trends. BBS data shows an 11% UK decline since 2010 (BTO website). Breeding records are given below at sites where five or more were recorded (no. of territories in brackets), along with some of the higher counts, and the only Inner London record.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (9). Lion Gorge (7). Mar Dyke Valley (9); 21 on Nov 8th and Dec 15th.

Herts: Cole Green Tip (8); 20 on Sep 15th. Rye Meads (48). Welwyn Garden City (6); 20 on Oct 2nd.

Middx: Bushy Park, 20 on Feb 20th. Vicarage Farm (8). Wormwood Scrubs (10+).

Kent: Greenwich Park (8+).

Surrey: Banstead (8). Beddington Farmlands (45). Canons Farm (27). Croydon reported from 89% of gardens participating in a local survey. Richmond Park (14).

In Lond: Cremorne Gardens, one on Apr 23rd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Nov 25th. These were the only records received for this sector.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

As with Wren and Dunnock, this is a very under-recorded species, and consequently no comparison with previous years can be made. BBS data shows a 15% UK decline since 2010 (BTO website). Breeding records are given below at sites where ten or more were recorded (no. of territories in brackets), all Inner London breeding records, and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (26); 40 birds on Oct 16th. Grays Gorge (15). Hatch Forest (11). Lion Gorge (12). Mar Dyke Valley (15). Warren Gorge (13).

Herts: Chess Valley Walk (7). Cole Green Tip (14). Loudwater, 33 on Jan 24th. Rye Meads (36). Welwyn Garden City (16).

Middx: Wormwood Scrubs (15+).

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 47 on Sep 28th. Sutton at Hone, 40 on Sep 30th.

Surrey: Addington Hills, 40 on Mar 21st. Banstead Wood (58). Beddington Farmlands (32). Canons Farm (58). East Sheen Common (64). London Wetland Centre (15); 84 on Oct 12th.

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Holland Park, 20 on Apr 23rd. Victoria Park, ten on Sep 10th.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers, scarce passage migrant.

There appears to be an overall increase in breeding numbers, with at least 26 territories compared to last year's 21. Some of these were birds singing for just over a week, which meet the BTO criteria of probable breeding, but may have moved on after that. Although numbers have fluctuated somewhat over the past decade (between 15 and 31), they have remained relatively stable compared to the national trend.

The first return was at Fishers Green on April 5th, followed by another on 7th. There was more regular passage from 12th, ending by May 6th. Outside the breeding sites, birds were recorded from 14 sites during the spring. The only records after June 2nd were one singing on June 19th and one drinking from the gutter of a house on August 1st. All records are given below, with no. of territories in brackets.

Essex: Bedfords Park, one on May 1st. Bonnett's Wood, one on Apr 7th. Cornmill Meadows, one on Apr 17th. Dagenham Chase (2). Fairlop Waters, one on May 1st. Fishers Green (8). Ingrebourne Valley, singles on May 6th & 7th. Lippitts Hill (1+). Rise Park (1). Thorndon CP (1). Warren Hill, one on Apr 23rd.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Apr 18th. Cheshunt GPs (3). Panshanger, one on Apr 22nd. Stanborough Lakes (1).

Middx: Osterley Park, one on Apr 12th. Stanwell Moor, one on Apr 17th. Wormwood Scrubs (2).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Apr 15th. River Pool Linear Park, one on Jun 19th.

Surrey: Bookham Common (7). London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 13th. Norbury, one drinking from the gutter of a house in Abingdon Road on Aug 1st. Wimbledon Common, two on Apr 12th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

They were recorded from 21 sites outside Inner London, compared to 36 last year. Confirmed breeding was up on last year in Inner London, although numbers are still extremely low, with numbers of additional pairs and singing males remaining fairly stable. There were a few birds moving through during October. Breeding records are summarised in the table and all other records given below.

Black Redstart	Pairs proved breeding	Other pairs present	Additional singing males
Middx	1	-	-
Surrey	-	-	3
In Lond	5	4	c10

Essex: KGV Res, one on Apr 22nd. Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 29th. Thurrock Rugby Club, male on Jan 21st.

Herts: Hatfield Aerodrome, wintering bird until Mar 20th. Willows Farm, one on Jan 24th.

Middx: Bromley-by-Bow (1). Pinner Park Farm, singles on Apr 3rd, 4th & 22nd. Rectory Farm, juv on Aug 22nd. Stoke Newington, one on Mar 27th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on May 30th and Nov 16th & 26th-27th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, female on Feb 20th and juv from Oct 26th-28th. Crossness, singles on May 19th, Nov 13th, 14th & 17th. Dartford Marshes, singles on Oct 26th & 28th. Eltham, one on May 5th. Greenwich Park, one on Apr 20th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, fem/imm on Apr 3rd, 4th & 9th. Croydon (3). Holmethorpe SP, fem/imm on Apr 5th & 6th. Island Barn Res, one on Mar 29th and two on Oct 17th & 18th. Kingston-upon-Thames, one on Dec 9th. Richmond Park, juv still showing gape on Jul 3rd.

In Lond: The Barbican, male on Apr 1st. Basinghall Street, EC2, pair on Sep 21st. Gainsford Street, SE1, one on Oct 27th.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Status: passage migrant.

Spring passage was higher than last year, with 40 records (21 in 2010, 12 in 2009) and half these records were in the first week of passage. The first was a male at Wanstead Flats on April 2nd, with singles being recorded the following day at London Wetland Centre and Wormwood Scrubs. On the 6th, there were records at five sites, including an impressive 5+ at Canons Farm. Birds were seen on ten further dates during the rest of April with the last on May 8th. The table below shows the weekly counts.

As usual, more were seen on autumn passage, when there were 54 records of 55 birds, but this was fewer than last year (78 records of 100 birds last year). It began at Foots Cray Meadows on June 29th, but there were no more until August 3rd, with one at Richmond Park. Migration began in earnest in late August, with the last at Wormwood Scrubs on September 29th. All Inner London records are given below.

Common Redstart weekly spring totals

Week commencing	Apr 2	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30	May 7
No. of birds	20	10	8	1	0	1

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles on Apr 7th, Aug 24th, Sep 10th & 13th. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Aug 31st was the first site record.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

The first spring arrivals were three birds at Wormwood Scrubs on April 7th. There was then a five day gap until singles at Croxley Common Moor and Woldingham on 12th. There were no more until one at Banstead Wood on 20th and another at Richmond Park the following day. Passage was then steady from April 24th until May 21st, although in much lower numbers than last year, 37 individuals compared to 71. The highest count was three at both Wormwood Scrubs and Crossness on May 8th. The table below shows the pattern of spring records.

Whinchat weekly totals in spring

Week commencing	Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 21	Apr 28	May 5	May 12	May 19
No. of birds	5	1	5	14	16	2	1

Returning passage began with a lingering male at Rainham Marshes from July 17th until at least the 25th, but probably still there until the beginning of August. Other July returns were at Vicarage Farm on 25th, Wimbledon Common on 26th and Canons Farm on 28th. There were a few records during the first two weeks of August, but autumn passage did not get properly under way until 15th. As in the spring, autumn passage was down on last year (c348 individuals compared to c535 last year). The peak dates were August 24th, with records from 15 sites (involving 27 birds) and September 9th with records coming from 14 sites (involving 30 birds). The table below shows the pattern of autumn records. Regular passage carried on until the end of September, with just four records in October, the final sighting being two birds at Tottenham Marshes on the 24th. The highest autumn count was nine at Walthamstow Marshes, but there were also seven at Richmond Park and six at Rainham Marshes.

Whinchat weekly totals in autumn

Week commencing	Jul 25	Aug 1	Aug 8	Aug 15	Aug 22	Aug 29	Sep 5	Sep 12	Sep 19	Sep 26	Oct 10
No. of birds	3	6	3	37	80	53	66	64	26	13	1

In Lond: Regent's Park, recorded on six dates between Aug 24th and Sep 16th, with a maximum of two on Aug 29th.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

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

In January, there were ten records at five sites (records from 26 sites last year), the majority coming from Rainham Marshes, which also had the highest count of three birds on 3rd. There were more records in February but then some passage in March with 28 records at 15 sites. By April, most had gone and there were just eight records from six sites.

Breeding records may be up on last year, with breeding proved at one site, probable at another, and possible at one more. So the situation hasn't declined since last year.

At least six birds were seen at five sites during July, all bar one being juveniles. The only August records were at Bushy Park. Return passage mainly began in mid-September with records increasing in October. There again appears to be a decrease in wintering birds with Lake Farm CP having none for the first time for many years. Only five sites (Rainham Marshes, Crayford Marshes, Crossness, London Wetland Centre, and Richmond Park) appeared to have wintering birds this year (seven last year). We may be moving to a situation where Stonechat becomes a scarce winter visitor. Breeding season records are given below.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, a male present from Apr-Jun.

Herts: Coopers Green GP, a male on May 2nd.

Kent: Northfleet (1), one pair bred and fledged two young. Swanscombe Marshes (1), a pair probably bred.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

Spring passage began on March 9th with singles at Q. Mother Res and Walthamstow Res with more over the next ten days. From March 24th there were daily records until May 9th. There were just a few more then until the last on June 9th at East End Green. Numbers were much higher than last year with counts of over 350 in three weeks, whereas none reached 350 last year. Peak passage was from April 2nd to 22nd with 110 at 23 sites on 6th and 118 at 24 sites on 16th. These included 26 at Crayford Marshes on 6th, and 26 at Rainham Marshes on 16th. There were 395 records (404 last year) of about 1,346 birds (834 birds last year).

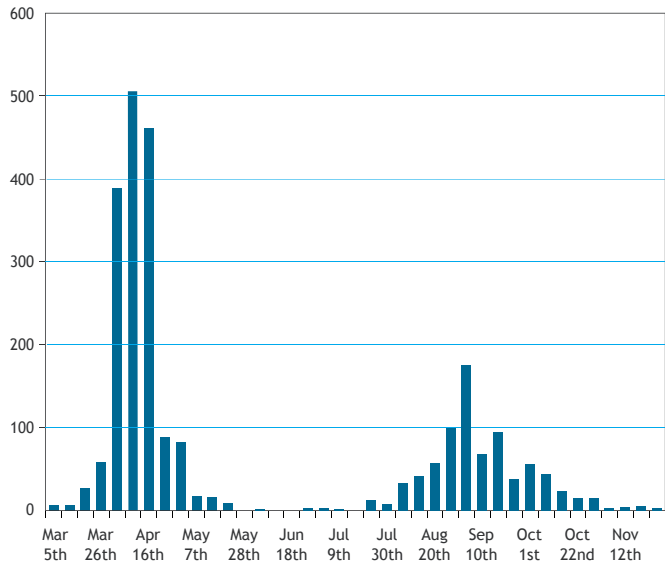
Autumn passage began gradually with one at London Wetland Centre on July 12th. Then one was at KGV I Res on 24th, with six at London Wetland Centre on 26th. Singles at Hampstead Heath and Vicarage Farm on 27th were followed by daily records from 29th. In fact, there were records almost every day from July 29th to November 5th. After that, there were only records from two sites: at Lake Farm CP from November 14th-15th and at Q. Mother Res from 17th-27th. Numbers were about the same as last autumn, with 369 records in the autumn of about 715 birds (377 and 633 last year) and the peak passage period was from August 24th to September 21st. The highest counts were 15 at QE II Res and 12 at Staines Moor, with all other counts being nine or fewer.

As last year, numbers on autumn passage were much lower than those on spring passage. With most passage birds you expect to see more in the autumn when immatures join the adult birds, so it is puzzling what is happening here. The chart below shows the weekly totals.

There were 19 records considered by their observers to show characteristics of the race *leucorhoa*. They were at Canons Farm, Colnbrook, Crossness, Hampton Court Park, London Wetland Centre, Osterley Park, Parkside Farm/Res, Q. Mother Res, Rainham Marshes, Richmond Park, Vicarage Farm and Wormwood Scrubs.

Northern Wheatear
Weekly counts

Key
 Number recorded in week commencing





Stonechat. (Russ Sherriff)

In Lond: The Barbican, one taken into care on Oct 17th. Basinghall Street, EC2, five on grassed roof of building on Sep 21st was an unusual record. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Mar 25th and Apr 3rd. Regent's Park, two on Apr 19th and May 1st and singles on Aug 24th, 25th & 28th and Sep 5th. W1, one seen on a roof top on Apr 19th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

The first arrival was an early male at South Norwood Lake on March 16th. There was then a gap until 30th when another male was at Wanstead Flats. On April 2nd, there were records at Canons Farm and Wanstead Flats and there was then a steady passage



Wheatear is the most keenly anticipated migrant, and what's not to like? (Andrew Moon)

until May 4th which peaked between April 19th and 22nd. After May 4th, there was just one at London Wetland Centre on 20th. The highest spring counts were four at William Girling Res on April 15th and three at Rainham Marshes on May 3rd. About 48 different birds were involved, much higher than in recent years.

By contrast, autumn passage was fairly poor, involving at most seven birds. The first was at Croxley Common Moor on September 15th which stayed until 30th. The only others were all singles: at Wormwood Scrubs on October 10th, Hollow Pond on 14th, in a garden at Eltham on 17th, at Chelsham on 21st and Rainham Marshes on 23rd, followed by another at Rainham Marshes on November 23rd. The table below shows the pattern of spring and autumn passage in recent years. In eight of these 12 years,

spring passage exceeded autumn passage (as this year); in the other four years it was the reverse.

Ring Ouzel spring passage 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of birds	7/8	6*	7	19	20	15	35	47	44	16	29	48

Ring Ouzel autumn passage 2000-2011

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. of birds	4*	16	12	2	5	23	18	13	11	14	55	7

* Also a wintering bird.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Apr 13th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Still very under-recorded, although at the five sites below where we have counts for this year and last year, four showed an increase, and only one a decrease. This contrasts with last year, when four showed a decrease and three an increase. However The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows a 10% decline since 2010, while BBS data shows a 7% UK decline (BTO website); presumably these more accurately reflect the changes taking place. Breeding records are given below at sites where five or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), all Inner London breeding records, and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (8). Grays Cemetery (5). Grays Gorge (5). Hangman's Wood (5). Lion Gorge (6). Mar Dyke Valley (14). Rainham Marshes, 30 on Oct 28th and 60 on Nov 7th. Warren Gorge (8). West Ham Park, 31 on May 15th.

Herts: Bricket Wood (6). Cole Green Tip (9). Rye Meads (22). University of Herts, Hatfield (10). Welwyn Garden City (10).

Middx: Horsenden Hill, 49 on Nov 11th. Wormwood Scrubs (20+).

Kent: Chipstead Lake, 32 on Dec 19th. Sutton at Hone, 44 on Jan 27th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (24). Canons Farm (30). East Sheen Common (26). Lloyd Park, 38 on Nov 3rd. London Wetland Centre (32); 52 on Oct 26th.

In Lond: Holland Park, 15 on Apr 23rd. Kensington Gdns (20). Victoria Park (3+), ten on Sep 10th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

They were recorded regularly up until the end of March, with 25 records in April, the last at Canons Farm and Regent's Park on April 22nd. The first autumn record was of 20+ birds at Hilfield Park Res on September 25th. The next record was not until October 8th at London Wetland Centre, with 11 birds at Tyttenhanger GP the next day. There was a small gap until the 13th with birds at ten sites totalling 425 individuals. Passage was also noted on 21st, from 15 sites totalling c800 birds. Sporadic movement was noted from late-November, through to the end of December. There were 20 counts of 200 or more this year, compared to 29 last year. The notes below list high counts.

Essex: Copped Hall, c150 on Mar 4th. Orsett Fen, 301 on Nov 8th and 307 on Dec 1st.
Herts: Maple Lodge NR, 200 roosting on Feb 16th. North Mymms Park, 200 on Jan 20th.
 Pages Farm, 200 on Jan 9th. Ridge, c350 on Jan 9th. Stanstead Abbots, c300 on Mar 13th. Stanborough Lakes, 200 on Feb 2nd. Stocker's Lake, 200 on Jan 4th. Well End, 380 on Jan 9th.
Middx: Brent Res, 211 over on Oct 21st and 292 over on Nov 18th. Pinner Park Farm, 160 on Jan 8th. Ten Acre Wood, 285 on Nov 28th.
Kent: Crayford Marshes, 230 on Dec 16th. Greenwich Park, 350+ on Oct 21st. Knockholt Pound, c300 on Feb 24th.
Surrey: Canons Farm, 200+ on Jan 13th and Dec 23rd. Gatton Lake, c150 on Feb 13th.
In Lond: Regent's Park, 26 on Nov 1st.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Status: common, but locally declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were more territories/singing males reported this year, but much of this was because of reports from sites where we had no reports last year. Overall, the combined numbers for the nine sites where we have records for both 2010 and 2011 remained fairly stable, with a total 100 territories in 2011, compared to 101 in 2010. The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows a 16% decline since 2010. Below are breeding records for sites where five or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), all Inner London breeding records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (6). Hatch Forest (6). Mar Dyke Valley (7). Wanstead Park (5).
Herts: Cole Green Tip (6). Colney Heath, 15+ on Dec 25th. Hatfield Park (5). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (6). Rye Meads (11).
Middx: Alexandra Park (c5). Horsenden Hill (16). Tottenham Marshes (12). Wormwood Scrubs (10+).
Surrey: Banstead Wood (9). Beddington Farmlands (5). Canons Farm (14). Croydon, reported from 69% of gardens participating in a local survey. Holmethorpe SP, 20 on Sep 29th. London Wetland Centre, 15 on Sep 27th and 24 on Nov 7th. Richmond Park (20). Riddlesdown (5+). South Norwood CP (9). Wimbledon Common (c40).
In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Burgess Park (3). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3). Regent's Park, eight on Oct 14th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no noticeable peak movements during the first part of the year. Seen every day until April 3rd, then one at Wormwood Scrubs on 14th, followed by the last at Brent Res on 30th. The first returns were at East India Dock Basin and South Norwood Lake on September 27th, with three birds seen at Wormwood Scrubs the following day. Movement picked up in mid-October. However, as with the first part of the year, there were no real noticeable peak movements, with larger counts being distributed throughout the autumn and winter periods. Overall, there were 13 counts of 200 or more during the year, compared to 25 last year and 21 in 2009.

Essex: Leyton, c200 over on Oct 25th.

Herts: Chess Valley Walk, c160 on Dec 26th, Hatfield Aerodrome, c200 on Mar 6th. Pages Farm, c200 on Jan 9th. Well End, c250 on Jan 9th. Woodoaks Farm, c250 on Feb 6th. Woodside, Watford, 369 over on Oct 14th.

Middx: East India Dock Basin, 184 on Oct 23rd, 115 of these flying over.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, c300 on Nov 7th. Greenwich Park, 205+ over on Oct 13th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, c250 on Jan 2nd. Croham Hurst, c600 over on Oct 15th. Holmethorpe SP, c200 on Jan 1st.

In Lond: Regent's Park, 20 on Mar 14th, 126 on Oct 14th, 320 over on Nov 1st and 25 on 10th. Victoria Park, 35 on Feb 8th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Status: common breeding resident.

There were more territories/singing males reported this year, but for sites where we have records for both 2010 and 2011, numbers remained fairly stable. BBS data shows no significant UK change since 2010 (BTO website). Most high counts occurred during summer/early autumn, with an exceptional count of 100 over Croxley Green on July 12th, 32 at Willows Farm on July 26th and 25 at Alexandra Park on August 14th. Below are breeding records for sites where three or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), all Inner London breeding records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Mar Dyke Valley (3). Orsett Fen, 18 on Sep 1st. Wanstead Flats, 18 on Aug 15th. Weald Park, 23 on Sep 23rd.

Herts: Cassiobury Park (3). Croxley Green, c100 flying north on Jul 12th. Hilfield Park Res, 22 on Sep 18th. Tyttenhanger GP, 21 on Jul 23rd. Willows Farm, 32 on Jul 26th.

Middx: Alexandra Park (4); 25 on Aug 14th. Horsenden Hill (3). Town Park, Enfield, 14 on Aug 10th. Trent Park (3). Vicarage Farm, 15 on Aug 18th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 11 on Aug 18th.

Kent: Foots Cray Meadows, 11 on Oct 26th, Greenwich Park (2-4); 18 on Sep 10th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood (3). Canons Farm, 20+ on Oct 9th. Farthing Downs, 23 on Jul 2nd. Wimbledon Common (20+).

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Camberwell New Cemetery, five on Jul 26th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, seven on Apr 3rd. Lambeth Road, SE1, 15 over on Jul 29th. Larkhall Park (2).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor, but increasing breeder.

A difficult bird to see and although some counts state singing, others do not. Singing appears to take place all year, and females may sing (BWP), so territorial estimates are difficult. More statements on territorial estimates would be welcome. There may have been a slight increase in numbers since last year as breeding estimates and sites where they were present all year both increased. At Bedfont Lakes CP, a bird trapped on November 6th had been ringed at Windsor as a juvenile on August 21st, so had moved 11km in two months. It was still at Bedfont Lakes CP on January 15th 2012.

Essex: Barking Bay, one from Sep 24th-Nov 17th. Belhus Woods CP (2). Bonnett's Wood (1). Cely Woods (1). Grange Waters, one on Nov 13th. Ingrebourne Valley (4); 27 on Oct 30th. Kennington Park, Aveley (1). KGV Res, one singing Apr 16th. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Netherhall GP (2). Orsett Fen (1). Purfleet, one singing along Thames on Apr 15th. Rainham GP (1). Rainham Marshes (10). Walthamstow Res, one on Mar 11th. Warren Gorge, one on Feb 2nd. William Girling Res, one on Oct 16th.

Herts: Amwell NR (3). Broxbourne GP, one on Apr 4th and Nov 13th. Cheshunt GPs (8). Maple Lodge NR, one on Aug 14th. Rye Meads (8). Stanstead Abbotts GP, two on May 21st. Stocker's Lake, one from Sep 18th-Nov 19th. Watford area, one on Jul 21st.

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP, singles ringed on Mar 20th and Nov 6th. Brent Res, one over-wintering to Jan 28th, and then from Nov 13th-Dec 24th. Staines Moor and Stanwell Moor (2). Stoke Newington Res, one on Jan 1st, two on 22nd and one on Feb 5th, then two on Mar 2nd. The Paddock LNR, one on Apr 4th. Tottenham Marshes (1).

Kent: Crayford Marshes (5). Crossness (4). Dartford Marshes (1). Foots Cray Meadows, one from Jul 25th-Sep 1st. Northfleet (1). Swanscombe Marshes (2).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Oct 19th, Nov 10th & 19th. London Wetland Centre (5), young seen.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first birds of the year were singles on April 10th at Rainham Marshes and South Norwood CP and at Ingrebourne Valley and Bonnett's Wood in the next two days. There were daily records from 13th with a peak during the next week. Breeding records do not suggest any change from last year, and neither does BBS data (BTO website). There were few records after the end of July; just six in August and three in September, the last at Horton on 19th. Territorial estimates and all other records are given below, number of territories in brackets.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Aug 23rd. Bonnett's Wood, one on Apr 12th, two on 21st. Dagenham Chase, one from Apr 18th-23rd. Ingrebourne Valley (1). Lippitts Hill (1). Mar Dyke Valley, one on May 4th. Netherhall GP, one on Apr 18th. Rainham Marshes (3). Roding Valley, one on Jul 11th. Tylers Common (2). Walthamstow Marsh, one on May 2nd.

Herts: Amwell NR (2). Beech Farm GP (1). Coopers Green GP, one on Jun 17th. Croxley Common Moor (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (1). Moor Lane, one on May 1st. Rye Meads (5). Stocker's Lake, one from Apr 21st-27th. University of Herts, one on Apr 20th.

Middx: Hackney Marsh, one on May 5th. Rammey Marsh, one on Apr 16th & 20th. Stanwell Moor, one on Apr 15th. Ten Acre Wood, one on Apr 17th. Tottenham Marshes, one from May 15th-24th. Totteridge Valley, one on Jul 2nd. Vicarage Farm, one on Jul 26th.

Bucks: Horton, one in rape field on Sep 18th-19th. Wraybury GP, one on May 4th.

Kent: Scadbury Park, one on May 4th & 25th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, one on Apr 20th and Aug 24th. Canons Farm, singles from Apr 15th-18th and Aug 30th-Sep 10th with a second on Sep 3rd. London Wetland Centre, singles on May 5th and on Aug 28th. Richmond Park, one on Aug 17th. South Norwood CP, one on Apr 10th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, one on Apr 16th.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first was on March 26th at Rye Meads, the next three days later at Holmethorpe SP. After that there were daily records from April 1st peaking about the middle of April. Breeding reports were down on last year but BBS data for England shows no change (BTO website). Return passage was noticed mostly in August, the peak count being 50 at Rye Meads on 6th. There were only three records after September 18th, all singles; at Amwell NR on September 27th, Rainham Marshes on October 2nd and on November 20th. Below are breeding records of two or more (number of territories in brackets) and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Mar Dyke Valley (2). Netherhall GP (15). Rainham Marshes (21). Walthamstow Res (4).

Herts: Amwell NR (19). Cheshunt GPs (22). Maple Lodge NR (4). Rye Meads (69).

Middx: Stanwell Moor (11). Tottenham Marshes (7).

Kent: Crayford Marshes (3). Crossness (1).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (8).

In Lond: Russia Dock Woodland, one on Aug 31st.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first to arrive was at Belhus Woods CP on April 2nd, and there were daily records from then on. Peak passage was during the second and fourth weeks of April. Breeding records came from 43 sites up from last year and BBS data for England suggest an increase (BTO website). Peak numbers in the autumn were in the first two weeks of August. The last of the year were three singles in October; at Rye Meads on 1st, Amwell NR on 4th and Stoke Newington Res on 15th. Below are breeding records of two or more (number of territories in brackets) and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (10). Mar Dyke Valley (6). Rainham Marshes (48). Walthamstow Res (20). Warren Gorge (6).

Herts: Amwell NR (48). Cheshunt GPs (62). Hatfield Aerodrome (3). Maple Lodge NR (2). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (3). Rye Meads (113). Stanstead Abbots GP (37). Stocker's Lake (6). Tyttenhanger GP (5). Watford Link Road (3).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (53+). A juv ringed here on Jul 24th made an unusual westerly movement to Newport, 174km west, 32 days later on Aug 25th. East India Dock Basin (6). Horsenden Hill (3). Kempton NR (3). Tottenham Marshes (3). Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, one singing from Jul 4th-7th.

Bucks: Horton GP, one singing on May 1st had a song composed of lots of mimicry, including five seconds of Greenfinch calls.

Kent: Blackheath, one singing nowhere near water from May 18th-19th. Crayford Marshes (25). Crossness (18). Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (4). Sidcup, one singing in the town centre on Jun 13th. Sevenoaks WR (3). Swanscombe Marshes (8).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (27). Holmethorpe SP (4). London Wetland Centre (65). Morden Hall Park (2). Richmond Park (5). South Norwood CP (3). Walton Res (10).

In Lond: Bankside, singles on May 10th and Aug 16th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on May 18th and Jun 20th. Regent's Park (1). St James's Park, one on May 16th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Status: common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

The over-wintering position was different from last year, with a big decrease in records from Essex at the start of the year, although in Herts and Surrey records were up then, especially in February. There were fewer records overall at the end of the year, especially in December. The map below shows the distribution of these winter records which are spread across our area, in contrast to the Chiffchaff records shown later.

Birds began to appear at sites where none had wintered from March 6th, with the peak at the end of the month. The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows a 165% increase in London from 1994-2011 and comparison of territories for sites where we had data in 2010 and 2011 suggest they are still increasing. Signs of returning passage were high counts in August (45 at Rye Meads on 6th) and September (46 at Rainham Marshes on 1st). Below are breeding records of five or more (number of territories in brackets) and all records for Inner London (there were no reports of breeding here this year).

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (12). Ingrebourne Valley (11). Lion Gorge (7). Mar Dyke Valley (22). Orsett Fen (6). Roding Valley Meadows NR (28). Walthamstow Res (9).

Herts: Cheshunt GPs (26). Cole Green Tip (4). Coopers Green Lane (14). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (10). Rye Meads (36). Welwyn Garden City (5).

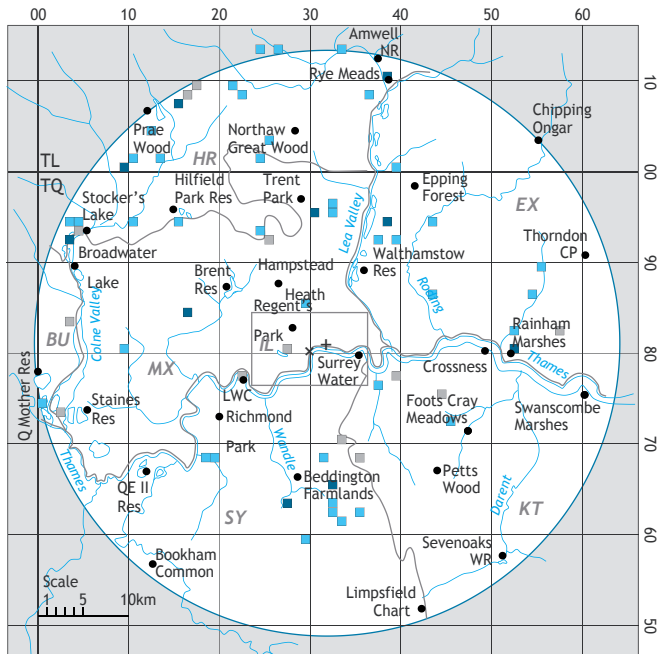
Blackcap Winter records

- First winter (Jan-Feb)
- Second winter (Nov-Dec)
- Both winter periods
- LNHS Area
- County boundaries



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Middx: Alexandra Park (10). Bedfont Lakes CP (15). A juv ringed here on Jul 31st, was at Bordeaux, France two months and 13 days later having travelled 891 km. Brent Res (34). Bushy Park (14). Horsenden Hill (25-26). Tottenham Marshes (29). Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (5). Wormwood Scrubs (15).

Kent: Bexley Woods (6). Lullingstone Park (8). Scadbury Park (12). Sevenoaks WR (26).

Surrey: Banstead Wood (37). Beddington Farmlands (26). Canons Farm (26). East Sheen Common (24). Farthing Downs (5). London Wetland Centre (6). Molesey Heath (5). Richmond Park (50). Sanderstead Plantation (7). South Norwood Lake (8). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (100).

In Lond: Holland Park, ten on Apr 23rd. Regent's Park, peaks of 11 males on Apr 19th and 26 on Aug 20th. Records also from Bankside, Battersea Park, Burgess Park, Cremorne Gardens, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Russia Dock Woodland, Shadwell Basin and Victoria Park.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Passage began on April 5th, with singles at Hatch Forest and Wormwood Scrubs. There were four more records in the next week and records were daily from 15th, with a peak in the first week of May. Breeding estimates suggest they may be decreasing and BBS data for England shows a decrease since 2009 (BTO website). At the end of the year there were reports from only 12 sites in September with just one October record at London Wetland Centre on 13th. Below are all breeding records (number of territories in brackets), and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Bedfords Park (2). Dagnam Park (2). Hainault Forest (2). Orsett Fen (1).

Herts: Cheshunt GPs (15). Cole Green Tip (2). Croxley Common Moor (2). Helicon Lake (2). Howe Green (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). Roe Hyde (1). Rye Meads (16). Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Welwyn Garden City (2).



Middx: Bay Farm (1). Bedfont Lakes CP (5). Staines Moor (3). Stanwell Moor (2). Tottenham Marshes (1). Trent Park (2).

Kent: Foots Cray Meadows (1). Sevenoaks WR (8).

Surrey: Banstead Wood (3+). Beddington Farmlands (1). Holmethorpe SP (1). London Wetland Centre (1). Molesey Heath (2). Richmond Park (3). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (25).

In Lond: Bankside, one on May 6th. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 29th, then on Aug 8th, 20th, 24th & 28th; two on Sep 9th and one on 10th.

Numerous pairs of Sedge Warbler breed at Rainham Marshes, which is an excellent place to see this species. (Tony Coombs)

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Status: rare visitor.

This is only the tenth record for London and the first since 2006. Remarkably, the last record was at the same site almost exactly five years ago on September 25th. As the table below shows, August and September are the most likely times for one to turn up.

Barred Warbler dates 1972-2011

Month	Aug	Sep	Oct
No. of records	4	5	1

Middx: East India Dock Basin, a 1st-winter on Sep 26th (JKA).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first arrival was at Hatch Forest on April 5th and there were daily records from 15th, with a peak soon after. Breeding records suggest they may have decreased and the BBS data shows a decline in England since 2010 (BTO website). In the autumn, records peaked in August and the last was at Ingrebourne Valley on September 27th. Below are all breeding records (number of territories in brackets), some high autumn counts and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Bedfords Park (2). Belhus Woods CP (1). Ingrebourne Valley, six singing on Apr 24th. Marden Ash (1). Orsett Fen (3). Rainham Marshes (1). South Ockendon (1). Walthamstow Res (2).

Herts: Arkley (1). Beech Farm GP (1). Cole Green Tip (1). Croxley Common Moor (2). Essendon (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (2+). Howe Green (3). Rye Meads (3). Wildhill (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park (2). Bedfont Lakes CP (2). Brayside Farm (1). Brent Res (1). Brunel University (1). Horsenden Hill (2-3). Lake Farm CP (1). Tottenham Marshes (1). Totteridge Valley (2). Wormwood Scrubs (4).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, eight on Aug 19th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes (2). Crossness (1). Fawkham Green (2). Swanscombe Marshes (2). Scadbury Park (2).

Surrey: Banstead Downs (1). Holmethorpe SP (1). London Wetland Centre (2).

In Lond: Bankside, singles on Aug 16th and Sep 2nd. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 29th, Aug 24th, 28th & 29th and Sep 13th.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first of the year were on April 4th at Croxley Common Moor and Holmethorpe SP. Records were daily from then on, peaking in the second week of April. The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows a two-fold increase from 1994-2011 and our breeding records suggest they are still increasing. There were just three October records, the last at Park Farm, Enfield on 5th. Below are breeding records of ten or more (number of territories in brackets), some high counts and a summary of records for Inner London.

Essex: Bedfords Park (15). Belhus Woods CP (29). Ingrebourne Valley, 39 males on May 3rd. Mar Dyke Valley (30). Netherhall GP (20). Orsett Fen (14).

Herts: Cole Green Tip (10). Coopers Green Lane (13). Rye Meads (31). University of Herts (22). Wildhill (8).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (16). Brent Res, 22 singing Apr 30th. Horsenden Hill (18-20). Lake Farm CP (15). Tottenham Marshes (23). Wormwood Scrubs (20).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 15 on May 4th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes (36). Crossness, 29 singing Apr 22nd. Foots Cray Meadows (20). Swanscombe Marshes (16).

Surrey: Banstead Wood (10). Beddington Farmlands (50). Canons Farm (33). Holmethorpe SP, 27 on May 10th. Molesey Heath (13). Richmond Park (36). South Norwood CP (15). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (44).

In Lond: In spring, there were passage records from Cremorne Gardens, London Bridge, and Walworth and breeding was confirmed at Burgess Park and Regent's Park. Autumn passage records at Bankside, Battersea PS, Regent's Park (where there were 12 on Aug 14th) and Russia Dock Woodland.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Status: rare breeding species, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Still remains an amber list species due to a large decline in the 1960s after severe winters, since which it has made a steady recovery.

This was another poor year, with just three records, all just seen on one day. All records since 2008 have involved single birds, while there have been no breeding records since 2007. Dartford Warblers have been affected by hard winters before, which may be a factor this year.

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Oct 23rd (PH). Ripple NR, one on Jan 29th (PH).

Surrey: Richmond Park, one on Aug 19th (ML).

Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus*

Status: very rare vagrant.

This bird was trapped, ringed and released as a Yellow-browed Warbler, but then its true identity was realised, making it the first record for London. It was only the second record for Britain of a bird that normally winters in South East Asia, the first being in County Durham on October 22nd in 2009. (Details on page 193.)

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one trapped and ringed on October 30th (JF *et al*).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Status: scarce passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

Just six records this year, and all just present for a day. The last bird to hold territory in London was in 2006 at Long Running and the last confirmed breeding was in 1996 at Bookham Common. All records are given below.

There were four spring records all in April, starting with one at Canons Farm on 13th (DCa *et al*), another at Fishers Green Island on 16th (RW) and one at High Beach on 23rd

(AT). All these three were singing; the final spring bird on 30th was trapped and ringed at Wraysbury (RRG). In the autumn there were just two records, one at London Wetland Centre on August 16th (NPS) and the last at Regent’s Park on September 3rd (RFA).

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Status: common and widespread breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, and increasingly widespread in winter.

More wintering birds were reported at the end of the year than at the start in 2011. Very few of these sightings were in gardens, unlike the Blackcap wintering birds, and most were present only for a few days. The map below shows these records. The following sites had birds present for lengthy periods: Beddington Farmlands, Crossness, Horsenden Hill (end of year only), London Wetland Centre, Rye Meads and Tottenham Marshes. There were two Inner London winter reports: at Regent’s Park on November 10th, and at Bankside on December 19th-20th.

Birds were singing from January 15th, which makes it difficult to mark the arrival of spring birds, but there were daily records from March 5th, which was probably the start of spring passage. BBS data for England shows a continuing increase (BTO website). Below are breeding records of five or more (number of territories in brackets), some high autumn counts and a summary of records for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (15). Hainault Forest (11). Mar Dyke Valley (8). Netherhall GP (10). Roding Valley Meadows NR (8). Wanstead Flats, 30 on Aug 30th.

Common Chiffchaff Winter records

- First winter (Jan-Feb)
- Second winter (Nov-Dec)
- Both winter periods
- LNHS Area
- County boundaries



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Once past the initial confusion, after all what London ringer expects a 'second for Britain' in their mist net, news was broadcast of this incredible rarity. Sadly the Eastern Crowned Warbler was never seen again. (Mike Beatley)

Herts: Cheshunt GPs (17). Rye Meads (18); 50 on Jul 2nd & 24th.

Middx: Alexandra Park (6). Horsenden Hill (11-12). Staines Moor, 30+ on Sep 10th. Tottenham Marshes (19). Totteridge Valley (15). Wormwood Scrubs (8).

Bucks: Wraybury GP, a possible 'eastern' bird (*P. c. abietinus*) on Dec 9th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 29 on Aug 6th & 24th.

Surrey: Banstead Downs (5). Beddington Farmlands (7). Canons Farm (6). East Sheen Common (8). Holmethorpe SP, 35 on Sep 9th. Richmond Park (31). South Norwood Lake (5). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (60).

In Lond: Bankside, up to three in Sep. Battersea Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, four singing on Mar 19th. Paddington Green, five on Sep 23rd. Regent's Park, peaks of nine on Apr 13th and 26 on Sep 10th & 15th. Victoria Park, two on May 5th, ten on Sep 10th. Walworth, one at Elmington Estate on May 9th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant, declining as a breeding species in the London Area and UK-wide, which has caused it to be amber listed.

The first arrival was on March 21st at Rye Meads, and there were daily records from 26th, with passage peaking in the first week of April. Breeding records came from 34 sites, up from 22 last year, but comparison of sites where we had data in 2010 and 2011 suggest they are still decreasing. BBS data for England shows little recent change (BTO website). Return passage began in August peaking in about the third week. There were few records after September 18th, with just three October records, the last on 13th at West Ham Park. But then there was one singing at Belhus Woods CP on December 4th. There were reports from Alexandra Park, Crossness,

Holmethorpe SP and Wormwood Scrubs of 'mixed-singing' birds, which were described as Willow Warblers or hybrid Willow/Chiffchaff. Below are all breeding records (number of territories in brackets), some high counts and a summary of records for Inner London.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (4). Berwick Glades (3). Bonnett's Wood (2). Cely Woods (7). Fairlop Waters, 14 on Apr 16th. Kennington Park, Aveley (2).

Herts: Coopers Green GP (1). Croxley Common Moor (1). Essendon (1). Fir & Pond Woods (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (1). Howe Green (1). Jersey Farm (1). Moor Park GC (1). Northaw Great Wood (2). North Mymms Park (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1). Roe Hyde (1). Rye Meads (4). Tyttenhanger GP (1). University of Herts, Hatfield (3).

Middx: Alexandra Park (1). Brayside Farm (1). Brent Res, 20 on Aug 22nd. Hadley Wood (1). Lake Farm CP (1). Trent Park (1). Wormwood Scrubs (1).

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes (1).

Surrey: Banstead Downs (2). Banstead Wood (3). Holmethorpe SP (1). Limpsfield Chart (2). London Wetland Centre, 12 on Aug 24th. Riddlesdown (2). South Norwood Lake (2). Wimbledon Common (0), no breeding for the first time since 1974.

In Lond: Bankside, three on Apr 5th, then recorded Aug 4th-Sep 2nd, with a max of four on Aug 17th. Greenland Dock, one singing Apr 4th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles Mar 26th & 29th and Apr 3rd & 21st. Lincoln's Inn Fields, one on Apr 7th. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 31st and Apr 10th; then recorded Aug 10th-Sep 13th, with a max of 24 on Aug 24th (the highest count in the London Area). Russia Dock Woodland, one Apr 2nd-3rd. Victoria Park, two on Sep 10th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding season records indicate over 164 pairs may have bred compared to 113-116 in 2010 and 103+ in 2009. BBS data shows a UK increase of 6% since 2010 (BTO website) although sites where we have counts for this year and last year show no real change. All breeding records with two or more pairs (numbers in brackets) are given below and peak counts outside the breeding season.

Essex: Six territories or singing males. Bedfords Park, ten on Jan 1st. Belhus Woods CP, ten on Nov 6th. Dagnam Park, 11 on Oct 26th. Waltham Abbey, eight on Jan 3rd. Wanstead Park, seven on Jan 9th.

Herts: 41+ territories or singing males. Chandler's Cross, 14 on Jan 24th. Cole Green Tip, ten on Dec 2nd. Hatfield Park, 11 on Sep 18th. Hilfield Park Res, 12 on Nov 2nd. Northaw Great Wood, 17 on Oct 19th. Redwell Wood Farm, 11 on Jul 2nd. Welwyn Garden City, 18 on Oct 20th.

Middx: 52+ territories or singing males. Alexandra Park (4+). Brent Res (6). Burnt Oak (2+). Grovelands Park (2). Horsenden Hill (3+); 17 on Nov 5th. Lavender Hill Cemetery (2). Totteridge Valley (3). Trent Park (2); 14 on Dec 13th. Whitewebbs Wood, ten on Nov 9th. Wildwoods, Enfield (3).

Kent: Six territories or singing males. Crossness, 20 on Nov 19th. Greenwich Park (4+). Harvington Woods, ten on Feb 16th. Joyden's Wood, 18 on Feb 13th. Kemnal Manor College, ten on Mar 17th and Dec 21st. Lamorbey Park (1).

Surrey: 73+ territories or singing males. Addington Hills, 19 on Jan 10th. Banstead Wood (14). Canons Farm (11). East Sheen Common (4). Holmethorpe SP, 19 on Oct 30th. London Wetland Centre (3); 11 on Feb 20th. Richmond Park (7). Selsdon Park (3+). Thornton Heath Recreation Ground (2). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (23).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, three on Jan 4th. Regent’s Park, 14 on Oct 12th and 16 on Dec 28th. Victoria Park (2).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

There were fewer records this year and birds were recorded at fewer sites. However, we will no longer list all records. It remains a rare breeder, with records from five sites during the breeding season, just one of which (in Herts) was thought to be probably breeding. Essex and Middlesex remain the most favoured counties as shown on the table below.

Firecrest presence

County	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Number of sites:								
Jan-Mar	12	3	9	0	3	4	2	35
Oct-Dec	7	0	6	0	5	5	0	23
Jan-Dec	17	5	12	0	7	8	2	51

Firecrest

Winter records

- First winter (Jan-Mar)
- Second winter (Oct-Dec)
- Both winter periods
- LNHS Area
- County boundaries



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During January to March, one or two birds were present for lengthy periods at Alexandra Park, Bedfords Park, Belhus Woods CP, Greenwich Park, Grovelands Park, London Wetland Centre, Regent's Park, Romford GC and Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. Other records came from Bedfont Lakes CP, Bookham Common, Cheshunt GPs, Fir & Pond Woods, Foxburrow Wood, Grays Gorge, Hampstead Heath, Harvington Woods, Headley Common, Holyfield Lake, Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens, Kemnal Manor College, Mores Plantation, Peckham Rye Park, Richmond Park, South Norwood Lake, Thorndon CP, Waltham Abbey, Wanstead Park, Perivale Wood, Ten Acre Wood, Waterlow Park and Whitewebbs Wood.

In April there was one at a site in Herts where they probably bred and one at Orsett Fen on 26th. In May there was one at Alexandra Park on 5th and at two sites in Herts where they possibly bred.

Birds returned from August 7th, some of which seem to have remained for the winter, although the bulk of the winter visitors appeared from October. During this time, one or more birds were present for lengthy periods at Greenwich Park (with a peak of four birds), Grovelands Park, Holmethorpe SP, Perivale Wood and Wanstead Park. Other records came from Banstead Wood, Bedfords Park, Brentford, Bush Wood, Crayford Marshes, Grays Park, Harold Hill, Hayes Farm Trout Lake, Lamorbey Park, London Wetland Centre, Osterley Park, Rainham Marshes, Richmond Park, Sevenoaks WR, Trent Park, Warley Place and Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath. There were fewer birds recorded at this end of the year.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

There were just six breeding records (8-9 in 2010, nine or ten in 2009 and 11 in 2008). There was a better than average spring passage with 25 records from May-early June of 54 birds; autumn passage, however, was much thinner than in 2010, with peak from late August to mid-September shown in the table below. The first arrival was on May 7th in Richmond Park, and the last three birds were on October 1st at two sites. All breeding season records are given below (number of pairs in brackets), all Inner London records and peak counts.

Spotted Flycatcher weekly totals in autumn

Week commencing	Jul 25	Aug 1	Aug 8	Aug 15	Aug 22	Aug 29	Sep 5	Sep 12	Sep 19	Sep 26
No. of records	6	2	11	17	23	23	24	19	3	4
No. of birds	11	6	12	35	58	63	59	41	7	6

Essex: Chipping Ongar, one on Jun 24th. Stapleford Tawney (1). Wanstead Flats, seven on Aug 31st. Weald Park, nine on Aug 20th.

Herts: Brookmans Park (1). Coopers Green GP, three on Sep 4th. Essendon (1). Hatfield Park (1). Newgate Street, three on Sep 2nd. Welham Green (1). Woodside, Hatfield (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park, maximum of five on Aug 27th and Sep 18th. Lake Farm CP, five on Sep 25th.

Kent: No more than two together at any of the nine sites where seen.

Surrey: Canons Farm, three on Sep 3rd. Holmethorpe SP, four on Aug 18th. London Wetland Centre, three on Aug 16th & 25th.

In Lond: Bankside, one on Sep 13th. Regent's Park, 12 records of up to three birds in the autumn, with a maximum of an exceptional eight on Sep 10th. Victoria Park, three on Sep 10th.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.

After last year's high autumn count, this was a very poor year with just 12 birds recorded. Comparisons with recent years are shown in the table below. Half the records came from Essex with none from Bucks, Kent or Herts. Just two birds were recorded on spring passage: a male at Rainham Marshes from April 7th-8th and one in Coulsdon on an unspecified date in May.

The first of the autumn was on August 14th at Bedfords Park, the next at nearby Weald Park on 20th, followed by singles at Wanstead Flats on 21st & 24th. On 25th, there was one at London Wetland Centre and two at Regent's Park, followed by one at Hampstead Heath the next day. There was a gap of two weeks before one at Weald Park on September 9th and three weeks later the final bird at Wormwood Scrubs on 29th.

Pied Flycatcher totals in spring and autumn

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Spring	3	1	1	2
Autumn	22	24	32	10
Total	25	25	33	12

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, very rare breeder.

Birds were recorded at nine sites and bred at Rainham Marshes for the first time since 2003. Present in the first winter period at Crayford Marshes, Crossness, Kempton NR, Rainham Marshes and Rye Meads, and all, apart from those at Kempton NR, may have been over-wintering from 2010. In March there were sightings at Amwell NR and Cheshunt GPs suggesting a small passage, but after 20th only the Rainham Marshes birds remained. Birds returned to the Lower Thames from mid-October and there were four at London Wetland Centre for two days in late November. Unlike last year's unprecedented total of 30, the highest count was a more usual nine at Rainham Marshes. All records are given below, summarised in some cases.



Bearded Tit bred at Rainham Marshes for the first time since 2003. (Basil Thornton)

Essex: Barking Bay, two on Oct 15th-16th. Rainham Marshes, up to five were seen during January (having dropped from 12 in Dec 2010). Five were again reported briefly in mid-March, but after that a pair stayed and bred with two broods being seen. Wintering birds were again reported from Oct 15th to year-end, with a max of nine on Nov 22nd.

Herts: Amwell NR, four on Mar 13th. Cheshunt GPs, one on Mar 19th. Rye Meads, singles on Jan 31st and Feb 20th-24th and later, on Oct 30th.

Middx: Kempton NR, one on Jan 3rd, two or three on Feb 8th and one on Mar 6th & 11th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, two from Jan 3rd to Mar 20th, with four on Jan 4th; one on Nov 1st, with two on 17th, one on Dec 14th and two again on the 19th. Crossness, two on Jan 9th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, four from Nov 23rd-24th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

It was a good year with a total of 248 pairs (186 in 2010, 181 in 2009). This increase is probably a result of observer coverage, as sites where we have counts for this year and last year show no real change. BBS data shows a UK drop of 10% from 2010 although a generally increasing trend of 27% from 1995-2010 (BTO website). It was reported from 82% of participating gardens in a survey in Croydon. All breeding records or territories of more than two (numbers in brackets) are listed below, all breeding records in Inner London, together with the peak counts for each sector.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (8); 51 on Nov 20th. Grays Gorge (3). Harlow (5). Lion Gorge (4). Mar Dyke Valley (3). Wanstead Park, 34 on Jan 18th. Warren Gorge (3).

Herts: Cassiobury Park, 45+ on Sep 12th. Cole Green Tip (4). Maple Lodge NR (4). Rye Meads (15); 50 on Oct 16th. Welwyn Garden City (3).

Middx: Alexandra Park (5); 60 on Nov 1st. Hampstead Heath, 60 on Nov 22nd. Horsenden Hill (5); 63 on Nov 11th. Tottenham Cemetery (3). Tottenham Marshes (14).

Kent: Crossness, 30 on Dec 2nd. Footh Cray Meadows (5); 30 on Aug 21st. Manor Farm, 50 on Nov 1st.

Surrey: Banstead Wood (11). Canons Farm (10). Holmethorpe SP, 45 on Nov 8th. London Wetland Centre (4); 35 on Dec 10th. Richmond Park (11+). Wimbledon Common (60+).

In Lond: Burgess Park, 40 on Jul 9th. Regent's Park, 65 on Dec 28th. Victoria Park (1+).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Like the previous species Blue Tit remains a common bird throughout London. Breeding season records are too erratic to detect any underlying trends but The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows an 11% decline since last year. About 555 territories were reported, compared to 413-434 last year. Territory counts or singing males of 15 or more are given below, except for Inner London where all breeding records are given. The peak count in each sector is also shown.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (26); 50 on Jun 12th. Grays Gorge (12). Lion Gorge (12). Mar Dyke Valley (33).

Herts: Chandler's Cross, 62 on Jan 24th. Hatfield Park (36). Hilfield Park Res, 248 nestlings ringed in nest boxes. Rye Meads (25). Welwyn Garden City (17).

Middx: Bushy Park, 35 on Jan 3rd. Perivale Wood, 260 young ringed in nest boxes. Wormwood Scrubs (20).

Kent: Sutton at Hone, 60 on Aug 25th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood (21). Canons Farm (22). East Sheen Common (51). Richmond Park (49). Selsdon, 100 on Aug 1st.

In Lond: Victoria Park (2); five on May 14th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

As with the Blue Tit, this species remains a common bird throughout London but we receive relatively few breeding records. The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows an increase of 160% from 1994 to 2011. A total of 461 territories were reported, up a third on 2010, though how much of this is attributable to better counting is unknown. Territory counts or singing males of 15 or more are listed below, except for Inner London where all breeding records are given. The peak count in each sector is also shown.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (20); 60 on Jun 12th. Lion Gorge (9). Mar Dyke Valley (17).

Herts: Chandler's Cross, 42 on Jan 24th. Hatfield Park (24). Rye Meads (43).

Middx: Bushy Park, 30 on Jan 3rd and Feb 20th. Perivale Wood, 142 young ringed in nest boxes.

Kent: Joyden's Wood, 40 on Feb 13th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood (29). Beddington Farmlands (36). Canons Farm (31). East Sheen Common (46). London Wetland Centre, 81 on Nov 28th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (5); 11 on Nov 26th. Victoria Park (1).

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Status: common breeding species.

Though this is not a rare species in London, it has a patchy distribution; however, it may be in the process of spreading into new areas. The total of 162 breeding (101 in 2010, 122 in 2009) is a large increase but seems to be mostly due to records from new sites. Sites where we have records from both years don't show this increase and the large population at Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath dropped to 50 pairs, from 60 last year. But there may be an expansion, since Grays Park, Tottenham Marshes and Wormwood Scrubs all had their first ever records. BBS data shows a 4% UK increase from 2010 to 2011, although a 17% increase from 1995 to 2010 (BTO website). In a survey in Croydon, it was reported from 78% of participating gardens, down from 85% last year. All breeding records or territories/singing males of two or more (numbers in brackets) are listed below, together with high counts.

Essex: Weald Park, four on Jan 9th.

Herts: Coopers Green Lane (7). Hatfield Park (8). Redwell Wood Farm, 20 on Jul 2nd. Welwyn Garden City (2).

Middx: Alexandra Park (2). Brent Park (2). Brent Res (3). Horsenden Hill (2-3). St Andrew's Church, Enfield (2). Trent Park (2); five on Jan 22nd.

Kent: Greenwich Park (2-3). Joyden's Wood, eight on Jan 31st.

Surrey: Banstead Wood (11). Canons Farm (9). East Sheen Common (2). London Wetland Centre (2). Richmond Park (8). Wimbledon Common (50+).

In Lond: Battersea Park, four on Feb 14th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1).

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Status: localised and declining breeding resident and scarce winter visitor.

Although still scarce, there was an encouraging increase in sightings, particularly in the breeding season. Between March 8th and July 11th, there were reports at 16 sites (eight in 2010, six in 2009). Further checking during the breeding season at current and past sites would be useful to see if this increase marks a change in fortune. However, there were no confirmed breeding records this year and only five probable breeding (two of these being only one record on one day). Once again, the majority of the records were in Herts. At Northaw Great Wood further decline was noted this year and there were no records there in the breeding season. There were no records at Treverex for the first time in 27 years. The record at Connaught Water is interesting, as this was a breeding site in the 1990s. All records are given below, summarised at Selsdon Woods.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one or two from 2010 remained on 17 dates from Jan 1st to Apr 2nd. Connaught Water, two on Jun 20th. Orsett, one on Jun 14th.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Jan 2nd & 21st, Apr 4th, Jul 1st and Nov 5th. Balls Wood, singles on Jan 21st and Apr 3rd-4th. Bayford, two on Jan 9th. Berrybushes Wood, one on Mar 25th. Brookmans Park two on Jan 1st and one on Aug 14th. Cuffley, one on Dec 23rd. Ebury Way, one on Aug 12th. Essendon, one on Apr 17th. Hatfield Park, two on Feb 20th, one on Apr 17th, two on Jun 27th, then singles Aug 14th and Dec 3rd. Howe Green, one on Jan 9th. Leavesden Green, two on Jul 3rd. Maple Lodge NR, one on Mar 29th. Northaw, one on Jan 22nd and Apr 2nd. Northaw Great Wood, one on Jan 1st, three on Feb 22nd, two on Oct 19th and one on 20th, then three on Dec 22nd. Rye Meads, one on Jun 30th. Wildhill, one on Mar 12th, three on Jun 18th, two on Sep 11th, one on Oct 8th, three on Nov 20th and one on Dec 24th. Wormley Wood, one on Feb 15th and two at a feeder on Mar 5th.

Kent: Manor Farm, one on Nov 1st. Sevenoaks WR, one on Jan 16th & 29th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, one on Feb 27th. Hutchinson's Bank, singles on Feb 2nd & 16th and May 15th. King's Wood, two singles in Jan, Feb May and Dec. Selsdon Woods, one or two present most of the year. Treverex area, no records for the first time in 27 years. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, one on Oct 12th was the first since 1984.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Status: common breeding resident.

A total of 135 pairs/territories reported this year was a lot higher than recent years (93-94 in 2010, 57 in 2009) but seems to be mostly due to reports from more sites. Where we have records in 2010 and 2011, there's no sign of much change. BBS data shows a 2%

UK increase from 2010 to 2011 although an 80% increase from 1995 to 2010 (BTO website). It might be early days but this species does seem to be spreading somewhat further afield. They were reported from 51% of participating gardens in a survey in Croydon. Richmond Park took over the mantle from Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath as the site with the largest number of territories. All confirmed breeding records or territories/singing males of two or more (numbers in brackets) are listed below, together with the peak count for each sector.

Essex: Bedfords Park (2). Fairmead Bottom (2). Gernon Bushes, ten on Jan 24th. Strawberry Hill Ponds (2).

Herts: Cole Green Tip (2). Coopers Green Lane (4). Garden Wood (1). Northaw Great Wood, 11 on Oct 19th. Redwell Wood Farm (3). University of Herts. (3). Welwyn Garden City (2). Woodside, Hatfield (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park (3). Hilly Fields Park (2). Horsenden Hill (2); eight on Aug 27th. Oakwood Park (2). Trent Park (1), three last year; eight on Mar 24th. Wormwood Scrubs, one on Sep 1st was the first site record.

Kent: Fawkham Green (2). Foots Cray Meadows (3). Greenwich Park (3-4). Lullingstone Park (2), four last year. Manor Farm, six on Apr 15th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood (10); 17 on Nov 20th. Canons Farm (4). East Sheen Common (2). Richmond Park (19), 11 last year. Wimbledon Common (14+), 20 last year.

In Lond: Holland Park, one on Apr 23rd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Feb 9th, two on Mar 29th and three on Apr 13th.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Status: common breeding resident.

A total of 119 pairs/territories were reported this year, (60 in 2010, 58 in 2009). This seems to be mostly because of new sites reporting breeding this year. BBS data shows an 8% increase from 2010 to 2011 and little change from 1995 to 2010 (BTO website). It will be interesting to see if this increase can be sustained or built upon, as this species remains inexplicably rare or absent at many sites. Numbers were down at Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, but doubled at Richmond Park. All confirmed breeding records or territories/singing males of two or more (numbers in brackets) are listed below, together with the peak count for each sector.

Essex: Bedfords Park, three on Mar 11th. Claybury Park, three on Mar 17th. Fairmead Bottom (2). Long Running (2).

Herts: Coopers Green Lane (3). Fir & Pond Woods (2). Northaw Great Wood (3); nine on May 26th. Wildhill (2).

Middx: Hadley Wood (1-2). Trent Park (7); six on Feb 3rd. Whitewebbs Wood (2). Wildwoods, Enfield (2).

Kent: Hosey Hill to Crockham Hill, five on June 23rd. Sevenoaks WR, up to five throughout the year.

Surrey: Banstead Wood (14); five on Jul 31st. Canons Farm (3). East Sheen Common (2). Richmond Park (20). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (24+).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, five on Mar 23rd.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

There was just one record this year for this less than annual visitor. The table below gives arrival dates for recent records. The last over-wintering bird was in winter 1991/2, almost all the others stayed for just a few days.

Great Grey Shrike dates 1990-2010 20 records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	3	0	0	2	1	9	5	0

Middx: Brunel University, one on Nov 29th (SPa *et al*). Steve Pash sadly died on Dec 31st.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Status: common breeding bird, the resident population increased by immigrants in the autumn and winter.

We receive few breeding records, but The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) suggests a 40% decline since 2010. The notes below list all records with evidence of breeding (number of pairs in brackets) and some of the higher counts. Only three records were received for Inner London and all are given below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (4); nine on Nov 6th. Dagnam Park, ten on Oct 16th. Grays Cemetery (1). Grays Gorge (2). Harrow Lodge Park (1). Hatch Forest, 12 on Mar 12th. Wanstead Park, ten on Jan 18th.

Herts: Cassiobury Park, 12 on Apr 8th. Cole Green Tip (1). Epping Green, 12 on Jan 23rd. Rye Meads (2). Tyttenhanger Farm, nine on Jun 20th. Welwyn Garden City, 14 on Dec 26th.

Middx: Alexandra Park (1). Brent Res (1). Enfield Grammar School (1). Grovelands Park, eight on Mar 23rd. Horsenden Hill (1); ten on Apr 16th and Oct 15th. Kilburn (1). Tottenham Marshes (2). Whitewebbs Woods (2). Wormwood Scrubs (1).

Kent: Crossness, 11 flew east on Apr 22nd. Manor Farm, nine on Nov 1st. Sevenoaks WR, ten on Dec 31st.

Surrey: Addington Hills, ten on Apr 22nd. Bookham Common, 11 on Apr 10th. East Sheen Common (7). Holmethorpe SP, 12 on Oct 21st and Dec 30th. Lloyd Park, 15 on Oct 17th. London Wetland Centre, 15 on Feb 21st. Richmond Park (7). Selsdon Park, 12 on Mar 26th. Wimbledon Common, 12 on Sep 27th.

In Lond: Holland Park, two on Apr 23rd. King Edward Memorial Park, one on Jan 20th. Victoria Park, three on Sep 10th.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows no real change from 2010 to 2011 although there was a 39% increase in London from 1994 to 2011. However, we receive few breeding records, even though they nest throughout the area. Large groups were seen in the winter, even in urban areas like West Ham Park, but a count of 140 at Roding Valley Meadows NR is very high. High counts and some breeding records are given below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 47 on Dec 18th. Dagnam Park, 52 on Mar 9th. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 140 on Jan 9th. Romford GC, 40 on Jan 12th. Warren Gorge, 50 on Jan 18th. West Ham Park, 32 on Nov 17th.

Herts: Brightwells Farm, 47 on Mar 12th. Cole Green Tip (3). Maple Lodge NR, 57 on Mar 5th, evening roost gathering. Northaw, 58 on Jan 3rd, at a roost. Rye Meads (9); 35 on Dec 10th. Welwyn Garden City (3).

Middx: Horsenden Hill (5); 68 on Mar 8th roosting in trees. Pinner Park Farm, 55 on Jan 4th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 10 on Feb 19th.

Kent: Chipstead Lake, 37 on Feb 4th. Sutton at Hone, 68 on Mar 7th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 79 on Dec 23rd. East Sheen Common (6). Richmond Park (2).

In Lond: Battersea Park, one chasing a bat in daylight on Nov 22nd was an odd record. Hemans Estate Community Garden (1), the first time they have bred here. Victoria Park, ten on Nov 12th.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in the inner suburbs and city centre.

The breeding population has increased by 49% in England since 1995 and the increase appears to be continuing (BTO website, BBS data). It remains a common breeder in rural and suburban parts of the London Area, with large numbers of passage migrants seen in inner areas in spring/autumn. This year passage was most obvious between September 23rd and November 1st with the highest counts shown in the table below. In rural areas impressive autumn and winter roosts can still be found, the largest being 6,500 at Hatfield Aerodrome. Not all counts make clear whether they are feeding groups or roosting groups. High roost or feeding counts are given below, with some breeding records and all Inner London records.

Jackdaw highest counts

Date	Total of highest counts	No. of sites	Site and direction for main flocks
Sep 23rd	245	1	245 Wimbledon Common NW
Oct 11th	1023	2	723 Raynes Park Station 300 Wimbledon Common NW
Oct 22nd	280	1	280 Wimbledon Common NW
Oct 31st	300	1	300 Holmethorpe SP NE
Nov 1st	700	1	700 Wimbledon Common NW

Essex: Bedfords Park, 350 on Mar 11th pre-roost. Holyfield Lake, 1,200 on Dec 6th. Larks Wood, 300 on Mar 14th. Mar Dyke Valley (10). Orsett Fen, 400 on Jan 10th and Feb 4th. Rainham Marshes, 500 on Jul 24th, heading to roost.

Herts: Beech Farm GP, 300 on Nov 6th. Cole Green Tip (6). Hatfield Aerodrome, 750 feeding on Apr 14th, 6,500 on Nov 11th roosting. The observer believes this to be one of the largest roosts in the UK. Rye Meads, 890 on Jan 14th. Stocker's Farm, 500 flying

over to roost on Nov 27th. University of Herts, Hatfield, 1,050 on Jan 31st. Water End, 300 feeding on Dec 25th. Welwyn Garden City (6).

Middx: Brent Res, c40 in roost on Jan 11th. Bushy Park, 120 on Nov 12th. Home Park, 154 on Dec 12th.

Kent: Greatness Pits, 500 on Jun 30th. Sevenoaks WR, 1,150 on Jan 2nd and 1,500 on Nov 23rd, coming in to roost.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 722 on Jul 26th. Canons Farm, 400 on Oct 23rd & 30th. Holmethorpe SP, 2,500 flying to roost on Jan 2nd was a site record. Walton-on-Thames, 300 flew over to roost on Dec 1st.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Mar 26th. Islington, one north on Mar 25th. Regent's Park, several records with max nine on Mar 14th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Status: common breeding resident in the outer part of the LNHS Area, much scarcer in urban localities.

There were seventeen rookeries reported, all but one in Essex and Herts. All but one were at different sites to those reported last year, so it is impossible to say what is happening in London. From 1995 to 2010 there has been an 8% decrease in the UK breeding population (BTO website, BBS data). Regular counts from rookeries would be very welcome. For much of the London Area, Rooks are just occasional fly-overs. Details of all rookeries are given below, with the number of nests in brackets, followed by some of the highest counts in each sector and all records from Inner London.

Essex: Aveley (30). Breach Barns (7). Claverhambury, 50 on Jul 26th. Cornmill Meadows (6). Little End (15). Navestock Church (3). Orsett Fen, 200 on Feb 9th.

Herts: Chiswell Green (25). Fir & Pond Woods (rookery, no count). Holwell Court (18). Howe Green (10). Hunton Bridge (12). Mill End (9). Otterspool (4). Park Street (18). Ridge (rookery, no count). Rye Meads (1), but failed. Woodside, Hatfield (rookery, no count). Wrotham Park (rookery, no count).

Middx: Totteridge Valley, 50 on Jan 4th.

Kent: Fawkham Green, 30 on May 4th. Sutton at Hone, 50 on Jul 21st.

Surrey: Beddington Park (5). Holmethorpe SP, 110 on Nov 28th. Titsey (20+).

In Lond: Regent's Park, two on Feb 25th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Abundant throughout the London Area, this species is becoming more common in London with The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) showing a 61% increase since 1995, whilst across the UK there has been a small increase of 10%. However, we receive relatively few records and more nesting counts would be welcome, especially from inner areas. The roost count of 1,261 at Horsenden Hill is impressive. More roost counts from sites would be welcome. Large groups can also be seen even in urban areas such as Barking Park and Wanstead Flats.

All breeding records of five or more are given, with number of nests/territories in brackets, together with the highest counts elsewhere.



Jackdaws are doing well in parts of London. (Tony Coombs)

Essex: Barking Park, 120 on Mar 4th. Orsett Fen, 250 on Feb 4th. Rainham Marshes, 214 on Oct 12th. Wanstead Flats, 150 on Jan 3rd.

Herts: Bottom Wood, 150 on Mar 8th. Rye Meads (5). Stocker's Lake, 100 on Nov 12th. Welwyn Garden City (2); 206 on Nov 6th.

Middx: Brent Res, 230 to roost on Jan 11th. Horsenden Hill, 1,261 flying in to roost on Jan 29th. Wormwood Scrubs, 300 on Jan 13th.

Bucks: Colnbrook, 240 on Apr 15th.

Kent: Greatness Pits, 160 on Jan 7th. Greenwich Park, 100 on May 16th. Sevenoaks WR, 165 on Apr 6th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 345 on Jul 26th. East Sheen Common (11). Holmethorpe SP, 800 on Jan 2nd. Norbury, 85 to roost in May. Richmond Park (6). Wimbledon Common, c1,000 at pre-roost gathering on Nov 7th & 15th.

In Lond: Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, 12 on Jan 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 114 on Mar 19th. Shoreditch Park, 16 on Jan 20th. Victoria Park, ten on May 14th.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Status: scarce, but increasing visitor.

The spread of records continues, with reports from 33 sites this year, (24 in 2010). Ravens are now breeding in Berks, Bucks, Herts, Kent and Surrey, outside the London Area. Hopefully they will soon move to breed in London, as Common Buzzards have. All records are given below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Nov 4th & 6th. Chafford Hundred, one on May 1st. Chingford GC, two on Mar 1st. Copped Hall, two on Feb 13th and one or two seen regularly to Mar 7th. Galleyhill Wood, one on Jan 4th. Hainault Forest, two on Feb 9th. Hayes Hill Farm, one on Jan 18th. Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 16th-17th, two on 23rd; one on Jun 10th and two on 14th. Romford, one on Jan 26th. Stanford Rivers, one on May 14th. Waltham Abbey, one on Jan 2nd.

Herts: Amwell NR, two seen regularly Jan-Mar, mid-May and Sept, then one on Nov 14th. Bayfordbury, one on Apr 1st. Broxbourne Woods, one on Jan 9th, two on Mar 5th and one on Oct 30th. Cole Green Tip, two on May 6th & 8th. Garston, one on Nov 26th. Hatfield Park, one on Apr 17th and on Sep 18th. Loudwater, one over M25 at Junction 18 on May 23rd. Oaklands GP, two on Aug 1st, Panshanger Park, two on Jan 30th and one on May 7th. Rickmansworth, one on Sep 3rd. Rye Meads, one on Jan 11th. St Albans, one on Mar 21st. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Apr 16th and one on May 1st. Welwyn Garden City, one on Apr 14th. Wildhill, two on Jun 1st and one on Aug 24th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, singles on May 18th and Jun 15th. Totteridge Valley, one on Jul 3rd.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, two on Jun 14th.

Surrey: Betchworth, one on Jan 1st. Canons Farm, one on Oct 12th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Apr 17th.



Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Status: common, but continued declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The London decline of the Starling continues, with the Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) showing a 44% decrease from 1994 to 2011. This decline is reflected across the country with a decrease of 50% (BTO website). However, they are still seen in numbers across London with substantial flocks reported in winter. Passage over London was noticeable this year from October 4th to November 10th, the largest movements being on October 29th, with 2,500 over Holmethorpe SP, 675 over Brent Res and 580 over London Wetland Centre. Some of the highest counts and migrating flocks, are given below.

Starling. (Mick Southcott)

Essex: Barking Bay, 1,500 on Jul 31st. Rainham Marshes, c1,000 on Mar 11th, Aug 31st and Sep 1st. Warren Gorge, c450 roosting in Sep.

Herts: Rye Meads, 440 on Oct 29th. Stanstead Abbots, 300 on Mar 13th. Tyttenhanger GP, 400 on Sep 17th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, 600 on Oct 29th. Brent Res, passage over of 1,552 from Oct 23rd-29th. Hampstead Heath, 600 on Nov 2nd. Staines Moor, 700 on Nov 10th. Staines Res, 800 on Aug 23rd.

Kent: Crossness, 300 on Aug 9th. Greenwich Park, passage over of 1,310 from Oct 11th-Nov 10th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 3,800 on Jul 26th and 1,012 on Sep 8th. Holmethorpe SP, roost of 2,000 on Oct 30th and passage over of 2,500 on Oct 29th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 250 on Nov 26th. Regent's Park, 2,000 on Oct 28th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Status: breeding resident, declined severely since 1990s, and still showing a decrease in breeding populations.

The House Sparrow's decline has continued to cause concern in urban areas around the country. Since 1970 there has been a dramatic decrease of 64% UK wide, although since 1995 UK numbers have remained stable (*State of the UK's birds 2012*). However The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) showed a 70% decline from 1994 to 2011. There is clearly variation across the London Area with some sectors showing growth while others are still showing a decline. More breeding records, especially from urban areas, would be welcome. Some breeding counts, with numbers of nests/territories/ breeding pairs in brackets, together with some of the largest counts, other records of interest and a summary of records for Inner London are given below.

Essex: Brickfield CP, Cranham, 100 on Mar 7th. Chafford Hundred, 109 at roost on Nov 19th. Dagenham, 70 on Feb 24th and May 4th. Grays, 78 at roost on Oct 23rd. Harold Park, 120 on Feb 26th. Rainham Marshes, 80 on Mar 3rd. South Ockendon, 90 on Feb 8th. Thurrock Rugby Club, 50 at roost on Aug 16th. Upminster (10+), 82 on Apr 5th. West Horndon, 40 in Apr and May.

Herts: Cassiobury Park, 89 flew over on Sep 16th. North Mymms Park, 25 on Jun 24th. Potters Bar, 70 on Jun 19th. Woodoaks Farm, 50 on Sep 15th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, 70 on Aug 6th. Burnt Oak (12). Horsenden Hill (14). Lake Farm CP, 77 on Aug 6th. Wormwood Scrubs, 120 leaving roost on Nov 22nd.

Bucks: George Green, 26 on Dec 27th.

Kent: Blackheath (2). Northumberland Heath Recreation Ground, 105 on Dec 20th. Slade Green (9). Sutton at Hone, 75 on Jul 21st.

Surrey: Addington, 30 in Oct. Croydon, 20-30 throughout the year at Laurier Road. Holmethorpe SP, 60 on Sep 26th. Shirley, 30 Jan-Jun. South Norwood, up to 35 May-Sep. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (16).

In Lond: John Buckle Centre, 170 Wandsworth Rd, SW8 (5). Hanover Primary School, Islington (2). Lansdowne Gardens, SW8, 25 on Oct 27th in roost. Larkhall Park area (7). Russia Dock Woodland, 50 on Dec 28th. Tower of London (2). Wyvil Estate, Wyvil Road, SW8 (5).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Status: scarce breeding resident, confined to a few sites.

Breeding continues at the two regular sites but this year saw several records in Middlesex, the first since 2007. Hopefully this may be a sign of better fortunes for this scarce bird. At Beddington Farmlands fewer nest boxes were used than last year (74 rather than 93) but the number of fledged young was similar (607 rather than 624). At Tyttenhanger GP it was a poor year with only 11 nesting and 49 fledged young. Details of breeding (numbers in brackets) and all records away from breeding sites are given below.

Essex: Chigwell, one on May 14th. Claybury Park, one on Mar 2nd. Rainham Marshes, singles on Jan 4th and 7th, Oct 16th and Nov 9th.

Herts: Colney Heath, up to four Feb-Apr and two at the end of the year. Redwell Wood Farm, max 21 on Feb 26th. St Albans, one on Mar 10th. Tyttenhanger GP (11), 12 on Nov 25th. Woodoaks Farm, one on Feb 18th.

Middx: Ferny Hill Farm, up to eight Jan 3rd-25th, five on Mar 1st with one still on 9th. Horsenden Hill, same juv/1st-winter on Aug 29th and Sep 3rd. Plumridge Farm, one on Mar 9th. Tottenham Marshes, one on Aug 27th was first record here since 1997.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (74). There were no other records in this sector.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

Although this is a very common bird throughout our area, we receive very few breeding reports and would welcome more. The BBS survey shows little recent change (BTO website). The BTO Garden BirdWatch and the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch both show a decline in the number in gardens, although the regular Croydon survey showed no change since last year. Large flocks were recorded in both winters, the largest being 400 at Canons Farm in February. Passage was noticeable in the last two weeks in October, but was lighter than last year's passage. Breeding records of five or more (no. of territories in brackets) are given below, together with high feeding counts and passage counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (9). Holyfield Lake, 60 on Jan 15th. Orsett Fen, 148 on Dec 8th. Wanstead Flats, 70 on Mar 14th.

Herts: Broxbourne Woods, 140 on Feb 14th. Roe Hyde, 60 on Jan 16th. Rye Meads (33). Tyttenhanger GP, 50+ on Mar 5th. Willows Farm, 150 on Mar 1st.

Middx: Brent Res, passage overhead of 337 from Oct 19th-29th. Hampstead Heath, 150 SW on Oct 21st. Horsenden Hill (8-9); 37 over on Oct 15th. Trent Park, 125 on Oct 31st. Vicarage Farm, 75 on Nov 7th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 43 on Nov 23rd. Greenwich Park (5-8); passage W from Oct 15th-25th with max 400+ on 21st. Sidcup, 300 over from 08:30 to 16:30 on Oct 13th. Sutton at Hone, 42 on Feb 17th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood (16). Canons Farm (37); c400 on Feb 19th & 20th. Croydon, reported from 84% of participating gardens. East Sheen Common (5). Holmethorpe SP, 200 on Dec 5th. London Wetland Centre (9); 120 NW on Oct 13th. Wimbledon Common, 300 SE on Mar 18th.

In Lond: Hermitage Basin, pair nesting. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, nine on Mar 30th. Regent's Park, 165 over on Nov 1st. St Dunstan-in-the-East, recently fledged young on Jun 7th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

Numbers at the start of the year were low, the highest being eight at South Norwood Lake on January 9th; but unusually, three were reported in Kilburn on 7th. Birds stayed much longer than in 2010 with five sites having birds in April, the last of the 2010/11 winter being on April 10th. This also meant a garden in Potters Bar having a male in part breeding plumage on March 23rd.

The first returning bird was seen on October 12th but passage overhead was light and numbers remained low up to the end of the year. The highest count was eight at Rainham Marshes on October 29th, the highest elsewhere being three. Counts of more than one are given below.

Essex: Barking Bay, two on Nov 9th. Lost Pond, two on Dec 17th. Orsett Fen, five on Feb 4th. Rainham Marshes, max eight on Oct 29th. Strawberry Hill Ponds, two on Nov 19th. Waltham Abbey, three on Mar 20th.

Herts: Broxbourne Woods, two on Feb 14th. Cassiobury Park, two on Jan 14th. Oxhey Hall, regular in garden from Feb 8th-Apr 7th with six on Mar 31st. Potters Bar, three in a garden on Jan 19th, with four on Feb 11th and singing male on Mar 23rd. St Albans, two on Jan 29th. Tyttenhanger GP, three on Jan 19th. Welwyn Garden City, two on Oct 20th.

Middx: Kilburn, three on Jan 7th.

Kent: Greenwich Park, two over on Oct 21st & 22nd. Sevenoaks, two on Mar 14th.

Surrey: Addington, two on Mar 26th. Canons Farm, two on Jan 8th and Feb 19th-21st, three on Oct 16th. Holmethorpe SP, two on Mar 24th. London Wetland Centre, two on Dec 26th. Richmond Park, two on Mar 13th and three W on Oct 21st. South Croydon, two on Mar 1st. South Norwood Lake, eight on Jan 9th. Woldingham, two on Oct 29th.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There is some reason for optimism for the Greenfinch, after its severe decline owing to disease in recent years. Last year the largest flock was 72 birds but this year there were seven counts of 70 or more, the highest being 150 at Hampstead Heath. Greenfinches were also reported from 79% of participating gardens in a survey in Croydon. There were several reports of pre-roost gatherings. The Greenfinch is one of four species which are declining in the surrounding area but show increases in London, according to The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195). Breeding records of three or more (no. of territories in brackets) are given below, together with higher counts.

Essex: Grays, 26 on Oct 16th. Orsett Fen, 28 on Nov 2nd. Rainham Marshes, flocks of over 40 from Oct 12th to end of year with max 90 on Nov 9th. Wanstead Flats, 20 on Mar 17th. Warren Gorge 32 on Nov 19th.

Herts: Cole Green Tip (3); 42 on Nov 27th. Oxhey Hall, 30 in a garden on Nov 24th. Rye Meads (11). St Albans, 20+ on Jan 29th. Tyttenhanger GP, up to 70 from Oct 25th-Nov 2nd. Welwyn Garden City (3). Willows Farm, 50 on Oct 24th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, 35 on Oct 23rd. Brent Res, passage overhead of 26 on Oct 21st, 31 on 23rd and 28 on Dec 6th. Hampstead Heath, 100 on Oct 14th and 150 SW on 21st. Horsenden Hill (10). Mudchute Farm, 21 on Dec 25th. Vicarage Farm, 30 on Nov 24th. Wormwood Scrubs (9). Wraysbury Res, 51 on Oct 22nd.

Kent: Greenwich Park (2-4). Sutton at Hone, 25 on Jul 21st. Sidcup, 50+ in a garden on Sep 4th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (21). London Wetland Centre (10); 40 on Jan 7th. Queen Mary's Park, 70 on Feb 11th. Raynes Park Station, c20 leaving a roost on Feb 16th. Richmond Park (12).

In Lond: Bankside, SE1 (1). Battersea Park, five on Feb 3rd. Cremorne Gardens, three on Apr 23rd. Regent's Park, 45 on Aug 14th. Smithfield Market, three on Jan 17th. Vauxhall Park (1).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant, now common throughout the year.

The Breeding Bird Survey in London (page 195) shows an 8% increase since 2010, with a long-term increase of 190% from 1994 to 2011. They were reported in over half of

Goldfinches are increasing in numbers, both nationally and in London. These birds were seen at Rainham Marshes. (Barry Jackson)



gardens (BTO Garden Bird Survey) and in 86% of gardens participating in a survey in Croydon. Flocks of 100 or more were reported from 14 sites this year (up from nine last year), the highest being 310 at Rainham Marshes. The only heavy passage noted was in October with 116 SW at London Wetland Centre on 12th and 200 SW at Hampstead Heath on 21st. Breeding records of two or more (no. of territories in brackets) are given below, together with higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 135 on Oct 9th. KGV Res, 120 on Nov 13th. Rainham Marshes, 310 on Oct 12th.

Herts: Cole Green Tip (3); 200+ on Oct 29th. Hertford, 70 on Mar 24th. Rye Meads (2). Scotsbridge Meadows, 60 on Jan 7th. University of Herts, 110 on Sep 19th.

Middx: Brent Res, 130 on Jul 31st. Hampstead Heath, 100 on Oct 14th, 200 SW on 21st. Horsenden Hill (8). Shortwood Common, 80 on Aug 29th.

Bucks: Colnbrook, 45 on Dec 25th. Q. Mother Res, 80 on Nov 10th.

Kent: Crossness, eight counts of 100 or more from mid-Aug with max 150 on Sep 9th. Sevenoaks WR, 40 on Feb 9th. Sidcup, 20+ in garden on Nov 3rd.

Surrey: Canons Farm (5). Holmethorpe SP, 140 on Jan 19th, 145 in Nov and Dec. London Wetland Centre (5); 116 SW on Oct 12th. Richmond Park (2); 120 on Oct 6th. Walton Res, 120 on Sep 9th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (4).

In Lond: Paddington Green, 30 on Jan 28th and 40 on Oct 11th. Regent's Park, 46 on Oct 14th and 100 on 28th. Victoria Park, 15 on Nov 12th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Status: common winter visitor, passage migrant and increasingly regular in summer and a potential breeding species.

As reported last year, numbers were higher at the end of 2010 than at the start, and these numbers were maintained at the start of 2011. There were 14 flocks of 100 or more, the largest being the more normal size of 300 rather than last year's very high 600. Birds stayed a little longer than in 2010, with 14 reports of birds in April, the last being two on 17th over Holmethorpe SP. Six were then seen on June 5th at South Croydon, which seems rather early for returning birds. There were a few records in late June and early July and two at Amwell NR on August 6th, before there was regular passage from September 5th. There were far fewer birds returning for winter 2011/12 than for winter 2010/11, as a comparison of the charts for this year with that for last year shows. At many sites Siskin were quite scarce at the end of the year, although at Hampstead Heath they had 120 SW on October 21st and more were reported at Regent's Park at the end of the year than at the start of the year. The notes below record high counts for each winter period, other notable sightings, and all Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 81 on Feb 13th. Fishers Green, 70 on Jan 8th. Hooks Marsh Lake, 200 on Jan 22nd. Wanstead Park, 50 on Jan 31st. Weald Park, 56 on Oct 23rd.

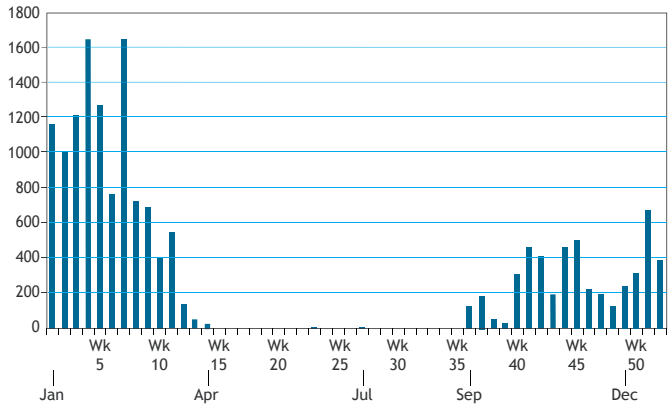
Herts: Amwell NR 150 on Feb 12th. Cassiobury Park, c100 on Feb 1st. Cheshunt GPs, 150 on Jan 23rd. Northaw Great Wood, 100 on Jan 1st. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, c200 on Oct 27th. Rye Meads, 100 on Jan 1st. Stocker's Lake, 100 on Jan 15th and on Oct 29th. Welwyn Garden City, c40 visiting garden feeders on Mar 16th.

Siskin

Weekly totals

Key

■ Number recorded
in each week
(Wk 5 etc)



Middx: Bentley Priors, 80 on Jan 4th. Bushy Park, 100 on Feb 20th and 60 on Dec 23rd. Grovelands Park, 50 on Jan 10th. Hampstead Heath, 120 SW on Oct 21st. Totteridge Valley, 60 on Dec 26th. Trent Park, 80 on Jan 25th.

Bucks: Horton GP, 80 on Feb 19th. Thorney CP, 50 on Nov 1st. Wraybury GP, 110 on Feb 19th.

Kent: Foots Cray Meadows, max 100 on Jan 14th and 80 on Dec 17th. Sevenoaks WR, 300 on Feb 13th. Sutton at Hone, max 230 on Feb 17th.

Surrey: Gatton Lake, 60 on Jan 16th. Holmethorpe SP, 50 on Jan 7th and 41 on Oct 30th. Island Barn Res, 60 on Feb 20th. Richmond Park, 200 on Jan 21st. Wimbledon Common, 50 on Feb 15th.

In Lond: Bartholomew Street, SE1, three over on Feb 3rd. Battersea PS, three on Sep 16th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Jan 3rd & Mar 4th. Paddington Green, two on Feb 22nd. Regent's Park, three W on Mar 9th, 14 on Sep 7th, 20 on 9th, one on 13th, six on Oct 12th, 50 on 14th, two on 19th, eight over on Nov 1st and six on 10th.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Status: common but declining breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 684 records this year, up on last year's 640 and the 500 from 2009. Only 321 were of ten birds or fewer (about 47%) - compared to 65% in the previous two years. There were 40 counts of 100 or more birds. The seven highest counts (all of 300 or more) came from Surrey: Canons Farm with three and Holmethorpe SP with four, including the highest of 1,000 on October 12th. It is reasonable to assume a figure of around 53 breeding pairs across the area (higher than 2010). Wormwood Scrubs had the highest number, as in the last two years, and there were encouraging numbers at Lake Farm CP. All records of breeding (number of breeding pairs, singing males/territories in brackets), high counts and all Inner London records are given below.

Essex: Barking Bay, 150 on Jan 22nd and 160 on Nov 9th. Belhus Woods CP (1). Goresbrook Rough, 160 on Jan 3rd. Grey Goose Farm (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (1+). Rainham Marshes, 120 on Aug 31st and 150 on Nov 23rd. Roding Valley Park (1).

Siskin is a common winter visitor to the London area. (Tony Coombs)

Herts: Bell Bar (1). Brookmans Park (1). Cole Green Tip (4). Cromerhyde Farm, 100 on Dec 7th. Micklefield Green, 120 on Mar 7th. Nashe's Farm (1). North Mymms Park (1). Northaw (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Roe Hyde (1). Welwyn Garden City (1); 150 on Jan 1st and 130 on Dec 26th-27th. Woodside, Hatfield (1).

Middx: KGVI Res, 120 on July 12th. Bay Farm (1). Horsenden Hill (2). Lake Farm CP (5). Park Farm, Enfield (1). Tottenham Marshes (1). Vicarage Farm (1+). Wormwood Scrubs (10).

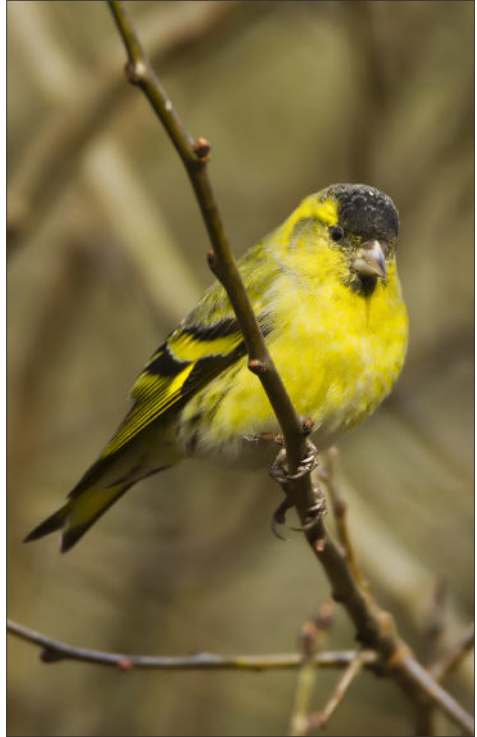
Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 100 on Aug 13th.

Kent: College Farm (3). Crossness (1+). Dartford Marshes (3).

Surrey: Banstead Wood (1). Canons Farm (4); 100 on Jan 16th, 120 on Aug 28th, and 800 on Oct 30th.

Holmethorpe SP (1); several high counts in October, including 1,000 on 12th, and 350 on Dec 5th. South Norwood CP (1). Walton Res, 160 on Nov 7th.

In Lond: Battersea PS, eight on Feb 12th and 30 on Aug 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jan 18th and Mar 25th, three on Apr 13th. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 25th, 29th and Sep 15th.



Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

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

There were 574 records, well up on the 487 in 2010, but of these only 20% were single birds - in the previous two years 62% and 69% were singles. There were 15 counts of 100 or more from six sites, again up on last year. There were slightly more records in the first winter period than the second, although the number of birds seen in both periods was more or less the same. Peak counts at the start of the year were in mid-February, and most had left by mid-April. There were records of one or two at London Wetland Centre from May 2nd to June 2nd, with records on July 10th, August 24th and September 9th, all probably early returning birds. More general return began on September 13th with a peak in early November. In addition 63 reports of unidentified redpolls this year presumably mostly relate to this species. Peak counts and all Inner London records are shown below.

Essex: Hollow Pond, 60 on Nov 4th. Pages Wood, 50 on Nov 20th. Weald Park, 100 on Jan 12th.

Herts: Hertford, 40+ on Dec 21st. Northaw Great Wood, 150+ on Feb 22nd.

Middx: Copse Wood, 60 on Dec 24th. Hampstead Heath, 65 on Feb 6th. Ruislip Lido, 70 on Jan 8th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 30 on Nov 1st. Joyden's Wood, 35 on Jan 10th. Sevenoaks WR, 48 on Jan 29th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, 150 on Jan 14th and in late Feb. Richmond Park, 150 on Nov 6th & 21st. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, c100 on Jan 22nd and on five dates at the end of the year.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Mar 28th, four on Apr 10th, singles on Sep 13th & 27th, four on Oct 14th, two on Oct 19th and three on Nov 10th. Victoria Park, one on Nov 12th.

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Status: scarce irruptive winter visitor.

There were 99 records this year at 39 sites and involving about 94 birds. This is almost double the 2010 counts of 47 records at 17 sites and 58 birds, suggesting there has been an increase in numbers, or that observers are becoming better at identifying them. About 80% of the records were between January and April. The biggest single flock was a remarkable 16 at Thurrock Services on March 5th. Four birds were trapped and ringed: two at Hilfield Park Res and one each at Muswell Hill and Q. Mother Res. All records are given below.

Essex: Fishers Green, one on Mar 17th. Gunpowder Park, one on Feb 9th, 10th & 12th. Leyton Flats, one on Jan 10th. Pages Wood, one on Nov 20th. Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 15th. Theydon Bois, in a garden, one on Jan 5th, six on Feb 18th, three on Mar 27th and two regularly in Dec. Thurrock Services, 16 on Mar 5th. Wanstead, one on Mar 16th. Warren Gorge, one on Jan 7th. Weald Park, singles on Jan 12th and on Dec 4th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Jan 23rd. Broxbourne Woods, one on Feb 13th. Cassiobury Park, one on Mar 7th. Great Amwell, one on Mar 19th. Hertford, one on Apr 9th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Jan 2nd and Feb 27th. Jersey Farm, one on Mar 25th and Apr 7th. Panshanger, seven records from Mar 2nd-Apr 5th with seven on Mar 18th. Potters Bar, one on Feb 26th. St Albans, one on Mar 20th. Stocker's Lake, six on Nov 14th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Mar 20th.

Middx: Brunel University, one on Jan 24th and two on 25th, one on Feb 9th. Enfield Lock, one on Feb 9th. Grovelands Park, one on Feb 6th. Muswell Hill, one on Mar 11th. Oakwood Park, two on Feb 18th. Trent Park, three on Mar 9th and one on Dec 13th. Vicarage Farm, two on Jan 22nd & 23rd and on Nov 10th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Mar 21st.

Surrey: Banstead Woods, one on Feb 24th, two on 27th and one on Mar 3rd. Bookham Common, one on Mar 16th. London Wetland Centre, on nine dates from Jan 2nd to Mar 30th with three on Feb 27th and on nine dates from Oct 22nd to Dec 4th with two on Nov 8th & 24th and Dec 2nd. Richmond Park, seen on 13 dates from Feb 2nd to Apr

5th with six on Feb 25th; at the end of the year, two on Nov 9th, and singles on 23rd & 29th. Sanderstead, singles on five dates from Feb 22nd to Mar 20th. Selsdon, one on Mar 21st. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, one on Mar 6th.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

Status: very scarce, irruptive visitor.

This is the tenth record for London, the first since 2008 and only the second in the past 15 years. The bird was on feeders in the garden of the lucky observer.

Arctic Redpoll records

Year	1976	1978	1991	1995	1996	2008
Number of records	1	1	1	2	3	1
Number of birds	1	1	1	5	3	1

Surrey: Weybridge, one from Mar 15th-19th (ES).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

There were 122 records (from 69 sites), more than double the last year, and makes 2011 the best year since 2008. There were no reports in the first two months, but then birds were seen throughout the rest of the year. Birds appeared in June and July after breeding dispersal as usual, but there was then an influx in October, unlike last year when only two were seen after August. The table below shows the records. All counts of five or more and all Inner London records are given below.

Common Crossbill records 2011

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	0	0	5	5	7	16	28	5	1	32	17	9
No. of birds	0	0	26	11	16	132	184	28	1	126	69	39

Essex: Hornchurch, nine on June 21st. Rainham Marshes, 23 on June 24th. Wanstead, nine on Oct 20th.

Herts: Amwell NR, seven on Aug 10th, ten on Nov 3rd and 20 on 6th. Berrybushes Wood, 19 on June 6th. Broxbourne Woods, 20 on Mar 19th, 15 on June 18th and six on 27th. Croxley Green, 14 on July 28th. Great Amwell, seven on Oct 30th. Hatfield Park, 15 on July 23rd. Hertingfordbury, 20 on July 19th. Rye Meads RSPB, 13 on July 23rd. Symondshyde Great Wood, ten on June 26th. Wormley Wood, 15 on June 18th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, six on July 24th. Copse Wood, ten on July 15th. Trent Park, eight on Nov 10th.

Bucks: Black Park, 30 on Dec 10th & 27th, five on 24th.

Kent: Greenwich Park, ten on Oct 23rd. Scadbury Park, five on May 25th. Sevenoaks WR, six on June 15th, 20 on 26th and 11 on July 20th. West Kingsdown, six on July 5th.

Surrey: Ashted, 15 on July 12th. Betchworth, five on June 4th. Bookham Common, 20 on July 9th. Canons Farm, five on June 26th, nine on July 10th, seven on Oct 7th, five on Nov 5th and 12 on 18th. Holmethorpe SP, 12 on Oct 29th. Limpsfield Chart, 25 W

on Jul 26th. London Wetland Centre, five on Oct 8th. Richmond Park, five on Oct 17th & 29th. Wallington, 12 on Nov 15th. Woldingham, 25 on Oct 29th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, four on May 24th, one on Sep 10th, two on Oct 17th, one on 31st and two on Nov 1st.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Status: fairly common breeding resident.

Over 680 reports were received this year, compared to about 400 in 2010. Of these over 100 were of five or more birds, but only one got into double figures: a flock of ten at Cassiobury Park on November 4th. Reports came from 126 sites but only one was from Bucks and none this year from Inner London. Breeding reports suggest 45 pairs bred at 33 sites, but with records from another 30 sites during the normal breeding season of April to July there may well have been more. These figures are higher than the previous two years. In England, BBS data suggests they have increased since 2010 (BTO website). The map below shows the distribution of breeding records. All breeding records (no. of pairs/territories in brackets) and high counts are given below.

Essex: Recorded from 32 sites. Belhus Woods CP, four on Dec 18th. Breach Barns (1). Little Warley Common (1).

Herts: Recorded from 39 sites. Bell Bar (1). Bricket Wood (1). Cassiobury Park, ten on Nov 4th. Cole Green Tip (1); nine on Aug 25th. Epping Green (1). Essendon (1). Gobions Wood (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (1). Hatfield Park (1). Howe Green (1). Millward's Park (2); seven on July 24th. North Mymms Park (1). Northaw (1). Potters

Bullfinch

Breeding records

- Breeding record(s) in 1-km square
- LNHS Area
- County boundaries



Based on data mapped by Greenspace Information for Greater London www.giگل.org.uk

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Bar (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1). Rickmansworth (1); eight on Sep 3rd. Roe Hyde (2); seven on July 3rd. Rye Meads (3). South Mimms (1). Stocker's Lake (1). The Withey Beds LNR (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Welham Green (1). Welwyn Garden City (1); eight on Oct 13th. Wildhill (1).

Middx: Recorded from 21 sites. Brent Res (2). Horsenden Hill (7). Trent Park, six on Nov 24th. Vicarage Farm (1).

Kent: Recorded from 16 sites. Chelsfield (1). Scadbury Park, six on Nov 10th.

Surrey: Recorded from 17 sites. Banstead Woods (2). Canons Farm (1). Holmethorpe SP (1); nine on Feb 26th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant.

There were 46 records from 12 sites, with Bookham Common and Broxbourne Woods having the only long-stayers. One at a feeder in Cable Street Community Gardens in December was an unusual Inner London record; this sector's third record in consecutive years. There were no breeding reports for the third successive year. All records are shown below.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Sep 8th. Loughton GC, one on Jan 3rd. Woodford Green, one on Oct 10th and Dec 6th.

Herts: Brookmans Park, two on Jan 21st. Broxbourne Woods, one on Jan 3rd & 14th, five on Feb 12th, four on 13th and one on 27th, one on Mar 5th and two on Dec 24th. Hertford, three on Feb 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on Apr 6th. Woodside, Hatfield, singles on Feb 5th and Dec 24th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Mar 2nd.

Kent: Greenwich Park, one overhead on Nov 5th was the first since 1960.

Surrey: Bookham Common, seen on 26 dates from Jan 15th to Mar 20th with max six on Feb 24th and Mar 16th.

In Lond: Cable Street Community Gardens, one at feeders on Dec 16th.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Status: rare, but annual, autumn and winter visitor.

Three records this year after last year's exceptional influx. The January record is less usual than the October and November ones. The table below shows the arrival dates for recent records. There were also several other reports at Rainham Marshes where no descriptions were received (details in App III).

Lapland Bunting dates 1990-2009

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	3	4	1	2	20	11	6

Essex: Barking Bay, one on Nov 17th (PH). Orsett Fen, one on Jan 10th (RBs). Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 29th (DCn).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.

Six records this year is the best count since 1999. All were on typical dates with an exceptionally long-staying individual at Q. Mother Res. The record on November 6th coincided with a large number of inland sightings on that date. Three at West Thurrock Marshes were the largest group for some years.

Essex: West Thurrock Marshes, three fem/imm on Nov 27th (PH, DBr).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two fem/imms on Nov 6th; the first flew from the south bank high NE at 07:53, the second flew in from the south at 10:45 and was observed by many before being spooked by a Kestrel. A 1st-winter/fem from Dec 9th-24th was much observed and photographed (CDRH *et al*).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on Jan 1st and Nov 8th (KMJ).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Nov 9th (JPA *et al*).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Status: widespread but declining breeding resident, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

A minimum of 110 territories/territorial males which is a considerable increase on the 87 recorded last year, although sites where we have estimates for both years don't show much change. In fact the majority of such sites in Essex show a decline. BBS data for England suggests no change since 2010 (BTO website). All breeding records are given with the number of breeding pairs/territories in brackets. For the Essex, Herts and Surrey sectors peak counts are given; for other sectors all records are given, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (1-2). Bonnett's Wood (4). Bulphan Fen (2-3). Cely Woods (c7). Chigwell (up to 8). Chipping Ongar (c5). Hainault Forest, 42 on Jan 24th. Herongate (1). Holyfield Hall Farm (1+). Ingrebourne Valley, present in breeding season; 60 on Nov 5th. Little End (5). Marden Ash (3). Netherhouse Farm (2+). Orsett Fen (up to 8). Shenfield (1). South Ockendon (1).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (1). Bell Bar (1). Brookmans Park (2). Chiswell Green (1). Cole Green Tip (4+). Coopers Green Lane (1+). Cuffley (1+). Epping Green (1+). Essendon (1+). Hatfield Park (1+). Hilfield Park Res, c40 on Sep 12th. Howe Green (1+). Maple Cross (2). Millward's Park (1). Newgate Street (1+). North



Reed Bunting. (Tony Coombs)

Mymms Park (1). Northaw Great Wood (1). Panshanger Aerodrome (1). Redwell Wood Farm (1); 30 on Jan 23rd. Ridge (1+). Roe Hyde (1+). Rye Meads RSPB, 30 on Jan 14th. South Mimms (1). Tyttenhanger GP, 44 on Jan 19th. Water End (2). Welwyn Garden City (2); 30+ on Jan 8th. Welham Green (1). Wildhill (1). Woodoaks Farm (2); 15 on both Jan 5th and Mar 14th. Woodside, Hatfield (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Jan 1st-2nd, one over on Nov 2nd and one on Nov 6th; these were exceptional records for the site. Enfield Chase area: Ferny Hill Farm, 30 on Feb 20th; Holly Hill Farm, singles on Mar 20th & 22nd; Parkside Farm/Res, singles on Aug 1st & 3rd; Plumridge Farm, male on Mar 9th and Apr 6th; Rectory Farm (1); five on Nov 23rd. Vicarage Farm (1), two last year; nine on Jan 22nd. Hadley Wood (2). Strayfield Road (1); five on Feb 8th. Wormwood Scrubs, one on Jan 8th was the second site record. Wraysbury Res, one NW on Nov 6th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Nov 6th was presumed to be the Wraysbury Res bird seen heading NW five minutes earlier.

Kent: Biggin Hill (2+). Chipstead Lake, singles on four dates in Mar, Oct and Dec. Crayford Marshes, eleven records in Jan and Feb, ten birds on Jan 24th. Eynsford, two on May 7th. Fawkham Green, three on Feb 2nd. Kemsing, two on Jan 13th and three on May 28th. Knockholt Pound, one on Feb 24th and two on Jul 1st. Lullingstone Park (3), one last year. Manor Farm, two on Apr 15th. Otford to Filston, five on Jun 1st. R Darent, Otford Road, one on Dec 24th.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, singing male on May 1st. Bookham Common (2+). Canons Farm (6), four last year; 25 on Jan 25th. Farthing Downs (3), same as last year. Holmethorpe SP (3); 60 on Feb 6th. London Wetland Centre, one E on Feb 24th, one S on Sep 26th, three W on Oct 13th and three S on Nov 2nd. Riddlesdown, one on Mar 19th but no breeding this year. Trevereux area (6), down from nine last year.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one W on Oct 19th.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Status: rare vagrant.

Just two lucky observers saw this male at the same site that hosted one in May 1993. This is the first since 2008; eight of the previous 25 records have arrived in May like this bird. The table below shows all arrival dates.

Ortolan Bunting dates 1908-2008

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
No. of records	1	8	1	0	4	9	2

Surrey: Richmond Park, a male was in the gorse enclosure in the early morning on May 5th, but flew from here and was not relocated (HB, JPPW).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Status: fairly common but declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Another increase in breeding records with 139-144 singing males/territories (c125 in 2010), perhaps reflecting London Atlas census work. About 80% of the records were from

Herts and Essex and to a lesser extent Surrey. BTO data for England shows a 28% increase from 1995-2010 (BTO website). Breeding records are given below with numbers of pairs/territories in brackets and peak counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (3). Chipping Ongar (1). Little End (2). Mar Dyke Valley (3). Orsett Fen (3). Rainham Marshes (10); 27 on Oct 25th. Walthamstow Res (2).

Herts: Amwell NR (5+). Cheshunt GPs (5). Coopers Green GP (3). Essendon (1). Hatfield Aerodrome (6+). Hilfield Park Res (1). Howe Green (1). Rye Meads RSPB (18). Stanborough Lakes (3). Stanborough Reedmarsh (2); 30 on Jan 1st. Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). University of Herts (8).

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP (1), fem trapped May 15th appeared to be breeding, rung 4km away at Stanwell Moor on Jan 2nd, and adult male caught on Oct 2nd had moved from Ashford 3km distant. Brent Res (2). Bushy Park (5). East India Dock Basin (1). Horsenden Hill (3). Kempton NR (1). Lake Farm CP (4); 11 on Sep 4th. Staines Moor (1). Wormwood Scrubs (1).

Kent: Crossness, five singing Apr 22nd. Dartford Marshes, eight on Nov 23rd. Sevenoaks WR (2). Swanscombe Marshes (7).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (3); 12 on Mar 18th. Holmethorpe SP, 12 on Mar 25th. London Wetland Centre (6); 44 W on Oct 12th. Morden Hall Park (1). Richmond Park (15-20). South Norwood CP (2). Walton Res (1). West Molesey, up to three in nearby garden. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, nine on Dec 28th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Mar 15th.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident.

They were recorded from 11 sites this year (ten in 2010) with nine territorial males (as last year). Rainham Marshes maintained a regular wintering flock in the first winter period again reaching double figures, but numbers in November were down on last year. The Middlesex record was the most surprising. All records are given below, summarised in some cases, with no. of breeding pairs, singing males/territories in brackets.

Essex: Baker Street (3). Barking Bay, singles on Apr 23rd & 29th. Grange Waters, seven on Jan 16th. Grey Goose Farm (1); male on Jan 21st and five on Apr 21st. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (3); ten on Jan 10th. Rainham Marshes, recorded from Jan 1st to Apr 10th with ten on Jan 9th; an interesting mid-summer record of one on Jul 1st-2nd, then three on Nov 21st and Dec 22nd.

Middx: Ferny Hill Farm, one heard calling in flight on Jan 11th is the first county record since 2003.

Kent: Crayford Marshes (1); one NE on Jan 14th, then one from Apr 4th-Jul 27th. Crockenhill, one singing on Jul 26th. Dartford Marshes, one on Jan 14th.

APPENDIX 1: ESCAPES

The following records are 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 Bushy Park.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus Cygnus*

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one from Apr 14th-17th.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Nov 21st. Bowyer's Water, one or two throughout the year.

Middx: East India Dock Basin, one on Aug 20th.

Swan Goose *Anser cygnoides*

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one domesticated on Mar 21st.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Surrey: Cobham Floods, one on Jan 18th.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one on Sep 3rd. Verulamium Park, one from Jun 13th-14th.

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Mar 11th.
Q. Mother Res, one on Apr 29th.
Wraysbury GP, one with Greylag Geese on Mar 19th.

Kent: Foots Cray Meadows, one on Nov 23rd.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, recorded Jan-Nov with max of five.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Mar 15th & 19th.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Essex: Connaught Water, one on Jan 1st-2nd. Walthamstow Res, one present throughout the year.

*Barnacle Goose on Wanstead Flats.
(Jonathan Lethbridge)*





Red-breasted Goose on Wanstead Flats. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Aug 6th, 29th, Sep 7th, 18th, 24th, Oct 2nd and 30th. Hertford, one on Jan 4th, 22nd & 24th, Aug 21st and Nov 15th. Hertingfordbury, one on Jan 17th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 23rd, May 29th-30th, Jun 3rd-5th and 9th-11th. Panshanger Park, one on Mar 13th, 15th, Jun 12th and Jul 17th. Smug Oak, one on Mar 21st, Apr 4th & 20th and Jul 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Jan 14th. Willows Farm, one on Jan 19th.

Middx: Hampton FB, two on Jun 15th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 17th. Holmethorpe SP, one on Apr 14th. Walton Res, up to five all year.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Jan 3rd.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

More sightings than usual of this species which involved at least two individuals.

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one from Apr 24th-Nov 26th. This bird was not colour-ringed. Wanstead Flats, one on May 29th. Rainham Marshes, one colour ringed on Mar 19th.

Kent: Greenhithe, one on Mar 13th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Sep 3rd. South Mere Lake, one yellow colour ringed adult on Jul 7th and Aug 7th. Bluewater Shopping Centre, one on Mar 12th. Crossness, one yellow colour ringed adult on Mar 28th and May 7th, one on Jun 10th, Aug 10th and 21st.

Surrey: Walton Res, one on Jan 30th with 42 Barnacle Geese.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one from Jan 22nd to Apr 2nd. Willows Farm, one on Feb 26th, 28th, Mar 29th, 31st, Apr 2nd.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Essex: Connaught Water, two on Nov 19th. Warren Pond, pair on Dec 5th.
Herts: Amwell NR, one female on Jan 16th. Well End area, two on Apr 10th.
Middx: Hampstead Heath, male on Oct 20th.
Kent: Danson Park, a pair from Jun 5th-6th.

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*

Surrey: Waddon Ponds, one female on Apr 19th and Dec 10th.

**Bahama Pintail *Anas bahamensis*
also known as White-cheeked Pintail**

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, one on Mar 30th, Apr 11th, 14th, May 3rd, 15th, 28th, Jun 12th, Jul 16th and Nov 2nd.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

Middx: Brent Park, one on Apr 2nd.
Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, one on Mar 14th. QE II Res, one from Aug 2nd-Sep 2nd.

Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

Kent: Crossness, a 1st-winter of unknown origin on Jan 10th.

Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Essex: Connaught Water, a female on Jan 13th, Nov 6th, 19th, 29th and Dec 11th.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Kent: Crystal Palace Park, one on Jul 21st.
Surrey: South Norwood Lake, one on various dates in Nov and Dec.

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*

Middx: East India Dock Basin, a male on Jun 10th, 13th and Jul 17th.
Surrey: London Wetland Centre, a male on Jun 3rd.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one flew NE at 11:38 on Nov 17th.

Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Herts: Hatfield Park, one on Apr 29th, May 22nd, Jul 31st and Sep 18th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 6th and May 6th. Woodside, Hatfield, one on May 14th, Jun 8th & 30th, Jul 9th, 11th & 22nd and Aug 2nd.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Herts: Bayford, nine on Jan 9th. Brookmans Park, one on Feb 26th, May 6th and Jul 6th, five on Aug 14th and Nov 12th, one on Dec 11th. Essendon, one on Feb 20th, May 27th, two on Jul 4th & 15th, one on Sep 25th and Nov 19th, ten on Dec 26th. Hertford Heath area, one on Apr 4th. Newgate Street, three on Sep 2nd, one on Oct 16th. Redwell Wood Farm, three on Jul 2nd. Welham Green, eight on Jan 8th, five on Jul 5th and six on Jul 24th.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Essex: Cranham Marsh NR, one on Oct 22nd. Dagnam Park, one on Oct 16th. Rainham Marshes, one from Nov 9th-10th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Oct 29th.

Kent: Crossness, one on Apr 10th.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Sep 9th. London Wetland Centre, one on Oct 4th.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Sep 25th.

In Lond: Paddington Green, one on May 28th.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

The two breeding colonies at Borehamwood and the Isle of Dogs remain. A sighting at Greenwich Park may be the first sign of them spreading elsewhere.

Herts: Borehamwood, one on Mar 2nd, six on Jun 5th, 22 on Jul 6th, which included five chicks still being fed; then two on Oct 8th.

Middx: Isle of Dogs; three on Jun 7th at Millwall Park, 23 over Mudchute DLR station on Nov 15th and ten at Mudchute Farm on Dec 14th.

Kent: Greenwich Park, four on Sep 19th. These were probably from the Isle of Dogs colony just across the Thames.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, two flew W on Jan 18th.

Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*

Surrey: Addiscombe, two on Jun 11th. Shirley, two in Jan at The Grange, date not specified, and on Mar 10th. These three records probably relate to the same two birds. We have had records in other years of them in the same area, suggesting there may be a resident pair here. Any more news on these birds would be welcomed.

Canary *Serinus canaria domestica*

Herts: Maple Lodge NR, one on Mar 12th.

APPENDIX II: HYBRIDS

The following records relate to wild or feral hybrids. All but three hybrid geese reported this year were **Canada Goose x Domestic Goose** and **Canada Goose x Greylag Goose** or unidentified, and mainly as part of WeBS reports. As there are so many of these hybrids it has been decided not to give a detailed report.

Barnacle Goose x Greylag Goose

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one on Jun 15th & 30th, Aug 6th and Sep 3rd.

Canada Goose x Barnacle Goose

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, two on Apr 14th.

Ruddy Shelduck hybrid

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one juv hybrid (thought by the observer to be x Australian or Paradise Shelduck), flew off SE on Jul 23rd.

Green-winged Teal x Eurasian Teal

Essex: Connaught Water, a male on Feb 5th, Mar 1st and then fairly regular until Mar 27th, showed characteristics suggestive of a hybrid.

Gadwall x Mallard

Kent: Crossness, a drake on Apr 22nd, May 13th & 22nd.

This Green-winged Teal hybrid at Connaught Water had many of London's keenest listers moving quite quickly, but analysis of photographs eventually relegated it to the hybrid category. (Mick Southcott)



Northern Pintail Hybrid

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, one female in Jan - possibly Pintail x Wigeon.

Aythya hybrids

This year we list the *Aythya* hybrids under the described type, where such a description is given.

Ferruginous x Pochard

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one on Nov 5th.

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Jan 13th. Wraysbury GP, one on Feb 9th, Mar 13th, and Dec 11th.

Greater Scaup x Tufted

Herts: Hilfield Park Res, one on Feb 1st and from Mar 22nd to Apr 2nd.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one from Jan 1st-Feb 26th with two on Feb 1st & 9th.

Pochard x Red-crested Pochard

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, one on Nov 25th and Dec 11th.

Pochard x Tufted (Lesser Scaup type)

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, one on Jan 31st. KGV Res, one on Dec 28th, Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 30th and Mar 20th & 21st. Valentines Park, one on Feb 13th & 23rd.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, one on Nov 6th & 19th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, one on Nov 13th & 16th. Walton Res, one from May 1st to Jun 17th.

Tufted x Pochard

Middx: Staines Res, two on Jul 9th and one from Nov 7th to Dec 9th.

Bucks: Horton GP, on Jan 13th & Feb 2nd. Wraysbury GP, one on Feb 13th & Mar 11th.

Surrey: Walton Res, one on Nov 6th.

Tufted x Ring-necked

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one from Jan 1st to Feb 16th.

Undescribed *Aythya* hybrids

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Aug 14th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Sep 15th. Stoke Newington Res, one on Jan 5th.

Falcon Hybrid

Middx: East India Dock Basin, one Gyr-type on Nov 10th and a Saker-type flew high W at 12:25 on Sep 27th.

APPENDIX III: NON-PROVEN AND NON-SUBMITTED RECORDS

Non-proven records

The following records were submitted to the London Natural History Society but have not been accepted, either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or by our Rarities Committee.

2011

Grey geese sp	London Wetland Centre	Jan 2nd
Night Heron	Grays Riverside	Jul 19th
Glossy Ibis	St Albans	Mar 22nd
Honey Buzzard	London Wetland Centre	Apr 18th
Hen Harrier	Holmethorpe SP	Mar 21st
Goshawk	Kew Gardens	Feb 20th
Goshawk	London Wetland Centre	Feb 24th
Merlin	Beddington Farmlands	Mar 6th
Common Crane	London Wetland Centre	May 5th
Arctic Skua	London Wetland Centre	Aug 23rd
Caspian Gull	London Wetland Centre	Jan 20th, Feb 14th, 17th, 22nd & 24th, Apr 8th & 18th, May 5th & 8th, Jul 10th and Aug 16th
Roseate Tern	London Wetland Centre	Aug 23rd
Short-toed Lark	Cole Green Tip	Oct 15th

Non-submitted records

The following records have been reported but to date no details have been received by the London Natural History Society. Photos, 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.

2011

Whooper Swan	Bushey	Jan 18th
Whooper Swan	Holyfield Lake	Oct 9th-30th
Whooper Swan	Rainham Marshes	Jan 1st
Bean Goose	London Wetland Centre	Jan 18th and Apr 30th
Pink-footed Goose	Cheshunt GPs	Jan 21st & 23rd and Apr 2nd
Pink-footed Goose	Roding Valley Meadows NR	Jan 23rd
Pink-footed Goose	Sevenoaks WR	Dec 26th
Pink-footed Goose	Tyttenhanger GP	Apr 9th
Barnacle Goose	Sevenoaks WR	Jan 16th & 29th and Feb 2nd
Red-throated Diver	William Girling Res	Nov 28th-30th

Northern Fulmar	Tower Bridge	Sep 12th
Great Egret	Hatfield	Oct 1st
Great Egret	Rainham Marshes	Mar 12th
Great Egret	Upminster	Jun 2nd
White Stork	London Wetland Centre	May 25th
Glossy Ibis	Leyton	Apr 11th
Honey Buzzard	Dagenham Riverside	Sep 16th
Honey Buzzard	Hornchurch	Sep 22nd
Honey Buzzard	London Wetland Centre	Sep 10th
Honey Buzzard	Minet CP	Oct 15th
Honey Buzzard	Rainham Marshes	Jul 26th
Honey Buzzard	Richmond Park	Apr 18th
Honey Buzzard	Tottenham Marshes	Sep 2nd
Honey Buzzard	Welling	Sep 30th
Black Kite	Westerham	Apr 27th
Hen Harrier	Bedfont Lakes CP	Mar 17th
Hen Harrier	Beech Farm GP	Nov 24th
Hen Harrier	Bricket Wood	Oct 28th
Hen Harrier	Canons Farm	Apr 10th
Hen Harrier	Cheshunt GPs	Oct 29th
Hen Harrier	Holmethorpe SP	Apr 18th
Hen Harrier	Holyfield Hall Farm	Oct 29th
Montagu's Harrier	Galleyhill Wood	Sep 13th
Montagu's Harrier	Rainham Marshes	May 15th
Montagu's Harrier	Richmond Park	Apr 18th
Montagu's Harrier	Scadbury Park	Apr 27th
Goshawk	Albys Farm	Mar 24th
Goshawk	Bexley Woods	Oct 20th
Goshawk	Brent Res	Apr 16th
Goshawk	Galleyhill Wood	Mar 21st and May 19th
Goshawk	Great Amwell	Apr 4th
Goshawk	Holyfield Hall Farm	Feb 5th
Goshawk	Holyfield Lake	Oct 22nd
Goshawk	London Wetland Centre	Mar 22nd and Sep 1st
Goshawk	Rainham Marshes	Jan 24th and Sep 16th
Goshawk	Stoke Newington Res	Apr 3rd
Red-footed Falcon	Barking	Jul 26th
Red-footed Falcon	London Wetland Centre	Jul 11th
Red-footed Falcon	Rainham Marshes	Jul 26th
Merlin	Bayford	Jun 27th
Merlin	Cheshunt GPs	Oct 30th
Merlin	Claybury Park	Mar 3rd
Merlin	Fairlop Waters	May 1st
Merlin	Holyfield Lake	Oct 30th
Merlin	Leyton	Nov 27th

Merlin	Panshanger Park	Oct 30th
Merlin	Pinner	Apr 3rd
Merlin	Sidcup	Oct 13th
Merlin	Sutton at Hone	Jan 27th and Feb 17th
Merlin	Walthamstow FB	Nov 22nd
Merlin	Welwyn Garden City	Oct 23rd
Pomarine Skua	Rainham Marshes	Nov 7th
Caspian Gull	Amwell NR	Jan 8th, Dec 4th, 11th, 18th & 26th
Caspian Gull	Greenwich Peninsula	Jan 5th, Mar 5th and Oct 30th
Caspian Gull	London Bridge	Jan 24th
Caspian Gull	London Wetland Centre	May 14th, Nov 3rd, 14th, 16th, 17th, 26th & 30th and Dec 20th
Caspian Gull	Royal Albert Dock	Dec 27th
Glaucous Gull	London Wetland Centre	May 2nd
Whiskered Tern	London Wetland Centre	Sep 2nd
European Nightjar	Richmond Park	Aug 8th
European Nightjar	Site A, Surrey	Jun/Jul
Pallid Swift	Richmond Park	Nov 5th
Wryneck	St Margarets	Apr 6th
Wryneck	Walton Res	Sep 9th
Richard's Pipit	Rainham Marshes	Oct 22nd
Marsh Warbler	S Norwood CP	May
Yellow-browed Warbler	Crayford Marshes	Oct 20th
Sub-species:		
Siberian Chiffchaff	Abbey Mills	Nov 7th-9th
Sub-species:		
Siberian Chiffchaff	Stoke Newington Res	Apr 6th-7th
Great Grey Shrike	Bricket Wood	Jan 11th and Oct 28th
Hooded Crow	Grays	Apr 5th
Arctic Redpoll	Richmond Park	Mar 4th-6th & 12th
Lapland Bunting	Rainham Marshes	Jan 5th, 6th, 9th, 23rd & 29th, Mar 10th, Oct 15th and Nov 7th
Snow Bunting	Rainham Marshes	Jan 1st, Nov 23rd and Dec 6th
Snow Bunting	Redbridge Sports Centre	Nov 6th
Snow Bunting	Walthamstow Res	Nov 5th-6th

Records still in circulation

The following records are still being considered either by the British Birds Rarities Committee or by our Rarities Committee.

2011

Slaty-backed Gull	Rainham Marshes	Jan 13th-14th and Feb 16th-26th.
Whiskered Tern	Rainham Marshes	Aug 26th
Red-footed Falcon	Crayford Marshes	Jul 26th
Penduline Tit	Rainham Marshes	Feb 7th-17th

FIRST AND LAST DATES OF REGULAR MIGRANTS, 2011

Summer Migrants	Arrival		Departure	
Garganey	Mar 21	Harold Court Woods	Oct 12 ^W	Rye Meads
Osprey	Mar 14	South Mimms	Dec 5	Broxbourne GP
Hobby	Mar 27	Maple Cross	Oct 15	Richmond Park
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 9	Wetland Centre/Wraysbury Res	Sep 3	Staines Res
Eurasian Whimbrel	Apr 5 ^W	Rainham Marshes	Sep 17	William Girling Res
Little Tern	Apr 19	Island Barn Res	Aug 23	Three sites
Black Tern	Apr 19	Staines Res	Sep 27	Staines Res
Sandwich Tern	Apr 2	Staines Res	Oct 3	Wraysbury Res
Common Tern	Mar 28	Hilfield Park Res	Oct 30	Rainham Marshes
Arctic Tern	Apr 5	Rainham Marshes	Nov 7	Q. Mother Res
Turtle Dove	Apr 21	Holmethorpe SP	Aug 29	Totteridge Valley
Common Cuckoo	Apr 5	Stanwell Moor	Sep 19	Tottenham Marshes
Common Swift	Apr 14	Fairlop Waters	Sep 30	London Wetland Centre
Sand Martin	Mar 9	Island Barn Res	Oct 18	Rainham Marshes
Swallow	Mar 21	South Norwood Lake	Dec 3	Valentine's Park

The Waxwing invasion that started in October 2010 saw the last departing bird at Marshalwick on June 10th 2011. These birds were at Lakeside on January 19th.

(Jonathan Lethbridge)



House Martin	Mar 24	Langley/Rickmansworth	Dec 3	Woodford Green
Tree Pipit	Apr 2	Dagenham Chase	Sep 28	Osterley Park
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 19	Hatfield Aerodrome	Oct 13	London Wetland Centre
Nightingale	Apr 5	Fishers Green Island	Aug 1	Norbury
Common Redstart	Apr 2	Wanstead Flats	Sep 29	Wormwood Scrubs
Whinchat	Apr 7	Wormwood Scrubs	Oct 24	Tottenham Marshes
Northern Wheatear	Mar 9	Q. Mother Res/W'stow Res	Nov 27	Q. Mother Res
Ring Ouzel	Mar 16	South Norwood Lake	Nov 23	Rainham Marshes
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 10	R'ham Marshes/S Norwood CP	Sep 19	Horton
Sedge Warbler	Mar 26	Rye Meads	Nov 20	Rainham Marshes
Reed Warbler	Apr 2	Belhus Woods CP	Oct 15	Stoke Newington Res
Garden Warbler	Apr 5	Hatch Forest/Wormwood Scrubs	Oct 13	London Wetland Centre
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 5	Hatch Forest	Sep 27	Ingrebourne Valley
Common Whitethroat	Apr 4	Croxley C Moor/Holmethorpe SP	Oct 5	Park Farm, Enfield
Wood Warbler	Apr 13	Canons Farm	Sep 3	Regent's Park
Willow Warbler	Mar 21	Rye Meads	Dec 4	Belhus Woods CP
Spotted Flycatcher	May 7	Richmond Park	Oct 1	Croxley C Moor/R'ham M
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 7	Rainham Marshes	Sep 29	Wormwood Scrubs

^w excludes wintering records

Winter Migrants	Departure	Arrival
Smew	Mar 20	Hilfield Park Res
Goosander	Apr 16	London Wetland Centre
Bittern	Mar 16	London Wetland Centre
Jack Snipe	Apr 2	Rye Meads
Rock Pipit	Mar 28	Staines Res
Water Pipit	Apr 1 ^m	Staines Moor
Fieldfare	Apr 22	Canons Farm/Regent's Park
Redwing	Apr 14	Wormwood Scrubs
Brambling	Apr 10	Rainham Marshes

^m excludes May record

RINGING REPORT

PAUL ROPER

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2011>

Ringing in London is carried out by a range of groups, partnerships and individuals. Accurate figures rely on all ringers returning ringing data to a central point for analysis to enable a comprehensive report to be written. Due to the complexity, size and transient nature of ringing in the London Area, it is still unclear if all the ringing activity has been covered in any one year. Attempting to make any scientific comparisons on ringing data between years can therefore be rather meaningless and is not addressed in this report. Numbers of many species ringed vary year-on-year due to a range of factors such as ringer effort and coverage or weather conditions, which can have a marked effect on catching success and final totals for any year. For these reasons many changes in species figures in this type of report are not a reflection on population levels but more often ringer activity or submission of records. A good reflection of population levels is through Constant Effort Sites (CES), and there are a number running in the London Area; the data is pooled nationally and can be found on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) website:

www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/surveys/ces

The BTO also provides online data for ringing in the UK, set out on a County basis, which unfortunately is not a true reflection of ringing activities within the LNHS Area. It only covers Greater London, which for 2011 shows a total of only 8,527 birds ringed against the total of 20,109 birds ringed which has been submitted for the LNHS Area. Detailed information on birds ringed and recovered can be found for Greater London and surrounding counties at:

www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports

However, for counties outside Greater London the data contains all birds ringed in the county, so many will also be much higher than the proportion of birds ringed within the London Area.

With this in mind, the most interesting information would appear to be the totals of each species ringed and the finding situations of birds recovered away from London or caught in London but having been ringed elsewhere (controls). As with the report for 2010, this report will deal primarily with this raw data, and readers should use caution if making any comparisons with changes in year-on-year totals.

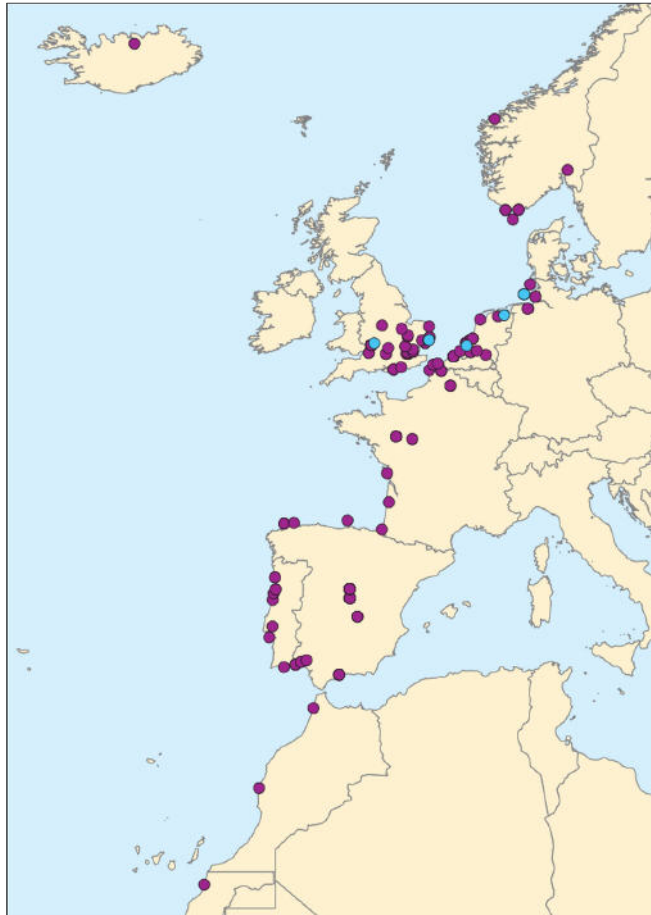
The total number of birds ringed in London in 2011 which have been submitted amounts to 20,109. This year - due to the way data has been submitted by various ringers - full-grown birds and nestlings (pulli) have not been separated; it is hoped this will be addressed for the 2012 report.

Numbers of wildfowl ringed were down markedly on 2010 with the exception of Mute Swan and Canada Goose. Wader totals are never high in London, but some renewed effort has increased the number of species ringed; five Little Ringed Plovers and 84 Dunlin are notable. Two Buzzards were ringed, and Kestrel and Sparrowhawk remain constant with 2010. With continued activity by the North Thames Gull Group at Rainham (and Pitsea in Essex) reasonable numbers of gulls were ringed and resighted in London

in 2011. This included three Caspian Gulls and 27 Yellow-legged Gulls, which were also colour-ringed, producing recovery sightings of both Caspian and Yellow-legged Gulls. Hirundine numbers were on a par with 2010 but remain low. A single Waxwing was of note. Singles of Nightingale and Black Redstart were ringed, and opposite to 2010 no Stonechats were ringed but one Whinchat was. No Wheatear means 'starts and 'chats are poorly represented on the ringing list again. Thrushes remain constant whilst Cetti's Warbler numbers do actually demonstrate that populations continue to expand in London. Seven Grasshopper Warblers, one Wood Warbler and two Firecrests are of note. Linnet numbers remain low, but Redpoll catching opportunity meant a larger number of these birds were ringed in 2011; this has also inevitably led to many more recoveries and controls of this species, and the details on movements in the recoveries section are of interest and show that this species can move around considerably. No Yellowhammers is also a poor showing for this clearly declining species.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

- Re-sighting locations of birds ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing locations of birds re-sighted at Rainham Tip

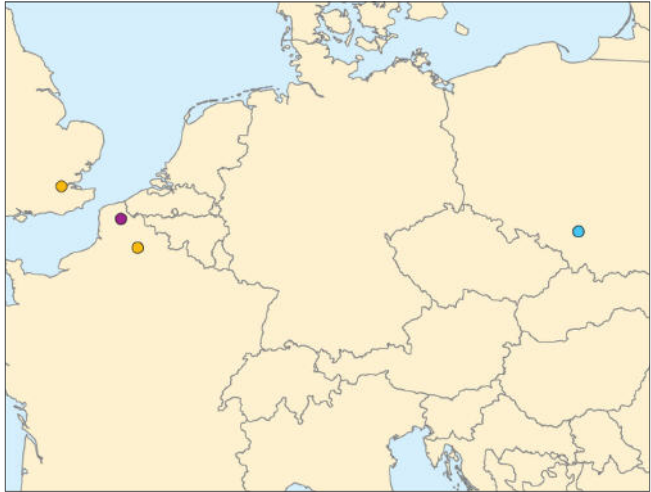


(Garganey Consulting)

These maps, and the Great Black-backed Gull map on page 184, show all locations of recoveries and controls from and to the Landfill at Rainham.

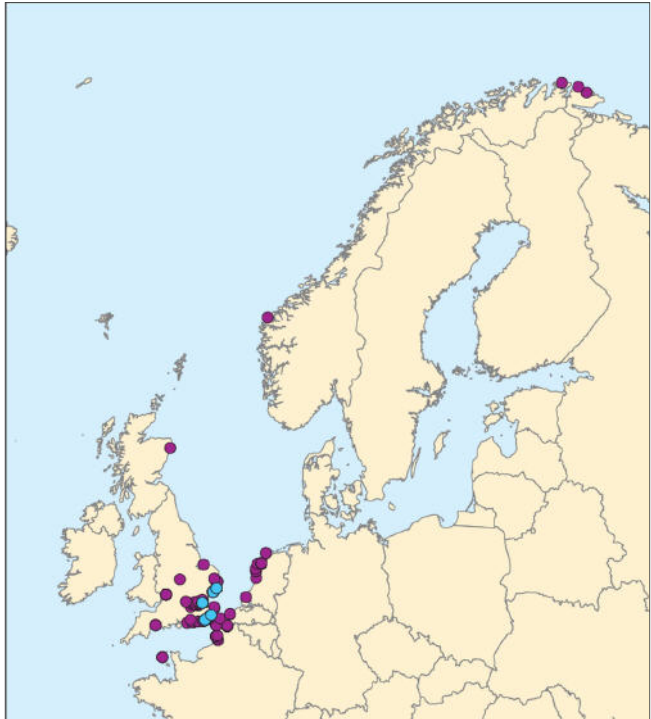
Yellow-legged and Caspian Gull

- Re-sighting locations of Yellow-legged Gulls ringed at Rainham Tip
- Re-sighting location of Caspian Gull ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing location of Caspian Gull re-sighted at Rainham Tip



Herring Gull

- Re-sighting locations of birds ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing locations of birds re-sighted at Rainham Tip



(Garganey Consulting)

Full details of all species submitted are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Species totals of birds reported as ringed in the London Area during 2011

Species	2010	2011	Species	2010	2011
Mute Swan	160	108	Cuckoo	1	1
Greylag Goose	88	2	Barn Owl	14	9
Canada Goose	39	54	Little Owl	0	2
Egyptian Goose	2	1	Tawny Owl	7	4
Mandarin Duck	6	2	Swift	5	0
Gadwall	44	9	Kingfisher	42	47
Teal	68	3	Green Woodpecker	21	37
Mallard	63	15	Great Spotted Woodpecker	56	57
Shoveler	13	0	Sand Martin	73	95
Pochard	4	2	Swallow	141	114
Tufted Duck	74	8	House Martin	99	14
Little Grebe	9	2	Tree Pipit	0	1
Cormorant	7	4	Meadow Pipit	273	220
Grey Heron	15	33	Water Pipit	1	0
Sparrowhawk	23	14	Grey Wagtail	29	20
Buzzard	0	2	Pied Wagtail	7	2
Kestrel	21	22	Waxwing	0	1
Water Rail	1	0	Wren	344	354
Moorhen	40	14	Dunnock	371	512
Coot	96	47	Robin	570	637
Little Ringed Plover	0	5	Nightingale	0	1
Northern Lapwing	0	7	Black Redstart	0	1
Dunlin	0	84	Redstart	6	4
Jack Snipe	4	0	Whinchat	0	1
Snipe	22	1	Stonechat	1	0
Redshank	0	7	Wheatear	1	0
Green Sandpiper	9	3	Blackbird	416	403
Common Sandpiper	0	1	Fieldfare	4	2
Black-headed Gull	738	702	Song Thrush	158	162
Common Gull	15	6	Redwing	53	42
Lesser Black-backed Gull	87	201	Cetti's Warbler	34	57
Yellow-legged Gull	1	27	Grasshopper Warbler	5	7
Herring Gull	235	834	Sedge Warbler	561	579
Caspian Gull	0	3	Reed Warbler	1118	1129
Great Black-backed Gull	7	46	Blackcap	1460	2478
Common Tern	76	51	Garden Warbler	156	344
Stock Dove	39	16	Lesser Whitethroat	65	93
Woodpigeon	27	23	Whitethroat	525	1272
Collared Dove	16	7	Wood Warbler	1	1
Ring-necked Parakeet	170	239	Chiffchaff	1141	1385

Species	2010	2011	Species	2010	2011
Willow Warbler	295	237	House Sparrow	161	39
Goldcrest	141	161	Tree Sparrow	498	0
Firecrest	3	2	Chaffinch	445	295
Spotted Flycatcher	0	2	Brambling	2	3
Long-tailed Tit	411	394	Greenfinch	851	834
Blue Tit	3261	2228	Goldfinch	884	662
Great Tit	1812	1362	Siskin	99	132
Coal Tit	53	45	Linnet	94	75
Marsh Tit	6	1	Mealy Redpoll	0	1
Nuthatch	21	22	Redpoll Sp	0	3
Treecreeper	42	31	Lesser Redpoll	123	525
Jay	30	31	Bullfinch	37	50
Magpie	46	30	Yellowhammer	1	0
Jackdaw	18	8	Reed Bunting	150	154
Carrion Crow	2	3	Total	19590	20109
Starling	126	86			

Recoveries and Controls

There have been a number of interesting recoveries reported during the year. A Moorhen ringed on Dec 3rd 2010 at Rye Meads, Herts was recovered dead on Nov 7th 2011, 784km NE at Skaerskovhedevej, Silkeborg, Århus, Denmark: its ring was found in an Eagle Owl pellet. Clearly the French ringing scheme has been re-invigorated, and some previous years' recoveries and controls for Sedge Warbler have been received. A male Bearded Tit ringed in its second (or later) year on Jul 24th 2010 at Haddischoe Island, Norfolk was recovered on Feb 21st 2011, 141km SW at Rye Meads, Herts. The full list of recoveries and controls is on the LNHS website.

Large Gulls

The continuation of colour ringing of large gulls at Rainham by the NTGG has amassed a large number of sightings of the three main species of large gull, far too many to include in this report. Ornithologists interested specifically in these movements can visit the NTGG web site at www.ntgg.org.uk.

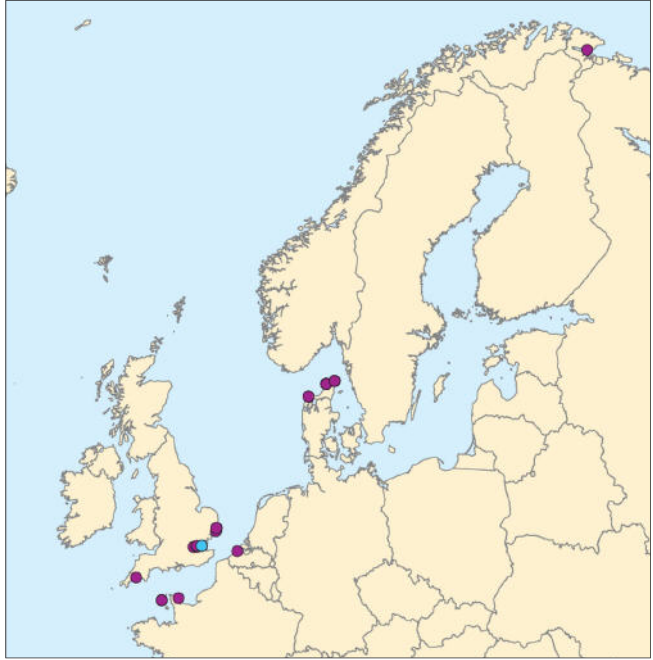
Maps showing all locations of recoveries and controls from and to the Landfill at Rainham are included for: Lesser Black-backed Gull (page 180); Yellow-legged Gull and Caspian Gull, and Herring Gull (page 181); and Great Black-backed Gull (page 184).

Lesser Redpoll

2011 saw some large numbers of Redpoll moving around the UK and many of these flocks of birds were easily catchable. This resulted in some interesting and quick movements of which the London Area had its fair share. A map of these movements is on page 184.

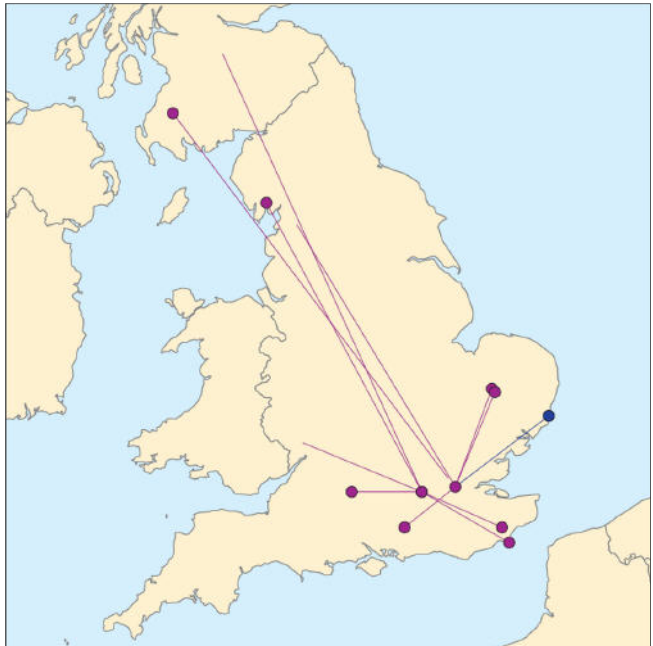
Great Black-backed Gull

- Re-sighting locations of birds ringed at Rainham Tip
- Ringing location of birds re-sighted at Rainham Tip



Mealy Redpoll and Lesser Redpoll

- Mealy Redpoll ringing location
- Lesser Redpoll ringing locations



(Garganey Consulting)



This Wood Warbler was ringed at Wraysbury Gravel Pits on April 30th 2011 - oddly, the last one the Runnymede Ringing Group ringed was on April 30th 1994. (Karl Tarratt)

Reporting a ringed bird

The BTO relies on people reporting ringed birds, so if you find a bird wearing a ring or have read metal or colour ring details in the field, please report these to the BTO Ringing Unit, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU; or online at www.ring.ac

List of contributors

The compiler gratefully acknowledges the information received from the following: A. G. Beasley, S. Christmas, Dartford Ringing Group, C.W. Dee, D. Harris, Hersham Ringing Group, North Thames Gull Group, M. Reed, P. Roper, D. Ross, Runnymede Ringing Group, Rye Meads Ringing Group, Roy Sanderson, R. Taylor, B. Trevis and P. Oakenfell.

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN BIRDS, 1995-2011

ROY SANDERSON

Introduction

A complete survey of all the wildlife in Buckingham Palace garden was carried out from 1995-1997, to see how much had changed since a similar survey initiated in 1960. After completion of that work, details of which were published in *The London Naturalist* (Sanderson, R. 1999), I was given permission to continue studying the birdlife in the garden.

After 16 years of regular visits to the garden, it occurred to me that I had amassed sufficient records of the Palace garden birds for the details to be of interest to others, hence this brief report.

It was never my intention to search for rare or unusual birds, but to study the resident species and to see how numbers in the relatively undisturbed garden compare with those in the nearby busy parks. I aimed to visit the garden each month, with more frequent visits during the nesting season. A complete count of all the birds seen or heard was made on each visit.

Overview

One major difference between the birds in the garden and the nearby parks is their lack of tameness. In the parks they are very tame and many will come to the hand for food. But as they are not fed in the garden, they behave as wild birds should and move away when approached.

In my experience the garden has to be the noisiest possible venue for bird watching. The background sound of traffic is frequently augmented with police and ambulance sirens and police helicopters (often stationary) overhead. Despite that, there is birdsong to be heard, and the experience of being in an otherwise tranquil place in the heart of London has been a most enjoyable privilege.

The garden birds are a sample of similar species that can be seen in greater numbers in the central Royal Parks. For species with the need for large territories, such as the woodpeckers, Mistle Thrush and wagtails, the garden is an essential additional space in which they can feed and find sanctuary, while they may actually be nesting in Green Park or in one of the smaller gardens in The Mall.

While the Royal Parks are getting increasingly busy with tourists and events, the garden is, for most of the year and particularly during the nesting season, free from disturbance.

I think that the variety of species seen and the density of birds counted is much higher than one might expect for a 15.8-hectare (39-acre) site in the centre of a metropolis.

Habitats

There are two main habitats in the garden: the lake; and the shrubberies, with plenty of undisturbed grassland as an additional feeding area. There have inevitably been some habitat changes over the years. Comparing tree and shrub cover from the ground, with

aerial photographs taken in 1963 (McClintock, 1963), there is a more extensive tree canopy now and there are certainly more shrubs around the lake and in the north of the garden. The latter shrubbery, planted around the tennis court recently, is maturing and is already popular with many foraging birds.

The Survey

Sightings of the birds have been shown under the two main habitats: the lake; and the rest of the garden including the shrubberies and lawns.

The Lake

This covers 1.46 hectares (3.6 acres), and there are two islands - the larger having access by bridges at each end. It is fed from a cascade at the end. A history of the lake and garden is included in McClintock, 1963, pp 4-11, so will not be repeated here.

Several willows which were overhanging the lake have come down as they had reached the end of their lifespan. This has reduced nesting opportunities for grebes and cover for ducklings. A small area of reeds has become established naturally and is a welcome addition to the plant life around the lake.

The only part of the lake which is clear of shrubs is alongside the main lawn, providing access to the grass for the grazing wildfowl. The lake is quite narrow and, unlike in the parks, the ducks are not expecting to be fed and so behave more like wild birds should. The result of that is the almost complete disappearance of wildfowl during the Garden Party season, when temporary buildings are erected and then removed, creating some disturbance. However, the breeding season is largely over by then.

Breeding species seen on the lake (1995-2011)

Mute Swan There have been several unsuccessful attempts to nest, but most visits have been by one or two non-breeding birds.

Greylag Goose Four pairs breed, or attempt to breed every year. The highest count was 73 in 1996, although counts are more usually in the teens.

Canada Goose Up to four pairs breed, or attempt to breed every year. Highest annual counts have varied between 24 and 100, with additional geese flying in to roost, creating quite a mess on the carefully manicured lawn!

Egyptian Goose A couple first arrived in 2007 and have been seen most years since. They started nesting in the nearby parks around then and numbers are increasing.

Mandarin Duck First bred in 1999 and again in 2001. There have been plenty of sightings since then, but no successful breeding.

Gadwall Nesting began in 2000. One or two pairs nested in five other years up to 2008, and they are often seen on the lake. Maximum count of eight birds.

Mallard Nest every year with five or six broods. However, as with most of the ducklings, predation from the large gulls is high. Mallard favour the island, where they reside when not on the lake. Numbers are usually within the range 30 to 50 birds.

Red-crested Pochard Have nested each year since 2008. Unlike other species, they seem able to raise all of their young without them being predated. This species is included in the St James's Park collection.

Pochard Sporadic nesting in 1999, 2000 and 2008. It is unusual to find more than five birds, but up to 20 were seen in 2008/9.

Tufted Duck Nesting of two to four pairs in most years. Usual counts are in the teens throughout the year.

Ruddy Duck First nested in 2001. They nested again in 2006 but have not been seen on the lake since 2008. This alien species has never been part of the St James's Park collection.

Little Grebe Breeding was noted in most years between 2001 and 2009. This was the first confirmed nesting since 1949.

Great Crested Grebe One pair bred regularly until 2000, when one of the adults apparently flew into a wall and died. Since then there has been only one sighting, in 2006.

Moorhen Three or four pairs nest annually. Counts usually consistent between eight and ten, but 17 were counted in 1999.

Coot Nesting has increased from three or four pairs before 2000 to nine or ten nests since 2002. The increase in nesting has coincided with the appearance of a group of some 40 non-breeding birds present throughout the year. This group are usually to be found feeding on the lawn, away from the territorial breeding birds on the lake. Highest count of 75 in 2010 is a contrast to the highest count of 16 before 2001.

Non-breeding species seen on the lake since 1995

Teal Occasionally a truly wild bird can be seen in winter, as in 2011, but those seen at other seasons are probably from the St James's Park collection.

Shoveler Wintering birds in every year. There are usually up to four birds, but exceptionally there were up to 15 - in 1996, 1997 and 2011.

Smew One on January 14th 1998.

Goosander Up to four often seen during the winters of 1996 to 1998.

Egyptian Goose and goslings in St James's Park. (Andrew Self)



Cormorant Up to five visited the lake each year.

Grey Heron At least one can usually be found. Additional birds sometimes come into the garden to roost.

Common Sandpiper One was seen flying low over the lake or at the cascade in 1997, 2000 and 2002.

Black-headed Gull These are most often seen flying across the garden, but there have been visits to the lawn or lake by one or two birds.

Common Gull Most often seen flying over between October and March.

Lesser Black-backed Gull One or two seen every year. As with the following species, they prey on the young ducklings. Teamwork can sometimes be seen, when one gull will encourage an adult to leave the nest and chase it away, while the other gull nips in to grab a duckling from the nest.

Herring Gull Up to five have been seen every year, mostly in the breeding season.

Common Tern Two were seen in 1997.

Kingfisher One graced the lake in 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2010.

Additional species seen on the lake are considered to be from the St James's Park collection. These birds are usually quite tame, some are species seen at a time of year when wild birds would not be in London, or they are non-native species. All are species known to have been included in the collection at the time they were seen in the garden. However, they all add interest to the lake.

Bar-headed Goose One in 1996. A non-native species.

Barnacle Goose Seen from 1995 to 2000.

Shelduck Up to seven between 1995 and 2005.

Wigeon Out of season birds in 1996, 1997 and 1999.

Chiloe Wigeon Seen in 1996 and 1997. A non-native species.

Cape Teal A non-native species, seen in 1999.

Pintail Up to four seen between 1995 and 2002.

Some pinioned birds were introduced in 1997 as an alternative to replacing the Flamingos, but sadly they suffered a similar fate: being pinioned, they were easy prey for an urban fox. The following pinioned species were present on the lake during the period:

Emperor Goose Bred and one of the free-flying offspring survived until 2010.

Red-breasted Goose (until 2002).

Ruddy Shelduck (until 1997).

Caribbean Flamingo (until 1996).

(These species were not included in the total count of species for the garden!)

The Shrubberies

The main areas of shrubberies are on the artificial mound, around the lake, in the north-west near to the leaf yard and in the north-east alongside the wall separating the garden from Birdcage Walk. All of these shrubberies are good areas to find birds.

One shrubbery rarely frequented by birds is alongside noisy Grosvenor Place. This part of the garden is dominated by screening plane trees which have a dense canopy. The mostly evergreen shrubs beneath provide little food value for birds.

Breeding species seen in the rest of the garden (1995-2011)

As well as species that bred in the garden, I have included those which held a territory there - though probably nested just outside and used the garden as an additional feeding area.

Sparrowhawk A pair nested in the garden from 1997 to 2002 and again in 2009. Most nests were on the mound, though the most recent was in a cupressus tree near to the herbaceous border. It is quite a familiar site over the garden.

Stock Dove Nesting was first proved in 1999 and a pair has nested every year since then. A favourite perching post is high in a black poplar tree by the lake. Up to ten are present throughout the year, sometimes feeding on the main lawn.

Woodpigeon Ten nests were found in 1996, mostly along the Birdcage Walk shrubbery. They are still nesting in the garden, but there are no more than two or three pairs. Sixty-six were counted in 2004, but more usually there are up to 20.

Ring-necked Parakeet First nested in 2011, when a young bird was seen. The nest was high in a plane tree near the lake.

Tawny Owl Nested in 1997. I have had to rely on the police and gardeners for reports of owls, and they have been seen or heard calling every year since 2007.

Green Woodpecker Nested for the first time in 1997. A pair have held a territory every year since then, with drumming and 'yaffle' calls to be heard. A nest was found again in 2011. One can often be seen feeding on the lawns near to the tennis court.

Great Spotted Woodpecker Nested in a tree hole in the rose garden in 2000. A pair have held a territory in most years since then.

Pied Wagtail Held territory in 2003, when an adult was seen taking food out of the garden towards a garden in The Mall; and in 2005, when a pair brought their offspring into the garden. One was again seen taking food out of the garden in 2011. In most years at least one can be seen on the main lawn.

Wren Nests every year, with between four and seven singing males present.

Dunnock One or two pairs nested until 1997. A pair had a territory in 2002, but there have been no sightings since then.

Robin Nests every year. There has been an increase from the four to eight territories held from 1995 to 1997, to nine or ten singing males present in the last three years.

Blackbird Nests every year but, as in other parts of London, breeding numbers have fallen. As many as 12 pairs were nesting in 1997, but there have been only four or five pairs since 2006. Recently it has become difficult to find Blackbirds in the garden outside the nesting season.

Song Thrush One or two pairs nested in 1996 and 1997. The last nesting pair was in 1999.

Mistle Thrush This species requires a large territory and there is usually a pair taking food out of the garden to a nest in Green Park, or bringing their families into the garden to feed on the main lawn. They can also be heard singing. A nest was found in the Lombardy poplars in 1996. A territory has been held in the garden in most years since then.

Blackcap Confirmed nesting from 2004, with one or two territories held annually since then.

Goldcrest Observed during the nesting season in several years since 2000, a juvenile being seen in 2008.

Long-tailed Tit One pair nests every year. Groups of up to 20 birds can be seen in autumn.

Blue Tit Up to six pairs use the nest boxes every year.

Great Tit Up to five pairs use the nest boxes every year. In 2011 a pair also nested in an old woodpecker nest in the rose garden.

Coal Tit Nesting can be proved every year, thanks to the nest boxes now provided.

Jay A pair is often present in the nesting season and they have been seen carrying food. They require a large feeding area and a territory is held by this species in most years.

Magpie One or two pairs nest every year. Their nests are quite conspicuous as are the birds, with groups of up to 14 birds not unusual.

Carrion Crow Two or three pairs used to nest; this has fallen to one pair since 2003.

Starling No nesting since 2000, indeed the species is now quite a rare visitor to the garden.

House Sparrow Not seen in the garden since it last nested in 1997. The species has suffered a dramatic decline throughout central London.

Greenfinch A pair last nested in 1996. They are now quite a rare sight in the garden.

Non breeding species seen in the garden area since 1995

Kestrel One or two annually until 2001. Since then there have been just two sightings in 2005 and one in 2009.

Hobby First seen in May 2007. Two in September 2008 appeared to be using the island as a roost.

Woodcock One flushed from the mound on March 27th 2008 and two put up from beside the lake on January 27th 2010.

Rock Dove (Feral) The maximum count was 28 in 1996. Since then the highest count has been 12. They usually appear soon after grass seed has been sown on the main lawn!

Turtle Dove One on June 1st 1996.

Swift Up to 12 seen over the garden in most years.

House Martin Occasional sightings of birds on passage, or from the nearby Hyde Park colony.

Grey Wagtail Singles in 1995 and 1997.

Wheatear Seen on the main lawn in 2005 and 2011.

Redwing Fourteen flew in to feed on berries in the herbaceous border on December 11th 2010. A gardener reported one in 2011.

Sedge Warbler One singing on June 1st 1996.

Lesser Whitethroat One on May 12th 1996.

Chiffchaff Birds on passage are seen and heard in the garden annually.

Willow Warbler Birds on passage were seen annually until 2006.

Treecreeper Sometimes seen within autumn tit flocks. Two nest boxes have recently been erected to try to encourage them to stay and breed.

Chaffinch This species used to nest in the 1960s. There have been just two sightings recently, one in 2000 and a bird displaying in 2008.

The origins of a Red-legged Partridge seen in 2003 and a Pheasant in 2010 are unknown. You just never know what to expect in this magnificent garden!



Stock Dove has nested every year since 1999. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Breeding species, gains and losses since 1995

Gains

Red-crested Pochard
 Stock Dove
 Ring-necked Parakeet
 Green Woodpecker
 Blackcap

Losses

Great Crested Grebe
 Dunnock
 Song Thrush
 Starling
 House Sparrow
 Greenfinch

Summary

The total number of species seen since 1995 is 77. Of those, 41 species have nested - 15 around the Lake and 26 in the shrubberies. Twenty other species visited the lake and 16 others visited the rest of the garden.

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EASTERN CROWNED WARBLER AT HILFIELD PARK RESERVOIR, OCTOBER 30TH 2011 - A FIRST FOR LONDON

MIKE BEATLEY AND JACK FEARNSIDE

Discovery, Mike Beatley

I think that every ringer is hoping for a rare bird to be present every time that he/she checks a net or series of nets. For week after week we see all the usual birds one might expect in the local area. Sometimes a bird species that has not been seen for a few years might occur, but nothing could prepare me for what I was about to come across on this October morning.

On this day our group had split into two groups, one ringing at our bird feeder site at the main reservoir entrance and myself with a group of trainee ringers at the north side of Hilfield with a series of nets in what we call our 'long run' - a cutting through the vegetation about 150m long.

We started yet another regular check of the nets and found a few Goldcrests which I left the trainees to extract and bag for processing. As I moved further along the nets I saw a bird at waist height cradled upside down in the net. It was immediately obvious that it was very white on its front and belly area. As I started to extract it I saw the head markings and I knew that I had a very special bird indeed. I did not know what it was and thoughts went to the few birds I knew, but had not seen, that have a central crown marking on the head.

With the bird now extracted and safely bagged, I returned to our ringing station to find that the senior ringers from the feeder site had, as if they knew, arrived to see how we were getting on. Identification was a problem: we only had a Collins guide book which we now know was of no use at all, and none of us had a 'smart phone' for internet access; all we had was the wing formula and measurements. Much has been

Identification photos of Eastern Crowned Warbler ringed at Hilfield Park Reservoir by Maple Cross Ringing Group on October 30th 2011. (Mike Beatley)



said and written about the identification of this bird and I do not intend to say more.

Several photographs were taken by me at our north location. The bird was then taken down to the feeder site location so the other ringers there that day could see it. A few more photos were taken here and the bird was then released some 30 minutes after initial capture. It flew into the trees at this location and was unfortunately, despite considerable searching over the next few days, not seen again.

As a ringer, although I did not get to ring it, to have extracted this bird has been a lifetime privilege for me. To be possibly the first person to have handled one of these birds in the western world was an experience that I will never forget.

Description, Jack Fearnside

Head

Mid greenish-grey crown, darkening towards the rear, ending in a sharp tonal contrast with the nape and back. Darker also in a narrow band above the supercillium. Pale grey and somewhat diffuse crown stripe, narrow at the front (which did not meet the bill), broadening towards the rear crown and showing greater contrast with the darkening of the crown ground colour. Supercillium pale cream with a distinct yellow-buff cast above the eye, long, narrowing to a point at the rear, often seen to tilt upwards like Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* when the head was held parallel to the body. Grey lores and eyestripe, breaking to a narrow, pale eye ring, broadening towards the rear and ending fairly square cut. Ear coverts mottled grey and yellowish-grey.

Upperparts

Nape and mantle greenish-grey fading into olive green scapulars and back. Rump, upper tail coverts and tail brighter green, the pointed retrices indicating a first-year bird. The outer tail feathers were indistinctly tipped white. The tertials were plain olive green, fading slightly towards the dark shafts. The greater coverts were olive green fringed with pale tips forming a narrow but distinct wing bar. The median coverts were scalloped olive green, indistinctly paler on the lower edge forming a slight wing bar.

Underparts

The chin, central breast and underparts were silvery white, streaked with slightly darker grey. The sides of the breast and flanks were sullied with pale grey and a suggestion of yellow streaking.

Soft parts

The bill appeared quite long and robust. The upper mandible was warm horn coloured along the culmen, graduating to an orange cutting edge. The lower mandible was bright orange. The eye appeared dark, with a very dark brown iris.

Biometrics and other measurements

Ring number DJY630. Emarginated to primary 6. Primary 2 equal in length to primary 7. Wing point primary 4. Primary 1 equal to longest primary covert plus 3mm. Wing length 60mm.

Mike Beatley, mike.beatley@btinternet.com

Jack Fearnside, 18 Wilcot Avenue, Oxhey, Watford, WD19 4AT

THE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY IN LONDON

IAN WOODWARD, BTO NORTH LONDON CONTACT

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) was introduced in 1994 to provide a measure of the population changes of our common and widespread birds. One-kilometre squares are chosen at random by BBS organisers at the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Each square is allocated to a volunteer, who makes two early-morning transect walks between April and June, separated by at least four weeks. The survey is repeated each year, following the same route. By comparing counts of birds made on the same squares in successive years, it is possible to measure population changes.

Where species are sufficiently widespread, changes in population can be measured at regional level as well as at national level. This report covers the London Government Office region (Greater London, the same area covered by the Greater London Authority, GLA) and therefore does not represent the entire LNHS area (the 'London Area').

In 2011, a total of 98 squares were surveyed in the London region, a slight drop on 2010. This is the first time since 2005 that less than 100 squares were surveyed (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of squares covered over the most-recent ten years

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
58	61	89	91	104	118	104	110	101	98

In 2011, one species was seen (or heard) for the first time on BBS walks in London - Redstart. This brings the total seen on London squares to 133 species. Other species recorded this year included Shoveler, Red Kite and Little Ringed Plover. The most abundant species counted was Feral Pigeon (3,152 individuals), followed by Starling (2,912) and then Woodpigeon (2,673).

The longer-term trend data presented in this report differ from BBS data in previous LBRs and in the BBS report, as they are taken from a report produced by the BTO for the GLA (Risely, Newson & Noble, 2012). This report is not produced annually and so is not normally available to provide data for the LBR report.

The GLA report differs from the annual BBS report in that it provides trends for species found in an average of 20-29 squares per year during the survey period 1994 to 2011. Although this allows us to present trends for nine species that do not usually feature in the LBR report, we should be extra cautious about the results for these species. The normal criterion for inclusion in the BBS report (and therefore the LBR report) is that a species occurs in an average of 30 squares per year over the survey period, which is considered to be the minimum number to provide reliable trends.

Table 2 shows the population changes in London between 2010/2011 (taken from the BBS report) and 1994/2011 (from the GLA report). The 2010/11 changes are compared with the UK figures, and the longer-term results are compared with the change found in

the surrounding areas over these periods (defined as the South-East and East of England government regions).

Twenty-one species show a statistically significant increase in London between 1994 and 2011. Seven species show a significant decrease in London over the same period: Grey Heron, Swift, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Starling and House Sparrow.

For most species, the trends in London are broadly matched by trends in the surrounding area, but there are a few notable exceptions. Blackbird is declining in London but stable in the surrounding area, and four species that are declining in the surrounding area show increases in London (Moorhen, Pied Wagtail, Wren and Greenfinch), although it should be noted that the figure in London for first two of these is based on a low sample size.

The population of most reported species declined in London between 2010 and 2011, with the declines for Great Spotted Woodpecker, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Blue Tit and Jay all being statistically significant. The majority of species also declined in the UK as a whole over the two years. A notable exception was Blackcap, which showed a statistically significant increase for both London and the UK.

Table 2. Population changes in numbers of birds in the BTO's London region (figures in **bold type** are statistically significant)

The 2010/2011 figures are taken from the 2011 BBS report and are compared with the United Kingdom data. The figures for 1994/2011 are from the GLA report and are compared with the surrounding area. Note that the GLA report uses unsmoothed data and therefore the London results differ slightly from the longer-term trends in the 2011 BBS report, which are based on smoothed data.

	Sample size London	Change 2010/2011 London	Change 2010/2011 UK	Change 1994/2011 London	Change 1994/2011 Surrounding Areas
Canada Goose	24	-	-	255	122
Mallard	39	-19	9	-4	22
Cormorant	22	-	-	324	68
Grey Heron	25	-	-	-38	-21
Moorhen	25	-	-	71	-14
Feral Rock Dove	67	17	-10	-9	-15
Woodpigeon	75	-7	-4	65	17
Collared Dove	49	-16	-2	39	52
Ring-necked Parakeet	30	9	4	>1000	451
Swift	57	-27	-17	-41	-51
Great Spotted Woodpecker	34	-29	-5	136	128
Green Woodpecker	28	-	-	90	58
Pied Wagtail	22	-	-	231	-19
Wren	69	-6	-17	18	-19
Dunnock	56	5	-11	2	0
Robin	72	-3	-15	68	4
Blackbird	75	-10	-7	-38	-4
Song Thrush	47	-16	-16	-36	-20



Redstart was recorded for the first time on BBS walks. (David Campbell)

	Sample size London	Change 2010/2011 London	Change 2010/2011 UK	Change 1994/2011 London	Change 1994/2011 Surrounding Areas
Mistle Thrush	32	-13	-11	-65	-59
Blackcap	39	17	33	165	122
Whitethroat	21	-	-	273	100
Chiffchaff	27	-	-	198	66
Long-tailed Tit	28	-	-	23	-3
Blue Tit	74	-11	0	21	30
Great Tit	69	-9	0	160	32
Jay	37	-40	-9	-18	1
Magpie	74	1	4	39	26
Carrion Crow	75	1	1	90	34
Starling	74	-2	-5	-44	-60
House Sparrow	65	6	16	-70	-31
Chaffinch	50	0	-1	143	17
Greenfinch	58	-11	-13	49	-21
Goldfinch	40	12	8	190	45

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WeBS COUNTS IN THE LONDON AREA, 2010-2011

DAVID DARRELL-LAMBERT

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2011>

This paper follows the 2009-2010 analysis, looking at how important the London Area is for wildfowl on an international and national scale. We can now look at the prior year's data and look for changes in the population or preferred locations. There are still some gaps in our knowledge, with some sites not covered fully during the period; we hope these sites are covered fully in future years to enable a fuller review of the area.

The number of counts that reached internationally and nationally important levels increased, with new species added: Mute Swan, Common Tern and Kingfisher. Black-tailed Godwit did not reach significant levels, but the whole of the Thames was not counted during the period so may not reflect a population change but, rather, a reduced coverage. Shoveler have now reached internationally important levels at Lea Valley and South-west London. Gadwall have also increased at both sites with each site exceeding 1,000 birds. Counts of international and national importance are on the LNHS website.

The table below shows the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) for the whole of the London Area from July 2010 to June 2011. Nine regions are included: Colne Valley, Inner Thames, Lea Valley, Middlesex, South-west London, Outer Essex, Outer Hertfordshire, Outer Surrey, and Outer Thames. Individual data for the nine regions are on the website.

All counts are completed on a monthly basis and are attempted to be completed on the same dates throughout the country to allow comparable totals to be compiled.

There were several sites which were not counted throughout the period. Walthamstow Reservoirs was only counted twice; this will affect wildfowl numbers present in the Lea Valley. Similarly William Girling Reservoir, Hooks Marsh, Hall Marsh Scrape and Friday were not covered fully during the period, all again present in the Lea Valley. A few counts were received for the Thames between Grays and Purfleet which would have an impact on the waders counted in the Outer Thames and may be responsible for the low counts of Black-tailed Godwits.

One of the species that is under-recorded is Yellow-legged Gull; counts along the Outer Thames show it should be at nationally important levels but these are not reflected from the WeBS counts. A possible reason is that counts at Rainham Marshes were only completed from September to March, missing the peak period in July/August.

All data included here are only present in the BTO-managed WeBS database, which is used to identify important areas in the UK.

WeBS data for the whole of the London Area, 2010-11

Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11
Mute Swan	788	675	691	814	772	562	830	652	639	456	498	547
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-

Month	Jul 10	Aug 10	Sep 10	Oct 10	Nov 10	Dec 10	Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 11	Apr 11	May 11	Jun 11
Greylag Goose	556	577	1469	837	385	599	767	561	618	289	370	565
Brent Goose	-	-	-	-	-	120	1	-	-	-	-	-
Barnacle Goose	-	-	2	5	4	1	17	-	2	5	2	8
Canada Goose	3666	1657	2381	1850	1260	1880	2443	1890	1955	1406	1281	2630
Egyptian Goose	67	67	113	72	69	85	83	58	53	58	59	61
Shelduck	2	14	143	91	116	241	259	292	322	229	87	26
Mandarin Duck	33	43	32	1	40	-	13	25	18	40	55	38
Wigeon	4	5	218	1044	1294	1887	2916	2006	993	10	-	-
Gadwall	294	533	1540	1854	2444	2815	3108	2774	1170	285	181	307
Teal	15	219	1318	1751	1999	2287	3345	2523	1850	108	4	6
Mallard	2696	2396	3696	3102	3041	3857	3354	2810	2485	1825	2037	2625
Pintail	-	-	7	7	13	18	33	22	14	-	-	-
Garganey	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Shoveler	16	172	1061	1033	827	1170	1110	1161	964	45	7	23
Red-crested Pochard	8	7	26	17	46	8	32	19	26	16	22	14
Pochard	584	488	363	1029	1709	1075	1258	1414	665	140	156	191
Ferruginous Duck	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Duck	7780	6029	5754	4765	5658	7530	5858	6362	5486	2196	1155	1266
Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	1	2	1	-	-
Common Scoter	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Velvet Scoter	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	1	-	-
Goldeneye	1	-	4	7	145	251	161	256	269	8	1	-
Smew	-	-	-	-	7	25	45	19	3	-	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Goosander	-	-	-	-	9	88	102	107	22	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	15	9	23	24	21	10	8	3	5	2	4	5
Black-throated Diver	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Northern Diver	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	2	3	2	-	-
Little Grebe	129	190	373	316	239	181	131	156	178	95	87	78
Great Crested Grebe	643	782	1089	875	643	1486	390	430	526	452	419	437
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Slavonian Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	2	1	-	-
Black-necked Grebe	7	7	34	2	-	1	2	24	24	22	17	5
Cormorant	817	881	1077	767	735	1053	756	626	571	271	209	181
Great White Pelican	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bittern	-	-	-	-	2	7	5	2	1	-	-	-
Little Egret	34	23	19	11	23	6	3	9	8	5	7	26
Grey Heron	188	183	198	223	220	172	227	268	201	147	174	199
Water Rail	1	4	17	17	35	38	25	28	31	1	-	-
Moorhen	517	624	1122	1102	1204	1138	971	927	882	451	383	414
Coot	6619	7324	11389	10710	11365	9356	11691	9246	6365	3132	3017	3854
Oystercatcher	6	-	-	-	2	-	-	9	18	25	12	3
Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Little Ringed Plover	12	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	29	36	33
Ringed Plover	2	1	17	20	24	24	18	10	-	-	3	-

Month	Jul 10	Aug 10	Sep 10	Oct 10	Nov 10	Dec 10	Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 11	Apr 11	May 11	Jun 11
Golden Plover	-	-	1	30	265	1	196	199	-	-	-	-
Grey Plover	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	-	-	-	6	-
Lapwing	236	373	805	990	2331	2317	5424	2979	190	123	118	163
Knot	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanderling	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dunlin	1	-	28	25	1504	1180	600	994	221	1	3	-
Ruff	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Jack Snipe	-	-	-	1	4	4	3	1	1	-	-	-
Snipe	1	13	54	90	132	186	176	81	112	19	-	-
Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	1	-	-	-	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-tailed Godwit	-	2	10	141	210	279	98	28	4	-	-	-
Whimbrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-
Curlew	-	-	1	4	130	13	12	36	14	6	-	-
Common Sandpiper	53	59	13	5	3	1	1	1	-	1	7	-
Green Sandpiper	55	66	24	15	18	9	17	25	17	8	-	5
Greenshank	-	7	7	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Redshank	4	4	67	358	288	268	180	564	107	34	13	8
Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-headed Gull	2007	1387	2915	4103	5387	6743	8841	9648	8216	1010	1045	365
Little Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	69	-	-
Mediterranean Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2
Common Gull	1	34	29	81	327	1422	1351	785	1291	2	7	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	144	120	186	121	226	381	158	205	177	41	127	68
Herring Gull	25	30	85	167	158	440	130	251	204	165	198	19
Yellow-legged Gull	11	13	12	12	5	5	4	1	-	1	-	-
Caspian Gull	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	-	5	8	10	34	49	49	16	18	1	15	-
Black Tern	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sandwich Tern	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Tern	488	151	70	1	-	-	-	-	-	128	203	270
Kingfisher	11	18	24	19	18	9	7	9	10	4	5	7
Canada x dom Goose	2	1	1	3	7	1	3	2	4	5	4	4
Hybrid goose	2	-	5	3	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
Hybrid duck	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Aythya hybrid	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Swan	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	1	2	3
Swan Goose	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bar-headed Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Monthly Totals	28553		38542		45409		57237		36973		12050	
		25200		38544		51316		50534		13374		14456

THE BIRDS OF STOKE NEWINGTON RESERVOIRS - AN ORNITHOLOGICAL STUDY OF AN URBAN OASIS

MARK PEARSON

Abstract

Between 2005 and 2011 I had the privilege of studying the birds of Stoke Newington Reservoirs to an enviably comprehensive degree. During this period I was able to record many events and occurrences, particularly relating to migration, that would otherwise have gone unnoticed at this modest but uniquely valuable haven for birdlife in the heart of London. A summary of those records is presented here, along with overviews of the site, its habitats and the study.

Site overview

Stoke Newington Reservoirs (SNR) consist of two small, roughly equally-sized man-made water bodies, totalling 17 hectares (42 acres) of open water, in the north-west of the London Borough of Hackney. Along with man-made lakes in the Royal Parks, they constitute the closest substantial open freshwater habitat to central London. Constructed in 1833, they were initially on the capital's rural fringes, but were enveloped by urbanisation by the late 19th century.

The reservoirs were given limited protection in 1986, and the East Reservoir is at present managed relatively sympathetically for wildlife. Ongoing development has greatly reduced the biodiversity of the area, and continues to do so; what remains, however, is uniquely valuable in a local context, and is a haven for birds and wildlife in an otherwise unforgiving urban environment.

Looking south-west over the reservoirs from the roof of Lincoln Court. (Mark Pearson)



Access

Access is currently restricted, although the New River footpath (which runs along the northern perimeter of both basins, from Green Lanes in the west to Bethune Road in the east) affords good views, particularly of the West Reservoir. The path is bisected by Lordship Road, a busy thoroughfare which divides the two basins.

A limited area of the East Reservoir can be viewed from Lordship Road and from the New River path; however, unrivalled views can be obtained from the observation platform in the East Reservoir Community Garden, a small nature reserve and environmental education facility located in the north-east corner of the East Reservoir perimeter. Run by London Wildlife Trust, admission is free and the reserve is open most weekdays (see References); a telescope is advised.

The Study

Unlike many equivalent sites in the capital, the reservoirs have received no serious coverage in the past. As pre-21st-century records show, their surface has barely been scratched, and aside from occasional mentions in old LBRs (most notably involving wintering Smew, which had abandoned the site by the late 1980s) there are very few references in the historical record.

In recent years, however, I was able to grasp a unique opportunity to intensively study the reservoirs' birdlife, latterly over the course of many hours per day, and on most days each year. As time passed and the studies became increasingly rewarding, what began as a pleasant distraction some years ago steadily developed into a full-blown obsession.

Accepting a post at London Wildlife Trust's just-opened East Reservoir Community Garden gave me the chance to study the site many times more intensively than even the most dedicated patch-worker could dream of; possibilities were suddenly blown wide open, and I was in the right place at the right time to a degree which certainly hadn't been possible before, and realistically won't be again.

Where winter flocks of ducks and gulls were checked every few days at best, I could now do so four or five times almost daily; erratic raptor-watches on sunny days became dedicated multi-hour sessions whenever conditions looked promising; visible-migration watches went from opportunistic hours on the grassy bank to daily timed sessions from the obs platform, and latterly (and fortuitously) from the roof of Lincoln Court, a neighbouring tower block; and the chances of connecting with briefly visiting scarcities changed dramatically, from painfully long odds to pleasingly likely. A great luxury and pleasure, and hopefully a benchmark against which the reservoir's avifauna can be compared in the future.

Why Stoke Newington Reservoirs?

Arguably, there's little to recommend the reservoirs to the visiting birder at first glance, being locked well within a highly urbanised region of central London, and very much overshadowed by more expansive, better known sites fairly close by. For example, Walthamstow Reservoirs and the Lea Valley loom large just a few kilometres east and north-east, while many more attractive sites are accessible a little further north or west; additionally, SNR would comfortably nestle into a small corner of any number of well-known London birding venues.

Expectations were therefore much lower than, say, at a large reservoir, a site with a broader mix of habitats, or indeed pretty much anywhere that isn't surrounded by many miles of urban sprawl; the luxuries of exposed mud, marshland, extensive scrub, semi-wild grassland or even expansive open water, meanwhile, are sadly absent. All of which doubtless explains the lack of attention afforded SNR in the past, but while habitat variety, size and location obviously greatly limit the range of species recorded (as well as their frequency and abundance), such limitations can be turned into strengths, which I was more than happy to play to during the study period.

Firstly, the island effect shouldn't be underestimated, especially within the geographical context of Greater London; as a precious pit-stop within a vast, unwelcoming ocean of concrete, SNR undoubtedly attracts (and indeed concentrates) incoming migrants, visitors and stragglers. The site's very isolation - especially regarding its position in relation to the Lea Valley, which effectively disintegrates a couple of kilometres to the east - arguably serves to orientate birds towards and over SNR, a theory supported by diurnal migration studies from the ground and (especially) from the roof of Lincoln Court.

Secondly, SNR's very limited size and habitat variety, while disadvantageous in various other respects, meant genuinely thorough study was far more manageable; being able to approach your patch with the knowledge that saturation coverage is typical (as opposed to desirable) inspired a far more intensive approach generally.

The habitats and their birds

Open water

Naturally the site's main habitat, with a combined area of 17 hectares and a depth of 4.5 metres at its deepest. The West Reservoir is privately leased for recreation, and is subject to heavy disturbance on a regular (usually daily) basis; it does, however, attract feeding ducks, geese, swans, gulls, terns and various other species, many of which flee to the East Reservoir when disturbed. The West has a shallower bank gradient and a more open aspect favoured by some more-open-water species, however temporarily.

Neither reservoir has islands, although a small raft on the East hosts a pair of breeding Lesser Black-backed Gulls and attracts Cormorants, gulls, ducks, terns and Coots, as well as odd Green and Common Sandpipers on passage.

Both reservoirs have healthy fish stocks, and as a result attract grebes, terns, gulls, Cormorants, Grey Herons and rarer visitors including Great Northern Diver and Bitterns. The West has only intermittent in-flow, but the East benefits from a sluice-controlled flow of water, replenishing fish populations.

While historically more abundant, wildfowl (particularly in autumn and winter) are still numerous in relation to the overall size of the reservoirs, and hence the site's aquatic component is presumably relatively healthy. Tufted Duck, Pochard, Shoveler and Gadwall are the default species, while rarer visitors during the study included Scaup, Common Scoter and Garganey.

The attraction of open water to visiting hirundines and Swifts is well known, and the reservoirs can often host large gatherings (with both Alpine Swift and Red-rumped Swallow putting in brief but memorable cameos); in turn, Hobbys are happily an increasing presence between May and September.

Semi-aquatic fringe habitats

The banks of the West Reservoir are intensively managed, and hence of minimal value; Gadwall and Great Crested Grebe have both tried (and failed) to breed, while Mute Swans and Canada Geese are sometimes more successful, depending on mowing regimes. The raised banks are also closely mown, but on the rare occasions when small areas of scrub have prospered, both Common and Lesser Whitethroats have bred.

The water level on the West is usually kept high but often fluctuates slightly, exposing a shallow bank that acts as transient wader habitat; Green and Common Sandpipers and Snipe are regular visitors in small numbers annually, while both Greenshank and Redshank have been recorded recently. In addition, Grey and Pied Wagtails, Starlings, House Sparrows and other species feed along the water's edge, with both Wheatear and Yellow Wagtail recorded in recent times.

In contrast, the fringe habitat of the East is one of the few areas of modest biodiversity gain in the borough over recent years, providing a locally unrivalled haven for breeding, wintering and migratory birds. Semi-aquatic vegetation and successional scrub extend up to ten metres from the bank in some stretches, dominated by common reed, and admixed with, for example, reedmace and bramble.

Breeding birds here include Great Crested Grebes, Mute Swans, Little Grebes, Coots and Moorhens at or near the water's edge; a wide range of passerines within the fringe include Reed Warblers, Song Thrushes, Sedge Warblers, Reed Buntings, Dunnocks, Blackbirds, Chiffchaffs, Long-tailed Tits, Robins, Greenfinches and Goldfinches.

An even longer list of species utilise the reedbed for feeding, roosting and wintering, most notably visiting Bitterns, wintering Water Rails, much of the local colony of House Sparrows, visiting hirundines and many others. The only local records of both Whinchat and Stonechat are from here, and Cetti's Warblers have been a welcome fixture of several recent winters.

Terrestrial habitats

The remnants of once extensive terrestrial habitats lie almost entirely within each reservoir's fenced perimeter, forming a narrow ring between the basins and the built environment beyond. Around the West Reservoir, improved grassland is punctuated by relatively mature, single-standing trees, where both Green Woodpecker and Ring-necked Parakeet breed.

The equivalent area around the East Reservoir is far more diverse and attractive to birdlife. A variety of trees, in the main sallows and whitebeams interspersed with, for example, sycamore and silver birch, line either side of the New River footpath along the East's northern perimeter, and form a mosaic of mixed scrub and vegetation from the water's edge to the fenceline of the neighbouring housing estate.

The relatively varied habitat here holds a good variety of breeding species, and is the best remaining area in the borough for warblers (particularly *Phylloscopus* and *Sylvia*).



*Reed Warblers are a common breeder at the East Reservoir.
(Mark Pearson)*

Migrants found here in spring and especially autumn include Spotted and Pied Flycatchers, Redstarts, Garden Warblers, Siskins, Woodcock and Lesser Redpolls.

The northern perimeter habitat extends east from Lordship Road along the New River path to the Community Garden, which, since its recent conversion into a nature reserve, has become the prime site for migrant passerines.

The natural 'bottleneck' here has been embellished with native shrubs and trees that provide suitable habitat for a wide range of species, including Pied and Spotted Flycatcher, Redstart, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Coal Tit, Garden Warbler, Reed Bunting, the common finches (plus annual Brambling), Goldcrest, Firecrest, Ring Ouzel, and Common and Lesser Whitethroat.

The remainder of the East's perimeter consists of grassy banks lined by mature trees, predominantly oak; anywhere here is good for the commoner species (breeders include Stock Dove, Carrion Crow, finches, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay and Goldcrest), and memorably, the oaks hosted a Golden Oriole for a day in May 2006.

The southern perimeter is planted with small areas of scrub, which, when taken with adjoining gardens and mature oaks, forms a woodland glade habitat (with a healthy population of Purple Hairstreaks), and is another productive spot for migrant passerines; this area hosted a singing Siberian Chiffchaff in spring 2011, the second site-record.

The Systematic List

The following list incorporates all personal records from the study period, 2005 to 2011 inclusive; the order follows BOU (2013) and all scarcities have been accepted by the LNHS Rarities Committee. For additional pre-21st-century records, see References.

Three to four pairs of **Mute Swans** attempt breeding annually. One or two pairs of **Canada Geese** do likewise, with groups of between five and 20 regularly recorded, while **Greylag Geese** are a regular non-breeding visitor in small numbers throughout the year. **White-fronted Goose** was a very special addition to the patch list in 2010, when cold-weather movements saw at least 100 fly low and west at dusk on Dec 20th, calling loudly and almost clipping the Lincoln Court tower blocks; a further skein of 31 flew east early the following morning.

Egyptian Goose is an increasingly frequent (if unpredictable) visitor, usually in pairs or small parties (but occasionally up to 12). A **Ruddy Shelduck** flew low and east with a **Shelduck** over the East Res on May 10th 2009; the latter species, meanwhile, occurred on a handful of occasions each year, with most records in spring (especially April), usually in pairs or small parties.

Wigeon are most often recorded between September and March, usually in single-figure groups (although parties of up to 15 have been recorded); about eight records per year is average, and September is traditionally the best month. **Gadwall** are present year-round, peaking in early autumn and mid-winter (with up to 70 not unusual and 100+ occasional); attempted breeding occurred on both the East Res (outcome unknown) and by the West Res (which failed due to disturbance). **Teal** are a scarce but frequent visitor in small numbers, usually in autumn and winter, rarely occurring on more than a handful of occasions annually; **Mallards** however are a year-round presence, with several pairs usually breeding. **Garganey** made the patchlist by virtue of one perched on the exposed pipes on the East Res on Sep 5th 2005. **Shovelers** are common non-breeders, with

between 30 to 50 (exceptionally up to 70) in early autumn and winter, and usually far fewer in spring and summer.

Red-crested Pochard is an annual visitor in small numbers, most often in single-figure groups in autumn, but also increasingly at other times of year (especially during cold spells); birds often stay for prolonged periods. **Pochard** is one of SNR's stalwart species, with numbers fluctuating between a handful in the spring and summer to up to 100 in autumn and winter; they successfully bred on at least two occasions during the study. **Tufted Duck** has an almost identical status (and is often slightly more abundant), but they were not proved to breed. In view of the numerous *Aythya* hybrids recorded (see below), an immature male **Scaup** tucked away in the flocks on Jan 19th 2010 was a welcome and much-hoped-for discovery.

A less predicted one-off (but another product of lengthy cold-weather movement studies) was a male **Eider** south on Dec 21st 2010; almost as unexpected were the two female **Common Scoters** which commuted between both reservoirs on Oct 21st and 22nd 2009. **Goldeneye** is surprisingly scarce at the reservoirs given the proximity of the Lea Valley, and all records were cold-weather related. The first was a female on Nov 10th 2006, followed by a male on Dec 15th 2008, with a further two records within a couple of days of each other - a female on Dec 1st 2010 and an immature on 3rd. **Goosander** finally made the cut with two records in late 2010 - a single over on Oct 18th and three over on Nov 25th. **Ruddy Ducks** were a permanent fixture (and breeder) until the culls of 2006/07, after which just a couple of brief appearances were recorded.

Another complete surprise was a **Red-legged Partridge** actively hiding behind a pair of Mute Swans on the East Res bank on Apr 13th 2009 (the same session also providing Black Kite and Water Pipit - quite a day). **Pheasants** occurred on two occasions in 2006 and 2007. Prayers for an immature **Great Northern Diver** - frequenting West Warwick Reservoir a few kilometres east - to relocate were miraculously answered on Feb 4th 2009, when the bird began a very welcome twelve-day residency. **Cormorants** are ubiquitous non-breeders, with up to 20 birds present at any given time and many others overhead; a colour-ringed bird seen twice in August 2008 was ringed as a chick the previous April at Abberton Res, Essex.

One of (if not the) totem species of the study period was **Bittern**. Previously unrecorded (and not expected subsequently), a combination of favourable conditions and almost blanket coverage revealed no fewer than six visitors during a 15-month period. The first flew low and west at dusk on Oct 28th 2009; the second battled epically with corvids over the East Res and then from a treetop on the neighbouring housing estate on Jan 7th 2010; the third spent March 1st 2010 in the reedbed; the fourth appeared on 13th of the same month; the fifth (with missing flight feathers) was flushed by a fox on Dec 6th 2010; while an altogether more confiding individual spent Dec 17th-22nd 2010 in the East Res reedbed. Inspiring stuff.

Little Egrets were surprisingly rare during the period, with just a handful of fly-over records; in contrast, **Grey Herons** are omnipresent, with up to six birds often scattered across the reservoirs. **Little Grebe** breeds annually and is present year-round in small numbers, a status shared with the usually more obvious **Great Crested Grebe** (with up to three pairs nesting each year). A **Black-necked Grebe** frequented the East Res from Aug 28th-31st 2006.

No large birds of prey had been recorded in the area previously; by the end of the study a few years later, the broad-winged raptor tally ran into three figures. Sky-watching became a dominant theme during the period, with spring in particular being extremely productive for raptors. Initially conducted from the banks of the East Res, in 2008 the construction of the observation platform greatly improved viewing possibilities (and records); access to the roof of the neighbouring 15-storey Lincoln Court tower block from autumn 2010 (see below) further greatly improved circumstances, and many hours on numerous spring days were spent scanning local airspace. Lack of room unfortunately prevents a more in-depth review, but the following paragraphs give a brief overview of results.

A dark-morph **Honey Buzzard** circled low over the East Res on May 30th 2008, followed by one over on Sep 14th in the same year; at the time seemingly unsurpassable, until 2010's hundreds of hours of looking up rewrote the rulebook for this and many other migratory species. The first of that year flew low and north on May 13th, followed by a further two, both in from the south-west, on May 21st. Another drifted north on Aug 19th, with the last (and least-expected) heading south on Oct 20th, totalling an impressive five for the year. Arguably the star large raptor during the study was the **Black Kite** which lazily drifted south on the memorable afternoon of Apr 13th 2009. **Red Kites**, meanwhile, became the second-commonest large bird of prey recorded, with almost all records in April. Latterly up to a dozen per April was about average, with other records scattered throughout the rest of the year (including one during heavy snow on Dec 18th 2010).

Another near-mythical species prior to the study, **Marsh Harrier** soon averaged more than annual, with singles on Apr 15th and Sep 24th 2009, Apr 27th 2010, and Apr 6th, 8th & 10th 2011. **Goshawk** sightings understandably raise problems regarding status, compounded by multiple sightings in the springs of 2010 and 2011, at least some of which concerned individuals with jesses. Several pairs of **Sparrowhawks** breed locally and birds were usually present; larger counts and records of birds heading high overhead in passage periods hinted strongly at migration. Counts of **Buzzard** - again, formerly unrecorded - went from a handful in, for example, 2007 (when sky-watching was irregular at best) to over 50 in 2010, with day-counts of up to ten not unusual by 2010/11. Recorded in every month of the year, again April was by far the most productive month. **Osprey** was another target species, happily recorded on Apr 26th 2006, Apr 1st 2009 and Apr 3rd 2010, all heading north.

Two pairs of **Kestrels** bred in the area during the study, one within the perimeter; birds were often observed hunting and were seen to take small birds regularly. Perhaps the most extraordinary sky-watching event (and indeed of the study overall) was the appearance of two **Red-footed Falcons** in the space of a magical four days in 2010. A male flew low and west on Sep 12th, seen only as a result of a well-timed break from the obs platform; amazingly, it was followed by a female feeding on the wing and drifting south on the 16th. An unforgettable double lightning strike and proof that, with enough time invested, anything can happen.

Also unexpected within such an urbanised environment, two **Merlins** were recorded: a male passed the platform on Nov 11th 2009 and a female on Dec 21st 2010. **Hobby** was a species which would perhaps be regarded as too 'rural' to occur on anything more than

an occasional basis, another preconception happily dispensed with - between April and September birds regularly hunted over the reservoirs, with multiple counts of up to four not uncommon. Their presence through the summer (often seen arriving from and leaving to the north) implied a regular feeding pattern established by a breeding pair or pairs within their range. Recorded throughout the year, **Peregrine Falcons** were encouragingly frequent in the area and were latterly seen prospecting potential breeding sites near by.

Water Rails arrive in October and (presumably) leave in March/April, with usually two to four birds wintering at the East Res. Weather-related arrivals included a minimum of seven on Jan 7th 2010 and up to five on several other dates. **Moorhen** and **Coot** are both common breeders, with numbers of both building up in the winter; up to 100 of the former and 360 of the latter were recorded.

Suitable wader habitat is unfortunately almost non-existent except for the concrete 'shore' of the West Res, rarely exposed more than a few inches; hence, any record beyond a couple of tolerant and regular species was therefore hard-earned indeed. Eighty **Golden Plovers** flying south in the blizzards of Dec 23rd 2009 were the first site-record, followed by 55 north on Nov 1st 2010. **Lapwings** are a frequent if unpredictable visitor, with the majority of records relating to flocks displaced by adverse weather (when day-counts into three figures could occur).

Temporary drops in the water levels instantly encourage passing waders to put down, including a **Little Ringed Plover** on Apr 5th 2009. More one-off lucky strikes included a **Curlew** on Dec 2nd 2010, and a **Black-tailed Godwit**, circling several times before thinking better of it on Sep 8th 2006. **Common Sandpipers** are regular visitors in spring and particularly autumn, when up to five are present simultaneously. Likewise, **Green Sandpipers** are guaranteed annually in small numbers, sometimes overwintering if conditions allow. A single **Greenshank** was recorded on Dec 1st 2010, with **Redshanks** on Mar 31st and Apr 1st 2009, Nov 16th 2010 and Mar 16th 2011.

The reservoirs hosted no fewer than six Bitterns during the study. (Mark Pearson)



A male Red-footed Falcon was one of the highlights during sky-watching studies.
(Mark Pearson)



Jack Snipe were recorded on several occasions, usually during adverse weather - two on Dec 19th and one on Dec 23rd 2009, with further singles on Feb 16th, and Dec 1st & 14th 2010. **Woodcock** occur

annually in very small numbers, all records coming from early spring or late autumn. **Snipe** are one of the few relatively reliable wader species; a few regularly winter and many more are registered on migration, with a peak of 16 on Dec 2nd 2010.

A much hoped-for **Black Tern** shot through all too rapidly on Sep 16th 2009. **Common Terns**, while a non-breeder, live up to their name, especially in the summer months, when up to 35 birds can be present. The first site-record of **Arctic Tern** was unexpectedly dramatic, with no less than 43 heading south-west together on Sep 11th 2008; others followed on Apr 12th & 15th 2009, May 7th 2010 (two), and Apr 20th 2011.

An adult **Kittiwake** was an unexpected bonus on May 21st 2010 and was the first site-record. **Black-headed Gulls** are very common non-breeding visitors, absent only for a short period over the summer; several hundred are often present at other times, with much higher counts at dusk on winter evenings - up to 4,000 have been counted heading north-east to roost (with many briefly dropping in). **Little Gull** was a much wished-for wanderer during the study, and vigils during encouraging conditions finally paid off with a moulting adult gracing the East Res for several hours on Apr 6th 2009. **Mediterranean Gulls** were well represented locally by up to two wintering birds at nearby Clapton Common (although absent in the last two winters). **Common Gulls** are another abundant species present in all but the mid-summer; hundreds head to roost on winter evenings, many dropping in to loaf and bathe.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls breed annually on the East Res tern raft, with at least a further two pairs nesting on rooftops in neighbouring streets; pre-roost counts of this species and also **Herring Gull** (an omnipresent non-breeder) reach three figures on winter evenings. **Yellow-legged Gulls**, again previously unrecorded, were soon found to be regular visitors in small numbers, with evening scans often proving successful, particularly in winter and early spring. An adult present on Dec 14th 2010 showed features consistent with the north-west Iberian form *lusitanus*.

Another unexpected reward came just before dusk on Dec 15th 2008, when an angelic **Iceland Gull** swept over the West Res and onto the East Res for a memorable half-hour. **Great Black-backed Gulls**, meanwhile, are regular visitors in small numbers, particularly in winter. Various colour-ringed gulls were observed and their histories subsequently revealed; again, lack of space unfortunately prevents more detail, but they included Danish and Polish Black-headed Gulls, a Norwegian Common Gull and a Spanish Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Rock Doves are abundant and ubiquitous, while up to three pairs of **Stock Doves** breed within the boundaries; migration is evident in autumn, with top counts reaching three figures on occasion. **Woodpigeons** may be one of the least interesting species as a common and familiar local breeder, but as a migrant they're very much the opposite, and large movements in the late autumn were a highlight of visible migration studies throughout. The key period was consistently the end of October and the beginning of November, when good days saw counts into four figures; peaks of 3,460 on Nov 3rd 2010 and a site-record 6,180 on Nov 6th 2010 again illustrated the value of the Lincoln Court rooftop for sky-watching.

Collared Doves are a resident breeder in small numbers, while a single record of **Turtle Dove** on May 17th 2010 was, sadly, a genuine surprise. **Ring-necked Parakeets** continue their relentless march across the capital, and have bred by the West Res since 2007; flocks into double figures are now no longer unusual. **Tawny Owls** breed as close as Abney Park Cemetery just a couple of hundred metres away, but have only been recorded a couple of times calling after dark (and are probably therefore under-recorded). **Short-eared Owls** made it into SNR airspace on three separate occasions during the study, with singles overhead on Oct 9th 2008, Apr 6th 2009 and Apr 3rd 2011.

Swifts are very much an iconic bird of the reservoirs, and congregations are a feature of the late summer, when many hundreds wheel above the water; weather-related movements can likewise encourage large concentrations. The first birds usually arrive in mid-April, with the earliest on 10th (2009). One of the highlights of the study, an **Alpine Swift** spent a memorable minute or so over the West Res on Apr 1st 2010. **Kingfishers** are a welcome fixture of the New River and East Res outside the breeding season, with one to three usually present (although not always easy to find), while both **Green** and **Great Spotted Woodpeckers** breed on site and are present year-round. The attraction of the oaks around the East Res was brought sharply into focus on May 12th 2006, when an elusive **Golden Oriole** spent much of the day commuting between them; the first and very likely last of its kind to occur, and very much appreciated as a result.

Both **Magpie** and **Jay** are resident. **Jackdaws** and **Rooks** are both passage migrants; the former occur in considerable numbers, particularly in the late autumn, but the latter are a bona fide rarity, with just a handful of flyover records. **Carrion Crows** are common residents, several of which mobbed a **Raven** - the only site-record - as it cruised north on Sep 22nd 2009. At least one pair of **Goldcrests** usually breeds (with several other pairs near by), augmented by migrants in spring and autumn; **Firecrests** were effectively annual, with two on Sep 22nd 2009, one the following day, and singles on Oct 23rd 2009 and Oct 18th & 19th 2010.

Blue Tit and **Great Tit** are both common residents, while **Coal Tit**, previously very scarce, began a hopefully permanent residency as a breeding species in 2009. **Skylarks** were annual in small numbers overhead (although rarely peaking beyond single figures on a given day in autumn). **Sand Martin**, **Swallow** and **House Martin** are all common non-breeding visitors, with all three species registering three-figure counts on days of heavy passage. Another runaway highlight of the study came in the exotic form of a **Red-rumped Swallow**, gracing the reservoirs for a little over half an hour on the evening of May 9th 2009.

Another sharp change in status applies to **Cetti's Warbler**, the first of which arrived in November 2007 (for a few days only), followed by a second in November 2009 (which

stayed all winter); one then set up shop in the reedbed in October 2010 and also remained throughout the winter, with a second bird present on numerous occasions. **Long-tailed Tits** are common breeders and large flocks are a feature of autumn and winter. **Chiffchaffs** also breed at the reservoirs and are one of the more numerous passerine migrants, particularly in autumn; on a good day, up to 30 can be recorded. A **Siberian Chiffchaff** frequented the north side of the East Res from New Year's Eve 2008, attracting many admirers (and even the attentions of the national press!) during the course of its week-long stay.

Willow Warblers are a common non-breeding visitor to the reservoirs, occurring in good numbers, particularly in the early autumn; as with Chiffchaffs, counts of up to 30 during the peak window were not unique. **Blackcaps** bred in at least the majority of years during the period, and migration seasons regularly saw double figures on a given day, especially in autumn. **Garden Warblers** were a less numerous but still expected migrant in small numbers, usually during the autumn. **Lesser Whitethroats** are a regular migrant, breeding on at least two occasions during the study; **Whitethroats** are a little more numerous on passage and bred each year bar one. At least one pair of **Sedge Warblers** bred in most years, augmented by migrants in both passage periods; **Reed Warblers**, meanwhile, benefit greatly from the natural expansion of the East Res perimeter reedbed, with up to 15 pairs now breeding every year.

Waxwings managed to avoid detection until the 2010/11 influx, starting with two on Oct 27th, and 11 on Dec 19th and one on 22nd 2010. The floodgates opened impressively in the new year, with 15 on Jan 1st, 25 on 5th, two on 11th, 60 on 24th and one on 28th, 20 on Feb 14th, 25 on Mar 2nd & 16 on 4th. **Wren** is a common local breeding species, as is **Starling**, with large flocks of the latter (mostly juveniles) being a feature of mid-summer; it was also one of the most abundant species during visible-migration studies, with a peak of 5,190 on Nov 8th 2010.

Another scarce migrant which occurred far more often than expected was **Ring Ouzel**, with singles on Oct 15th and Nov 1st & 3rd 2006, Oct 30th 2008, and Apr 19th, Oct 31st and Nov 8th 2010. **Blackbird** is a common breeder, migrant and winter visitor. Counts of **Fieldfares** peaked during autumn migration and cold-weather movements - peaks of 296 on Nov 8th 2010 a result of the former and 650 on Dec 23rd 2009 the latter. **Song Thrushes** breed annually and also occur as a passage migrant in autumn, with counts into three figures on occasion. **Redwings**, however, pass through in much greater numbers, on account of both autumn migration and winter movements; 980 on Nov 8th 2010 were incoming migrants, while 1,005 on Jan 4th 2010 and a site-record 1,800 on Dec 23rd 2009 were as a result of plummeting temperatures and poor conditions. **Mistle Thrush** is a local breeder and migrant in small numbers; interestingly, a communal roost of up to 25 birds existed in a disused tower block up until its demolition in 2008.

Spotted Flycatchers are a regular autumn migrant expected between mid-August and late September, with up to five present simultaneously; the only spring record concerned a male in song on May 14th 2010. **Robins** are common residents, with numbers increasing during autumn and winter. Two species which always raise the pulse during migration, **Pied Flycatcher** and **Redstart**, happily became more than annual, with several of each usually illuminating each autumn. The only record of **Whinchat**, however, came from the East Res reedbed on Apr 20th 2006; likewise, the only

Stonechat frequented the same area on Oct 3rd 2008. Similarly lacking suitable habitat, it wasn't surprising that only a couple of brief **Wheatears** were logged during the study.

Dunnocks are common resident breeders, as are **House Sparrows**; despite steep local declines, the latter species remains a familiar presence at the reservoirs on account of two isolated local colonies - a small one by the New River West and a larger one on Bethune Road, along the eastern edge of the East Res. The latter colony utilise the reservoir's habitat (particularly the reedbed) year-round. Two migrant **Tree Sparrows** south on Oct 25th 2006 were the first and last record, while **Yellow Wagtails** are annual migrants in small numbers; most records relate to fly-overs, especially in autumn. Both **Grey** and **Pied Wagtails** are resident breeders, with evidence of passage also noted, especially in autumn.

At least a handful of **Tree Pipits** were recorded every autumn (with odd spring records too), while **Meadow Pipits** were much commoner on migration, often coasting at very low heights and especially numerous in spring; April was the key month, with top counts including 107 north on Apr 4th 2008 and 117 north on Apr 11th 2011. **Rock Pipit** was far from expected at the outset but by the end of the study, at least eight had been recorded: Oct 11th, 13th, 25th (two) & 27th, and Nov 29th 2006; Oct 4th 2007; Nov 19th and Dec 1st 2010. Even less anticipated was the pristine **Water Pipit** which briefly graced the bank of the East Res on Apr 13th 2009.

Chaffinches are a common year-round presence, as breeders, winter visitors (with consistently high numbers around the feeders at the ERCG) and passage migrants. Sky-watching often produced good counts, with over a hundred through on particularly good days. **Bramblings** were a pleasing frequent visitor, recorded in all seasons except summer. Regularly noted in small numbers on sky-watches (especially in October) and

A juvenile Green Woodpecker on the reservoir bank. (Mark Pearson)



over-wintering on several occasions (with, for example, two males for much of the 2009/10 winter, and one during 2010/11), small build-ups in early spring even resulted in birds present, and singing, well into April.

Greenfinches and **Goldfinches** are both local breeders, and both featured regularly in visible-migration counts (particularly the latter); **Siskins**, **Linnets** and **Lesser Redpolls**, meanwhile, are all non-breeders that likewise figured regularly on sky-watches, particularly in autumn (with usually small numbers also recorded on the deck). **Crossbills** featured on just two occasions: a single over on Sep 29th 2008, and a group of six which dropped in briefly on Jul 23rd 2010. **Bullfinches** were almost as hard to come by, with just a handful of records during the study. A single, contextually extremely rare **Yellowhammer** coasted south on Oct 27th 2006, while **Reed Buntings** were somewhat easier to find - three pairs usually breed at the East Res, with migrants and additional wintering birds also evident.



Garden Warblers are regular migrants at the reservoirs in small numbers.
(Mark Pearson)

Hybrids and escapes

Hybrids recorded during the period included the following: several **Canada x Greylag Geese**; at least ten **Aythya hybrids** of the following presumed parentages: five Pochard x Tufted Ducks (three females and two males), three Ferruginous Duck x Tufted Ducks (together), one Scaup x Tufted Duck (female), and a Ring-necked Duck x Tufted Duck (male, showing most characteristics of the former); an escaped large **falcon sp.**, thought to be a Gyr or Gyr x Saker hybrid, on Apr 20th and May 13th 2009; a **Barn Swallow x ?** on May 10th 2010; and several **Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gulls**.

Escapes included **Sudan Golden Sparrow**, **Budgerigar**, **African Grey Parrot**, **Zebra Finch**, several **Goshawks** and the above-mentioned large falcon.

References

The Birds of Stoke Newington Reservoirs website is at <http://snrbirds.org.uk>. It gives directions and contact details, additional pre-21st-century records, and a more in-depth review of the period (including photo galleries of many of the birds involved).

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THE AVIAN HISTORY OF STAINES MOOR

LEE DINGAIN

Introduction

For many, Staines Moor first appeared on their radar when Britain's eighth Brown Shrike showed up in 2009. But Staines Moor has long been visited by local birders and, thanks to the dedication of many observers over the years, it is possible to piece together a reasonably comprehensive avian history of the site.

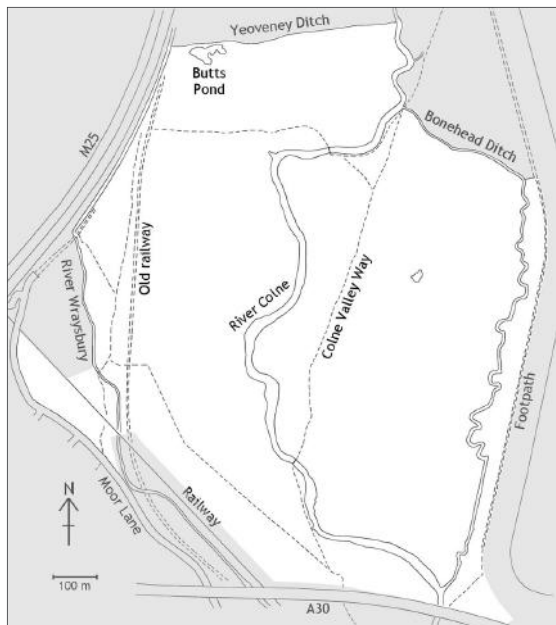
Site description and land use

Staines Moor is an alluvial meadow of some 91 hectares, situated in the part of north-west Surrey that was formerly Middlesex, on the floodplain of the River Colne. Rising as a spring in Hertfordshire, the Colne skirts the western edge of London, before meandering southwards across the Moor and draining into the Thames at the nearby town of Staines.

Old maps (Ordnance Survey, 1881) reveal that the boundary of Staines Moor has changed little since the 1800s. Much of the Moor is covered by neutral grassland that has been grazed by cattle and horses since at least 1065, when the Moor was registered as Common Land. The underlying geology of London Clay topped with alluvial silts and gravels has created shallow depressions, allowing marshy pools and ditches to form. This, together with the site not having seen the plough for over 1,000 years, has created a high plant diversity and allowed the oldest ant-hills in Britain - of the yellow meadow ant *Lasius flavus* - to develop.

Aerial photographs and satellite images show that the habitat here appears largely unchanged for the last 80 years, apart from some shrub encroachment and growth of

For the purpose of this paper, the boundary of Staines Moor is defined as the Yeoveney and Bonehead Ditches in the north, the footpath beside King George VI Reservoir in the east, the A30 in the south, and Moor Lane and the River Wraysbury in the west. (Lee Dingain)



narrow strips of broadleaved woodland. However, these images belie the fact that Staines Moor has gradually been drying out, and this, along with poor land management and dramatic changes to the surrounding landscape, has had an enormous impact on the Moor's bird life.

Early history

Almost nothing is known about the natural history of Staines Moor before the 1930s. Harting makes no mention of Staines Moor in his pioneering account (Harting, 1866) of the birds of Middlesex, and even the earliest ornithological reference to the Moor concerns a sighting from outside the site boundary: a report of about a dozen Pallas's Sandgrouse seen '*near Staines Moor, on June 19th, 1888*' (Bond, 1889).

Around this time the lower Colne valley was very rural - dotted with farms producing market garden produce, wheat and livestock - and Heathrow was still a small hamlet on the edge of Hounslow Heath. Despite the proximity of the town of Staines, the Moor was much more remote than it is today. Therefore it is not surprising that records for the site from this period are virtually non-existent. Only when Staines Reservoirs opened in 1902 were birdwatchers gradually attracted to the region and records for the Moor increased.

One of the very first birdwatchers to cover the Staines area regularly was Graham Kerr. Kerr accumulated 12 years of notes spanning the turn of the 20th Century, and in a series of published articles (Kerr, 1906) wrote the earliest record of birds on Staines Moor: '*some twenty-five years ago the Golden Plover was common on Staines Moor, which was then a favourite winter resort for many birds. All this is now changed, and the Golden Plover is only a straggler to the district*'.

Unfortunately Kerr makes no other reference to Staines Moor. However, his species accounts (Kerr, 1906 & 1908) do provide a good idea of the birds that might have occurred at the site around this time. Red-backed Shrike are described as well distributed, Yellowhammer as common, and Corn Bunting as locally common in the fields around Staines Reservoirs. Corncrake numbers varied from year to year, with good numbers in 1904, and Turtle Dove was very common along the Thames Valley. Hooded Crow occurred in very small numbers during winter, but Carrion Crow and Magpie - like most raptors - were rare due to widespread persecution and trapping, and Goldfinch were '*exceedingly scarce*'.

Urbanisation and the birth of the London Bird Report

From the late 1920s the land use around Staines Moor began to shift rapidly away from agriculture. The Great West Aerodrome - precursor to Heathrow Airport - was built on farmland near Heathrow hamlet in 1929, and extensive new housing - to accommodate a rapidly increasing population - led to the construction of Perry Oaks Sewage Farm in 1935, as well as the start of construction of King George VI Reservoir in 1937 on fields bordering the Moor's eastern perimeter.

With this growing population came more birdwatchers and more reported sightings. From 1921, sightings from within the London Area (the London recording area) were included annually in *The London Naturalist*, but the London Natural History Society soon decided a dedicated report was required for the increasing volume of records. In 1937

the first *London Bird Report* was published, covering 1936; suddenly the ornithological record of Staines Moor improves dramatically.

By the late 1930s, a few dedicated observers - notably G. Carmichael Low, D. A. T. Morgan and C. A. White - were covering Staines Moor regularly. Their records showed that, as well as being a stronghold for nesting Redshank, Snipe, Yellow Wagtail and Tree Sparrow, the Moor remained an important habitat for wintering Golden Plover, as well as Lapwing, Jack Snipe, various wildfowl and Tree Sparrow. Moreover, Staines Moor was revealed to be visited frequently by passage waders. Green Sandpiper, Greenshank and Dunlin were regular, and within a few years Temminck's Stint, Turnstone, and multiple sightings of Wood Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Whimbrel and Ringed Plover were recorded. Wader passage through the lower Colne valley was evidently much more commonplace than previously thought.

Through the 1940s, Perry Oaks Sewage Farm, Staines Reservoirs, Staines Moor and King George VI Reservoir - all in close proximity - attracted increasing numbers of birdwatchers and became known as one of the finest inland wader and wildfowl areas in Britain. It was not long before the region's first American waders were discovered; and in 1953 a Lesser Yellowlegs, found at Perry Oaks Sewage Farm, also visited Staines Moor on five occasions during its long stay.

With continued loss of farmland in the area, Staines Moor also became a refuge for some locally declining breeding species. Red-backed Shrike bred each year until 1941, and Whinchat, Tree Sparrow and Corn Bunting continued to nest in small numbers until the late 1960s - despite much of the regional stronghold for the Corn Bunting disappearing beneath King George VI Reservoir (Glegg, 1938).

*This Lesser Yellowlegs was present in the area from Aug 30th to Dec 9th 1953, and visited Staines Moor five times during its stay.
(G. des Forges - LNHS, 1964)*



Increasing human pressure

Human pressure on Staines Moor increased dramatically from the mid-1900s. To meet the increasing demand for water by industry in Staines and to prevent flooding, the Colne was dredged approximately every ten to 15 years from at least the 1950s to the early 1990s, and other water courses were diverted or blocked. This not only reduced the frequency and extent of flooding events, but also led to the wet grassland areas on the Moor gradually drying out.

Breeding wetland species such as Snipe declined from up to five pairs in the mid-1950s to none by the 1960s, and Yellow Wagtail became extinct as a breeding species by the end of that decade. Wintering and passage waders continued to use the site, but in the 1980s their numbers also began to fall sharply.

By then, impinging urban sprawl had brought Staines Moor to within easy reach of people. There can be little doubt that increasing disturbance from people, dogs, occasional dirt-bike riders, and rocketing noise levels from Heathrow Airport and the M25, have all made the Moor far less attractive to breeding, feeding and resting waders and wildfowl.

Despite all of this, Staines Moor remains a unique and important site for birds. Four Red List species: Cuckoo, Skylark, Song Thrush, and Linnet, still breed annually. A fifth, Lapwing, occasionally nests, as do one or two pairs of Redshank, although often breeding success for both is higher on the adjacent, and relatively undisturbed, Stanwell Moor. Yellow Wagtail, now also on the Red List, no longer breeds, but small numbers regularly stop to feed during migration, and other migrant passerines frequently include Redstart, Whinchat, Wheatear and Ring Ouzel.

Despite its SSSI status the Moor is also threatened by development. The Heathrow Airtrack rail link to Waterloo was abandoned in April 2011, however, proposals to add a third runway at Heathrow Airport remain a threat.

Restoring Staines Moor

Restoration work planned by Spelthorne Borough Council is aimed at reversing some of the habitat degradation described above. Re-wetting the Moor is a priority, and allowing for increased flooding of the Colne, improving the marshy areas, and even the construction of a wader scrape, are under consideration.

Clearing invasive scrub will preserve the Moor's important grassland habitat, while leaving some to provide food and shelter for breeding species such as Linnet and Lesser Whitethroat, as well as migrants. Fencing off stretches of the Colne will prevent grazing and allow bankside vegetation to re-establish, as well as prevent further erosion from cattle and horses, and increased grazing elsewhere will maintain the Moor's floral diversity.

Reducing disturbance, principally from dogs, is essential for encouraging breeding and visiting waders, and will no doubt prove a difficult challenge. Increasing the numbers of breeding Redshank and Lapwing is feasible, and Yellow Wagtails might also be encouraged to stop and breed. With careful management, Staines Moor may even again host flocks of wintering waders and wildfowl recalling those that the site was once so well known for.

Systematic List

This is the first comprehensive bird list for Staines Moor, and was compiled primarily from *London Bird Reports* (LNHS, 1936-2010). 187 species have been recorded at Staines Moor up to and including 2011.

Mute Swan Resident in small numbers and occasional breeder. 53 on May 26th 2001 is the highest count.

Whooper Swan One adult on Feb 11th 1956 is the only record.

Bean Goose 11 on Jan 6th 1982 is the only record.

Pink-footed Goose Rare passage migrant. One on Dec 24th-27th 1950, two flew east on Feb 28th 1970, and three on Feb 16th 2001.

White-fronted Goose Rare winter visitor, formerly more regular. c60 on the banks of the Colne on Dec 20th 1950 is the highest count.

Greylag Goose Occasional visitor, all presumably feral birds.

Brent Goose Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. One on Mar 26th 1995 is the first documented record. Also one present Jan 13th-Mar 30th 2001.

Barnacle Goose Six on Aug 21st 1977, and one on Feb 7th and 14th 2004 are the only records.

Canada Goose Irregular visitor. 469 on Jan 14th 2003 is the highest count.

Egyptian Goose Scarce visitor. One on Apr 25th 2001 was the first record, and 11 over west on Nov 29th 2009 is the highest count.

Shelduck Uncommon but frequent visitor. 30 on Apr 6th 2001 is the highest count. One pair was thought to have bred in 1978.

Mandarin Duck Very scarce visitor. Bred in 1977. One male on the Colne on Apr 26th 2003 is the latest record.

Wigeon Declining winter visitor and passage migrant. 500 on Feb 6th 1979 is the highest count.

Gadwall Uncommon year-round visitor.

Teal Uncommon winter visitor, and occasional in summer. One adult with four downy young were present on Aug 8th 1978.

Mallard Common visitor and occasional breeder.

Pintail Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. One on Mar 12th 1932 is the first record. 12 flying low west on Oct 11th 2009 is the highest count.

Garganey Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor. One on the Colne on May 11th 1946 was the first record. A pair from Mar 28th-May 3rd 2000 possibly bred.

Shoveler Uncommon winter visitor. Bred in 1975 and 1979.

Pochard Occasionally seen flying over.

Tufted Duck Uncommon visitor, mainly in winter. Bred in 1957.

Goldeneye One on Feb 11th 1940 is the only record.

Smew One in 1986 but no precise date recorded.

Goosander Scarce winter visitor. The first record is an '*obviously incapacitated*' male on the Colne until Jul 18th 1937, when seen resting on the grass (Glegg, 1938). A female on the Colne on Jun 1st 1948 is the only other summer record. Six on the Colne on 21st Mar 21st 2010 and Feb 20th 2011 are the highest counts.

Red-legged Partridge Infrequent visitor. Six on Oct 14th 1945 is the first record. c15 on Nov 13th 1948 is the highest count. Bred in 1960.

Grey Partridge Scarce visitor but former breeding resident. 22 in Dec 1976 is the highest count. Two pairs recorded in 1977. One on Oct 10th 2010 is the most recent record.

Quail One heard on Jun 22nd 1952 is the only record.

Pheasant Uncommon resident and occasional breeder. Seven in January and February 2003 is the highest count.

Little Grebe Resident and occasional breeder on the Colne. Three pairs in 1977.

Great Crested Grebe Six adults including two pairs with three young each were present in 1968.

Cormorant Common visitor. 43 on Feb 15th 1953 is the highest count, and particularly noteworthy for the period.

Shag One immature from Dec 6th-17th 1966 is the only record.

Bittern One flushed by a dog from near the Colne by the southern footbridge on Feb 22nd 2011 flew towards Wraysbury Gravel Pits.

Little Egret Uncommon resident. One on Apr 15th 2001 was the first record. Up to three regularly visit the Colne. Five is the highest count.

Great Egret One on Sep 6th 2002 and one from Dec 22nd-24th 2007.

Grey Heron Uncommon resident and occasional breeder. 14 on Aug 31st 2002 is the highest count.

Purple Heron One on Jul 20th 1967 is the only record.

Spoonbill One from Sep 27th-28th 1973, and one on Apr 18th 1997.

Honey Buzzard One over south on Oct 10th 1993 is the first record. Also, one pale-morph flew south-west on Aug 18th 2005.

Black Kite One flew off west over north end on Sep 29th 2003.

Red Kite Increasing year-round visitor. Most are probably reintroduced birds.

Marsh Harrier Very scarce passage migrant. Two or more were recorded in 2004 and 2008. One over low north-west on Apr 17th 2011 is the most recent sighting.

Hen Harrier One ringtail on Jan 28th 1979 is the only record.

Montagu's Harrier One juvenile on Aug 5th 1953 is the only record.

Sparrowhawk Uncommon breeding resident.

Buzzard Increasing passage migrant and uncommon resident. Seven over north-west on Apr 8th 2011 is the highest count.

Osprey Scarce passage migrant. One on Aug 26th 1951 was the first record. Some have stopped briefly to hunt, including one that dived three times into the Colne on Aug 16th 2011.

Kestrel Resident and occasional breeder. Breeding confirmed in 1966. At least nine on Aug 16th 2009 is the highest count.

Merlin Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. One on Jan 6th 1951 was the first record. The most recent record is one on Sep 30th 2010.

Hobby Uncommon summer visitor. One on May 12th 1946 is the first record. Five on Jun 12th 2001 is the highest count.

Peregrine Falcon Uncommon year-round visitor.

Water Rail Uncommon winter visitor.

Moorhen Resident in small numbers. 60 on Feb 14th 1996 is the highest count.

Coot Resident in small numbers.

Oystercatcher Very scarce passage migrant. Seven on Apr 11th 1966 is the first record and highest count.

Avocet The first was one found dead a few days after being seen at Staines Reservoirs on Jan 9th 1967. Also, one on Oct 22nd 2000.

Collared Pratincole The first for London was over Staines Moor and at King George VI Reservoir and Staines Reservoirs on Jun 19th 1983.

Little Ringed Plover Annual passage migrant in small numbers. Two by the Colne on May 5th 1946 is the first record. By 1950, birds were regularly seen feeding on '*the shingle banks of the R. Colne*' (Parrinder, 1952).

Ringed Plover Scarce passage migrant. 1950 was an exceptional year, with birds noted in all months from March to October, including 45-60 here and at Perry Oaks Sewage Farm between Aug 20th-Sep 10th.

Golden Plover Scarce passage migrant. A few hundred regularly wintered on the Moor up until the late 1970s, when numbers declined sharply. Over 1,500 in December 1972 is the highest count.

Grey Plover Very scarce passage migrant. One on Apr 5th 1950 is the first record. Four on May 13th 2001 is the highest count.

Lapwing Declining winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Large numbers wintered until the late 1970s. Notable counts include c2,000 on Dec 1st 1963, and an amazing 12,000 on Feb 2nd 1975.

Knot One on Mar 26th 1951 is the only record.

Little Stint Three on Dec 12th 1976 is the only record.

Temminck's Stint One by the Colne on Apr 27th 1949.

Dunlin Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Small numbers once regularly wintered. Notable records include 19 on Apr 27th 1947, up to 50 in December 1979, and 70 in December 1995 which is the highest count.

Ruff Scarce passage migrant. From the late 1950s to 1970s, small numbers wintered between the Moor and Perry Oaks Sewage Farm, Staines Reservoirs and Wraysbury Gravel Pits. High counts include up to 28 in early 1960, 42 in March 1976 and 39 in March 1977.

Jack Snipe Scarce but regular winter visitor. Most records involve up to five birds. Eight on Mar 20th 2003 is the highest count.

Snipe Fairly common but declining winter visitor and occasional breeder. The highest winter count is c200 on Mar 30th 1983. Four pairs recorded breeding (and another pair present) in 1955 and 1956.

Long-billed Dowitcher The second for London commuted between the Moor, King George VI Reservoir and Perry Oaks Sewage Farm, from Oct 4th-7th and Oct 24th-Nov 10th 1987.

Woodcock Scarce winter visitor, especially in hard weather.

Black-tailed Godwit Scarce passage migrant. One or two on Apr 30th 1950 is the first record. 16 on Apr 11th 1987 is the highest count.

Bar-tailed Godwit Very scarce passage migrant. One from Apr 27th-29th 1951 is the first record.

Whimbrel Scarce passage migrant. Six over north-east on May 11th 1946 is the first record and highest count.

Curllew Scarce passage migrant. Six on Aug 5th 1939 is the first record. 15 over north on Oct 1st 1978 is the highest count.



Up to 12 pairs of Yellow Wagtail bred at Staines Moor until the late 1960s. Habitat degradation, increased disturbance, and poor grazing regimes have all likely contributed to their demise. Flocks still occur on passage. (Lee Dingain)

Common Sandpiper Scarce passage migrant. Two on the Colne on Jul 30th 1933 is the first record (Low, 1933). Three on Apr 22nd 2008 is the highest count.

Green Sandpiper Scarce but regular passage migrant. Four on Aug 9th 1936 is the first record.

Spotted Redshank Very scarce autumn passage migrant. Much more regular before the 1980s. Nearly all records are from September and none have been recorded on spring passage. Three on Sep 13th 1952 is the first record. Four on Sep 7th 1966 is the highest count.

Greenshank Irregular passage migrant. 11 on Aug 21st 1977 is the highest count.

Lesser Yellowlegs One visited on five dates between September and November 1953 (also seen at Perry Oaks Sewage Farm and Ham Fields).

Wood Sandpiper Rare passage migrant. One on the Colne on Jul 30th 1933 is the first record (Low, 1933). Five on Sep 3rd 1977 is the highest count.

Redshank Scarce and declining breeder, passage migrant and winter visitor. Three pairs in 1932 is the first record. At least eight pairs were displaying on May 1st 2001, and 23 adults and three young on Jun 12th 1999 is the highest count.

Turnstone One to four from May 1st-Jun 6th, and up to seven from Aug 7th-24th 1948. One on May 6th & 10th 2001 is the last record.

Grey Phalarope One briefly on a flood on Oct 17th 1987 after The Great Storm.

Kittiwake One found dead on Feb 21st 1937 is the only record.

Black-headed Gull Recorded year-round. Frequently feed along the Colne.

Little Gull One from May 18th-24th 2001, and two dip-feeding along the Colne with Black-headed Gulls on May 15th 2004.

Mediterranean Gull One on Oct 16th 1993. Another from January-June 2001.

Common Gull Uncommon winter visitor.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Common flying over in winter. The highest count of birds on the Moor is c520 on Jul 22nd 1952.

Herring Gull Common flying over, especially in winter.

Iceland Gull One immature on Feb 23rd 1986.

Great Black-backed Gull c100 on Dec 29th 1979 is the highest count.

Sandwich Tern One on Oct 1st 1933 is the first record. Three on Sep 9th 1977.

Common Tern Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant. 14 fishing along the Colne on Jul 31st 2005 is the highest count.

Roseate Tern Two over east on May 12th 1960 was the second London record (also seen at King George VI Reservoir).

Arctic Tern One on Oct 16th 1987 is the only record.

Razorbill One on the Colne from Oct 19th-24th 1966.

Rock Dove Feral birds are often seen flying over.

Stock Dove Uncommon resident, has bred. 60 on May 5th 2004 is the highest count.

Woodpigeon Common resident and passage migrant. 520 over south on Oct 23rd 2005 is the highest count

Collared Dove Common visitor.

Turtle Dove One was present on Jan 27th 1974. The latest record is one on Aug 27th 2003.

Ring-necked Parakeet Common breeding resident.

Cuckoo Breeding summer migrant in small numbers. A chick was found in a Meadow Pipit nest containing three eggs on Jun 16th 1979.

Barn Owl Uncommon resident.

Little Owl Uncommon resident, probably breeds. One on Dec 10th 1939 is the first record. Two young were seen in 2008.

Short-eared Owl Irregular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant. Up to seven from Oct 28th-Dec 17th 1978 is the highest count. Exceptional numbers were at Staines Moor and Beddington Farmlands during the winter of 1958/59, with up to six present at Staines Moor. Analysis of 89 pellets collected from the Moor revealed the birds were feeding almost entirely on field voles *Microtus agrestis*. The highest recent count is six present from Nov 28th-Dec 5th 2002.

Swift Common passage migrant and summer visitor.

Kingfisher Uncommon resident. Probably breed nearby. Three on the Colne on Oct 12th 2009 included a possible juvenile.

Wryneck One on Aug 31st 1976 is the only record.

Green Woodpecker Resident in small numbers. Six on Sep 12th 2009 is the highest count.

Great Spotted Woodpecker Resident in small numbers. One on Dec 10th 1939 is the first record.

Short-toed Lark The first for London frequented an area near the Colne from Jun 8th-16th 1960.

Woodlark Very scarce passage migrant. One on Jul 25th 1948 is the first record.

Skylark Resident breeder and passage migrant. Nine territories were counted in 2010. 800-1,000 over west-south-west during a cold weather movement on Jan 1st 1979 is the highest count.

Sand Martin Passage migrant and summer visitor.

Swallow Passage migrant and summer visitor.

House Martin Passage migrant and summer visitor.

Richard's Pipit One on Dec 11th 2004.

Tree Pipit Scarce passage migrant.

Meadow Pipit Uncommon breeder and common passage migrant. At least 200 on Sep 28th 2008 is the highest passage count.

Rock Pipit One on Oct 20th 1999 is the first record. One of the Scandinavian race *Anthus petrosus littoralis* was beside the Colne on Mar 15th 2003.

Water Pipit Regular winter visitor to the Colne and flooded areas. One on Apr 3rd 1954 is the first record. 16 in March 2003 is the highest count.

Yellow Wagtail Regular passage migrant and former breeder. Breeding recorded from the 1930s to late 1960s. At least 12 pairs nested in 1955, most double brooded. Three to four pairs bred in 1966 but there were no territories in 1968, although birds were present. The highest passage count is 80 on Sep 10th 2002. Other races are regular, with ten *Motacilla flava flava* on Jul 8th 1946 the highest count. Some are long-staying such as a male *M. f. flava* from Apr 17th-May 25th 1948. The first record of a paler blue-headed male resembling *M. f. beema* (possibly 'Channel Wagtail') is May 7th-30th 1948 and seen associating with a nest-building female. Another male showing characteristics of *M. f. beema* on Apr 12th & 15th 2003 is also noteworthy.

Grey Wagtail Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to the Colne, singly or in pairs.

Pied Wagtail Uncommon resident and passage migrant. The highest count of the British *Motacilla alba yarrellii* is c50 on Nov 20th 2000. The nominate race, *M. a. alba*, frequently occurs on passage, and 2000 was an exceptional year with up to 31 birds in total, including ten on Apr 18th.

Wren Abundant resident.

Dunnock Common resident.

Robin Abundant resident.

Nightingale One on Jul 16th 2002 is the only recent record.

Bluethroat One 1st-summer on the island by the northern footbridge over the Colne on Apr 22nd 2006.

Redstart Scarce passage migrant.

Whinchat Scarce passage migrant. 11 on Sep 10th 2002 is the highest count. Up to four pairs bred from the 1930s to 1966 (last breeding attempt was in 1967).

Stonechat Winter visitor and passage migrant. 14 on Oct 8th 2008 is the highest count.

Wheatear Regular passage migrant. At least 20 on Apr 15th 2011 is the highest count. In Spring, birds showing characteristics of the 'Greenland' race *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa* often appear from about mid-April.

Ring Ouzel Scarce but regular passage migrant in spring and autumn. An adult male present from Jan 3rd-Apr 20th 1955 is particularly noteworthy (Barnes, 1956).

Blackbird Common resident and passage migrant. 50 on Nov 17th & 20th 2000 is the highest count.



Red-backed Shrike, Sep 13th 2005. This juvenile is only the second to be found at the Moor since this species last bred in 1940, the first occurring two years earlier. (Chris Turner)

Fieldfare Common winter visitor and passage migrant. 1,000 on Apr 15th 1977 is the highest count.

Song Thrush Common resident and winter visitor.

Redwing Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Mistle Thrush Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.

Cetti's Warbler One in October 2009 is the first record, and one was heard singing at Butts Pond on Oct 17th 2010.

Grasshopper Warbler Scarce passage migrant.

Sedge Warbler Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Reed Warbler Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Small numbers nest in Butts Pond and along Bonehead Ditch.

Blackcap Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Garden Warbler Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Lesser Whitethroat Uncommon breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Two or three pairs breed in the scrub at the north end.

Whitethroat Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Dartford Warbler Scarce autumn visitor. One immature with Stonechats on Oct 14th-19th 2002 is the first record. One on Oct 17th 2005. One on Oct 8th (also with Stonechats), Oct 10th-12th, and again (or another) on Nov 29th and Dec 7th 2008 (again with Stonechats). One on Mar 14th 2009 and one on Oct 9th-12th & 18th 2009.

Chiffchaff Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. A few are recorded in winter.

Willow Warbler Common passage migrant and occasional breeder. One with a mixed Willow Warbler/Chiffchaff song held territory along the old railway from 2005 to 2010.

Goldcrest Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Firecrest Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. One on Dec 14th 1984 is the first record.

Spotted Flycatcher Scarce passage migrant.

Pied Flycatcher Rare passage migrant. One on Aug 24th 1952 is the first record.

Long-tailed Tit Common breeding resident.

Blue Tit Common breeding resident.

Great Tit Common resident.

Willow Tit One on Feb 17th 1953 is the only record.

Nuthatch One heard for 20 minutes at Bonehead Ditch on Jun 19th 2004 is the first record. One seen on Sep 8th & 14th 2008 are the only other records.

Treecreeper Occasional visitor to Bonehead Ditch and the old railway.

Brown Shrike The first for London and first inland record, a 1st-winter bird was present Oct 11th-Dec 17th 2009 and again Jan 1st-2nd 2010.

Red-backed Shrike Appears to have been a regular breeder: recorded having nested 'as usual' in 1939. However, although a pair bred in 1940, none were recorded thereafter. One juvenile on Sep 28th-29th 2003 and another juvenile from Sep 10th-16th 2005 are the only subsequent records.

Great Grey Shrike One on Apr 9th 2000 is the first record. Also, one briefly on Oct 13th 2009 flew off high west.

Jay Resident in small numbers.

Magpie Common resident. 30 on Mar 7th and Nov 1st 2000 is the highest count.

Jackdaw Uncommon visitor. 130 on Dec 4th 2005 is the highest count.

Rook Scarce and irregular visitor. 11 on Feb 7th 2009 is the most recent record. Probably formerly much more regular, as a rookery containing 12 nests existed west of Moor Lane at Duncroft on the edge of Staines in the 1930s (Glegg, 1938).

Carrion Crow Common resident. 128 on Jun 9th 1996 is the highest count.

Starling Common resident. 1,500 on Feb 7th 1997 is the highest count. Also large post-breeding flocks often feed around the cattle.

House Sparrow Scarce and erratic visitor. Up to 20 in February, March and October 2000.

Tree Sparrow Very scarce visitor. Former winter visitor, and a few pairs bred until 1966 (first breeding record in 1937). Winter flocks peaked at c150 in 1939. One on Sep 19th 2009 is the most recent record.

Chaffinch Common resident and passage migrant.

Brambling Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Up to ten from Jan 4th-Mar 11th 1950 is first record. 20-40 in December 1952 is the highest count.

Greenfinch Common breeding resident.

Goldfinch Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. 145 on Aug 30th 2006 is the highest count.

Siskin Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.

Linnet Breeding resident in small numbers, passage migrant and winter visitor. 50 on Oct 6th 2000 is the highest count.

Twite Two on Sep 29th 1948 is the only record.

Lesser Redpoll Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.

Crossbill Rare passage migrant. 15 over south-west on Jul 25th 1953 is the first record.

Bullfinch Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. Most often seen singly or in pairs along the old railway.

Lapland Bunting Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. One on Oct 29th 2006, one on Sep 30th 2010, and two on Oct 10th 2010.

Reed Bunting Common breeding resident. Ten territories were recorded in 2003. At least 20 birds on Nov 5th 2007 is the highest count.

Corn Bunting Former breeding resident and winter visitor. Staines Moor was part of the local stronghold for this species up until the late 1930s, which included the fields east to Staines Reservoirs (Glegg, 1938). Bred from 1939 to 1960 (when one pair bred) and an unsuccessful attempt in 1967. Last wintering flocks were c30 on Mar 30th and Oct 25th 1959.

Note that records of Red-breasted Merganser in 1999 and Little Tern in 1997 are probably erroneous.

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BLACKBIRDS IN KENSINGTON GARDENS

ROY SANDERSON

Introduction

Between April and June 2011 a breeding season survey of Blackbirds was carried out in Kensington Gardens, using the Common Birds Census procedure. This method has been used for all of our previous breeding season surveys and entails marking all Blackbird sightings on maps for each of at least six visits.

The intention was to compare the number of territories held in 2011 with those from previous censuses, in the 1970s and 1994.

Adjustments were made following the 1994 census, as the boundary areas of Kensington Gardens had not been fully covered by the census workers. Using the 1970s maps, seven territories were added to compensate.

Results

The number of territories in 2011 was 20, compared to between 30 and 37 territories in 1994. Censuses were also carried out annually between 1967 and 1978. The average number of territories in those years was 70.

Therefore, since the 1970s, there has been a reduction of over 70% in the breeding population of Blackbirds in Kensington Gardens. The reduction since 1994 has been at least 30%.

These findings support the results already known from regular autumn counts of Blackbirds. Those counts show a reduction of 67% in Blackbird numbers in Kensington Gardens between 1994 and 2005. That compares with a fall of 13% in the London Area as a whole over the same period (BTO Breeding Birds Survey).

The 2011 map shows that most sites chosen by the Blackbirds are similar to those chosen in 1994. But there are two specific areas where the decline is most noticeable. One is the area around Kensington Palace, where there is extensive re-development work in progress. The other is the Flower Walk, where Blackbird territories have fallen from 13 to five since the 1970s; this shows a continuing trend which was first noticed in 1994, when the fall from the 1970s was from 13 to ten territories.

Conclusions

Possible reasons for the decline are:

Excessive pruning of shrubs This would reduce nesting opportunities and make the nests vulnerable to predators, such as Magpie.

Blowing of leaves from the shrubberies Blackbirds feed by moving leaves and feeding beneath them; if leaves are removed, the ground dries and hardens and the food supply normally found in the cool, damp conditions under the leaves is no longer available. The leaves are later returned to the soil as mulch, and this may well make matters worse.

A Paper by Lucinda Graymore M.Sc. was presented to The Central Royal Parks Wildlife Group at their June meeting. She has brought together research from several sources, including the Woodland Trust and the RSPB. She confirms that leaf litter is a fantastic



Blackbird carrying nesting material. (Ralph Hancock)

wildlife source, providing habitats for invertebrates, frogs, toads and small mammals. Leaf litter provides large quantities of nutrients in the ecosystem that many plant species rely on for healthy growth. In winter, she says, leaf litter raises the soil temperature, increasing the life span of invertebrates.

A high proportion of the leaves in Kensington Gardens are from the non-native London Plane and these large leaves are tough and take some time to break down if they remain whole. One avenue of research being considered is to find a suitable machine that would shred leaves and immediately return them to the soil. Questions about that include the behaviour of the resulting smaller leaves in a strong wind! Research is continuing.

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Blackbird foraging for food in leaf-litter. (Ralph Hancock)



NORTH KENT MARSHES FIELD TRIPS WITH KEN PALMER, 1976 TO 2002 - A SUMMARY

MIKE TRIER

Full data and notes on status at <http://www.lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2011>

This report from the LNHS Newsletter No.139 sums up the typical atmosphere of Ken Palmer's field trips on the North Kent Marshes, enjoyed by many over the years:

'North Kent Marshes: 31 August 1996. Twelve of the party of 20 arrived at Strood Station by train, leaving far fewer spare seats than usual in the six cars. Weather conditions, dry and light overcast, were ideal and the tide was high at 3:30 pm. These conditions, combined with the August date, were ideal for finding a high number of species. At the end of the day we had recorded 90 species, beating by seven our previous highest for this site. Five of these - Marsh Harrier, Yellow-legged Gull, Black Tern, Garden Warbler and (at last) Willow Warbler - had not been recorded on any of the previous 29 field trips here.

'Our first stop near Stoke lagoon produced numerous Bearded Tits as well as the Marsh Harrier. The rest of the morning was spent at Grain. Here the tide slowly pushed the waders nearer and the bushes held good numbers of migrating warblers. Our lunch stop was spent at Eastborough Farm where a Little Owl gazed out at us from the shelter of an elder bush. A Hobby hunted overhead and a Green Sandpiper was on the lagoon. We spent the afternoon at Cliffe. The tide was already high when we got there. On the Alpha Pool, the high tide roost produced two Little Stints, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Greenshank, a Black Tern sleeping among the Sandwich Terns and a lone Yellow-legged Gull. We caught up with the flocks of Avocets and Black-tailed Godwits on the Black Barn pools. The bushes round here were full of migrant Whinchats, Whitethroats, Lesser Whitethroats and Garden Warbler. On the banks of the river Grey Plovers stood resplendent in summer plumage and a Whimbrel flew off calling. At least six Little Egrets were scattered throughout the area. Our 90 species were reached without such expected species as Skylark (ominously absent), Great Tit, Song Thrush, Sand Martin and Blackcap!'

Map of sites visited. © OpenStreetMap contributors, <http://openstreetmap.org>



Sites visited

The locations visited on each trip varied (see map). The following shows the percentage of times each site was visited (out of 41) and the first and last years when visited.

All Hallows/Yantlet Creek: on 63% of trips (76-02); Cliffe: on 85% of trips (77-01); Coombe Bay: on 20% of trips (85-93); Grain: on 51% of trips (85-02); Egypt/St Mary's Bay: on 7% of trips (87-96); Cooling: on 5% of trips (96-98); Eastborough Farm: on 17% of trips (94-00); Northward Hill: only once, in 2001; High Halstow: only once, in 2002.

Systematic list of species and frequency of occurrence

Species are recorded in the contemporary systematic list order for 2002 and using the contemporary species names. The percentage frequency with which each species was recorded on 41 field trips is listed, and the first and last years when recorded. The total number of species recorded on all the trips from 1976 to 2002 was 169, excluding escapes.

Divers, grebes & Cormorant

Red-throated Diver: only once, in 1993
 Little Grebe: Every trip (76-02)
 Great Crested Grebe: on 83% of trips (77-02)
 Red-necked Grebe: only once, in 1992
 Slavonian Grebe: on 7% of trips (87-91)
 Black-necked Grebe: only once, in 1985
 Cormorant: Every trip (76-02)

Pochard: on 85% of trips (77-02)
 Tufted Duck: on 95% of trips (77-02)
 Scaup: on 20% of trips (85-94)
 Eider: only once, in 1977
 Long-tailed Duck: only once, in 1992
 Common Scoter: on 5% of trips (85-97)
 Goldeneye: on 39% of trips (85-98)
 Smew: only from 1987-88
 Red-breasted Merganser: on 12% of trips (85-98)
 Ruddy Duck: on 20% of trips (91-01)

Herons, swans & geese

Little Egret: on 39% of trips (93-02)
 Grey Heron: Every trip (76-02)
 Mute Swan: on 98% of trips (76-02)
 Bewick's Swan: on 7% of trips (83-90)
 White-fronted Goose: on 10% of trips (85-94)
 Greylag Goose: on 61% of trips (76-02)
 Canada Goose: on 32% of trips (78-94)
 Brent Goose: on 56% of trips (85-02)

Raptors

Marsh Harrier: on 17% of trips (96-02)
 Hen Harrier: on 24% of trips (84-02)
 Sparrowhawk: on 29% of trips (85-01)
 Buzzard: only once, in 1998
 Osprey: only once, in 1997
 Kestrel: on 95% of trips (76-02)
 Merlin: on 7% of trips (89-02)
 Hobby: on 12% of trips (95-01)
 Peregrine: on 20% of trips (91-02)

Ducks

Shelduck: on 88% of trips (76-02)
 Wigeon: on 63% of trips (76-02)
 Gadwall: on 46% of trips (85-02)
 Teal: on 83% of trips (76-02)
 Mallard: Every trip (76-02)
 Pintail: on 49% of trips (78-00)
 Garganey: on 5% of trips (91-96)
 Shoveler: on 76% of trips (77-02)
 Red-crested Pochard: only once, in 1991

Game-birds & rails

Red-legged Partridge: on 37% of trips (88-02)
 Grey Partridge: on 22% of trips (76-95)
 Pheasant: on 80% of trips (76-02)
 Water Rail: on 7% of trips (85-02)
 Moorhen: on 95% of trips (76-02)
 Coot: on 95% of trips (77-02)

Waders

Oystercatcher: on 95% of trips (77-02)
 Avocet: on 27% of trips (86-01)
 Little Ringed Plover: only from 1999-01
 Ringed Plover: on 95% of trips (76-02)
 Golden Plover: on 39% of trips (76-01)
 Grey Plover: on 98% of trips (76-02)
 Lapwing: on 98% of trips (76-02)
 Knot: on 44% of trips (77-02)
 Sanderling: on 24% of trips (81-02)
 Little Stint: on 22% of trips (76-01)
 Pectoral Sandpiper: only once, in 1978
 Curlew Sandpiper: on 15% of trips (77-99)
 Dunlin: on 95% of trips (76-02)
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper: only once, in 1977
 Ruff: on 34% of trips (76-01)
 Jack Snipe: only once, in 1988
 Snipe: on 73% of trips (76-02)
 Black-tailed Godwit: on 46% of trips (79-02)
 Bar-tailed Godwit: on 37% of trips (80-02)
 Whimbrel: on 17% of trips (76-01)
 Curlew: on 98% of trips (76-02)
 Spotted Redshank: on 24% of trips (76-99)
 Redshank: Every trip (76-02)
 Greenshank: on 41% of trips (76-01)
 Green Sandpiper: on 29% of trips (76-99)
 Wood Sandpiper: only once, in 1995
 Common Sandpiper: on 20% of trips (76-01)
 Turnstone: on 93% of trips (76-02)

Skuas, gulls, terns & auks

Arctic Skua: on 5% of trips (82-96)
 Mediterranean Gull: on 10% of trips (94-01)
 Little Gull: only in 1995 and 98
 Black-headed Gull: Every trip (76-02)
 Common Gull: on 88% of trips (76-02)
 Lesser Black-backed Gull: on 90% of trips (77-02)
 Herring Gull: on 98% of trips (76-02)
 Yellow-legged Gull: only once, in 1996
 Great Black-backed Gull: on 93% of trips (77-02)
 Kittiwake: only once, in 1992
 Sandwich Tern: on 10% of trips (95-00)
 Common Tern: on 20% of trips (81-01)

Black Tern: only in 1996 and 98
 Guillemot: only once, in 1988
 Little Auk: only once, in 1985

Doves, Cuckoo & owls

Feral/Rock Dove*: on 29% of trips (95-02;
 *not included in records before 1995)
 Stock Dove: on 68% of trips (76-02)
 Woodpigeon: on 95% of trips (76-02)
 Collared Dove: on 88% of trips (76-02)
 Turtle Dove: on 15% of trips (80-00)
 Cuckoo: only in 1979 and 99
 Barn Owl: on 32% of trips (81-02)
 Little Owl: on 24% of trips (90-02)
 Tawny Owl: on 22% of trips (87-93)
 Long-eared Owl: on 34% of trips (85-00)
 Short-eared Owl: on 7% of trips (92-02)

Hirundines, Kingfisher, woodpeckers & larks

Swift: on 15% of trips (81-01)
 Kingfisher: on 20% of trips (77-96)
 Green Woodpecker: on 46% of trips (86-02)
 Great Spotted Woodpecker: on 24% of trips (86-01)
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: only once, in 1977
 Skylark: on 93% of trips (76-02)
 Shore Lark: only once, in 1998
 Sand Martin: on 24% of trips (77-01)
 Swallow: on 44% of trips (76-01)
 House Martin: on 37% of trips (77-01)

Pipits, wagtails & chats

Meadow Pipit: Every trip (76-02)
 Water Pipit: only from 2000-01
 Rock Pipit: on 41% of trips (76-02)
 Yellow Wagtail: on 24% of trips (77-01)
 Grey Wagtail: only once, in 2002
 Pied Wagtail: on 71% of trips (77-02)
 White Wagtail: only once, in 1991
 Wren: on 76% of trips (76-02)
 Dunnock: on 90% of trips (76-02)
 Robin: on 88% of trips (76-02)

Whinchat: on 20% of trips (76-01)
 Stonechat: on 34% of trips (88-02)
 Wheatear: on 34% of trips (76-01)

Thrushes

Blackbird: on 95% of trips (77-02)
 Fieldfare: on 46% of trips (85-02)
 Song Thrush: on 68% of trips (76-02)
 Redwing: on 27% of trips (81-97)
 Mistle Thrush: on 78% of trips (80-02)

Warblers

Sedge Warbler: on 10% of trips (95-98)
 Reed Warbler: on 17% of trips (76-00)
 Lesser Whitethroat: on 7% of trips (80-98)
 Whitethroat: on 17% of trips (95-01)
 Garden Warbler: only from 1996-97
 Blackcap: on 17% of trips (85-01)
 Chiffchaff: on 10% of trips (88-98)
 Willow Warbler: on 7% of trips (96-00)

Crests & tits

Goldcrest: on 22% of trips (84-02)
 Firecrest: only once, in 1994
 Bearded Tit: (Reedling): on 7% of trips (76-96)
 Pied Flycatcher: only once, in 2001
 Long-tailed Tit: on 41% of trips (85-02)
 Marsh Tit: only once, in 1990
 Blue Tit: on 90% of trips (76-02)
 Great Tit: on 59% of trips (83-02)
 Treecreeper: only once, in 1985

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Pete Lambert for help with presentation of the data; and to David Montier for helpful suggestions and for his introduction on the changing status of some species (on the LNHS website together with Ken Palmer's original data - address on page 229).

Mike Trier, 38 Maury Road, London, N16 7BP

Footnote

Ken Palmer sadly died before the publication of this *London Bird Report*. An obituary will appear in *The London Naturalist* No. 91 for 2013.

Crows

Jay: on 15% of trips (86-01)
 Magpie: on 90% of trips (76-02)
 Jackdaw: on 78% of trips (76-02)
 Rook: on 85% of trips (76-02)
 Carrion Crow: on 95% of trips (78-02)
 Starling: Every trip (76-02)

Sparrows, finches & buntings

House Sparrow: Every trip (76-02)
 Tree Sparrow: on 12% of trips (79-93)
 Chaffinch: on 73% of trips (80-02)
 Brambling: only in 1989 and 92
 Greenfinch: on 83% of trips (76-02)
 Goldfinch: on 90% of trips (76-02)
 Siskin: on 7% of trips (85-93)
 Linnet: on 85% of trips (76-02)
 Redpoll: on 7% of trips (76-97)
 Bullfinch: on 15% of trips (77-94)
 Lapland Bunting: only once, in 1985
 Snow Bunting: on 7% of trips (87-96)
 Yellowhammer: on 27% of trips (79-96)
 Reed Bunting: on 66% of trips (76-01)
 Corn Bunting: on 51% of trips (76-02)

Escapes

Black Swan: only once, in 1999
 Bar-headed Goose: only once, in 1986
 Snow Goose: only once, in 1988
 Chukar: only once, in 1992
 Greater Flamingo: only in 1994 and 97
 Chilean Flamingo: on 10% of trips (92-94)
 Flamingo species: only from 1991-92
 Budgerigar: only once, in 1984

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS AT WELL-WATCHED SITES

Where a full version of the highlights has been submitted also, it is posted on the LNHS website at <http://lnhs.org.uk/Publications.htm#LBR2011>.

Alexandra Park

Alexandra Park is mixed parkland of 80ha (196ac)

Location LB Haringey; Vice-County Middx; Grid ref TQ302900; Postcode N22 7AY

Information <http://friendsofalexandrapark.org>

Annotated map As above - 'Map of the park'

A very good total of 109 species was recorded - not as good as the previous two years, but still the fourth highest total on record. One more species was added to the Park's list, namely Short-eared Owl; unfortunately, the sighting was a single-observer record. This brings the overall species total for the Study Area to 174.

There were some noticeable absences on the year-list, namely Ring Ouzel, Wood Warbler, Pied Flycatcher and Brambling. Only two Bullfinches were seen, and there was a pitiful single record for Sedge Warbler. It was probably the worst autumn on record for Whinchat in the Park, with only two records.

Wood Sandpiper at Beddington Farmlands, April 30th. (Peter Alfrey)



On the positive side, the wintering Firecrest was seen up until early February, with a second bird seen in May, and Yellowhammer had a good year with three individuals being seen.

Notable species putting in a rare appearance were Golden Plover, Dunlin, Turtle Dove, Wryneck, Woodlark, Waxwing and Crossbill. The Wryneck stayed around for well over a week, although it went for a period of five days without being seen.

Little Grebe bred again, with a pair on the Boating Pond having two broods and a second pair successfully fledging young on the New River. Great Crested Grebes managed to hatch five young, and - for the second year in a row - Kestrels bred in the Barn Owl box by Wood Green Reservoir. Sparrowhawks appeared to be back down to one breeding pair. However, there were three pairs of Nuthatch (up from only one pair last year) and at least two pairs of Coal Tit.

ANDREW GARDENER, 50 Springfield Avenue, Muswell Hill, London, N10 3SY

Beddington Farmlands

Beddington Farmlands is a nature reserve with 160ha (400ac) of mixed habitat

Location LB Merton; Vice-County Surrey; Grid ref TQ290662; Postcode SM6 7BJ

Information <http://beddingtonfarmlands.org.uk>

The above site includes an aerial photograph

The postcode is for Hackbridge railway station which is the meeting point for guided walks. The birding side of the farm is behind the station and can be accessed from Mile Road: turn right out of the station and head towards the shops; Mile Road is a small parking area/road between the tile shop and a large house. Then walk through the kissing gate and over the railway bridge to the gates at the end of this path.

Bird of the year was a Black Kite that flew north on July 15th. It was a fairly good Raptor year overall with 80+ Buzzards in April alone, nine spring Red Kites, three Marsh Harriers in April, one Osprey in September and two Merlin.

Another highlight was a Crane which was circling the farm for over 15 minutes on Apr 25th. This was the third record in only two years - previous to 2010 this species had not been recorded at Beddington. A first-winter Kumlien's Gull arrived in November - the first record of this taxon for Beddington - and a Cetti's Warbler which arrived on Oct 17th was only the third site record.

Wader highlights included a Pectoral Sandpiper from Sep 18th-20th, five Wood Sandpipers, two Avocets on May 25th, a Curlew Sandpiper on Sep 6th, two Bar-tailed Godwits on Apr 29th and a fairly good autumn passage of Black-tailed Godwit with one bird staying for a record period of nearly the whole month of August.

A Spotted Crake on Oct 7th was another 2011 highlight.

Passerine highlights included eight Waxwing on Jan 26th, a Grasshopper Warbler on Apr 22nd and a Snow Bunting on Nov 9th.

PETER ALFREY, Flat 9, 4 Primrose Close, Hackbridge, Surrey, SM6 7HJ

www.peteralfreynature.co.uk

Editorial note: There was a report of a Woodlark and of a Lesser Black-backed Gull that might have been a Baltic Gull, but to date no details of these have been received.

Brent Reservoir

Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp) is a Local Nature Reserve and SSSI

Location Neasden; Vice-County Middx; Grid ref TQ215870

Information http://londonbirders.wikia.com/wiki/Brent_Reservoir

Annotated map <http://www.aardvarkmap.net/maps/MP1YP4X5>

This year 133 species were seen, with some good records of birds rarely seen in our area. It was a good year for waders; evidence of the Waxwing invasion continued just into May; and more Buzzards were seen than ever before. Our autumn Visible Migration count (Vis-Mig) covered 63 days - a little in August/September then October the best and continuing until Nov 29th; watching from the Dump, with high totals of species and birds, a final total of 18,100 birds were counted flying over. The year's best birds were Goshawk, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Short-eared Owl, Great Skua, Black-necked Grebe, Jack Snipe, Woodcock, Smew and Garganey.

ANDREW VERRALL, Flat 16 Davina House, Fordwych Road, London, NW2 3TW

Canons Farm and Banstead Woods

Canons Farm and Banstead Woods together form a large area of mixed, dynamic habitat

Location Banstead; Vice-County Surrey; Grid ref TQ248577; Postcode KT20 6DD or CR5 3NR

Information and access details <http://cfwbirds.blogspot.co.uk>

The above site includes an annotated map

An excellent year with 109 species recorded; an increase from 104 in 2010. This site is best known for passerine migrants, and 2011 was no exception with the first Wood Warbler for many years and four Ring Ouzels amongst the most notable. Wheatear were present on 63 dates. A pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers was watched for three months, which built a nest and fed young.

The winter periods at the farm held large flocks of winter visitors with up to 25 Yellowhammers and 150 Lesser Redpolls and an unusually large flock of over 800 Linnets. Two Mealy Redpolls in Banstead Woods were unusual winter visitors, as were Waxwings on several dates, while a flock of 39 Brent Geese was a first for the site as was a fly-over Grey Plover.

There were plenty of uncommon migrants in 2011. The two most widely unusual visitors were a singing Wood Warbler and, for the second year running, a Quail. Wheatear were almost common at times and Whinchat was seen on 21 dates. Seven Grasshopper Warblers, four Ring Ouzels, several Tree Pipits and Yellow Wagtails, a Firecrest, eight Spotted Flycatchers, two Black Redstarts and at least eight Redstarts passed through the farm. CFBW's first Reed Warbler over-shadowed these in terms of patch rarity though!

A good variety of raptors were seen with the first two site records of Marsh Harrier, 14 Red Kite sightings and an Osprey for the second year running. Hobby, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel bred.

Little Owls were common at the farm, there were several pairs of Tawny Owls, and a Barn Owl was seen sporadically throughout the year. Two migrant Short-eared Owls stopped off at the farm.

Good numbers of birds bred on site with up to six pairs of Yellowhammer, three pairs

of Willow Warbler, over 40 pairs of Whitethroat, 14 pairs of Nuthatch and up to four pairs of Garden Warbler. A pair of Cuckoos were on site for at least ten days and may have bred.

PAUL GOODMAN, 3 Colcokes Road, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 2EJ
DAVID CAMPBELL, canonsfarmbirds@hotmail.co.uk

Crossness

Crossness is a Local Nature Reserve of 25.5ha (63 ac) on the Thames Estuary

Location LB Bexley; Vice-County Kent; Grid ref TQ478815; Postcode DA17 6FB

Information www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk

Annotated map <http://natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk>

Observer coverage dropped from last year's levels, and this was reflected in the number of species recorded, which was 150, compared with 164 in 2010. Nevertheless, there were some excellent records.

Highlights of the first winter period included a juvenile Iceland Gull, Red-breasted Merganser, two Scaup, a flock of 12 Avocets, two Bearded Tits, three Little Gulls, a Ruff, a Brambling and an exceptional count of 23 Grey Plovers. A fully-winged, unringed, very wary first-winter Marbled Duck on Jan 10th might turn out to be London's first, if accepted by BOURC as wild.

Spring saw another Iceland Gull, a Marsh Harrier, two Redstarts, a Turtle Dove, a Little Tern, a flock of 12 Little Gulls and a surprise drake Mandarin Duck. Wader passage was exceptional, and included a Curlew Sandpiper, a Spotted Redshank, two Little Stints and three Wood Sandpipers.

Ring Ouzel at Canons Farm. (David Campbell)





Brent Geese. (David Campbell)

Cetti's Warbler established itself as a breeding species, with at least two successful pairs, and Barn Owls nested successfully for the first time since 2007.

Autumn produced four Arctic Skuas, a Honey Buzzard, a Guillemot, another Curlew Sandpiper, an unseasonal August Goldeneye, a Garganey, two Marsh Harriers, two Avocets, 18 Brent Geese, a Pintail, a Common Scoter and a Red-breasted Merganser. Birds of the year (Marbled Duck notwithstanding) were adult and first-winter Roseate Terns on Sep 25th, which drew plenty of admiring birders.

The year closed with another Avocet, a Short-eared Owl, a Knot and a flock of 20 White-fronted Geese.

JOHN ARCHER, 8 Smead Way, London, SE13 7GE
john_archer@gofast.co.uk

Rainham Marshes

Rainham Marshes RSPB Reserve is a Metropolitan SINC and SSSI on the Thames Estuary

Location LB Havering; Vice-County Essex; Grid ref TQ525800; Postcode RM13 9YQ

Information www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/r/rainhammarshes

Annotated map A link on the above site with suggested walks and other features

January: The year started with a bang with nearly 100 species on day one including three Bewick's Swans, three different species of grey geese, Hen Harrier, Merlin and Waxwing! Numerous Caspian Gulls and a single Glaucous Gull were seen; Yellowhammer, Tree Sparrow and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker added passerine interest and Red Kite was the pick of the other raptors.

February: An Iceland Gull added interest. Two Turnstone and 16 Avocet were among the waders seen, and there were more Waxwing sightings.

March and April: The typical mix of seasons with more Waxwings while ten Red Kites and the first migrants moved through. Ring Ouzel, Garganey, Raven and Alpine Swift (16th) were the pick and there was a moderate tern and wader passage.

May: Things petered out and wader passage was mediocre although Wood Sandpiper and Little Stint were recorded. Two Ring Ouzels and a Spotted Flycatcher were also seen and another Red Kite flew through.

June and July: The first returning waders included Wood and Curlew Sandpipers and river highlights of Black and Little Terns and a Kittiwake. Small parties of Crossbill were seen in both months.

August: River watching was superb, with four tern species, two Razorbills and a Guillemot on the 23rd and five species of tern on the 26th including White-winged Black. The same day 410 Golden Plover and 32 Whimbrel were seen. A second brood of Bearded Tit appeared, after the first brood in June, and two Tree Pipits were amongst the passage chats and wagtails.

September: A westerly month, and passage was slow. A Red-rumped Swallow was seen on the 8th while a Manx Shearwater the day before was popular. Lots of raptor action included 19 Marsh Harriers, two Ospreys, 56 Buzzards and a male Hen Harrier.

October: Passerines were moving in all directions with Tree Sparrow, Lapland Bunting, Ring Ouzel and Firecrest being the best. Late terns were on the river, and a Long-tailed Skua and Sabine's Gull were seen on the 7th and a record five Arctic Skuas on the 18th.

November and December: Fairly bland and un-wintery although Black-tailed Godwits reached a record 560. Smew and Little Gulls were on the Thames in November with Kittiwake and Gannet in December. November was a five-bunting month, and there were also late Wheatear, Ring Ouzel and Sedge Warbler records. The Spotted Redshank returned to winter, and a Pectoral Sandpiper on the 7th and 8th December was unseasonal. Bearded Tits stole the show as we headed into 2012.

HOWARD VAUGHAN - Information Officer, RSPB Rainham Marshes
New Tank Hill Road, Purfleet, Essex, RM19 1SZ

Editorial Note: There were also reports of Whooper Swan, Snow Bunting, Slaty-backed Gull, Lapland Bunting, Goshawk, Penduline Tits, Great Egret, Montagu's Harrier, Long-eared Owl, Honey Buzzard, Whiskered Tern, Richard's Pipit, Pomarine Skua and a probable Azorean Gull. These are either still being considered by the BBRC or no details have been received by our Rarities Committee. (See Appendix III for details of these records.)

Staines Reservoirs

Staines Reservoirs are 170ha (420ac) with N and S basins separated by a causeway

Location Spelthorne, Surrey; Vice-County Middx; Grid ref TQ051731; Postcode TW18 4HZ

Information http://londonbirders.wikia.com/wiki/Staines_Reservoir

The above site includes a link to a location map

In a fair-to-middling year, the main scarcities were Velvet Scoter in January and again in April; 20 Waxwings on Jan 24th; Roseate Tern on May 10th; Great Skua on Sep 26th and Arctic Skua on Oct 6th.

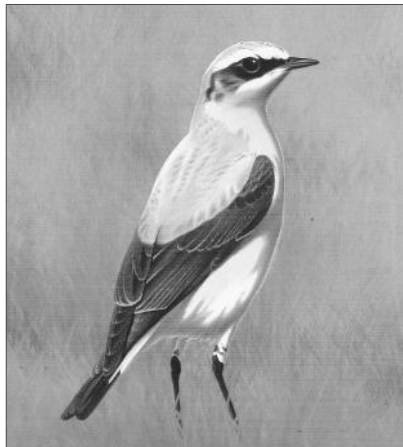
Several Brent Goose sightings included 20 on Nov 8th, and probably nine Common Scoter and the same total of Scaup were logged. Four singles of Red-breasted Merganser is good by recent standards. Goldeneye peaked at 59 and up to eight Smew appeared, but there were only two Pintail. One or two Great Northern Divers were around during January to May, then another from Nov 29th into 2012.

Grebes included Red-necked in January and February, with brief singles on Aug 18th and Sep 21st; odd sightings of Slavonian before a showy bird turned up in April and May; and Black-necked in all months bar January, though the peak was only five. A Shag arrived on Sep 19th and lingered for about six months!

Waders found little to detain them and many records were of fly-throughs. A heavy movement of Bar-tailed Godwits on May 1st totalled about 85 birds and was mirrored elsewhere in London. A single Avocet showed up on Apr 2nd. Both Little Ringed and Ringed Plovers were unusually scarce, as were Turnstones. Five records of Grey Plover and two of single Knot was about average, but two of Sanderling (just four birds in May) and three of Black-tailed Godwit (total eight individuals) was lousy! Four single Ruff passed through in autumn. Whimbrel totalled 18 and Greenshank 11 during the year.

Little Gulls hit a brief peak of 49 on Apr 17th and as many as 36 Mediterranean Gulls visited in total. Passage terns included perhaps nine Little and up to 22 Black (May 2nd), and seven Sandwich and up to 15 Arctic (May 3rd). A mere handful of Common Terns fledged among the 121-odd nests of Black-headed Gull.

Other notables included Short-eared Owls on Mar 9th and Nov 9th-11th, *littoralis* Rock Pipit in breeding plumage on Mar 26th-28th and up to three Water Pipits in December. ROB INNES, 14 Dorchester Court, Greenlands Road, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 4LS



Wheatear. (Jan Wilczur)

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA AND GUIDE TO CONTRIBUTORS OF ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS

The total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times is now 365, with the addition of Eastern Crowned Warbler in 2011 and the removal of the 1983 record of Bonaparte's Gull. 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.

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the Society's Ornithological Records Committee. 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 Records Committee reserves the right to request full details for any record, e.g. 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.

Key:

- A = all records.
- B = all breeding records.
- BBRC = full description required (form available from recorders). *British Birds* Rarities Committee makes the decision.
- D = full description required (form available from recorders).
- F&L = first and last dates for any site.
- MM = dated monthly maximum counts.
- N = brief notes required (how identified, view, distance, etc., form available from recorders).
- NR = all records from sites where bird not seen regularly.
- P = passage movements.
- S = all records between mid-May and mid-July.
- ST = annual statement of status at a site.
- T = all territory counts.
- W = records outside breeding season.

Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	A, N
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	A, N
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	A, D
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	A, D
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	A
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	MM, NR, B, ST

Red-breasted Goose*	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	BBRC
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	A
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	A, N
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	MM, B, ST
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	A
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	MM, NR, B, S
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	A
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	A
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	A, D
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	MM, NR, S, B
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	MM, NR, S, B
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	A, D
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MM, B, ST
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	A
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	A
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	BBRC
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	MM, NR, S, B
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	A
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	A, D
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	A, D
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	A
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	BBRC
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	A, N
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	BBRC
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	A, N
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	A
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	A, D
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	A
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	A
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	A
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	A
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	A, B, ST
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	A
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	A
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	A
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	A, N
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	A, N
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	A
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	BBRC
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	A
Slavonian Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	A
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	A

Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	A, D
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	A, D
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	A, D
Barolo Shearwater	<i>Puffinus baroli</i>	BBRC
European Storm-petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	A, D
Leach's Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	A, D
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	A, N
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	A
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	A
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	BBRC
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	A, D
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	BBRC
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	A, D
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	A, D
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	A, D
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	BBRC
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	A, D
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	BBRC until 2013, then A,D
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	A, D
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	A, D
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	A, D
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	A
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	A, D
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	A, D
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	A, D
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	A
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	A, D
Golden Eagle*	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	A, D
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	A
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	BBRC
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A, D
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	A, N away from Lower Thames
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Gyr Falcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	BBRC
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	A
Spotted Crane	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	A, D
Little Crane*	<i>Porzana parva</i>	BBRC
Baillon's Crane*	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	BBRC
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	A, D

Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	MM, B, ST
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	MM, B, ST
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	A, D
Great Bustard*	<i>Otis tarda</i>	BBRC
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	A
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	BBRC
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	A
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	A, D
Cream-coloured Courser*	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	BBRC
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	BBRC
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	A
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	A
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	BBRC
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	A, D
Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	A, D
American Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	A, D
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	BBRC
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	A
Sociable Lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	BBRC
White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	BBRC
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	MM, NR, P, B
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	A
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	A
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	BBRC
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	A
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	A, D
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	A, D
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	BBRC
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	A, D
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	BBRC
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	A
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	A, D
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	BBRC
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	A, D
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	A
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	A
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	BBRC
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	BBRC
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	A
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	A
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	A
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	A
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	A

Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	BBRC
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	A
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	BBRC
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	A
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	A
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	BBRC
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	BBRC
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	A
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	A
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	BBRC
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	A, D
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	A, D
Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	A, D
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	A, D
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	A, D
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	A, D
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	A
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	MM, B, ST
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	A
Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	BBRC
Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	BBRC
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	A
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	MM, ST
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	A, D
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	MM, B, ST
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	MM, B, ST
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	A
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, West London reservoirs or Beddington
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, West London reservoirs or Beddington
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	BBRC
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, West London reservoirs or Beddington
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>	BBRC
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>	BBRC
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	A
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	BBRC
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	BBRC
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	BBRC
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	A

White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	A, D
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	A
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	A, D
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	A
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	A, D
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	A, D
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	A, D
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	A, D
Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrrhaptes paradoxus</i>	BBRC
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	MM, B, ST
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	MM, B, ST, P
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	A
Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	A, F&L
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	BBRC
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	A
Scops Owl*	<i>Otus scops</i>	BBRC
Snowy Owl	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	BBRC
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	A
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	A
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	A
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	A
Tengmalm's Owl*	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	BBRC
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	A, N
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	BBRC
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	MM, B, P, F&L, ST
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	A, D
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	T
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	A, D
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	BBRC
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	A, D
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	A, D
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	T
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	T
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	T
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	A, D
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	BBRC
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	A
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	A, B, P, W
Shore Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	A, D
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	MM, NR, B, F&L, P, ST
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	A, D

Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>	A, D
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	A, D
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	BBRC
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	A
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	MM, NR, B, W, P, ST
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	A, D
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	A
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	A
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	A
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	BBRC
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	MM, NR, B, W, ST
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	A
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	A, D
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	MM, T, ST
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	MM, T, ST
Alpine Accentor*	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	BBRC
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	MM, T, ST
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	A
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	A, D
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	A
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	A
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	A
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	A
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	A
Desert Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe deserti</i>	BBRC
Grey-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	BBRC
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	A
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	MM, T, ST
Naumann's Thrush	<i>Turdus naumanni</i>	BBRC
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	MM, NR, F&L, P
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	MM, NR, P, T, ST
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	MM, NR, F&L, P
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	MM, NR, P, T, ST
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	BBRC
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	A
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	A
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinoides</i>	BBRC
Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	A, D
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	MM, NR, T, F&L, ST
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>	BBRC
Blyth's Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>	BBRC
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	A, D
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	MM, NR, T, F&L, ST
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	A, D
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	A, D
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, B, ST, W

Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	A, F&L, T
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	A, D
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, B, ST
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, B, ST
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	A
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	A, D
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	BBRC
Eastern Crowned Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus coronatus</i>	BBRC
Pallas's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	A, D
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	A, D
Hume's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	BBRC
Radde's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>	A, D
Dusky Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	A, D
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	A
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	MM, NR, F&L, T, ST, W
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	BBRC
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	A, F&L, T
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	MM, NR, T, ST, W
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	A
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	A
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	A, D
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	A
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	A
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	MM, NR, T, ST, W
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	MM, T, ST
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	MM, T, ST
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	A, D
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	MM, NR, T, ST
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	A, D
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	A
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	T
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	T
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	BBRC
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	BBRC
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	A, D
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	BBRC
Isabelline Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	BBRC
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	A, D
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	BBRC
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	A, D
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	A, D
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	MM, B, ST
Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	BBRC
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus 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>	A, N
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	MM, B, P, ST
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	A, D
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	A
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	MM, B, P, ST
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	A
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	A, D
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	MM, NR, B, W
Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	A, D
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Mealy Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	A
Arctic Redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	A, D
Two-barred Crossbill*	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	BBRC
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	A
Parrot Crossbill*	<i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i>	A, D
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	A, D
Pine Grosbeak*	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	BBRC
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	A, B, ST
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	A
Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	A, D
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	A, N
Pine Bunting	<i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i>	BBRC
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	A
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	A, D
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	A, D
Rustic Bunting	<i>Emberiza rustica</i>	A, D
Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	A, D
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	MM, NR, T, P, ST
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	BBRC
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	A

In addition to the above, full descriptions are required for all species assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee. Description forms are available from the Editor or Recorders on request. All records of escapes are also welcomed by the Society. All records of hybrids and birds showing plumage aberrance are also required.

Subspecies

All records of subspecies/races are wanted. 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.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Editorial Board welcomes papers, short notes, photographs and drawings relating to the ornithology of the London Area and will be pleased to advise authors on the acceptability of material at draft stage if desired.

PAPERS should be submitted to the Papers Editor: Mike Trier, 38 Maury Road, London N16 7BP, email: miketrier@waitrose.com, tel: 020 8806 7656.

Texts should be sent as RTF or MS Word file attachments to an email. The dates of all records included should be no later than the nominal year of publication. Printed text (hard copy) can be scanned; please contact the Papers Editor before submitting it.

Style English names of birds require initial capitals except after a hyphen, but group names, animals and flowers do not. Scientific names should be in italics, but only the first (generic) name should have an initial capital; their use in the text is optional. Dates should take the form Jan 1st 2004; numbers under 11 should be spelt out in text; fractions should be decimalised. Full points should be omitted from well-known initials, such as BTO, LNHS and RSPB, and also from 'eg', 'ie' and 'et al'. Speech quotation marks should be double; all others should be single. Systematic lists within papers should be in the order of Checklist of Birds of the London Area, and in the following format for economy of space:

Common name: Description etc.

Scientific name (except optionally in the Ringing Report) is not required.

References to publications should be given in full, with the name spelt out and in italics, and in the following style:

HARRISON, J., & GRANT, P.J., 1976. *The Thames Transformed*. London.

MOON, A.V., 1988. The influx of Sabine's Gulls and other Seabirds in October 1987. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 52: 121-132.

Illustrations Figures and graphs in papers are welcomed. Graphs should be embedded in the text document. Digital figures (maps etc) should be sent as separate files, with their position indicated in the text. Some figures can be originated by the Papers Editor from hard copy: contact him first for guidance.

Proofs and Reprints Authors of papers and short notes will be sent proofs, if requested, but only printers' mistakes may be changed at this stage. Up to two free reprints of papers are provided if ordered by authors in advance; larger quantities are charged at cost.

PHOTOGRAPHS should be submitted to the Photographic Editor:

Jonathan Lethbridge, email: jonathan.lethbridge@btinternet.com

Digital photographs should be unedited and uncropped original files and can be submitted on a CD/DVD or as email attachments (10 MB maximum per email). Each image should be accompanied by full details including species name, location, date and photographer's name - and postal address for any material that needs returning. **Prints and transparencies** must be packed in a board-backed envelope or otherwise protected to prevent damage.

LINE DRAWINGS should be submitted to the Chair, Pete Lambert, 109 Gloucester Road, London, E17 6AF, email: plamb@phonecoop.coop, tel: 020 8531 9814.

They may be submitted as digital files (by email or on CD) or as hard-copy, suitably protected if posting.



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