

LONDON BIRD REPORT 2015

LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



LONDON BIRD REPORT

NO.80 FOR THE YEAR 2015

PRODUCED BY THE LBR EDITORIAL BOARD



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Society

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Links to files on the LNHS website: <http://www.lnhs.org.uk>

Please follow these sequences on the new LNHS website to find links to files.

About Us> LNHS Sections> London Bird Club. 'The London Bird Report': Rarities.

About Us> LNHS Sections> London Bird Club. 'Bird Recording': Checklist & Guide, Breeding Criteria, Gazetteers of Sites, LNHS Bird Recording Form.

Publications> London Bird Report> Downloads: Consolidated contents, past issues of the *London Bird Report* and extended papers, Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls, Indexes of Common and Scientific Names (when not printed in the journal).

Front cover: Great Northern Diver at King George VI Reservoir. (Andrew Moon)

Back cover: Ring Ouzels at Beddington Farmlands. (Peter Alfrey)



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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.

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk> > About Us > LNHS Sections > London Bird Club

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Angela Linnell

LONDON BIRD REPORT FOR 2015

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

Chair of Editorial Board Pete Lambert
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Editor: Papers Mike Trier
Editor: Photographs Jonathan Lethbridge
Editor: Remaining Sections Pete Lambert
Production Manager Gus Wilson
Other members John Archer

Introduction

This issue finally reports the 2011 record of Slaty-backed Gull which has now been formally accepted by the British Ornithologists' Union.

Starting with *LBR* 2013, we are now making corrections to previous issues of the report by showing them on a Corrected Report PDF on our website. You can see this at <http://www.lnhs.org.uk> > Publications > London Bird Report > Downloads. Scroll to 'London Bird Report 2014'.

At the time of writing this, we are still looking for a new Editor of the Birds of the London Area section and the production of *LBR* 2016 depends on us finding one or more people to do this. Please contact me if you could help with this.

It would be a great help in producing this report, if people would send us records as soon as they can. For birds that are rare in London, please send details as soon as you can after seeing them. Our Checklist on pages 240-248 gives details of which species this applies to, and what details are needed, using the keys D, N or BBRC. For all other birds, we would like all records to be with our Recorders as soon as possible after the end of the year to which they refer. Records received after March 31st in the year following, will not usually be able to be included in the *LBR*. Records of birds which are rare in London will not be published without our Rarities Committee receiving full details (notes/description or photo). The LNHS uses three different kinds of recording area: a circle for its outer boundary, an Inner London rectangle, and the Watsonian vice-counties. There is sometimes confusion over the exact location of these, so the LNHS has commissioned GiGL to publish them on their website. You can now see all of these on the iGiGL map at www.gigl.org.uk/online, to check exactly which area your record is in. Further details on records are in the Recording Arrangements sections on pages 8-9.

The Watsonian vice-county boundaries near the R Thames usually follow the course of the river, but there is a slight variation in the Beckton area. This means that a small area of Beckton (which is on the north side of the R Thames) is in the

Watsonian vice-county of Kent. For bird recording, this boundary between the Kent and Essex vice-counties here is not followed. In this report, as we have done for many years, we treat the Essex/Kent boundary as running along the R Thames.

LNHS Council has approved the use of four-colour printing throughout the *LBR*. This means that photos, which previously could be placed only on alternate facing pages and therefore were not necessarily adjacent to the text that referred to them, can now be positioned near to the relevant text. It also gives us the facility to make greater use of colour in graphics.

The inclusion of printed indexes of the common and scientific names of birds was welcomed in *LBR* 2015, and we hope to continue with this when space permits.

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 volunteers who helped with the production of the report: the authors of the Review of the Year and the Systematic List, and the authors of the papers (listed above); Jan Wilczur for his illustration; all the photographers who kindly donated their photos; Mavis Pilbeam, Mike Howard, Richard Carpenter, Sean Huggins and Tara Wikramanayake for proof-reading the text, and all the members of the Editorial Board. Thanks also to Garganey Consulting Ltd for the ringing recovery maps; Nigel Partridge for designing the layouts; and Swallowtail Print for printing and distributing this issue.

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,
Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC,
Hertfordshire Natural History Society, Kent Ornithological Society,
Londonbirders Yahoo group, Surrey Bird Club

Pete Lambert, Chair of the Editorial Board, May 2017
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RARITIES COMMITTEE AND RECORDERS

RARITIES COMMITTEE

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RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk> > About Us> LNHS Sections> London Bird Club. 'Bird Recording'

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

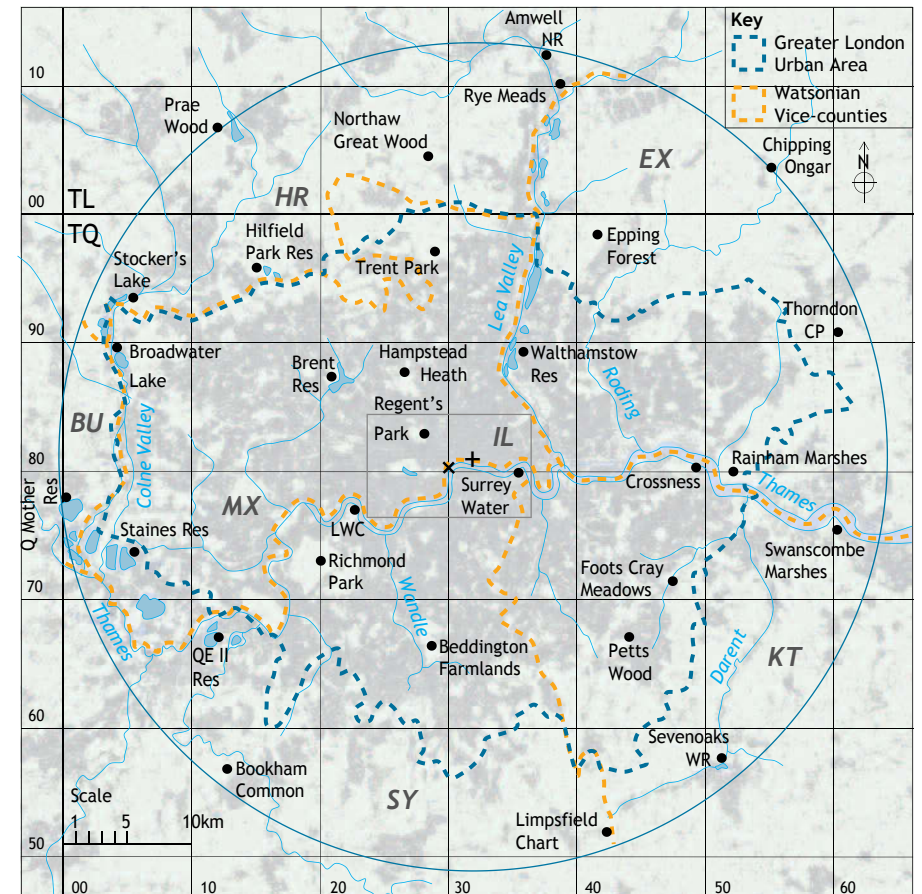
All records are welcome, from LNHS members and non-members alike. We would particularly like information on the local status of common species, breeding records, notes on passage (including first and last dates and main movements), regular counts of wintering populations, notes on behaviour, as well as details of unusual birds. Regular reports from the same sites are a great help in seeing population trends, and such reports, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. Our Guide to Contributors of Records on pages 240 to 248, together with the Breeding Criteria on page 249, give guidance on what information we would like for each species. Records should be sent to the appropriate Recorder listed on page 7 or to the Chair of the LBR Editorial Board. Please use site names as listed in our Gazetteer (see below) if you can, when sending in records. **If you send in details from sites not listed in the Gazetteer, please give an OS Grid Reference for the site.**

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

It would be very helpful if you could send in records on a spreadsheet; a sample and instructions are on our website (under About Us> LNHS Sections> London Bird Club> Bird Recording, 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. 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.

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



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

Gazetteer of Sites

The Full Gazetteer is on the LNHS website (see top of page 8). It lists open spaces and the names of towns, villages, etc. A Mini-Gazetteer of sites is on pages 10 to 14. This lists the main sites in the London Area as well as all the sites added to the Full Gazetteer this year (the latter printed in *italic* type). 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 recording area for that site and an OS Grid Reference; this should help you to find the site on a map. The Grid Reference either refers to the centre of the site, or to a point of particular ornithological interest. Not all of these sites are open to the public; some are private, for some you need to have a permit. Contact the Chair of the Editorial Board if you need information on any site (details on page 6).

MINI-GAZETTEER OF SITES

<http://www.lnhs.org.uk> > About Us> LNHS Sections> London Bird Club. 'Bird Recording'

This lists the main sites in the London Area as well as all the sites added to the Full Gazetteer this year (the latter printed in *italic* type). Notes about sites are in **blue** type; cross-references from older names are in **red** type. A key to abbreviations is on page 30.

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

Abbey Mills, Colliers Wood (SY) TQ264698	Black Green Wood (HR) TL137028	Cannon Street Station (IL/MX) TQ326808
Addington Hills (SY) TQ352644	Black Green Wood, Smug Oak (HR) TL137028	Canons Farm (SY) TQ248577
Aldenhall CP (HR) TQ170955 (previously Aldenhall Res)	Black Jack's Mill, Harefield (MX) TQ043903	Cassiobury Park (HR) TQ090970
Alexandra Park (MX) TQ300900	Black Park (BU) TQ010836	Cator Park (KT) TQ364702
Allan Gdns, Spitalfields (IL/MX) TQ340821	Bookham Common (SY) TQ130565	Cely Woods (EX) TQ560830
Amwell NR (HR) TL378128	Botley Hill (SY) TQ398556	Central Park, Dartford (KT) TQ543736
Arbrook Common (SY) TQ143632	Bounds Green (NX) TQ300914	Chase Stud Farm (SY) TQ188570
Ash Link NR (MX) TQ081685	Bramble Farm, Corbets Tey (EX) TQ568837	Cheshunt GP (HR) TL370030
Ashford Common (MX) TQ087697	Brent Res (MX) TQ215870	Chess Valley (HR) TQ052961
Ashtead Common (SY) TQ175595	Brent River Park (MX) TQ199845	Chingford Green (EX) TQ383944
Badgers Mount (KT) TQ495621	Bricket Wood Common (HR) TL130010	Chipstead (SY) TQ285580
Banbury Res (EX) TQ362915	Broadwater Farm, Weybridge (SY) TQ086655	Chislehurst (KT) TQ445705
Banstead Downs (SY) TQ252610	Broadwater Lake (MX) TQ045892	Chorleywood Common (HR) TQ033963
Barking Bay/Marsh (EX) TQ477820	Brondesbury (MX) TQ245850	Church Lane Flood Meadow LNR (EX) TL494047
Barnes Common (SY) TQ222758	Brondesbury Park (IL/MX) TQ240840	City of London (IL/MX) TQ327811
Barnet Gate (HR) TQ218953	Brook Farm, Curtismill Green (EX) TQ525962	Claybury Woods & Park (EX) TQ435912
Barnet General Hospital (HR) TQ237962	Broxbourne Woods (HR) TL329073	(previously Claybury Forest)
Battersea Park (IL/SY) TQ282772	Buckingham Palace Gdns (IL/MX) TQ288796	Cleveland Park (MX) TQ165817
Bayonne Park, Fulham (IL/MX) TQ240777	Buckland (SY) TQ222509	Cobham Cem (SY) TQ118591
Bayswater (IL/MX) TQ257807	Bulphan Fen (EX) TQ633864	Cobham Floods (SY) TQ106595
Beddington Farmlands (SY) TQ290667	Burgess Park (IL/SY) TQ335778	Codham Hall Wood (EX) TQ585887
Bedfont Lakes CP (MX) TQ078726	Bury Lake (HR) TQ053938	Coldblow (KT) TQ503732
Beech Farm GP (HR) TL190086	Bushy Park (MX) TQ160690	Cole Green Tip (HR) TL265112
Bethus Woods CP (EX) TQ570825	Butter Hill, Carshalton (SY) TQ281651	Colnbrook Landfill (BU) TQ025778
Bell Weir Lock, Egham (SY) TQ018722	Canada Water (IL/SY) TQ355793	Colney Hatch (MX) TQ282917
Belsize Park (MX) TQ273845		Connaught Water (EX) TQ404953
Bentley Priory NR (MX) TQ155927		(in Epping Forest)
Bethnal Green Gdns (IL/MX) TQ351826		Coombe Wood, Great Warley (EX) TQ580901
		Coopers Green GP (HR) TL201097

Coopers Green Lane (HR) TL192096	Epsom Common (SY) TQ190605	Graeme Hendry Wood, Godstone (SY) TQ346503
Copthall Green (EX) TL423008	Epsom Downs (SY) TQ219582	Grays Gorge (EX) TQ608789
Copthall PF, Hendon (MX) TQ228906	Esher Common (SY) TQ135625	Grays Inn Gdns (IL/MX) TQ309818 (also known as 'The Walks')
Cornmill Meadows (EX) TL380011	Evell Court Park (SY) TQ212639	Great Hurst Woods(SY) TQ211553
Crayford Marshes (KT) TQ532775	Fairfold's Farm (HR) TL188101	Green Street Green(KT) TQ460637
Creekmouth, Barking (EX) TQ452827	Fairlop Waters (EX) TQ459905	Greenhill (MX) TQ156885
Croham Hurst GC (SY) TQ342963	Farthing Downs (SY) TQ299576	Greenland Dock(IL/SY) TQ361791
Crossness (KT) TQ490808	Fir & Pond Woods (MX) TL276011	(previously Surrey Docks)
Croxley Common Moor (HR) TQ082948	Fishers Green Goosefield (EX) TL380038	Greenwich Park (KT) TQ390775
Crystal Palace Park (KT) TQ347707	Fishers Green Island (EX) TL376037	Greenwich Peninsula (KT) TQ393796
Dagenham Chase (EX) TQ514858	Fishponds OS, Surbiton (SY) TQ188668	Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (KT) TQ400793
Dartford Marshes (KT) TQ544774	Fleet Downs (KT) TQ562732	Grey Goose Farm (EX) TQ629807
Dartmouth Park (MX) TQ283867	Folkes Farm, Cranham (EX) TQ580887	Hackney (MX) TQ352846
Davy Down (EX) TQ592803	Foots Cray Meadows (KT) TQ478715	Hackney Marsh (MX) TQ366861
Deben Slade (EX) TQ419970	Franks Farm, Cranham (EX) TQ587874	Hackney Wick (MX) TQ370847
Dollypers Hill (SY) TQ315584	Frays Valley LNR (MX) TQ055865	Hale End (EX) TQ388915
Dormer's Wells (MX) TQ135807	Frays Wildfowl Lake (MX) TQ056864	Hall Marsh Scrape (EX) TL373017
Downe (KT) TQ433616	Friday Lake (HR) TL371020	Hamm Moor (SY) TQ063648
Downe Bank (KT) TQ438609	Frogmore Lakes (HR) TL150033	Hampemill Lake (HR) TQ095942
Downsview Farm, Walton on the Hill (SY) TQ216566	Fryent CP (MX) TQ194877	Hampstead Heath (MX) TQ273866
Duck Wood (EX) TQ555923	Fulham Old Cem (IL/MX) TQ240772	Hampton Court Park (also known as 'Home Park') (MX) TQ166676
Dulwich Park (SY) TQ335735	Galleyhill Wood (EX) TL394034 (in Epping Forest)	Harefield Moor (MX) TQ054884
Dulwich Upper Wood (SY) TQ339729	Gallions Hill, Thamesmead (KT) TQ452801	Harlow Park (EX) TL478078
Dulwich Village (SY) TQ334739	Gallions Reach (EX/KT) TQ445801	Harrow RG (MX) TQ147887
Dyrham Park Farm (MX) TQ224993	Garsons Farm (SY) TQ125639	Harrow Weald (MX) TQ150910
East Finchley Cem (MX) TQ258896	Garthorne Road NR (KT) TQ356736	Hatfield Park (HR) TL240080
East India Dock Basin (MX) TQ391808	Gatton Park/Lake (SY) TQ271525	Havering CP (EX) TQ505930
East Sheen Common (SY) TQ195745	Glassmill Mill Pond, Bromley (KT) TQ399690	Hawley (KT) TQ545715
Edgwarebury Cem (MX) TQ193939	Glen Faba (EX) TL393088	Hayes (KT) TQ400661
Egham Hythe (SY) TQ026707	Glover's Island, Richmond (MX) TQ178736	Hayes Common (KT) TQ405652
Ellenbrook Fields (HR) TL205090 (remains of Hatfield Aerodrome)	Goat Bridge, Mitcham(SY) TQ281671	Hayes Hill Farm (EX) TL383033
Elmstead (KT) TQ424708	Gobions Wood (HR) TL256035	Headstone Manor (MX) TQ141897
Elthorne Park, West Ealing (MX) TQ158794	Godstone SP (SY) TQ345518	Hersham GP (SY) TQ128663
Emberside RG (SY) TQ144666	Goodley Stock (KT) TQ439521	Hertford Heath NR (HR) TL354111
Enfield Chase (MX) TQ290988	Gospel Oak (MX) TQ280855	High Wood, Cudham (KT) TQ458600
Epping Forest (EX) TQ420985		Highfield Park (HR) TL180065
		Highgate Cem (MX) TQ284871
		Highgate Wood (MX) TQ283887
		Highwood Hill (MX) TQ215935
		Hilfield Park Res (HR) TQ158959

Hillingdon and Uxbridge Cemeteries (MX) TQ065828	KGVI Res (MX) TQ041732	Mardyke Woods (EX) TQ585803
Hillside Farm, St Margarets (HR) TL374120	Kingsbury (MX) TQ193887	(comprising Brannett's Wood, Millard's Gdn and Low Wells Wood)
Hilly Fields Park (MX) TQ323985	Knighton Wood (EX) TQ409931	Markfield Park (MX) TQ346886
Hinchley Wood (SY) TQ156652	Ladbroke Square Gdns (IL/MX) TQ248806	Martin's Hill OS (KT) TQ398692
Hither Green (KT) TQ390745	Ladywalk Wood (HR) TQ030937	Merton High Street, Colliers Wood (SY) TQ265702
Hobbs Cross (EX) TQ476993	Ladywell (KT) TQ377750	Middlesex University (MX) TQ288955
Hoddesdonpark Wood (HR) TL352084	Lake Farm CP (MX) TQ091803	Mill Meads (EX) TQ386833
Hogsmill River Park (SY) TQ204673	Lammas Park (MX) TQ172796	Millwall Docks (MX) TQ377795
Hogsmill SW (SY) TQ197682	Lamorbey Park (KT) TQ465731	Molesey Heath (SY) TQ132672
Holden's Wood, Brentford (EX) TQ593912	Langley Corner (BU) TQ010847	Mollands Lane GP (EX) TQ604820
Holly Hill OS (KT) TQ498781	Langley Vale (SY) TQ212577	Monken Hadley Common (MX) TQ262971
Holmethorpe SP (SY) TQ295515	Langley Vale Farm (SY) TQ207574	Morden Cem (SY) TQ232672
Holyfield Hall Farm (EX) TL384038	Leg O Mutton NR (SY) TQ218774	Morden Hall Park (SY) TQ264687
Holyfield Lake (EX) TL378045	(previously Lonsdale Road Res)	Morden Park (SY) TQ248676
Home Park (MX) TQ166676	Letchmore Heath (HR) TQ155977	Mores Plantation (EX) TQ566968
Hornchurch CP. See Ingrebourne	Leyton Flats (EX) TQ397885	Mudchute Farm (MX) TQ381786
Horsenden Hill (MX) TQ162844	Limpsfield (SY) TQ390535	Nazeing CP (EX) TL387057
Hounslow Heath (MX) TQ123745	Limpsfield Chart (SY) TQ431521	New Beckenham (SY) TQ367710
Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (IL/MX) TQ274804	Limpsfield Chart GC (SY) TQ412527	New Charlton (KT) TQ428788
Ingrebourne Valley (EX) TQ538843	Lion Gorge (EX) TQ599786	Newton Park West (MX) TQ129867
(part of Hornchurch CP)	Lippitts Hill (EX) TQ392976	Normand Park, Fulham (IL/MX) TQ246778
Island Barn Res (SY) TQ140670	(also known as Truelove's; in Epping Forest)	North Cheam (SY) TQ236651
Island Gdns, Isle of Dogs (MX) TQ382783	Little End (EX) TL541003	North Mymms Park (HR) TL215045
Jersey Farm (HR) TL174097	Littlebrook Lake (KT) TQ553756	Northaw Great Wood (HR) TL285044
Joyden's Wood (KT) TQ500715	London Fields (IL/MX) TQ346842	Northfleet Green (KT) TQ625711
Jubilee Park, Canary Wharf (MX) TQ376801	London Wetland Centre (SY) TQ228770	Norwood New Town (SY) TQ325705
Jubilee Park, Greenford (MX) TQ134817	Long Lane Woods (SY) TQ356675	Old Farm Park, Sidcup (KT) TQ454728
Kelsey Park (KT) TQ376688	Long Running (EX) TQ434997	Old Ford Manor GC (MX) TQ244976
Kemnal Manor Estate (KT) TQ448718	(in Epping Forest)	Old MacDonalds Farm, Noak Hill (EX) TQ548943
Kempton NR (MX) TQ116706	Longfield Gallops (KT) TQ602697	Ornamental Canal, Wapping (IL/MX) TQ347805
Kensal Town (IL/MX) TQ240822	Lonsdale Road Res. See Leg O Mutton NR	Orsett Fen (EX) TQ628833
Keston (KT) TQ414614	Low Hall SG, Walthamstow (EX) TQ358879	Osidge (HR) TQ290940
Keston Mark (KT) TQ419656	Lullingstone Park (KT) TQ520645	Otford to Filston (KT) TQ521602
Kew Gdns (SY) TQ182769	Luxted (KT) TQ434603	Oxhey Hall (HR) TQ103943
Kew Green (SY) TQ189776	Lyle Park, Silvertown (EX) TQ406798	Oxhey Woods (HR) TQ105925
KGV Dock (EX) TQ432803	Lyndhurst Park (MX) TQ212917	
KGV Res (EX) TQ374964	Lynsters Farm (HR) TQ034920	
	Lynsters Lake (HR) TQ038916	
	Manor Farm, Upminster (EX) TQ579849	
	Maple Lodge NR (HR) TQ036924	
	Mar Dyke Valley (EX) TQ600805	

Oxleas Wood (KT) TQ445759	Ripple NR (EX) TQ468827	Shales More, Passingford Bridge (EX) TQ501984
(the woods here are sometimes known as Oxleas Woods)	River Darent, Otford Road (KT) TQ526582	Sheen Common (SY) TQ196746
Oxshott Heath (SY) TQ139612	River Thames: Kew Bridge to Barnes Bridge (SY) TQ198768	Sheepwalk Lake (MX) TQ070675
Paddington Old Cem (IL/MX) TQ246837	River Thames: Laleham Park to Penton Hook Lock (MX) TQ050687	Shepperton Lock (MX) TQ073659
Panshanger Park (HR) TL283130	River Thames: Shepperton Lock to Chertsey Lock (MX) TQ065665	Smallford GP (HR) TL197071
Paradise Fields, Greenford (MX) TQ153842	River Thames: Tower Bridge to Battersea Park (IL/SY) TQ306792	Somers Town (IL/MX) TQ297831
Peakes Farm, Hobbs Cross (EX) TQ485999	River Thames: West Thamesmead to Woolwich (KT) TQ445797	South Bank (IL/SY) TQ309803
Peckham (SY) TQ342762	River Wandle: Wandle Nature Park to Plough Lane (SY) TQ263711	South Harefield (MX) TQ051890
Perivale Wood (MX) TQ159836	River Wey Navigation: Coxes Lock to New Haw Lock (SY) TQ056637	South Mimms (HR) TL222012
Petersham Lodge Woods (SY) TQ178734	Roding Valley Meadows NR (EX) TQ430943	South Norwood CP (SY) TQ353684
Philpot's Farm (MX) TQ062814	Romney Street (KT) TQ550614	South Norwood Lake (SY) TQ341693
Phipps Bridge (SY) TQ265688	Rose Hill Park East (SY) TQ262662	South Tottenham (MX) TQ337887
Pilgrim Fort (SY) TQ344534	Roundwood Park, Willesden (MX) TQ222837	Southridge, Shenley (HR) TL208019
Pilgrims Farm (SY) TQ416554	Rowley Wood (BU) TQ000835	Southwark Bridge (IL/MX or IL/SY) TQ323806
Pinner Village Gdns (MX) TQ125888	Roxeth RG, South Harrow (MX) TQ144859	Southwark Park (IL/SY) TQ352789
Pond Farm, North Cray (KT) TQ490722	Royal Albert Hall (IL/MX) TQ266796	Spencer Road Wetland (SY) TQ279665
Pontoon Dock (MX) TQ414801	Royal Hospital Chelsea (IL/MX) TQ280780	Spitalfields (IL/MX) TQ343819
Poplar Dock (MX) TQ382803	Royal Victoria Gdns, North Woolwich (EX) TQ436799	St George's Hill (SY) TQ082626
Poplar RG (MX) TQ377809	Ruislip Woods (MX) TQ094890	St James's Park (IL/MX) TQ294798
Potters Bar GC (MX) TL247022	Rushett Farm (SY) TQ173608	St Julians (HR) TL142057
Poyle Poplars NR (BU) TQ030764	Russia Dock Woodland (IL/SY) TQ362797	St Katherine's Dock (IL/MX) TQ340805
Prince's Coverts (SY) TQ160610	Ruxley GP (KT) TQ473700	St Margarets (MX) TQ170745
Purfleet Chalk Pits (EX) TQ566785	Ruxley Wood (KT) TQ481703	St Mary Cray (KT) TQ473677
Q. Mary GP (MX) TQ059700	Rye Meads (HR) TL383103	Staines Moor (MX) TQ033734
Q. Mary Res (MX) TQ070695	(previously Rye Meads RSPB)	Staines Res (MX) TQ051731
Q. Mother Res (BU) TQ007768	Sandown Park (SY) TQ140652	Stanborough Lakes (HR) TL230108
QE II Res (SY) TQ120670	Saunders Ness (MX) TQ384783	Stanborough Park (HR) TL232110
Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (EX) TQ381846	Selsdon Woods (SY) TQ362616	Stanmore Common (MX) TQ156940
Queen's Wood (MX) TQ288886	Sevenoaks WR (KT) TQ522570	Stanmore CP (MX) TQ173928
Quinta OS, Chipping Barnet (HR) TQ234952	Seventy Acres Lake (HR) TL374030	Stanmore Marsh (MX) TQ177913
Radlett Aero GP (HR) TL155035	Sewardstone Marsh (EX) TQ379985	Stanstead Innings (HR) TL388112
Rainham Marshes (EX) TQ525800		Stanwell Moor (MX) TQ034744
Ramney Marsh (MX) TQ374996		Steward's Green (EX) TL463012
Rayners Lane (MX) TQ130875		Stocker's Farm (HR) TQ052933
Regent's Park (IL/MX) TQ281828		Stocker's Lake (HR) TQ046935
Richmond Park (SY) TQ200730		Stoke D'Abernon (SY) TQ125595
Rickmansworth Aquadrome (HR) TQ057940		Stone Lodge (KT) TQ565745
(consists of Bury Lake and Batchworth Lake)		Stone Marshes (KT) TQ568755
		Stoneyfields Park, Edware (MX) TQ203932
		Streamway OS, Belvedere (KT) TQ494779

Streatham Common (SY) TQ305709	Tooting Common (SY) TQ293720	Warlies Park (EX) TL412017 (part of Warlies Estate, Epping Forest)
Stubbers Outdoor Pursuits Centre (EX) TQ575845	Tottenham Marshes (MX) TQ354910	Warren Gorge (EX) TQ597794
Sunnymeads GP (BU) TQ003759 (only the NE tip of this water is within the LNHS Area)	Totteridge Fields NR (MX) TQ223941	Warren Hill (EX) TQ413952
Surrey Docks. See Greenland Dock	Totteridge Valley (MX) TQ240930	Warwick Wold (SY) TQ312528
Surrey Water (IL/SY) TQ356800	Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (MX) TQ370823	Waterloo Station (IL/SY) TQ310799
Sutton Community Farm (SY) TQ285619	Trent Park (MX) TQ290970	Waterlow Park (MX) TQ286872
Swanforth Farm, Mickleham (SY) TQ160534	Trevereux (SY) TQ433509	Waterworks NR (EX) TQ363868
Swanscombe Marshes (KT) TQ605760	Trowlock Island (MX) TQ177709	Weavers Fields (IL/MX) TQ346824
Swiss Cottage OS (IL/MX) TQ267842	Troy Mill Lake (HR) TQ039905	Wembley Park (MX) TQ193863
Symondshyde Great Wood (HR) TL195110	Twitton (KT) TQ518590	Wembley Stadium (MX) TQ193855
(only the south half of this wood is in the LNHS Area)	Tytenhanger GP (HR) TL191052	West Acton (MX) TQ194813
Syon Park (MX) TQ173765	University College London (IL/MX) TQ296823	West End Common (SY) TQ125632
Ten Acre Wood, Yeading (MX) TQ099838	Uxbridge Moor (MX) TQ046837	West Hyde GP (HR) TQ034913
Tenchleys (SY) TQ419512	Valence Park (EX) TQ482864	West India Docks (MX) TQ376800
Thames Barrier (EX/KT) TQ415795	Valentines Park (EX) TQ438878	West Lodge Park, Hadley Wood (MX) TQ276983
Thames Chase (EX) TQ584863	Vauxhall Park (IL/SY) TQ304776	West Thurrock Marshes (EX) TQ583767
Thamesmere Lakes (KT) TQ463810	Verulamium Park (HR) TL138069	Whitewebbs Farm (MX) TL329001
The County Ground, Beckenham (KT) TQ373708	Vicarage Farm (MX) TQ304979	Whitewebbs Wood (MX) TQ323997
The Ledges, Esher (SY) TQ122628	Victoria Park (IL/MX) TQ363840	Whittings Hill OS, Arkley (HR) TQ231954
The Mores, Brentwood (EX) TQ561965	Victoria Park, Finchley (MX) TQ258911	Willowbank (MX) TQ057853
The Paddocks, Crews Hill (HR) TL314007	Waddon Ponds (SY) TQ309650	Wimbledon Com (SY) TQ227721
The Withey Beds LNR, Watford (HR) TQ078941	Walthamstow Forest (EX) TQ393912	Woodcote Green (SY) TQ285623
Theobalds Park (HR) TL345005	Walthamstow Marshes (EX) TQ350878	Woodford Wells (EX) TQ405930
Thorndon Country Park North (EX) TQ608912	Walthamstow Res (EX) TQ353890	Woodhill House (HR) TL266059
Thorndon Country Park South (EX) TQ627903	Walton Downs (SY) TQ220573	Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (HR) TQ033933
Thorpe Water Park (SY) TQ030681	Walton Heath (SY) TQ232540	Woollett Hall Farm, North Cray (KT) TQ488726
Tolworth Court Farm (SY) TQ200650	Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (SY) TQ122698	Wormley West End (HR) TL338060
	Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) (SY) TQ119681	Wormwood Scrubs (MX) TQ221818
	Wandle Meadow Nature Park (SY) TQ264710	Wraysbury GP (BU) TQ015735
	Wandsworth Common (SY) TQ275740	Wraysbury Res (MX) TQ025745
	Wanstead Flats (EX) TQ410864	Yardley Hill, Chingford (EX) TQ382958
	Wanstead Park (EX) TQ415875	Yeading (MX) TQ116832
	Wapping Wood (IL/MX) TQ349806	Yeading Brook Meadows (MX) TQ105822
	Waring Park, Sidcup (KT) TQ468724	Yiewsley Lake (MX) TQ050804
	Warley CP (EX) TQ583925	

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2015

The year's highlights included London's sixth Black Stork, ninth Black-winged Stilt, ninth Bee-eater and 11th Barred Warbler, with the first Ring-necked Duck since 2003. Scarcities included Ferruginous Duck, Black-throated Diver, White Stork, Glossy Ibis, Great Egret, Spoonbill, Honey Buzzard, Stone-curlew, Temminck's Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Hoopoe, Red-rumped Swallow, Bluethroat, Red-backed and Great Grey Shrike, Serin, Twite and Lapland Bunting. It was a good year for sightings of Little Stint, Short-eared Owl, and Iceland and Mediterranean Gull. Caspian Gull were recorded in record numbers. Only four Ruddy Duck were recorded (two of which succumbed to the cullers), but Egyptian Goose numbers hit an all-time high. Sightings of Red Kite, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Hobby increased. A Cetti's Warbler spent much of the year at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens. The draining of the north basin of Staines Res resulted in a series of good wader sightings there.

The first winter period saw some lingering long-stayers: Garganey at Beddington Farmlands, Scaup at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, Red-necked Grebe at QEII Res, Turtle Dove at Joyden's Wood and Siberian Chiffchaff at Broadwater Lake, Footh Cray Meadows and at Horton GP. Three Dartford Warbler remained. Regular over-wintering birds included Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Mediterranean Gull. Wintering Blackcap were recorded at 129 sites, and Chiffchaff at 90. Bittern were reported from ten sites and Green Sandpiper from 28. Stonechat numbers were up, but only 24 Smew were recorded. Slavonian Grebe records may have involved two to five birds, while Merlin were recorded at Rainham Marshes, Rye Meads and Orsett Fen. Two Great Northern Diver and six Iceland Gull were recorded. A count of 398 Black-tailed Godwit was recorded on the Lower Thames.

Spring records included the earliest Little Tern since 2003 and the area's highest count of Marsh Harrier (11 at Rainham Marshes on 5th April). A Pectoral Sandpiper was only the third spring record for the area. Migrants seen in good numbers included Yellow Wagtail, Tree and Meadow Pipit, Whinchat and Ring Ouzel. Seven Woodcock reached Inner London.

Breeding records included at least two pairs of Red Kite and two of Raven, but only one confirmed pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, and one of Spotted Flycatcher. Three or four pairs of Marsh Tit and one pair of Firecrest bred. House Sparrow continued to decline in urban areas, while Tree Sparrow were clinging on with seven breeding pairs. Black-necked Grebe enjoyed increased breeding success at their stronghold at Hilfield Park Res. Breeding numbers of Little Egret increased strongly. Species which appeared to fare better this year included House Martin, Grey Wagtail, Skylark, Little Ringed Plover, Little Grebe, Gadwall, Stock Dove, Green Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Treecreeper and Bullfinch. There were no breeding records of Turtle Dove.

Autumn saw good passage of Swallow, House Martin, Tree Pipit, Whinchat and Pied Flycatcher. Eight Wood Warbler were recorded, while there were six Wryneck records. There was an influx of Short-eared Owl from 15th October. The annual

Woodpigeon passage took place from mid-October, while six Woodcock were recorded from Inner London from October to November.

The second winter period saw exceptionally mild weather. Common Pochard reached unusually high numbers at Staines Res. Eight Merlin were recorded, including two at Rainham Marshes; Bittern records came from nine sites, while ten Dartford Warbler were recorded across six sites. Water Pipit were seen in good numbers, while wintering Black-tailed Godwit reached 400 on the Lower Thames. Possibly three Great Northern Diver were in the area. Firecrest were recorded from 89 sites and Chiffchaff from 105. A late Swallow was seen on 1st December. The faithful Spotted Redshank and Greenshank returned to their regular winter haunts.

January

The month saw year highs of 80 Shelduck at Crossness, 32 Tree Sparrow at Tyttenhanger Farm, 132 Pied Wagtail at Bexleyheath, 250 Skylark at West Hythe, 80 Common Snipe at Sevenoaks WR, seven Woodcock at Staines Moor and 10,520 Herring Gull at Beddington Farmlands. Rainham Marshes recorded several year highs for the London Area: 1,200 Wigeon, 51 Pintail, ten Grey Plover and 1,500 Lapwing. Three Siberian Chiffchaff remained from 2014, two staying till March. A Snow Bunting was at Wimbledon Common on 4th, while 12 Scaup flew past Gallion's Reach that day. On 11th, a Goshawk was at Amwell NR. A Serin was at Horton GP on 13th, being seen again on 23rd. On 15th, 520 Fieldfare were at Canons Farm. Records on 16th included six Caspian Gull at Rainham Marshes, a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in St James's Park and counts of five Smew at both Amwell NR and Princes Lakes. Along the R Colne at Broadwater Lake, there were 22 Chiffchaffs on 23rd. A white-winged gull which was either an Iceland Gull or a Glaucous Gull was at Island Barn Res on 27th, staying to February and also visiting Beddington Farmlands.

February

Year highs this month included 50 Goosander at William Girling Res, 910 Cormorant at Q. Mary Res and 14,500 Black-headed Gull past Hogsmill SW. On 4th, a Mealy Redpoll was at Northaw Great Wood; another was recorded at Watercress LNR on 10th. On 6th, 400 Golden Plover were at Rainham Marshes. The Iceland Gull or Glaucous Gull turned up at Q. Mother Res on 14th, while up to 63 Barnacle Geese were at Sevenoaks WR on that day and the next. There were five Smew at Wraysbury GP on 27th.

March

The month saw year highs of 21 Ruff and 78 Goldeneye, both at Staines Res, 71 Avocet at West Thurrock Marshes and 340 Stock Dove at Canons Farm. On 6th, 33 Stonechat were at Richmond Park and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, with another sighting there on 13th. A Rook flew over Regent's Park on 8th, with another record there on 20th. From 11th to 12th, 85 Redwing were at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, and a Goldeneye found there on 12th remained to mid-April. A Woodlark was at KGV Res on 17th. Chaffinch passage featured on 18th, including 245 over Beddington Farmlands, and a Rock Pipit was at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens. On 22nd, 400 Golden Plover were at Amwell NR, while 302 were at South Mimms. Meadow Pipits were on the move on 23rd, with 415 at

Beddington Farmlands; a single Tree Pipit was at Regent's Park on 27th. A Kittiwake flew from Regent's Park to Island Barn Res on 24th.

April

April's year highs included 24 Black-necked Grebe at Hilfield Park Res, and 11 Marsh Harrier and 38 Curlew at Rainham Marshes. Single Hen Harriers were seen at Q. Mother Res on 4th, Rainham Marshes on 5th-6th and Sevenoaks WR on 24th. A Common Snipe was at Regent's Park on 4th. Rainham Marshes saw 36 Buzzard on 5th, while four Spoonbill there on 7th included a juvenile which stayed till 13th. A flock of some 50 Brent Geese flew over Dartford Marshes on 7th, while a Puffin was rescued at Brentford on 8th, the same day that a Stone-curlew was at London Wetland Centre. Sightings on 12th included a Short-eared Owl at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, two Common Scoter at Regent's Park, and three Garganey at Rainham Marshes. A good day on 13th saw a Bluethroat at Amwell NR, a count of nine Green Sandpiper at Ingrebourne Valley, and a Tree Pipit at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens. Another Tree Pipit was at Regent's Park on 14th, while 105 Wheatear were recorded including 31 at Q. Mother Res. On 16th, a Hoopoe was at Waterworks NR, 15 White Wagtail were at Staines Res and a Blue-headed Wagtail was at Q. Mother Res (followed later in the month by one at Beddington Farmlands and two at London Wetland Centre). After a single at Regent's Park on 18th, Ring Ouzel passage peaked on 19th, with 22 birds including 11 in the Woldingham area. A Stone-curlew was at Beddington Farmlands on 21st, with another record at Parkside Farm/Res on 29th. On 22nd, nine Greenshank were at Deptford Marshes and a Marsh Harrier was at Regent's Park. Little Gull passage peaked on 23rd, involving 111 records, including 47 at KGV Res and 41 at Staines Res; the latter site also saw nine Little Tern that day and 12 Little Ringed Plover. On 25th, a Woodlark was at Beddington Farmlands, and six Whimbrel and three Arctic Tern were at Regent's Park. Passage on 26th included 177 Dunlin (with 85 at Staines Res) and 62 Common Sandpiper, with 37 Yellow Wagtail at Beddington Farmlands and 30 at London Wetland Centre. On 28th, six Whinchat were at Staines Moor. A spring peak of 250 Sand Martin were at Holmethorpe SP on 29th, while a Pectoral Sandpiper was at Rainham Marshes (staying till 1st May) and three Kittiwake were at London Wetland Centre. The month ended with 120 Arctic Tern at KGV Res and a Ring Ouzel at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens.

May

The month saw year highs of 72 Ringed Plover, 20 Sanderling and 3,000 Swift, all at Staines Res. A spring high count of 300 Swallow were at Beddington Farmlands on 1st (with a similar number on 5th), while four Cuckoo were at Ingrebourne Valley. On 2nd, 143 Common Tern were at KGV Res and 60 at Staines Res. A Curlew Sandpiper was at Staines Res on 7th. On 8th, a Goshawk was at Rye Meads. A Roseate Tern was at Amwell NR on 12th. On 14th, a Red-rumped Swallow was at Holmethorpe SP and nine Bar-tailed Godwit were at Rainham Marshes. On 18th, 13 Hobby were at Sandridge. A Black Redstart appeared in Whitehall on 22nd. On 25th, a Ring-necked Duck was at London Wetland Centre and a Red-backed Shrike was at Fairlop Waters. Four Temminck's Stint appeared at Rainham Marshes on 28th, with three remaining on 29th and one on 30th. A spring high of 150 House Martin were at Staines Res on 31st.

June

A year high of 578 Canada Geese were at Walthamstow Res. On 3rd, 13 Hobby were at Horton GP. On 4th, two Bee-eater flew past Betchworth Quarry and Leatherhead hosted a churring Nightjar. A Red-necked Phalarope was at Staines Res on 6th. A Common Quail was calling at Rainham Marshes from 13th-16th.

July

Year highs were recorded of seven Mediterranean Gull at Holmethorpe SP, 154 Yellow-legged Gull at Rainham Marshes and, at Staines Res, 28 Little Ringed Plover and 800 Sand Martin. A Common Quail was calling at Orsett Fen on 1st. On 8th, 64 Black-tailed Godwit were at Staines Res. Whimbrel numbers at Rainham Marshes reached a peak of 11 on 13th, while on 14th a Mediterranean Gull flew over Lambeth Bridge. On 20th, ten Green Sandpiper were at Lower Chingford. A Wood Warbler was at Regent's Park on 24th and a Honey Buzzard was at Kemsing.

August

Year highs for the month included 2,860 Tufted Duck at Walthamstow Res, 37 Black Tern at Staines Res, 30 Willow Warbler and ten Redstart at Wanstead Flats, 15 Crossbill at Havering CP and 71 Corn Bunting at Longfield Gallops. A Curlew Sandpiper was at Rainham Marshes on 1st, and Greenshank numbers there peaked at 13; further records of Curlew Sandpiper at that site occurred on 3rd and 5th. A Marsh Harrier was at Stepney on 8th. On 12th, seven Little Tern were at QEII Res and an aggregate of 44 Green Sandpiper were recorded. On 13th, two juvenile Spoonbill were at Rainham Marshes, while on 14th, five Wood Sandpiper were at Staines Res. A busy day's migration on 23rd saw a juvenile Black-winged Stilt at Walton Res (Chelsea &

Highlights in 2015 included London's ninth Black-winged Stilt. (Dave Harris)



Lambeth), eight Sandwich Terns at Rainham Marshes and 37 Black Terns at Staines Res, 146 Common Tern at Rainham Marshes, 22 Snipe over London Wetland Centre and a Wood Warbler at Regent's Park. On 24th, a White Stork flew over Rainham Marshes. Common Sandpiper passage on 25th involved 99 birds, including 26 at Q. Mother Res. A female harrier seen at Brent Res on 28th was either a Montagu's Harrier or a Pallid Harrier. Spotted Flycatcher passage peaked on 29th with 53 records. On 30th, three Pied Flycatcher were at Wanstead Flats, 41 Sandwich Tern were at North Woolwich and 70 Yellow Wagtail were at Sopwell Mill.

September

The month saw year high counts of 36 Red-crested Pochard at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 114 Meadow Pipit and 47 Greenfinch at London Wetland Centre, 20 Grey Wagtail at Rye Meads, 26 Bearded Tit at Swanscombe Marshes, 500 Linnet at Staines Res and 56 Lesser Redpoll at Brent Res. On 1st, three Little Stint were at Staines Res. A Barred Warbler found at Staines Moor on 2nd stayed till 17th. Raptors at Rainham Marshes on 6th included six Hobby and seven Sparrowhawk, while seven Knot were at Q. Mary Res. A Honey-buzzard was at Beddington Farmlands on 7th. A Razorbill at Gallion's Reach on 10th was followed by a Guillemot there on 13th and an Arctic Skua on 16th. On 11th, three Crossbill were at Regent's Park and a Nightjar was seen flying at Staines Moor. On 12th, 1,580 House Martin flew past Brent Res. Yellow Wagtail records on 13th included 51 at KGV Res and 50 at Rainham Marshes. Also on 13th, 58 Whinchat were reported, including 13 at Rainham Marshes, while Chiffchaff records included 60 at Rye Meads and at least 43 at Walthamstow Res. On 16th, four Golden Plover flew over Regent's Park while 70 Chiffchaff were recorded there. On 17th, a Grasshopper Warbler was at Regent's Park. On 18th, a juvenile Black Stork flew over Staines Moor, while Swallow passage peaked: counts included 3,000 at Walthamstow Res, 1,000 at Greenwich Park, 1,044 at Beddington Farmlands and 1,000 at Wanstead Flats. A Lapland Bunting flew over Thorpe Water Park on 25th.

October

Year high counts included 129 Mute Swan at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 480 Greylag Goose at Sevenoaks WR, 74 Mandarin Duck at Grovelands Park, 803 Teal at Crossness, 393 Shoveler at Staines Res, 300 Great Crested Grebe at Q. Mary Res, 1,150 Lesser Black-backed Gull at Amwell NR and 1,000 Feral Pigeon at Canons Farm. On 1st, a Mealy Redpoll was at London Wetland Centre and a Yellow-browed Warbler was at Woodford Green; there was another record of Yellow-browed Warbler at Riddlesdown on 10th and of Mealy Redpoll at Barn Elms PF on 23rd. A Woodlark was at Rainham Marshes on 2nd, while on 3rd Stonechat were at Richmond Park (the same number being recorded there on 25th) and a Guillemot was at Gallion's Reach. Chiffchaff records on 3rd included over 70 at Q. Mary GP. A Brambling was at Regent's Park on 4th. A male Hen Harrier was at Staines Moor on 6th. Two Woodlark flew over Wormley West End on 8th and a Bullfinch was at Westminster on 11th. On 12th, four Firecrest were at Riddlesdown; the same number were recorded at Dagenham Chase on 25th. A Gannet was at Rainham Marshes on 14th, followed by another record at Staines Res on 16th. A Ring Ouzel was at Regent's Park on 15th, while a Twite was at Sewardstone Marsh on 16th. Strong passage on 17th included 4,550 Redwing (with over

1,000 over Hampstead Heath and 715 over Brent Res), at least 1,368 Fieldfare across 20 sites and 118 Song Thrush over Richmond Park. Chaffinch passage on 18th saw counts of 200 at Hampstead Heath and at Stapleford Tawney. A Great Grey Shrike was at Staines Moor from 18th-19th; there was another at Swanscombe Marshes on 22nd and another record came from Dagnam Park on 24th-25th. On 19th, 17 Brambling were at Wanstead Flats, with a Woodlark there on 20th, while a Short-eared Owl was at Regent's Park on the latter date. A Glossy Ibis was at Walthamstow Res on 21st, with sightings over Rainham Marshes the following day. There were records of Osprey over Primrose Hill on 23rd and 25th. Counts of 100 Goldcrest were recorded at Q. Mary GP on 24th and 31st. The first Pink-footed Goose record of the year was on 24th at Rainham Marshes, which stayed to 27th; the only other record at Brook Farm, Upminster from October 30th to November 6th, may have been the same bird. A Spoonbill was at Rainham Marshes on 25th, followed by two over that site on 28th; seven Short-eared Owl were recorded there on 25th, rising to eight on 28th. Woodpigeon passage on 26th included a count of 25,000 over West Thurrock. On 31st, 2,300 Starling were at Rye Meads while four other sites saw an aggregate of 1,319 birds flying south.

November

The month saw year highs of 702 Gadwall at Wraysbury GP, 23 Red Kite at Loudwater, 273 Moorhen at London Wetland Centre and 114 Common Snipe at Rye Meads. On 1st, a Brambling was at Stepney, while a Hen Harrier was at Coursers Farm on 2nd. On 5th, five Whooper Swan flew over Q. Mother Res, the only report of the year. A Serin was at Beddington Farmlands on 15th, staying to 21st. A Purple Sandpiper was at Q. Mother Res on 20th. On 22nd, a Little Auk was at Grays Riverside, seven Common Scoter were at Q. Mother Res and a Ferruginous Duck was at Dagenham Chase, where it stayed until December. A Great Skua was at Island Barn Res on 25th and a Mealy Redpoll was at London Wetland Centre on 26th. The month ended with a Siberian Chiffchaff at Thorpe Water Park which stayed into 2016.

December

The month was London's mildest December on record. Year highs included 103 Egyptian Goose at Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 934 Common Pochard and 475 Mallard at Staines Res, 979 Coot at Brent Res, 155 Great Black-backed Gull at Amwell NR, 2,360 Ring-necked Parakeet at Danson Park, 14 Water Pipit and 2,500 Starling at Rainham Marshes and 95 Yellowhammer at Holmethorpe SP. On 6th, two Water Rail were at Regent's Park. On 11th, six Caspian Gull were at Amwell NR. Siskin numbers peaked on 13th, with records of 200 at Rickmansworth Aquadrome, and 100 at Cornmill Meadows. On 19th, 11 Jack Snipe were at Rye Meads. The only Black-throated Diver record this year came on 20th at Q. Mother Res. A Long-eared Owl was at Cranham GC on 22nd. On 23rd, 23 White-fronted Goose flew over Amwell NR, and a Yellow-browed Warbler was at Brent Res, staying to the year end. On 24th, 64 Little Egret were counted roosting at Stocker's Lake. A female Goshawk was at Bookham Common on 28th. A Glaucous Gull was at Dartford Marshes on 29th and at Rainham Marshes on 30th. The year ended with five Smew at Wraysbury GP.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

All contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 2015 are listed below. We apologise if any names have been omitted inadvertently.

Abrahams D	Ash J	Barn Elms Natural	Beddard R	RB	Bishop G
Abranches S	Ashton T	History Group	Beddington		Bishop JF
Absolom A	Asquith D	Barnard J	Farmlands Bird		Bishop P
Adamoulas A	Attenborough G	Barnes DJ	Group	BFBG	Bishop W
Adams D	Attiwell J	Barnes GJ	Beer D		Blackburn T
Adams G	Atwell R	Barnes J	Beer R		Blackman R
Agar J	Austin BP	Barnes N	Bell AA	AAB	Blackmore K
Agar N	Austin D	Barnes R	Bell D		Blake AE
Agombar D	Austin P	Barnett A	Bell M		Blake J
Ainling V	Austin T	Barr D	Bell P		Blake S
Akesson L	Avci E	Barrett A	Bell R		Blake T
Akrill S	Akrill MI	Barrett D	Bell T		Blamire S
Albenque J	Avison G	Barrett F	Belman PJ		Blanchard B
Alberici S	Ayers R	Barrie M	Ben E		Blockley GM
Alexander H	Aylen P	Barrington JW	Bennell I		Blog R
Alexander I	Aylward PJ	Barrow K	Bennett B		Blow M
Alfrey PR	PRA	Aylward S	Bennett K		Blumire J
Allcock DJ		Ayres D	Bennett L		Blunden V
Allen A		Baber R	Benson A		Bockett C
Allen C		Bacon S	Benton C		Boddington D
Allen E		Bailey A	Benton D		Bodini L
Allen H		Bailey J	Benyon M		Bodman L
Allen J		Bailey L	Berkshire Birds		Bolderstone T
Alvey PD		Alvey M	Berners-Price M		Bolton D
Ambler LEF		Bailey S	Bessant B		Bolton P
Amis J		Baillie A	Bessant C		Bonner A
Amwell Birding		Baimcky J	Bessant D		Bonsler RH
twitter		Baker CG	Bessant N		Bookless D
Anderson GQA		Baker H	Bessant W		Boorman J
Anderson ME		Baker JD	Beswick NW		Booth A
Anderson N		Baker R	Betteridge EJ		Booth D
Andre MG		Balcombe D	Betts P		Boothroyd D
Andrews D		Ball J	Bexley RSPB		Bostock N
Andrews M		Ball P	Beynon E		Boswell SA
Andrews RD		Ball RP	Bezuidenhoat D		Boulby M
Angus P		Banks S	Biggs A		Boult P
Annal D		Banks T	Biggs N		Boulton I
Ansell F		Banks TM	Bignold SM		Bourel C
Appleton AJ		Bantock H	Billings R		Bournat M
Archer A		Barber LJ	Bingley J		Bowbrick J
Archer D		Barber M	Bingley JH		Bowden C
Archer JK		Barclay R	Birch M		Boxell F
Armian J		Barfoot A	Bird J		Boyce S
Armour S		Barham P	Bird ME		Boyes G
Armstrong G		Barker A	BirdGuides	BG	Boyle B
Armstrong R		Barker JR	Birkett J		Brackenbury C
Arnold L		Barlow E	Birks A		Bradbury MJ
Arthur J			Bishop B		Bradbury MT
		Beckenham P			
		PBK			

Braddock R	Bull P	Carr D	Clarke JM	Cornwell D
Bradley S	Bulle U	Carson B	Clarke T TC	Corp N
Bradnum D	Bullock G	Carter D	Clarkson J	Cosby R
Bradshaw D	Bullock R	Carter PM	Class D	Cotton DH
Bradshaw H	Burch J	Carter S SCa	Cleal D	Cousins G
Bradshaw HT	Burchell T	Carter SJ	Cleal DL	Cousins R
Bradshaw I	Burge J	Carter TJ	Cleal JL	Couzens D
Braim N	Burger K	Cass J	Cleeter J	Cowan D DCw
Bramley K	Burgum N NB	Casselton P	Cleeters J	Cowdell P
Brandwood K	Burkett D	Catchpole A	Clements B	Cox A
Brangwyn T	Burnett L	Catlin SA	Clements C	Cox D
Brannan K	Burnip R	Cattell M	Clements FA	Cox G
Braun M	Burrows A	Cawthorne M	Clements J	Cox J
Bray J	Burrows-Smith P	Ceconi P	Clements-	Cox R
Bray P	Burt D	Central London	Partridge A	Cox S
Breckley K	Burton J	RSPB	Clench K	Crabtree G
Brent Birders	Bushall J	Chadwick M	Clewley G	Crathorne B
Bressant C	Bushell C	Chaffe M	Cliffe J	Crew E
Bric J	Bushell J	Chalmers S	Cliffe P	Cripps B
Brice I	Butler J	Chambers B	Coates A	Cripps RJ
Brickley K	Butler M	Chambers DW	Coates R	Crockford S
Briggs BD	Butson P	Chambers H	Coath M MCh	Croft N NC
Briggs D	Butt C	Chambers K	Coker M	Crook M
Briggs P	Buxton A	Champion B	Cole G	Crosby J
Bright JF	Buxton R	Chandler B	Coleman B	Croydon Birders
Brindle J	Byle PAF	Chapman C	Coleman D	Cuff MJ
Brinton P	Byrne C	Chapman J	Coleman J	Culley D
Briscoe D	Cadera Ja	Chapman P	Colledge D	Cullis C
Britten K KB	Cadera Jo	Chapman R	Collier R	Culshaw A
Broadley D	Cadwallender T	Chapman SE	Collings H	Cumming DA
Brockett R	Caiden M	Chapman T	Collings HTG	Cumming S
Brodie E	Caine G	Charbeyls B	Collins D	Cunningham G
Brogan L	Caine T	Charles F	Collins P	Cunningham M
Brolly M	Cairns E	Charles G	Collins PA	Cutting KAD
Brook R	Calderón S	Charles M	Collins S	Cutts MAJ
Brooks C	Caldwell C	Charles P	Collinson I	Czapski S
Brooks T	Callahan D DCn	Charleson E	Colmans J	Dan R
Broom F	Callf RM RMC	Chastell S	Colson R	Danderson G
Broome DP	Cameron A	Chastell SM	Coltman A	Darbyshire I
Brown A	Camp AI	Cheeseman A	Combes D	Darrell-Lambert
Brown E	Camp J	Chippendale S	Common J	DG DGDL
Brown L	Campbell DK DCa	Chittock J	Coney SP	Darvill R
Brown M	Campbell K	Chittock M	Considine D	David L
Brown N	Campbell MD	Chowin PK	Cook D	Davies B
Brown P	Can den M	Chris M	Cook HRA	Davies G
Brown R	Canons Farm Bird	Christopher R	Cook J	Davies J
Brown S	Watchers Group	Church C	Cook R	Davies JW
Brown T	Capper D	Churches B	Cooke J	Davies P
Browne R RBr	Carey S	Clancy T	Coom A	Davies S
Bryant D	Carle I	Clark DN	Coombes R	Davis N
Buckel V	Carlill P	Clark FC	Cooper A	Davis P
Buckingham S	Carlsson D	Clark G	Cooper B	Dawson R
Buckton SJ	Carlyle R	Clark JM	Cope R	Dawson S
Budd B	Carmichael J	Clark K	Coplestone K	Dawton B
Buhell J	Carnell V	Clark T	Corbet P	de Silva D
Bull K	Carpenter BR	Clarke G	Corfield GW	Dean D

Dean J	Dungey SM	Evershed R	Forgham J	Gibbs A
Dean K	Dunham M	Exton I	Forsyth T	Gibson A
Deane G	Dunn C	Facer R	Foster CW	Gibson T
Dear G	Dunn D	Fagan B	Foster M	Gibson-Poole TE
Dee C	Dunne R	Fairlamb D	Fowler G	Giddens J
Dee J	Dunstan A	Falkner R	Frampton P	Giddens S
Delaloye P	Dunwoody R	Farmer J	Francik B	Gifford DL
Delpy M	Dutta A	Farmer M	Francik J	Gilbert C
Demby B	Dykes B BD	Farrar AR	Francis GJ	Gilbert J
Denison N	Eagles J	Farrel C	Francis R	Gilbert T
Dent A	Eagles R	Farrell A	Frank N	Gilbertson P
Dent D	Eames D	Farrell C	Franklin T	Giles P
Dent J	East J	Farrell K	Fraser J	Gill E
Dent M	East London	Farrell M	Fraser R	Gill G
Derbyshire S	Birders Forum	Farthing C	Frearson S	Gillingham JKC
Dewey R	Eaton MA	Fearnside J	Free B	Gilry A
Dewhurst O	Edmunds D	Fearnside P	Free J	Ginnaw S
Diamond JR	Edwards EY	Fegan T	Freestone M	Gisseleire Y
Dickens J	Edwards I	Fell J	Friday Group	Given Q
Dickerson J	Edwards J	Felstead D	Friends of	Glanville C
Dillamore G	Edwards N	Fentiman C	Beckenham	Glazier A
Dingain L LD	Edwards P PE	Fenton-Scott D	Place Park	Glass I
Dives D	Edwards SM	Ferguson S	Friends of	Goad A
Dixon J	Egan A	Fernley S	Tottenham	Goddard AP
Dixon M	Elders C	Ferris P	Marshes	Goff D
Dobbie J	Eldridge T	Few J	Frost D	Golin M
Dodd N	Ellam C	Fielker MN	Frost P	Gompertz D
Donegan T	Elliott R	Firestone M	Fry D	Goodall M
Dorman A	Ellis C	Fisher J	Fuller J	Goodchild C
Doubleday A	Ellis IS	Fisher K	Fuller KA	Gooding J
Dove A	Ellis L	Fisher S	Fuller P	Goodman M
Dowling EJ	Ellisden D	Fisher SL	Fure A	Goodman P
Dowell F	Elmer M	Fisk C CF	Furley C	Gordon J
Dowle J	Elmes J-P	Fitz L	Fynn R	Gordon JD
Dowley F	Elsley NJC	Fitzgerald M	Gadsden L	Gore S
Dowley J	Elsoffer M	Flack I	Gale J	Gosler A
Dowman S	Elton P	Flannagan AW	Gale S	Goss N
Downing AJ	Emerson C	Fleck J	Gallagher K	Gough D
Downs R	Emerson J	Flesher R	Galsworthy AC	Gough SJ
Draconis H	Emily K	Fletcher D	Gammage L	Gould J
Drake S	Emmens RP	Fletcher T	Garbutt N	Gouldstone A AGs
Drakes J	Engelmore T	Flinn G GF	Garcia E	Govier H
Draper A	England D	Floyd J	Gardiner AH	Govind Kumar V
Drew M	English P	Floyd M	Gardiner J	Gowers J
Drew R	Epstein B	Flynn P	Gardner N	Gowing R
Drewitt EJA	Erasmus P	Flynn R	Gates J	Gradley B
Drummond L	Espin PMJ	Fogg G	Gates NJF	Graham P
Dryburgh P	Evans A	Fogg S	Gatley SJ	Graham-Taylor L
Dsouza J	Evans C	Folkerd G	Geary R	Gram G
du Feu LA	Evans G	Follett PC	Gedge D	Granger-Taylor N
Duckett T ARD	Evans HW	Foot S	Gee B	Grant A
Duckworth NA	Evans LGR	Ford A	Genetay A	Grant I
Dulverton B	Evans M	Ford AE	Genetay Z	Grant J
Dumerin P	Evans PL	Ford KJ	German S	Gravatt J
Duncan K	Evans S	Ford R	Gibbon P	Gravatt JC
Dungey S	Everett CM	Fordham J	Gibbons JF	Gray A

Gray C	Harden J	Heard CDR	CDRH	Honey G	Ingold R		
Gray J	Hardie AJ	Hellicar M		Honey MR	Ingram C		
Gray P	Harding A	Hemth J		Hooper G	Innes A		
Greasby RT	Harding C	Henderson K		Hooper MS	Innes RE	REI	
Greatbanks S	Harding G	Hennessey D		Hopkins P	Inward DR		
Green A	Harding M	Henson G		Hopkins R	Iredale R		
Green B	Hare M	Henty M	MHR	Hornby K	Irwin E		
Green R	Harflett C	Hepburn D		Horwood R	Ish P		
Greenwood D	Harlow J	Herbert C		Hough S	Itter W		
Greenwood L	Harper B	Herbert J		Houghton W	Jack J		
Grey C	Harper M	Herbert R		Housley DJ	Jackman N		
Grey P	Harrington C	Herne P		Houston T	Jackson A		
Griffin P	Harrington S	Herring E		Howard M	Jackson B		
Griffiths D	Harris A	Herts Bird Club		Howarth A	Jackson D		
Grimwood S	Harris B	Hewett J		Howarth I	Jackson ED		
Gross RD	Harris DM	Hewitt K	DMH	Howdon D	Jackson I		
Guest A	Harris K	Hewitt R		Howe R	Jackson J		
Guest K	Harris M	Hewitt SJ		Howey K	Jackson P		
Guiver J	Harris NG	Heydon C		Howey S	Jacobs S		
Gundersen J	Harris S	Hibberd M		Howie G	Jakeman T		
Gunkel P	Harris SM	Hickman M		Hubbard P	Jakeways R		
Gurr P	Harris T	Hicks R		Huckle S	James A		
Guthrie G	Harris TJ	Hider N		Hudson A	James G		
Gutteridge AC	Harrison B	Higgins G		Hudson J	James GA	GAJ	
Gwynn A	Harrison DW	Higginson C		Hudson S	James P		
Hadden N	Harrison H	Higgs P		Huertas B	James T		
Haddican D	Harrison L	Hilfield Reservoir		Huggins S	Jaques L		
Hagglund P	Harrison P	Bird Report		Hughes C	Jardine A		
Haig A	Harrison R	Hill J		Hughes D	Jarvis KM		
Haines B	Harrison S	Hill L		Hughes J	Jasingri J		
Haines J	Hart P	Hill T		Hughes M	Jasinski F		
Haines W	Hart R	Hilliard DJ		Hughes S	Jasinski J		
Haines WG	Hartmann B	Hillion E		Hukin T	Jeed D		
Haldane P	Hartwell C	Hills D		Hulls CAR	Jeffcock R		
Hale D	Harvey S	Hilton R		Hulls T	Jeffrey D		
Hall A	Hashmi A	Hines D		Hummerstone S	Jeffreys D		
Hall AD	Haslett N	Hines T		Humphreys-Jones	Jellett S		
Hall AG	Hastings R	Hinks S		A	Jenkins D		
Hall J	Hatcher JJ	Hinton G		Hung F	Jenkins H		
Hall K	Hatton WA	Hoare J	JHR	Hunt MS	Jenkins SJ		
Hall R	Hawgood G	Hobson A		Hunt N	Jennings D		
Halley-Frame V	Hawkes J	Hocking C		Hunter B	Jennings M		
	Hawkins KJ	Hodge C		Hurry N	Jennings S		
	Hawkins P	Hodges A		Hurst F	John K		
Halls JM	Hawsworth A	Hodgson P		Husband A	John T		
Halsey R	Haworth-Roberts	Hogg J		Husband RA	Johnson J		
Halsey SA	A	Hoggan C		Hutchins F	Johnson M		
Hamilton S	Hawtree JN	Holden A		Hutchins PE	Johnson S		
Hamilton WAH	Hay G	Hollamby G	GH	Hutchinson D	Jones A		
Hammond M	Haydon RM	Holland DG		Hutchison P	Jones B		
Hampson P	Hayes C	Hollands B		Hydder N	Jones CDR		
Hampton M	Hayes D	Holling M		Hyde D	Jones CM		
Hancock R	Haylock T	Hollocks A		Hyde P	Jones D		
Hanley K	Haynes A	Hollom M		Hyland P	Jones G		
Hannam J	Heal J	Holmes AL		Ilett M	Jones GJ		
Harbird R	Healey SJ	Holtby C		Ingham JB	Jones GW	MIL	GWJ
Harbott AG							

Jones H	Klavins J	Lenis J	Mahieu N	McCleary MJ	
Jones I	Knight A	Leoland C	Malins D	McCook P	
Jones J	Knight AR	Leppard T	Manfield F	McCormack J	
Jones LA	Knight DC	Lethbridge J	Mann D	McCormick J	
Jones P	Knight G	Lethbridge L	Mann L	McCulloch JI	
Jones PE	Knicht J	Levy J	Mann T	McDonnell J	
Jones R	Knott N	Lewis A	Mantell R	McGilvray KL	
Jones RI	Knott S	Lewis D	Mantle P	McGough D	
Jones RJ	Kohler M	Lewis M	Manville C	McKee MJ	MMCK
Jones SEI	Kopacz G	Lewis P	Maple Cross	McKenzie DT	
Jordan D	Kordon J	Liddell R	Ringing Group	McLaughlin J	
Jordan M	Kornjaca J	Liddle A	Marchant H	McLeod P	
Jupp C	Kortlandt DJ	Limb J	Marchant JH	McLoughlin M	
Kalli G	Kruessmann M	Lin Y-H	Marchant K	McMahon K	
Kalvins J	Kula M	Lindall S	Marrett A	McManus KJ	KJM
Karunanayake K	Lacey H	Lindo D	Mark H	McManus M	
Katchine C	Lamb A	Lindsay CA	Marks W	McNamee P	WM
Kaufmann N	Lambert P	Lindsell D	Maroevic FJ	McSweeney JR	FJM
Kavanagh T	Lamsdell CH	Ling D	Marret A	McTague J	
Kaye R	Lamsdell D	Ling M	Marriott S	McWalter D	
Keane D	Lander G	Linnell A	Marshall O	Mead D	
Kearney T	Langstein L	Lister I	Marshall P	Mead M	
Keel T	Lapworth G	Llewellyn S	Marshall S	Meades R	
Kehl I	Last B	Lockton D	Marshall SK	Meadows A	
Kellett A	Latham MJ	Lockton DJL	Martens DP	Meadows K	
Kelly C	Lathey PA	Lodge C	Martin H	Meadows R	
Kelly DJ	Laurie P	Loeb J	Martin J	Meaton A	
Kelsick A	Law S J	London Bird Club	Martin JEA	Melerauge R	
Kempa M	Lawler G	wiki	Martin JP	Melville DJ	
Kempster J	Lawler L	London Birders	Martin P	Menezes T	
Kennedy O	Lawrence J	Facebook	Martin PJ	Menzie SD	
Kennedy R	Lawson AR	London Wetland	Martyn R	Merchant P	
Kennedy T	Lawson MJ	Centre	Marylebone	Mess R	
Kennelly AD	Lay N	Longland J	Birdwatching	Messenger D	
Kennelly T	Layfield AR	Lordan M	Society	Messenger M	
Kenrick D	Le May M	Lowman D	Maskell JM	Messenger M	
Keogh N	Lea D	Lowman P	Mason C	Michael H	
Kernahan G	Lea S	Loynton S	Mason J	Middleton A	AMn
Kerr K	Leach D	Luckhurst A	Mason S	Middleton R	
Kerr M	Leach L	Luke RW	Massey A	Middleton S	
Kershaw S	Lead M	Luscombe A	Massey J	Miers C	
Ketcher M	Leadbeater L	Lyall I	Massey L	Miles M	
Kettell MM	Leahy B	Lycett I	Matthew C	Millar A	
Keynes A	Leahy E	Lyness D	Matthews D	Millen D	
Khan N	Lean P	Lyons D	Matthews L	Miller A	
Kiddell D	Leavett R	Lyons S	Matthews R	Miller B	
Kilby B	Lee A	Mac M	Mawby FJ	Miller D	
Kilkenny S	Lee T	Mackay A	Maxwell C	Milligan B	
Killip P	Lee Valley	Mackay G	May N	Mills R	
Kiln S	Regional Park	Mackenzie Davies	Mayfield D	Milton K	
King M	Authority	C	McAvoy S	Minhinick S	
Kirby B	Leerjet E	MacKenzie M	McBeath G	Minro B	
Kirk L	Legge C	Macklin A	McCafferty M	Mitchell B	
Kirkham-Brown K	Leigh P	Macrow FC	McCallum I	Mitchell D	DML
Kirkland M	Leitch M	Magness I	McCallum L	Mitchell JW	
Kite P			McCarthy D	Mitchell M	
			McCarthy M	Moll N	

Molloy M	Nasir J	Ockenden N	Patterson V	Posen SG
Money L	Nathalie M	O'Connor P	Paul B	Powell R
Montier DJ	Nayager T	O'Donnell P	Payman V	Power A
Moody A	Neal D	O'Flynn C	Payne D	Powere R
Moon AV	Neal S	Ogilvie LM	Payne LKR	Poynter S
Mooney R	Neale M	O'Halloran K	Payne RW	Pratley I
Moore C	Ness R	O'Hanlon J	Pea D	Prescott G
Moore D	Netherwood M	O'Hare F	Peacock K	Preston E
Moore KE	Netherwood MJ	Oliver N	Pearce S	Preston N
Moore P	Neville L	Oliver PJ	Pearcey S	Preston T
Moore PD	Newam J	O'Neil A	Pearson A	Price G
Moore RC	Newbound PJ PJN	Orchard M	Pearson R	Price K
Moran NJ	Newham J	Orchard MJ	Pearson V	Prideaux RH
Morden Hall Park Group	Newman K	O'Regan G	Peck TJ	Priestnall J
Morden R	Newmark PA	Orme M MO	Pedder B	Priestnall S
Moreton S	Newnham W	Ormondroyd S	Pedder R	Pritchard J
Morgan D	Newson J	Orr-Ewing DC	Pedley C	Privett KC
Morgan H	Newson S	Orwell T	Pedley S	Prowse A AP
Morgan M	Nicholl G	Osario N	Pedliham A	Purdy KL KLP
Morgan P	Nicholls PE	Osborn S	Peel A	Pursall K
Moritz I	Nicholls S	Osborn T	Peers M	Pyrah RJ
Morris DJ	Nichols C	Osmond J	Peggs G	Quail J
Morris J	Nichols SC	Osterley Park	Peggs S	Quig A
Morris P	Nicholson H	Birders	Pegram B	Quinn A
Morris R	Nicholson-Ross C	O'Sullivan F	Pentek P	Radcliffe S
Morris S	Nicholson-Ross G	Overall K	Pentek S	Rae A
Morrison D	Nick S	Owen D	Peregrine S	Rae R
Morrison L	Nigel T	Oxendale G	Perfect E	Ralph C
Morrison R	Nixon S SNx	Page B	Perfect S	Ramoneda
Morse E	Noakes J	Page D	Perkins J	Massagué J
Morton ER	Noble K	Page S	Perry R	Ramsay C
Morton P	Norcott B	Page-Jones R	Petch L	Roberts S
Morton R RMr	Norcott D	Paice M	Petchey M	Rand C
Moss A	Norris R	Painter D	Peters D	Randall A
Moss J	North JC	Painter J	Peters M	Randon N
Moss P	North P	Palmer J	Petley R	Rank M
Moss R RM	Northall N	Palmer JC	Pettit	Raper S
Mould J	Northam R	Palmer KJP	Phelps MS	Rare Bird Alert
Moule J	Norwood C	Palmer M	Phillips M	Rawcliffe G
Moulton T	Nowers MD	Palmer V	Phillips P	Rawlings ND
Mount B	Nowers MD	Papps S	Phillips TJ	Rawlins P
Murray B	Nugent F	Parcell K	Pia D DP	Raymond D
Murray J	Nuttall R	Parish C	Piatkowska KR	Rayner M
Murray JB	NW London RSPB	Parish J	Piccolo A	Read D
Murray K KMy	Group	Parker M	Piccolo T	Read S
Murray RD	NW Surrey RSPB	Parkes S	Pinkham D	Redfern M
Murray S	Group	Parr M	Piper R	Reding B
Murray-Smith C	Oakenfull P	Parry M	Plant L	Reding E
Muse A	Oakland M	Partridge J JPa	Podmore A	Redston A
Muse W	Oakley R	Partridge K	Polley D	Reed B
Musgrove A	Oakley T	Pashby C	Pond D	Reed C
Musk T	Oates SJ	Patel S	Popham EA	Reed J
Musker C	O'Brien A	Paterson S	Porritt D	Reed M
Napier D	O'Brien JW	Patmore S	Porter NR	Reeder A
Nash PF	O'Brien M	Patrick C	Portugal S	Reeves J
		Patridge J	Posen S	

Regent's Park	Roper P	Sekhlian J	Smith C	Stewart G
Birders	Roscorla C	Self ASM ASMS	Smith D DSm	Stewart I IS
Reid A AR	Rose C	Selge J	Smith G	Stewart KC
Reid B	Rose G	Seligman PM	Smith H	Stiegler A
Reid J	Rose I IR	Sell C	Smith J	Stockwell B
Reid W	Rose J	Sell M	Smith K	Stockwell M
Resting SM	Rose W	Sell P	Smith KR	Stones T
Rettke-Grover R	Ross B	Senior NP	Smith KW	Strangeman PJ
Reveley J	Ross D	Seymour K	Smith L	Street D
Reynolds A	Rossiter BN	Shammas C	Smith M	Street P PSt
Reynolds JL JLR	Rowbotham I	Shammas I	Smith N	Stretch B
Rhodes P	Rowe B	Sharman KJ	Smith P	Strickland I
Rhoney M	Rowe C	Sharp CJ	Smith T	Stride S
Rhule D	Rowe I	Sharp M	Smith TA	Stroud A
Richards CH	Rowing CGM	Sharp MB	Smoothy P	Strudwick J
Richards G	Rowland AJ	Sharp PJ	Smout C	Stuart T
Richards M	Rowley J	Shaw E	Snell CA	Stubbs D DST
Richardson D	Roxbrough-Smith S	Shaw G	Snell E	Stubbs E
Richardson J	Royston P	Shaw MD	Soane J	Stubbs R
Richmond Park	Ruislip Natural	Shearman A	Sobala G	Sturgess GM
Bird Recording	History Society	Shelley LM	Sorrell D	Sulway D
Group		Shephard S	Southam M	Summer N
Rickman M	Rumsby B	Shepherd L	Spall T	Sunderland A
Riddle D	Rumsby M	Shepherd M MSd	Sparkes K	Sunters A
Ridge J	Ruscoe M	Shepherd Wells M	Spears-Webb T	Surbiton & District
Ridge N	Rush M	Sherlock B	Speller T	Birdwatching Society
Ridge V	Russell R	Sherlock C	Spence AJ	
Ridley MJ	Rutherford B	Sherriff R	Spence IM	
Righelato R	Rutherford H	Sherwen J	Spence L	Surrey Bird Club
Rivoire JR	Rutter N	Sherwood J	Spencer P	Sutherland JA
Rob M	Ryan L	Sherwood J	Spencer PA	Suttle KH
Roberts A	Ryan P	Shilland EM	Spencer PA	Sutton Area Birds
Roberts BJ	Ryder G	Shippey S SSy	Spensley D	Sutton DR
Roberts J	Rye Meads	Shulver S	Spickett K	Sutton G
Roberts K	Partnership RMP	Silvey JR	Spink R	Sutton K
Roberts M	Ryland C	Simkins G	Spittles M	Sutton P
Robertson BD	Rylands K	Simmonds J	Spooner SJ SJS	Sutton P
Robertson DA	Rymer T	Simmonds Y	Springate M	Swallow JL
Robertson RA	Rymer T	Simmons M	St Albans RSPB	Swanson I
Robinson D	Sabrina T	Simms D	Group	Sweetland AS
Robinson L	Sadler JP	Simms O	Stachnicki IA	Sweetland J
Robinson M	Salmon A ASa	Simpson F FS	Stallard B	Sweetland T
Robinson MF	Sampson D	Simpson G	Stammers P	Symons F
Read D	Sandford-Smith B	Simpson H	Stanger A	Tallantire P
Read S	Satchell S	Simpson J	Stanley A	Tanner A ATn
Redfern M	Saul CA	Sinclair A	Stanley R	Tanner N
Reding B	Saunders A	Sinden N	Stannard E	Tarran D
Reding E	Saunders JC	Sketch PA PAS	Stansfield RH	Taylor A
Redston A	Saunders R	Skinner C	Stanton D	Taylor D
Reed B	Sawtell G	Skinner D	Stebbins S	Taylor J
Reed C	Scott G	Skotnicki A	Steel JH	Taylor K
Reed J	Scott S SSc	Slade AM	Steele AJ	Taylor N
Reed M	Rohl A	Slaney C	Stehls D	Taylor R
Reeder A	Seabrook RJ	Sleath H	Stephens R	Taylor RE
Reeves J	Seale J	Smart A	Stephenson A	Taylor S
	Seargent R	Smith A	Stevens M	Terry JH JHT
	Searle M	Smith B	Stevens P	Thackray S

Thatcher V	Turner J	Ward J	Wheeler MJ	Wills C	CWi
Theobald RC	Turner P	Ward KRA	Wheeler R	Wills D	DWL
Thomas A	Turner R	Ward P	Whele J	Wills S	
Thomas B	Turner RM	Warden B	Whibread J	Wilson A	
Thomas J	Turton S	Warden M	Whiskin B	Wilson AH	
Thomas N	Tusa F	Warden R	Whitbread J	Wilson B	
Thomas P	Tusa S	Wardman M	White C	Wilson G	
Thomas S	Tutt D	Warren D	White G	Wilson IJ	
Thomason E	Tweed A	Warren VW	White GJ	Wilson M	
Thompson BG	Twycross M	Warwick J	White M	Winn AC	
Thompson CA	Twyford N	Wasse J	White PD	Winstanley A	
Thompson D	Tyler D	Waterfall KW	White R	Wistow R	
Thompson J	Tyler P	Waters S	Whitehouse P	Witten S	
Thomson C	Tysoe A	Watkins G	Whitelegg D	Wood J	
Thornhill R	Tyson L	Watmore C	Whiteman P	Wood P	
Thrush P	Tyttenhanger GP	Watson IR	Whitfield A	Wood R	
Tilly D	twitter	Watson J	Whitfield J	Wood T	
Timms D	Unite R	Watson SC	Whittle M	Woodall R	
Timms N	Upstone M	Watts D	Widdowson D	Woodfield P	
Tingley M	Upton N	Watts PJ	Widgery K	Woodham C	
Todd B	Utting D	Watts RC	Wie E	Woodley V	
Todd L	Utton BM	Watts RJ	Wiggins M	Woodward ID	
Todd R	Vale M	Webb N	Wilcock A	Woodward JKA	
Tomczynski AB	Valentine L	Webb R	Wilczur JPP	Woodward R	
Tomkins T	Vallas JC	WeBS	Wildfowl &	Woolcock S	
Tomkins TJ	Van Der Veen N	Webster PJ	Wetlands Trust	Woolfenden S	
Tomlinson C	Vaughan B	Wedd J	Wildman T	Woolley RH	
Toms B	Vaughan H	Weil J	Wildside	Woolmore K	
Towers D	Vaughan P	Weir J	Wileman T	Wormwood Scrubs	
Town M	Vaughan R	Weiser M	Wilkinson A	Bird Group	
Townsend A	Venn M	Weitowitz DC	Wilkinson C	Worsfold S	
Townsend P	Vereycken J	Welland S	Wilkinson I	Wren Wildlife	
Tragett B	Verlander N	Weller D	Wilkinson N	Group	
Travers K	Verrall AG	Weller RD	Will R	Wright BE	
Treacy AP	Vine GJ	Wellington R	Willett JD	Wright C	
Treen P	Vine T	Wells D	Williams A	Wright D	
Tregenza P	Wade S	Welsh Harp	Williams B	Wright G	
Tregenza V	Waldron P	Conservation	Williams C	Wright T	
Trektellen	Walford MF	Group	Williams D	Wyn-Jones H	
website	Walker BJ	Wentworth-May M	Williams I	Wyn-Jones S	
Trevis B	Walker J	West S	Williams KA	Yates A	
Trim C	Walsh J	West V	Williams M	Yates J	
Trollope CE	Walsh JR	Westlake D	Williams N	York CH	
Trout NS	Walthamstow	Westley G	Williams O	Young G	
Tuck D	Birders	Weston D	Williams PA	Young J	
Tuck R	Wang E	Weston H	Williams V	Younger S	
Turner B	Wanstead Birders	Westwood C	Williams-Jones D	Zadeh J	
Turner C		Wheatcroft D	Williamson J	Zimmer D	
Turner D	Warburton D	Wheeldon P	Williamson T	Zimmer R	
Turner E	Ward I	Wheeler M	Williamson V		



BIRDS OF THE
LONDON AREA
2015

BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA, 2015

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

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 2015 appears on pages 21 to 28. 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 the R Thames from the Thames Barrier to the eastern edge of our recording area. The term 'West London reservoirs' is used for the following reservoirs: Island Barn, KGVI, QE II, Q. Mary, Q. Mother, Staines, Walton and Wraysbury.

Previous page: *Whinchat*. (Russ Sherriff)

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Status: common breeding resident.

The 125 breeding records (including nest-building) were up on last year's 113, and were the highest for several years. There were also more large flocks this year, with three sites hosting flocks of 100+ (none last year), and flocks of 50 or more were reported from 13 sites (seven last year). There is a tendency to under-record this species so, as ever, regular peak counts and breeding records would be welcome. Below are the highest counts in each sector.

Mute Swan breeding records (incl. nest-building)

Essex	Herts	Middx	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
20	26	36	9	22	12	125

Essex: Walthamstow Res, 60 on Jul 29th.

Herts: Stocker's Lake, 51 on Mar 14th.

Middx: Tottenham Lock to Springfield Marina, 103 on Feb 1st.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 90 on Nov 18th.

Kent: Southmere Lake, 50 on Nov 25th.

Surrey: Truss's Island, 120 on Dec 25th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 129 on Oct 19th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Status: rare winter visitor.

There was one report this year. This is the seventh consecutive year this species has been recorded in the London Area. The table below shows records since 2006.

Whooper Swan records 2006-2015: 13 records, 50 birds

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of records	2	0	0	1	4	1	1	1	2	1
No. of birds	2	0	0	1	8*	1	1	7	25	5

*perhaps 13

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, five over W on Nov 22nd (CDRH).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Status: scarce winter visitor.

Three records this year at Rainham Marshes and Brook Farm, Upminster, although probably just one bird was involved in all these sightings. One flew north across the R Thames to land at Rainham Marshes on October 24th, where it stayed for three days. Then one was at nearby Brook Farm from October 30th to November 6th. Finally, one was at Rainham Marshes on November 14th.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster, one from Oct 30th to Nov 6th (RBs). Purfleet, one flew from Dartford Marshes towards Rainham Marshes on Oct 24th at 11:50; later reported on Aveley Pools (FS). Rainham Marshes, one from Oct 24th-27th was the Purfleet bird (RBs, AT).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

All but one of this year's seven records came in the first winter period, but the only large flock was at the end of the year. The total number of birds was probably 43, better than the previous two years, but relatively low for this species. See table below for recent records.

The first were six flying north-west over Hangman's Wood in Essex on January 16th then, on the 18th, three were at Rainham Marshes. In February, three were seen at Belhus Woods CP on the 8th, then three (possibly the same birds) were at Ingrebourne Valley on various dates from February 14th to March 11th; one was also at Amwell NR on March 11th. The next sighting was of four north-west over Wimbledon on April 13th. The final record of the year, and the only one of the second winter period, was of a flock of 23 flying north at Amwell NR on December 23rd.

White-fronted Goose records 2006-2015: 102 records, 1,141 birds

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of records	16	8	4	3	20	25	12	5	2*	7
No. of birds	221	85	48	7	587	65	55	19	11*	43

*also some overwintering from 2013

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Status: common breeding resident.

As noted in previous issues of *LBR*, breeding records for this species can vary greatly year on year, and this year's total of 104 pairs/broods is well up on recent totals (61 in 2013 and 77 in 2014). There were real rises in several sites where we also have records from 2013 and 2014, and the 2015 Breeding Bird Survey shows a 109% increase on the previous year in South East England, so this seems to point to a genuine increase, rather than improved observer coverage.

The highest count of 480 came in October at Sevenoaks WR (up from 440 last year), but counts of 100 or more came from just ten sites (20 last year). Below are all breeding records (no. of pairs/broods if known in brackets) along with some of the highest counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (6); 192 on Sep 11th. Hall Marsh Scrape (1). Hooks Marsh Lake (1). Leyton Flats (1). Rainham Marshes (8); 181 on Nov 26th. Walthamstow Res (24). Warren Gorge (8).

Herts: Amwell NR (1); 250 on Dec 13th. Beech Farm GP (1). Cheshunt GPs (2). Hampermill Lake (3). How Wood (1). London Colney (2). Lynsters Farm (5). Lynsters Lake (1). Maple Cross, 150 on Sep 2nd. Park Street (1). Stocker's Lake (1).

Middx: Red House Res (1). Wildwoods, Enfield (1).

Bucks: East Iver Lakes (1).

Kent: Crossness (1). Darenth Lakes (8). Kelsey Park (3). Sevenoaks WR (3); 480 on Oct 10th.

Surrey: Esher Common (1). Holmethorpe SP (1). London Wetland Centre (1). Trevereux (3); 233 on Jul 22nd and Nov 16th were record site counts. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (3).

In Lond: Battersea (5). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 261 on Aug 17th. St James's Park (5); 162 on Jan 15th.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Status: occasional migrant and winter visitor.

This year there were about 135 birds seen at 26 sites. This was much lower than the exceptional 506 seen in 2014 and it only included two flocks in double figures. November was the month with the most records but records were split about evenly over the two winter periods. The last of the first winter period was on April 22nd and the first returning bird was on September 27th. The records in Hertfordshire and in Essex in the Cheshunt GPs area possibly relate to just one bird.

Essex: Cornmill Meadows, one on Jan 5th. Gallions Reach, one E on Sep 27th and six E on Dec 28th. Grays Riverside, two E on Nov 10th. Gunpowder Park, one over on Mar 8th. Hall Marsh Scrape, one on Jan 6th. Holyfield Lake, one on Apr 9th & 17th. Holyfield Marsh, one on Apr 5th & 24th. Rainham Marshes, one from Jan 1st-7th, four on 10th and three on 19th, 17 E on Feb 2nd, singles on Mar 1st, Apr 7th-12th & 22nd, Sep 27th and Oct 24th, two on Oct 28th, one on Nov 20th and eight E on Dec 28th. Waltham Marsh, one on Jan 23rd. Walthamstow Res, one on Nov 14th.

Herts: Cheshunt GPs, one on Apr 24th and May 3rd.

Middx: Brayside Farm, one on Nov 24th. Staines Res, four on Nov 7th.

Kent: Dartford, a flock heard calling overhead in the dark on Apr 7th as they flew N which the observer thought could have numbered 50+. Dartford Marshes, one E on Apr 22nd. Swanscombe Marshes, nine on Nov 4th. Vanbrugh Fields, Blackheath, seven E on Oct 21st.

Surrey: Barn Elms Playing Field, one from Nov 5th-22nd. Beddington Farmlands, one over on Jan 19th. Holmethorpe SP, one over on Nov 22nd, one from Dec 26th-27th. London Wetland Centre, one on Nov 25th. Painshill Park, two on Nov 20th. QE II Res, five on Nov 4th.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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

We have split the records into winter wanderers and those believed to be resident/summer birds. The latter appear in Appendix I; the rest are below. Two large groups were reported this year: a flock of up to 63 at Sevenoaks WR in February and the regular flock in south-west London in December (also reported in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014).

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, up to 63 on Feb 14th-15th (MCh, GF).

Surrey: Island Barn Res, 11 over on Nov 21st and 31 roosting on Dec 28th (DMH). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), 11 on Nov 27th rising to 31 on Dec 9th; they stayed until the end of the year (DMH).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Status: very common, introduced breeding resident.

The number of breeding records this year rose considerably to 236 pairs/broods from 97 sites (175 from 65 sites last year), and is very similar to the 222 from 95 sites in 2013. Last year's top breeding sites, Beddington Farmlands and Walthamstow Res, both recorded increases, the former by over 50%, and there was a large rise in records from the Essex sector. The Breeding Bird Survey for 2015 shows no significant change in the UK from 2014, but a long-term increase of 67% from 1995-2014. So all this seems to indicate a

real increase, rather than fluctuations due to changes in observer coverage. Below are breeding records of three or more pairs (no. of pairs/broods in brackets) and a selection of the highest counts.

Essex: Breeding records from 15 sites. Rainham Marshes (12). Walthamstow Res (52); 578 on Jun 25th. Warren Gorge (4).

Herts: Breeding records from 27 sites. Hilfield Park Res, 335 on Aug 20th. Rye Meads (7). Tyttenhanger GP (6). Verulamium Park (4).

Middx: Breeding records from 18 sites. Q. Mary Res (3). Staines Res, 250 on Aug 28th.

Bucks: No breeding records. Wraysbury GP, 261 on Nov 18th.

Kent: Breeding records from seven sites. Dartford Marshes (3). Sevenoaks WR (9); 255 on Oct 10th.

Surrey: Breeding records from 27 sites. Beddington Farmlands (21). Holmethorpe SP, 278 on Oct 9th. London Wetland Centre, 418 on Jan 29th.

In Lond: Breeding records from three sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 317 on Jul 20th. Regent's Canal (Limehouse to Kings Cross) (5).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Status: increasing, introduced breeding resident.

Around 3,000 records were received, many more than any other swan or goose species, a reflection of the continued increase in the London population. They were reported at 278 sites (up from 244 in 2014) and there were 64 breeding records at 48 sites (61 breeding records from 39 sites in 2014). In addition, pairs or juveniles were at another 26 sites where breeding was not proven. The 103 birds reported from Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens on December 14th is thought to be the highest ever count for the London Area.

The table below shows the number of sites where this bird was reported, broken down by sector. Below are all breeding records, with the number of broods in brackets, along with the highest count in each sector.

Egyptian Goose: number of sites where recorded, by sector

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
39	31	63	13	28	75	29	278

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster (1). Dagenham Chase (1). Hainault (1). Holyfield Lake (1). Leyton Flats (1). Thorndon CP North (2). Three Mills (1). Valentines Park (1); 30 on Dec 26th. Walthamstow Marshes (1). Walthamstow Res (2).

Herts: Amwell NR (1). Hunton Bridge (1). Lynsters Farm (1); 13 on May 5th. Panshanger Park (1). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (1). Stocker's Farm (1).

Middx: Brent Res (1). Bushy Park (1). Clissold Park (1). Grovelands Park (1). Home Park (2). Markfield Park (1). Staines Res, 76 on Oct 10th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 81 on Aug 1st. Thorney Weir Lake (1). Wraysbury GP (1).

Kent: Danson Park (1). Greenwich Park (1). Kelsey Park (1). Sevenoaks WR (2); 23 on Oct 3rd and Dec 23rd.

Surrey: Addlestone (1). Brentford Ait (1). Corporation Island (1). Holmethorpe SP, 28 on Jul 31st. Hurst Park (1). Island Barn Res (3). Kew Gardens (1). Morden Hall Park (1). QEII Res (2). Steven's Eyot (1). Sunray Gardens (1). Teddington Lock (1). Thorpe Water

Park (1). Tooting Common (1). Truss's Island (1). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (1). **In Lond:** Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (5); 103 on Dec 14th. Regent's Park (3). Southwark Park (1). St James's Park (4). Victoria Park (1).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

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

This year's breeding total was marginally up on last year, with 21 broods at 16 sites (20 from ten in 2014), but it seems more ducklings fledged this year, with most success in the Middlesex sector. There were also pairs recorded at eight other sites in the breeding season where breeding was not proven. By contrast the year's highest count, of 80 at Crossness in January, was almost half last year's high of 155, also at Crossness. WeBS counts in the UK have declined by 28% from winter 2003/4 to winter 2013/14 (*Waterbirds in the UK 2014/15*), a decline noted locally in previous issues of *LBR*. Breeding records, with no. of broods in brackets, are shown below, the no. of young if known, and selected high counts.

Essex: Barking Riverside, 64 on Aug 2nd. Holyfield Hall Farm (1), two young. Rainham Marshes (3); 75 on Mar 14th. Walthamstow Res (2), nine hatched.

Herts: Rye Meads (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: Brent Res (1). KGV Res (1), seven fledged. Q. Mary Res (2), six fledged. Staines Res (2), seven fledged; 45 on Jun 22nd.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res (1), one fledged.

Kent: Crossness (1), nine young; 80 on Jan 7th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (1), 11 hatched. Platt's Eyot (1), three young. QEII Res (1), five young. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) (1), one young.

In Lond: Regent's Park (1), nine hatched.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Status: introduced breeding resident, established and locally common.

The number of broods was only 25 this year (39 in 2014, 25 in 2013 and 19 in 2012). Ten Acre Wood, Yeading had its first record this year. Overall numbers show a small increase compared to last year. Below are all breeding records (no. of broods in brackets) and significant counts.

Essex: Connaught Water (1); 37 on Nov 29th. Sewardstone Marsh (2). Strawberry Hill Ponds (2).

Herts: Essendon (1). Hatfield Park, 35 on Jan 29th. Woodside, 38 on Sep 7th.

Middx: Bay Farm (1). Boxer's Lake, Enfield (1). Fir & Pond Woods (1). Grovelands Park (2); 74 on Oct 15th. Osterley Park (1). Red House Res (1). Stain Hill Res (1). Trent Park (1). Whitewebbs Park, 64 on Feb 6th.

Bucks: Black Park, 32 on Feb 28th.

Kent: High Elms CP, pair mating on Mar 18th. Kelsey Park (1); 29 on Aug 11th.

Surrey: Ham (1). Leatherhead (1). London Wetland Centre (1); 23 on Feb 8th. Richmond Park (1); 35 on Oct 24th & 31st. Trevereux (2).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1), young all eaten by gulls; 11 on Apr 1st. Regent's Park (2).

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Status: common winter visitor with occasional summer records.

Rainham Marshes again had the highest counts, which peaked at 1,200 on January 15th. This is up on the peak there in 2014 which was 1,070. There were a few birds present during the summer. Winter numbers generally appeared similar to last year. Broadwater Lake had the highest site count for many years, as did Wanstead Park.

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

Eurasian Wigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Belhus Woods CP	67	38	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	25	109
Rainham Marshes	1200	500	1000	74	4	-	1	13	12	200	400	500
HR Amwell NR	107	92	24	1	-	-	-	-	9	55	160	75
Stocker's & Bury Lake	100	134	79	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	30	52
Cheshunt GPs	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	91	114
Hilfield Park Res	177	175	4	-	-	-	-	-	26	81	40	21
Troy Mill Lake	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	198	112
MX Broadwater Lake	65	30	3	-	-	-	-	-	10	16	300	75
KGVI Res	3	-	8	-	-	1	-	-	74	370	-	-
Staines Res	343	316	348	8	-	-	4	3	20	400	428	170
BU Horton GP	-	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Wraysbury GP	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	95	103	183
KT Crayford Marshes	20	207	16	12	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	40
SY Walton Res (C&L)	166	179	187	6	-	-	-	9	24	163	105	60

Large numbers of Wigeon winter in London. (Andrew Moon)



Wanstead Park is an important wintering site for Gadwall. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Essex: Cornmill Meadows, 59 on Jan 5th. Fishers Green Goosefield, 50 on 28th Jan.

Wanstead Park, 34 on Nov 3rd was a site record.

Herts: Panshanger Park, 54 on Oct 18th.

Middx: Kempton Park Race Course, 92 on Feb 7th. Q. Mary Res, 82 on Feb 8th. Stain Hill Res, 56 on Oct 17th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 45 on Nov 22nd. Thorney Weir Lake, 33 on Jan 29th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 80 on Oct 22nd.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, 94 on Oct 29th. Thorpe Water Park, 93 on Mar 8th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, one on Oct 13th & 17th was a very rare sight here. Regent's Park, one on Mar 15th and two on Oct 4th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

Rye Meads had 18 broods this year, down from 21 in the previous year. The overall total of 43 broods was seven more than last year. The peak count this year was 702 at Wraysbury GP, which was a massive increase on the peak there in 2014 of 221. The peak counts at Rye Meads were also up on 2014. The Wetlands Bird Survey shows winter numbers rising strongly in England. (*BTO website*.) Counts for the major sites are shown in the table, with other peaks and all breeding records (no. of broods in brackets), and a summary of Inner London records given below. Wintering numbers generally appeared similar to last year.

Gadwall	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Wanstead Park	407	366	32	13	4	4	-	22	33	186	360	319
HR Panshanger Park	248	46	-	6	6	28	-	9	136	261	-	130
Rye Meads	121	68	128	150	53	477	116	110	339	446	387	42
Troy Mill Lake	4	24	3	2	-	-	113	110	-	72	232	166
BU Horton GP	-	396	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
Wraysbury GP	2	116	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	702	196
KT Crossness	118	65	70	56	45	30	6	25	250	18	54	74
MX Brent Res	18	8	23	36	37	117	38	61	114	76	127	34
Broadwater Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	105
Staines Res	83	13	54	2	34	30	2	4	27	190	65	28
SY Beddington Farmlands	115	110	50	20	11	14	8	20	40	55	70	52

Essex: Rainham Marshes (4), 15 pairs summered.

Herts: Amwell NR (1); 137 on Dec 13th. Bury Lake, 150 on Jan 23rd. Hilfield Park Res (2). Maple Lodge NR (2). Rye Meads (18).

Middx: Brent Res (2). Grand Junction Res (1). KGV Res (1). Stain Hill Res (1).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre (6). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (1).

In Lond: Battersea Park, 115 on Nov 25th. Chelsea Wharf, two on Jan 11th and Apr 17th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, eight on Mar 10th. Regent's Park, four on Dec 31st. St James's Park (4). Victoria Park, 15 on Dec 9th.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

Although a few birds were present during the breeding season, there was no proof of breeding, but a group of four in mid-June at Beddington Farmlands were a family party.

Overall, wintering numbers were up on last year. The peak count was 803 at Crossness

A drake Teal in all its finery. (Peter Alfrey)



on October 5th (2014 peak there of 652), while at Rainham Marshes the peak count was 700 on January 15th (574 in 2014). The table below gives counts for the major sites, with significant records from other sites below the table.

Eurasian Teal	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Beckton SW	-	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Creekmouth, Barking	260	-	250	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-
Mar Dyke Valley	192	112	117	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	76
Rainham Marshes	700	127	300	98	6	3	8	81	198	215	224	300
HR Rye Meads	185	95	68	17	-	3	7	51	84	98	154	141
KT Crayford Marshes	110	-	100	100	-	-	-	-	200	-	16	40
Crossness	735	600	550	350	2	5	13	250	725	803	300	500
Thamesmead-Erith	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	386
MX Bow Creek	170	290	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107
Brent Res	130	52	40	68	4	2	8	38	168	188	164	150
East India Dock Basin	275	357	245	50	-	-	-	5	55	120	120	148
Staines Res	76	131	169	51	2	4	5	55	183	247	341	204
SY Beddington Farmlands	275	200	250	70	15	4	1	60	239	265	411	415
Putney Bridge-Barnes	-	265	238	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wetland Centre	288	207	142	28	2	4	19	83	107	249	358	268+

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, 100 on Oct 16th. Mill Meads, 130 on Jan 7th. Redbridge Lakes, 80 on Jan 19th. Walthamstow Res, 138 on Oct 18th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 100 on Dec 13th. Panshanger Park, 62 on Dec 12th.

Middx: Fulham Reach 62 on Jan 31st. Hackney Marsh, 96 on Jan 27th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 98 on Apr 8th. Sevenoaks WR, 140 on Jan 18th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, 105 on Dec 27th. R Wandle: Carshalton Ponds to Wandsworth, 95 on Dec 28th.

In Lond: Chelsea Wharf, 28 on Jan 11th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, male from Nov 1st until at least Dec 27th. Regent's Park, seven on Dec 31st.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Status: very common and widespread breeding resident.

The total number of broods was 298 compared to 226 last year. There were two reports of newly hatched young in mid-November, from London Wetland Centre and Swanley Park. At Longfield Gallops, 270 feeding on corn in a field in August was an unusual sight. The peak count was 513 at London Wetland centre on July 7th and the peak winter count was 475 at Staines Res on December 13th. Both these counts were much higher than last year (139 at London Wetland Centre and 85 at Staines Res), but this could reflect observer coverage rather than population changes. Winter populations in the UK have declined since at least the late 1980s (WeBS: Frost *et al.* 2016). The species has recently been moved from the Green to the Amber list on the strength of this decline in the UK wintering population (BTO Bird Trends). Regular counts from sites would therefore be very welcome.

The table below shows sites that had a count of 200 or more. Breeding/territory records are summarised below the table.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	50	32	41	43	24	48	-	294	40	28	85	51
KT Longfield Gallops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	270	171	-	-	-
MX Staines Res	27	28	30	33	58	40	23	30	56	350	324	475
SY Putney Bridge-Barnes	-	284	159	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R Wandle (Carshalton Ponds-Wandsworth)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	321
Truss's Island	204	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107
Wetland Centre	226	194	144	193	140	148	513	190	293	203	268	208

Essex: 45 broods from 13 sites.

Herts: 60 broods from 20 sites.

Middx: 59 broods from 31 sites.

Kent: 52 broods from 19 sites.

Surrey: 72 broods from 23 sites.

In Lond: Ten broods from five sites.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

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

Wintering numbers were similar to 2014. The peak count was 51 at Rainham Marshes on January 1st (peak count last year there of 56). The last at the start of the year were on April 17th at Rainham Marshes and the first returning birds were on August 15th at KGV Res. Interestingly, a captive pair bred at St James's Park, producing four young. The table below gives counts from key sites and below that, all the records from other sites.

Northern Pintail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	51	50	29	12	-	-	-	2	7	14	28	42
HR Rye Meads	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
MX Brent Res	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Staines Res	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	6	6	3	1
SY Beddington Farmlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Wetland Centre	4	3	3	1	-	-	-	1	3	1	4	5

Essex: Chingford, one in flood relief channel near William Girling Res on Oct 4th and Dec 14th. Connaught Water, one on Jan 6th & 25th, Feb 5th, Mar 8th, Aug 28th and Dec 5th. Harold Wood SW, one on Oct 7th & 20th. Holyfield Lake, one on Jan 4th & 18th. Ingrebourne Valley, one to two from Dec 14th-31st. KGV Res, singles on Apr 14th, Aug 13th and Nov 4th-15th. Mar Dyke Valley, three on Jan 4th and pair on Mar 3rd. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Feb 21st.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles from Jan 19th-23rd, on Nov 15th and Dec 24th & 31st. Cheshunt GPs, singles on Feb 6th and Nov 13th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Sep 19th, then two on Oct 1st and Dec 26th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Nov 7th. Stanstead Innings, one from Jan 1st to Mar 7th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Feb 24th

Middx: Bushy Park, one on Oct 29th. Kempton NR, two on Mar 31st.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Aug 20th and Dec 7th. Wraysbury GP, two on Sep 21st and three on Oct 27th, with one staying to 30th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, six on Jan 23rd, two on Dec 5th and one on 17th.

Surrey: QE II Res, three on Mar 4th and one on Oct 1st. Richmond Park, one on Dec 26th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), two on Feb 14th, one from Sep 12th to Oct 5th, with two on Sep 15th and four on Oct 5th and Nov 5th. Watermeads, one SW on Apr 6th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

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

The wintering bird at Beddington Farmlands at the end of 2014 stayed until mid-April. The first migrant was at London Wetland Centre on March 12th (three days later than last year). More followed from April 2nd and they were noted at: Rainham Marshes, Holmethorpe SP, Beddington Farmlands, Dartford Marshes, KGV Res, Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), Fairlop Waters, Walthamstow Res, London Wetland Centre and Rye Meads. Most of these sightings were one or two birds in April or May, but there were three at Rainham Marshes on April 12th. By June, birds were only recorded at two sites, with the last at Rye Meads on July 29th.

The first returning bird was on August 16th at Sevenoaks WR, followed by one at Amwell NR on 22nd. Others followed in August and September at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), Waterworks NR, Beddington Farmlands and Thorpe Water Park. By October, there were only records at Staines Res and Thorpe Water Park. The Staines Res bird stayed on until November 4th and then one was at Wraysbury GP on November 5th, which stayed to 27th, being joined by a second on 18th and 20th.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

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

Most of our wintering population had left by late April and began to return in mid-August, similar to last year. Staines Res was the only site with numbers of national significance (180 for BTO WeBS counts). The highest count there was 393 in October, well below the 2014 peak, but similar to 2013. Pairs bred at Rainham Marshes and London Wetland Centre, and a pair may have bred at Amwell NR.

The table below gives monthly figures for the key sites. Below that are significant records from other sites and Inner London. Breeding records give the number of pairs in brackets.

Northern Shoveler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	153	32	133	86	36	12	6	29	27	52	51	85
HR Amwell NR	133	138	40	40	6	2	2	25	27	45	23	15
Rye Meads	54	51	94	60	6	9	14	58	116	94	75	78
MX Brent Res	20	8	10	8	2	2	3	22	116	37	46	100
Staines Res	9	70	115	54	3	2	25	77	130	393	33	40
KT Crossness	85	119	25	18	2	-	-	2	7	6	50	33
SY Beddington Farmlands	60	65	40	40	0	2	0	18	40	70	47	72
Wetland Centre	72	107	97	27	3	7	20	46	121	131	133	133

Essex: Rainham Marshes (6, four broods seen). Walthamstow Res, 86 on Sep 13th. Wanstead Park, 74 on Dec 13th.

Herts: Amwell NR (pair may have bred, no young seen). Hilfield Park Res, 57 on Apr 7th. Stocker's Lake, 74 on Mar 8th.

Middx: Broadwater Lake, 49 on Jan 12th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 102 on Sep 29th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 36 on Oct 28th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, 93 on Mar 20th. London Wetland Centre (1, nine young hatched, two survived). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), 82 on Mar 15th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, 33 on Mar 14th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 35 on Jan 7th. Regent's Park, 30 on Mar 30th. Rotherhithe, 23 on Jan 2nd. Southwark Park, 16 on Dec 6th. St James's Park, nine on Nov 26th. Victoria Park, 17 on Dec 9th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

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

For the first time since 2010, when this species was judged to have a self-sustaining population in the London Area, Regent's Park did not record the peak count. Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens had the highest count with 36 while the most seen at Regent's Park was 30, down from 47 last year and 88 in 2010. Stocker's Lake, with a peak count of 24, also supplanted Bushy Park as the favourite site outside Inner London. Breeding was poorly recorded this year but London's population continues to be boosted, as in the case of a pair at Greenwich Park, by free-flying young from pinioned pairs. Peak counts at sites where five or more birds were seen are listed along with the only records for Kent, with breeding records in brackets.

Essex: Walthamstow Marshes, five on Apr 26th. Walthamstow Res, six on May 17th.

Herts: Bury Lake, 15 on Nov 15th. Stocker's Lake, recorded every month except July with 24 on Nov 28th, Dec 17th & 22nd.

Middx: Bushy Park, 17 on Sep 29th. Eel Pie Island, eight on Jun 3rd. Finsbury Park, eight on Apr 14th. Trowlock Island (1).

Bucks: Horton GP, eight on Feb 12th. Q. Mother Res, six over on Oct 24th. Wraysbury GP, six on Oct 24th, seen earlier at Q. Mother Res.

Kent: Darenth Lakes, one on Feb 2nd. Greenwich Park, six young hatched by pinioned pair, of which at least two survived to fly.

Surrey: Ham, nine on May 17th. Teddington Lock, seven on Feb 2nd.

In Lond: Battersea Park, eight on Oct 17th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 36 on Sep 6th. Regent's Park, 30 on Mar 1st. St James's Park (3); 20 on Apr 8th. Victoria Park (1); 15 on Nov 11th.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

Staines Res had very high numbers with 433 on November 25th and 934 on December 13th; both of which are nationally significant (BTO WeBS). This is, by far, the highest peak count in recent years in the London Area and compares to a maximum of just 164

at the same site in 2014. This was after the north basin had been drained and refilled, and probably due to more abundant submerged vegetation.

The highest count elsewhere was 300 at KGV Res. Confirmed breeding records were submitted from 18 sites compared to last year's 17 with the number of broods almost the same at 49 instead of 50. Peak monthly counts of 50 or more are included in the table with all breeding records (no. of broods in brackets).

Common Pochard		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	Rainham Marshes	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Walthamstow Res	55	57	-	-	-	-	-	142	-	-	96	130
HR	Amwell NR	-	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Stocker's & Bury Lake	-	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	148	-	55
	Hilfield Park Res	-	-	-	-	-	115	152	100	-	-	-	-
MX	Brent Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80
	Broadwater Lake	78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	132
	KGV Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	-
	Q. Mary Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	60	-	-	-	-
	Staines Res	86	143	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	230	433	934
SY	Thorpe Water Park	70	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	-
	Walton Res (C & L)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	82	-	-
IL	Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51

Essex: 13 broods. Belhus Woods CP (2). Rainham Marshes (5). Walthamstow Res (5). Wanstead Flats (1).

Herts: 19 broods. Bury Lake (1). Maple Lodge NR (3). Rye Meads (14). Verulamium Park (1).

Middx: Six broods. Brent Res (1). Clissold Park (2). Finsbury Park (1). Osterley Park (1). Stoke Newington (1).

Kent: One brood. Crossness (1)

Surrey: Five broods. London Wetland Centre (1). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (4).

In Lond: Five broods. Regent's Park (1). St James's Park (4).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

Status: rare vagrant.

A drake at London Wetland Centre on May 25th, is the first record for the London Area of this North American duck since 2003 (a bird which had overwintered from 2002). This long gap is a surprise as there appear to have been 20 records now since the first in 1974 and 13 of these records were in the period 1992-2015. The table below summarises all the records.

Ring-necked Duck records **1974-1999:** 20 records, 20 birds

Year	1974	1977	1978	1981	1989	1992	1993	1995	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2015
No. of records	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1*	3	1	1	3	2**	1

*overwintered to 1996

**one overwintered to 2003

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, drake on May 25th (RK, SSc).

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Status: rare vagrant.

After a blank year in 2014 - the first since 2009 - there was a return to form with one female at Dagenham Chase in November, which stayed for nearly a fortnight. As the table below shows, since 1990, November is the favourite month for this species to arrive in the London Area.

Ferruginous Duck arrival dates 1990-2015: 23 records, 23 birds

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

Essex: Dagenham Chase, fem from Nov 22nd to Dec 3rd (VHF *et al*).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

The moulting gathering at Walthamstow Res hit a new high with 2,860 on August 9th, beating the previous maximum of 2,715 in 2011. In the winter periods, Staines Res had the peak count with 2,761 on December 13th. As with Common Pochard, this was far higher than the previous year when the maximum there was 883. This was after the north basin had been drained and refilled, and probably due to more abundant submerged vegetation. Overall, however, the continuing mild winters meant that only seven sites had counts of over 500 compared to nine last year. Highest counts in Inner London were 127 at Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens on February 9th and 156 at St James's Park on December 31st. Submitted breeding records were down again with 145 broods from 35 sites compared to 173 from 44 last year. However, the figures continue to be incomplete, with no breeding records this year from Regent's Park or Buckinghamshire. The highest number of broods was again at Rye Meads with 22 (down from 27 last year and 40 in 2013). The table contains all monthly counts of 500 and above, with the number of reported broods in each county and at main breeding sites included.

Tufted Duck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX KGV Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	530	-	-	-	-	-
Walthamstow Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	2860	1126	618	-	621	-
MX Broadwater Lake	567	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	800
KGVI Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	1236	1408	-	-	-	-
Staines Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	618	-	1020	733	2761	-
BU Q. Mother Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	650	-	-	-
Wraysbury GP	-	904	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	704

Essex: 20 broods. Rainham Marshes (6). Walthamstow Res (11).

Herts: 35 broods. Rye Meads (22).

Middx: 22 broods.

Kent: Three broods.

Surrey: 59 broods. Beddington Farmlands (12). Holmethorpe SP (15). London Wetland Centre (11). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (12).

In Lond: Six broods. St James's Park (6).

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

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

A much better year with over 28 birds from nine sites compared to the paltry 17 from four sites in 2014. The numbers were swelled by a flock of 12 seen flying downriver at Gallions Reach on January 4th, the largest flock for many years. Walthamstow Res, which had six individuals over the first winter period, and Staines Res, which may have had as many as eight separate birds during the second half of the year, account for most of the records. An immature drake, which had a long stay at Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens visited Regent's Park on its way north.

Essex: Dagenham Chase, one on Nov 22nd. Gallions Reach, 12 on Jan 4th. KGV Res, male on Dec 27th. Walthamstow Res, six individuals in the first winter period (one remaining from 2014) with four on Feb 8th and Mar 22nd and the last on Apr 4th. A drake from Nov 29th until the end of the year.

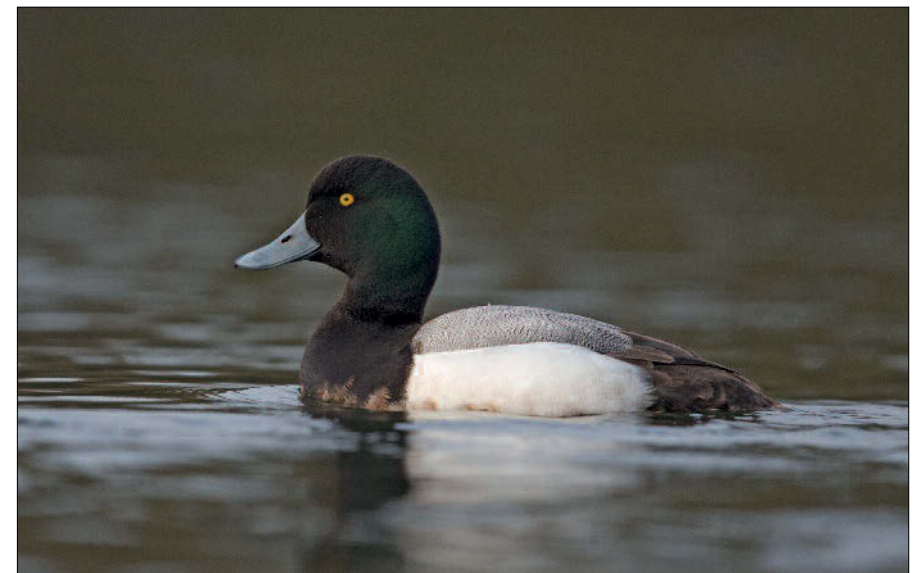
Herts: Amwell NR, one on Feb 7th.

Middx: Staines Res, the drake from 2014 remained until Mar 2nd. Two female-types on Sep 5th with an eclipse drake on Sep 17th. There were two imms on Oct 31st, joined by a third on Nov 7th, and then seen regularly until the end of the year. Another drake and fem on Nov 22nd.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Nov 8th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, imm drake from Jan 1st to Apr 15th. Regent's Park, same bird from Apr 29th to May 5th.

*This long-staying drake Scaup was at Hyde Park for the first four months of the year.
(Andrew Moon)*



Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

Status: rare vagrant.

2014 Addition

The adult drake at Sunnymeads GP from October 29th to November 1st in 2014 was not reported in *LBR* 2014 because all sightings were believed to be outside the LNHS Area. We now understand that this bird was just within London on October 30th. This is the fourth record for London and not far from the last one at Wraysbury GP in October 2008. The other records were in 2003 and 1996.

Bucks: Sunnymeads GP, adult drake on Oct 30th (CDRH).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

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

A below average year for a species whose annual numbers vary considerably (see table below). Perhaps 56 different birds at 14 sites - well down on 2014's 80 birds but above the 33 in the year before. The largest flock was seven at Q. Mother Res in November, among the 15 seen at this site during the year. Rainham Marshes had the most records overall with perhaps 21 different birds on eight dates. August had the most individual records but birds were seen in every month except February and June. The Inner London record is the first since 2009.

Common Scoter records 2010-2015

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of birds	97	49	138	33	80	56

Essex: Gallions Reach, one on Apr 12th. KGV Res, one on Mar 3rd and one from Nov 28th to Dec 29th. Rainham Marshes, five on Mar 24th, one on Apr 2nd, four on Apr 3rd, one on Apr 18th, two on Jul 13th, one on Jul 27th, three on Sep 16th and four on Nov 11th. Walthamstow Res, three from Aug 17th-21st with one remaining to Aug 29th.

Middx: Q. Mary Res, two on Nov 22nd. Staines Res, singles on Mar 19th, Aug 24th and Oct 19th.

Bucks: Horton GP, one from Dec 4th-29th. Q. Mother Res, drake from Jan 1st-14th, drake on May 17th, fem on May 26th, two drakes on Jul 19th, juv from Aug 31st to Sep 6th, drake from Oct 1st-6th, seven on Nov 22nd and one on Dec 11th which was thought to be the same as Horton GP.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, five on Mar 24th (same as Rainham), one on Aug 12th. Crossness, one on Sep 12th. Dartford Marshes, four on Apr 3rd (presumed same as Rainham).

Surrey: Island Barn Res, one on Aug 12th. QE II Res, singles on Mar 27th, Aug 11th and Sep 10th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, two on Apr 12th.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Status: common winter visitor, occasional summer records.

The peak count of 78 at Staines Reservoirs on March 4th was the highest in the London Area since 2007 and 16 more than the maximum recorded, also at the same site, last year. Wraysbury GP, with 31 birds on February 12th, was the only other site with a count

of over 30. The species was recorded in every month with what were presumably six returning birds found on KGV Res on June 14th. A female took up residence in Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens for over a month in the spring. Peak monthly counts of over 15 are included in the table with the only Kent and Inner London records below that.

Common Goldeneye	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX KGV Res	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
HR Amwell NR	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stocker's Lake	21	19	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MX KGV Res	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Staines Res	37	64	78	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	25
BU Wraysbury GP	5	31	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18

Kent: Dartford Marshes, one from Nov 28th to Dec 17th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one from Mar 12th to Apr 14th.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Status: winter visitor in highly variable but declining numbers.

The decline in numbers of this beautiful duck in the London Area continues. It seems likely that there were no more than 24 individuals in the first winter period, down from 30 in 2014 although numbers may have been slightly up at the end of the year from ten to 12. Peak counts also fell to a new low with a maximum of five compared to seven last year. Wraysbury GP (where as many as 29 could be seen on one day as recently as 2001), Amwell NR and Princes Lakes (where there is now no public access) all had daily counts of five, with four birds seen at Friday Lake and Hook's Marsh Lake. The last of the first winter period was on March 17th, and the first returning birds on November 15th

Essex: Hook's Marsh Lake, four from Jan 1st-2nd. KGV Res, up to two fem between Nov 15th and end of year.

Herts: Amwell NR, from January until Mar 5th with five on Jan 16th, and one from Nov 28th to end of year. Rye Meads, two on Mar 4th. Stanstead Innings, one on Feb 18th. Stocker's Lake, two on Jan 11th with one until Feb 14th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Dec 29th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, fem on Jan 24th. Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Jan 31st and Feb 4th. Princes Lakes, five on Jan 15th & 16th, one on Jan 20th and two on Jan 30th. Staines Res, one on Dec 9th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, from Jan 1st to Mar 1st with five on Feb 27th; one from Nov 23rd to Dec 30th, then five on Dec 31st.

Surrey: Gatton Park/Lake, one on Jan 18th. Holmethorpe SP, one from Jan 1st to Feb 20th. Richmond Park, two on Feb 2nd.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Numbers were down with only 15 recorded from seven sites compared to 30 from 11 sites in 2014. Records were fairly evenly split between the Thames, which usually accounts for the majority of birds, and inland sites. Milder winters in recent years have seen a general decline in records.

Essex: Gallions Reach, two on Jan 20th. KGV Res, one on Apr 21st and two on Oct 30th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Apr 10th and Oct 24th, two on Dec 15th.

Middx: Staines Res, two from Oct 3rd-6th.

Surrey: Cobham, one on Feb 22nd & 26th. QE II Res, same returning bird on several dates between Jan 6th and Mar 19th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), same as QEII on Jan 23rd, Feb 14th & 15th, with another on Oct 1st.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

Despite the mild winter periods, numbers seemed slightly up on last year with eight sites having maximum counts of over ten birds compared to just six in 2014. The peak count was a remarkable 50 at William Girling Res in February, the biggest single number since 57 at QE II Res in 2000. However, February seemed to attract this species to the Lea Valley with nearby KGV Res having 32 in the same month. The last birds of the first winter period were two at Sewardstone Marsh on April 22nd with the first returning bird on September 7th at KGV Res, the same site and, remarkably, the exact same date as last year. For the first time since 2011, there were no records in Inner London. Below are peak counts of over ten in either winter period.

Essex: KGV Res, 32 on Feb 8th and 21 on Dec 27th. William Girling Res, 50 on Feb 13th.

Herts: Turnford Marsh GP, 20 on Feb 7th.

Middx: Q. Mary Res, 18 on Mar 7th. Wraysbury Res, 22 on Feb 12th and 11 on Dec 23rd.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 17 on Jan 5th.

Surrey: QEII Res, 13 on Mar 5th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), 20 on Jan 23rd and 19 on Dec 30th.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Status: formerly a widespread winter visitor and localised breeder of non-native origin; now much declined due to nationwide eradication programme.

The rapid decline of this species because of the eradication programme continues. A maximum of four birds from four sites were seen compared to 13 from five sites last year. With two of these birds apparently culled, it seems the extinction of this species in the London Area is close.

Middx: Brent Res, a pair from the start of the year until Jan 11th (ASMS, RB). Staines Res, fem or imm on Nov 21st & 22nd (DP, REI, KLP, RWa).

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 30th and Apr 12th (PAS, MHR).

In Lond: St James's Park, a drake from 2014 until Apr 9th (ASMS *et al*).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Status: breeding resident, of introduced origin.

The vast majority of records again hailed from farmland in Essex, Hertfordshire and Middlesex, where 71 sites provided records (up from 68 last year). The Breeding Bird Survey shows an 11% increase in England from 2014 to 2015. All breeding records are given (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), with high counts and other significant records.



*This Red-legged Partridge on Wanstead Flats was a rare find away from farmland.
(Jonathan Lethbridge)*

Essex: Recorded from 16 sites, several in the breeding season. Claverhambury, seven on Dec 31st. High Beach (2). Orsett Fen (6); 37 on Jan 14th. Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 20th. Wanstead Flats, one on Apr 14th was the first since 2006. Waterworks NR, one on Mar 22nd. Woodford Green, one on Oct 12th was an unusual record.

Herts: Recorded from 37 sites, several in the breeding season. Beech Farm GP (1+). Bernards Heath, singles on Apr 24th and Nov 1st were unusual records. Bushey (1). Coopers Green GP (1+). Coursers Farm, present February to December. Ellenbrook Fields (1+). Elstree (1+). Essendonbury (1). Lemsford (2+). Oaklands College (1). Radlett (1). South Mimms (1). Stanborough Lakes (3+). Tyttenhanger GP (1), chick seen. West End (3+). Wood Hall Farm (2+). Woodside (2+). Wormleybury (1).

Middx: Recorded from 18 sites, several in the breeding season. Enfield Chase Area: Park Farm, present throughout, seven on Sep 12th; Parkside Farm/Res, all year, six on Sep 10th; Vicarage Farm, all year, six on Dec 10th. KGV Res, one on Apr 29th, two on Aug 2nd and Sep 13th. Staines Moor, five records. Totteridge Valley (1). Trent Park, two on Nov 10th. Twickenham, one in garden on Apr 4th. West Lodge Park, Hadley Wood (1).

Bucks: Colnbrook Landfill, three on Oct 4th. Q. Mother Res, one on Mar 6th & 31st. Wraysbury, three on Oct 28th. Wraysbury GP, three on Dec 31st.

Kent: Brasted, two on Apr 25th. Chevening, two on May 23rd. Chipstead Lake, singles on Nov 12th & 24th. Cudham, two on May 10th and Jul 1st. Knockholt, one on Jul 7th, two on Nov 13th. Longfield Gallops, max 19 on Dec 8th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Mar 7th. West Wickham, two on May 20th.

Surrey: Recorded from 15 sites, several in the breeding season. Cheverells Farm, 20 on Sep 25th. Ewell, one on Apr 18th was unusual. Park Farm, Chessington (3). Rushett Farm (1), brood of eight. Warlingham, ten on Mar 14th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Status: breeding resident, declining.

There were no breeding records this year and records from just **nine sites** and five sectors (ten sites and six sectors in 2014). The Breeding Bird Survey shows an 80% decline in the South East region from 1995-2014.

Essex: Orsett Fen, two on Feb 10th, one on Mar 18th, three on Oct 20th.

Herts: Fairfold's Farm, two on May 16th. Nashe's Farm, two on May 11th.

Bucks: Wraysbury, a pair with a bleached juv on Nov 6th were thought to be escapes as they were very approachable.

Kent: Brasted, one on Mar 1st.

Surrey: Broombank, one on Mar 4th. Kenley, one on Sep 29th. ~~Riddlesdown, one on Sep 29th.~~ Woldingham, two on Mar 22nd, with singles on Mar 24th & 28th and Apr 14th.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Status: rare summer visitor.

Two records, both in Essex, is a slight improvement after just one record last year. Orsett Fen has been responsible for several records in recent years.

Essex: Orsett Fen, male calling on Jul 1st (RBs). Rainham Marshes, male calling from Jun 13th-16th (RBs *et al*).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Status: common breeding resident, of introduced origin.

There were records from 265 sites (148 in 2014), nearly half accounted for by the Hertfordshire and Surrey sectors but it was difficult to confirm breeding success. Records at Battersea Park and Rotherhithe were particularly unusual. All breeding/territorial records (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), with all high counts and other significant records.

Essex: Recorded from 46 sites, several in the breeding season. Belhus Woods CP (3+). Brook Farm, Upminster (1). Chigwell (3+). Leyton Flats, unusual record on May 5th of fox carrying dead male. Mar Dyke Valley (2). Orsett Fen (9), peak 33 on Jan 14th. Rainham Marshes (1+). Tylers Hall Farm (5).

Herts: Recorded from 74 sites, many in the breeding season. Amwell NR (1). Bedmond (2+). Beech Farm GP (2+). Broxbourne Woods (2). Cassiobury Park (1). Chess Valley (2+). Colney Heath (2). Coopers Green GP, 50+ on Sep 2nd. Ellenbrook Fields (1). Elstree (2+). Essendon (2+). Essendonbury (3+). Hailey (1). Hilfield Park Res (1). Lemsford (1+). Maple Lodge NR (1). Radlett (1+). Rye Meads (1+). St Albans (1+). Sutton's Farm, Sandridge (1). West End (10+); 70 on Dec 20th. Wood Hall Farm (3+). Wormleybury (2+).

Middx: Recorded from 35 sites, several in the breeding season. Alexandra Park, male Oct 4th-17th was the first site record for a decade. Enfield Chase area: Parkside Farm/Res,

(1); Vicarage Farm (3). Home Park (8). Lyndhurst Park, one on Nov 13th was unusual. Potters Bar (1). Q. Mary GP, two on Oct 24th were unusual. Rammey Marsh (5). Staines Moor (2). Ten Acre Wood, Yeading (2+). Tottenham Marshes (4). Whitewebbs Farm, 30 on Nov 24th.

Bucks: Recorded from six sites, several in the breeding season. Denham (2). Denham Lock Wood (3). Great Halings Wood (1).

Kent: Recorded from 44 sites, several in the breeding season. Blackheath, fem in gardens on Oct 22nd was unusual. Crossness (1+). Cudham (1). Dryhill/Manor Farm, 25 on Sep 17th including albino individual. Hazelwood (1). Knockholt, 25 on Nov 13th. Sevenoaks WR (2). Swanley Park, fem on Mar 22nd was second site record. The Tarn, Mottingham, singles on Jan 15th & 22nd were unusual.

Surrey: Recorded from 57 sites, several in the breeding season. Arbrook Common (1). Ashtead Common (1). Banstead Wood, present March to November. Canons Farm (1+). Holmethorpe SP, present all year, 17 on Nov 29th. Horton CP, present all year. Island Barn Res, one on Jan 27th was unusual. London Wetland Centre, fem Jan 19th to Apr 13th. Molesey Heath (1). Moorhouse, present all year. Morden Hall Park (1+). Purley, male at Russell Hill on Oct 17th was unusual. Riddlesdown, present March to August. Rushett Farm (5). South Norwood CP, present March to December. South Norwood Lake, one from Mar 30th to Jul 3rd was unusual. Trevereux, present March to December. Waterside Way, Wimbledon, male on Feb 20th was the first site record. Wimbledon Common, male Mar 26th to Jun 6th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, one on Mar 14th. Rotherhithe, dead bird near Old Salt Quay on Feb 9th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.

Just one record of an adult found late in the afternoon and gone the following morning. December is a typical date for this species as the table below shows.

Black-throated Diver arrival dates 1990-2015: 31 records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	8	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, adult on Dec 20th (CDRH).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

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

During the first winter period, one adult remained from 2014 on the south-western reservoirs until April, and was briefly joined by an immature in late January. Later in the year, one immature was on the south-western reservoirs in November. Two birds in Essex in November and December were probably different individuals, although the arrival dates do not exclude the possibility that one of the birds from the south-west may have relocated to Fairlop Waters.

Essex: Fairlop Waters, imm from Nov 22nd to Dec 31st. KGV Res, singles from Nov 17th-25th, on Dec 6th, 13th-16th & 27th-28th. William Girling, one on Nov 29th (presumed



This stunning summer-plumaged Great Northern Diver was at King George VI Reservoir on the late date of April 29th. (Andrew Moon)

to be the same as the KGV Res bird).

Middx: KGV Res, one on Jan 17th, adult on four dates between Apr 16th & 29th (this was the Staines bird). Staines Res, adult from 2014 to Apr 29th, joined by an imm from Jan 30th to Feb 2nd, then an imm on Nov 16th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, one imm from Nov 17th-20th.

Diver sp. *Gavia* sp.

Essex: Walthamstow Res, one flew off on Mar 8th. Wanstead, one over Wanstead tube station on Apr 4th was believed by the observer to probably be a Great Northern Diver.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

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

A minimum of 170 broods/territories were counted, higher than in 2014 (139), although numbers were down slightly at the two major sites with counts from both years, Rainham Marshes (43 in 2014) and Rye Meads (24 in 2014).

Records were received from 118 sites in January and February and from 101 sites in November and December, a much higher number of sites than in 2014 (71 and 70 sites for the respective periods).

A summary is given below, along with the only confirmed breeding records from Inner London and those from the main sites elsewhere (no. of pairs in brackets), and notable counts.

Essex: 53 territories/broods at 11 sites. Rainham Marshes (38). Walthamstow Res (5 broods); 35 on Sep 13th.

Herts: 34 pairs/territories at nine sites. Rye Meads (19); 58 on Sep 11th.

Middx: 44 pairs/territories at 18 sites. Stain Hill Res, 29 on Sep 13th.

Bucks: No breeding records. Black Park, four on Apr 7th. Wraysbury GP, four on Dec 23rd.

Kent: Six territories at four sites. Danson Park, 14 on Feb 2nd.

Surrey: 32 territories at ten sites. Beddington Farmlands (7). Holmethorpe SP (8+ broods); 39 on Mar 8th. London Wetland Centre (3+); 51 on Oct 30th. R Wandle (7).

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Regent's Park, ten on Apr 15th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

There were at least 126 pairs/broods at 72 sites, a similar number to 2014 (133 from 62). Breeding numbers were lower this year in Hertfordshire and Inner London but higher in Surrey and Middlesex. A pair at Beddington Farmlands was the first successful breeding record there since 1995.

Breeding occurred throughout the year at Blackwell Basin, with young observed in January/February, May/June, October, and four small young seen on Christmas Day, still there on 31st December.

Numbers counted at the more significant sites are shown in the table below. These showed a similar pattern to most recent years with the highest counts occurring in the autumn, and high numbers also occurring in February at Q. Mary Res. Below that is a breeding summary for each sector, significant counts from other sites and all breeding records for Inner London.

Great Crested Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MX Q. Mary Res	170	209	94	40	30	60	100	154	124	300	202	175
Staines Res	39	22	30	14	8	9	16	52	25	59	7	8
SY QE II Res	35	76	57	40	19	28	65	149	94	62	50	48

Essex: 28 pairs/broods at 13 sites. Walthamstow Res (9 broods); 32 on Oct 18th.

Herts: 33 pairs/broods at 17 sites. Hilfield Park Res (7 broods); 76 on Sep 3rd. Tyttenhanger GP (6+ broods).

Middx: 24+ pairs/broods at 18 sites. KG VI Res, 36 on Jul 19th.

Bucks: Black Park (1). Q. Mother Res, 75 on Sep 20th.

Kent: 15 pairs/territories at six sites. Chipstead Lake (2); 30 on Jul 30th. Sevenoaks WR (7); 31 on Sep 2nd.

Surrey: 16+ pairs/broods at 11 sites. Island Barn Res, 58 on Sep 20th.

In Lond: Battersea Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3); 14 on May 18th. Limehouse (1). Regent's Park (2). Shadwell Basin (1). St James's Park (1).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

For the first time since 1959, there were no new arrivals this year. However, one bird remained on QE II Res from 2014, also visiting Walton Res for a day.



Red-necked Grebe is the rarest migrant grebe to visit London. (Dave Harris)

Surrey: QE II Res, one from 2014 until Feb 1st (DMH). Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), one on Jan 22nd (DMH).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Another disappointing year for this species. There were a minimum of two and maximum of five birds at the start of the year, and two birds at the end of the year, both on KGV Res.

Essex: KGV Res, one on Feb 27th and Mar 6th, two from Nov 25th-28th, one on six dates in December (BG, AMn *et al*). Wanstead Park, one from Jan 3rd-18th (NC *et al*).

Middx: Staines Res, singles from Feb 7th-8th (RWa *et al*) and from Feb 24th to Mar 6th (DP *et al*).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Status: passage and winter migrant and rare breeder.

Breeding success improved at the main breeding site at Hilfield Park Res, where there were seven broods and at least ten young hatched. There were no breeding records from anywhere else.

Numbers at the main wintering site at William Girling Res were particularly low this year, apart from October when they were higher, which is of possible concern following the slight fall in numbers reported last year. Counts from the main sites are summarised in the table, with all other records listed below the table.

Black-necked Grebe		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX	KGV Res	-	4	7	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
	William Girling Res	7	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	12	9
HR	Hilfield Park Res	-	8	20	24	16	13	16	11	6	2	1	3
MX	KGVI Res	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	1
	Staines Res	5	6	10	8	1	4	3	2	3	3	2	5



Slavonian Grebe continues to be a scarce winter visitor. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

Essex: Walthamstow Res, singles from Sep 1st-2nd and from Oct 4th-11th.

Herts: Amwell NR, pair Apr 11th-16th. Hilfield Park Res (7+ broods). Rye Meads, two on Apr 16th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two from Aug 22nd to Sep 1st, singles on Dec 4th & 12th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, pair on May 31st. Island Barn Res, one on Jan 11th, four on Dec 25th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one from Jan 1st to Mar 8th.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Status: scarce visitor.

Just two records this year (the same as last year), both typically in the autumn. The Staines Res bird landed briefly but departed soon afterwards. The table below shows records for the last few years.

Northern Gannet records 2006-2015: 33 records

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of records	1	3	3	4	6	2	7	3	2	2

Essex: Rainham Marshes, juv on Oct 14th (HV, NW).

Middx: Staines Res, juv on Oct 16th (DP).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

They bred at seven sites this year. This included Holyfield Lake, where no counts have been received since 2012. Breeding numbers were similar to recent years at most sites, but the count at Broadwater Lake was the highest ever, and the count at Walthamstow Res was incomplete.

Two colour ringed Cormorants returned to previous wintering sites. An Estonian bird returned to East India Dock Basin in September for a third winter, and the Danish ringed bird seen at Island Barn Res in 2014 was at QE II Res on June 11th and at Island Barn Res on November 6th.

The table below shows monthly maxima at regularly counted sites with larger numbers. Most counts returned to more normal levels after the unusually high counts in autumn 2014; although the one exceptional count this year, 910 at Q. Mary Res on 8th February, was higher than all those made in 2014. Below are breeding records (no. of nests in brackets) and notable counts from other localities.

Cormorant	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MX Q. Mary Res	400	910	150	100	100	80	350	130	30	50	20	50
Staines Res	50	176	30	7	1	1	190	8	11	334	3	3
SY Island Barn Res	17	6	71	11	10	24	30	249	170	64	7	22
QE II Res	156	245	300	51	47	40	165	226	110	143	160	125
Walton Res (K&B)	1	2	4	3	2	1	22	120	49	62	7	41
Wetland Centre	22	107	249	16	5	8	4	8	19	29	62	42



Cormorant. (Dominic Mitchell)

Essex: Holyfield Lake (40, 44 in 2014). Rainham Marshes, 52 on Jan 20th. Walthamstow Res (159+).

Herts: Amwell NR (37); 95 on Oct 21st. Stocker's Lake (bred).

Middx: Broadwater Lake (51). Q. Mary GP (32).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 330 on Oct 24th. Wrybury GP (7); 52 on Nov 18th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, 47 on Oct 18th.

Surrey: Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), 173 on Aug 13th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, 120 roosting on Nov 25th. Chelsea Wharf, 65 on Nov 29th. Regent's Park, 123 roosting on Jan 20th.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

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

There were records received from 13 sites. Of these, there were ten sites in the first winter period, the same as last year, well below previous levels (25 in 2013 and 20 in 2012). Most wintering birds had departed by March 18th. A series of records of a single bird from April 28th until May 9th at London Wetland Centre was unusual. The second winter period had records from nine sites, again the same as 2014. The earliest returning bird was at Seventy Acres Lake on the very early date of September 12th with several more records there before the end of the month. The first bird at the London Wetland Centre was on September 29th. Records continued at these sites until a single record from the Ingrebourne Valley at the end of October. As in previous years the Lee Valley and the London Wetland Centre remain the species' stronghold in London. All sites at which birds were recorded are listed below with peak counts.

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, two on Feb 25th, one on Oct 23rd. Navestock, one on Mar 5th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Jan 17th & 20th, on six dates from Feb 10th until Mar 7th, and on Nov 1st. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Nov 8th. Warren Gorge, one on Feb 2nd.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on seven dates from Jan 24th to Mar 4th and on Nov 3rd. Gobions Wood, one on Nov 2nd swimming on the lake. North Met Pit, two on Nov 11th and one on Dec 16th. Rye Meads, singles on seven dates between Jan 13th and Feb 15th, and on Nov 5th. Seventy Acres Lake, singles from Jan 1st to Feb 18th, on Mar 12th and from Sep 12th until Dec 20th, with two on Oct 18th & 25th. Stanstead Innings, one on Feb 15th and two on Mar 10th & 18th.

Middx: Bedfont Lakes CP, two on Jan 25th & 31st and one on Mar 17th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, up to three on many dates between Jan 1st and Mar 6th. Then one from Apr 28th until May 9th, heard booming just before it left. Later, one or two birds from Sep 29th until Dec 29th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Status: scarce breeder and visitor, increasing.

There were records from 307 sites in the year, a further huge increase on the 237 sites recorded in 2014 and 195 in 2013. There were increases from all sectors except Buckinghamshire where there was a small decrease (see table below for 2015/2014 comparison, 2014 figures in brackets).

Little Egret sightings increased in all areas of London. (Lee Dingain)



Little Egret: number of sites where recorded, by sector

Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
68 (59)	60 (52)	66 (53)	11 (13)	46 (27)	48 (32)	8 (1)

They bred at seven sites with no new locations. The total number of nests was up again to 51 from 45 in 2014. This is continuing the upward trend in nest numbers since they bred first in 2006 at Walthamstow Res. The highest count outside the breeding season was 64 roosting at Stocker's Lake on December 24th. Two counts of 51 roosting at Walthamstow Res in early December were also noteworthy. The LNHS is again grateful to the BTO for making records available from its Heron survey. Below are all breeding records (no. of pairs/nests in brackets if known).

Essex: Netherhall GP (9). Rainham Marshes, 31 on Jul 13th & 26th. Walthamstow Reservoirs (17), 43 young fledged (19 nests and 54 young in 2014). Warren Gorge (9), up to 20 young fledged; 42 on Aug 17th.

Herts: Amwell NR (7). Stanborough Lakes, 21 on Jan 1st. Stocker's Lake (5); 64 on Dec 24th. Verulamium Park (2).

Middx: Broadwater Lake, no details of breeding; 43 on Nov 22nd. Horsenden Hill, a flock of 21 S on Sep 10th. Ruislip Lido, 37 on Nov 22nd & 24th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP (2), three young fledged.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, ten on Dec 13th.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Status: rare but increasing visitor.

There were 18 records involving about 14 birds this year. There was also a late addition from 2014, which brings the 2014 tally to 18 records of 22 birds. The first records for this year were in March with three sightings at Mar Dyke Valley and two records in West London on the same date. In April, there were birds at Rainham Marshes, Staines Res and Beddington Farmlands. A July bird at Dagenham Chase, was followed in August by birds at Walthamstow Res, Staines Moor/Stanwell Moor and over Upminster. There were three records in October at Rainham Marshes and Ingrebourne Vally and finally one at Mar Dyke Valley in November. The bird seen at Q. Mother Res in March was ringed and was the same bird seen at Staines Res in April. This individual was ringed as a nestling on May 13th 2013, at Besné, Loire Atlantique, France.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster, one over on Aug 18th. Dagenham Chase, one on Jul 11th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Oct 10th. Mar Dyke Valley, singles on Mar 12th, 19th, 23rd and Nov 16th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Mar 19th (same as Mar Dyke bird), Apr 18th, Oct 2nd, 3rd and 10th. Walthamstow Res, one on Aug 2nd.

Middx: Staines Moor, singles on Mar 14th and Aug 16th. Staines Res, one on Apr 24th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one over on Mar 14th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one over on Apr 29th.

2014 addition

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes, one over N on May 17th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident.

There were 366 nests reported, a small reduction on the 381 reported in 2014. The total is probably conservative as there were no counts at several sites, with one of these sites having 20 nests in 2014. The totals vary considerably over time, the 2006 total was similar to 2015 but there was a far higher intermediate peak of 523 in 2009.

Grey Heron nests 2006-2015

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of nests	356	456	473	523	472	437	367	352	381	366

Success varied from site to site. Heronries are difficult to record and some of these variations may be effort related. Numbers at Netherhall GP and Wraysbury GP recovered somewhat from lows in 2014 but there were no counts this year from Kelsey Park, Ingrebourne Valley, Manor House Gardens and Mayesbrook Park.

Below are details of nest counts at heronries, with the number of nests and any major changes from 2014 in brackets. Notable high counts away from known breeding colonies are also given and the highest counts as usual are from Beddington Farmlands. Once again, the LNHS thanks the BTO for permitting the use of data from its Grey Heron survey.

Essex: Holyfield Lake (7, 5 in 2014). Netherhall GP (38, 25 last year). Rainham Marshes, 18 on Jul 16th. Valentines Park (2). Walthamstow Res (33). Warren Gorge (7).

Herts: Amwell NR (13, 16 last year). Frogmore Lakes (1). Rye Meads, 20 on May 27th. Stanborough Lakes (5, 10 last year). Stocker's Lake (23, 27 last year). Tyttenhanger GP (6). Verulamium Park (12).

Middx: Brent Res, 13 on Sep 23rd, Broadwater Lake (9, 3 last year). Frays Valley NR (7). Home Park (5). Isleworth Ait (4, none last year). Kempton NR (5, 8 last year). Little Britain Lake (10, 14 last year). Wildwoods (2).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res (1). Wraysbury GP (20, up from 2 last year).

Kent: Crossway Lake NR (not counted, 'some' last year). Danson Park, 14 on Dec 14th. Manor House Gardens (not counted, 3 last year). Kelsey Park (not counted, 20 last year). Sevenoaks WR (2).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, peak counts of 50 on Jul 1st & 18th. Bookham Common (17). Brentford Ait (21). Corporation Island (12). Gatton Lake (25). Hogsmill SW (1). Horton CP (6). Leg O Mutton NR (13, 5 last year). London Wetland Centre, peak count of 29 on Nov 10th. Morden Hall Park (10). Richmond Park (4). Thorpe Water Park (9).

In Lond: Battersea Park (30). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2). Regent's Park (4, down from 22 last year).

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Status: rare vagrant.

This September record is only the sixth for the London Area. The first was not until May 1989, followed by two in 1990 (in April and August), one in July 1991 and a further bird in August 2010. A record at Amwell NR published in *LBR* 2002 was removed in *LBR* 2014 as being outside the London Area.

Middx: A juv was photographed flying SW at Staines Moor on Sep 18th (LD).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Status: scarce vagrant.

A single bird flying south over Rainham Marshes in late August was the first since 2012. It is the 32nd record since the first in 1930. Below are all the records since 2000 and there seem to have been fewer records recently.

White Stork records 2010-2015: 3 records, 3 birds

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of records	1	0	1	0	0	1
No. of birds	1	0	1	0	0	1

White Stork records 2000-2009: 16 records, 16 birds

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. of records	1	1	0	2	2	1	3	2	1	3
No. of birds	1	1	0	2	2	1	3	2	1	3

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one flying S on Aug 24th (AT).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Status: rare vagrant.

There were three records this year, the highest number of records in one year, but it is possible just one bird was involved. One was at Walthamstow Res briefly on October 21st and the next day one was overhead at Rainham Marshes in the morning, with another sighting there in the afternoon. If we treat this as three different birds, then it brings the total to 14 records since the first in 1974. Below are details of arrival dates. This species can almost be considered as annual now with records in seven of the past eight years.

Glossy Ibis arrival dates 1974-2015: 14 records, 15 birds

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

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one overhead on Oct 22nd flew S towards Dartford Marsh at 09:38 (HV, AGs, JHr). The same or another seen at 14:30 (ATn, HV *et al*). Walthamstow Res, one on Oct 21st (GHw *et al*).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Status: scarce but increasing migrant.

Four records this year, all at Rainham Marshes, plus an addition for 2014. The first was on April 7th when a group of three adults and an immature bird were present; the immature then stayed until April 13th. Two juveniles in August were followed by one bird in late October and two immatures overhead three days later.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, four (three adults, one imm) on Apr 7th (HV, DSm). The imm stayed until Apr 13th (mo). Two juvs on Aug 13th (HV *et al*), one on Oct 25th (RM, PE, DCw) and two imm over on Oct 28th (AR).

2014 Addition

Surrey: Chertsey Hospital, one on May 27th (SJS).

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Status: scarce visitor.

Two accepted records this year, one more than last year. The September record is typical; more than a third of all the 60 records since the start of this century have arrived in this month. The July record is more unusual, being only the third record in that month since 2001.

Honey Buzzard arrival dates 2001-2015: 60 records, 62 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	-	-	4	16	3	3	10	22	2	-	-
No of birds	-	-	-	4	18	3	3	10	22	2	-	-

This table was given incorrectly in LBR 2014

Kent: Kemsing, one on Jul 24th (MCh).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Sep 7th (BFBG).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Status: increasingly common resident, and scarce breeder, in the north and west of the area, fairly regular migrant elsewhere.

Another good year for this increasingly encountered raptor with sightings rising to more than 2,500 during the year. Although it is a rather crude way of assessing a species' status (especially with the likely duplication of records), it does provide an accurate enough snapshot of how things change from year to year. The proportion of sightings from Hertfordshire dropped again from 65% in 2014 to 55% this year, with the second best county, Middlesex, increasing its proportion from 18% to 21%, with Surrey and Buckinghamshire also seeing increases. The conclusion from these figures is that Red Kites are now spreading away from the core area of Hertfordshire. As has been the case in recent years, March and April continued to lead the way with over 400 sightings in each month, no doubt reflecting passage across the area, as well as, perhaps, the greater visibility of breeding display.

Red Kite sightings by month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	188	178	405	409	264	179	159	131	147	141	144	160

Two pairs certainly bred in London: one in Hertfordshire and another in Middlesex (a first for this sector), both pairs fledged at least one young. The difficulty of observing a nest site (after the leaves have appeared on the trees) cannot be over-estimated and no doubt many other pairs are overlooked. A further three pairs probably bred and another possibly, all within the core Hertfordshire area; no doubt further spread across London can be expected over the coming years. Not surprisingly, there was another record gathering this year with a count of 23 over Beechengrove Wood, Loudwater on November 7th. Further high counts nearby included 22 at Maple Cross on June 6th and 20 near

Chorleywood on March 8th. The highest count away from the Colne Valley was ten at Langley Park on March 22nd.

Red Kite by sector	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond
Sightings	120	1373	520	145	55	282	10
Percentage	5	55	21	6	2	11	

In Lond: Fulham Palace Road, one on May 3rd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Mar 28th. Notting Hill, two on Oct 2nd. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 17th, Apr 23rd and Oct 2nd. St James's Park, one on Sep 8th. Victoria Park, one on May 17th. Victoria Street, Westminster, one on Aug 27th.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Another bumper year for this species with nearly 400 sightings, although it is difficult to be sure of the degree of interchange between near resident birds at Rainham Marshes and the adjacent Thames-side localities. Approximately 132 birds were logged, of which 36 were seen away from the Thames, as was the case last year. April proved to be the peak month for passage birds with at least 28 birds being seen, including 11 birds away from the river. Pleasingly, it is likely that a pair bred again at Rainham raising two young, although definitive proof was not forthcoming. A pair attempted to breed at Swanscombe Marshes too. A remarkable count of 11 birds was made at Rainham Marshes on April 5th - easily the highest count ever.

Essex: Banbury Res, one on Mar 10th. Barking Bay, one on Apr 6th. Claybury Woods & Park, three on Mar 6th. Dagenham Chase, one on Oct 13th. Gallions Reach, singles on Mar 12th, Apr 26th, Aug 30th and Sep 6th. Ingrebourne Valley, nine records over seven months of the year. KGV Res, one on May 23rd. Rainham Marshes, one pair almost certainly bred and were thought to have raised two young; birds were present throughout the year with peaks counts of eight in January, four in February and March, an astonishing 11 on Apr 5th, four in May, October and November, then five in December. Uppminster, one on Apr 5th. Walthamstow Marshes, one on Feb 6th. West Thurrock Marshes, one on Dec 27th.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Apr 3rd and May 19th. Rye Meads, singles on Apr 1st, 3rd, 4th, 10th & 14th and Aug 23rd. Stanstead Innings, one on Jan 29th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Sep 23rd.

Bucks: Horton GP, one on May 21st.

Kent: Botany Marshes, one on Apr 12th. Crayford & Dartford Marshes, many sightings of singles throughout the year, with two on Apr 7th and Dec 29th. Crossness, there were sightings of singles in nine months of the year, but two birds were seen on Apr 6th & 17th and May 5th. Swanscombe Marshes, many sightings from January to April and from October to the end of the year; peak counts were two on Mar 14th, four on Nov 24th and two on Dec 6th. Thamesmere Lakes, one on Apr 16th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Apr 16th, 17th & 18th; then on Sep 7th, Oct 10th and Dec 29th. London Wetland Centre, one on Nov 1st & 2nd. QE II Res, one on Nov 14th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one on Nov 14th (same as QE II Res).

In Lond: Jubilee Street, Stepney, one on Aug 8th. Regent's Park, one on Apr 22nd.

Marsh Harrier	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records	42	33	48	47	26	12	8	25	29	29	38	56
Records (not Thames-side)	1	1	5	11	3	0	0	4	4	3	3	1
Individuals/month	14	10	14	28	10	4	1	8	8	9	14	12

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

Just five birds this year is a slight downturn from the previous two years and it was disappointing that there was only one record at Rainham Marshes, where there were seven sightings in 2014. All sightings involved ringtails or females, unless stated.

Hen Harrier records 2010-2015: 56 records, 53 birds

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of records	18	4	6	12	11	5
No. of birds	18	4	6	12	8	5

Essex: Rainham Marshes, a male on Apr 5th & 6th (RBs, SGr *et al*).

Herts: Coursers Farm, one on Nov 2nd (JHT).

Middx: Staines Moor, a male on Oct 6th (KK).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, an adult male flew NW on Apr 4th (MMCK).

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one on Apr 24th (NB).

Harrier sp

A female harrier flying over Brent Res in August was submitted to the Rarities Committee as a Montagu's Harrier. The Committee agreed that this bird could not be a Marsh or Hen Harrier, but that with the increase in Pallid Harrier that species could not be ruled out.

Middx: Brent Res, a fem Montagu's or Pallid Harrier flew slowly NE on Aug 28th (ASMS, AGV).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Status: rare passage migrant.

Three accepted records this year after the one last year. There were several other reports (listed in App III) for which descriptions would be very welcome. The Rye Meads record is the first May record and the Bookham Common record is the first December record too.

Goshawk arrival dates 1955-2015: 44 records, 49 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	3	1	8	13	1	1	3	7	2	-	4	1
No. of birds	3	1	8	14	1	1	3	11	2	-	4	1

Herts: Amwell NR, a juv on Jan 11th (PBa, MIL, JLR, CWi). Rye Meads, one on May 8th (RMP).

Surrey: Bookham Common, a fem on Dec 28th (AP).

Sightings of Sparrowhawk are on the rise.
(Nick Croft)

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Status: common breeding resident.

Although the number of sightings continue to rise inexorably, up to nearly 2,900 (2,500 in 2014 and 1,650 in 2013), the breeding season proved to be singularly poor compared to last year. The number of territories declined to 37 (down from 51 in 2014) and the number of proved pairs fell to 22 (exactly half of the 44 in 2014). Most dramatically, the total in the Hertfordshire sector declined to a measly two territories, of which one pair bred, down from a high of 16 and 13, respectively, in 2014. It is to be expected that significant fluctuations are inevitable from year to year, and merely reflect the varying degree of coverage particularly as we move into a 'non-Atlas' period. It is unlikely that its true status has changed much. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 25% increase in England since last year. Prey items included Robin, House Sparrow, Woodpigeon, Goldfinch and a mouse. The best count was of seven birds over Rainham Marshes on September 6th.



Sparrowhawk	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	8	2	11	0	4	9	3	37
Proved	4	1	8	0	3	4	2	22

In Lond: Records were received from (all singles unless stated): Buxton Street, Archbishop's Park (bred successfully), Battersea, Bermondsey, Charing Cross Road, City of London, Fulham Old Cemetery (bred successfully), Haggerston, Hammersmith Cemetery (bred), Holland Park, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Stepney, Kensal Town, Leicester Square, Limehouse Basin, Lord's Cricket Ground, Notting Hill, Paddington, Regent's Park (including two birds on Apr 12th, 14th and Oct 14th), Russia Dock, Shadwell, Southwark Park, St James's Park, Victoria Park and Weavers Fields.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

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

Another bumper year for this now commonly seen raptor, with nearly 4,000 records, although it has now been usurped from its position as the most frequently reported bird of prey in recent years, by the Kestrel. Although the number of territories reported declined (from 34), the number of proved breeding pairs was little altered from the total of 15 in 2014.

There were some significant movements across London, mainly in March and April: the peak totals were 64 on April 5th, 34 on April 6th, 63 on April 7th, but the only notable

autumn peak was 33 birds on September 19th. The highest total ever logged in our area was achieved when 36 birds were counted passing over Rainham Marshes on April 5th.

Common Buzzard	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Territories	5	3	7	0	2	9	0	26
Proved	2	2	4	0	0	5	0	13

Essex: Five pairs were on territory, of which two pairs bred. Rainham Marshes, an impressive record count of 36 birds passing overhead on Apr 5th.

Herts: Three pairs were on territory, of which two bred with one young known to have been raised. Rye Meads, 16 on Apr 5th.

Middx: Seven pairs were on territory, with at least four breeding successfully raising a minimum of three young. Hampstead Heath, 12 on Apr 5th, 13 on Oct 4th.

Kent: Just two pairs on territory. Chipstead Lake, ten on Oct 6th.

Surrey: There were nine territories this year, out of which five pairs bred successfully rearing a total of five young. Beddington Farmlands, 32 on Apr 7th.

In Lond: Records of single birds (unless stated) were received from: Battersea Park, City of London (three on Apr 8th and seven on Apr 9th), Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Islington, Primrose Hill (three on Apr 9th), Regent's Park, (seen on eight dates with peak counts of two on Mar 23rd and seven on Sep 7th), St James's Park (seen on nine dates with peak counts of four on Apr 8th, two on Apr 9th and two on Oct 2nd), Stockwell (two on Aug 25th).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Annual totals for the last five years have fluctuated from 31 to 47 records, so the 36 this year falls nicely within that range. The record total remains at 57 in 2008.

The first bird of the year headed north up the Colne Valley over Stocker's Lake on March 27th, soon followed by another over Beddington Farmlands on April 2nd. A further six birds followed in April, then another eight birds during May, with peaks of three on May 13th and two on May 15th.

There were no further birds until the first returning bird on July 19th over Banstead Wood, then no more until four more sightings between August 21st and 27th. September was far more productive with about 12 birds, including a peak of four on 11th. Just four more records followed in October: singles at Kentish Town and Regent's Park on 4th and then singles over Primrose Hill on 23rd and 25th.

Essex: Banbury Res, May 13th. Gallions Reach, Apr 18th. Netherhall GP, May 13th (same as Rye Meads). Rainham Marshes, Sep 2nd.

Herts: Amwell NR, May 15th. Maple Lodge NR, Sep 11th. Panshanger Park, one intermittently from Sep 4th-13th. Rye Meads, May 13th. St Albans, singles on Aug 26th and Sep 18th. Stocker's Farm, Sep 20th. Stocker's Lake, Mar 27th. Tyttenhanger GP, May 16th.

Middx: Brent Res, Apr 7th. Bushy Park, Aug 21st. Kentish Town, Oct 4th. Mudchute Farm, Aug 27th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, singles on Apr 4th and May 24th.

Kent: Catford, May 20th. Dartford Marshes, Sep 11th. Greenwich Park, Apr 8th.

Surrey: Banstead Heath, Apr 11th. Banstead Wood, Jul 19th. Beddington Farmlands, singles on Apr 2nd and Sep 11th. Canons Farm, singles on Apr 15th and Sep 10th. Hogsmill SW, Sep 16th. Holmethorpe SP, singles on May 18th and Sep 7th. Selsdon Woods, Sep 18th. South Norwood CP, Sep 16th. Thorpe Water Park, Aug 25th.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, Oct 23rd & 25th.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Status: common breeding resident.

Quite unexpectedly and very pleasingly, the number of reports this year rocketed from just over 2,000 in 2014, to over 4,000 this year. Despite this, it is unlikely that its true status has changed very much, although it would be nice if that were the case. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 43% increase in England since last year. So, perhaps there may have been an increase in London. Perhaps disappointingly, given the significant rise in reports, the actual number of pairs and territories were generally little changed from 2014 (the increase in territories for Surrey this year was due to fuller coverage at one site); 27 juveniles were known to have fledged.

Wanstead maintained its status as the most popular site with 380 reports, followed by Rainham Marshes with 205, Canons Farm 167, Beddington Farmlands 146 and Rye Meads with 143.

Kestrel	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Territories	6	9	9	1	2	25	3	55
Proved	3	7	9	0	1	8	0	28

In Lond: Barbican, one on Dec 30th. Bermondsey, one on Apr 30th. Bloomsbury, one on Jul 18th. Brompton Cemetery, one on Jun 24th. Burgess Park, one on Jul 27th. City of London, one on Apr 9th, four on Apr 12th, one on Dec 30th. Haggerston, one on Nov 12th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jul 18th and Sep 24th. London Fields, one on Mar 12th. Primrose Hill, one on Feb 9th. Regent's Park, two pairs present, of which one pair bred, although the outcome was unknown. St James's Park, singles on Mar 23rd, May 21st & 27th and Sep 25th. Stepney, one on Aug 8th. Tower of London, one on Apr 9th & 12th. Trafalgar Square, four on Apr 12th; one pair present and may have bred.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

A good year with about 18 records, although it is likely that some birds were seen on more than one date at the regular sites, especially Rainham Marshes.

The year began predictably with a single bird at Rainham Marshes on January 2nd. There were no more sightings until **one** Orsett Fen on February 1st, with another on 10th. Further February reports came from Rye Meads and Rainham Marshes. There was then one at Rye Meads in March and one at Rainham Marshes on April 5th.

The first returnee was back at Rainham Marshes on the early date of August 30th; this was seen again on September 4th, when one was also at Staines Res. There was one more arrival at Gallions Reach on 16th. Two sightings followed in October and then seven in December, including at least two birds at Rainham Marshes.

Essex: Gallions Reach, one on Sep 16th. Mar Dyke Valley, a male on Dec 1st. Orsett Fen, a male on Feb 1st and a fem on Feb 10th. Rainham Marshes, singles seen on Jan 2nd, Feb 14th and Apr 5th then a fem on Aug 30th and Sep 4th, a male on Dec 4th & 9th, one on Dec 19th, then a fem on Dec 28th & 29th.

Herts: Cole Green Tip, one on Dec 31st. Rye Meads, singles on Feb 27th and Mar 5th.

Middx: Brent Res, a fem on Oct 31st. Staines Res, a fem/imm on Sep 4th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, a fem/imm on Oct 22nd.

2014 Addition

Surrey: Molesey Heath, one on Jan 2nd.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The number of records this year jumped up again to approximately 1,250 (up from about 1,000 in 2014). Interestingly the observations were spread almost equally between Essex, Hertfordshire, Middlesex and Surrey, which represents a catching up process by the latter county.

Disappointingly, the number of pairs present, along with those proved to have bred was at something of an all-time low with just 12 pairs located, of which only seven were proved to have bred successfully. Not since 1988 or 1989 have the breeding totals been as low as this. Although it is unlikely that this represents their true status in London, it is nevertheless concerning that totals were apparently so low.

The first bird to arrive was over Crossness on April 6th, followed by singles over Epsom Common and Woodcote on 10th and then four together over Stocker's Farm on 11th. There were four more by 18th, followed by a more general arrival (20 reports) over the next week and then a flood (about 40 sightings) in the last week of April. The highest counts of the spring were of 13 at Horton GP on June 3rd and 13 at Sandridge (hawking mayflies) on May 18th.

From August, there were daily sightings until October 4th, then singles at Maple Lodge on 6th, Stanwell Moor on 8th, Staines Moor and Sydenham Hill Wood on 9th, Tyttenhanger GP on 11th and the last of the year on the late date of October 25th at Canons Farm. The best autumn count was of six birds over Rainham Marshes on September 6th.

Hobby pairs breeding	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Territories	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	12
Proved	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	7

In Lond: Site A, a pair bred again fledging two young. Other records, (all singles unless stated): Bethnal Green Gardens, May 10th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Jul 18th. Regent's Park, Jul 26th and two on Sep 1st. St James's Park, Sep 18th.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

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

Another great year for this spectacular falcon, with both the number of reported sightings (1,700), as well as the number of breeding pairs (16), along with the total of successfully

fledged youngsters (48), being near enough identical to last year. It could be possible that this species is now beginning to reach saturation point, although the Hertfordshire sector is still awaiting its first successful breeding pair, despite several false dawns. Typically, many of the observations of this falcon are at localities close to known nest sites.

As was the case last year one pair lost their whole clutch (of three juveniles), almost certainly because they drowned in the reservoir over which they were nesting.

The only proved kills this year were: Eurasian Teal, Coot, Collared Dove, Ring-necked Parakeet and Feral Pigeon, in addition to these, birds were also seen acitively pursuing: Tufted Duck, Mallard, Dunlin, Ruff, Common Sandpiper, Starling and Carrion Crow.

Peregrine Falcon	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of pairs present	4	6	5	13	15	19	22	28	23	21	25	25
No. of successful pairs	2	5	3	3	4	5	5	9	10	15	18	16
Juvs fledged	0	3	2	8	9	11	8	23	28	38	51	47

Essex: Four pairs were present, of which two bred successfully rearing seven juv.

Middx: Three pairs were present, with two pairs fledging three youngsters.

Bucks: One pair bred, successfully raising three juv.

Kent: Two pairs bred and fledged seven chicks.

Surrey: Seven pairs bred, two failed, but the remaining five pairs reared 15 juv to the flying stage.

In Lond: Eight pairs were present, of which four pairs fledged 12 youngsters.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

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

Estimated numbers in the first and last four months of the year were 161 and 150 (in 2014, 146 and 165 birds respectively). Records came from 110 sites, up from last year's 103 and 89 in 2013. There were 17 or 18 breeding pairs reported from five sites this year (similar to the 17 from seven sites last year). There were records from Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens, Regent's Park and St James's Park in Inner London; in 2014, the only records were in Regent's Park. It is likely that weather is the biggest factor affecting both numbers of wintering birds in London, and their visibility. Below are all breeding records (no. of pairs/territories in brackets) and high counts.

Water Rail winter totals of birds

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
First winter	43	28	29	1	18	40	2	161
Second winter	37	28	24	1	19	38	3	150

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (1); seven on Jun 1st. Ingrebourne Valley, five on Mar 7th. Rainham Marshes (7); seven on Jan 17th.

Herts: Amwell NR (2 or 3). Cheshunt GPs, four on Jan 4th. Rye Meads (6); six on Dec 12th.

Middx: Brent Res, nine on Nov 2nd. Broadwater Lake, seven on Dec 18th.

Bucks: Denham, one on Mar 9th & 10th.

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes, five on Jan 4th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, seven on Nov 1st. London Wetland Centre, seven on Feb 11th. South Norwood CP, seven on Nov 28th. Richmond Park (1). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), four on Nov 22nd.

In Lond: Regent's Park, two on Dec 6th.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Status: very common breeding resident.

There were reports from only 256 sites this year, down from 413 sites in 2014 and 280 in 2013 but still higher than 153 in 2012. There were 303 pairs or broods, well up on the 253 last year. The Breeding Bird Survey gives no significant change from 2014 in London or the UK although the long-term trend for the South East region of England shows a decline of 24% from 1995-2014. Where we have data from sites for 2015 and 2014 there seems no obvious change. More breeding counts would be very welcome, to help monitor any changes.

Below are all breeding records of five or more pairs or broods (number in brackets) along with peak counts (over 25).

Essex: Ingrebourne Valley, 48 on Feb 2nd. Mar Dyke Valley, 48 on Feb 1st. Rainham Marshes, 50 on Nov 15th. Walthamstow Res (5); 36 on Jan 3rd.

Herts: Amwell NR, 30 on Feb 21st. Bury Lake, 28 on Mar 27th. Croxley Green, 30 on Mar 16th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 28 on Mar 2nd. Rye Meads (54); 107 on Oct 18th. Tyttenhanger GP, 60 on Dec 6th. Verulamium Park, 40 on Jan 28th. West Hyde, 25 on Apr 24th.

Middx: Brent Res, 60 on Jan 18th. Hackney Marsh, 34 on Mar 12th. Hadley Green (7).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 25 on Oct 22nd.

Kent: Crossness, 52 on Jan 1st. Danson Park, 47 on Feb 11th. **Foots Cray Meadow**, 28 on Feb 12th. Kelsey Park, 37 on Jan 13th. Lamorbey Park, 34 on Jan 28th. Sevenoaks WR, 35 on Aug 16th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (40); 102 on Nov 1st. R Wandle: Carshalton Ponds to Wandsworth, 141 on Dec 28th. Holmethorpe SP, 68 on Nov 26th. London Wetland Centre, 273 on Nov 24th. R Wandle: Butter Hill to Morden Hall Park (43); 62 on Mar 24th. Ravensbury Park, 28 on Jan 17th. Richmond Park (15+). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), 33 on Nov 25th. Wimbledon Common (13).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 37 on Oct 19th. St James's Park, 50 on Feb 17th. Surrey Water (7).

Coot *Fulica atra*

Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

The Breeding Bird Survey indicates a 13% increase in the UK since 2014; for sites where we have data for both 2014 and 2015 there is no sign of any change this year. There were reports from 275 sites, the highest in recent years (224 in 2014, 237 in 2013 and 144 in 2012) with at least 463 pairs or broods from 111 sites, similar to the 497 at 106 sites last year. Figures below show counts over 200, and sites with more than five broods in brackets.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (9); 231 on Dec 18th. Rainham Marshes (44). Walthamstow Res, 640 on Oct 18th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 415 on Dec 13th. Lynsters Lake, 203 on Feb 24th. North Met Pit, 225 on Jan 17th. Panshanger Park, 215 on Feb 8th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome (6). Rye Meads (89); 405 on Oct 18th. Stocker's Lake, 473 on Dec 2nd. Troy Mill Lake, 619 on Dec 22nd. Tyttenhanger GP (12).

Middx: Brent Res (26); 979 on Dec 13th. Hampton Court Park, 212 on Dec 4th. Home Park (23); 233 on Feb 4th. KGV Res, 215 on Sep 13th. Q. Mary Res, 226 on Feb 8th. Staines Res, 349 on Jul 18th. Tottenham Marshes (7).

Bucks: Horton GP, 502 on Feb 12th. Q. Mother Res, 275 on Sep 27th. Wraysbury GP, 834 on Dec 23rd.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR (11). Southmere Lake, 228 on Dec 29th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (38); 310 on Sep 1st. Holmethorpe SP, 310 on Oct 15th. London Wetland Centre, 218 on Feb 11th. R Wandle: Butter Hill to Morden Hall Park (25).

Thorpe Water Park, 395 on Dec 13th. Waddon Ponds (11). Wimbledon Common (7).

In Lond: Regent's Park (13). St James's Park, 215 on Nov 4th. Victoria Park (13).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Status: localised breeding species and passage migrant.

Following the usual pattern of recent years, there were widely scattered records from reservoirs, gravel pits, and Thames-side sites between mid-February and the end of August. The few records outside of this period predominately came from the Lower Thames. The highest counts during the year were from Crossness, where there were 11 on March 4th and ten on March 14th. No counts away from the Lower Thames involved more than five individuals.

Five breeding pairs were confirmed (the same as last year), three in the Hertfordshire sector, at Amwell NR, Stocker's Lake, Tyttenhanger GP, one at Q. Mary Res and one at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth). In addition, there were birds present during the breeding season, and potentially breeding, at seven additional sites.

Although the likelihood of between site movements by breeding and summering individuals confuses the picture, the number and distribution of records indicates spring passage through the London Area, peaking during April and May.

In Lond: Limehouse, one flew W along the Thames at 09:00 on Aug 20th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Status: rare vagrant.

A juvenile at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), during the afternoon of August 23rd was the ninth record for the London Area, with the last occurring in 2010. Although the species is often thought of as a spring 'overshooting' migrant to the UK, six of the London Area records have been in the months from July to September compared to three in April and May.

Surrey: Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), a juv on Aug 23rd (DMH).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

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

Avocets were reported irregularly from sites on the Lower Thames in all months except December, although there were very few records during May to July and only two records

Stone-curlew is an annual but scarce passage migrant. (Peter Alfrey)

after October 1st. Elsewhere spring passage was recorded between February 16th and June 6th, and one visited Brent Reservoir on August 13th. Four double figure counts came from West Thurrock Marshes in February and March with a peak count of 71 on March 4th. Maxima from other sites were seven at Rainham Marshes on September 26th to 27th and five at Staines Res on the drained north basin on April 6th.



An unusual report was of an Avocet's head and neck found at the base of 'The Gherkin' on March 1st. This individual had obviously been predated, perhaps by a Peregrine, but it cannot be known whether it was caught in the vicinity or carried to the spot after being predated elsewhere.

Essex: Barking Bay, two on Apr 6th. Claybury Woods & Park, four on Mar 6th. KGV Res, one on Apr 4th. Rainham Marshes, Jan 4th to Oct 28th; mainly ones and twos but with a peak of seven on Sep 26th-27th. West Thurrock Marshes, 41 on Feb 14th, 68 on Feb 15th, 19 on Feb 21st and 71 on Mar 4th.

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, two on Feb 16th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on Aug 13th. Staines Res, singles on Mar 13th and Apr 4th & 23rd; five on Apr 6th, two on Jun 5th-6th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on Jan 5th & 21st. Greenhithe, two on Mar 15th. Crossness, two on Apr 6th. Crayford Marshes, singles on Apr 15th and Oct 1st. Dartford Marshes, one on Sep 8th, four on Sep 29th. Erith, one on Nov 22nd.

Surrey: QEII Res, three on May 12th.

In Lond: Remains found at the base of 'The Gherkin' (30 St Mary Axe) on Mar 1st.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Although there were none in 2014, records in the London Area have been increasing in recent decades and this year's three records means that the 14 individuals during the six years from 2010 now exceeds the total of 13 recorded during the 2000s. This compares to just three in the 1980s and five in the 1990s. The continued increase in records undoubtedly reflects increases in the UK breeding population during the last 25 years (*The State of the UK's Birds* 2015. RSPB). April is the month of peak occurrence in the London Area, with 16 of the 32 records since 1990, being in this month (details in table below.).

Stone-curlew arrival dates 1990-2015: 32 records, 32 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Arrival dates	-	1	6	16	2	-	-	4	-	1	2	-

Middx: Parkside Farm/Res, one on Apr 29th (RMC).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Apr 21st (GWJ). London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 8th (JKa *et al*).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record of the year came from Staines Res on March 11th, a very typical date. Further arrivals reached only two additional sites during the next ten days, with migration peaking in the second half of April, when counts included 12 at Staines Res on April 23rd and up to six at four other sites.

Breeding numbers were up on recent years with 16 pairs confirmed and perhaps as many as 35 pairs present in total. This includes at least three, probably four, pairs on the drained north basin of Staines Res, which produced six broods.

Little Ringed Plover	Pairs confirmed breeding	Pairs probably breeding	Other pairs present	Total
Essex	2	0	3	5
Herts	3	4	3	10
Middx	4	1	3	8
Bucks	1	0	1	2
Kent	3	0	0	3
Surrey	3	2	2	7
Total	16	7	12	35

Breeding birds started to disperse during July, although there were few autumn records from sites that had not held breeding pairs. There were several double figure counts at Staines Res during July, with a high of 28 on 25th. Numbers dropped off rapidly during August, with the only September record, one at Staines Res on 10th, being the last of the year.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

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

The early part of the year was typical, with January to February reports from various sites along the Lower Thames including peak counts of 21 at Rainham Marshes on January 16th to 17th. Numbers then dropped off during March and early April, when passage migrants began to turn up away from the Thames, before increasing again when spring passage reached a peak during May. Unusually high counts came from Staines Res where the north basin was drained, with peaks of 72 on May 8th and 49 on May 31st. Elsewhere the highest spring count was 12, at Q. Mother Res on April 26th and Rainham Marshes on four dates in late May and early June.

Small numbers remained at Staines Res during the summer, but although there was a considerable amount of display seen there was no evidence of breeding. Autumn passage was lighter, with the highest counts coming from Rainham Marshes, where there were 43 on September 9th and 30 on September 11th, and Crayford Marshes where there were 27 on September 2nd. After October 7th, all records came from the Lower Thames, with highs of 22 at Rainham Marshes on October 24th and November 4th.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

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

As usual, wintering Golden Plover were mostly found in the Essex and Hertfordshire sectors and the main site continues to be Rainham Marshes where the peak early in the year was 400 on February 6th. On February 22nd, 150 were at Rye Meads, and there were 400 seen at Amwell NR and 302 at South Mimms on March 22nd, and up to 169 at Stanstead Abbots on March 24th to 25th. High counts like these in late March or early April are not unusual and probably indicate passage through the London Area. The last of the spring was at Fairlop Waters on April 19th.

Five at Rainham Marshes on August 7th were the first returning birds, with a handful of scattered records following in August and September. Numbers at Rainham Marshes started to build during October but peaked at just 244 on November 13th. 200 at Dartford Marshes on October 22nd was the only three-figure count away from Rainham Marshes during the second half of the year.

Essex: Claybury Woods & Park, 64 on Mar 6th. Dagenham Chase, ten on Jan 2nd. Fairlop Waters, 57 on Nov 23rd, 51 on Dec 28th. Rainham Marshes, peak counts of 200 on Jan 30th, 400 on Feb 6th, 100 on Mar 5th, 194 on Oct 24th, 244 on Nov 13th and 114 on Dec 26th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 100 on Feb 22nd, 400 on Mar 22nd. Essendon, 60 on Jan 9th. Maple Cross area, 82 on Jan 19th, 109 on Feb 8th. Oaklands College, 69 on Jan 24th. Panshanger Park, 50 on Jan 18th. Rye Meads, 150 on Feb 22nd, 60 on Mar 22nd. South Mimms, 302 on Mar 22nd. Stanstead Abbots, 169 on Mar 25th. West Hyde, 78 on Jan 13th.

Middx: South Barvin Farm, 50 over on Apr 5th. Staines Moor, two W on Oct 24, one on Dec 23rd. Staines Res, one over on Sep 26th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one over on Oct 4th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 96 on Nov 20th, 82 on Dec 15th. Dartford Marshes, 200 on Oct 22nd, 87 on Dec 15th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, two over on Mar 3rd, three over on Aug 31st. QEII Res, one over on Oct 11th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, four over on Sep 16th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

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

Small numbers were seen at sites on the Lower Thames between January 1st and February 7th, mainly singles but with highs at Rainham Marshes of ten on January 2nd and seven on January 4th. Spring passage, between April 4th and May 16th was light, with probably just eight in total. With the exception of one at the London Wetland Centre on April 8th, these were all at either Rainham Marshes or Staines Res.

Just three singles were seen in autumn: Rainham Marshes on June 27th, Staines Res on August 13th, and Beddington Farmlands on August 25th. There were four November records from Rainham Marshes with singles on 16th and 22nd, six on 24th, and two on 28th.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

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

About 138 pairs/territories were reported this year, an increase on last year's 115, resulting from more territories at Rainham Marshes (61 in 2015, 39 in 2014). The major territorial sites are listed below, with the number of territories in brackets. There were 13 counts this year of over 1,000 birds: again with all except one at Rainham Marshes (see below); overall numbers were down in both winter periods compared to recent years. Maximum counts for selected sites are given below.

Essex: 68 pairs/territories. Rainham Marshes (61); 1,000 or more on 12 dates with peaks of 1,500 on Jan 15th and 1,063 on Dec 24th.

Herts: 17 pairs/territories. Amwell NR, 600 on Jan 28th, 423 on Feb 12th. Rye Meads, 510 on Feb 14th. Tyttenhanger GP, 600 on Feb 15th, 440 on Oct 1st.

Middx: 12 pairs/territories. Staines Res, 80 on Jan 31st. Ten Acre Wood, Yeading, 75 on Feb 22nd. Totteridge Valley, 300 on Jan 13th.

Kent: Four pairs/territories. Crayford/Dartford Marshes, 1,000 on Jan 7th, 700 on Dec 24th. Sevenoaks WR, 420 on Jan 27th, 438 on Feb 11th.

Surrey: 37 pairs/territories. Beddington Farmlands (10). Holmethorpe SP, 125 on Oct 13th, London Wetland Centre (17); 150 on Jan 23rd. Thorpe Water Park, 112 on Feb 8th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), 141 on Feb 11th.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

The number of records was slightly up on last year with 16 records involving 30 birds (11 records of 25 birds in 2014). At the beginning of the year, the only records were of singles at Rainham Marshes on January 2nd and 5th. Spring passage commenced on March 14th with one at Staines Moor, followed by six at Rainham Marshes on March 15th. Singles at KGV Res on April 23rd and Rainham Marshes on May 8th, and two at Rainham Marshes on May 20th, completed a light spring passage.

In autumn, one was seen at Q. Mother Res on July 24th and visited Staines Res the next day. Further singles were at Staines Res on July 28th, Q. Mother Res on August 4th, and Rainham Marshes on August 12th. The largest group of the year was seven at Q. Mary Res on September 6th and there were then singles at KGV Res on October 8th and Q. Mother Res on October 28th, and four at Rainham Marshes on November 3rd.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

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

With the exception of a single Sanderling at Rainham Marshes on February 21st, all records during 2015 fell clearly within spring and autumn passage periods, with numbers in both seasons the highest since 2011. Spring passage, involving a minimum of 99 individuals mostly at the West London reservoirs, commenced on April 15th with one at Staines Res and two at Rainham Marshes and continued until June 6th. Most records involved no more than four together but there were 11 at Staines Res on May 14th increasing to 14 on 15th and six at Q. Mother Res on May 18th. There was a small influx at the end of May with highs of 16 at Rainham Marshes and 20 at Staines Res on May 30th.



Sanderling. (Dave Harris)

The first of a light autumn passage of about 22 individuals was at Rainham Marshes on July 19th with the last at the same site on September 3rd. Again, most records were from West London reservoirs although there were no autumn records from Staines Res. The highest autumn counts were five at Rainham Marshes on August 12th and three at Q. Mary Res on August 16th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

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

There was a total of about 18 birds this year which was the best showing of this species since 2007 when a similar number was recorded. There was one at Rainham Marshes in February, then a series of May records from the drained basin at Staines Res that may have involved at least five different individuals. There was then an unusually late-spring migrant at Sevenoaks WR that presumably involved a non-breeding bird. In the autumn there were ten birds, followed by a December record.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, singles on Feb 18th, Sep 20th-21st, Oct 10th and Dec 13th; two on Sep 22nd.

Herts: Amwell NR, two juvs from Aug 13th-15th.

Middx: Staines Res, singles on May 8th-9th, 11th-14th, 18th-21st, 27th & 29th-30th, three on Sep 1st, one from Sep 11th-15th.

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one on Jun 13th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 13th-14th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Status: rare passage migrant, predominantly occurring during May.

At least four individuals at Rainham Marshes at the end of May was a good showing. The last time that four were seen together in our area, was also at Rainham Marshes, on May 16th 2008. The majority of records occur in May.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, four on May 28th with three remaining on 29th and one on 30th (AT, HV *et al.*).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Status: rare passage migrant, mostly during September.

One record for 2015, and the belated publication of a record from 2014, means that both years align with the average of one record per year over the last ten years, and makes 2009 the last year when this species was not recorded in the London Area.

The 2015 individual is the first to appear in our area in April, and is only the third spring record in the London Area, following singles at Beddington Farmlands from May 12th to 14th 1989 and Kempton Park Res on June 1st 1996.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, one from Apr 29th-May 1st (AT *et al.*).

2014 Addition

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Oct 13th (RBr).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

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

Four records, involving just three or four individuals, meant that it was a very poor year for this species in the London Area. The dates were typical with one in early May and the remainder in early August.

2015 was a good year for Little Stint, with a total of 18 birds - this one at Staines Reservoir. (Andrew Moon)



Essex: Rainham Marshes, one on Aug 1st (FS), a juv on Aug 3rd (DSm), an adult on Aug 5th (SSy).

Middx: Staines Res, an adult in non-breeding plumage on May 7th (KLP, RWa).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Status: scarce late-autumn and winter visitor.

For the second year running one of this less than annual visitor, which is scarce even in coastal parts of South-East England, was found at Q. Mother Res. Found at 11:45, this individual was later flushed by a windsurfer and had moved on by mid-afternoon.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Nov 20th (PJM *et al*).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Wintering numbers on the Lower Thames Marshes were similar to 2014, well below those recorded in 2012 and 2013 when maximum flock sizes were 3,400 and 2,000 respectively. There were records from Thames-side sites in all months, but with lower numbers between mid-March and late October.

Dunlin peak site counts along Lower Thames marshes

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainham Marshes	1000	700	150	193	563	750
Crayford/Dartford Marshes	500	20	30	25	1	750
Crossness	700	500	750	2	600	1000
Barking Bay	200	-	350	-	1	-
Others	70	125	200	28	350	600

Dunlin records away from Lower Thames

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites	0	2	5	16	17	2	10	13	9	5	6	1
No. of records	0	2	14	33	37	5	20	32	15	6	8	1
Minimum no. of birds	0	5	51	218	147	7	53	64	24	7	9	2

Passage migrants passed through Lower Thames sites, reservoirs and gravel pits, predominately from April to May and July to September, with spring passage by far the heaviest. The drained north basin of Staines Res attracted the largest numbers during the spring with maximum numbers fluctuating from day to day, and with peak counts including 50 on April 25th, 85 on April 26th, 41 on May 9th and 35 on May 13th. April 26th was a day of particularly heavy passage, with 177 individuals reported from 14 sites (assuming that there was no movement between sites and that the maximum reported from each site was the total number that visited during the day).

The highest autumn counts all came from the Lower Thames, with July peaks of 21 at Crayford Marshes on 22nd, 22 at Rainham Marshes on 29th and 31 at the latter site on 30th. During August, the highest count was 15 at Rainham Marshes on 11th. Away from the Thames, the highest autumn counts were 16 at Staines Res on July 22nd and 23rd.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Status: regular passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

As usual, all records from the first months of the year came from the Lower Thames, this year almost entirely from Rainham Marshes. The first record from elsewhere signalled the beginning of spring passage with 21, the largest flock of the year, at Staines Res on March 6th on the drained north basin there. Spring passage continued until May 17th and autumn passage began on June 12th, with the highest autumn count being nine at Rainham Marshes on August 25th. There were no records after September 19th.

Essex: Gallions Reach, one on Jan 11th, two on Aug 31st. Rainham Marshes, up to four irregularly from Jan 3rd to Apr 12th, one from May 16th-17th, up to two in July, a maximum of nine in August and up to two in September with the last on Sep 18th.

Herts: Rye Meads, four on Jun 27th. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Jul 26th & 29th, two on 30th.

Middx: Brent Res, up to two between Aug 15th & 30th. Staines Res, 21 on Mar 6th with seven until 7th, singles from Mar 21st-25th, seven on Apr 7th, five on Apr 15th, singles on Apr 21st and Jun 12th, up to three between Jul 25th and Sep 19th, but with six on Sep 13th & 14th and five on 15th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, two on Mar 18th. Dartford Marshes, three on Mar 7th & 15th, four on Mar 22nd and one on Mar 27th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Aug 25th, 29th & 30th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Sep 3rd & 17th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), five on Aug 25th, singles on Aug 31st and Sep 8th. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), one from Sep 7th-9th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

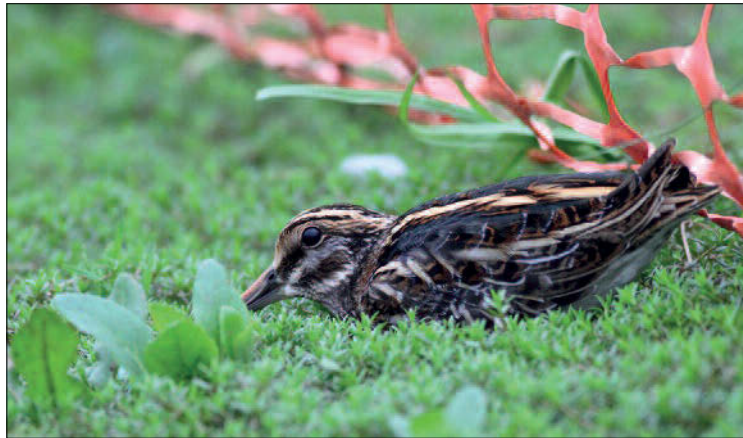
The highest counts at the beginning of the year were nine at Beddington Farmlands on January 1st and Horton on February 12th, with the last bird of the spring on May 5th at the London Wetland Centre. The first autumn record was on October 12th, with counts at the end of the year including 11 at Rye Meads on December 19th. All records are given or summarised below, with the maximum count at either year-end in brackets, for sites with more than two records.

Jack Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Essex	2	-	-	2	-	1	3	1
Herts	1	5	5	2	1	5	2	11
Middx	7	10	6	1	-	1	1	1
Bucks	5	9	-	-	-	1	2	3
Kent	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Surrey	16	5	13	6	1	4	14	12
Monthly total	32	29	24	11	2	14	22	28

Essex: Dagenham Chase, singles on Dec 19th & 29th. Gallions Reach, one on Apr 4th. Mar Dyke Valley, one on Jan 19th. Rainham Marshes (1:3).

Herts: Amwell, singles on Mar 16th and May 2nd. Rye Meads (5:11).

Middx: Greenford, one on Mar 9th. Rammey Marsh, one on Apr 7th. Staines Moor (7:1).



Jack Snipe are hard to find but, once discovered, often allow amazing views. (Dave Harris)

Stanwell Moor (3:0). Ten Acre Wood, Yeading (2:1).

Bucks: Horton (9:3).

Kent: Crossness, one on Jan 4th. Swanscombe Marshes, two on Oct 30th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (9:2). Holmethorpe SP (6:1). London Wetland Centre (4:4). Oxted Quarry, one on Apr 10th. South Norwood CP, one from Nov 24th-25th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (3:1). Wimbledon Common, singles on Jan 21st, Nov 9th & 11th and Dec 28th. Woldingham, one on Apr 10th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

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

During the first winter period, the highest counts were from Sevenoaks WR with a peak of 80 on January 27th. Elsewhere there were 54 at Beddington Farmlands on March 1st, 47 at Rainham Marshes on January 18th and 40 at Rye Meads on January 16th. Wintering numbers decreased rapidly after the middle of March and passage birds were noted at many sites including one in Regent's Park on April 4th. Very few birds were recorded in May with most birds having passed through by the middle of the month.

There were a few records during June including two at Rainham Marshes raising hope that this species may one-day return to breed in the London Area.

Early autumn migrants began to arrive at a few sites during the last week of July but the first double-figure count wasn't made until August 4th when there were 12 at Rainham Marshes. A notable passage occurred at London Wetland Centre on August 23rd when a flock of 22 birds flew over low during rain. Later in autumn, there was a large build up at Rye Meads, which peaked at 114 on November 14th. In December, there were only 77 left at Rye Meads and the only other counts of 30 or more birds were from Beddington Farmlands and Brent Res.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Apr 4th.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

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

During the first two months of the year, there were records from 39 sites, exactly the same as in 2014; the only counts above three birds were from Staines Moor where the peak was seven on January 25th. They were more widely seen on passage during March and the first week of April, with several Inner London records (see below).

Probable breeding records include at least two birds roding at Prince's Coverts on April 26th and one flushed at Esher Common on June 22nd.

There were no further records until October 19th when one flew through St James's Park. There were more autumn migrants from October 27th onwards with a few birds settling into their winter quarters. Although numbers were generally low with no more than three birds recorded at any one site, in December a co-ordinated count at dusk at Richmond Park found nine present.

In Lond: Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, one on Oct 27th. Grays Inn Gardens, one on Nov 30th. Hackney, remains found on Apr 10th. Hammersmith Cemetery, one on Nov 26th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, one on Nov 4th. Mile End Park, one on Nov 2nd. Regent's Park, singles on Jan 7th, Mar 9th & 20th, two on Apr 5th. Rotherhithe, one found dead on Mar 18th. Spitalfields, one on Mar 20th. St James's Park, one on Oct 19th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

After last year's virtual absence, wintering Black-tailed Godwits returned to the Lower Thames in January with many records between Swanscombe Marshes and Gallions Reach; the peak count was 398 at Rainham Marshes on January 4th. Away from the river, the only record was six at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) on January 2nd.

Passage birds were more widespread in March away from the Thames, with records from seven sites including seven at Staines Res on March 6th. Spring migrants continued to be recorded in small numbers up until the last on May 25th, with the majority being at Staines Res.

Autumn migrants began to arrive from June 15th but were only seen at four sites this month. In July there were regular records at the Lower Thames as well as more away from there: the peak was 64 at Staines Res on July 8th - the largest ever count away from the Thames. Away from the Lower Thames, there were far fewer birds during the rest of autumn with a peak of just 11 at Staines Res and the last migrant being on October 21st at London Wetland Centre. At the Lower Thames, numbers peaked at 400 in late November, but there were no records away from here during the last two months of the year.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

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

There were no records in the first winter period. Around 26 birds were recorded during spring between April 4th and May 17th, most of which were single birds apart from a flock of nine at Rainham Marshes on May 14th.

Autumn migration kicked off early with a single at Staines Res on June 13th and 14th but there were only about 12 birds in total, assuming that some of the records at Rainham



Whimbrel is often an early passage migrant.
(Russ Sherriff)

Marshes related to the same long-staying birds. All of the autumn birds were on the Lower Thames marshes, with the last being at Purfleet on November 3rd.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Status: regular passage migrant.

Approximately 172 birds were recorded during the spring migration between March 23rd and June 8th with the majority seen in the last week of April and first week of May. The largest flocks were ten at Rainham Marshes on May 7th, eight at Crayford Marshes on May 3rd with seven in the same area on April 26th & May 2nd, seven also at KGV Res on April 25th and six over Regent's Park on April 25th.

The first autumn migrants were on July 4th at Rainham Marshes and birds were regularly seen on the Lower Thames marshes until September 7th, with a peak of 11 at Rainham Marshes on July 13th. Elsewhere, up to three birds were at Staines Res on many dates until August 9th and one to three birds at many of the large reservoirs and London Wetland Centre. Away from these typical sites there was one over the Olympic Park on July 26th, three at Mar Dyke Valley on August 2nd, three over Sidcup on August 6th with another there on September 7th, and singles over Richmond Park on August 27th and Staines Moor on September 18th. The latter was the last one of the year.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

Wintering birds were regularly recorded along the Lower Thames marshes during January and February with peak site counts of 15 at Rainham Marshes on February 20th, 13 in Barking Bay on January 17th and 11 at Dagenham Riverside on February 1st. The only records away from there were singles at Staines Res on February 13th & 18th and one over Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens on February 20th.

Numbers increased along the Thames during spring, peaking at 38 at Rainham Marshes on April 7th. Elsewhere, there were six at Claybury Woods & Park on March 6th, three at Staines Res on March 13th, three at Brent Res on March 24th and one or two birds at other sites. The last bird of spring was at Staines Res on May 7th although birds seen at the same site on June 8th may have been late migrants.

From mid-June onwards odd birds began to be seen and these probably represent the first autumn migrants with flocks of ten at Gallions Reach on June 21st, five over Walton-on-Thames on June 22nd and four over Q. Mother Res on June 20th. More sites recorded

Curlew during July and August but typically, only one or two birds and the highest count was just four at Gallions Reach on August 1st.

Most records during the last four months of the year were again from the Lower Thames with a maximum of 30 at Rainham Marshes on November 28th. No more than two birds were seen away from the river at any one time. On November 22nd, there were records of single birds from six West London reservoirs although it is unclear how many birds were involved.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, one on Feb 20th. Rotherhithe, one over Greenland Pier on Jun 29th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

One to two birds wintered at the following sites between January and March: Bow Creek, Crayford Marshes, Crossness, Rainham Marshes and Walthamstow Res. There were also one-day records at Dartford Marshes, East India Dock Basin and Redbridge Lakes.

The first spring migrant was on April 5th on the Thames at Kew and there was a widespread arrival from April 12th onwards. There was a noticeable rush on April 26th with 62 birds recorded including nine at both Q. Mother & KGV reservoirs. The passage in May was untypically low with a peak of just five at Staines Res on May 13th. The last northbound migrant was on June 4th although two at the London Wetland Centre on June 13th may have been particularly tardy birds.

More obvious early autumn migrants began to arrive from June 21st and small flocks started to congregate from the second week of July. The first larger gathering was 15 at KGV Res on July 15th with 23 at Crayford Marshes on July 22nd being the month's peak count. Numbers increased during August with 16 at Gallions Reach on August 10th and totals of 67 on August 16th (including 18 at Q. Mary Res) and 69 on August 23rd.

The highest day count, however, was 99 on August 25th which included 26 at Q. Mother Res. September's highest count was 15 at KGV Res on the 1st and there was a clear reduction in numbers after the middle of the month with no more than five birds at any one site.

Most migrants had departed by early October and overwintering birds began to settle in by the end of the month with up to three birds at both Bow Creek and Walthamstow Res by the year's end being the highest count.

In Lond: Greenland Dock, one on Apr 25th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, one on May 5th. Regent's Park, two on Apr 29th. Stepney E1, one on Aug 12th. Tower Bridge, one on Aug 7th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

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

Recorded at 28 sites during the first two months of the year; most counts were of one or two birds apart from those sites listed in the table below. Passage birds were in evidence from the middle of March with counts of three at Beckton SW on March 16th and four at Island Barn Res on March 27th. Further peak counts were nine at Ingrebourne Valley on April 13th and at Dartford Marshes on April 20th. Only two birds were seen in May, at



The distinctive call of Green Sandpiper is often the first sign of a wintering bird.
(Peter Alfrey)

Walthamstow Res on May 3rd and London Wetland Centre on May 28th.

Aside from a single bird at Rainham Marshes on June 2nd, the first returning bird was at Beddington Farmlands on June 9th. There was a slow build up in numbers throughout June into July with the first peak being six at Rye Meads on June 26th, followed by ten at Lower Chingford on July 20th. The collective autumn peak was 44 on August 12th. Apart from at the main sites, numbers began to fall away from late August onwards.

Monthly maxima for the main sites are listed below. Note that figures for Rainham Marshes are only included for comparison with earlier years as so few birds were seen there this year.

Green Sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	1	1	-	1	-	1	2	4	2	1	1	-
HR Rye Meads	1	2	2	3	-	6	8	13	12	20	9	7
MX Brent Res	4	1	2	2	-	1	6	7	4	3	3	5
SY Beddington Farmlands	5	6	6	6	-	7	13	23	9	4	6	4

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Status: scarce passage migrant with occasional winter records.

The regular overwintering bird was on the Lower Thames at both ends of the year, joined occasionally by a second bird. Elsewhere, there were six birds in autumn.

Essex/Kent: Crayford/Dartford/Purfleet/Rainham, one from 2014 to Apr 16th and from Aug 21st to Dec 24th. Dagenham Chase, one on Sep 13th-14th. Fairlop Waters, one flew off S on Sep 13th and was presumably the bird seen later at Dagenham Chase. Rainham Marshes, two on Feb 12th, Aug 24th-25th & Nov 4th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, two flew S on Aug 26th. Island Barn Res, one from Sep 13th-25th. London Wetland Centre, two on Aug 23rd.

Spotted Redshank remains a London scarcity. This bird was at Dagenham Chase in September. (Russ Sherriff)

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Status: regular passage migrant, rare in winter.

For the second year in a row, one wintered in the Crossness area up to April 28th, also being seen across the river at Barking and Rainham Marshes. Spring migrants started appearing at Rainham Marshes in early April with up to three birds present. There was a more widespread arrival after mid-month with nine at Dartford Marshes on April 22nd and three at Staines Res on April 25th-26th. Passage petered out fairly quickly during May and the last bird was at Rainham Marshes on June 3rd.

One at Staines Res on June 11th may have been an early autumn arrival otherwise, the first clear southbound birds were two at the same site on June 27th. Rainham Marshes and Staines Res accounted for the majority of autumn records with only small numbers seen elsewhere. The peak counts were 13 at Rainham Marshes on August 1st with 12 there on 30th; and five at both Crayford Marshes on July 22nd and Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) on August 19th.

Two birds were regularly on the Lower Thames up to late October with one up to November 12th and the only record there after this was on December 9th at Crossness. Another late bird was at London Wetland Centre on November 22nd.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

There were six birds in spring, one more than the previous two years. The first was at Ingrebourne Valley on April 19th-20th followed by two at Rainham Marshes and one at Holmethorpe SP on April 26th. The only ones in May were at the London Wetland Centre, with one on May 19th joined by a second bird the following day and both remaining until May 21st.

Around 28 were recorded in autumn, more than double last year's total of 13. An early returner was at Walton Res on June 28th. July typically saw the start of the main passage with two at Beddington Farmlands on July 3rd, three at Ingrebourne Valley on 4th, one at London Wetland Centre on 10th followed by a long series of records at Rainham Marshes from July 16th to August 26th probably involving four birds although the daily count never exceeded two. The last arrival in July was at Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) on the 26th then there were no more (apart from at Rainham Marshes) until August 14th when five were found at Staines Res and singles were seen at London Wetland Centre, Tyttenhanger GP and Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth). There were additional birds in August at Beddington Farmlands, Coopers Green GP, Coursers Road GP, Ingrebourne Valley, Stanborough Lakes and Tyttenhanger GP. The only records in September were at Richmond Park on 10th and Ingrebourne Valley on 12th.



Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

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

The highest numbers at the main sites along the Lower Thames are listed below; there were also 250 at West Thurrock Marshes on February 15th.

Common Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	287	140	75	45	43	38	20	7	27	205	148	150
KT Crayford Marshes	64	100	101	60	2	-	-	1	30	100	52	36
Crossness	100	35	55	30	-	1	3	3	185	155	105	120
Dartford Marshes	26	70	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	150	-	31
Swanscombe Marshes	72	45	23	-	-	-	-	-	4	62	70	73

Breeding records are listed below. Rainham Marshes continues to be the stronghold with 48 pairs, up from 31 in 2014. However, there was only one successful pair away from here.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 48 pairs, 24+ young.

Herts: Amwell NR, two pairs present, one nest site located, but no young seen. Tyttenhanger GP, pair seen mating.

Middx: Staines Moor, one territory. Staines Res, pair with a juv in mid-June, possibly from Staines Moor.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, three pairs present, no young seen.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

Up to ten wintered at Swanscombe Marshes; some of these birds were also seen across the river at Grays. The only other winter records were two at Rainham Marshes on January 16th and one at Creekmouth, Barking on November 28th.

In spring, there were 13 migrants between April 21st and June 13th. These were mostly at Staines Res apart from two at KGV Res on May 15th and Rainham Marshes on June 1st-2nd.

There were about 34 in autumn between July 19th when one appeared at Q. Mother Res and September 17th with the last one at Rainham Marshes. The highest count on the Thames was four in the Rainham/Dartford area on July 26th and August 24th, elsewhere there were three at Staines Res on July 22nd-23rd.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Status: rare passage migrant.

There was one record this year, like last year, and, unusually, this was a spring record. (See table below for arrival dates since 1949.) The bird was only present for twenty minutes.

Red-necked Phalarope arrival dates 1949-2015: 29 records, 29 or 30 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	-	-	-	1	5	1	8	10	4	-	-

Middx: Staines Res, one briefly on Jun 6th (FJM).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

It was a poor year for this species with just a single record, typically a fly-by along the River Thames. The last year to register just a single record was 2010, with this year contrasting with the eight records reported in *LBR* 2014, which now become nine with the additional record below.

Essex: Gallions Reach, one west on Sep 16th (GAJ).

2014 Addition

Staines Res, a dark-morph adult briefly on May 10th (KLP).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Status: regular but scarce migrant.

Following the unprecedented influx of a minimum of 46 birds in 2014, it was a return to the norm with just one record: a single bird that remained for a day at Island Barn Res in late autumn. This year's record is only the second one seen in November in recent years.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, one on Nov 25th (DMH *et al*).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

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

It was a poor year for this species with just 22 birds compared to last year's total of 117 birds (and 48 in 2013). The peak site was Gallions Reach, with five records involving six birds.

March was the peak month with eight birds, including one tracked from Regent's Park to Island Barn Res on March 24th (based on a distinctive underwing spot from photographs), with a further five in April including three at London Wetland Centre on 29th. The only May records were at Gallions Reach with singles on 3rd and 11th. Autumn passage was very slow, with one at Q. Mother Res on July 19th, two at Gallions Reach on August 13th and one there on September 29th. There was then one in the roost at Hilfield Park Res on November 20th and two past Creekmouth and Rainham Marshes on November 21st.

Kittiwake monthly records 2015

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	-	-	8	5	2	-	1	2	1	-	3	-

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Mar 24th on the boating lake (ARD).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

There were at least 556 breeding pairs from nine sites (compared to 410 pairs and ten sites in 2014 and 446 pairs at 11 sites in 2013), with over 50% of London's breeding population in the Hertfordshire recording sector. The Rye Meads colony has been increasing steadily year-on-year since 2011, when there were only 42 pairs, and is now the most important breeding site for this species. However, drainage of the north basin at Staines Res meant there was no breeding there compared to the 73 pairs last year.

Black-headed Gull. (Jonathan Lethbridge)

The highest count was 14,500 flying east at Hogsmill SW on February 7th, with 43 counts of 2,000 or more birds (13 in 2014 and 29 in 2013), although variable observer coverage may be more behind these figures rather than population dynamics. There were leucistic birds at Brent Res, Deptford Creek, Island Barn Res, Q. Mother Res, QE II Res and Walton-on-Thames. There were sightings of birds with colour rings from Czech Republic, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Spain as well as from the UK. Below are peak counts (along with breeding pairs in brackets), although like several other species of 'common' gull in London it is significantly under-recorded.



Essex: Rainham Marshes, 3,000 on Dec 26th.

Herts: Amwell NR (55). Hilfield Park Res (3); 10,000 on Dec 31st. Maple Lodge NR (26).

Rye Meads (185). Seventy Acres Lake (69). Stocker's Lake (6).

Middx: Hampton Court Park, 7,300 on Dec 4th. Ruislip Lido (1), 2 young.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 217 on Dec 23rd.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 1,700 on Feb 7th.

Surrey: Hogsmill SW, 14,500 on Feb 7th. London Wetland Centre (46+), 40+ young. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (165), first young noted Jun 3rd.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 725 on Nov 16th.

Little Gull Hydrocoloeus minutus

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

It was a relatively poor year for this species with 189 birds recorded (following 420 in 2014), with 89% of the annual total coming from April and contrasting sharply with a distinct lack of autumn records. There was a peak count of 47 at KGV Res on April 23rd, this being within the typical April-May spring passage period.

Little Gull monthly records 2015

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	1	0	1	168	0	2	1	6	3	1	2	4

A single 1st-winter at Beddington Farmlands on January 3rd was the only record until one at Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) on March 13th. In April, there were two at Island Barn Res on 3rd and one at Staines Res on 6th. Spring passage started in earnest on April 8th with 13 at Staines Res. London's reservoirs dominated April passage, with Staines Res peaking at 41 on April 23rd - the same day there was the annual high count

of 47 at KGV Res. Other notable counts on the peak passage day of 23rd (when the total was 111) included five at Beddington Farmlands. There were surprisingly no May records, with the only June records being singles at KGV Res on 23rd and Staines Res on 24th.

A single at the London Wetland Centre on July 12th was the sole midsummer record, and autumn passage was slow to say the least. There were just six birds in August from 14th, a paltry three in September, while October's sole record - contrasting with the 296 seen in this month in 2014 - was a 1st-winter at Hilfield Park Res on 11th. A couple of November records included an adult at Staines Res from 8th-29th and one at Rainham Marshes on 21st, with the year closing with December singles at Beddington Farmlands on 1st and at Amwell NR, Hilfield Park Res and Rainham Marshes on 13th.

Mediterranean Gull Larus melanocephalus

Status: regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

It was a good year for the species, with larger numbers than 2014. The peak count was seven at Holmethorpe SP on July 3rd (compared to four in 2014 and an unprecedented flock of 43 in 2013) and there were 16 counts of three or more birds from seven sites during the year. Records now follow a predictable pattern with wintering birds showing site fidelity and/or in gull roosts, a spring passage of adults, juveniles from mid-July to September, before wintering birds arrive at their regular sites.

Regular roost sites during the first winter period included Hilfield Park Res and Q. Mother Res with two regularly recorded from both sites and three seen at Hilfield Park Res on February 4th. There was a decent April passage involving adults, with five seen at Beddington Farmlands during the month and four at Rainham Marshes on 18th.



The first juv of the year was at Staines Res on July 10th (compared to the first juv in 2014 on July 5th and in 2013 on July 14th) with another 15 juveniles seen by the end of August. Records from October to December were slightly down on the first winter period, though included regulars such as the one in Valentines Park returning for its 17th winter, as well as several 1st-winters in the roosts.

There was a Polish ringed adult at Home Park on February 1st, a French ringed juvenile at QE II Res on July 24th and a 1st-winter with a German ring at Alexandra Park on November 24th. The table below shows the number of individuals recorded each month and the number of sites they were at.

Mediterranean Gull is seen in every month of the year, peaking in winter.
(Tony Brown)

Mediterranean Gull records

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of birds	26	30	27	34	7	13	23	10	6	15	17	21
No. of sites	21	23	18	11	5	9	15	8	4	11	13	16

In Lond: Burgess Park, regular adult on Jan 2nd and Feb 1st. Westminster, adult N over Lambeth Bridge on Jul 14th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Numbers recorded have risen for the third successive year although it is a species that is significantly under-recorded; there were 53 counts of 100 or more (from 21 sites), compared to 55 counts (23 sites) in 2014. There were, however, just two counts of 500 or more birds - from Wanstead Flats on January 17th and November 16th - compared to nine counts last year.

Mid-summer records were typically scarce, although more seem to be lingering year on year - with 64 birds from 14 sites in May and 11 birds from seven sites in June. Birds starting returning from July 3rd and the first juvenile was at London Wetland Centre on August 1st (compared to July 19th in 2014). Below are details of peak counts from sites with counts of 100 or more.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 220 on Dec 26th. Wanstead Flats, 500 on Jan 17th and Nov 16th.

Herts: Brookmans Park, 280 on Dec 28th. Hilfield Park Res, 300 on Dec 31st. Rye Meads, 260 on Feb 14th. Tyttenhanger GP, 187 on Feb 15th.

Middx: Brent Res, 155 on Nov 15th. Bushy Park, 127 on Dec 24th. Hampton Court Park, 135 on Dec 20th. Home Park, 125 on Dec 4th. Q. Mary Res, 100 on Jul 11th. Totteridge Valley, 175 on Mar 14th. Yeading Brook Meadows, 102 on Jan 25th.

Kent: Danson Park, 100 on Feb 2nd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 194 on Nov 1st. Epsom Downs, 100 on Jan 20th. Holmethorpe SP, 105 on Dec 2nd. QE II Res, 325 on Dec 30th. Richmond Park, 200 on Dec 3rd. Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough), 260 on Feb 10th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 150 on Feb 4th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

There were 51 pairs confirmed breeding this year with 35 young noted (27 pairs in 2014 and 52 pairs in 2013). Coverage of rooftop colonies varies each year, and getting access to this species' relatively inaccessible breeding locations means that the true breeding status is unknown and under-recorded.

Numbers were similar to the previous year, with two counts of 300 or more birds (three in 2014) and 24 counts of 100+ birds (20 in 2014 and 27 in 2013). The highest count was 1,150 at Amwell NR on October 19th (compared to 2014's high count of 940). Listed below are all confirmed breeding records (no. of pairs/nests in brackets), as well as peak counts of over 100 birds.

Essex: Chigwell, 240 on May 25th. Rainham Marshes, 177 on Dec 26th. Walthamstow Res (15), 30 young.

Herts: Amwell NR, 1,150 on Oct 19th. London Colney (5), 3 young. Rye Meads, 200 on Sep 26th. Tyttenhanger GP (10+); 129 on Aug 5th.

Middx: Edmonton (5). Neasden (1), 1 young. Ponders End (3). Stoke Newington Res (1). Tottenham Marshes (6). Wood Wharf, Isle of Dogs (4). Wembley (1). Noted as failing to breed at Brent Res and Heathrow Airport.

Kent: Crossness, 150 on Sep 30th. Dartford Marshes, 161 on Oct 19th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 215 on Nov 1st. Canons Farm, 100 on Jan 11th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 23 on Aug 17th.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

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

This is the commonest large gull in London and present throughout the year, although significantly more numerous in the winter. Breeding frequently occurs in rooftop colonies, though these and peak counts are continually under-recorded. Leucistic birds were at Hilfield Park Res on March 13th, Amwell NR on December 6th, QE II Res on December 17th and Island Barn Res on December 18th.

There were 64 counts of over 1,000 birds (six in 2014 and 12 in 2013), though this is as much due to one particular observer meticulously submitting counts of this species from Beddington Farmlands rather than an overall increase. In fact, with the continual decline in conventional landfill sites, it is likely that numbers will drop, as it has done at Beddington Farmlands with a peak now of 10,520 compared to 15,000 in 2013. The number of counts of over 200 birds (175) was an increase on the 49 in 2014. Listed below are all confirmed breeding records (no. of pairs/nests in brackets), as well as peak counts of over 500 birds.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 1,000 on Jan 7th. Walthamstow Res (5), 11 young.

Herts: Amwell NR, 800 on Oct 19th.

Middx: Billingsgate Market, Isle of Dogs (1), two young. Edmonton (1). Home Park, 720 on Sep 17th. KGVI Res, 500 on Jan 17th. Q. Mary Res, 2,230 on Jul 19th. Staines Res, 1,300 on Apr 10th. Tottenham Marshes (2). Wembley (1). White City (1), three young. Wood Wharf, Isle of Dogs (6).

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 1,200 on Nov 28th

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 10,520 in January. Hogsmill SW, 1,920 on Oct 16th. Holmethorpe SP, 560 on Dec 4th. Long Ditton, 2,800 on Jan 14th. Priest Hill, 900 on Jan 1st. Surbiton, 660 on Nov 14th. Tolworth, 1,800 on Jan 24th. Watermeads, 1,500 on Jan 4th.

In Lond: Camden Town (1), two young. Marylebone (1), one young.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

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

It was a fairly average showing for this species, with five counts of over 50 birds from two typical sites (Dartford Marshes and Rainham Marshes), compared to three from two sites in 2014 and two from two sites in 2013. The highest count was 154 from Rainham Marshes on July 24th (2014 and 2013 peaks of 163 and 116 respectively).

Sites that have recorded large numbers in previous years such as Colnbrook, KGVI Res

and Wraysbury Res, had far fewer records this year. Twenty at Q. Mary Res on July 19th were the highest number seen in Middlesex; while six at Staines Res on July 11th by the same observer was the peak count there and exemplifies how observer bias influences the recording of this species. Similarly, in Inner London, nine birds seen at Rotherhithe throughout the year - including five juveniles in July and August - illustrates how the patchy coverage from 'larophiles' probably only gives some indication of the occurrence of this species in London. In fact, any site on the Thames from Central London eastwards during mid to late summer is likely to attract this species so long as observers are armed with a loaf of bread!

Despite this sporadic coverage, there was still a noticeable July and August peak. The species continues to remain scarce in Hertfordshire, where it is largely a winter visitor, and four at Amwell NR on February 3rd was the highest count. The first juveniles were two at Greenwich on July 1st, probably the earliest London record and coinciding with some extremely warm weather (first juvs in 2014 and 2013 were on July 7th and 14th). The following table shows monthly maxima for all sites with high counts.

Yellow-legged Gull monthly maxima

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	8	5	4	1	-	15	154	111	20	12	12	10
BU Q. Mother Res	4	-	1	1	-	3	26	20	6	2	1	-
KT Crayford/Dartford	3	1	2	1	1	-	20	41	4	4	11	10
Greenwich	-	-	-	-	-	5	13	1	-	1	2	-

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jan 7th, Feb 14th and Nov 3rd. Regent's Park, adults on Feb 17th and Aug 14th and near-adult on Dec 23rd. Rotherhithe, 1st-summer on May 10th, five different juvs from Jul 7th to Aug 18th, near-adult on Jul 15th, adult on Jul 19th and 3rd-winter on Nov 29th.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Status: scarce visitor mainly in winter.

An estimated 78 birds were seen this year, making it the best ever showing for this species (previous highest total was 75 in 2012). However, the mobile nature of London's gulls inevitably means some duplication of individuals as they move between favoured sites. There was a similar weighting of records for both winter periods, with Rainham Marshes recording the annual peak of six on January 16th while six at Amwell NR on December 11th illustrates the continuing rise in numbers of this species here. Records were focused around a handful of localities, and the following table shows the number of different individuals recorded each month at favoured sites.

Caspian Gull monthly records 2015

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	6	1	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	3
HR Amwell NR	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	6
BU Q. Mother Res	3	3	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
KT Crayford/Dartford	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
SY Beddington Farmlands	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2

Amwell NR saw a rapid increase in records compared to 2013 while Beddington Farmlands, Crayford/Dartford Marshes, Rainham Marshes and the roost at Q. Mother Res continued to account for the majority of records. A Polish colour-ringed bird was at Dartford Marshes in January. The following provides an overview of records, though it is difficult to be sure of the exact numbers at some sites due to the wandering nature of London's gulls.

With a westward expansion in this species' range and an increase in observers' familiarity with the species, it is being recorded more regularly and London continues to be a stronghold for this species nationally.

Essex: Gallions Reach, at least two: adult on Jan 4th-15th, Dec 13th and 28th. Rainham Marshes, 17+: peak count of six on Jan 16th. Wanstead Flats, one: 1st-winter intermittently from Nov 27th to Dec 17th. West Thurrock Marshes, one: 1st-winter on Dec 27th.

Herts: Amwell NR, at least 12: peak of six (two adults, 2nd-winter and three 1st-winters) on Dec 11th. Rye Meads, one: one on Feb 8th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one: 1st-winter on Jan 4th, the first site record. Brent Res, one: 1st-winter on Oct 23rd, the first site record. KGVI Res, one: 1st-winter on Oct 25th. Q. Mary Res, one: regular adult on five dates from Jan 18th to Sep 6th (also seen at Walton Res, see below). Staines Res, at least seven: 1st-winters on Feb 7th & 28th, near-adult on Mar 13th, 1st-summer on Apr 24th and Jun 6th & 13th, juv on Aug 23rd and 1st-winter on Oct 17th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, nine: peak of two on Jan 27th.

Kent: Belvedere, one: adult on Feb 9th. Crayford/Dartford Marshes, at least seven: adult and 1st-winter on Jan 3rd, two on Dec 2nd and singles on Jan 12th, Feb 7th, May 31st and Dec 30th. Crossness, two: adult on Jan 11th and 1st-winter on Feb 1st. Erith Reach, one: adult on Feb 9th. Greenhithe, two: one on Mar 7th & 15th. Greenwich, one: 1st-winter on Nov 8th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, at least three: 1st-winters from Jan 23rd to Mar 19th and Oct 17th to Dec 31st, adult on Dec 20th. Island Barn Res, four: adult on Jan 2nd, 1st-winters on Mar 22nd and Oct 7th-8th, adult on Dec 9th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), three: adult on Jan 21st, regular adult from Jun 12th-22nd and 1st-winter from Dec 20th-30th.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* or Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

In February, a white-winged gull was recorded at Beddington Farmlands, Island Barn Res, Q. Mother Res and Rainham Marshes that was either an Iceland Gull or a Glaucous Gull. Despite being seen well and photographed, and with subsequent input from experts, its identification was never firmly established. Below are the dates and places for these records. The accounts below this for the two separate species exclude these records.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 2nd-winter on Feb 16th-17th (PH *et al.*)

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 2nd-winter on Feb 14th (CDRH).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 2nd-winter on Jan 31st, Feb 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 11th, 13th & 14th (BFBG). Island Barn Res, 2nd-winter intermittently from Jan 27th to Feb 16th (DMH).



London's keen laridophiles continue to sift out white-wingers on the fringes, such as this Iceland Gull at Rainham Marshes. (Dominic Mitchell)

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

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

It was a reasonable year for this species, with around nine individuals (compared to c11 in 2014 and six in 2013). There were six birds seen during the first winter period - including a third-winter at Rainham Marshes ringed in Oslo, Norway on April 12th 2013 (the first Iceland Gull seen in Britain with a foreign ring for over 60 years) and a late bird at Staines Res on May 24th - with a further two noted in the second winter period.

Essex: Three birds. Gallions Reach, adult on Apr 12th and 29th-30th (GAJ), Rainham Marshes, 3rd-winter (Norwegian ringed) on Jan 16th and Mar 6th (DML) and juv on Dec 7th-8th (DSm, AT, PSt, HV).

Middx: Three birds. Staines Res, juv on Feb 1st (REI, KLP), 2nd-winter on Apr 21st-22nd (REI *et al*) and 3rd-summer on May 24th (REI)

Bucks: Horton GP, juv on Jan 18th (CDRH).

Kent: Thamesmead, adult on Apr 29th (IS) (same as Essex above).

Surrey: Two birds. Beddington Farmlands, 2nd-winters from Apr 22nd-29th (BFBG), juv intermittently from Nov 27th to Dec 31st (DCa *et al*). Island Barn Res, 2nd-winter on Apr 29th (DMH) (same as Beddington Farmlands).

Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus*

Status: rare vagrant.

2011 Addition

The well-documented record from 2011, has now been formally accepted by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) as the first record for Britain. (See page 219 for details of this record.)

Essex: Rainham Marshes, adult/near-adult from Jan 13th-14th and Feb 20th-26th 2011 (DML *et al*).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

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

Just one bird was recorded (less than the previous three years) at the end of the year.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 2nd-winter on Dec 30th (PH, AT *et al*) (same as Dartford Marshes, below)

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 2nd-winter on Dec 29th (ARL).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers, less common at other seasons; has bred recently.

It was a good year for this species, with 26 counts of over 50 birds (15 in 2014 and five in 2013), the highest being 155 at Amwell NR on December 23rd (125 in 2014 and 170 in 2013). Particularly impressive was 115 in the roost at Q. Mother Res on January 4th, being double the peak count at this site for the previous two years. There was no direct evidence of breeding this year (they last bred successfully in 2013), although an adult and two dependent juveniles at London Wetland Centre on August 9th had possibly bred not too far away. Listed below are high counts for sites within each sector.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 117 on Dec 31st. West Thurrock Marshes, 54 on Dec 27th.

Herts: Amwell NR, 155 on Dec 23rd.

Middx: Broadwater Lake, 12 on Jan 31st.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 115 on Jan 4th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, 42 on Dec 2nd.

Surrey: Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), 128 on Dec 31st. Holmethorpe SP, 100 on Dec 27th. Island Barn Res, 52 on Jan 10th.

In Lond: Rotherhithe, 11 on Nov 11th.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Status: uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant

The earliest record since 2003 came with two birds at Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) on April 16th. A few days later, April 23rd saw a noteworthy nine at Staines Res, along with two at KGV Res and singles at Q. Mother Res and Amwell NR. Spring passage ended on April 29th with two at KGV Res, which may have been lingering birds, while lone birds were at QEII Res and Staines Res/KGVI Res. In all it was a rich spring for the species, with a minimum of 17 birds involved.



These two Little Terns on Walton Reservoir (Knight & Bessborough) were London's earliest for over a decade. (Dave Harris)

A single flying upriver at Rainham Marshes on July 7th was presumably a failed breeder and the true return movement kicked off on August 12th, when seven visited QEII Res. The next day, one flew upriver at Gallions Reach. Further singles flew upriver at Rainham Marshes on August 15th and 23rd. There were three over Beddington Farmlands on 24th, with the last of the year being one over Staines Res on 25th. This brought the 2015 total to a healthy minimum of 32 birds.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

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

Hilfield Park Res had the honour of hosting the first spring arrival, a single on the relatively early date of April 18th, before three turned up there on 23rd. May 2nd saw two at both KGV Res and Staines Res; the next day brought eight which visited Amwell NR, Nazeing GP and Rye Meads. A break followed until one at Staines Res on May 9th. The final records of the first spring push involved two at Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) on May 14th and one at Staines Res the next day. A later, secondary, movement included four at Staines Res on June 13th, one at Richmond Park on 14th and further singles at Amwell NR and Staines Res on 16th.

Return migration started neatly on August 1st, when three adults were at Q. Mother Res. This was followed by six at Staines Res on 8th, then two at Q. Mary Res and singles at Staines Res and Walthamstow Res on 12th. On 13th there were three at Q. Mother Res and one at Staines Res. On 15th, there were three at KGV Res and one there on 17th. After a short break came the largest count of the year, when 37 were at Staines Res on 23rd. On 24th, there were three at Rainham Marshes and one at Staines Res (which stayed

to 30th). Two arrived at KGV Res on 29th and stayed to 31st; there were two at Queen Mary Res on 30th and a few more on 31st, with singles at Gallions Reach and Tyttenhanger GP and two at Broadwater Lake and at Staines Res. There were no more until September 13th with one at Staines Res, followed by three the next day at Q. Mary Res. The last few in September were singles at Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough) on 16th, Staines Res on 18th (which stayed to 19th) and Rainham Marshes on 19th. In October, there were singles at Brent Res on 7th and at Rainham Marshes on the 8th.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in small flocks.

Two at Staines Res on April 7th represented the onset of a steady passage and were followed by singles at Gallions Reach on 13th and both London Wetland Centre and Rainham Marshes on 22nd. Hall Marsh Scrape and KGV Res each had two the following day. A single at Q. Mother Res on 26th broke the otherwise blank spell, which lasted until May 8th, when one was at Tyttenhanger GP. A single at Gallions Reach on 16th signed off the spring but two presumably failed breeders were at Q. Mother Res on June 28th.

There was a more pronounced autumn movement and mostly at the Lower Thames, making it hard to know how many different birds were involved. Two at Rainham Marshes heralded this on July 25th, where there was also one on 26th. These were followed by one at Gallions Reach on August 8th and seven there the next day, when three were seen at Rainham Marshes and two at Crossness. Gallions Reach continued with two on 11th and 18 on 13th (when two were at Rainham Marshes); there were also three at QEII Res on 13th. On 14th at least two were heard calling over Oxhey Park in fog and, on 16th, three were at Rainham Marshes. There were no more until 23rd, when eight were at Rainham Marshes and four were at Q. Mother Res (seen also at Staines Res). The next day there were five at Staines Res and two at Rainham Marshes. More movement from 28th, when one was at Crossness, followed the next day by three at Rainham Marshes and two at Gallions Reach. There were more at the R Thames on 30th, with 41 at North Woolwich, five at Gallions Reach, three at Rainham Marshes and one at Crossness. August ended with two at Q. Mother Res and one at Rainham Marshes. The next were on September 10th, when two were on Upper Pen Pond in Richmond Park and one was at Crayford Marshes. On 11th, two were at Swanscombe Marshes, followed on 27th by the last of the year, five at Swanscombe Marshes and six at Gallions Reach.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first of the year was a lone bird at Gallions Reach on March 30th. Several sites registered their first arrivals over the first few days of April but it was not until 11th that any double-figure counts were reported, the first being 40 at Gallions Reach. Numbers remained low for the next week or so, being bettered on 19th with 50 at Rainham Marshes and 100 at Barking Bay on 25th. Early May seemed to see a small peak, with 143 at KGV Res and 60 at Staines Res on 2nd, followed by 130 at the latter site three days later and 124 there on 9th. By late May, breeders were generally where they wanted to be and passage had died down.

It was not a good year for breeding, with numbers of pairs down at most sites and few young fledging. At Brent Res, they failed to breed for the first time since they began breeding in 1983; at Staines Res, none bred as the drainage of the north basin grounded the tern rafts.

An understated autumn passage seemed to begin in the first half of August, when flocks began to move along the River Thames and through the reservoirs, but there were large numbers only later in the month, for instance 146 at Rainham Marshes on 23rd and 114 at Gallions Reach on 31st. A count of 54 at Walthamstow Res on September 2nd was by far the highest count of the month, during which migration slowly fizzled out and concluded with an adult at Staines Res on October 5th.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (3). Walthamstow Res (7), 2 young, none fledged.

Herts: Amwell NR (11). Coursers Farm (1). Croxley Common Moor (1), 1 fledged. Hampermill Lake (1). Rye Meads (22). Seventy Acres Lake (30). Stanstead Innings (1). Stocker's Lake (7+), 21 young on rafts.

Middx: Blackwall Basin (1). East India Dock Basin (6), 9 fledged. Ruislip Lido (c4 pairs bred raising 4+ young).

Kent: Greenwich Ecology Park (c10).

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP (1). London Wetland Centre (7), 2+ fledged. Richmond Park (3), 2+ fledged. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (18), 6 fledged.

In Lond: Shadwell Basin (1), one young. Also recorded at Limehouse, Rotherhithe and St James's Park.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Status: rare passage migrant.

After no records in 2014, a single spring record this year, which was the first ever record for the Hertfordshire sector of the London Area. There have been more records in recent decades, as the table below shows.

Roseate Tern records by decade 1953-2015: 29 records

Decade	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s
No. of records	1	7	5	1	0	7	8

Herts: Amwell NR, one on May 12th had metal rings on both legs, and had been ringed on Coquet Island, Northumberland (AHL *et al*).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, often in small flocks with numbers varying annually.

Spring passage was from April 11th to June 2nd, extended by a curious late bird at Richmond Park on June 15th. Recorded at 23 sites during the main migration period; reservoirs, gravel pits and sites along the River Thames were naturally favoured, with Staines Res, KGV Res and Rainham Marshes taking the lion's share. Multiple records also came from Amwell NR, Gallions Reach, Brent Res, Crossness, Hilfield Park Res, KGV Res, London Wetland Centre and Walthamstow Res while other records were at Broadwater Lake, Dartford Marshes, Q. Mother Res, Regent's Park, Swanscombe Marshes, Thamesmead,

Watermeads and Wimbledon Park. Significant spring counts included 120 at KGV Res on April 30th and 60 at Staines Res and 55 at KGV Res on April 25th.

The post-breeding migration lasted from July 13th to October 14th, the last bird being at Rainham Marshes some 17 days after the penultimate records of the year, which were singles at the same site and at Gallions Reach. A similar roll call of sites produced multiple records, namely Gallions Reach, KGV Res, Q. Mary Res, Q. Mother Res, Rainham Marshes, Roding Valley Meadows NR and Staines Res. Further autumn birds passed through Amwell NR, Beddington Farmlands, Crayford Marshes, Crossness and Wraysbury Res. Predictably, numbers were less spectacular than in the spring, with 30+ at Gallions Reach on August 6th being the highest logged.

In Lond: Regent's Park, three on April 25th (ARD).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor, subject to occasional winter influxes.

There were two records this year, in line with 2013 and 2014, and both were on entirely typical dates. This is the eighth consecutive year in which this species has appeared in London.

Essex: Gallion's Reach, one on Sep 13th (KJM) and one downriver on Oct 3rd (GAJ).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Status: rare visitor, mainly in winter.

The 26th record; the first since 2011 and only the second since 1996. The majority of records have occurred between September and February so this is a typical sighting. The table below shows the records since 1966.

Razorbill records 1966-2015: 11 records, 11 birds

Year	1966	1972	1978	1983	1988	1990	1996	2011	2015
No. of birds	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
No. of records	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1

Essex: Gallions Reach, one on Sep 10th (KJM).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Status: rare, late-autumn and winter visitor.

The first record since 2007, when there were three records comprising ten birds. The vast majority of sightings occur in November so this was very much par for the course. The table below shows records since 1991.

Little Auk records from 1991-2015: 16 records, 24 birds

Year	1991	1992	1993	1995	1997	1998	1999	2007	2015
No. of birds	2	1	1	5	1	2	1	10	1
No. of records	2	1	1	4	1	2	1	3	1

Essex: Grays Riverside, one briefly on the river on Nov 22nd (DGD).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Status: rare visitor.

The first record since 2009 of this delightful auk: there have now been just 11 records since 1984. Spring records are unusual and this is the first April record since 1984.

Puffin arrival dates from 1984-2015: 11 records /11 birds

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

Middx: Brentford, one rescued from the R Brent by the Swan Sanctuary on Apr 8th (WM).

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Status: abundant feral resident.

There was a significant increase in 2015 in sites reporting this species, with records from 300 sites as opposed to 160 last year (and 31 in 2013!) As the commoner bird species are often under-reported, this increase in records is to be welcomed. The count of 1,000 at Canons Farm (see below) was the first four figure total since 2008. Sites recording breeding (confirmed or probable) also rose, from nine to 24, although this clearly represents only a fraction of the actual total. With a good number of these again coming from railway bridges perhaps beleaguered birding commuters on Southern Rail could while away their time waiting for a train by doing more counts! The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant changes in London since 2014, but a 23% decline from 1995-2014. In view of this decline, we would be very grateful for any more counts of 100 or more birds. Peak numbers from those sites with counts of 100 or more birds are listed below.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, 340 on Jan 17th. Valentines Park, 200 on Jan 24th and Dec 26th. Walthamstow Res, 110 on Sep 2nd. Wanstead, 100 on Nov 25th. Wanstead Flats, 100 on Sep 2nd.

Herts: Beech Farm GP, 150 on Nov 24th. St Albans, 115 on Dec 23rd. Tyttenhanger GP, 185 on Nov 18th.

Middx: Hampton Court Park, 140 on Aug 1st. Twickenham, 141 on Oct 10th.

Kent: Crystal Palace Park, 115 on Aug 13th. Kelsey Park, 120 on Nov 10th. West Wickham, 100 on Aug 20th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 150 on several dates. Berrylands, 300 on Jan 20th. Canons Farm, 1,000 on Oct 28th. Hogsmill SW, 340 on Dec 13th. King George's Park, 150 on Jan 14th. Kingston-upon-Thames, 300 on Aug 5th. London Wetland Centre, 159 on Oct 27th. New Malden, 100 on Jul 21st and Nov 5th. Norbiton, 200 on Mar 15th. Portsmouth Road Park, 137 on Dec 2nd. Richmond Park, 102 on Nov 8th. Seething Wells, 137 on Dec 7th. South Norwood, 440 on Aug 14th. Surbiton, 100 on Aug 19th. Woldingham, 100 on Nov 20th.

In Lond: British Museum, 150 on Nov 18th. Burgess Park, 100 on Jan 11th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 447 on Aug 17th. Lambeth Bridge, 100 on Jan 29th. Limehouse, 162 on Apr 19th. Regent's Park, 275 on Dec 31st. St James's Park, 575 on Dec 31st. Walworth, 100 on May 8th.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.

The pattern for 2015 bears considerable similarities to 2014. There was again a significant increase in the number of sites reporting birds (445 v 337) but the number of sites reporting pairs, while also higher, increased less dramatically (61 v 51). The total number of pairs showed a welcome increase too, from 147 to 201.

Stock Dove sites and pairs

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Total
Sites	87	98	83	8	58	102	9	445
Sites with pairs	11	18	11	0	6	14	1	61
No. of pairs	35	37	43	0	30	55	1	201

Peak counts for sites with 50 or more birds, sites with five or more pairs (number in brackets) and all Inner London sites (though not necessarily all records) are listed below.

Essex: Becton SW, 70 on Mar 16th. Wanstead Park (16).

Herts: Coursers Farm, 140 on Jun 28th. Essendon, 77 on Mar 15th. Maple Cross, 90 on Apr 2nd. Rickmansworth, 77 on Dec 17th. Rye Meads (12). Woodoaks Farm, 272 on Mar 26th. Woodside, 80 on May 31st.

Middx: Home Park (12). Totteridge Valley (20).

Kent: Crossness, 52 on Jan 1st. Foots Cray Meadows (10). Greenwich Park (11). Hartley Green, 65 on Mar 1st. Sevenoaks WR (5)

Surrey: Banstead Wood, 200 on Mar 31st. Canons Farm, 340 on Mar 31st. Holmethorpe SP, 307 on Nov 15th. Wimbledon Common (30); 60 on Jun 1st. Woldingham, 100 on Nov 20th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, max of five on Mar 19th. Regent's Park, max of 13 on Apr 6th. Victoria Park, six on Jan 19th, five on Feb 19th and two on May 2nd. Also recorded at Buckingham Palace, Green Park, Hammersmith Cemetery, Holland Park, St James's Park and Southwark Park.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

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

This species remains among the most abundant in London, confirmed by the fact that it was reported from 79% of the capital's gardens in the 2015 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. It clearly must breed extremely widely but, as usual, there were very few records: only 22 sites (mostly in Hertfordshire) even reported territories, let alone confirmed breeding. The Breeding Bird Survey shows an 8% increase in England from 2014-2015.

The autumn passage over London remains a highly impressive sight for those prepared to be out at dawn to see it. The first records this year were in mid-October, rising to a peak around the 24th and 26th of the month. There were other noticeable highs around November 3rd and the 8th and 9th of that month. The first and third of these clusters were weekends. This suggests that figures might be considerably higher if more counts could be made during the week as is done at Brent Res. Totals were broadly in line with 2014 but, unlike that year, there were two counts of over 10,000 birds: the prize was taken by West Thurrock with 25,000 over on October 26th. There were still occasional high counts towards the end of November. Of particular interest was a count of 1,900 birds over

Hampton Court Park on December 4th, not only because of its lateness but because the birds were travelling east as opposed to the traditional autumn direction of south-west or south. Sites where more than 3,000 birds were counted in total are listed below.

Woodpigeon highest autumn counts

Site	Total	No. of counts	Highest count (date)
West Thurrock	25,000	1	25,000 (Oct 26th)
Orsett Fen	18,000	1	18,000 (Nov 3rd)
Brook Farm, Upminster	12,400	2	8,000 (Nov 8th)
Brent Res	11,273	19	2,680 (Nov 12th)
Richmond Park	9,180	6	4,550 (Oct 25th)
Beddington Farmlands	3,809	11	1,100 (Nov 12th)
Grays Cemetery	3,000	1	3,000 (Nov 23rd)

There were a number of counts at other sites of between 1,000 and 2,000 birds during the autumn migration. Outside that period, there were several flocks of over 1,000 in the first winter, the largest of which was 1,350 at Beech Farm GP on March 4th. Mention should also be made of a flock of 1,000 birds at Rushett Farm on July 10th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Status: common breeding resident, scarce in central London.

The Breeding Bird Survey in London shows no significant change since 2014 and the RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 76% of gardens surveyed in 2015, similar to the 75% in 2014. The records in general for 2015 show a massive increase in sites recording this species, but a reduction in confirmed breeding records. However, it is likely that birds are breeding at many of the sites where they are present all year: as was said last year, more confirmed breeding records from such sites would be welcome.

Below are listed the number of sites per county, the breeding records (numbers of pairs/territories listed in brackets), some of the largest counts and a summary of the Inner London records.

Essex: Reported from 85 sites. Brook Farm (1). Hangman's Wood (1). Rainham Marshes, 32 on Feb 14th and 56 on Nov 28th. Warren Gorge (1).

Herts: Reported from 78 sites. Beech Farm GP (3). Brookmans Park (1). Colney Heath (1). Croxley Common (1). Ellenbrook Fields (3). Rye Meads (8). St Albans (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: Reported from 91 sites. Brent Res (1). Parkside Farm/Res (1). Rectory Farm, 46 on Oct 19th and 42 on Nov 4th. Wraysbury Res, 36 on Sep 16th.

Bucks: Reported from eight sites.

Kent: Reported from 77 sites. Darenth Lakes, peak of 48 on Jul 13th. Greenwich Park (2). Longfield Gallops, 30 on Oct 2nd.

Surrey: Reported from 110 sites. Ashtead Common (1). Hogsmill SW, peak of 75 on Dec 13th. Molesey Heath (3). Richmond (1). Richmond Park, 30 on Nov 13th. Trevereux (1). Wimbledon Common (1).

In Lond: Reported from Bermondsey, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, New Cross Gate, Regent's Park, Rotherhithe, St James's Park, Victoria Park, Walworth and Westminster.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Status: rare summer breeding visitor and scarce passage migrant.

The well-documented decline of this once familiar summer visitor shows no sign of stopping: the Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 93% in the UK from 1995-2014. Nor was there any evidence of breeding this year, although purring males were heard at Orsett Fen on July 1st and at Bookham Common on July 11th. However, the overall total of records and birds showed a slight increase over 2014 due to the presence of a wintering bird in a garden along Birchwood Road near Joyden's Wood in Kent from the beginning of the year until at least April 24th: indeed, it had probably arrived at the end of 2014. Wintering birds are unusual but not unknown.

Spring passage began with a single at Kenton on April 11th followed by one at Rye Meads on April 26th and singles at Rainham Marshes on May 7th and 15th (presumably the same bird). The following day saw the only record of the year involving more than one bird, two at Bowyer's Water: the only other May record was a single at Roding Valley Meadows on May 26th. There were several June records: one at Thamesmere West Lake on the 1st, one at Rainham Marshes on several days between the 1st and 6th, one at Richmond Park on the 17th and finally one calling at Beddington Farmlands on the 20th.

Autumn passage was very similar to last year. The first records were of singles at Barnes and at Leg O Mutton NR on August 3rd. Rainham Marshes then took over, with singles there on August 7th, 13th (a juvenile) and on September 13th. The final record of the year was a bird at Chingford on the relatively late date of October 27th.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Status: naturalised breeding resident, increasing in range and numbers.

Reported this year from around 400 sites so, on the surface, a substantial reduction from last year's total of 640. **It is however, probable that,** as with other common species, some are now going unrecorded. Although all counties showed a drop in the number of sites, it was more noticeable in the southern and western sectors, with Hertfordshire and Essex showing comparatively little change. Breeding pairs were up to 63 but, as with last year, half of these were at Wimbledon Common: there must be many sites at which birds are present all year round where breeding is in fact taking place but not being recorded.

The 2015 RSPB Big Garden **Watch** again showed birds in nearly 50% of Greater London gardens and the RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 91% of gardens surveyed in 2015. Both Common Buzzard and Herring Gull were noted as victims of mobbing this year.

Ring-necked Parakeet peak roost counts

MX	Greenford	200 (Feb)
	Hackney Marsh	2,100 (Oct)
KT	Danson Park	2,360 (Dec)
SY	Brockwell Park	250 (Nov)
	Mitcham Common	2,100 (Nov)

County site totals and selected high counts other than those listed in the above table are set out below. As usual, many of these counts refer to birds in flight.

Essex: Recorded from 42 sites. Dagenham Chase, 255 on Dec 29th. Ingrebourne Valley,

Ring-necked Parakeet is common and widespread in London. (Andrew Moon)



170 on Oct 30th. Mar Dyke Valley, 175 on Feb 1st. Orient Way, Leyton, 670 on Jan 17th. Walthamstow Marshes, 150 on Sep 3rd. Walthamstow Res, 120 on Sep 25th.

Herts: Recorded from 84 sites. Cuffley, 100 on Mar 19th.

Middx: Recorded from 88 sites. Brent Res, 125 on Jan 13th. Bushy Park, 628 on Aug 29th and 1,040 on Oct 7th. Hampton Court Palace, 609 on Sep 19th. Isleworth to Osterley, 220 on Apr 12th. Tottenham Marshes, 235 on Oct 22nd. West Harrow, 100 on Jul 7th.

Bucks: Recorded from four sites. Langley Park, 22 on Mar 19th.

Kent: Recorded from 54 sites. Dartford Marshes, 220 on Mar 28th. Green Street Green, 100 on Dec 12th.

Surrey: Recorded from 110 sites. Beddington Farmlands, 1,000 on Oct 17th. Holmethorpe SP, 658 on Jul 21st. Morden Hall Park, 380 on Sep 5th. Ravensbury Park, 260 on Dec 23rd. Richmond Park, 300 on Oct 13th. Steven's Eyot, 820 on Sep 24th. Waddon Ponds, 500 on Dec 13th.

In Lond: Recorded from 16 sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 100 on Apr 11th. St James's Park, 37 on Dec 31st.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The number of sites recording Cuckoos decreased this year from 143 to 112, although the 2014 total was high: the average for the six years from 2009 to 2014 is 121. 102 of these sites recorded birds in April or May, 29 in June and 14 between July and September as against 122, 45 and 18 respectively in 2014. As usual, proof of breeding was difficult to come by but there were fewer sites with birds in June this year, so there is no sign of the decline changing. The Breeding Bird Survey gives a 67% decline in the South East of England from 1995-2014.

Rainham Marshes was unquestionably the key site: five males were holding territories there in early June, with two females also present, so no doubt some of the site's many breeding Reed Warblers suffered as a consequence. A Cuckoo was also seen at a Reed Warbler's nest at Crayford Marshes in early June.

The first record of the year was a single at Walton-on-Thames on April 3rd and there were sightings virtually daily until the end of May. Nearly all of these were of single birds, occasionally two: May 1st, however, was celebrated with four birds in the Ingrebourne Valley. On the return journey, there was a flurry of records from late July until August 12th when there was a gap until early September, when there were six records. The last

of these was a single at Richmond Park on September 11th. The only Inner London record was one singing in Kensington Gdns on May 12th.

Cuckoo: sites where reported

	Spring (Apr-May)	Summer (June)	Autumn (July-Oct)
Essex	26	8	4
Herts	36	12	5
Middx	11	4	1
Bucks	3	0	0
Kent	12	1	0
Surrey	13	4	3
Inner London	1	0	0

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Status: rare breeding resident and scarce winter visitor.

Records came from 71 sites, a significant increase from 44 in 2014 and 52 in 2013. There were sightings throughout the year, with reports in the summer period at many sites with no reports of breeding, but almost all of these were of singles only. Details are shown in the table below. Five pairs were confirmed to have bred, the same number as in 2014: three in Essex, one in Hertfordshire and one in Surrey. Unlike 2014, there were no reports of probable breeding (seven in 2014).

Barn Owl: sites where reported

	Winter (Jan-Apr)	Summer (May-Aug)	Winter (Sep-Dec)
Bucks	1	-	-
Essex	11	6	6
Herts	18	9	2
Kent	4	1	1
Middx	5	5	7
Surrey	3	4	4

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Status: localised breeding resident, introduced to UK in the 19th century.

Records were received from 104 sites, slightly lower than 2014 (113 sites) but more than 2013 (85 sites). There were 16 pairs reported to have bred (same as in 2014), although birds may have bred at several other sites as more than one bird was reported throughout the breeding season at several sites, including at one site in Inner London. Breeding estimates are given below.

Essex: Reported from 18 sites. Gunpowder Park (1).

Herts: Reported from 31 sites. Cassiobury Park (1). Chess Valley (1). Merry Hill (1). Stocker's Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (1).

Middx: Reported from 20 sites. Home Park (2). Rectory Farm (1). Totteridge Valley (4).

Bucks: Reported from one site.

Kent: Reported from six sites.

Surrey: Reported from 26 sites. Barwell Court Farm (1).

In Lond: Reported from two sites (three in 2014). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3), one pair fledged two young. Regent's Park, one on Jan 6th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Status: common breeding resident in the outer parts of the London Area, scarce towards the centre.

Reported from 157 sites, a small increase from 151 in 2014. There were only 11 confirmed breeding records from six sites which is well down from 2014 (24 records from 18 sites) although this species is clearly under-recorded. Birds were present during the breeding season at many other sites with two or more birds at 13 sites, down from 24 in 2014. There was no confirmed breeding in Inner London, unlike in 2014, when three pairs bred. The number of sites at which they were recorded is shown below together with estimates of breeding pairs

Essex: Recorded from 17 sites

Herts: Recorded from 39 sites. Maple Lodge NR (1). Rye Meads (1).

Middx: Recorded from 35 sites. Totteridge Valley (1). Woodside Park (1).

Bucks: Recorded from three sites.

Kent: Recorded from 13 sites.

Surrey: Recorded from 48 sites. Leg O Mutton NR (1). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (6).

In Lond: Recorded from two sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two pairs present, no young seen. Regent's Park, two on Jan 4th and one on Jan 7th.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; rare breeder.

Recorded from just two sites; this is down from three sites in 2014, all of which were in Essex. There were no reports of breeding (one in 2014).

Essex: Cranham GC, one on Dec 22nd (RBs).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one present in January and February. (BFBG, GWJ, PRA).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, with occasional influxes; rare breeder.

Recorded at 76 sites, the highest number for many years (29 in 2014, 18 in 2013 and 39 in 2012). Birds were seen in **eight** months of the year, but none during the summer period.

There was a small spring passage and a larger influx in the autumn, with a steady stream of records from October 15th. As in previous years, it looks as if most of these autumn arrivals gradually moved on, leaving just a few wintering birds. Monthly numbers of sites with records are listed below. There were reports from 18 sites in the first half of the year but 71 sites in the second half. The highest counts were eight birds at Rainham Marshes on October 28th and seven on October 25th and 26th. Sites with two or more birds and all Inner London records are listed below.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total no. of sites recorded	6	1	4	11	-	-	-	2	3	31	29	16



Short-eared Owl was seen at many sites in London during 2015. (Alan Shearman)

Essex: Reported from 11 sites. Fairlop Waters, two on Jan 4th. Gallions Reach, two on Oct 16th. KGV Res, two on Oct 31st. Rainham Marshes, up to eight between Oct 17th and the end of the year.

Herts: Reported from 17 sites. Cole Green Tip, three on Nov 5th and two on 15th. Frogmore Lakes, two on Nov 2nd & 14th. North Watford, two on Jan 20th.

Middx: Reported from 18 sites. Home Park, two on Dec 10th, 29th & 31st. Northolt RAF Aerodrome, three on Oct 25th. Staines Moor, two on Jan 5th and on five dates in October and on Nov 14th, three on Oct 29th and from Nov 2nd-4th. Ten Acre Wood, Yeading, three on Oct 25th. Wormwood Scrubs, two on Nov 25th.

Bucks: Reported from three sites. Wraysbury GP, two on Oct 28th.

Kent: Reported from five sites. Crayford Marshes, two on Dec 29th. Dartford Marshes, two on Oct 24th and three on 25th. Swanscombe Marshes, two on Dec 6th.

Surrey: Reported from 20 sites. Beddington Farmlands, two on Oct 25th. Richmond Park, two on Oct 23rd. **Wimbledon Common, two on Oct 23rd** Woldingham, two on Jan 16th.

In Lond: Reported from two sites. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Apr 12th. Regent's Park, one on Oct 20th.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Status: rare passage migrant, occasionally breeding.

Two records this year, as in 2014, although there are other reports for which we have not received descriptions. (See Appendix III for details.) There were two reported churring in 2014 but no reports between 2011 and 2013.

Middx: Staines Moor, one on Sep 11th seen from a moving car on A30 heading east along the edge of Staines Moor at 19:55 just before heavy rain (KB).

Surrey: Leatherhead, one churring on Jun 4th (BD).

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Status: common, though probably declining, breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first arrivals were singles at Essendon and Welling on April 12th. There were 3,000 at Staines Res on May 31st and 1,500 on May 9th. There were leucistic or partially albino birds at Hilfield Park Res and at Alexandra Park. The last of the year was a single at Sewardstone Marsh on September 23rd. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no statistically significant change in London from 2014 to 2015, but a 56% decline from 1995 to 2014. There was an increase in breeding records with 34 probably bred (25 in 2014), although breeding is probably under-recorded. Breeding records are given below (numbers of pairs in brackets), together with peak counts.

Essex: Grays (3). Walthamstow (10+). Wanstead Park (1). Wanstead Flats, 561 W on Jul 28th.

Herts: Chiswell Green (1). Hertford (1). Maple Cross (1).

Middx: Ashford (1). Hampstead Heath (1). Kilburn (1+). Staines Res, 3,000 on May 31st. Stroud Green (1+).

Kent: Blackheath Standard (2+). Greenwich (1+).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 700 on Jun 1st. Berrylands (1). Croydon (1). Limpsfield Chart (2-3). Molesey Heath (1). Stoneleigh (1+). Streatham (1+). Wimbledon (5-6).

In Lond: Fulham (2+).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Status: locally common breeding resident with additional birds in winter.

Records came from 304 sites, continuing the increase from 280 in 2014 and 212 in 2013. Four or more were seen at 17 sites (the same as 2014); Brookmill Park, Crane Park, Darenth Lakes, Hogsmill SW, Holmethorpe SP, Home Park, Kingston-upon-Thames, London Wetland Centre, Maple Lodge NR, Morden Hall Park, Q. Mary Res, Rainham Marshes, Rye Meads, Sevenoaks WR, Thorpe Water Park, Watercress LNR. There were many records of single birds and there were 11 pairs confirmed and four pairs probably bred, a total of 15 pairs, down on 2014 (23 pairs confirmed, but similar to 2013 (15 confirmed).

Essex: Reported from 52 sites. Rainham Marshes (1). Walthamstow Res (1).

Herts: Reported from 65 sites. Rye Meads (1). Stocker's Lake (1). Troy Mill Lake (1). Watercress LNR (1). West End (1).

Middx: Reported from 77 sites. Brent Res (1). Hampstead Heath (1). Q. Mary GP (1). Woodside Park (1).

Bucks: Reported from 11 sites.

Kent: Reported from 34 sites. Foots Cray Meadow (1). Sevenoaks WR (1).

Surrey: Reported from 55 sites. Hersham (1).

In Lond: Reported from 11 sites. Battersea Park, two on Sep 13th and one on Sep 14th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Jul 4th, Sep 17th and Nov 2nd & 4th. Mile End, one on Sep 26th. Mile End Park, one on Feb 3rd and two on Mar 18th. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 12th, Aug 14th & 16th, Sep 30th and Dec 9th. Rotherhithe, one on Jan 2nd. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Jul 22nd. Shadwell Basin, two on Apr 6th. St James's Park, one reported regularly from Jan 5th until Feb 5th. This had previously been present at this location since Sep 1st 2014. Stave Hill Ecological Park, one on Jan 30th. Victoria Park, singles on Sep 9th, 17th & 20th, Oct 5th and Dec 8th.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Status: rare vagrant.

Two were reported in Surrey seen flying west, possibly late migrants. This is the 9th London record, the last coming in 2007. The table below shows summary details of all the records so far.

European Bee-eater records 1955-2015: 9 records, 21 birds

Year	1955	1958	1963	1979	1993	1997	1999	2007	2015
No. of records	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
No. of birds	1	1	1	4	1	4	6	1	2
Month	Jul	Aug	Apr	Apr	Jun	Jun	Jun	May	Jun

Surrey: Betchworth Quarry, two flew west on Jun 4th (DSt).

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There was just one record this year after none in 2014. As is often the case, the bird was only present for one day. April is the most likely spring arrival date in recent years, as the table below shows.

Hoopoe arrival dates 2000-2015: 23 records, 23 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	-	1	9	3	3	1	2	1	3	-	-

Essex: Waterworks NR, one on Apr 16th (JPa *et al.*).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

There were six records this year, two more than in 2014. All were in the autumn, when most occur, and most arrived in the last week of August and the first few days of September. Three stayed on site for several days, with one being present for nine days and another for eight.

Essex: Wanstead Flats, one from Aug 31st to Sep 2nd (MO *et al.*).

Middx: Alexandra Park, one from Aug 26th to Sep 3rd (DCn *et al.*). Oakwood, one in a garden on Aug 28th (CF). Staines Moor, one from Sep 12th-19th. (GHW *et al.*).

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one from Sep 2nd-3rd (IS, SCA, RT). Dartford Marshes, one on Sep 7th (possibly the Crayford bird) (SNx, IS, ARL).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Status: common breeding resident.

Records came from 514 sites, which was a very large increase on recent years (278 in 2014 and in 2013, 238 in 2012 and 258 in 2011). There were 130 breeding pairs, which was a big increase on 96 in 2014 and similar to 115 in 2013. The Breeding Bird Survey showed a 14% increase in London between 2014 and 2015 and an increase of 49% between 1995 and 2014. This suggests that the true number of breeding pairs is probably higher

and birds were seen at many other sites throughout the breeding season. However, the RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 51% of gardens surveyed in 2015, down slightly from 59% in 2014. Breeding estimates are given below (no. of territories in brackets) for sites with two or more pairs, all records for Inner London and peak counts.

Essex: Reported from 97 sites. Belhus Woods CP (5), 28 juv present. Gilbert Slade, Epping Forest (2). Mar Dyke Valley (4). Wanstead Flats (5). Wanstead Park (13).

Herts: Reported from 100 sites.

Middx: Reported from 110 sites. Home Park (11).

Bucks: Reported from 11 sites.

Kent: Reported from 73 sites. Greenwich Park (3). Lullingstone (3). Sevenoaks WR (3).

Surrey: Reported from 115 sites. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (15).

In Lond: Battersea Park, one on Oct 13th & 31st. Brompton Cemetery, one on Oct 7th. Hammersmith Cemetery, singles from January to April, with two on Apr 4th, juv on Aug 8th. Holland Park, one on Feb 6th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3). Mile End Park, one on Jun 11th and Dec 15th. Regent's Park, singles regularly, with two on Feb 8th. Victoria Park, one on Mar 7th, two on Mar 20th and Apr 4th, three on Aug 18th and one on 31st.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Status: common breeding resident.

Recorded at 630 sites, more than double the number in 2014 (295), but with fewer confirmed breeding with 126 pairs (157 in 2014) suggesting increased coverage and reporting rather than more birds. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London from 2014 to 2015, but an increase of 59% from 1995-2014. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 78% of gardens surveyed in 2015, similar to the 80% in 2014.

Breeding estimates are given below (no. of territories in brackets) for sites with two or more pairs, all records for Inner London and peak counts.

Essex: Recorded from 108 sites. Belhus Woods CP (3). ~~Brook Farm, Upminster (1).~~ Gilbert's Slade, Epping Forest (2). Wanstead Flats (6). Wanstead Park (12).

Herts: Recorded from 87 sites. Amwell NR (2). Beech Farm GP (2).

Middx: Recorded from 107 sites.

Bucks: Recorded from 10 sites.

Kent: Recorded from 81 sites. Foots Cray Meadows (4). Greenwich Park (3). Sevenoaks WR (3).

Surrey: Recorded from 125 sites.



Great Spotted Woodpecker was recorded far more frequently in 2015, but breeding records were down. (Andrew Moon)



In Lond: Recorded from 20 sites. Battersea Park, one on Mar 14th. Bloomsbury, one on May 5th. Hammersmith Cemetery (1). Holland Park, singles on Jan 6th & 13th and Feb 6th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1). Limehouse, two on Feb 21st, one on Jul 25th. Mile End singles on Jan 3rd and Nov 9th. Notting Hill, one on Mar 12th. New Cross Gate, one on Mar 10th. Paddington Old Cemetery, one on Oct 25th. Kilburn, one on May 23rd and Oct 25th. Regent's Park, singles regularly with three on Mar 1st and two on Apr 15th. Russia Dock Woodland, singles on Feb 3rd & 14th and Mar 24th, two on Mar 31st, singles on Apr 3rd & 15th. Southwark Park, singles on Jan 17th & 30th and Oct 7th. St James's Park, one on Jun 12th. Stave Hill Ecological Park, two on Jan 30th. Stepney, singles on Aug 9th, Sep 8th and Oct 5th. Victoria Park, singles on Jan 13th, Mar 7th and Apr 4th, four on Jun 21st, three on Aug 18th and one on Nov 7th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Status: scarce and declining breeding resident.

A further small improvement this year with reports from 55 sites (48 in 2014 and 40 in 2013), but more than one bird was reported at only five of these sites. Breeding was confirmed at one site in Middlesex with at least two juveniles fledged and a first year male was caught and ringed at a site in Hertfordshire. There was only one record of probable breeding in 2014 and there were two in 2013. Birds were recorded at eight places at Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath in the spring, but there was no evidence of breeding. There were records from two Inner London sites. All records are given below.

Essex: Belhus Wood CP, singles on Jan 23rd and Mar 4th. Dagnam Park, one on Feb 27th. Duck Wood, one on Jan 25th. Harrow Lodge Park, one on Jan 22nd. Hatch Wood, singles on Jan 19th, 23rd, 27th & 31st and Feb 1st, two (male and fem together) on Feb 2nd, singles on Feb 4th & 9th, Mar 3rd & 25th, Apr 10th and Nov 19th. High Beach, one on Mar 12th, 20th & 22nd. Highams Park, singles on Apr 15th and Sep 10th. Holden's Wood, Brentwood, one on Mar 6th. Mar Dyke Valley, one on Apr 14th. Rainham Marshes, one on Feb 4th & 5th. Roydon, one on Apr 26th. Thorndon CP North, one on Mar 28th. Thorndon CP South, one on Dec 6th. Wanstead Park, one on Jan 19th.

Herts: Bricket Wood, one on Mar 15th. Broxbourne, one on Mar 22nd. Croxley Green, one on Mar 16th. Maple Lodge NR, singles on Jun 30th and Jul 26th. Panshanger, singles on Mar 25th and Sep 19th. Rickmansworth, singles on Apr 8th and Dec 28th. Rye Meads, singles on Jul 5th and Sep 8th. Stocker's Farm, one on Mar 9th. Stocker's Lake, two on Mar 6th & 7th, singles from Mar 8th-14th, on 16th & 22nd and on Apr 3rd. The Commons Local NR, one on Jan 29th. The Withey Beds Local NR, Watford, singles on Apr 4th, 5th, 7th-9th and May 10th. Welwyn Garden City, one on Feb 11th.

Middx: Bentley Priory NR, one on Nov 28th. Brent Res, one on Aug 23rd. Bushy Park, one on Mar 25th. Forty Hall, one on May 18th. Grovelands Park, singles on eight dates from Mar 13th-25th and on Apr 25th. Hilly Fields Park (1), at least one juv male and one juv fem fledged. Lonsdale Drive, Oakwood, one on Apr 3rd. Mill Hill, one on Aug 27th. Monken Hadley Common, one on Feb 7th. Totteridge Valley, singles on Apr 19th, May 24th and Oct 4th. Trent Park, singles on Jan 15th, 26th & 28th, Feb 12th, 13th, 15th & 27th, Mar 19th and Apr 11th & 16th. Wildwoods, Enfield, pair on Apr 12th (excavating nest hole) & 14th.



Bucks: Langley Park, one on Mar 20th. Wraysbury GP, one on Feb 8th.

Kent: Crystal Palace Park, one on Oct 1st. Maryon Wilson Park, one on Apr 7th.

Surrey: Banstead, one on Mar 12th. Brockwell Park, one on Oct 22nd. Canons Farm, one on Mar 23rd. Cobham, singles on Jan 21st and Apr 2nd & 9th. Mitcham Common, singles on Jan 17th, 23rd & 24th, Feb 15th & 18th, Mar 5th, 12th, 20th, 21st & 28th and several dates in April. Richmond Park, singles on Feb 11th, Mar 6th, 21st, 22nd & 24th, Apr 9th, 13th & 23rd, Sep 10th and Nov 18th. Roehampton, one on Apr 23rd. Tooting Common, singles on Jan 25th and Feb 4th. Wandsworth Common, one on Dec 21st was the first here since 2007. Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, singles on Mar 10th & 21st, two on Mar 24th, one on 26th, two on 28th, singles on Apr 6th & 14th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one drumming and calling on Mar 6th & 13th. St James's Park, one on Jan 16th.

2014 Addition

Essex: Furze Ground, Epping Forest, one on Apr 9th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Status: scarce passage migrant and occasional rare breeder.

There were records from five sites (the same as last year). There were no reports of breeding for the eighth successive year and no records from former breeding areas. The picture is more encouraging nationally, as a recovery from earlier declines led to the species being downgraded from the Amber list to the Green list (birds of least conservation concern) in 2015. A study also found that climate change may benefit Woodlark, as the species can make more nesting attempts in warmer years, so hope remains that it will breed in the London Area in future (*BirdTrends 2015 BTO www.btoorgbirdtrends*).

Essex: KGV Res, one on Mar 17th (HLY). Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 2nd (HV). Wanstead Flats, one on Oct 20th (WB).

Herts: Wormley West End, two flew SW on Oct 8th (GJW).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one flushed on Apr 25th (GWJ).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Winter flocks of 50 or more were more widespread than last year, with records from nine sites (just two in 2014). The flock at West Hythe, which peaked at 400 in 2014, reached only 250 on January 8th this year. However, there were flocks of c100 at Aimes Green, Essex, on December 31st and Otford, Kent, on February 3rd.

There was an increase to 237 territories from 57 sites (204 from 59 in 2014). The biggest concentrations were again at Rainham Marshes (39, up from 28 last year) and Orsett Fen (21, the same figure as 2014 and 2013). There was a fall in numbers at Richmond Park to 14 (19 last year) but Riddlesdown recorded the same number as 2014 (15) and 16 were reported from Canons Farm. Numbers of birds regarded by the observers as being on autumn passage were very low, the largest flock being 20 over Gunpowder Park, Lea Valley, on October 18th.

Listed below are the number of territories for each sector and some notable counts.



Skylark continues to breed in small numbers in London, but is gradually being pushed outwards. (Alan Shearman)

Essex: 79 territories from ten sites (67 from seven last year). Gunpowder Park (4). Orsett Fen (21). Rainham Marshes (39). Wanstead Flats (6).

Herts: 38 territories from ten sites (39 from 19 last year). Beech Farm GP (8). Ellenbrook Fields (8). Tyttenhanger GP (4). West Hyde (12)

Middx: 19 territories from ten sites (38 from 15 last year). Minet CP (5). Vicarage Farm (3).

Kent: 33 territories from ten sites (13 from five last year). Crayford Marshes (3). Cudham (3). Layhams Farm (9). Swanley Park (10).

Surrey: 67 territories from 14 sites (47 from 12 last year). Canons Farm (16). Cheverells Farm, 90 on Nov 22nd. Farthing Downs (4). Richmond Park (14). Riddlesdown (15). Rushett Farm (8).

In Lond: Victoria Park, one on Oct 26th, three on Oct 31st and one on Nov 2nd, all fly-overs

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

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

The first sightings were on March 8th, five days later than last year, with two at Alexandra Lake, Thurrock, three at Rainham Marshes, one at Redbridge Lakes and two at West Thurrock Marshes. There were single-figure counts almost every day of the month and numbers increased in April, with 250 at Holmethorpe SP on the 29th the biggest count of the spring. Other peak site counts included 55 at Rye Meads on 17th April and 80 at Walthamstow Res on the 26th. Numbers were still fairly high in the first half of May, with 200 at Holmethorpe SP on May 2nd and 200 at Rainham Marshes on the 13th.

There was no breeding at the previous breeding sites of Beddington Farmlands,

Tottenham Marshes and Walthamstow Res and there was a substantial fall in numbers at Tyttenhanger GP from 35+ to ten pairs. However, there was an increase in Essex records from eight pairs at one site to 25 at three.

The biggest feeding flock of the summer was 800 at Staines Res on July 28th, matching last year's highest count, at Rainham Marshes on August 27th. Other site peak counts included 112 at Brent Res on August 13th, 280 at Holmethorpe SP on September 22nd and 150 at Walthamstow Res on July 26th. The last record was at Staines Moor on October 17th. Numbers of breeding pairs (if known) are given below, along with all Inner London sightings.

Essex: Mill Wood (7). R Roding, Barking (5). Warren Gorge (13).

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP (10).

Middx: Home Park (1).

Surrey: Hogsmill SW (1). Oxted SP (25). London Wetland Centre (bred). Portsmouth Road FB (1). Ravens Ait (20).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Sep 17th. Stepney, two on Sep 18th. Regent's Park, six on Sep 7th. Rotherhithe, one on Jun 24th. Shadwell, one on Jun 14th. St James's Park, two on Sep 18th. Victoria Park, one on Jun 5th and four on Aug 18th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, breeding confined to rural areas.

The first was at Bookham Common on March 14th, six days earlier than last year, but there were no further sightings until March 24th, after which birds trickled in with a total of just 12 by the end of the month. Passage remained light in April, with only one count of 100 or more: 120 at Harold Wood SF on the 29th. In spring as a whole, there were counts of 100 or more at six sites (four last year) with **the biggest 300** at Beddington Farmlands on May 1st and 5th.

Autumn passage was exceptional, the heaviest of the millennium, with 99 counts of 100 or more (30 last year) and 21 counts of 400 or more (four last year). The first big count was 532 on August 30th at Rainham Marshes and there were 800 at Q. Mother Res on September 3rd. However, the big day was September 18th, when there were an impressive 3,000 at Walthamstow Res, 1,000 at Greenwich Park, 1,044 at Beddington Farmlands and 1,000 at Wanstead Flats. The last three-figure count was 150 at Holmethorpe SP on September 25th and the final bird of the year was at Q. Mother Res on the very late date of December 1st, the latest since one on December 3rd at Valentines Park in 2011.

Breeding was reported at 27 sites (19 last year) though more than one nest was confirmed at only six. Breeding sites are listed below, with the number of nests in brackets, followed by selected counts from Inner London.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster (2). Fairlop Waters (1). Mar Dyke Valley (5). Rainham Marshes (1). Walthamstow Marshes (1).

Herts: Bell Bar (1). Bury Lake (1). Colney Heath (1). Croxley Green (1). Cuffley (1). Northaw (1). Stocker's Farm (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Tyttenhanger Farm (1).

Middx: **Moat Mount OS (1)**. Q. Mary Res (1). Strayfield Road (3). Trent Park Equestrian Centre (1).

Surrey: Addlestone (1). Byhurst Farm (1). Canons Farm (2). Cobham (1). Molesey Heath (1). Richmond Park (2). Rushett Farm (2). Trevereux (8). Wimbledon Common (1).

In London: Regent's Park, 250 on Sep 7th. Stepney, 400 W on Sep 18th. St James's Park, 240 on Sep 18th. Westminster, 100 over on Sep 18th.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first records of the year were two at Sevenoaks WR on April 1st, the latest since 1998 (March 18th last year). Birds were then reported daily, with most counts in single figures, until the last week of the month, when numbers increased. There were 11 counts of 50 or more in April and May (six last year), with the highest count being 150 at Staines Res on May 31st.

Post-breeding gatherings and early migrant flocks in August included ten counts of 100 birds or more, a substantial increase on last year. The biggest count was 300 at Staines Res on the 28th.

September passage was exceptionally heavy, almost matching the unusually high number of swallows seen. There were 90 counts of 100 or more (11 last year) and 13 of over 400. The biggest count was 1,580 south-west at Brent Res on the 12th. The highest Inner London count was 130 at Stepney, on the 18th. The last was on November 10th, at Greenhithe.

There was an encouraging rise in breeding numbers **to 211 pairs/active nests at 50 sites** (200 from 41 last year) and this is likely to be an underestimate as there were several reports of breeding colonies without a nest count. In these cases the count 1+ is given. For example, Walthamstow FB had 61 pairs in 2014 but there were no counts this year.

The species was Amber-listed in 2002 because data suggested a rapid population decline. Following the BTO survey in 2015, a nest-monitoring study will be carried out in 2016 and 2017. (The House Martin Survey www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey). All records of nests/pairs are given below:

Essex: 35+ from eight sites. Chafford Hundred (6). Grays (5). North Ockenden (3). Orsett Fen (7). South Ockenden (3). Walthamstow FB (1+). Wanstead Flats (5). Warren Gorge (5).

Herts: 45+ from 14 sites. Abbots Langley (8+). Bell Bar (1). Chorleywood (1+). Colney Heath (1). Cuffley (1+). Ellenbrook Fields (1+). Goffs Oak (4). Hatfield (12). Northaw (1). Radlett (3). Rickmansworth (9). Sergehill (1). St Albans (1+). Stocker's Lake (1+).

Middx: **79+ from nine sites**. Ashford (1+). Grovelands Park (1). Hampton (1). Isle of Dogs (2). Millwall Docks (1+). Staines (6). Stanwell (1+). Stanwell Moor (1+). West Hendon, The Broadway (40).

Bucks: 9+ from three sites. Langley (2). Shreding Green (1+). Wraybury GP (6).

Kent: 3+ from three sites. Darenth Lakes (1). Greenhithe (1+). Swanscombe Marshes (1).

Surrey: 31+ from nine sites. Carshalton Beeches (4). Godstone (4). Holmethorpe SP (14+). Molesey Heath (1). Oxted (1). Sanderstead (1+). Surbiton (1+). Thames Ditton (2). Tooting (3).

In Lond: **28+ from four sites**. Camden Town (1+). Knightsbridge (7). Limehouse (11). Rotherhithe (12). Wapping (4+)

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Status: rare but increasing vagrant.

The 19th record of this less-than-annual species was on a typical date. It was the 12th

to arrive in May and the first record for the site. The table below gives recent records.

Red-rumped Swallow records 2000-2015: 10 records, 10 birds

Year	2000	2003	2007	2009	2011	2013	2014	2015
No. of birds	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
No. of records	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, one on May 14th (GH, RBk).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Status: passage migrant and possibly now former breeding summer visitor.

The first was at Rainham Marshes on the early date of March 17th (March 30th last year). The last week of the month is a more typical arrival date but there were birds on March 14th in 2013 and March 12th in 1993. Spring passage involved 24 birds (just 12 last year), with two in March, 19 in April and three in May, with the last at North Watford on May 27th. There were no breeding records or reports of birds holding territory for the fourth year running.

An impressive 109 birds were reported on autumn passage (97 last year). The first were singles at Redwell Wood Farm on August 8th, the highest day total was five at Chingford Plain on August 30th and there were records from Wanstead Flats on 18 days of up to three birds. The last was at London Wetland Centre on September 30th.

Tree Pipit passage is much stronger during the autumn, but overall this species is in decline. (Tony Brown)



In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Apr 13th. Regent's Park, singles on Mar 27th and Apr 14th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

There were five winter flocks of 50 or more (three last year): 50 at Bushy Park and Kingston-upon-Thames on January 23rd; 50 at Staines Res on November 3rd; 50 at Rye Meads on November 22nd and 56 at Orsett Fen on December 15th. Spring passage was much heavier than last year: there were 19 counts of 50 or more (only two in 2014). It began with small numbers in mid-March, there was an obvious surge around the 23rd and some big numbers on April 6th but numbers then tailed off rapidly. The highest count was 415 at Beddington Farmlands on March 23rd, when there were 123 at London Wetland Centre and 100 at Walthamstow Res; there were 190 at Beddington Farmlands on April 1st. Counts on April 6th included 200 at Wanstead Flats, 190 at Beddington Farmlands and 178 at Brent Res.

In contrast to spring, autumn passage was much lighter than last year with 20 counts of over 50 and two of 100 or more (35 and nine respectively in 2014). Fifty at Staines Moor on August 14th may have been the first sign of movement but passage only really got under way in mid-September and numbers fell after mid-October. The highest counts were 114 at London Wetland Centre on September 23rd and 100 at KGVI Res the following day.



Breeding records came from 16 sites (12 last year), but there were no counts from Staines Moor, which had 12 pairs last year, the highest count. This year's top site count was six singing males at Wanstead Flats. Territories are given below.

Essex: Rainham Marshes (5). Wanstead Flats (4).

Herts: Broad Colney Fields (1). Coursers Farm (1). Ellenbrook Fields (2). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Crayford Marshes (3). Greenwich Peninsula (1). Woolwich Common (2).



Middx: Brent Res (1). Bushy Park (1). ~~Cavell Hospital, Enfield (1)~~. Home Park (2). Wormwood Scrubs (2).

Surrey: Richmond Park (1). Riddlesdown (2).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers at Rainham Marshes, always the best site for this species, were again well below average, with a peak of just 11 in October (14 last year). The highest count in 2013 there was 32, with 19 in 2012, 16 in 2011 and 22 in 2010. The last bird of the spring was at Staines Res on March 29th and the first of autumn was at London Wetland Centre on September 23rd. The Inner London record is the first for this sector since 2009. Monthly maxima for the five locations with records in four or more months are given below, followed by other records.

Rock Pipit monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EX Rainham Marshes	7	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	6	5
BU Q. Mother Res	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-
KT Crayford Marshes	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Erith	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Swanscombe Marshes	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	1

Essex: Claybury Woods and Park, one on Mar 6th. Creekmouth, Barking, singles on Nov 22nd and Dec 28th. Grays Riverside, one on Nov 22nd. KGV Res, two on Mar 16th, singles from Oct 4th-24th with four on the 10th and two on the 17th. Purfleet, one on Nov 23rd. Walthamstow Res, singles on Oct 29th & 30th. Wanstead Flats, one on Oct 26th. West Thurrock Marshes, two on Oct 31st.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Oct 13th. Hilfield Park Res, one on Oct 27th. Rye Meads, one on Oct 4th.

Middx: Staines Moor, one on Mar 20th. Staines Res, singles on Jan 7th, from Mar 10th-29th, with two on Mar 19th and four on the 20th, and one on Nov 15th. Wraysbury Res, two on Oct 6th.

Kent: Belvedere, singles on Jan 4th, Oct 20th and Dec 14th, 16th & 27th. Crossness, singles on Jan 2nd & 13th, Oct 25th, Nov 16th and two on Dec 29th. Dartford Marshes, singles from Dec 10th-22nd with two on 13th, 19th & 22nd and four on the 15th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Oct 26th. Island Barn Res, one from Oct 7th-8th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Mar 19th & 23rd, and from Sep 23rd to Oct 11th, with two on Oct 6th, 7th & 11th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Mar 18th.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Status: regular but localised winter visitor and passage migrant.

Reports came from 21 sites (19 last year) and numbers were unusually high in the second-winter period. There were peaks of 14 at Rainham Marshes in December and eight at Staines Moor in January. The last spring bird was at Staines Moor on April 20th and the first of autumn were two at KGV Res on October 10th. All records are given below, singles unless stated, some summarised.

Essex: Claybury Woods and Park, one on Mar 6th. Gallions Reach, one on Jan 10th. KGV Res, two on Oct 10th. Rainham Marshes, recorded in the first-winter period until Apr 10th with a peak of three on Jan 18th, and from Oct 29th with a peak of 14 on Dec 21st. West Thurrock Marshes, one on Oct 31st.

Herts: Amwell NR, singles on Oct 24th and Dec 5th. Rye Meads, recorded from Oct 24th with a peak of two in November and December. Stocker's Farm, one on Mar 21st.

Middx: KGV Res, singles on Jan 13th & 18th, seven on Feb 10th, singles on Oct 25th & 31st and Nov 15th. Staines Moor, present from Jan 1st to Apr 20th, with eight on Jan 18th-19th. Staines Res, recorded from Jan 2nd to Mar 28th, with three on Mar 18th, and from Oct 27th, with three on Nov 17th & 18th. Stanwell Moor, one on Jan 24th.

Bucks: Horton, singles on Jan 11th and Dec 19th. Q. Mother Res, recorded from Nov 22nd-27th, with two on the last date.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, two on Apr 16th and one on Nov 25th. Crossness, one on Apr 9th. Dartford Marshes, singles on Mar 27th, April 6th & 7th. Greenhithe, one on Dec 3rd. Swanscombe Marshes, singles from Jan 1st to Feb 21st, and Dec 3rd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, recorded from Jan 1st to April 15th, with four on Jan 1st & 25th, and from Oct 24th to Dec 29th, with four on Nov 8th. Morden Hall Park, one on Jan 4th.



Most often a passage migrant, Yellow Wagtail breeds in tiny numbers in the recording area. (Dave Harris)

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing, now scarce, breeder.

The first was on the typical date of March 26th at Wilmington, and spring passage was much heavier than last year with 12 counts of ten or more (two in 2014). It peaked in the last week of April and the best day was the 26th, when there were 37 at Beddington Farmlands and 30 at London Wetland Centre. Also of note were 30 at KGV Res on April 23rd. There were no spring counts of more than five after April 29th.

The first sign of autumn passage was ten at Rainham Marshes on August 16th but the pace picked up from the 20th, with near-daily double-figure counts. There were 31 counts of ten or more, the highest being 70 with cattle at Sopwell Mill on August 30th and other big day totals of 51 at KGV Res on September 13th, 50 at Rainham Marshes on the same day and 50 at Staines Res on September 15th. Passage dwindled after the last double-figure count of ten at Staines Res on September 26th and the last were singles at Wanstead Flats and Woodford Green on October 14th.

There were 11 breeding pairs of this Red-listed species at five sites (nine at six last year). Nationally, the Breeding Bird Survey recorded a decline of 17% from 2014-15 and of 42% from 1995-2014. All breeding records and Inner London sightings are shown below.

Essex: Mar Dyke Valley (3). Orsett Fen (4)

Herts: Stanborough GP (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Woodcock Farm, Maple Cross (2)

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles on Apr 6th, Sep 7th & 30th.

SUB-SPECIES: Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava*

Status: passage migrant, more commonly seen in spring than in autumn.

Four records on typical spring dates included two at London Wetland Centre on April 26th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one on Apr 16th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one on Apr 26th. London Wetland Centre, two on Apr 26th and one on Apr 29th.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

An impressive **67 pairs were reported** (47 last year), and although the Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in England from 2014-15 it is believed to be in decline and was moved from Amber to UK Red list in 2015 (BTO website, Bird Trends). Wintering concentrations were low: as last year there was no count higher than 12. Twelve were at Hogsmill SW on February 7th, there were ten at Rye Meads on November 28th and the same number on R Wandle between Carshalton Ponds and Wandsworth on December 28th. Numbers on spring passage were unimpressive too, with no double-figure counts. Autumn passage got under way around September 19th, when there were 20 at Rye Meads; there were ten at Hogsmill SW on September 20th, 13 there on October 17th and ten at Rainham Marshes on October 31st. Breeding records are given below.

Essex: Cornmill Meadows (2). Lion Gorge (1). Rainham Marshes (1). Roding Valley Meadows (1). Roydon (1). Walthamstow Res (1). Warren Gorge (1).

Herts: Aberford Park (1). Bury Lake (1). Cassiobury Park (1). Cheshunt GPs (1). Croxley Common Moor (1). Frogmore Lakes (1). Hertford (1). Hilfield Park Res (1). Hunton Bridge (1). Oxhey Park (1). Rye Meads (5). St Albans (1). Stansted Innings (1). Troy Mill Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).

Middx: Beech Hill Lake (1). Brent Res (1). Enfield Road EN2 (1). Grovelands Park (1). Ickenham Marsh (1). Staines (1). Stoke Newington Res (2). Wildwoods, Enfield (1).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res (1). Wraysbury (1).

Kent: Brookmill Park (1). Darenth Lakes (1). Farningham (1). Foots Cray Meadows (1). Ladywell Fields (1). Swanley Park (1).

Surrey: Abbey Mills, Colliers Wood (1). Beddington Farmlands (1). Butterhill, Carshalton (1). Carshalton Ponds (1). Culvers Island (1). Ewell (1). Goat Bridge, Mitcham (1). Hogsmill OS (1). Holmethorpe SP (1). Leatherhead (1). Merton High Street, Colliers Wood (1). Morden Hall Park (1). Poulter Park (1). Ravensbury Park (1). Richmond Park (1). Wandle Creek (1). Watermeads (1). Wimbledon (1).

In Lond: Elephant & Castle (1). Grand Union Canal, Westbourne Green (1). Grand Union Canal, Westbourne Park (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1). Limehouse (1). Mile End (1). Wapping (1).

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding numbers fell to 29 pairs from last year's 33 and there were no big roosts. The biggest count was 132 at Bexleyheath on January 18th. There were two reports of 50 or more in March away from the roosts, suggesting spring passage: 100 at Staines Res on

the 15th and 53 at Dartford Marshes on the 17th. Autumn passage appeared to be heaviest from late August to mid-September, with the highest count 88 along the causeway path at Staines Res on August 23rd. Roost counts of 50 or more, peak counts at other sites and breeding records are listed below.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster (1). Epping High Street, 80 roosting on Feb 2nd & 3rd. Hangman's Wood (1). Harold Wood SW, 100 on Jan 26th. Low Hall Sports Ground, Walthamstow, 70 on Sep 18th. Rainham Marshes (1). Stratford Westfield, 60 roosting on Jan 3rd. Walthamstow Marshes, 60 on Oct 29th.

Herts: Brookmans Park (1). Bury Lake (1). Hilfield Park Res (1). Moor Park GC (1). Park Street (1). Rye Meads (2). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Watford, 100 roosting in Lower High Street on Dec 29th. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (1).

Middx: Boxer's Lake, Enfield (1). Brent Res (1). Bushy Park (1). Hammersmith Park (1). Harrow, 110 roosting in Headstone Road on Oct 30th. Home Park (2). KGV Res, 70 on Sep 24th. Parkside Farm/Res (1). Q. Mary Res (2). Staines Res (1); 100 there on Mar 15th and 88 on Aug 23rd. Stanmore, 90 roosting on The Broadway on Mar 22nd. Uxbridge, 50 in the High Street roost on Nov 17th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 52 on Nov 20th.

Kent: Beckenham Cricket Ground (1). Bexleyheath, 132 roosting at Market Square on Jan 18th. Crossness, 50 on Dec 27th. Dartford Marshes, 53 feeding by the New Diggings on Mar 15th. Foots Cray Meadows (1).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (1). Barn Elms Playing Field, 59 on Oct 22nd. Croydon, 70 in the North End roost on Dec 23rd. Holmethorpe SP, 52 on Nov 6th. Thames Ditton (1). Trevereux (1); 80 on Aug 31st. Wimbledon Centre Court, 105 roosting on Jan 16th.

In Lond: Normand Park, Fulham (1).

SUB-SPECIES: White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

Status: passage migrant, more commonly seen in spring than in autumn.

The first were on March 6th at KGV Res. Staines Res, had the biggest counts, with the highest being 15 on April 16th. The last was at Staines Res on May 12th. Away from Staines, the biggest counts were four at Beddington Farmlands on April 26th and the same number at Harold Wood SW on April 29th. A summary of passage sites where the species was recorded on four or more dates is given below.

Essex: Harold Wood SW, two on Apr 13th, 19th & 26th, four on 29th. KGV Res, two on Mar 6th, singles on Mar 10th, 27th and Apr 15th, two on May 4th. Walthamstow Marshes, singles on Mar 17th and Apr 3rd-5th. Walthamstow Res, singles on Apr 5th & 19th and May 7th.

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Apr 19th. Beech Farm GP, one on Apr 12th. Hilfield Park Res, two on Apr 26th. Rye Meads, one on Mar 22nd. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 23rd.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Apr 23rd. KGV Res, one on May 4th. Parkside Farm/Res, one on Mar 20th. Q. Mary Res, one on Apr 19th. Staines Res, recorded on 33 dates: ten on April 13th, 15 on the 16th, 12 on the 17th, ten on the 18th, eight on the 22nd and seven on the 29th. Wraysbury Res, one on Apr 8th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, one on Apr 28th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, two on Apr 7th, singles on Apr 9th, 10th & 30th and May 1st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, four on Apr 26th and one on 28th-29th. Holmethorpe SP,

one on Apr 27th. Kew Green, one on Mar 21st. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 26th. QE II Res, singles on Apr 15th, 24th & 26th. Richmond Park, one on Apr 15th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

Breeding counts from regular sites were mostly similar to last year although there were noticeable increases at Rye Meads (from 65 to 78) and at Beddington Farmlands (from 59 to 96). The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 5% increase in England from 2014 to 2015 although a 32% increase in London from 1995-2014. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 84% of gardens surveyed in 2015, up from 76% in 2014. Breeding records are given below for sites where ten or more territories or singing males (number in brackets) were recorded, along with some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (24). Bush Wood, Wanstead (14). Gilbert Slade, Epping Forest (22). Grays Gorge (10). Hangman's Wood (64). Mar Dyke Valley (28). Orsett Fen (17). Rainham Marshes (61). Roding Valley Meadows NR (22). Wanstead Flats (81). Wanstead Park (162). Warren Gorge (11).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (15). Bury Lake (18). Chess Valley (12). Chorleywood Common (17). Rye Meads (78).

Middx: Brent Res, 32 on Jul 4th. Home Park (44). Rammey Marsh (12).

Kent: Darenth Lakes, 63 on Jun 25th. Sevenoaks WR, 68 on May 23rd.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (12). Ashtead Common (51). Beddington Farmlands (96). Canons Farm (26). Esher Common (17). Molesey Heath (27). The Ledges, Esher (20).

In Lond: Limehouse, 11 on May 24th. Victoria Park, 11 on Apr 4th.

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Apart from the large increase in territories at Beddington Farmlands (from 16 to 45), there was little sign of change from last year. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 4% increase in England since last year and a 26% increase in London from 1995 to 2014. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 96% of gardens surveyed in 2015, similar to the 95% in 2014. Breeding records are given below for sites where ten or more territories or singing males (number in brackets) were recorded, along with some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (16). Mar Dyke Valley (17). Orsett Fen (11). Rainham Marshes (19). Wanstead Flats (31). Wanstead Park (29).

Herts: Bushey Hall GC, 20 on Feb 20th. Rye Meads (37).

Middx: Rammey Marsh (11).

Kent: Greenwich Park (13+). Sevenoaks WR (25).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (45). Holmethorpe SP, 38 on Apr 3rd. Molesey Heath (15).

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery (1).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

At most sites where we get regular reports, there was little sign of change since last year, but at Rye Meads territories increased from 35 to 53. The Breeding Bird Survey

shows a 9% increase in England since last year and a 78% increase in London from 1995-2014. Breeding records are given below for sites where ten or more territories or singing males (number in brackets) were recorded, along with some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (32). Gilbert Slade, Epping Forest (18). Grays Gorge (12). Mar Dyke Valley (18). Rainham Marshes (23). Wanstead Flats (44). Wanstead Park (145).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (11). Bury Lake (12). Chess Valley (10). Chorleywood Common (11). Ellenbrook Fields (10). Rye Meads (53).

Middx: Home Park (47). Teddington, 42 on Jan 7th.

Bucks: Langley Park, 29 on Feb 27th.

Kent: Darenth Lakes, 80 on Oct 9th. Greenwich Park (25+).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (12). Ashtead Common (25). Beddington Farmlands (31). Canons Farm (14). Esher Common (23). Ham Lands, 142 on Sep 25th. Molesey Heath (14). Teddington Lock (19). The Ledges, Esher (20).

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery (1+). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (12+). Victoria Park, 17 on Mar 7th.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers, scarce passage migrant.

There were only ten territorial birds this year, down on 21 last year, although there were three sites where there may also have been single territorial birds. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change since 2014, but it is now on the Red list of Birds of Conservation Concern in 2015 (BTO Bird Trends), so a decline locally is quite likely. The first arrival was on April 13th at Wormwood Scrubs but after June 25th there was only one reported, on September 23rd at Trevereux.

Essex: Cornmill Meadows, one singing west of the site on May 27th. Fishers Green Island (8). Harold Court Woods, one from Apr 26th-28th. Ingrebourne Valley, one from Apr 28th to May 1st, one on Jun 12th.

Herts: Rye Meads, one on May 27th. Stanstead Innings, one on Apr 28th.

Middx: Brent Res, one on May 3rd. Darlands Lake, one on Jun 4th. Wormwood Scrubs, one on Apr 13th.

Kent: Botany Marshes, singles from Apr 24th-25th and May 11th-20th. Dartford Marshes, singles on Apr 18th and May 15th. Ebbsfleet, one on Apr 25th. St Paul's Cray Hill CP, one on May 4th & 20th.

Surrey: Bookham Common (1). Broadwater Farm, Weybridge, one on May 17th. Holmethorpe SP, one on May 1st. Prince's Coverts (1). Trevereux, one on Sep 23rd.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Status: rare passage migrant.

The first Bluethroat since 2010 was on April 13th on the edge of the London Area at Amwell NR. It was of the white-spotted race (*L. s. cyanecula*). Seven of the spring arrivals have been in April, as the table below shows.

Bluethroat arrival dates 1936-2015: 21 records, 21 birds

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

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Apr 13th (IR).

2010 Alteration

In *LBR* 2010, we said the 2010 record was the 19th record for the London Area. This should have said the 20th record. The birds in 1997 and 1999 at Beddington Farmlands were identified as the same bird, but they do count as two records.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

There was no definite breeding this year, although an Inner London pair probably bred. The number of singing males was well down on the past two years; especially in Inner London (possibly because of a more conservative approach to deciding whether close-by records are from the same or different birds). Records came from 30 sites outside Inner London, about the same as last year: in all but one of these sites, the records were from before the end of April or after the start of September. Breeding records are summarised in the following table and records from other sites are listed below.

Black Redstart	Pairs proved breeding	Other pairs present	Additional singing males
Essex	-	1	1
Middx	-	2	-
Kent	-	-	1
Surrey	-	-	2
In Lond	-	1	4

Wintering Black Redstarts are more common than resident breeding birds. (Dave Harris)



*This Common Redstart was one of ten at Wanstead Flats at the end of August.
(Jonathan Lethbridge)*

Essex: Banbury Res, one on Nov 24th. Beckton SW, one on Oct 26th. Belhus Woods CP, one on Dec 7th. KGV Res, one on Oct 26th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Sep 19th, Oct 13th, Nov 23rd and Dec 11th. Woodford Bridge, one on Oct 31st.

Herts: Rickmansworth, one on Mar 20th. Rye Meads, one on Feb 8th.

Middx: Enfield, one in EN3 area on Mar 1st. Hackney Wick, one on Jan 26th. KGV Res, one from Mar 8th-18th. Poplar, singles on Apr 1st and Oct 23rd. Staines Res, one on Mar 14th & 15th.

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, one from Jan 1st to Feb 15th.

Kent: Erith, one from Nov 25th to Dec 25th. Petts Wood, one in garden on Apr 27th. Swanscombe Marshes, one on Nov 6th & 7th.

Surrey: Canons Farm, one on Apr 15th. Epsom Downs, one on Apr 15th. Langley Vale, one on Apr 23rd. QEII Res, one from Oct 31st to Nov 7th. Sutton, one on Jul 11th. Woldingham, singles on Apr 26th and Sep 6th.

In Lond: Whitehall, one on May 22nd.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Status: passage migrant.

Spring passage was about par for the course in recent years, with about 33 birds seen on 20 dates at 30 sites. The first was on April 6th at Gallions Reach. April 9th to 14th was the peak period, with records from several sites on most days, the maximum being six sites on the 13th. There were just two records in May, the last being on the 6th at Stanwell Moor.

As in most years, records were more numerous in autumn than in spring, with about

120 birds this year. This is a little lower than the 133 in 2014 but higher than the previous four years. There were records from 66 sites on 42 dates. The first records were on August 1st at Colnbrook Landfill and Wraysbury GP but there were no more birds until August 15th. Passage was regular after this, with the peak on August 30th when there were records from 20 sites, including an impressive ten birds on Wanstead Flats. It was mid-September before the passage began to ease; there were then records from three sites in early October, with the last at Sydenham Hill Wood on October 8th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Apr 13th. Regent's Park, two on Aug 25th, one on Aug 28th, three on Sep 1st, one on 7th, two on 8th and one on 17th. Victoria Park, one on Apr 9th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

The first migrants arrived on April 14th with one at Rainham Marshes and two at Minet CP. There was a particularly notable passage during spring this year with around 160 birds reported compared to 84 in 2014; the peak day was April 29th with 16 birds and the highest count was six at Staines Moor on April 28th. The last spring migrant was on May 22nd in Richmond Park.

Autumn migrants were recorded between July 17th and November 13th with singles seen at London Wetland Centre and Rainham Marshes on the last date. The autumn passage was also strong with an estimated 720 birds. The peak passage was on September 13th when 58 birds were reported included the highest count of the year - 13 at Rainham Marshes.

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles on Apr 15th, Aug 16th and Sep 7th, four on Sep 16th and six on Sep 17th.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

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

An excellent year for winter records which came from 35 sites in January (20 last year, ten in 2013, eight in 2012, five in 2011 and 26 in 2010), 28 in February and - boosted by migration - 41 in March. By April, only five sites had records. There was no confirmed breeding this year.

Three sites had returning birds in August. By September, there were reports from 37 sites and in October, from 64 sites. By the end of the year there still were reports from 27 sites, much the same as last year, perhaps confirming the reversal of the decline of wintering numbers noted in 2011, when birds were only at five sites.

The number of birds at sites was far higher than usual, with an astonishing 33 in Richmond Park on March 6th and 17 on October 3rd and 25th. Rainham Marshes held 15 on October 13th, Canons Farm 13 on March 6th (noted as a site record), Staines Moor 12 on December 28th and Swanscombe Marshes 11 on October 31st. Bayhurst Wood CP was arguably the least expected of the sites with high counts, having 11 birds on October 2nd. Breeding season and Inner London records are given below.

Essex: Chadwell St Mary, two on Jun 15th.

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes, a family party of four on Aug 8th.

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, one on Jun 28th. London Wetland Centre, one on Jun 27th. Richmond Park, present throughout the summer, with a maximum of four, including two juv on Aug 15th.

In Lond: Burgess Park, one on Feb 10th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, two on Mar 6th. Regent's Park, two on Mar 6th, singles on Mar 12th & 17th and Sep 17th. Westminster, one on Oct 11th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

The first spring migrant was at KGVI/Staines Res on March 8th, three days earlier than last year. There were four more during the following week; then there were daily records at multiple sites from March 18th to 27th. After a lull of a few days, migration began again on April 2nd with the first group of birds: six at Beddington Farmlands. Numbers remained generally low until April 13th when there were 76 birds across London. The peak numbers occurred the following day when 105 birds were at 27 sites including an impressive 31 at Q. Mother Res. There was a tailing off after this and the only other high count was 18 at Rainham Marshes on April 18th. Migrants continued to appear throughout much of May and even into June with singles at Richmond Park on 3rd and Wanstead Flats on 4th.

The only July record was one at Ruislip Lido on 16th. The main autumn passage started slowly from August 7th and the only day of notable passage was August 25th when there were 40 birds including 13 at Wanstead Flats. The last birds of the year were singles at Staines Res and Ten Acre Wood, Yeading on October 25th.

There were very few reports of birds of the race *leucorrhoa* 'Greenland Wheatear' this year, just ten records of 12 birds.

Wheatear, the start of spring! (Jonathan Lethbridge)



In Lond: Burgess Park, one on Apr 10th. Regent's Park, one on Apr 9th, three on Apr 10th, two on Apr 12th, and singles on Apr 13th-14th, 16th and 21st.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

An early migrant was at Q. Mother Res on March 12th but there were no more until the main passage began on April 9th. There were daily reports then until April 26th with just a handful after this date until the last on May 4th. The peak day was April 19th when there were 22 birds including 11 in the Woldingham area. There were about 112 birds in spring, around four times as many as last year.

Autumn migration was much more concentrated, beginning on October 2nd and finishing on November 8th; in total there were 24 birds, less than half of the total in 2014. The peak day of passage was October 17th with eight birds.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Apr 30th. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 18th and Oct 15th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding reports from regular sites show little change at most sites, although at Beddington Farmlands there was an increase from 22 pairs to 32. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no sign of change since last year but a 29% decline in London from 1995-2014. More breeding

Blackbird. (Dominic Mitchell)



counts would be welcomed, as well as any records suggesting autumn movements. There were almost white birds at Addington and Stockley Park. Breeding records are given below at sites where five or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), as well as higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (9). Grays Gorge (5). Gilbert's Slade, Epping Forest (9). Mar Dyke Valley (12). Orsett Fen (9). Rainham Marshes (18). Wanstead Flats (40). Wanstead Park (51). Warren Gorge (5).

Herts: Bury Lake (8). Loudwater, 30 on Jan 22nd. Rye Meads (25).

Middx: Home Park (41). Rammey Marsh (15).

Kent: Darenth Lakes, 55 on Apr 13th. Greenwich Park (23).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (10). Ashted Common (18). Beddington Farmlands (32). Canons Farm (21). Esher Common (6). Holmethorpe SP, 62 on May 8th. Molesey Heath (16). The Ledges, Esher (9).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (30+). Limehouse, 31 on May 24th. Victoria Park, 27 on May 2nd.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

The 14 counts of 200 or more were evenly split between the start and end of the year, though there were more birds overall at the end. The largest count was 520, at Canons Farm in January. Numbers fell in February and March, and the last birds were at Beddington Farmlands, Greenwich Park and Wormwood Scrubs, all on April 13th.

Returning birds appeared from September 23rd at Whitings Hill OS, Arkley, with significant movements across London in mid-October and in mid-November. The highest daily count was on October 17th, with at least 1,368 noted that day at 20 sites across the capital. Below are high counts for each sector.

Essex: Grays Riverside, 270 on Nov 22nd. Wanstead Flats, 300 W on Oct 17th.

Herts: Hertford, 300 on Feb 10th. Hilfield Park Res, 300 on Nov 8th. Shenley, 200 on Jan 29th.

Middx: Brent Res, 255 over on Nov 16th. Hampstead Heath, 200+ on Oct 17th.

Bucks: Horton, 300 S on November 8th.

Kent: Greenwich Park, 140+ W on Nov 22nd.

Surrey: Canons Farm, 520 on Jan 15th.

In Lond: Jubilee St, Stepney, 60 on Nov 14th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Status: common, but locally declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding estimates from sites where we have counts for 2014 and 2015 show no obvious change; the Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change since last year, but a 36% decline in London from 1995-2014. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 72% of gardens surveyed in 2015. We do not often get reports of passage of large groups of Song Thrushes, so the reports below from Richmond Park in October were unusual. Below are breeding records for sites where five or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing

males in brackets), plus the only Inner London breeding record and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (9). Mar Dyke Valley (14). Orsett Fen (7). Rainham Marshes (6); 21 on Jan 20th. Roding Valley Meadows NR (10). Wanstead Flats (13). Wanstead Park (27).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (6). Essendon, 12 on Feb 14th. Maple Lodge NR (6). Rye Meads (8).

Middx: Brent Res, 35 over in three hours on Oct 23rd. Ten Acre Wood, Yeading, eight singing on Feb 15th. Rammey Marsh (9). Tottenham Marshes (12).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, seven on Feb 15th.

Kent: Ladywell Fields, eight singing on Apr 30th. Woodlands Farm, 30+ on Sep 25th. Sevenoaks WR (8).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (5). Ashted Common (12). Banstead Wood, 13 singing on Feb 14th. Beddington Farmlands (7). Bookham Common (10). Canons Farm (5). London Wetland Centre, two ringed on Oct 8th were described as 'continental' birds. Molesey Heath (12). Richmond Park (44); 118 over in four flocks on Oct 17th and 62 over on 18th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, three singing on Apr 14th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3).

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers were significantly higher at the end of the year than at the start. Of the 27 counts of more than 200, 20 were in the second winter period. Typically, autumn passage was concentrated in mid-October, but was on a much smaller scale than in 2014.

In the first winter period, the biggest counts were in late January and early February. Numbers fell through February but there were local peaks in March, presumably as birds moved back through the area in anticipation of migrating. The last record was of three at Morden Hall Park on April 25th.

The first returning birds were six SSW over South Norwood Lake on September 7th, but it was almost two weeks before there were any others. Visible migration peaked on October 17th (the same day as the Fieldfare movement), when 4,550 were noted at 41 sites across London. Although migration counts were lower than those of 2014 ~~were~~, there were several large pre-roost counts in December.

Essex: Roding Valley Meadows, 700+ on Dec 19th. Wanstead Flats, 500 over on Oct 17th.

Herts: Wormley West End, 500 W on Nov 27th.

Middx: Brent Res, 715 over on Oct 17th. Hampstead Heath, 1000+ over on Oct 17th.

Bucks: East Iver Lakes, 100 on Mar 18th.

Kent: Sidcup, 250+ over on Oct 14th.

Surrey: Bookham Common, 870 on Dec 3rd and 600 on Dec 31st. Canons Farm, 500 on Oct 17th. Colley Hill, 500 on Jan 21st. Richmond Park, 720 roosted on Dec 28th, 525 SW on Oct 17th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 85+ on Mar 11th-12th, many of them singing.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Status: common breeding resident.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change since last year, but a 57% decline in London from 1995-2014. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 32% of gardens

surveyed in 2015, similar to 33% in 2014. Below are breeding records for sites where two or more were recorded (no. of territories/singing males in brackets), plus all Inner London breeding records and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (2). Gilbert's Slade, Epping Forest (2). Mar Dyke Valley (2); 15 on Mar 3rd. Wanstead Flats (4). Wanstead Park (3).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (2). Tyttenhanger GP, 17 on Sep 3rd.

Middx: Home Park (4). Ten Acre Wood, Yeading, 22 over on Aug 30th.

Bucks: Black Park, 16 on Sep 9th.

Kent: Blackheath, 14 on Oct 1st. Greenwich Park (7-8).

Surrey: Holmethorpe SP, 24 on Sep 29th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (15).

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (4); 12+ on Dec 14th. Victoria Park, 12 on Jun 21st.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor, but increasing breeder.

This year has seen a further expansion in the number of sites recording the species (up by over 50% on 2014), some for the first time. Numbers of recorded territories are also up, by nearly 40%, on 2014. Breeding numbers (no. of territories in brackets) are only given where observers have stated that birds are territorial but it seems likely that this is a gross underestimate of actual breeding as many sites have singers throughout much

An entire Cetti's Warbler is a rare photograph indeed! (Tony Brown)



of the year. The pair carrying nesting material at Hyde Park & Kensington Gdns appears to be the first evidence of breeding in Inner London. Some peak counts are given.

Essex: Recorded at 32 sites. Belhus Woods CP (7). Brook Farm, Upminster (1). Fishers Green Island (2). Hall Marsh Scrape (1). Harold Wood SW (1). Ingrebourne Valley (20). Lea Valley, Roydon-Cheshunt, ten on May 25th. Mar Dyke Valley (16). Orsett Fen (2). Rainham Marshes (73). Redbridge Lakes (2). Walthamstow Marshes (3). Walthamstow Res (1). Warren Gorge (2). Waterworks NR (2).

Herts: Recorded at 21 sites. Amwell NR (7). Rye Meads (22). Stanstead Innings (3). Seventy Acres Lake (2).

Middx: Recorded at 24 sites. Broadwater Lake (3). Stoke Newington Res (1). Staines Moor (2). Stanwell Moor (5+).

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, two on Oct 22nd.

Kent: Recorded at 14 sites. Recorded throughout the year at Crayford Marshes, Crossness and Swanscombe Marshes, with a maximum at the latter site of 18 on Oct 31st.

Surrey: Recorded at 15 sites. London Wetland Centre (8).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1), pair seen carrying nesting material. Regent's Park, one on Oct 23rd was the first site record.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

A fairly average year for this declining breeder with a similar number of sites recording this species in the last two years. The first arrivals were on the typical date of April 13th at three different sites. Twelve more sites had recorded the species within the next week. Five sites had territorial birds. Autumn passage was, as usual, a brief affair with just six sites recording birds, the last at Regent's Park on September 17th. Below are territorial estimates (no. of territories in brackets) and all other records.

Fewer Grasshopper Warblers are being heard reeling in London. (Nick Croft)



Essex: Barking, one on Apr 15th-16th. Belhus Woods CP, one on May 1st. Chingford Plain, one on Aug 30th-31st. Hall Marsh Scrape, one on Apr 17th. Ilford GC, one on Apr 14th. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Netherhouse Farm, one on Apr 27th. Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, one on Sep 4th. Rainham Marshes (3). Tylers Common, one on Apr 23rd, 26th & 28th. Wanstead Park, one on Apr 14th.

Herts: Abbots Langley, one on Sep 11th. Ellenbrook Fields, one on Apr 14th. Rye Meads (1).

Middx: Frays Farm Meadows, singles on May 4th and Aug 7th. Rammey Marsh, two on Apr 25th, one on May 5th and two on May 10th. Staines Moor (1). Totteridge Valley (1). Trent Park, one on Aug 26th.

Bucks: Denham, two on Apr 18th and one from 22nd-23rd. Horton GP, one on Apr 26th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, singles on Apr 15th and Sep 7th & 10th. **Foots Cray Meadow**, one on Aug 17th. Sevenoaks WR, one on May 12th & 16th. Swanscombe Marshes, one on May 16th.

Surrey: Ashtead Common, one on Jun 9th. Beddington Farmlands, one on Sep 5th. Island Barn Res, one on Apr 29th. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 13th. Morden Hall Park, one on Apr 18th. Wandle Park, one on Apr 26th. Wimbledon, one on Apr 13th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Sep 17th.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first birds of the year were three at Rainham Marshes on April 6th, and passage peaked around the third week of April. Autumn passage peaked at the end of August/beginning of September. Breeding records were down considerably at the main sites of Rainham Marshes and Rye Meads: 88 and 40 records respectively, compared to 116 and 57 in 2014. Just eight sites recorded the species during October, the last being at Brent Res on October 11th, **their latest ever date**. Below are breeding records of two or more (no. of territories in brackets), some high counts and all records for Inner London.

Essex: Cornmill Meadows, 12 on May 11th. Rainham Marshes (88).

Herts: Rye Meads (40). Seventy Acres Lake (2).

Middx: Tottenham Marshes (3).

In Lond: Canada Water, one on Jul 26th. St Agnes Church EC2, one on Apr 26th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Apr 16th. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 10th, 14th, 18th, 21st-25th, two on Apr 29th, singles on Apr 30th and May 25th. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Sep 4th.

Sedge Warbler breeding numbers were down in 2015. Rainham Marshes, where this bird was photographed, remains the main site. (Russ Sherriff)



Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first bird of the year was at Rainham Marshes on April 10th. Thereafter spring passage peaked in the last week of April. At sites where we have breeding estimates for both 2014 and 2015, there seems to be an increase in breeding this year. There is no statistically significant change shown in the Breeding Bird Survey. Autumn passage was a prolonged affair, thinning out in the second half of September but with still over a dozen seen during October, the last two of which, on October 24th, were seen at the same Leyton site as 2014's late-December bird. Below are breeding records of two or more (no. of territories in brackets) and all Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (9). Mar Dyke Valley (15). Orsett Fen (8). Rainham Marshes (187). Three Mills (2). Walthamstow Res (12). Warren Gorge (5).

Herts: Croxley Common Moor (3). Rye Meads (89). Tyttenhanger GP (5+).

Middx: Stanwell Moor (6). Tottenham Marshes (2).

Kent: Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park (4). Sevenoaks WR (12).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (32). Esher Common (4). London Wetland Centre (14). Morden Hall Park (2). Richmond Park (8). South Norwood CP (4). Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth) (10).

In Lond: Bermondsey, one on Jun 3rd. Canada Water, one on Jul 22nd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2); singles on Jul 18th and Sep 21st. Regent's Park, singles from Apr 20th-24th, two on 25th & 30th, two on Aug 14th, ten on 16th and two on 20th. St James's Park, singles on Apr 30th, May 1st & 6th, two on 18th, three on 20th-21st & 27th. Tate Modern, one on May 13th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Status: common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

A promising start to the year with 170 birds recorded at 129 sites during January and February. There were records in new places from early March with the main arrival commencing around the middle of the month and peaking in the middle of April. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 54% of gardens surveyed in 2015; they were more common at the beginning of the year (about 25% of gardens in each of January, February and March) than at the end (less than 10% of gardens in each of October, November and December). The Breeding Bird Survey showed no significant change in London since last year but the long-term increase continues, up 160% between 1995 and 2014. Autumn passage was drawn out with the highest numbers occurring from end of August through to early October, as typified by the counts from Q. Mary Res. Birds were fewer in the second winter period, 79 being recorded from 58 sites in November and December. Below are breeding records of five or more (no. of territories in brackets), some high autumn counts and a summary of Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (13). Chigwell (10). Gilbert's Slade, Epping Forest (6). Grays Gorge (6). High Beach (20). Lion Gorge (7). Mar Dyke Valley (27). Orsett Fen (12). Rainham Marshes (20). Roding Valley Meadows NR (20+). **Wanstead Flats, 20 on Sep 10th.** ~~Wanstead Flats (30).~~ Wanstead Park (64). Warren Gorge (11).



Herts: Abbots Langley (6). Amwell NR (6+). **Brickett Wood** (7). Bury Lake (9). Chorleywood Common (7). Elstree (7). Essendonbury (9). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (13). Rye Meads (37); 70 on Aug 8th. St Albans (6). Stanstead Abbots (5). Tyttenhanger GP (5+). West End (10). Wood Hall Farm (5).

Middx: Frays Valley LNR (26). Home Park (23). Q. Mary Res, 60 on Aug 29th, Sep 5th, 12th & 26th, 50 on Oct 3rd. Rammey Marsh (12). Staines Moor, 50 on Sep 13th. Tottenham Marshes (24). Totteridge Valley (30+). Wormwood Scrubs (8).

Bucks: Denham, 12 on Apr 22nd.



Kent: Addington Hills (8+). **Foots Cray Meadow** (c30). Greenwich Park (10+). Layhams Farm (5+). Lullingstone (8+). Sevenoaks WR (51).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (5). Ashtead Common (34). Beddington Farmlands (19). Bookham Common (28). Esher Common (6). Lloyd Park, Croydon (10+). London Wetland Centre (7); 23 on Sep 8th. Molesey Heath (31). Riddlesdown (8+). Selsdon Woods (12+). The Ledges, Esher (12). Wimbledon Common (c70).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1). Also recorded at Battersea Park, Bethnal Green NR, Camley Street Natural Park, Hammersmith Cemetery, Holland Park, Haggerston, Mile End, Regent's Park, Russia Dock Woodland, Shadwell Basin, Southwark Park, St James's Park, Somers Town and Victoria Park.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first records of the year were on April 15th at three sites and another 17 had appeared by the end of that week. Spring passage peaked in the last few days of April and first few of May. Breeding records are difficult to interpret, but if we take observers' comments of probable/possible breeding or singing after the middle of May, then breeding was up from 92 territories at 29 sites in 2014 to 118 territories at 40 sites this year. Birds were recorded from 22 sites during September but just one in October, at Addlestone on the 6th. Below are all breeding records (no. of territories in brackets) and all Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (3). Chigwell (1). High Beach (1). Lion Gorge (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (2). Rainham Marshes (1). Wanstead Flats (1).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (3). Bury Lake (1). Chess Valley (1). Colney Heath (1). Croxley Common Moor (2). Ellenbrook Fields (2). Essendonbury (1). Frogmore Lakes (1). Hilfield Park Res (1). Northaw Great Wood (1). Rye Meads (13). St Albans (1). Stocker's Lake (1). Troy Mill Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). West Hyde (1). Wood Hall Farm (1).

Middx: Brent Res (2). Rammey Marsh (1). Trent Park (2).

Kent: Sevenoaks WR (19).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (2). Ashtead Common (11). Banstead Wood (2). Beddington Farmlands (1). Bookham Common (8). Epsom Common (3). Holmethorpe SP (1). Island Barn Res (1). London Wetland Centre (1). Molesey Heath (4). Prince's Coverts (1). Wimbledon Common (16).

In Lond: Burgess Park, two on Jul 12th. Regent's Park, one on Apr 29th, three on Aug 6th and one on Sep 16th. Victoria Park, one on Aug 1st.





A genuine London rarity, Barred Warbler at Staines Moor. (Lee Dingain)

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Status: rare visitor.

The 11th record for London, of what is still a rare bird inland. This was the first record since 2011. It turned up in a typical time slot: all London records have occurred between August 16th and October 1st. The table below shows all the records.

Barred Warbler all records 1972-2015: 11 records, 11 birds

Year	1972	1975	1985	1986	1996	1998	2003	2006	2011	2015
No. of records	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1

Middx: Staines Moor, one from Sep 2nd-17th (LD *et al*).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

One in a garden in Highgate on March 28th was possibly a cryptic winterer; it was associating with three Blackcaps and described as generally quite washed out in appearance. The first undoubted spring migrant appeared at Holmethorpe SP on April 14th; arrivals were daily from April 16th, peaking in the last week of April and first week of May. Breeding records were up this year at 50 territories recorded from 28 sites (45 from 32 sites in 2014). Autumn passage was evident from mid to late July and numbers were at their highest throughout August, trailing off in mid-September. Nine sites recorded



The distinctive song of Lesser Whitethroat is a good one to learn, as the birds are often inconspicuous. (Alan Shearman)

birds in October, the last being from the London Wetland Centre on the 8th. The final bird of the year lingered at East India Dock Basin from November 24th to 26th. Below are breeding records (no. of territories in brackets), some high counts and all Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (2). Lion Gorge (3). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (1). Rainham Marshes (3); ten on Sep 2nd. Roydon (1). Walthamstow Res (1). Wanstead Flats (5); ten plus on many dates from the end of July through to early September. Wanstead Park (2).

Herts: Berrybushes Wood (1). Brookmans Park (1). Coursers Farm (1). Croxley Common Moor (1). Ellenbrook Fields (1). Essendonbury (1). Frogmore Lakes (1). Holt Farm (1). Hunton Bridge (1). Lower Woodside (1). Rye Meads (4). South Mimms (1).

Middx: Brent Res (1). Rammey Marsh (2). Tottenham Marshes (3). Totteridge Valley (5).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (1). Bookham Common (2). Island Barn Res (1). Molesey Heath (1).

In Lond: Bankside, singles on May 5th and Sep 21st. Regent's Park, singles on Apr 23rd & 25th, one on Aug 6th, three on Aug 14th, six on 16th and two on 20th, singles on Sep 1st & 16th. Rotherhithe, one on Apr 26th. St James's Park, one on May 6th.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

After January records in 2012, 2013 and 2014, and December records (two birds) in 2014

it was back to business as usual in 2015 with the first of the year occurring at Wimbledon Common on April 2nd. Numbers arriving were thin at first but peaked in the first two weeks of May. Where comparable data exists, breeding numbers were on a par with the last couple of years, though with some sites up and others down. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 17% decline in the UK from 2014-2015. The largest numbers recorded in autumn were mostly during August and dropped off after the middle of September. Six sites recorded birds in October but there was just one bird in November, at the London Wetland Centre on 22nd. Below are breeding records of ten or more (no. of territories in brackets), some high counts and all Inner London records.

Essex: Mar Dyke Valley (22). Orsett Fen (15). Rainham Marshes (82). Wanstead Flats (31).

~~Wanstead Park (7).~~

Herts: Rye Meads (21).

Middx: Minet CP, 30+ on May 7th. Rammey Marsh (15). Tottenham Marshes (19). Totteridge Valley (30+). Wormwood Scrubs, 35 on Aug 25th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (53). Bookham Common (17). Molesey Heath (24); 30 on Aug 7th. Wimbledon Common (28).

In Lond: Bankside, two on May 5th. Bermondsey, one on May 28th. City of London, singles on Apr 23rd and May 7th. Hammersmith Cemetery, singles on Apr 9th & 26th and May 1st. Regent's Park, one from Apr 24th-26th, several autumn records from Aug 6th to Sep 17th, with peak of eight on 16th. Victoria Park, one on Aug 1st.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Status: rare breeding species, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Still remains an Amber-listed species due to a large decline in the 1960s after severe winters, **since which it has made a steady recovery.**

At the start of the year, three birds remained from 2014 at Richmond Park, Staines Moor and Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), the first remaining until March 1st. The first new birds for 2015 appeared from October onwards and, assuming no duplication, there were ten birds at six sites so it was a good year after a run of poor years. Below is an addition for 2014.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, birds in the second part of the year. One arrived on Oct 27th, another on Oct 29th and they stayed into 2016. By Nov 2nd, these were being described as a male and a 1st year. An imm on Oct 29th and a male on Nov 5th completed the count.

Middx: Staines Moor, one from 2014, on Jan 2nd, 6th, 11th & 27th.

Bucks: Colnbrook Landfill, one on Dec 20th.

Kent: Dartford Marshes, one on Oct 25th. Swanscombe Marshes a male on Dec 28th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, a 1st-winter from Oct 23rd to end of year. Richmond Park, one from 2014 remained in 2015 **until Mar 1st. A male from** Nov 2nd to end of year, with two on Dec 23rd. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one from 2014 remained until Feb 4th.

2014 Addition

Surrey: Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one in late December (see above).



This Dartford Warbler arrived at Beddington in late October and remained for the rest of the year. (Peter Alfrey)

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Status: scarce passage migrant.

As in 2014, there were three birds this year. The continuing increase in British records is clearly being mirrored inland. The October dates are typical but this is the first December record.

Yellow-browed Warbler arrival dates 1930-2015: 32 records, 33 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	18	4	1
No. of birds	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	19	4	1

Essex: Woodford Green, one on Oct 1st (KMy).

Middx: Brent Res, one from Dec 23rd-31st (RB *et al*).

Surrey: Riddlesdown, one on Oct 10th (NH).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Status: scarce passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

There were slightly more records this year, six spring records and eight autumn records (five and five in 2014). However this does not inspire much confidence for the return of this species as a London breeder.

Essex: Wanstead Flats, one on Apr 25th-26th and another on Aug 30th. Whitehouse Plain, one on Aug 25th.

Herts: Whittings Hill OS, Arkley, one on Aug 23rd.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Sep 23rd.

Kent: Cold Blow Farm, one on Apr 22nd. Danson Park, one on Aug 15th.

Surrey: Addington Hills, one on May 27th. Canons Farm, one on Aug 2nd. Headley Heath, one on Apr 28th & 30th. Upper Norwood, one on Apr 26th. Wandsworth Common, one on Apr 28th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles on Jul 24th and Aug 23rd.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Status: common and widespread breeding summer visitor and passage migrant, and increasingly widespread in winter.

They were present in good numbers in the first two months of the year, recorded at 90 sites (49 last year) and with a peak of 22 at Broadwater Lake on January 23rd. As usual, most of the winter records came from damper locations. Spring passage got under way around the middle of March and peaked during the first two weeks of April. The Breeding Bird Survey showed a 9% increase in London since last year and the RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 26% of gardens surveyed in 2015. Peak autumn passage was around mid-September, when there were several very high counts. The last two months of the year were similar to the start of the year, with records at 105 sites (94 last year) and a peak of 20 at Broadwater Lake. Below are breeding records of five or more pairs (no. of territories in brackets), some high counts and a summary of Inner London records

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (13). Mar Dyke Valley (10). Orsett Fen (8). Rainham Marshes (11).

Walthamstow Res, 43+ on Sep 13th. Wanstead Flats (14); 40 on Sep 8th. Wanstead Park (40).

Herts: Rye Meads (15); 60 on Sep 13th. Tyttenhanger GP (10+).

Middx: Frays Valley LNR (13). Q. Mary GP, 70+ on Oct 3rd. Rammey Marsh (7). Tottenham Marshes (21). Totteridge Valley (12).

Kent: Sevenoaks WR (33).

Surrey: Arbrook Common (7). Ashted Common (12). Beddington Farmlands (7); 60 on Aug 22nd. Bookham Common (23). Esher Common (8). Holmethorpe SP, 41 on Apr 10th. Molesey Heath (16). Riddlesdown (7+). The Ledges, Esher (5). Wimbledon Common (c40)

In Lond: Recorded **during the first winter** from Hammersmith Cemetery, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Regent's Park and Russia Dock Woodland and during the **second winter** from Mile End Park, Stepney and Victoria Park. Other records during the year were at Bankside, Battersea Park, Kensington Green, Mile End, Regent's Park (where there were 70 on Sep 16th), Southwark Park and St James's Park.

SUB-SPECIES: Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis*

Status: rare winter visitor and passage migrant.

Four records this year of four birds, three probably overwintering from 2014. Wintering of this species takes place predominately south of a line from the Severn Estuary to the Wash (*British Birds* 103: 320-328) so London is well placed to host it.

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Jan 1st may have been the bird from 2014 (CDRH).

Herts/Middx: R Colne at Broadwater Lake, one from 2014 on many dates from Jan 2nd to Mar 2nd (RMr *et al*).

Kent: **Foots Cray Meadow**, one from 2014, from Jan 1st to Mar 26th (TC, IS *et al*).

Surrey: Thorpe Water Park, one from Nov 30th into 2016 (DGDL).

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 of the year, three birds, arrived on the rather typical date of March 17th at Stocker's Lake but only a further five birds had arrived by month's end. Passage peaked in the second week of April. Singing birds after the middle of May, representing possible breeding, were recorded from 29 sites and totalled around 37 territories (19 sites, 38 territories in 2014, 37 sites, 45+ territories in 2013), a continuing slide for this declining breeder. Mixed singers (Chiffchaff/Willow Warbler) were at Barnes Common, Fir & Pond Woods, Leyton Flats and Oakwood. Autumn passage seemed to be underway as early as June but the largest numbers were between mid-August and early September. There were records at seven sites in October with the last at Maple Lodge NR on 24th. Below are all breeding records (no. of territories in brackets), some large counts and a summary of Inner London records.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (1). Fishers Green Island (2). Grays Gorge (1). Ingrebourne Valley, 20 on Sep 1st. Leyton Flats (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (1). Thames Chase (1). Wanstead Flats (1); 30 on Aug 20th. Warren Gorge (1).

Herts: Bricket Wood (1). Colney Heath (1). Croxley Common Moor (2). Beech Farm GP (4). Ellenbrook Fields (1). Essendonbury (1). Frogmore Lakes (1). Northaw (1). Rye Meads (2). Stanstead Abbots (1). Sutton's Farm, Sandridge (1).

Middx: Fir & Pond Woods (1). Hampstead Heath, 20 on Aug 25th. London Wetland Centre, 21 on Sep 8th. Q. Mary GP (1+). Rammey Marsh (3).

Surrey: Banstead Common (1). Barnes Common (1). Bookham Common (1). Esher Common (1). Molesey Heath (1). Wimbledon Common (1).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Mar 24th, then on four dates in April with a high count of ten on the 13th and one on Aug 20th. Regent's Park, recorded on 12 dates in April with a high count of 16 on 12th, four on Aug 6th, 14 on 14th, one on 16th, two on Sep 13th & 16th. Russia Dock Woodland up to five from Apr 13th-15th. Victoria Park, eight on Aug 26th, singles on Sep 8th-9th. Also recorded from Burgess Park, Stepney, Southwark Park and St James's Park.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were 193 territories reported this year (96 in 2014). It is pleasing to report an increase in the number breeding after several years of decreases but they remain below the peak of 226 in 2012. This species is prone to fluctuations, especially depending on the severity of the winter, but the pattern may well be due to variations in reporting. All sectors had higher numbers, especially Kent and Surrey where there were breeding counts at Sevenoaks WR and Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (no counts in 2014). The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported Goldcrests in 45% of gardens surveyed in 2015, up from 37% in 2014. The Breeding Bird Survey in England showed a 21% increase between 2014 and 2015. Outside the breeding season, peak counts were higher and there was a particularly good passage in October; 51 sites had counts of ten or more birds (11 in 2014). All records of breeding (pairs/singing males/territories of two or more) are given

below (in brackets) with peak counts for each sector and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: 13 pairs. Belhus Woods CP, 20 on Nov 10th. Gilbert's Slade, Epping Forest (2). Wanstead Park (4); 50 on Oct 31st.

Herts: 30 pairs. Bury Lake (2). Cuffley (5). Maple Lodge NR (4). Rickmansworth Aquadrome (3). Northaw Great Wood, 20 on Oct 27th. Symondshyde Great Wood, 40 on Feb 10th and Nov 1st.

Middx: 40 pairs. Bushy Park, 54 on Nov 22nd. Hampton Court Park, 39 on Oct 24th. Q. Mary GP, 100 on Oct 24th & 31st. Staines Moor, 34 on Nov 1st was a site record. Trent Park (6).

Bucks: Black Park, 20 on Mar 11th.

Kent: 25 pairs. Greenwich Park (3). Joyden's Wood, 20 on Jan 23rd. Lamorbey Park, 30 on Oct 21st. Sevenoaks WR (20).

Surrey: 78 pairs. Banstead Wood (4). Canons Farm (3). Chertsey (9). Esher Common (9). Morden Hall Park, 32 on Oct 18th. Selsdon Park (3). Sanderstead (3). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (35).

In Lond: One pair with young in Hammersmith Cemetery and ten singing males in Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens on Mar 14th. Reported from 24 sites outside the breeding season (ten in 2014).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

Reported from 123 sites during the year (65 in 2014) with higher numbers in the second winter period. The number reported from Hertfordshire was low for the second year running. One pair bred in Middlesex and fledged young. There have been several years when breeding was suspected in London, but the last time young were seen was 2000.

Firecrest: number of sites

	Essex	Herts	Middx	Bucks	Kent	Surrey	In Lond	Totals
Jan-Mar	6	0	8	1	6	18	1	40
Oct-Dec	26	2	14	1	20	23	3	89
Jan-Dec	32	4	22	2	24	36	3	123

During January to March, there were six sites with birds reported for a prolonged period: Grovelands Park, Kelsey Park, Leyton Flats, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath and Woodford Green. There were three at Petts Wood on January 14th and two at 12 other sites.

There were records in every month between April and September. There was a good spring passage with 13 sites having birds in April and five sites having birds in May. A pair bred at Grovelands Park fledging three young. The only other records in June and July were at Leyton Flats, where there was one on June 1st and July 2nd.

The first bird of the autumn was at Grays Gorge on September 13th after which they were regular, reported from 17 sites during the month. During October to December, there were 23 sites with birds reported for a prolonged period. Four birds were at Riddlesdown on October 12th and Dagenham Chase on October 25th, with many sites reporting two or three birds.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

In spring, reports came from 19 sites (25 in 2014) with the first on April 26th at Wanstead Flats. Nearly all records were single birds with two on May 7th at Rainham Marshes and Alexandra Park and involved a minimum of 22 birds (34 in 2014).

Breeding was confirmed at one site, probable at another two, and suspected at one other. Last year, there was one, possibly three, breeding pairs. Between mid-June and early July, birds were at a further five sites where they were not thought to be breeding. The Breeding Bird Survey in England showed a 61% decline between 1995 and 2014.

In autumn, the first returning bird was on August 7th in Stepney with the last on October 1st at Thames View Hill. The most pronounced passage was between August 25th and September 7th, similar to the periods when a lot of Common Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers appeared. Reports came from 98 sites (108 in 2014) with many staying for more than one day and many sightings of more than one bird. With such good numbers, it was impossible to estimate the exact number of birds involved but was probably less than last year when over 300 passed through. The peak day total was 53 on 29th August (89 in 2014).

Below are all records showing signs of breeding, number of sites in spring/autumn, counts over ten or highest in the sector and a summary of Inner London records.

Essex: Spring four sites, autumn 25 sites. Greensted, pair in June. Wanstead Flats, 13 on Sep 2nd. Stapleford Tawney, pair in June.

Herts: Spring four sites, autumn 17 sites. Millward's Park, pair successfully raised four juv. Oxhey, three on Sep 1st. North Mymms Park, three on Sep 20th. Panshanger, one, possibly breeding, on Jun 4th.

Middx: Spring three sites, autumn 26 sites. Park Farm, Enfield, eight on Aug 28th. Trent Park, six on Aug 29th.

Bucks: Black Park, one on Sep 9th was the only record.

Kent: Spring three sites, autumn 12 sites. Oxleas Wood, two on Sep 1st.

Surrey: Spring five sites, autumn 13 sites. Richmond Park, four on Sep 14th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, reported between Aug 14th and Sep 16th with a peak of seven on Sep 1st. Victoria Park, reported between Aug 26th and Sep 13th with a peak of six on Sep 1st. Also reported from Battersea Park on Jul 4th, Jubilee Street, Stepney on Aug 7th and St James's Park on Aug 28th.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.

There were three spring records this year (two in 2014): a male at Oxleas Wood on April 17th, one at Tottenham Marshes on May 4th and a female at Stoke Newington Res on May 26th.

The first bird of the autumn was on August 5th at Walthamstow Res, with the last on September 13th at Wanstead Flats. There was a good passage with 27 records in August and 21 in September with many birds staying more than one day. There was a particularly good run at Wanstead Flats with 12 records between August 11th and September 13th with a peak of three on August 30th. There were Inner London records from Regent's Park (August 25th, September 1st and 11th) and Victoria Park (two on August 8th and

one on 26th). It is difficult to determine the number of birds involved but there were probably at least 36 birds at 24 sites (19 birds at 15 sites in 2014).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, ~~very~~-rare breeder.

There were **records from ten sites** (nine in 2014) with birds seen at six sites in the first winter period and **eight sites** in the second winter period. Seven pairs bred at Rainham Marshes where birds **were throughout the year**. Other long-staying birds were at Amwell NR (October to December), South Norwood CP (October to December) and Swanscombe Marshes (January to May and August to October). There was an amazing count of 26 on September 27th at Swanscombe Marshes. Below are all records, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Mar Dyke Valley, two juv on Aug 2nd. Rainham Marshes, seen throughout the year where seven pairs bred.

Herts: Amwell NR, one seen from Oct 20th to Dec 23rd. Rye Meads, one on Apr 12th.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, six on Jan 21st, two from Dec 10th-23rd. Swanscombe Marshes, up to four from Jan 4th to May 30th, up to six from Aug 1st to Oct 31st, with 26 on Sep 27th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, up to two from Jan 1st-21st and one on Oct 17th. London Wetland Centre, one on Feb 27th. South Norwood CP, seven on Oct 3rd, two on Oct 4th that remained until Nov 26th, then one until the end of the year.

Seven pairs of Bearded Tit bred at Rainham Marshes this year. (Shaun Harvey)



Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

There were at least 218 pairs reported this year (176 in 2014). Essex, Kent and Surrey showed increases while Hertfordshire and Middlesex showed declines. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 82% (81% in 2014) of gardens surveyed in 2015. The Breeding Bird Survey in London showed no significant change from 2014, but a 15% increase in England. All records of breeding (pairs/singing males/territories of three or more) are given below (in brackets) with peak counts for each sector and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: 48 pairs. Belhus Woods CP (7). Grays Gorge (4). Mar Dyke Valley (9); 42 on Aug 14th. Rainham Marshes (9). Warren Gorge, 46 on May 23rd.

Herts: 24 pairs. Rye Meads, 65 on Aug 15th. Panshanger, 48 on Sep 4th.

Middx: 20 pairs. **Drury Road, Harrow**, 40 on Jul 5th. Rammey Marsh (6). Staines Res, 40 on Jul 23rd.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 45 on Nov 11th.

Kent: 27 pairs. Darent Lakes, 40 on Jun 25th and Nov 2nd. Greenwich Park (4-5). Sevenoaks WR (9); 40 on Oct 28th.

Surrey: 96 pairs. Ashtead Common (4). Beddington Farmlands (4). Hogsmill SW, 60 going to roost on Aug 14th. Holmethorpe SP, 80 on Oct 20th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (60).

In Lond: Three pairs and reported from 25 sites. Camley Street Natural Park (1). Hammersmith Cemetery (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 25 on Nov 16th. Meanwhile Gardens, North Kensington (1).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

The number of territories/pairs reported was 354 (444 in 2014), although it is massively under-reported; however, there were changes between sectors with increases in Essex and decreases in Hertfordshire and Surrey. Vagaries in reporting are likely to be responsible with no counts from several sites that had high numbers last year. The Breeding Bird Survey in London showed a 15% increase between 2014 and 2015. All records of breeding (pairs/singing males/territories of more than 15) are given below (in brackets) with peak counts for each sector and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: 115 pairs. Belhus Woods CP (21); 87 on Jun 1st. Epping Forest Woodland Burial Park, 108 on Jan 5th. Mar Dyke Valley (32). Warren Gorge, 56 on Feb 2nd.

Herts: 56 pairs. Hoddesdonpark Wood, 67 on Jan 24th. Rye Meads, 55 on Aug 16th.

Middx: 30 pairs. Home Park (20); 34 on Aug 22nd. Teddington, 42 on Jan 7th.

Bucks: Langley Park, 30 on Feb 27th.

Kent: 12 pairs. Sevenoaks WR, 70 on Sep 16th. Darent Lakes, 35 on Jun 25th.

Surrey: 96 pairs. Ashtead Common (35). Canons Farm (16). Holmethorpe SP, 80 on Jun 26th. Kingston, 80 on Aug 27th. Richmond Park, 99 on Dec 28th.

In Lond: Reported from nine sites (17 in 2014). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (30+). Regent's Park (2), but birds were seen at six sites during the breeding season. The highest count was 23 at Victoria Park on Apr 4th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

The number of territories/pairs reported was 605 (353 in 2014). Like Blue Tit, it is massively under-reported. There were increases in Essex and Kent with declines in Hertfordshire and Surrey. The Breeding Bird Survey in London showed a 20% increase between 2014 and 2015. All records of breeding (pairs/singing males/territories of more than 12) are given below (in brackets) with peak counts for each sector and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: 99 pairs. Mar Dyke Valley (27); 64 on Jun 4th. Belhus Woods CP (19); 62 on Jun 1st. Gilbert's Slade, Epping Forest (13). High Beech, 40 on Jan 31st. Orsett Fen (13). Wanstead Flats (52). Wanstead Park (107).

Herts: 117 pairs. Smallford GP (23). Hoddesdonpark Wood, 46 on Jan 24th. Rye Meads, 52 on Dec 31st. Tyttenhanger GP (20).

Middx: 30 pairs. Home Park (19); 46 on Jul 26th.

Bucks: Langley Park, 20 on Feb 27th.

Kent: 33 pairs. Darenth Lakes, 30 on Apr 13th. Greenwich Park (20+). Sevenoaks WR, 27 on Apr 8th.

Surrey: 86 pairs. Ashted Common (18). Beddington Farmlands (19). Canons Farm (18). London Wetland Centre, 51 on Mar 10th.

In Lond: Reported from 11 sites (18 in 2014). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (50+). In addition, pairs successfully raised young at Bermondsey and Meanwhile Gardens, North Kensington. Hemans Estate Community Garden, nest with eggs on May 28th. Regent's Park, one singing on Apr 7th and 20 on Sep 13th.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Status: common breeding species.

The number of territories/pairs reported was at least 112 (120 in 2014). The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 83% of gardens surveyed in 2015, the same as in 2014. Staines Moor had their first site record this year. All records of breeding (pairs/singing males/territories of two or more) are given below (in brackets) with peak counts for each sector and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: Five pairs. High Beach, 11 on Jun 20th. Uphire, ten on Nov 3rd. Wanstead Park (4).

Herts: 13 pairs. Hoddesdonpark Wood, 11 on Apr 9th. Northaw Great Wood, 11 on Feb 4th. Symondshyde Great Wood (2); 20 on Jul 19th. Wormley Wood, 13 on Feb 9th.

Middx: 22 pairs. Hilly Fields Park (2). Totteridge Valley (5). Trent Park, 12 on Feb 10th. Whitewebbs Wood (3).

Kent: Seven pairs. Forster Memorial Park, four on Oct 13th. Foots Cray Meadows (2). Greenwich Park (3). Sevenoaks WR, four on Sep 30th. Swanley Park, four on Oct 4th.

Surrey: 60 pairs. Esher Common (9); ten on Feb 19th. Pilgrim Fort, 15 on Nov 22nd. Richmond Park, 12 on Nov 8th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (45).

In Lond: Reported from 12 sites; one pair with young at Hammersmith Cemetery and three pairs at Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Status: localised and declining breeding resident and scarce winter visitor.

Reported from 38 sites (34 in 2014) with 17 being between March and July (17 in 2013). There was a pair with juveniles at Northaw Great Wood, two pairs bred at Amwell NR and possibly bred at Balls Wood. Of the 17 potential breeding sites, 11 relate to birds seen on a single day. Birds were reported from 20 sites in Surrey (16 in 2014), eight sites in Hertfordshire (14), eight sites in Kent (2) and two sites in Essex (2). The Breeding Bird Survey in England showed a 35% decline between 1995 and 2014. Below is a summary of records for all sites.

Essex: North Weald, one on Nov 22nd. Upminster, one on Sep 24th.

Herts: Amwell NR, seen on many dates between January and June with two pairs breeding; one on Aug 8th and Dec 17th were the only sightings in the second half of the year. Balls Wood, pair on Jun 26th. Ellenbrook Fields, one on Apr 5th. Hoddesdonpark Wood, one on Jan 24th. Northaw Great Wood, seen throughout the year with a pair with young on Jun 11th and a peak of six on Feb 28th. Welwyn Garden City, one on Mar 23rd. Wormley West End, one on Dec 25th. Wormley Wood, seen in January, February, April, November and December with three on Apr 9th.

Kent: Biggin Hill, pair on Apr 26th. Clacket Lane Services, one on Dec 14th & 31st. High Elms CP, two on Apr 8th and one on Sep 23rd. High Wood, Cudham, two on Jan 22nd and Feb 9th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Nov 4th and Dec 16th.

Surrey: Addlestone, one on Dec 7th. Bletchingley, two on Mar 14th. Bookham Common, singles between January and March and in August, November and December, with a pair on Dec 3rd. Coulsdon, one on Dec 15th. Epsom Common, one on Apr 6th. Farthing Downs, two on Nov 11th. Hutchinson's Bank, singles on Mar 11th and Apr 1st. Juniper Bottom, two on Jan 24th. Kings Wood, three on Apr 12th and regularly in a garden bordering the wood from January to May and November to December. Langley Vale Farm, one on Nov 22nd and three on Nov 28th. Mickleham, one on Jan 25th. Norbury Park, two on Dec 17th. Pilgrim Fort, one on Nov 22nd. Sanderstead, one on Dec 19th. Selsdon Wood, seen in two gardens adjacent to the wood from January to April and September to December with one on May 13th. The Ledges, Esher, one on Nov 29th. Walton Heath/Banstead Heath, one on Jan 21st. Walton on the Hill, three on Dec 12th. Wimbledon Common, one on Mar 28th. Woldingham, one on Mar 10th.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Status: common breeding resident.

There were at least 99 pairs/territories reported this year, an increase on last year (89 pairs). This total is undoubtedly an underestimate; there were reports from 379 sites (232 in 2014). The increase in number of sites in all sectors is marked and probably reflects an increase in reporting but may well also indicate an increase in numbers. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 57% (49% in 2014) of gardens surveyed in 2015. The Breeding Bird Survey in England showed no significant change since 2014. All records of breeding (pairs/singing males/territories of two or more) are given below (in brackets) with peak counts for each sector and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: 49 sites, six pairs. Epping Forest Woodland Burial Park, ten on Jan 5th. Gilbert's

Slade, Epping Forest (2). High Beach, ten on Jun 20th. Weald CP, ten on Mar 22nd.
Herts: 70 sites, 18 pairs. Hoddesdonpark Wood, 19 on Apr 9th. Northaw Great Wood, 12 on Feb 4th. Oak Hill Woods (2). Wormley Wood, 13 on Feb 9th.
Middx: 79 sites, 15 pairs. Alexandra Park, ten on Sep 6th. Hilly Park Fields (2). Trent Park, eight on Feb 11th. Whitewebbs Wood (6); eight on Apr 5th.
Bucks: Five sites. Black Park, six on Mar 11th and Dec 29th.
Kent: 52 sites, nine pairs. Greenwich Park (4). High Elms CP, six on Feb 8th. Kelsey Park, seven on Aug 11th. Lullingstone (2).
Surrey: 120 sites, 48 pairs. Banstead Wood, nine on Feb 13th and Apr 25th. Canons Farm (5). Morden Hall Park (3). Richmond Park, 12 on Dec 28th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (30).
In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3). London Wall, City of London, one found dead on Sep 3rd. Regent's Park, up to two in Aug and Sep. Victoria Park, singles on Aug 1st and Sep 4th.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Status: common breeding resident.

It is pleasing to report an increase; there were at least 84 pairs/territories (45 in 2014 although none were reported then from Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath where there were 24+ territories this year). Reports came from 226 sites (187 in 2014) with 144 between March and July (77 in 2014). There were increases in the total number of sites, sites in the breeding season and number of pairs in nearly all sectors, but the Breeding Bird Survey in England showed no significant change since 2014. All records of breeding (pairs/singing males/territories of two or more) are given below (in brackets) with peak counts for each sector and a summary for Inner London.

Essex: 44 sites, nine pairs. Aimes Green/Galleyhill Wood, five on Dec 26th. Fishers Green Island (2). High Beach, five on Mar 22nd. Weald CP, five on Aug 19th.
Herts: 62 sites, 21 pairs. Bury Lake (2). Northaw Great Wood (6); seven on Feb 4th. Symondshyde Great Wood, eight on Feb 12th. Wormley Wood, ten on Apr 7th.
Middx: 42 sites, 12 pairs. Fir & Ponds Wood (2). Trent Park (2); six on Jan 17th. Whitewebbs Wood, six on Mar 8th.
Bucks: Seven sites, two pairs.
Kent: 19 sites, six pairs. Sevenoaks WR (5); six on May 23rd.
Surrey: 51 sites, 34 pairs. Banstead Wood, seven on Mar 8th. King's Wood (3). Treverex (2). Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (24+).
In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, up to five singing in January, then up to two during February and March, two on Apr 1st, singles on Jun 27th and Jul 18th, up to three singing in September, one on Dec 14th.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

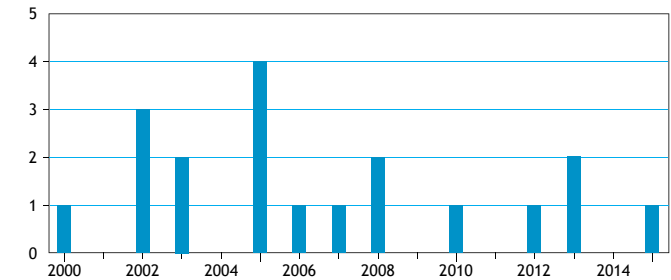
Status: rare passage migrant.

This is the first record since 2013. Once again a May record, this is the seventh record of a May bird out of the 33 records since 1990. The chart below shows all the 19 records since 2000.

Red-backed Shrike
2000-2015
19 records, 19 birds

Key

■ Number of records per year



Essex: Fairlop Waters, a male on May 25th (AAB).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Status: rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

This year has produced three records for this autumn visitor and once again, the birds have appeared in October, which has been the most likely time for them: 16 of the 29 records since 1990 were in late September or October. The table below shows recent records.

Great Grey Shrike records 2006-2015: 14 records, 14 birds

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. of records	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	3

Essex: Dagnam Park, one from Oct 24th-25th (CJ).

Middx: Staines Moor, a 1st-winter bird from Oct 18th-19th (REI *et al*).

Kent: Swanscombe Marshes, one on Oct 22nd (PBk).

There were three records of Great Grey Shrike this year, all in October. This bird was on Staines Moor. (Andrew Moon)



Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Status: common breeding bird, the resident population boosted by immigrants in the autumn and winter.

The Breeding Bird Survey in London shows no significant change from 2014-15. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 88% of gardens surveyed in 2015. There were reports from 29 sites in Inner London, which is more than double that of recent years. The notes below list all records with evidence of breeding pairs (no. of pairs in brackets) and some of the higher counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (1). Dagnam Park, 12 on Oct 26th. Grays Gorge (1). Hangman's Wood (2). Leyton Flats, 15 on Oct 12th. Loughton Camp, 13 on Oct 31st. Mar Dyke Valley (4). Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve, 14 on Sep 21st. Warren Gorge (6).

Herts: Beech Farm GP (1). Ellenbrook Fields (1). Oaklands College (1). Rye Meads, 11 on Apr 5th. Watercross LNR (1).

Middx: Bushey Park, ten on Nov 16th. Home Park (3). Little Britain Lake, ten on Apr 16th. Q. Mary Res, 12 on Oct 17th, 24th & 31st. Tottenham Marshes (2). Wildwoods, Enfield (2).

Bucks: Black Park, five on Oct 30th.

Kent: Chipstead Lake, 23 on Oct 6th. Greenwich Park (3). Mycenae Gardens, Blackheath (1). Sevenoaks WR, 19 on Oct 7th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (5). Ashtead Common (5); 13 on Apr 17th. Beddington Farmlands (1). Bookham Common, 14 on Apr 16th. Canons Farm, 15 on Oct 13th. Elmbridge OS, 12 on Apr 6th. Ham Lands, 22 on Sep 25th. Holmethorpe SP, 17 on Sep 29th. Kenley, 13 on Oct 1st. Old Coulsdon, 13 on Oct 1st. Purley, 15 on Oct 2nd. Richmond Park, 11 on Nov 8th. Wimbledon Common (20).

In Lond: Camden Town, two on Oct 17th. Great Swan Alley, City of London (1). Holland Park, two on Feb 6th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, five on Apr 11th. Jubilee Street, Stepney E1, three on Sep 26th. Limehouse, two on Sep 27th. Primrose Hill, three on Oct 17th. Regent's Park, five during April and October. Russia Dock Woodland, two on Feb 3rd.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

The Breeding Bird Survey in London showed no significant change in 2014-15 but there has been a long-term increase of 36% from 1995-2014. We still receive few breeding estimates and more would be welcome. Below are high counts and breeding counts of two or more.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 24 on Jun 1st and Dec 7th. Connaught Water, 37 roosting on Mar 8th. Enfield Island Village, 24 on Mar 13th. Grays Gorge (3). Harold Wood SW, 40 on Nov 29th. Ingrebourne Valley, 28 on Dec 18th. Leyton Flats, 24 on Jan 20th. Mar Dyke Valley (6). Orient Way, Leyton, 54 on Jan 4th. Rainham Marshes, 44 on Oct 14th. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 86 on Jan 18th. Romford GC, 60 on Dec 10th. Warren Gorge (5); 96 roosting on Jan 2nd.

Herts: Amwell NR (4). Beech Farm GP (3). Bricket Wood, 21 on Feb 2nd. Bushey Hall GC, 29 on Feb 20th. Cassiobury Park (2). Ellenbrook Fields (4). Frogmore Lakes, 20 on Nov 21st. Lynsters Farm, 44 on Nov 20th. North Watford, 22 on Feb 12th. Rye Meads, 70

on Jan 31st. Stocker's Lake, 25 on Feb 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, 28 on Jan 1st. Verulamium Park (5).

Middx: Alexandra Park, 30 on Sep 6th. Brent Park, 40 on Jan 14th. Brent Res, 25 on Feb 8th. Bushy Park, 28 on Nov 22nd. Fryent CP, 36 on Feb 10th. Hackney Marsh, 40 on May 1st. Hampton Court Park, 29 on Dec 20th. Home Park (14). Kensal Green Cemetery (2). Osterley Park, 29 on Mar 15th. Pinner Park Farm, 64 on Jan 3rd. Rammey Marsh (9). Teddington, 31 on Jan 7th. Wormwood Scrubs, 25 on Apr 7th.

Kent: Chipstead Lake, 42 on Dec 11th. Crayford Marshes, 23 on Nov 20th. Crossness Southern Marsh, 31 on Jan 2nd. Darenth Lakes, 62 on Nov 2nd. Greatness Pits, 25 on Sep 13th and Dec 25th. Hilly Fields (4). Ladywell Fields (3). Lamorbey Park, 24 on Nov 23rd. Otford, 30 on Feb 3rd. Sevenoaks WR, 37 on Oct 28th and Dec 19th.

Surrey: Addlestone, 44 on Feb 20th. Alexandra RG, 63 on Dec 26th. Ashtead Common (6). Beddington Farmlands, 40 on Oct 1st. Berrylands, 30 on Aug 23rd. Cobham, 44 on Feb 20th. Esher Common (2). Ham Lands, 37 on Sep 25th. Hogsmill River Park, 45 on Dec 6th. Holmethorpe SP, 61 on Apr 7th. Kingston-upon-Thames, 30 on Jan 1st and Mar 11th. London Wetland Centre, 47 on Oct 27th. Molesey Heath (6); 34 on Dec 29th. Morden Hall Park, 131 roosting on Jan 10th. Richmond Park, 26 on Dec 28th. South Norwood CP, 145 roosting on Nov 14th. Surbiton, 32 on Dec 19th. Tadworth, 25 on Dec 19th. Teddington Lock, 33 on Jan 19th. Tolworth, 63 on Dec 26th.

In Lond: Battersea Park, 30 on Nov 10th. Earl's Court, 22 on Oct 20th. Hammersmith Cemetery, 21 on Jan 1st. Regent's Park, 35 on Mar 21st.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in the inner suburbs and city centre.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 9% increase in the UK since 2014, with a long-term increase of 57% from 1995-2014. (BBS report for 2015.) There are no similar figures for London, but the RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 41% of gardens surveyed in 2015 (the same as in 2014, but up from 11% in 1995). In some parts of London, Jackdaws are only passage migrants, in other parts there are large roost movements and large groups feeding. Not all records make it clear whether they refer to feeding, passage or roost counts. It would be very helpful if people could make this clear in future. There were no obvious records of any large passage movements this year. Below are high counts with some breeding records and all Inner London records.

Essex: Clay Tye Wood, c700 roosting on Feb 8th and Mar 1st. Codham Hall, 300 on Feb 2nd. Fishers Green Goosefield, 400 on Jan 28th and Aug 3rd. Hangman's Wood (3). Holyfield Hall Farm, 500 on Jun 23rd. Mar Dyke Valley (8). Orsett Fen (3). Osier Marsh, roost of 750+ birds, November to December. Wanstead Park, 400 on Dec 28th pre-roost.

Herts: Amwell NR, 700 on Nov 20th. Beech Farm GP area, 500 on Nov 2nd and 1,100 roosting on Jan 1st. Broxbourne, 500 flying to roost on Feb 16th. Ellenbrook Fields, 1,000 flying to roost on Nov 4th. Maple Lodge NR, 500 on Apr 8th. Stocker's Lake, 1,060 on Dec 12th. Also bred at Brookmans Park, Ellenbrook Fields, Hilfield Park Res, Holt Farm, Maple Lodge NR, Northaw, Panshanger Park, Radlett and Tyttenhanger GP.

Middx: Broadwater Lake, 1,500 roosting on Nov 22nd. Bushy Park, 418 on Aug 29th.

Felthamhill Carr, 500 on Oct 12th. Hampton Court Park, 730 roosting on Aug 1st. Home Park (123); 600 on Oct 9th. Pinner Park Farm, 373 on Jul 21st. Q. Mary GP, 2,000 roosting on Dec 19th. Vicarage Farm, 300 on Feb 13th. Also bred at Fir & Pond Woods, Forty Hall, Pinner Park Farm, Teddington and Totteridge Valley.

Kent: Bred at Greenwich Park. Greatness Pits, 250 on Nov 21st. Sevenoaks WR, 300 on Dec 2nd.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (2); 2,500 in January. Berrylands, 810 on Aug 23rd, most flying over. Collier's Wood, 400 on Apr 3rd. Hogsmill River Park, 840 on Aug 28th flying over. Hogsmill SW, 900 flying to roost on Aug 14th. Holmethorpe SP, 920 on Oct 15th. Kingston-upon-Thames, 380 roosting on Jul 25th. Motspur Park, 300 roosting on Feb 27th. New Malden, c1,000 on Mar 17th. Richmond Park, 460 on Nov 8th. Riddlesdown, 300 on May 10th. Wimbledon, 2,200 over on Mar 11th. Also bred at Coulsdon, Leg O Mutton NR, Molesey Heath, Riddlesdown and The Ledges, Esher.

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, one on Feb 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, eight on Jan 8th. Regent's Park, five flying over in March. St James's Park, one on Feb 18th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Status: common breeding resident in the outer part of the London Area, much scarcer in urban localities.

Hertfordshire Bird Club carried out a Rookery Survey this year, so there were a lot more breeding reports in our Hertfordshire sector this year. The Breeding Bird Survey showed no significant change since 2014, but there was a long-term decline of 20% from 1995-2014. Regular counts from rookeries would be very useful, to enable us to report on any local trends. For much of the area the appearance of Rooks are as fly-overs, and most rookeries are in the rural parts of the area; the only rookery in Greater London is at Clay Tye Wood. Details of all rookeries are given below with the numbers of occupied nests in brackets, followed by some of the highest counts in each sector. The only Inner London records this year were at Regent's Park.

Essex: Clay Tye Wood (56); c600 roosting from August to December. Gunpowder Park, 200 on Nov 28th. Roding Valley Meadows NR (7). Stapleford Tawney, 300 on Aug 2nd.

Herts: Brickendonbury (14). Chandler's Cross (51). Chess Valley (23). Chiswell Green (30). Highfield Farm (20). Langleybury (6). Marshalswick (8). Micklefield Green (42). Rickmansworth (38). Sopwell Mill (12). South Mimms (8). St Albans (3). Stocker's Farm (18). Welwyn Garden City (20). Also bred at Letty Green, Northaw, Oaklands College, St Julians and Water Hall Farm.

Middx: Harefield, 70 on Apr 16th.

Bucks: Denham Place (9).

Kent: Greatness Pits, 75 on Jul 5th.

Surrey: Cheverells Farm, 75 on Sep 25th. Holmethorpe SP, 100 in June and July.

In Lond: Regent's Park, singles over on Mar 8th and 20th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

The Breeding Bird Survey for London shows no significant change since 2014 but a long-

term increase of 37% from 1995-2014. We receive relatively few breeding records and more nest counts would be very welcome. Below are all breeding records of five or more, with number of nests/territories in brackets, together with highest counts elsewhere.

Essex: Barking Park, 135 on Aug 28th. Belhus Woods CP (2). Fishers Green Goosefield, 400 on Jan 28th, Jun 15th and Aug 3rd. Leyton Flats, 120 on Jan 15th and Feb 16th. Orsett Fen, 135 on Jan 19th. Rainham Marshes, 104 on Jan 17th. Valentines Park, 100 on Dec 26th. Walthamstow Res (4). Wanstead Flats, 124 on Sep 2nd.

Herts: Bury Lake (1). Chess Valley (1). Essendon, 80 on Mar 15th. Newgate Street, 100 on Aug 2nd. Rye Meads, 54 on Apr 5th. St Albans, 40 on Oct 24th. Stocker's Lake (3). Tyttenhanger GP, c150 on Nov 21st. West End, 800 on Mar 15th. Also bred at Ellenbrook Fields, Maple Cross, Radlett, Rickmansworth Aquadrome, Tyttenhanger GP, Watford, Welwyn Garden City and West Hyde.

Middx: Bushy Park (23). Fryent CP, 89 on Oct 31st. Hackney Marsh, 100 on Jan 27th. Hackney Wick, 90 on Oct 4th. Hampton Court Park, 116 on Aug 22nd. Home Park (7); 116 on Aug 22nd. Staines Res, 146 on Mar 7th. Tottenham Marshes (5). Wormwood Scrubs, 124 on Jan 25th.

Kent: Danson Park, 100 on Feb 23rd. Greatness Pits, 120 on Jul 5th. Sevenoaks WR, 60 on Dec 16th. West Wickham, 71 on Oct 4th. Also bred at Greenwich Park, Hilly Fields and Ladywell Fields.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (4). Ashtead Common (4). Beddington Farmlands, 500 on Dec 23rd. Canons Farm, 120 on Mar 31st and Dec 17th. Hogsmill SW, 143 on Nov 15th. Holmethorpe SP, 228 on Mar 13th. London Wetland Centre, 151 on Jan 20th. Molesey Heath (4). Peckham Rye Park, 150 on Jan 10th. Ridlands, 250 on Jul 25th. River Thames: Kew to Richmond, 150 on Jun 20th. South Norwood Lake, 116 on Jun 13th. Wimbledon Common, c1,000 pre-roost on Jan 13th.

In Lond: Battersea, 87 on Oct 6th. Burgess Park, 50 on Jul 12th. Regent's Park, 50 on Mar 1st and Dec 30th. Southwark Park, 80 on Mar 31st. St James's Park, 65 on Feb 24th. Victoria Park, 76 on Jul 4th.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Status: scarce, but increasing visitor.

Once again a pair bred in Kent, fledging two young (one fewer than last year) but another pair bred in Surrey, raising two young. There were more records of pairs, but most records are still single birds flying over. We are only listing records for Essex, Kent and Hertfordshire of two or more birds, as the number of records is increasing.

Essex: Recorded from 15 sites. Brentwood, two on Oct 10th. Copped Hall, two on Feb 8th. KGV Res, two on Oct 3rd. Rainham Marshes, two during the year. Upshire, two on Feb 8th.

Herts: Recorded from 16 sites. Amwell NR, two in January. Hatfield Park, two on Apr 15th. Hilfield Park Res, two on Jan 25th. Rye Meads, two on Jan 25th.

Middx: Bentley Priory NR, one on Oct 28th. Feltham, one on Oct 18th. Gutteridge Wood, one on Dec 24th. Northolt RAF Aerodrome, one on Sep 13th. Potters Bar, one over on Oct 7th. Staines Moor, one on Sep 29th. Ten Acre Wood, Yeading, one on Sep 13th. Wraybury Res, one on Jan 16th.

Bucks: Black Park, one on Feb 9th, one or two between March and April, two on May 7th and one on Dec 29th. Denham CP, one on May 9th. Q. Mother Res, two on Jan 1st and Aug 15th, singles in March and November. Woodlands Park Lake, one on Apr 10th mobbed by crow. Wraysbury, one on Jan 16th.

Kent: Site A (1). Botany Marshes, four on Jun 5th. Crayford Marshes, two on Mar 5th-6th. Sevenoaks WR, two on Jan 2nd.

Surrey: Site A (1), two young. Ashtead, four on Sep 23rd. Banstead Wood, one on Jul 20th. Beddington Farmlands, singles on Feb 5th, Apr 16th and Sep 3rd with two on Oct 11th. Bushey Bank, one on Feb 2nd. Canons Farm, one on Oct 25th. Cheverells Farm, one on Dec 9th and two on 23rd. Holmethorpe SP, two on Feb 22nd, singles on five other dates during the year. Nower Wood, Headley, two on Oct 17th. Trevereux, one or two on one to three dates every month except November, but no suggestion of breeding. Woldingham, two seen in March, April, August, September and November.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Status: common, but continued declining, breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The Breeding Bird Survey for London shows no significant change since 2014, but a long-term decline of 55% from 1995-2014, so it seems likely that their decline continues. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported the bird in 78% of gardens surveyed in 2015, which is the lowest figure since the survey started in 1995. More breeding records would be welcome to help monitor the bird's decline. The passage over London was once again less than previous years, with the largest movement taking place on October 31st with 1,319 birds from four sites flying generally south. Below are breeding records, some of the highest counts and migrating flocks.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, 250 on Nov 10th. Chafford Hundred (3). Creekmouth, Barking, 260 on Aug 2nd. Grays Riverside, 1,800 on Nov 22nd. Hangman's Wood (19). Orient Way, Leyton, 350 on Nov 7th. Orsett Fen, 360 on Nov 3rd. Rainham Marshes, 2,500 on Dec 9th. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 304 on Oct 14th. Wanstead Flats, 400 on Sep 16th. Warren Gorge, 420 on Oct 12th. Also bred at Lion Gorge, Mar Dyke Valley, Orsett Fen, Walthamstow Res and Warren Gorge.

Herts: Beech Farm area, 250 on May 24th. Brookmans Park, 220 on Mar 17th. Hilfield Park Res, 200 on Nov 22nd. Maple Cross, c500 in August and October. Mill End, 300 on Mar 19th. Panshanger Park, c400 on Oct 27th. Royal Veterinary College, Potters Bar, 220 on Mar 17th. Rye Meads, 2,300 on Oct 31st. Tyttenhanger GP, 500 on Nov 15th. West Hyde, 500 on Oct 22nd. Bred at Abbots Langley, Chess Valley, Colney Heath, Coursers Farm, Croxley Common Moor, Ellenbrook Fields, Hatfield, London Colney, Rickmansworth, West End and West Hyde.

Middx: Brent Res, 228 over on Nov 22nd. Bushy Park, 400 on Jun 23rd. Hackney Wick, 350 on Sep 12th. Hampton Court Park, 220 on Aug 1st. Staines Moor, 250 on Jun 6th. Bred at Potters Bar, Q. Mary Res, Totteridge Valley, Willesden and Wormwood Scrubs.

Bucks: Chalfont Park, 100 on Nov 7th.

Kent: Crossness, 750 on Aug 19th. Darenth Lakes, 170 on Aug 20th. Greenwich Park, 600 on Oct 29th. Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, 200 on Feb 11th. Thamesview Golf

Centre, 400 on Aug 4th. Bred at at Greenwich Park and Maze Hill SE3.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, 1,997 in January. Canons Farm, 300 on Jan 10th and Nov 8th. Hogsmill SW, 380 on Aug 23rd. Holmethorpe SP, 287 on Nov 17th. Horton CP, 200 on Mar 14th. Kingston-upon-Thames, 530 on Jan 1st. London Wetland Centre, 200 on Jun 5th. Richmond Park, 800 on Oct 31st. Bred at Berrylands, Common Meadow, Molesey Heath, New Addington, Tooting Common and Wimbledon Common.

In Lond: Battersea Bridge, 1,100 on Jan 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 150 on Jan 18th. Regent's Park, 120 on Nov 29th. Shadwell, 115 on Aug 12th. St James's Park, 100 on Nov 26th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Status: breeding resident, declined severely since 1990s, and still showing a decrease in breeding populations.

There is no evidence that the House Sparrow's decline in urban areas has changed and the RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported the bird in only 39% of gardens surveyed in 2015 (down from 49% in 2014), which is the lowest figure since the survey was started in 1995. The Breeding Bird Survey for London showed no significant change over the past year but a 73% decrease from 1995 to 2014. There are still clear variations across the area with urban areas being hardest hit and more breeding records would be welcome. Below we list breeding sites, some of the largest counts and a summary of records for Inner London, with breeding and territory counts in brackets.

Essex: Brook Farm, Upminster, 76 on Sep 3rd. Chafford Hundred (9); 112 on Oct 1st. Grays (13); 122 on Aug 18th. Manor Farm, Upminster, 130 feeding on spilt grain on Jul 28th. Mar Dyke Valley (6). Rainham Marshes, 160 on Aug 5th. Also bred at Brook Farm, Hangman's Wood, Mill Wood, Orsett Fen, Thurrock and Warren Gorge.

Herts: Beech Farm GP area, 30 on May 24th. Borehamwood, 36 on Oct 16th. Bushey Hall GC, 49 on Feb 20th. Ellenbrook Fields (4). Stocker's Farm, 30 on Oct 7th. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, 40 on Sep 2nd. Also bred at Beech Farm GP, Bernards Heath, Borehamwood, Colney Heath, Hatfield, Kingswood, Rickmansworth, South Mimms, Stocker's Farm, Tyttenhanger GP, Watford and West End.

Middx: Alexandra Park, 50 on Aug 13th. Crane Park, 30 on Jul 29th. Ealing, 25 on Jul 17th. Fulham Reach, 61 on Aug 29th. Harlesden, 24 on Jun 13th. Mudchute Farm, 20 on Jun 28th. Pinner, 20 on feeders on Dec 5th. Ruislip Lido, 50 on Aug 21st. Tottenham Cemetery, 25 on Apr 19th. Trent Park, 20 on Aug 23rd. Wormwood Scrubs, 22 on Jul 19th. Also bred at Brent Res, Holloway, Kensal Green Cemetery and Totteridge Valley.

Kent: Belvedere, 20 on Aug 6th. Bexley, 50 on Jan 18th. Bromley Common, 20 on Jun 7th. Brookmill Park, 30 on Jul 17th. Chipstead Lake, 40 on Jun 18th. Crayford, 29 on Jan 25th. Cudham, 41 on Nov 21st. Darenth Lakes, 32 on Mar 6th. Filston, 40 on Sep 6th. Kemsing, 30 on Dec 8th. Also bred at Blackheath, Greenwich and Hilly Fields.

Surrey: Addington, 30 on Oct 1st. Alexandra RG, 40 on Dec 26th. Beddington Farmlands, 83 in October. Berrylands, 30 on Jul 21st. Brockwell Park, 30 on Aug 6th. Hogsmill SW, 30 on Jul 4th. Holmethorpe SP, 43 on Aug 11th. Hook, 30 on Nov 27th. Hooley, 30 on Jan 1st. Kingston-upon-Thames, 89 on Jun 27th. Queens Promenade, 30 on Aug 2nd. Rowdown Wood (10). Rushett Farm, 100 on Jul 31st. South Norwood, 30 on Sep 22nd.

Thames Ditton, 40 on Jul 5th. Tolworth, 150 on Jul 4th. Wimbledon Common, 40 on Jun 1st. Also bred at Addlestone, Brixton, Molesey Heath and New Addington.

In Lond: Anthill Road, Mile End, 20-30 from August to November. Bayonne Park, Fulham, 40 on Apr 11th. Covent Garden, breeding near underground station. Hammersmith Cemetery, five on Mar 23rd. Hermans Estate Community Gardens, 20 on Sep 19th, local nest site lost to renovation of flats. Hermitage Pond, bird with nesting material. ~~Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (1)~~. Larkhall Park, Stockwell (4). Limehouse, 53 on May 24th. Rotherhithe, 15 on Jan 4th. St Pancras Old Church, seven on Feb 10th. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, ten on May 25th.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Status: scarce breeding resident, confined to a few sites in London Area. UK population recovering, following severe decline since the late 1970s.

There were reports from just four sites this year. There is no sign of any reversal of the recent catastrophic decline at Beddington Farmlands, where there were 61 breeding pairs in 2012, or of the long-term decline in the Coursers Farm area. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change since last year in England although a 72% increase from 1995-2014.

Tree Sparrow abundance nose-dived spectacularly in the UK between the late 1970s and the early 1990s. The recent increases are welcome, but it should be remembered that for every Tree Sparrow today there were perhaps around 20 in the 1970s, and any recovery therefore has a very long way to go. Clear range contractions occurred between the first two breeding atlas periods, and have accelerated subsequently: Tree Sparrows have now withdrawn completely from some southern and western regions of Britain, but conversely have spread in Northern Ireland (BTO). Following declines across western and north-western Europe during the 1990s, the European status of this species is no longer considered 'secure' (BirdLife International 2004). There has been widespread moderate decline across Europe since 1980 (Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme). Below are all records, summarised for breeding sites.

Essex: Rainham Marshes, singles on Oct 10th & 26th.

Herts: Coursers Farm (5); 14 on Aug 2nd. Tyttenhanger Farm, peak of 32 on Jan 17th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (2); ten in December.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

There were 16 records of 100 or more Chaffinches in 2015, almost double the nine recorded in 2014 and the same number as in 2013. Spring passage was notable on March 18th, when 245 flew over Beddington Farmlands, 116 went north-east over London Wetland Centre, 111 north-east over Richmond Park and c100 east/north-east over Regent's Park. The main autumn migration was between October 10th and November 18th, with 200 seen on October 18th, at both Hampstead Heath and Stapleford Tawney.

The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London between 2014 and 2015, although there has been an increase of 106% between 1995 and 2014. The BTO

2015 Garden BirdWatch found Chaffinches in 35% of gardens, which is the same as in 2014, but the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch found them in only 18% of gardens. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported Chaffinches in 76% of gardens surveyed in 2015, down slightly from 80% in 2014. Breeding records of five or more birds are below with high counts, summarised in some cases and with selected records for Inner London.

Essex: Aimes Green/Galleyhill Wood, 100 on Dec 26th. Belhus Woods CP (10). Duck Wood, 100 on Feb 22nd. Mar Dyke Valley (7). Orsett Fen (13). Stapleford Tawney, 200 on Oct 18th. Wanstead Flats (6); 100 on Oct 17th & 20th. Wanstead Park (9).

Herts: Amwell NR (5). Beech Farm GP (9). Bury Lake (9). Chorleywood Common (11). Ellenbrook Fields (6). Rye Meads (13); 145 on Oct 18th. Whippendell Wood, 100 on Feb 27th.

Middx: Hampstead Heath, 100 NW on Apr 5th and 200 on Oct 18th. Home Park (8). Rammey Marsh (7). Wraysbury Res, 53 SW on Nov 8th.

Kent: Greenwich Park (10-12). Sevenoaks WR, 110 on Nov 11th.

Surrey: Arbrook Common (5). Beddington Farmlands, 245 over on Mar 18th. Canons Farm (9). Esher Common (5). London Wetland Centre, 116 flew NE on Mar 18th. Morden Hall Park, 78 on Oct 17th. Richmond Park, 111 flew NE on Mar 18th. Riddlesdown (7+). Wimbledon Common (c35).

In Lond: Regent's Park, 100 on Mar 18th. St James's Park, 12 on Nov 26th. Victoria Park, 12 on Sep 20th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

There were two counts of ten or more birds, compared with three in 2014 and four in 2013. The highest count was 17 at Wanstead Flats on October 19th. The last birds of spring were two seen at Canons Farm on April 14th, and the first of the autumn was one seen on Chingford Plain on September 27th. Below are counts of two or more birds except for Inner London, where all records are given.

Essex: Aimes Green area, up to eight in late December. Harold Wood, four on Oct 17th. Rainham Marshes, three on Oct 28th and two on 31st. Stapleford Tawney, six on Oct 18th. Wanstead Flats, 17 on Oct 19th, 13 on 22nd and three on 23rd. Wintry Wood, five on Mar 22nd.

Herts: Northaw Great Wood, six on Nov 22nd. Rye Meads, two on Dec 18th and three on 19th. Watford, two on Nov 10th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, four on Nov 2nd.

Kent: Baldwyns Park, two on Mar 26th & 29th. Farningham, two on Oct 30th. Greenwich Park, two on Apr 8th, Oct 23rd and Nov 2nd.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, three on Nov 8th. Barn Elms Playing Field, four NW on Nov 3rd. Beddington Farmlands, two on Oct 23rd, three on 25th and two on 31st, two on Dec 23rd. London Wetland Centre, two on Apr 13th, May 4th and Nov 22nd, six on Nov 26th. Morden Hall Park, four on Oct 17th. Richmond Park, two flew NE on Mar 18th.

In Lond: Jubilee St, Stepney E1, one on Nov 1st. Regent's Park, one on Oct 4th.

2014 Addition

Essex: Furze Ground, Epping Forest, 20+ SW on Apr 9th.



This Serin at Beddington Farmlands was the 21st record for London. (Peter Alfrey)

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Status: rare vagrant.

There were two records this year, the first since 2010. One was at the start of the year (seen on two dates ten days apart) and the other at the end of the year (present for a week). There have only been 21 records since the first in 1951 and the table below shows the arrival dates of these.

European Serin arrival dates 1951-2015: 21 records, 26 birds

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

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Jan 13th & 23rd. (CDRH).

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, one from Nov 15th-21st (PRA *et al*).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were no large flocks reported in 2015, the highest count being one of 47 on September 15th at the London Wetland Centre. Most flocks were of about 20 birds and there were 43 such records. The Breeding Bird Survey shows a 28% decline in London since last year, following on from exactly the same decline the year before, which is worrying. The good news was that the BTO 2015 Garden BirdWatch found Greenfinches in an average of 42% of London gardens, the same as last year. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported them in 72% of gardens surveyed in 2015, a similar figure to the 69% in 2014. Birds are still feeding in good numbers in a few gardens. There were up to 21 in a

garden in Selsdon during August, ten in a garden in Sidcup in March and nine Greenfinches in a garden in Loughton in October. Below are breeding records of three or more (no. of territories in brackets) and higher counts, summarised in some cases.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (3). Brook Farm, Upminster (3). Duck Wood, 25 on Jan 25th. Loughton, up to nine in a garden in winter. Mar Dyke Valley (3). Orsett Fen (3). Rainham Marshes (10); peak of 32 on Sep 25th. Wanstead Flats (7). Wanstead Park (7).

Herts: Rye Meads, 42 on Feb 8th and 21 on Aug 29th.

Middx: Brent Res, 23 on Nov 10th. Hampton Court Park, 20 on Sep 19th. Home Park (12); 20 on Sep 19th. Q. Mary Res, 20 on Apr 18th. Rammey Marsh (8).

Kent: York Ave, Sidcup, ten in a garden on Mar 12th.

Surrey: Ashted Common (3). Beddington Farmlands (16). Hogsmill SW, peak of 41 on Oct 17th. London Wetland Centre, peak of 47 on Sep 10th. Molesey Heath (15). Morden Hall Park, 41 on Oct 17th. Selsdon, up to 21 in a garden during August. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath (c20).

In Lond: Hammersmith Cemetery, peak of six on Jan 1st. Holland Park, five on Feb 28th. Jubilee Street, Stepney E1, peak of six on Aug 6th. Regent's Park, peak of seven on Mar 21st. Victoria Park, eight on Jan 22nd.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Status: breeding resident and passage migrant, now common throughout the year.

There were an astonishing 52 records of 100 birds or more in 2015, (only eight such records in 2014, five in 2013, ten in 2012 and 14 in 2011). As all these were after the breeding season, it suggests a very good breeding season or an influx of birds from Europe. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London between 2014 and 2015, but an 18% increase in the UK as a whole. The long-term trend for London is an increase of 387% between 1995 and 2014. The BTO 2015 Garden BirdWatch found Goldfinches in an average of only 26% of London gardens but the RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported Goldfinches from 86% of gardens surveyed in 2015; both figures being similar to 2014 figures. On Staines Moor on September 11th, a flock of 100 became 99 "after a particularly adept piece of flying by a Hobby". In Hooley, there were up to 25 in a garden in February. Breeding records of three or more (no. of territories in brackets), higher counts and some Inner London records are given below.

Essex: Grays Cemetery (3). Harold Wood SW, 120 on Nov 8th. Mar Dyke Valley (3); 123 on Dec 1st. Orsett Fen (5). Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, c180 on Jul 12th. Rainham Marshes (27); peaks of 300 on Sep 5th & 9th. Roding Valley Meadows NR, 112 on Aug 16th. Wanstead Flats (3).

Herts: Beech Farm GP area, 115 on Sep 26th. Cole Green Tip, 100 on Nov 5th. Croxley Common Moor, 100 on Jul 31st.

Middx: Home Park (6). KG VI Res, 138 on Sep 13th. Q. Mary Res, 100 on Oct 24th. Staines Moor, peak of 300 on Sep 2nd. Wormwood Scrubs, 120 on Aug 7th.

Bucks: Colnbrook Landfill, 150 on Oct 22nd.

Kent: Crayford Marshes, 150 on Sep 1st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (4); 124 on Nov 1st & 28th. Canons Farm (5). Hogsmill SW, 100 on Aug 15th. Holmethorpe SP, 100 on Nov 15th. Hooley, up to 25 in a garden.



Siskin can still be found in large winter flocks. (Nick Croft)

Stoneleigh, 107 on Oct 24th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), 110 on Aug 16th.

In Lond: Barbican (1). Bermondsey, eight on Jan 23rd. Burgess Park, 12 on Jul 12th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 40 on Mar 24th. Jubilee St, Stepney, 20 on Oct 26th. Limehouse, ten on May 24th. Regent's Park, 20 on Feb 8th. Rotherhithe, eight on Jan 7th. St Pancras Old Church, 11 on Feb 10th. Victoria Park, 25 on Feb 2nd.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant; rare breeder although increasingly regular in summer.

Numbers were higher at the end of 2015 than at the start of the year. There were eight counts of 100 or more birds this year (higher than the four in 2014 but well below the 28 in 2010) and all were from mid-September onwards. Most had gone by late March with returning birds from mid-July but most of the high counts were from November onwards. Below are peak counts for each winter period, other notable sightings and all Inner London records.

Essex: Brentwood, 70 on Oct 24th. Cornmill Meadows, 100 on Dec 13th & 20th. Rainham Marshes, 56 on Sep 6th. Wanstead Flats, 50 on Sep 13th.

Herts: Cassiobury Park, 80 on Dec 21st. Ellenbrook Fields, 80 on Sep 24th. Panshanger Park, 70 on Feb 15th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 200 on Dec 13th. Stocker's Lake, 100+ on Nov 20th & 23rd and on Dec 12th.



The Linnet flocks on the fringes of the capital are smaller than they were. (Russ Sherriff)

Middx: Broadwater Lake, 100 on Dec 21st. Pinner, 121 on Sep 18th.

Bucks: Black Park, 30+ on Mar 11th.

Kent: Foots Cray Meadows, 50 on Nov 8th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, 54 on Sep 4th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 15 on Sep 23rd. Regent's Park, 16 on Sep 11th. South Bank, c40 flew west on Sep 17th. Victoria Park, 17 on Sep 20th. Westminster, five over the Abbey on Sep 18th.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Status: common but declining breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were a similar number of large flocks this year (19 of 100 or more, compared to 17 last year), but with the peak count lower than last year (400 compared to 600). There were 75 breeding pairs, an increase on the 60 pairs in 2014, but we would welcome more breeding records. The Breeding Bird Survey shows no significant change in London for 2014-2015 but a 31% increase in England. Below are all records of breeding (no. of breeding pairs, singing males/territories in brackets), with high counts and all Inner London records.

Essex: Aimes Green, 150 on Dec 31st. Belhus Woods CP (2). Brook Farm, Upminster (1). Grey Goose Farm, 103 on Aug 3rd. Mar Dyke Valley (1). Orsett Fen (6). Rainham Marshes (32); 200 on Sep 15th.

Herts: Beech Farm GP (1). Cole Green Tip, 100 on Nov 4th & 5th. Coursers Road GP, 200

on Oct 11th. Cuffley (1). Ellenbrook Fields (3). Essendon (1+). Frogmore Lakes (1). Oaklands College (1). The Commons LNR, 100 on Apr 11th, 13th & 15th. Troy Mill Lake, 100 on Jan 10th. Tyttenhanger GP (1). West Hyde (1); 200 on Oct 10th. Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (1).

Middx: KGV1 Res, 194 on Oct 18th. Rammey Marsh (7). Staines Moor (1). Staines Res, 500 on Sep 25th. Vicarage Farm (1); 120 on Feb 6th. Wormwood Scrubs (1+).

Bucks: Q. Mother Res, 100 on Sep 3rd.

Kent: Crossness, 120 on Jan 4th. Foots Cray Meadows (1). Longfield Gallops, 200 on Oct 3rd & 15th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (2); 219 on Oct 1st. Canon's Farm (5); 250 on Apr 10th. Farthing Downs (2). Hogsmill SW, 170 on Jan 17th. Holmethorpe SP (1). Molesey Heath (1).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Mar 22nd and Apr 16th. Regent's Park, one on Mar 23rd, 16 over on Apr 6th, four on 7th, two on 8th, four on 10th and one over on 24th. Russia Dock Woodland, one on Jul 22nd. Victoria Park, singles over on Sep 25th and Oct 8th, three over on Oct 14th and one over on Nov 28th.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Status: scarce, late-autumn and winter visitor.

There was just one record this year of a single bird south of Enfield Island Village circling overhead and continually calling before flying SSE down the River Lea relief channel and across Pattypool Mead, Sewardstone Marsh. This is the first record since 2012 of a species which has become less than annual in the last decade. The table below summarises all records since 1998.

Twite records 1998-2015: 14 records

Year	1998	1999	2000	2002	2004	2007	2008	2009	2012	2015
No. of records	1	3	1*	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
No. of birds	2+	10	1*	3	1	4	3	1	2	1

*ignores overwintering bird from 1999

Essex: Sewardstone Marsh, one on Oct 16th (MSd).

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor; former breeding resident.

There were more records this year (786) than in 2014 (682) but counts were generally low with the highest count being 56. This is the first time since 2011 that there have been no reports of 100 or more birds. Peak counts at the start of the year were 30 in January, 38 in February and 50 in March. There was one May record and no records for June. The first autumn record was on September 6th at Beddington Farmlands, with passage thereafter throughout September and October. Numbers at the end of the year were similar to the start of the year, with peaks of 30 in November and 45 in December. Below are high counts and Inner London records.

Essex: Fairlop Waters, 26 on Nov 23rd. Ingrebourne Valley, 25 on Oct 25th. Leyton Flats, 25 on Nov 23rd, 30 on 24th and 45 on Dec 2nd.

Herts: Amwell NR, 40 on Dec 27th. Watercress LNR, 30 on February 2nd, 17th & 27th-



Big flocks may be a thing of the past, but Lesser Redpoll is still a common winter visitor to the capital. (Andrew Moon)

28th. Whippendell Woods, 38 on Feb 27th.

Middx: Brent Res, 56 on Sep 23rd. Trent Park, 25 on Jan 5th & 28th.

Bucks: Black Park, 50 on Mar 9th.

Kent: Joyden's Wood, 15 on Jan 23rd.

Surrey: Banstead Wood, 30 on Jan 23rd.

In Lond: Primrose Hill, one on Feb 22nd. Regent's Park, singles on Jan 1st and Apr 20th, three on Sep 30th and Oct 4th, one on Dec 2nd. Victoria Park, one over on Sep 20th, two over on Oct 8th, singles on Oct 26th and Nov 12th and two over on Nov 28th. Westminster, singles on Dec 14th & 17th.

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Status: scarce irruptive winter visitor.

There were just five records of Mealy Redpoll this year, involving five birds, from Hertfordshire and Surrey only; this is the lowest total since 2004.

Herts: Northaw Great Wood, one on Feb 4th (RMC). Watercress LNR, one on Feb 10th (PLw).

Surrey: Barn Elms PF, one on Oct 23rd (RK). London Wetland Centre, singles on Oct 1st (RK) and Nov 26th (ASa).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

This year there were 47 records from 20 sites, similar to the 34 records from 22 sites in 2014, but with overall number of birds up (142 in 2015, 111 in 2014). There were very

few winter records, with only a single bird recorded in the first winter period, and the annual pattern of occurrence was very different from 2014, with many mid- to late-summer records in 2015. The peak numbers of birds were during October. Below are all records, summarised in some cases.

Common Crossbill records 2015

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	-	-	1	-	1	6	12	7	4	14	2	-
No. of birds	-	-	1	-	1	17	39	25	12	41	13	-

Essex: Belhus Woods CP, one on Oct 6th. Brook Farm, Upminster, two N on Aug 24th. Gidea Park, two on Aug 5th. Harold Hill, one on Aug 5th. Havering CP, six on Jun 29th and 15 on Aug 2nd. Rainham Marshes, one on Jul 16th and three on Oct 3rd. South Weald, one on May 30th. Walthamstow Marshes, seven NE on Jun 8th. Wanstead Flats, one on Jul 31st.

Herts: Amwell NR, one W on Jul 28th. Bencroft Wood, one over on Jun 1st. Brookmans Park, seven over on Oct 18th. Rye Meads, three on Aug 16th. St Albans, two over on Jul 2nd. Watford, one over on Mar 4th. West End, one on Jun 28th. Woodside, Hatfield, six over on Jul 5th.

Middx: Alexandra Park, one NE on Aug 8th. Brent Res, one heard on Jul 29th. Pinner, one over on Jun 7th. Trent Park, three N on Oct 13th. Tufnell Park, three on Nov 5th. Vicarage Farm, three over on Sep 13th.

Bucks: Black Park, seven on Jul 18th. Langley Park, one heard on Oct 17th.

Kent: Bluewater Shopping Centre, three W on Jul 31st. Farningham Woods, three on Oct 29th. Greenwich Park, seven SW on Jul 10th. Pond Farm, North Cray, one on Oct 21st. Sevenoaks WR, one on Jul 7th.

Surrey: Barn Elms PF, three SW on Oct 22nd. Beddington Farmlands, three over on Sep 3rd and three W on Sep 12th. Canons Farm, one over on Aug 6th and six N on Oct 13th. Dulwich Village, one over on Jun 18th. Holmethorpe SP, two over on Oct 30th. London Wetland Centre, eight SW on Jul 29th. Merton, two on Oct 24th. Morden, two W on Oct 27th. Richmond Park, three SW on Oct 22nd and ten NE on Nov 3rd. Walton on the Hill, one on Jul 14th. Wimbledon Common/Putney Heath, four over on Oct 20th.

In Lond: Regent's Park, three on Sep 11th.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Status: fairly common breeding resident.

There were records from 230 sites this year, slightly fewer than the 242 sites in 2014. This species is rarely seen in large groups and not surprisingly over 73% of records were of one or two birds only. There were 34 breeding pairs, an increase on the 27 pairs in 2014; with records from 123 sites during the breeding season, an increase on last year's total of 104. The RSPB Croydon Bird Survey reported Bullfinches in 22% of gardens surveyed in 2015, up slightly from 20% in 2014. Below are all breeding records (no. of pairs/territories in brackets), together with high counts and the one Inner London record.

Essex: Recorded at 28 sites. Belhus Woods CP (2). Lion Gorge (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1); five on Aug 25th. Warren Gorge (1).



Bullfinch in a suburban garden in Rickmansworth. (Andrew Moon)

Herts: Recorded at 74 sites. Amwell NR (1). Beech Farm GP (1). Bury Lake (1). Cassiobury Park (1). Croxley Common Moor (1). Essendon, nine on Jan 31st. Frogmore Lakes (1). Oxhey (1). Rickmansworth (1). Tyttenhanger GP (2).

Middx: Recorded at 42 sites. Brent Res (1); nine on Oct 27th. Hilly Fields Park (1). Ramney Marsh (1). Staines Moor (1). Stanwell Moor, five on Mar 16th. Ten Acre Wood, Yeading (1). Totteridge Valley (1). Trent Park (1).

Bucks: Recorded at Denham, Thorney CP and Wraybury GP.

Kent: Recorded at 32 sites. Chipstead Lake, seven on Oct 29th. Foots Cray Meadows (1). High Elms CP, 12 on Feb 15th. Otford (1).

Surrey: Recorded at 50 sites. Ashtead Common (5). Banstead Woods (1); 12 on Feb 20th. Bookham Common (2). Canons Farm (1); ten on Jan 5th. Esher Common (1). Holmethorpe SP, 12 on Feb 20th and Aug 18th.

In Lond: Westminster, one on Oct 11th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant.

There were 32 records from 12 sites, an increase on the 20 records from nine sites in 2014. The majority of records were from Hertfordshire and Essex, with birds recorded several times at Wormley West End/Bencroft Wood, and regularly in the latter part of the year from Hatch Wood/Woodford Green. There were again no breeding records; the last breeding record was in 2008. Below are all records.

Essex: Dagnam Park, one on Oct 26th. Hatch Wood/Woodford Green, one on Mar 18th, three on Oct 3rd, one over on 13th, three over on 18th, one over on 28th, singles Nov 11th & 25th, two on 26th, singles on Dec 7th & 19th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Jan 1st.

Herts: Brickendon, one on Oct 18th. Panshanger, one on Dec 7th. Wormley West End/Bencroft Wood, one on Jan 1st, two on 22nd and one on 25th, two on Feb 1st and one on 15th, two on Mar 21st, one on Jul 1st and adult and juv on 2nd, two on Nov 27th, three on Dec 25th and one on 30th.

Middx: Potters Bar, one on Jun 30th.

Kent: Lullingstone Park, one on May 26th.

Surrey: Barn Elms PF, one SW with Starlings on Oct 22nd. Beddington Farmlands, one on Jun 16th. Godstone, one S on Oct 22nd. Mickleham, three on Jan 23rd, with two still present on 24th.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Status: rare, but annual, autumn and winter visitor.

Just one record this year (as last year), although three further records where we have yet to receive details are listed in App III. In recent years, late September to November has been the most likely time for these to appear in London. As the table below shows, 73% of the records since 1990 (excluding the influx in 2010) were in this period.

Lapland Bunting arrival dates 1990-2009 and 2011-2015: 51 records, 51 birds

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	3	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	22	12	6

Surrey: Thorpe Water Park, one flew south-west calling on Sep 25th (DGDL).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.

A below-average showing, with only one record accepted, which was at an unusual site. It flew from the ground, where it had presumably been feeding, perched briefly in a bush

and then flew off. The date is a little late for recent appearances, which are mostly in the period October to December, as the table below shows.

Snow Bunting arrival dates 1990-2015: 71 records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	7	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	34	16

Surrey: Wimbledon Common, one on Jan 4th (DWL).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Status: widespread but declining breeding resident, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were a minimum of 64 territories/singing males (71 in 2014) though there were several additional sites where birds were present during the breeding season. The Essex and Hertfordshire sectors accounted for two-thirds of these. Below are all breeding records with the no. of breeding pairs/territories in brackets, and high counts for the sector except for Buckinghamshire and Middlesex where all records are given.

Essex: Aimes Green/Galleyhill Wood, 40 on Dec 26th. Brook Farm, Upminster (2). Cely Woods (2). Chigwell (2). Holyfield Hall Farm (1). Orsett Fen (12). Stanford Rivers (1+). Thames Chase (1+).

Herts: Abbots Langley (1). Bedmond (2). Beech Farm GP (1). Chiswell Green (1). Colney Heath (1). Coopers Green GP (1+). Coursers Farm, present in summer. Cuffley (1). Essendonbury (1+). Highfield Park (1). Jersey Farm (1). Maple Cross (1). North Mymms Park, present in summer. Radlett (1). Smallford GP (1+). Suttons Farm, Sandridge (1). West End (3). West Hyde (1); 60 on Jan 8th. Woodside, Hatfield, present throughout the breeding season.

Middx: Enfield Chase Area: Ferny Hill Farm, ten on Feb 19th; Ferny Hill Wood, two on Feb 11th; Holly Hill Farm (1); Plumridge Farm, one on May 4th; Rectory Farm (1); South Lodge Farm (1); Vicarage Farm (3); present all year with 20 on Feb 15th. Staines Moor, one on Sep 25th. Wormwood Scrubs, male on Mar 12th was only the third site record in 24 years.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, one on Sep 26th.

Kent: Cudham (1). Greenwich Park, one S/SW on Mar 11th was the first site record since 1968. Hazelwood (1). High Elms CP (1). Lullingstone (1). Lullingstone Park (1).

Surrey: Banstead Wood (1). Canons Farm (3). Epsom Common, no longer breeding. Farthing Downs (2). Holmethorpe SP (3); 95 on Dec 15th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Sep 2nd and Dec 4th. Norbury Park, Leatherhead (1). Park Farm, Chessington, no longer breeding. Ridlands (1). South Norwood CP, three on Sep 10th was first record since 2012. Treverex (2).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Status: fairly common but declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A minimum of 218 singing males/territories (179 in 2014) was due to more complete data being submitted from some sites. As in 2014 Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey provided over 75% of breeding season records. Below are all breeding records with the no. of



This smart male Reed Bunting was photographed at Rainham Marshes RSPB. (Tony Brown)

breeding pairs/territories in brackets and peak counts.

Essex: Belhus Woods CP (2). Cornmill Meadows (5). Dagenham Chase (1+). Fairlop Waters (1). Gunpowder Park (2). Ingrebourne Valley (3). Mar Dyke Valley (4). Orsett Fen (5). Rainham Marshes (43). Roding Valley Meadows NR (1+). Walthamstow Res (1). Wanstead Flats (1). Warren Gorge (1).

Herts: Amwell NR (5+); 20+ on Mar 7th. Beech Farm GP (6). Bushey Heath (1). Chess Valley (1). Coopers Green GP (1). Coursers Farm (1). Croxley Common Moor (5+). Ellenbrook Fields (6+). Hilfield Park Res (2). Maple Lodge NR (1). Panshanger Park (1). Rye Meads (21). Stocker's Lake (1). Sutton's Farm, Sandridge (1). Tyttenhanger GP (4+). West Hyde (1).

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Sep 23rd with two on 26th and one on Nov 22nd. Brent Res (2). Broadwater Lake (1). Bushy Park (1). East India Dock Basin, six on Dec 6th & 24th. Enfield Chase Area: Parkside Farm/Res (1); Vicarage Farm, nine on Feb 8th & 28th. Hackney Wick/Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (3). Home Park (2). Kempton NR, present all year. Northolt RAF Aerodrome, present all year. Parkside Farm/Res (1). Q.

Mary GP (2). Staines Moor (8). Rammey Marsh (2). Stoke Newington Res (1). Ten Acre Wood, Yeading (2+). Tottenham Marsh (1). Wormwood Scrubs, one on Jan 25th and two on Dec 31st.

Kent: Botany Marshes (1). Crayford Marshes (2). Crossness (2+). Dartford Marshes (1). Greenwich Park, one on Oct 23rd. Greenwich Peninsula, singles on three dates between late January and early April. Sevenoaks WR (4). Sutcliffe Park (2). Swanscombe Marshes (10); 26 on Mar 14th.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands (2); 25+ on Jan 18th. Esher Common (1). Hampton Wick Pond (1), adult feeding young. Holmethorpe SP, present all year with nine on Dec 1st. Littleworth Common (2). London Wetland Centre (6). Molesey Heath (1). Richmond Park (24); 27 on Dec 20th. Rushett Farm (1). South Norwood CP (1). Wimbledon Common (1).

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, singles on Mar 20th and Apr 15th-16th, the latter a singing male. Regent's Park (1). St James's Park, one on Mar 30th was unusual at this site.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident.

Reported from just 11 sites this year (16 in 2014). There were 12 territorial males (10 in 2014) and a summer record from another site. Of significance, on the edge of our recording area in Kent, there were 71 at Longfield Gallops in August (70 in 2014). Below are all records, summarised in some cases, with no. of breeding pairs, singing males/territories in brackets.

Essex: Grey Goose Farm (1). Mar Dyke Valley (1). Mollands Lane GP, two on Dec 28th. Orsett Fen (1). Rainham Marshes (4).

Herts: West Hyde (3).

Middx: Vicarage Farm, one on Jan 1st.

Kent: Crayford Marshes (2). Dartford Marshes, singles on three dates between late March and early May. Hartley Green, flock of 13 in flight Feb 20th and one on Feb 25th. Longfield Gallops, seen in February and March and from July onwards, with a peak of 71 on Aug 7th, including some juveniles.

APPENDIX I: ESCAPES

The following records are of 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.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Herts: Stocker's Lake area, one from January to Feb 8th, Feb 21st, Mar 4th and Apr 3rd, 19th & 20th. Verulamium Park, one on several dates from Sep 21st to Nov 26th.

Middx: Springwell Lake, one on Apr 16th (presumed the same as Stocker's Lake bird).

Surrey: Claremont Landscape Garden, one on Aug 16th and Nov 9th. Esher Common, one on Dec 15th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one from Oct 13th to 2016.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Middx: Staines Res, one over on Apr 12th.

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Herts: Aldenham CP, one on Nov 15th and Dec 3rd. Hilfield Park Res, one on Nov 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, one from Sep 26th-27th.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Surrey: Kew Gardens, one on Apr 7th appeared to be on a nest. London Wetland Centre, one on May 25th.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Essex: Walthamstow Marsh, one on Nov 29th. Walthamstow Res, one from Nov 1st-29th and Dec 2nd, 13th & 27th.

Herts: Aldenham CP, one on May 2nd. Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 15th, and intermittently from May 16th to Sep 2nd. Panshanger Park, one over on Jun 14th. Stansteads Abbots, singles on Mar 25th and May 6th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Jan 1st.

Middx: Brent Res, one from Apr 19th-20th. Ruislip NR, one on Sep 22nd. Stanwell Moor, one N on Feb 14th. Tottenham Marshes, one NW on Jun 11th.

Bucks: Horton Fields, one on Feb 16th & 24th. Q. Mother Res, one over on Feb 21st.

Surrey: Beddington Farmlands, singles on Mar 17th, Apr 4th & 6th. Epsom Common, one on Mar 12th. Esher, one S on Feb 10th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), one with Canada Geese all year.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one from May 31st to Jun 1st and on Nov 21st.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Kent: Northfleet, one on Feb 8th.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Herts: Amwell NR, one on Jul 25th.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

Essex: Hainault Forest, one on Jan 13th, Mar 17th, Nov 8th and Dec 1st.

Herts: Seventy Acres Lake, one on Mar 14th.

Kent: Darenth Lakes, one on Sep 8th and Dec 4th. Otford to Filton, two on Dec 10th & 24th. The Tarn, Mottingham, one on Mar 18th and Apr 9th.

Chiloe Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix*

Middx: Hanwell, two on Grand Union Canal on Jun 16th.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Essex: Valentines Park, one on Feb 11th and Dec 26th.

Herts: Panshanger Park, male on Jan 23rd and Apr 7th & 10th.

Kent: Kelsey Park, one on Feb 3rd, Jul 14th, Aug 11th, Nov 10th and Dec 1st.

Surrey: Kew Gardens, one on Aug 8th. South Norwood Lake, one from Apr 25th-26th.

Bahama Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

Middx: Staines Res, one or two all-white ('Silver Bahama') birds from Sep 25th to Oct 9th.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

Essex: Connaught Water, one on Feb 5th.

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*

Essex: Connaught Water, one on Jan 6th.

Surrey: River Thames: Putney Bridge to Barnes Bridge, one on Mar 8th.

Puna Teal *Spatula puna*

Essex: Connaught Water, one on Jan 24th.

Silver Teal *Spatula versicolor*

Essex: Wanstead Park, two on Nov 10th.

Smew *Mergallus albellus*

Essex: A fem, presumed to be of captive origin, was at Connaught Water from Jan 5th-11th, Apr 1st and Dec 5th, and at KGV Res from Aug 13th to Sep 2nd.

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, four on lawn of large house on Jan 4th, Feb 2nd and Oct 16th.

American White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*

Kent: Sevenoaks WR, one from 2014 remained until Apr 8th. This record was being considered as a potential first for Britain by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC), but it has now decided it was an escape.

American White Ibis. (Martin Honey)

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 10th was the same as the Sevenoaks bird.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numidia meleagris*

Herts: West End, one on Sep 27th.

Indian Peafowl *Netta rufina*

Essex: Epping Forest Woodland Burial Park, one on May 12th and Oct 5th.

Herts: Beech Farm GP, one on Apr 30th and May 7th. Hatfield Park, one on Jun 14th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 18th. Woodside, Hatfield, one on Mar 28th, and May 3rd & 31st.



Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Essex: Woodford Green, one on Feb 24th.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

Herts: Borehamwood, 13 in and around nest on Nov 10th.

Middx: Isle of Dogs/Mudchute Farm, recorded January to November, with 20 around a nest on Jan 12th, and 19 on Nov 10th.

Blue-crowned Parakeet *Psittacara acuticaudatus*

Kent: Beckenham, five over on Feb 22nd. Kelsey Park, two on Jan 8th and four on Jan 9th

Surrey: Pilgrim Fort, six on Nov 22nd.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Middx: Finsbury Park, one on Jul 17th.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on May 4th.

In Lond: Stepney, one over on Aug 11th.

Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis*

Kent: Danson Park, one on Aug 15th.

Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseate* or Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*

Essex: Dagnam Park, one in flight on Oct 25th.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

Herts: Rye Meads, one on May 26th.

APPENDIX II: HYBRIDS

The following records are of wild or feral hybrids, but records of Canada x Greylag Goose hybrids are not reported here. All are listed in order of the first-named species involved. It would be helpful if observers could send photographs of hybrids, where available.

Bar-headed Goose x Canada Goose

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 19th.

Bar-headed Goose x Greylag Goose

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 21st.

Bar-headed Goose x White-fronted Goose

In Lond: St James's Park, two captive parents produced one gosling on Jun 4th.

Shelduck hybrid

Kent: Crossness, one on Aug 1st, 16th & 30th and Sep 25th was believed to be a backcross between Shelduck and Ruddy Shelduck x Shelduck.

Gadwall x Mallard

Kent: Crossness, male on Jan 4th.

Surrey: Barnes, male on R Thames on Dec 9th.

Mandarin Duck x Wood Duck

In Lond: Regent's Park, one on Apr 21st.

Red-crested Pochard x Tufted Duck

Middx: Bushy Park, male on several dates from Jan 22nd to Dec 24th.

Surrey: Richmond Park, male on Jun 24th.

Common Pochard x Ferruginous Duck

Middx: Alexandra Park, one on Mar 25th, from Apr 7th-15th and on 19th & 23rd.

Bucks: Horton GP, female on Dec 19th & 29th. Wraysbury GP, male on Dec 19th.

Common Pochard x Tufted Duck

Herts: Tyttenhanger GP, fem on Apr 3rd.

Middx: Alexandra Park, male on Apr 24th and Nov 20th-21st. Grovelands Park, male on May 18th, 20th & 27th. Staines Res, fem/imm from Nov 3rd to Dec 19th.

Bucks: Wraysbury GP, 1st-winter male on Jan 15th and Feb 2nd & 14th.

Surrey: Island Barn Res, male on Apr 3rd. London Wetland Centre, singles on Jan 18th, Apr 22nd and May 2nd, 4th, 5th, 25th & 31st. QE II Res, male on May 25th. Thorpe Water Park, male on Feb 28th and Mar 8th. Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth), male from Jan 21st to Mar 1st and on Jun 11th and Dec 18th. Walton Res (Knight &

Bessborough), male on Mar 26th, Apr 4th and May 19th. (The QE II Res, Island Barn Res and Walton Res records were all of the same bird.)

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Mar 13th and a second on Nov 3rd.

Scaup type

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 17th.

Aythya Hybrid (species involved not identified)

Middx: Brent Res, three on Nov 1st and one on Nov 8th-9th. Bushy Park, male on Jun 23rd, Jul 28th and Sep 21st. Grovelands Park, male on May 27th.

Bucks: Horton GP, one on Sep 1st & 9th. Q. Mother Res, one on Sep 15th & 16th and Oct 3rd was probably the Horton bird. Wraybury GP, one on Oct 31st.

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on May 31st.

Caspian Gull x Herring Gull

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 4th.

Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull

Surrey: London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 16th.

In Lond: Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Aug 6th.

House Martin x Swallow

Middx: Staines Res, one on May 15th was perhaps the same as the one seen here last year.

Carrion Crow x Hooded Crow

Essex: Piercing Hill, one on Mar 12th.

Goldfinch x Linnet

Essex: Wanstead Park, one on May 8th.

APPENDIX III: NON-PROVEN AND NON-SUBMITTED RECORDS

Non-proven records

The following records were submitted to the LNHS but have not been accepted, either by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee or by our Rarities Committee.

2014

Yellow-browed Warbler	St Botolph's Churchyard	Sep 24th
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2015

Honey Buzzard	Foots Cray Meadows	Apr 27th
Black Kite	Wanstead Park	Jun 27th
Hen Harrier	Beddington Farmlands	Dec 28th
Merlin	Mile End	Feb 6th
Pectoral Sandpiper	Beddington Farmlands	Aug 29th
Siberian Chiffchaff	London Wetland Centre	Apr 6th-7th
Hooded Crow	Wanstead Flats	Apr 4th

Non-submitted records

The following records have been reported but to date no details have been received by the LNHS. Photos and descriptions (or notes where appropriate) for any of these records would be welcomed, so that in due course they may be published as accepted records.

Bewick's Swan	Crayford Marshes	Dec 19th
Whooper Swan	London Wetland Centre	Nov 22nd
Whooper Swan	Wimbledon	Nov 27th
Pink-footed Goose	Chipstead Lake	Dec 11th
Ferruginous Duck	Holmethorpe SP	Sep 20th
Common Eider	Rainham Marshes	March 1st
Common Quail	Beddington Farmlands	Aug 25th
Great Egret	Leytonstone	May 12th
Great Egret	Loughton	Mar 27th
Great Egret	Maple Cross	Oct 10th
Great Egret	St Albans	Aug 17th
Great Egret	Sevenoaks WR	May 23rd
White Stork	Beckenham	Apr 25th
White Stork	Southwark	May 6th
Glossy Ibis	Hunton Bridge	Mar 16th
Spoonbill	Hanworth	Mar 21st
Honey Buzzard	Gallions Reach	Sep 6th
Honey Buzzard	Rainham Marshes	Aug 30th and Sep 19th
Honey Buzzard	Walthamstow Marshes	Aug 22nd
Honey Buzzard	Q. Mary Res	Jun 20th
Honey Buzzard	Nutfield	Jun 13th
Honey Buzzard	Richmond Park	Aug 9th
Honey Buzzard	Woldingham	Sep 5th
Black Kite	Gallions Reach	Oct 24th

Hen Harrier	Sevenoaks WR	Jul 18th
Goshawk	KGV Res	Oct 31st
Goshawk	Little Warley Common	Apr 2nd
Goshawk	Mardyke Woods	Jan 30th
Goshawk	Rainham Marshes	Oct 28th
Goshawk	Roding Valley Meadows	Jan 21st
Goshawk	Chingford	Mar 12th
Goshawk	Theydon Bois	Mar 8th
Goshawk	Seventy Acres Lake	Apr 25th
Goshawk	Brent Res	Sep 13th
Goshawk	Staines Res	Mar 22nd
Goshawk	Wembley	Sep 23rd
Goshawk	Juniper Bottom	Jan 24th
Red-footed Falcon	Woodford Green	Jun 7th
Red-footed Falcon	Brent Res	May 15th
Merlin	Fishers Green	Nov 20th
Merlin	Walthamstow FB	Oct 13th
Merlin	Walthamstow Res	Apr 4th
Merlin	Staines Res	Oct 14th
Merlin	Beddington Farmlands	Oct 6th
Merlin	Cheverells Farm	Nov 16th
Merlin	Epsom Common	Apr 17th
Merlin	London Wetland Centre	Apr 11th and Sep 17th
Merlin	Richmond Park	Sep 25th and 30th
Merlin	Woldingham	Nov 16th
Merlin	Primrose Hill	Apr 15th
Stone-curlew	Dartford	May 13th
Pomarine Skua	Rainham Marshes	Jul 26th
Caspian Gull	KGV Res	Feb 8th
Caspian Gull	Tyttenhanger GP	Dec 25th
Caspian Gull	London Wetland Centre	May 7th and Jun 7th
Caspian Gull	Teddington Lock	Jan 26th and Jul 10th
Caspian Gull	Watermeads	Feb 1st
Iceland Gull	Hackney Wick	Apr 26th
Iceland Gull	Watermeads	Apr 25th
Glaucous Gull	Watermeads	Feb 14th
Puffin	Gallions Reach	Apr 6th
European Nightjar	Home Park	Jun 25th
European Nightjar	Fairmile Common	May 6th
European Nightjar	Richmond Park	Sep 1st-3rd
European Nightjar	Staines Moor	Sep 11th
Hoopoe	Borehamwood	May 1st
Wryneck	Chingford Plain	Aug 30th
Wryneck	Wormwood Scrubs	Aug 30th
Richard's Pipit	London Wetland Centre	Nov 12th
'Channel Wagtail'	KGV Res	Apr 19th
White Wagtail	Great Warley	Oct 17th
White Wagtail	Rainham Marshes	Sep 29th and Oct 16th
White Wagtail	Brent Res	Nov 22nd
White Wagtail	Staines Moor	Oct 7th & 29th
White Wagtail	Staines Res	Sep 12th
White Wagtail	London Wetland Centre	Sep 30th, Oct 3rd & 18th
Barred Warbler	Gallions Reach	Sep 4th

Yellow-browed Warbler	Dagenham Chase	Oct 25th
Yellow-browed Warbler	Warley Place NR	Sep 26th-27th
Yellow-browed Warbler	Rammey Marsh	Oct 11th
Yellow-browed Warbler	Stoke Newington Res	Oct 10th
Yellow-browed Warbler	Tufnell Park	Oct 18th
Yellow-browed Warbler	Velocity Way, Enfield	Oct 11th
Yellow-browed Warbler	West Hendon	Dec 31st
Siberian Chiffchaff	Cornmill Meadows	Jan 11th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Rainham Marshes	Jan 20th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Sewardstone Marsh	Dec 9th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Thames View Hill	Oct 15th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Morden	Jan 17th to Feb 5th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Ravensbury Park	Jan 17th to Mar 21st
Great Grey Shrike	Rainham Marshes	Oct 17th
Great Grey Shrike	Stanwell Moor	Oct 31st
Hooded Crow	Wandsworth	Nov 24th
Lapland Bunting	Rainham Marshes	Jan 13th
Lapland Bunting	Beddington Farmlands	Nov 29th
Snow Bunting	Staines Res	Jan 2nd

Records still in circulation

The following record is still being considered either by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee or by our Rarities Committee.

Goshawk	Mar Dyke Valley	Feb 1st (RBs).
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FIRST AND LAST DATES OF REGULAR MIGRANTS

Summer Migrants	Arrival	Departure
Garganey ^w	Mar 12 London Wetland Centre	Nov 27 Wraysbury GP
Osprey	Mar 27 Stocker's Lake	Oct 25 Primrose Hill
Hobby	Apr 6 Crossness	Oct 25 Canons Farm
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 11 Staines Res	Sep 10 Staines Res
Eurasian Whimbrel	Mar 23 Rainham Marshes	Sep 18 Staines Moor
Little Tern	Apr 16 Walton Res (Knight & Bessborough)	Aug 25 Staines Res
Black Tern	Apr 18 Hilfield Park Res	Oct 8 Rainham Marshes
Sandwich Tern	Apr 7 Staines Res	Sep 27 Gallions Reach/Swanscombe Marshes
Common Tern	Mar 30 Gallions Reach	Oct 5 Staines Res
Arctic Tern	Apr 11 Four sites	Oct 14 Rainham Marshes
Turtle Dove ^w	Apr 11 Kenton	Oct 27 Chingford
Common Cuckoo	Apr 3 Walton-on-Thames	Sep 11 Richmond Park
Common Swift	Apr 12 Essendon/Welling	Sep 23 Sewardstone Marsh
Sand Martin	Mar 8 Four sites	Oct 17 Staines Moor
Swallow	Mar 14 Bookham Common	Dec 1 Q. Mother Res
House Martin	Apr 1 Sevenoaks WR	Nov 10 Greenhithe
Tree Pipit	Mar 17 Rainham Marshes	Sep 30 London Wetland Centre
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 26 Wilmington	Oct 14 Wanstead Flats/Woodford Green
Nightingale	Apr 13 Wormwood Scrubs	Sep 23 Trevereux
Common Redstart	Apr 6 Gallions Reach	Oct 8 Sydenham Hill Wood
Whinchat	Apr 14 Minet CP/Rainham Marshes	Nov 13 Wetland Centre/Rainham Marshes
Northern Wheatear	Mar 8 KGV Res/Staines Res	Oct 25 Staines Res/Ten Acre Wood, Yeading
Ring Ouzel	Mar 12 Q. Mother Res	Nov 8 Dagenham Chase
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 13 Three sites	Sep 17 Regent's Park
Sedge Warbler	Apr 6 Rainham Marshes	Oct 11 Brent Res
Reed Warbler	Apr 10 Rainham Marshes	Oct 24 Leyton
Garden Warbler	Apr 15 Three sites	Oct 6 Addlestone
Lesser Whitethroat	Mar 28 Highgate	Nov 26 East India Dock Basin
Common Whitethroat	Apr 2 Wimbledon Common	Nov 22 London Wetland Centre
Wood Warbler	Apr 22 Cold Blow Farm	Sep 23 Alexandra Park
Willow Warbler	Mar 17 Stocker's Lake	Oct 24 Maple Lodge NR
Spotted Flycatcher	Apr 26 Wanstead Flats	Oct 1 Thames View Hill
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 17 Oxleas Wood	Sep 13 Wanstead Flats

^w excludes winter records

Winter Migrants	Departure	Arrival
Smew	Mar 17 Friday Lake	Nov 15 KGV Res
Goosander	Apr 22 Sewardstone Marsh	Sep 7 KGV Res
Bittern	May 9 London Wetland Centre	Sep 12 Seventy Acres Lake
Jack Snipe	May 5 London Wetland Centre	Oct 12 Walton Res (Chelsea & Lambeth)
Rock Pipit	Mar 29 Staines Res	Sep 23 London Wetland Centre
Water Pipit	Apr 20 Staines Moor	Oct 10 KGV Res
Fieldfare	Apr 13 Three sites	Sep 23 Whittings Hill OS, Arkley
Redwing	Apr 25 Morden Hall Park	Sep 7 South Norwood Lake
Brambling	Apr 14 Canons Farm	Sep 27 Chingford Plain



PAPERS ABOUT
BIRDS IN THE
LONDON AREA

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RINGING REPORT

PAUL ROPER

Ringling in London is carried out by a range of groups, partnerships and individuals. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) now provide data via their website for individual recording areas rather than by county, which makes it possible to download a more accurate data-set for the LNHS recording area - the 'London Area' - and does not rely on individual ringers submitting annual totals.

From now on, some scientific comparisons on ringling data between years may be possible and may have some meaning assuming effort is reasonably consistent. 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. A much better reflection of population levels is through Constant Effort Sites (CES) and a number are running in the London Area; the data is pooled nationally and can be found on the BTO website - <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/surveys/ces>

The BTO online data for ringling in the London Area in 2015 shows a total of 26,974 birds ringed of which 3,827 were nestlings and 23,147 were full-grown fledged birds. Detailed information for the London Area can now be found:

New birds ringed

<http://app.bto.org/ring/countyrec/results2015/ringGBLO2015.htm>

Ringed birds recovered

<http://app.bto.org/ring/countyrec/results2015/recGBLO2015.htm>

The BTO website splits the totals into the following: Pullus, Juvenile, Adult, Unaged, Retrapped and Recovered. For the purpose of this report, Juvenile and Adult totals have been merged into full-grown as one column in Table 1; annual totals are also given here for the previous two years.

Numbers of wildfowl ringed took a welcome upturn in 2015 with numbers of Mute Swan, Canada Goose and Mallard back up to better levels. Raptor numbers were fairly stable but wader totals reduced against the higher totals of 2014 although Green Sandpiper numbers in 2015 were back up to better levels. Activity by the North Thames Gull group has now stopped at Rainham due to lack of birds but on January 2nd 2015 the last catch of 230 birds was taken and we expect colour-ring sightings to be returned from birds ringed here for many years to come. After an excellent year in 2014 Barn Owl numbers were back down to more usual levels. Numbers of Swifts caught were down considerably in 2015 and may be linked to effort or catching opportunity. A single Lesser Spotted Woodpecker is of note and is now a rarely caught species in the London Area. The large roosts of hirundines at Rye Meads in 2014 did not materialise again in 2015 and hirundine numbers are reduced to much lower levels. Single Pied Flycatchers, Black Redstart and Nightingale are of note and Stonechat totals of seven birds are the best for a few years along with a single Whinchat. Cetti's Wabler totals continue to rise, with 126 ringed in 2015, demonstrating the continued increase of numbers in this species.

The autumn in the whole of the UK was excellent for movements of crests and an incredible total of 1,033 Goldcrests and 15 Firecrests demonstrate that there was a large passage of birds; the origin of some of these birds is identified with a bird ringed in Finland in 2013 and found dead in Ealing in November 2015. An increase in the numbers of Coal Tits, Blue Tits and Long-tailed Tits suggests these species may have had a good year although Great Tit remained fairly stable. Finally of note, the Lesser Redpoll total doubled from 2014 suggesting the catching rate is back to a better level. Full details of all species ringed in 2015 are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Species totals of birds reported as ringed in the London Area during 2015 and comparison totals for 2014 and 2013.

Key: FG = full-grown; pul = nestling (pullus)

Species	pul	FG	Total	Total	Total	Species	pul	FG	Total	Total	Total
	2015	2015	2015	2014	2013		2015	2015	2015	2014	2013
Mute Swan	72	332	404	248	267	Lsr Black-backed Gull	0	4	4	2	2
Greylag Goose	1	4	5	8	12	Herring Gull	0	19	19	35	274
Canada Goose	73	148	221	109	154	Yellow-legged Gull	0	1	1	1	0
Egyptian Goose	18	39	57	59	17	Common Tern	66	0	66	108	24
Mandarin	0	3	3	13	2	Stock Dove	20	4	24	23	12
Gadwall	7	14	21	4	32	Woodpigeon	3	42	45	55	51
Teal	0	6	6	7	28	Collared Dove	2	16	18	16	5
Mallard	22	46	68	34	50	Ring-necked Parakeet	0	27	27	33	69
Shoveler	0	1	1	1	1	Barn Owl	21	1	22	57	2
Pochard	2	1	3	0	5	Little Owl	3	0	3	1	5
Tufted Duck	8	4	12	8	44	Tawny Owl	3	3	6	15	1
Little Egret	11	1	12	13	11	Swift	4	0	4	34	1
Grey Heron	20	1	21	43	16	Kingfisher	0	78	78	67	21
Little Grebe	0	3	3	7	6	Green Woodpecker	0	19	19	43	12
Sparrowhawk	0	19	19	21	7	Gt Sptd Woodpecker	0	72	72	88	43
Buzzard	2	1	3	3	0	Lsr Sptd Woodpecker	0	1	1	0	0
Kestrel	24	4	28	45	6	Sand Martin	44	74	118	184	26
Hobby	2	1	3	1	0	Swallow	139	526	665	1441	30
Peregrine	4	0	4	10	5	House Martin	0	11	11	32	211
Water Rail	0	6	6	3	5	Meadow Pipit	0	122	122	303	119
Moorhen	0	26	26	21	37	Grey Wagtail	14	13	27	40	12
Coot	4	52	56	42	49	Pied Wagtail	0	8	8	10	25
Lapwing	8	0	8	25	0	Wren	0	661	661	573	304
Jack Snipe	0	5	5	12	7	Spotted Flycatcher	0	1	1	7	0
Snipe	0	5	5	32	14	Pied Flycatcher	0	1	1	0	0
Common Sandpiper	0	7	7	2	5	Robin	29	942	971	1069	424
Green Sandpiper	0	10	10	4	16	Nightingale	0	1	1	0	0
Black-headed Gull	233	198	431	412	446	Black Redstart	0	1	1	0	1
Common Gull	0	5	5	1	9	Redstart	0	3	3	4	1

Species	pul	FG	Total	Total	Total	Species	pul	FG	Total	Total	Total
	2015	2015	2015	2014	2013		2015	2015	2015	2014	2013
Stonechat	0	7	7	2	2	Nuthatch	7	13	20	22	11
Whinchat	0	1	1	1	0	Treecreeper	0	50	50	58	18
Duncock	7	867	874	860	347	Magpie	24	34	58	53	37
Blackbird	28	563	591	777	360	Jay	0	42	42	66	20
Fieldfare	0	3	3	24	10	Jackdaw	9	28	37	38	5
Song Thrush	13	242	255	316	155	Rook	0	1	1	4	7
Redwing	0	173	173	256	77	Carrion Crow *	0	1	1	4	7
Mistle Thrush	0	6	6	10	0	Starling	5	1351	1356	1488	293
Cetti's Warbler	3	123	126	107	36	House Sparrow	2	130	132	151	106
Sedge Warbler	63	513	576	662	583	Tree Sparrow	27	9	36	56	35
Reed Warbler	76	1172	1248	1150	888	Chaffinch	0	223	223	286	245
Blackcap	5	2876	2881	2703	1005	Greenfinch	0	244	244	388	407
Garden Warbler	4	449	453	337	109	Goldfinch	2	741	743	840	483
Lesser Whitethroat	0	104	104	87	44	Siskin	0	43	43	107	191
Whitethroat	0	764	764	705	410	Linnet	0	54	54	63	15
Chiffchaff	12	1972	1984	1443	839	Redpoll Sp	0	2	2	0	9
Willow Warbler	0	191	191	207	179	Lesser Redpoll	0	205	205	93	182
Goldcrest	0	1033	1033	319	109	Bullfinch	0	103	103	125	27
Firecrest	0	15	15	6	1	Yellowhammer	0	10	10	26	28
Long-tailed Tit	0	982	982	756	250	Reed Bunting	49	90	139	166	107
Blue Tit	1535	2679	4214	3966	1939	Total	3827	26974	13826		
Great Tit	1085	1313	2398	2628	1268						
Coal Tit	12	131	143	88	34						
Marsh Tit	0	1	1	0	5						

The totals for 2014 and 2013 are the previously stated figures for those years. The actual total of the figures in these columns is lower, because some species ringed in 2014 and 2013 are not present in the 2015 list.

Recoveries and Controls

A number of interesting recoveries have been reported during the year; a small selection of these are listed below along with some maps showing some species of note. As mentioned on page 181, all recoveries in the London Area can now be found on the BTO website at

<http://app.bto.org/ring/countyrec/results2015/recGBLO2015.htm>

The first line shows the ring number, the age (and sex) when ringed, and the date and site of original ringing; the second line the status, date and site of subsequent recovery or recapture including the distance (1km = 0.625 miles) and number of days between original ringing and final recovery. Dates are in the format dd-mm-yy.

Tufted Duck movement from the London Area

- London Area ringing location of bird recovered elsewhere



Peregrine movement from the London Area

- London Area ringing location of bird recovered elsewhere



Dunlin movement from the London Area

- London Area ringing location of bird recovered elsewhere



Maps by
Garganey Consulting

Key to symbols used:

ad	Adult	M	Male	VV	Ring or colour marks read in the field
F	Female	pul	Pullus/Nestling	X	Found dead
J	Juvenile	R	Caught and released by a ringer	+	Shot or killed by man

EURING Codes for the age of the bird when ringed.		2	Current calendar year or any age older
0	Not aged	3	In First calendar year
1	Pullus/Nestling	4	Second calendar year or older
1J	In first calendar year and close to nest	5	In second calendar year

Gadwall

FH40473	1 M	04-08-2013	Rye Meads, Herts
+ (shot)		10-11-2015	Saint Martin de Brehal (Manche), France; 340km SSW; 828d

Pochard

GR77409	1 F	07-08-2015	Rye Meads, Herts
+ (shot)		07-09-2015	Lac de Gastes, Biscarosse (Landes), France; 831km S; 31d

Tufted Duck

FP51799	1	16-08-2002	Rye Meads, Herts
+ (shot)		25-05-2015	Andeg (Nenets A.O.), Russian Federation; 3410km ENE; 4665d

Kestrel

EL44526	1	06-07-2015	Chorleywood, Herts
X		05-09-2015	Shaw, Greater Manchester; 238km NNW; 61d

Peregrine

GR38659	1	23-05-2012	Site Confidential, near Barking, Essex
VV		13-03-2015	Lake Lothing, Lowestoft, Suffolk;
		&15-03-2015	155km NE; 1026d

Dunlin

NT85268	ad	04-02-2007	Crossness Sewage Works, Kent
R		15-07-2015	Ottenby (Öland), Sweden; 1185km ENE; 3083d

Black-headed Gull

EY07817	1	09-06-2012	Rye Meads, Herts
VV		01-02-2015	Ria de Aviles (Asturias (Oviedo)), Spain; 1015km SSW; 967d
ET34555	ad	17-02-2000	St James's Park, In Lond
VV		14-05-2015	Spikersuppa, Oslo (Akershus), Norway; 1154km NE; 5565d
VV		23-12-2015	St James's Park, In Lond; 5788d
SKB H14113	1	10-06-2006	Piestany (Piestany), Slovakia
VV		10-02-2015	Regent's Park, In Lond/Middx; 1323km WNW; 3167d

Mediterranean Gull

DEW 5412165	1	20-06-2015	Pionierinsel Luhe, Stade (Schleswig-Holstein), Germany
VV		24-11-2015	Alexandra Park, Middx; 693km WSW; 157d

Lesser Whitethroat movement from the London Area

- London Area ringing location of bird recovered elsewhere



Goldcrest movements to the London Area

- Ringing location



Maps by
Garganey Consulting

Iceland Gull

NOS 4261758	5	12-04-2013	Frognerparken, Oslo (Akershus), Norway
VV		06-01-2015	Rainham Tip, Essex; 1142km SW; 634d

Common Tern

XR39771	1	02-07-2014	Bedfont Lakes, Middx
		16-07-2014	Bedfont Lakes, Middx
VV		29-07-2015	la Tapa Sp. El Puerto de Santa Maria (Sevilla), Spain; 1672km SSW; 392d
XR39758	1	02-07-2014	Bedfont Lakes, Middx
		16-07-2014	Bedfont Lakes, Middx
VV		20-07-2015	la Tapa Sp. El Puerto de Santa Maria (Sevilla), Spain; 1672km SSW; 383d

Blackcap

Z072296	3 M	13-09-2014	Wraysbury Gravel Pits, Bucks
R		03-10-2015	Garaio, Araba (Alava) Spain ; 962km S; 385d

Lesser Whitethroat

D758803	3	31-07-2014	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middx
R		26-03-2015	Makabim, West Bank; 3629km SE; 238d

Chiffchaff

HCJ495	3	28-06-2014	Queen Mary Reservoir, Middx
X		07-04-2015	Les Petites Routes Des Mielles, St Brelades, Jersey, Channel Islands; 276km SSW; 283d
SVS SZ9946	3	17-10-2013	Falsterbo (Skåne), Sweden
R		15-12-2013	Rye Meads, Herts; 937km WSW; 59d
		& 01-11-2015	745d

Goldcrest

SFH 67990U	3 M	11-09-2013	Pori (Turku-Pori), Finland
X (hit glass)		18-11-2015	Ealing, Middx; 1744km SW; 798d

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:

BTO Ringing Unit, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU
or use the online reporting pages at www.ring.ac

Paul Roper. ntgg_sightings@hotmail.co.uk

Foreign-ringed Black-headed Gulls by Alan Gibson

A spreadsheet of the year's records from Alan Gibson is posted on the LNHS website at:

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

Publications> London Bird Report> Downloads. 'London Bird Report 2015'

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 were chosen at random by BBS organisers at the 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. All birds observed are counted; not just those known to be breeding. 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, and therefore does not represent the entire LNHS area.

In 2015, a total of 106 squares were surveyed in the London region (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of squares covered over the most-recent ten years *.

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
104	119	109	110	105	98	99	112	108	106

* Differences between these figures and those in Table 1 in *LBR 2014* p.186 are due to late submissions.

In 2015, again no new species were recorded, so the total number of species on London squares remained at 135. Just 87 species were recorded, the lowest total since 2003 (when only 62 squares were surveyed compared to the 106 surveyed this time). For only the second time ever, no Cuckoos were recorded on BBS walks in Greater London (the previous occasion was in 2002). In contrast, the highest ever totals were recorded for both Coal Tit (88) and Nuthatch (59), and four Red Kites were observed - the first time that more than one has been seen. The most abundant species counted was again Feral Pigeon (3,455 individuals), followed by Woodpigeon (2,715), and then Starling (2,398).

Table 2 shows the population changes in London between 2014/2015 and 1995/2014, compared with the change found nationally over these periods. The criterion for inclusion in the table is that a species occurs in an average of 30 squares per year over the survey period 1994 to 2015, which is considered to be the minimum number to provide reliable trends. As a result of the low number of squares covered in the early years of the survey, we can report on only 27 species, with no new species being added to the report in 2015.

Fifteen species show a statistically significant increase in London between 1995 and 2014, with the increase for Dunnock now being significant. Seven species show a significant decrease in London: Feral Pigeon; Swift; Starling; Blackbird; Song Thrush; Mistle Thrush; and House Sparrow.

Just three species showed statistically significant population changes between 2014 and 2015 in London. Blue Tit and Great Tit both increased significantly, but Greenfinch showed a statistically significant year-on-year decrease for the second year in a row. Although the longer term BBS trend for Greenfinch shows no significant trend since 1994, strong increases that occurred between 2000 and 2006 have since been completely reversed, with trichomonosis suspected to be an important factor.

Two other species susceptible to trichomonosis are Chaffinch and Collared Dove. The BBS trend-graphs in the London government office region for both these species (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2) show a similar pattern to Greenfinch (Fig. 3), with increases in the early part of this century followed by sharp declines; although in the case of Chaffinch, the recent decline has not (yet?) reversed the earlier increase. These trends contrast with the other finch species for which a trend can be reported in London: Goldfinch has continued to increase throughout this period (see BBS graph in *LBR 78*, 2013).

BBS index trend-graphs for the London government office region, 1994-2015

Key
 ● Annual indices
 — Smoothed trend
 ■ Spread
 - - - Baseline of 100 in 1994

Figure 1: Chaffinch

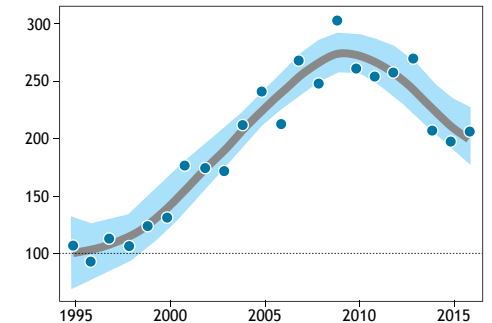


Figure 2: Collared Dove

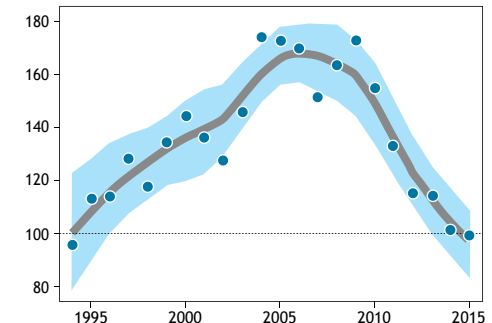
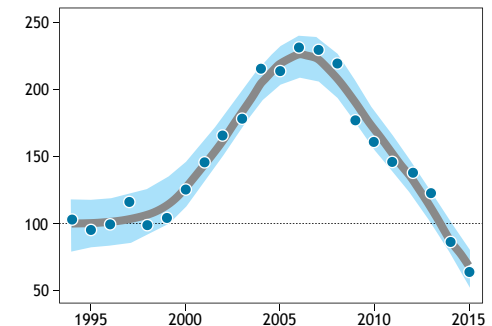


Figure 3: Greenfinch

A graph for Greenfinch in 2012 was shown in *LBR 77*, 2012.



Editorial note: The BBS index tables are based on the annual population changes, with 1994 set to the nominal figure of 100 and subsequent values calculated accordingly. A detailed account of the methodology is on the BBS pages of the BTO website:

<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/research-conservation/methodology>

Table 2. Population changes in numbers of birds in the BTO's London region compared with the United Kingdom. (lcl=lower confidence limit; ucl=upper confidence limit; figures in blue type are statistically significant). The long term trend has been smoothed. As smoothing involves truncation of the end points this trend is labelled as 1995/2014, even though the survey period covered is from 1994 to 2015.

	Sample size	Change 2014/2015	Change 2014/2015	Change 1995/2014	Change 1995/2014	Change 1995/2014	Change 1995/2014
	London	London	UK	London	London lcl	London ucl	UK
Mallard	43	4	8	-20	-41	32	15
Feral Pigeon	72	6	-1	-23	-36	-6	-18
Woodpigeon	81	-1	7	55	16	91	36
Collared Dove	52	-3	1	-4	-32	45	8
Ring-necked Parakeet	40	22	-6	>10,000	-	-	1,314
Common Swift	58	12	-3	-56	-70	-36	-47
Green Woodpecker	31	31	14	49	3	116	31
Great Sp. Woodpecker	37	-6	2	59	26	93	136
Magpie	80	-7	-2	36	13	71	0
Jay	39	34	-1	-13	-37	18	25
Carrion Crow	81	12	-2	37	9	74	19
Blue Tit	80	15	2	18	-2	44	3
Great Tit	75	20	10	112	76	189	40
Long-tailed Tit	32	28	12	84	19	203	12
Chiffchaff	32	11	9	147	56	254	96
Blackcap	45	-3	6	160	111	279	151
Wren	75	-2	-1	32	13	64	20
Starling	79	3	-6	-55	-66	-45	-49
Blackbird	81	-3	0	-29	-39	-20	22
Song Thrush	50	-13	7	-36	-51	-17	15
Mistle Thrush	34	4	-1	-57	-73	-38	-28
Robin	78	4	8	78	49	120	17
Dunnock	61	-4	3	26	2	70	22
House Sparrow	68	2	0	-73	-81	-62	-5
Chaffinch	56	4	2	106	39	227	4
Greenfinch	61	-28	-5	-12	-31	26	-39
Goldfinch	48	5	18	387	216	658	117

Editorial note: 'Sample size London' is the mean number of squares per year on which the species was recorded over the course of the BBS survey (1994-2014 for the 2014 paper). The figures in the remaining columns are percentages. Writing explanatory text would be complicated, to convey something that is both accurate and concise, so interested readers should visit the BBS pages on the BTO website: <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs>

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OVERWINTERING CHIFFCHAFFS IN THE COLNE VALLEY ON THE WESTERN BORDER OF GREATER LONDON

JOHN EDWARDS

Introduction

This paper documents the historical and current occurrence in the mid Colne Valley of the Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita collybita* as an overwintering bird and discusses possible reasons for the selection of this small section of the valley by these birds as a regular overwintering site.

Historic and current records

The Common Chiffchaff has long been known by ornithologists to overwinter in the United Kingdom in small numbers, with most reports coming from the south and west of the country and with smaller numbers in Ireland. However, in the last 30 years numbers have been steadily increasing as we move towards wetter and milder winters, possibly as a result of long-term climate change. Favoured habitats are sewage farms and lakes and these are areas where the insect food supply is most often found to sustain the birds through the winter months.

Winter population estimates for the whole of the United Kingdom are on the increase. During the BTO survey period 1981-1984 it is estimated that there were between 500-1,000 birds (BTO, 1981-1984; BTO, 1996) but, by the time of the next Atlas in 2007-2011, there had been substantial increases in numbers with an increase of 85% in Britain and 68% in Ireland in the number of occupied tetrad squares (BTO, 2011). These gains reflect a northern expansion in the United Kingdom of the birds' wintering range and reflect the reduction in winter severity in terms of climate in the United Kingdom and an increasing western European breeding population (Conway, 2011).

Winter numbers are severely affected by cold weather and, as a result, records from year to year are inconsistent as very cold weather makes survival difficult for the birds as food becomes more unavailable.

The increasing numbers overwintering is clearly reflected in the Mid Colne Valley study area. Upwards of 100 birds can be found some years in the London Area as a whole (LBR) but no one site holds the numbers found along the River Colne study area.

The Common Chiffchaffs overwintering in the United Kingdom are thought to come from northern and eastern Europe with a proportion of UK breeders which have moved south (BTO, 2011).

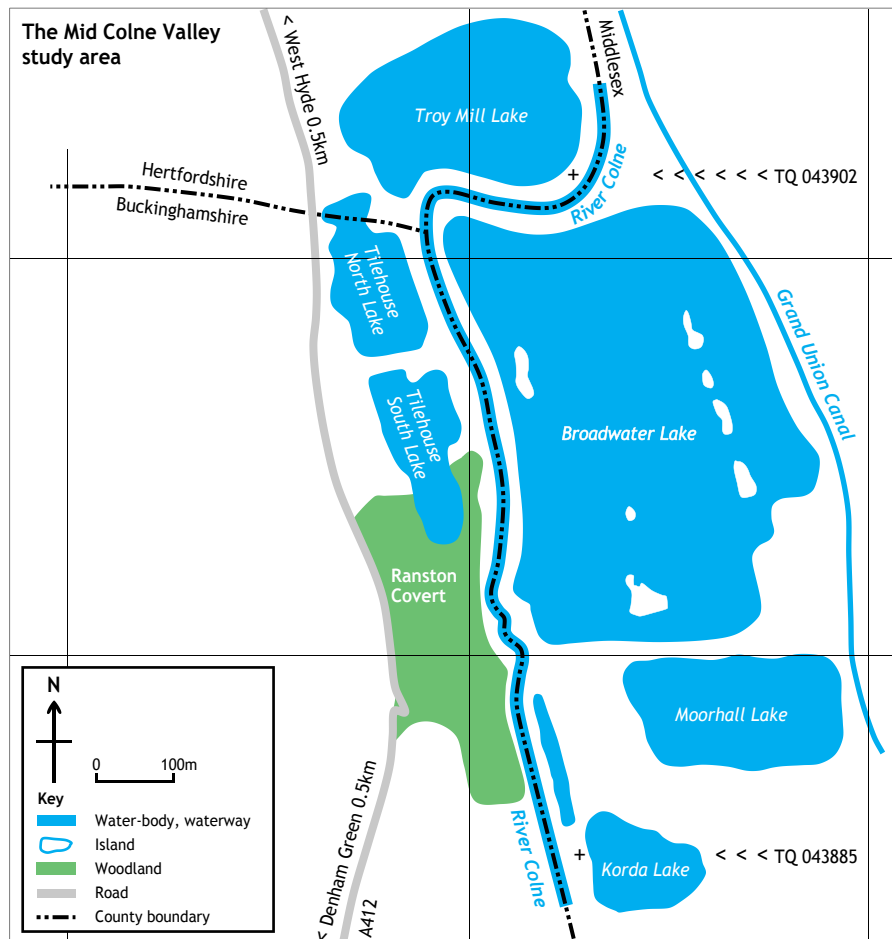
Three sub-species of Chiffchaff have been identified as present during the study period. The majority are of the European *collybita* race but very small numbers of the *tristis* (Ural area and Siberia and also known as 'Siberian' Chiffchaff) and the *abietinus* (North and East Scandinavia and also known as 'Scandinavian' Chiffchaff) have also been observed.

Genetic and morphological studies have indicated that the British overwintering population is comprised mainly of individuals from western Europe, with a small but increasing number from Asia and a minority from North-East Europe (Conway, 2011).

A ringing study of 700 overwintering Chiffchaffs in Cornwall between 1999 and 2005 found that 87% were of the *collybita* race, 6% were of the northern *abietinus* race, 7% were intergrades and only two birds were true eastern *tristis* individuals (Conway, 2005). These two studies give a good indication of the source of the birds and this is almost certainly mirrored in the Colne Valley birds. It is also stated in the Migration Atlas (BTO) that birds arrive here from Scandinavia and Central Europe for the winter.

The study area for this paper appears to have a higher percentage of *tristis* birds than that given for Cornwall - possibly as a result of the area being further east and therefore more likely to attract this eastern race/sub-species.

Wintering in the United Kingdom thus enables the birds to have a much reduced migration route back to the breeding grounds and therefore gives them an advantage in setting up the first territories. That is, of course, provided the conditions remain mild to ensure the birds' survival through the winter months.



The study area

The study area is a section of the River Colne which flows beside the north and west banks of Broadwater Lake on the Harefield-Denham border. The river forms part of the boundary for the Counties of Middlesex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire and the birds are to be found in all three counties but all within a 1.5-kilometre stretch of the River Colne. (See map.)

The upstream section of the study area begins at OS Map ref TQ043902 to the north and ends at TQ043885 to the south and downstream - a distance north to south of 1.25 kilometres. The river is bordered to the east by Broadwater Lake, a large worked out gravel pit, and to the west by Tilehouse North Lake and Tilehouse South Lake. The vegetated river bank between the lakes is mainly large crack willow *Salix fragilis* with a small stand of Lombardy poplar *Populus nigra* 'Italica', while in the southern section, the large damp woodland of Ranston Covert on the Buckinghamshire bank, common alder *Alnus glutinosa* predominates.

The Chiffchaffs occur upstream in the old crack willows which, over time and due to lack of river management, have fallen over the river to form overhanging stretches covering many metres in length. To the south these are replaced by large stands of dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* which attract the birds in the same way. The birds are seldom found away from these riverine habitats and are therefore relatively easy to survey, especially on calm sunny days when there are plenty of midges which attract the birds.

Feeding methods and behaviour

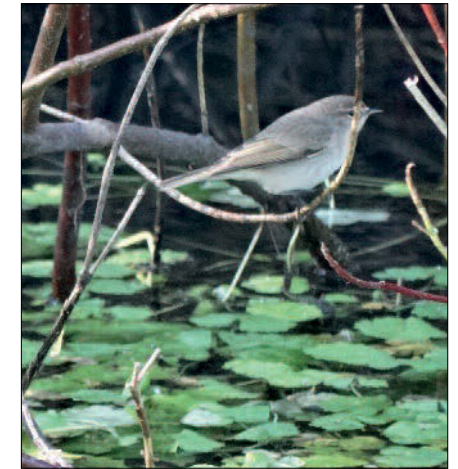
The Chiffchaffs can be observed as they move through the willows and dogwood, feeding constantly close to the water surface or slightly higher in the trees, but rarely in the

Crack willow on the River Colne. (John Edwards)





Above: Dogwood on the River Colne. Below: Chironomid midge sp. (John Edwards)



Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita collybita* (above left) and Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* (above right). (John Edwards)

bushes on the east opposite bank bordering Broadwater lake. On days with a large midge emergence the birds can be observed sitting quietly in the branches and picking off the passing insects as they swarm around the birds.

There would appear to be a larger than average number of midges and other small insects along this section of the River Colne and this may be a result of a slightly warmer water temperature and an increase in nutrients caused by outflow water from the Maple Lodge sewage works 1.5 kilometres upstream to the north. Indeed, the warmer water temperature resulting in the increased insect life in the cold winter months may well be the reason why this area is so attractive to the Chiffchaffs in the first place.

The midges are non-biting Chironomids and all those studied were males. The peak emergence is during the first two months of the year, after which numbers drop considerably. This food source would be a major boost for the birds in the colder winter months leading up to the departure time when they would need to be fully stocked with food and energy for the migration back to the breeding grounds. There was no noticeable interaction or competition amongst the birds for the food available and, during survey visits, the birds were located either by sight or by their distinctive calls and on bright sunny days towards the end of winter some birds even attempt a brief period of song. On days with a breeze the birds were observed feeding within the branches and were more active as the food became more difficult to catch in the breeze.

Survey methods

During the winter months from November to February many visits were made over the years 1954-2015 to the study area by myself and earlier observers and the numbers of Common Chiffchaff present recorded. These records form the basis of this paper and a special effort was made to visit in the best weather for the best results. This has

resulted in the timing of the visits being fairly random but this gives a truer picture of the numbers of birds present than less rewarding visits in less suitable conditions.

The birds were located either by sight or by hearing the distinctive contact call and waiting for the birds to show. This way they could usually be assigned to race, although this was not always possible. The birds have a tendency to feed either singly or in small groups of between two and five birds and are concentrated in the areas of willow and dogwood but can turn up anywhere along the riverbank.

The location of the birds was plotted on a map during visits to avoid duplication of sightings and, if anything, the counts were slightly under-estimates of the numbers present as birds would appear as from nowhere out of the dense willow etc. and, clearly, some would have been missed during survey visits.

The results. 1954-2015

The records come from my personal study data, from observations stored on the record cards of the Ruislip & District NHS with others coming from the *London Bird Report*.

During the period 1954 to 1995 a count of zero to under five birds was recorded on a yearly basis. For the early part of this time the area covered by the current Broadwater Lake had not yet been lost to gravel extraction and was alluvial grassland with stock animals and then known as Harefield Moor. By 1990 this was replaced by the largest and deepest gravel pit in Middlesex, which is now known as Broadwater Lake and has SSSI designation. What effect, if any, this had on the wintering Chiffchaffs is unknown but it is a significant habitat change. Also, before 1990 the River Colne was better managed and did not have the overhanging willows or emergent vegetation it has now and would have been less conducive for feeding and roosting. However, it must be noted that Chiffchaffs had yet to establish themselves fully as an overwintering bird in Britain during that time so this may not be that significant.

The table below gives the peak numbers obtained in years for which records were made.

Peak counts of overwintering birds. 1954-2015. November-March		
Year(s)	Peak number	Comments
1954-1993	0-3	
1995	15	
1996	20	
1997	2	
1998	28	Including one <i>P.c.tristis</i>
1999	19	Including one <i>P.c.tristis</i>
2000	3	
2003	8	
2004	1	
2005	3	
2009	6	
2010	13	Including one <i>P.c.tristis</i>
2012	13	
2013	13	
2014	23	Including two <i>P.c.tristis</i>
2015	23	Including one <i>P.c.tristis</i>

As can be seen from the above table the numbers are now consistently into double figures apart from a series of low counts from 2000-2009.

(In 2016, outside the time-scale covered by this paper, there was a remarkable high count of 41 birds seen in the first winter period of 2016 including a *tristis* but all the birds had departed the survey area by mid March of that year).

Conclusion

There seems to be little doubt that this particular stretch of the River Colne is one of the premier sites in the south-east of the United Kingdom for overwintering Common Chiffchaff and is of growing importance year on year. The removal of the overhanging willows and a clearing out of the river to speed the flow by the Environment Agency would clearly affect the birds by reducing the feeding habitat. However, this currently has not taken place.

The southern section of the study area will be severely affected by the proposed High Speed 2 rail line where a viaduct is to be built right through the mid Colne Valley. This line will enter from the east, pass over the River Colne and through the alder woodland of Ranston Covert before passing to the west and entering a tunnel at West Hyde. It remains to be seen what effect this will have on the birds in the southern section but they will probably just move north upstream away from the construction site. The impact on the whole area, however, will be devastating in terms of habitat loss if the proposal for this line goes ahead.

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Acknowledgement

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THE YEAR IN GREENWICH PARK AND BLACKHEATH

JOE BEALE

My local patch is Greenwich Park and Blackheath in SE London, where I do most of my birding. Regularly working this area to varying degrees of thoroughness has enabled me to improve my ID skills as well as to understand the way birds change with the seasons. It has also given me some of my favourite birding moments. Greenwich Park is parkland with some long grass areas and limited scrub, with watery habitat restricted to a tiny ornamental 'lake' and a small pond for invertebrates. Blackheath is open and largely treeless, with some decent long grass areas and acid grassland. Areas of scrub, gorse and trees - as well as suburban houses and gardens - are found at its edges. The whole area gets very busy with people, dogs and organised events, which inevitably reduces the allure for birds. While it is to some extent a green oasis, when one looks at a satellite image of the area it becomes clear that there are scattered pockets of green - railway embankments, mini-parks, old gardens and suchlike - surrounding it that draw birds away from this area and dilute this effect. Despite the challenges, the patch provides breeding and passage habitat for a fair range of species in an increasingly built-up area. The impact of the changing seasons on the birds is fascinating to witness and there is always something interesting to see or hear, with the occasional dash of real excitement. There is also the patch-worker's thing of being just as happy or happier finding a patch rarity than finding a true rarity elsewhere and this provides the motivation to keep returning. With this article I hope to convey how following a patch changing through the seasons can be a rewarding and addictive birding experience.

Tawny Owl. (Joe Beale)



Shoveler - Greenwich Park, January 23rd 2013. (Joe Beale)

January to February

The start of the year may be subdued but it has the virtue of drawing attention to the everyday species, which can be enjoyed without the distractions of the migration seasons, when much time is spent searching for something a bit 'better'. This time is good to see Nuthatches going about their business or restless Goldcrests flitting through the branches. With luck an elusive local Tawny Owl may be found at roost around this time, but he or she usually avoids New Year's Day itself for some reason! Blackheath hosts flocks of Black-headed and Common Gulls now and groups of Canada Geese arrive to graze on the open grassland each morning, leaving in the evening in their characteristic low skeins. This is not everyone's favourite species but these flocks are impressive as they fly low overhead twice a day, particularly as truly 'wild' geese are not usually an option here. Redwings brighten up grey days with their cream-striped heads and fiery flanks. They gradually become more confiding as the winter progresses, performing their chattering pre-departure subsong in late winter. If we're lucky we may share in a Waxwing winter but these wanderers tend to turn up by roads and buildings. There is a bridge over a busy dual carriageway with cotoneasters planted along its banks that is a pretty good bet, although passers-by can be bemused at first by birders standing on the pavement with 'scope and binoculars, or even concerned about what you are up to. Any worries are easily assuaged by showing people the Waxwings and giving them the official Waxwing talk about where the birds have come from and how lucky we are to see them. Usually people go home happy to have been shown these mascara-eyed dandies and Waxwings are, in this way, excellent ambassadors for urban wildlife.

Some freezing weather can really shake things up and herald movements of Lapwings or thrushes. February 7th 2012 saw a dramatic movement of Redwings with 2,150 west. The Park's first Shoveler since 1966 briefly dropped in to the tiny, largely frozen pond on the 12th, with the next one found during similarly icy weather on January 23rd 2013

- this time lingering to show off its lovely lamellae and subtle speculum. On the 24th a drake Gadwall on the pond was surprisingly the first Park record. Anywhere else I would not have paid such birds much attention, but on this patch, to me, they became treasured sightings. I find that local patch birding is the only time when I really look properly at a whole range of common species. In the right, patch, context they become megas and make for fond memories.

March to April

Spring is of course imprecisely defined but starts to get going locally from mid-March when Meadow Pipits move over with their hesitant flight, announcing the changing season with their thin, clear calls. The Skylark's chirruping flight call is a beautiful early spring (and autumn) sound and occasionally one of these migrants sings as it passes over the traffic and houses, a little taste of the countryside in a built-up place. This is also a good time to look for a Rook. It is a decent local find and may give itself away by flying higher up than the abundant local Carrion Crows. On March 11th 2015 a Yellowhammer flew over, my first sighting here and a local rarity. Chiffchaff is often the first 'proper' migrant to arrive in late March and three or four pairs usually remain to breed locally. By now many species are in full song and it is a good time to observe otherwise unobtrusive species such as Dunnocks as they ostentatiously announce themselves.

April is a dynamic time and there is usually a period of excitement during the month. The first Willow Warblers turn up early on. Willow Warbler passage is often prolonged, with singing birds heard in mid-May some years, but they no longer breed, sadly, in line with their decline across southern England. Blackcaps overwinter so it is hard to know when the first summer visitors have arrived, but they breed from April every year in the

Redstart on wire fence in Greenwich Park, April 19th 2013. (Joe Beale)



area with a healthy population of perhaps ten to 12 pairs in Greenwich Park, and this species seems to be doing better than in the past. Their fluting song is a welcome and familiar soundtrack to the spring. Ring Ouzels are something of a patch-worker's bird and I have seen more of these frost-edged beauties locally than almost anywhere else. These superb birds are about annual in Greenwich Park and, whilst often just flying over, they sometimes stop to feed as on April 12th 2013 when all six common thrushes were present in one view. Later in the month, with perseverance, Cuckoo may perhaps be found. There is something special about these birds: they are so much a part of our folklore and are here for such a short time, and of course these days they are declining. It is heartening then to still occasionally find them passing through this area of London. Common Redstarts are about annual in April and they are always a treat, particularly the males in their breeding finery. Other highlights for April have included a dapper male Pied Flycatcher in 2010 and singing Sedge Warbler on April 23rd 2013, the first for the Park since 1966. The charismatic Wheatear is regular but tends to arrive in waves, so for much of the spring you wonder where they are, then suddenly a small flock will appear on the steppelands of Blackheath. Overhead, sky-watching is always worth a go: migrant Ospreys have been observed in three recent Aprils, and Red Kites and Common Buzzards pass through in small numbers, happily a far cry from 20 years ago when all would have been rarities here.

April 27th 2015 was a day of birds on the move. A Cuckoo on active migration flew north early on, somewhat foolishly, towards Canary Wharf. Soon afterwards a small bunch of Swallows and Sand Martins skimmed rapidly north over Blackheath, just above the ground and moments later three glorious Yellow Wagtails dropped down into Greenwich Park. Together with a passage Garden Warbler, migrating Common Buzzards, Little Egret overhead (increasingly seen but still uncommon here) and plenty of birdsong, such days make working the patch worthwhile.

May to July

By May Swifts are starting to scythe through the skies again. They breed in the large old houses at the edges of Blackheath. With houses being insulated, repaired or replaced, this wonderful species may not be so guaranteed in years to come. Let us hope that developers can move toward incorporating Swift bricks into new homes as a matter of course before we lose the sight and sound of this declining summer bird. There is less hope for the Spotted Flycatcher, which ceased to breed in the Park in the late 2000s. Up to three pairs were present in the 1990s but not anymore, following a national decline. Late spring passage birds do, nonetheless, still turn up most years. Reed Warbler is another late passage migrant that occurs annually, often singing from bushes well away from water. Although, with patience, I can usually spot them, one singing bird on May 22nd 2014 somehow managed to deftly conceal itself within a tiny area of cover a few metres away until I had to concede defeat.

Egyptian Goose has increased regionally and became a regular visitor here in 2011. In 2013 they bred in Greenwich Park for the first time, but lost their young. Subsequent broods have fared better and this species seems set to stay. Another introduced species, Ring-necked Parakeet, is now one of the commonest species, breeding in tree holes around the Park. They noisily mob anything vaguely raptorial and I have seen a group of

Green Woodpecker. (Joe Beale)

80 escort a passing Grey Heron off the premises. Whitethroats nest every year in Blackheath's Vanbrugh Pits amongst the gorse. In recent years, there has also been a successful Whitethroat territory in Greenwich Park after a long absence as a breeding species. The Park Whitethroats choose a patch of long-grass and scrub, one of the precious few wilder areas that are so important as biodiversity refuges in this busy Park. I like to check on them in the breeding season and watch them flying to and fro with food for their hidden young, to reassure myself that they have been successful once again. Even more satisfying is seeing each brood's fledglings being fed by their dishevelled parents. There are typically three or four Goldcrest territories in the Park with others in the Blackheath area, and their nests can sometimes be found at the ends of tapering pine tree branches



- the adults creeping along the underside of the branch spine to reach the nest as unobtrusively as possible. Nuthatches announce their three or four territories loudly in the spring and with luck their nest holes can be found in the summer with begging young visible. Great Spotted Woodpeckers are doing well and their nests are good to show to people on the Park LNHS bird walks. Sometimes the birds can be tracked if they are individually recognisable - two such birds (one with oil or a sticky substance on its feathers, the other with reduced pigmentation) at different nests could be seen hundreds of metres away at garden bird feeders beyond the Park's walls. There are also two or three pairs of Green Woodpecker in the area, but they are harder to find at the nest than Great Spotted. Jackdaws and Feral Pigeons make use of cavities in the Park's gnarled, veteran Sweet Chestnut trees and eight to 12 pairs of Stock Doves typically hold territory. Welcome news is that Chaffinch has increased from zero pairs in 1970, to three territories in the 1990s to nine to ten territories more recently.

Breeding birds can never be taken for granted. Mistle Thrush maintains a reasonable half a dozen territories in the Park, but this is one we need to keep monitoring given recent national declines. Song Thrushes usually have just three or four territories although these do seem stable (in contrast, Blackbirds have over 20). Not doing so well are House Sparrows, which no longer nest within the Park as they used to do commonly. Small colonies do still exist in residential streets and they may still be seen along the Park's northern edge. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker used to be seen now and again in the

area and I once witnessed a fledgling being fed by an adult, just outside Greenwich Park. Sadly the chances of a repeat of this are now close to zero as this attractive species has ceased to breed - or even occur - here for over a decade and continues to decline nationally. For some reason there have been no Treecreeper nests for a decade or more and this delightful species is now a less than annual visitor.

Summer is not necessarily only about breeding birds, though, and it still pays to stay alert. A routine stroll around the minuscule Park lake on the evening of June 7th 2013 produced, with the naked eye, what at first impression I took to be a Little Grebe, but after raising my binoculars I was astonished to find myself looking at a female Long-tailed Duck! Texts to local birders were met with disbelief not only because of the unlikely location but also because of the ridiculous time of year. This individual had previously been present for a few days at a lake in Peckham and quickly moved on to the slightly more suitable location of Rotherhithe for the rest of its prolonged stay in SE London.

August to September

Despite autumn migration kicking off, August to September can be relatively dull, particularly if there are lots of people around to disturb the birds! However, this is when Spotted Flycatchers often show up and Pied Flycatcher occurs every couple of years. On September 15th 2011 two Sandwich Terns 'kerricked' and flew over at height - a fine inland sight and sound as they deviated from the Thames. More everyday fare typically

Stock Dove. (Joe Beale)

involves Willow Warblers joining the tit flocks and Mistle Thrushes gathering together - the highest count in recent years being 33 on September 16th 2011. There can sometimes be exciting hirundine movements, for example on September 18th 2015 when around 1,600 Swallows and House Martins swirled through low, with Sand Martins sprinkled amongst them, over the course of two hours. Whinchat is a favourite of mine but a rare find in the Park itself. A better bet is to search the gorse around Blackheath and in May or August to September one or two stop by to show off their bold supercilia and peach-coloured plumage. On the open grass here Wheatears may well be around now, sometimes in groups, but can be unpredictable in their appearances. Far less likely is a repeat of August 18th 1999 when a thunderstorm forced down a flock of ten Black-tailed Godwits onto the grass. Astonishingly, a Turnstone was found there a few days later. These remain the only local records of these two species as far as I am aware. All waders are scarce here, so a Ringed Plover picked up by call flying over the Park on September 26th 1999 (during a two-day spell when Turtle Dove, Wheatear, Yellow Wagtail and thousands of Swallows also moved though) was an excellent find.

October to December

By October the first Redwings are quickening the pulse with their distinctive calls - no matter how many times I hear them I cannot help but look for the callers. The first arrivals often perch on top of tall evergreen trees to look around. Bramblings may fly over occasionally from quite early in the month, their wheezy calls so evocative of autumn for me. It is surprising how infrequently they stop to rest and feed to allow their autumn-leaf plumage to be seen, but sometimes they do. One exciting Park moment was on October 4th 2010 when I found a Pied, then a Spotted Flycatcher one after the other

Stonechat - Vanbrugh Pits, Blackheath, October 16th 2014. (Joe Beale)



and minutes later a 'chacking' Ring Ouzel pitched down in a berry-filled Rowan tree right beside me, allowing what remain my best ever views of this species. In early October 2014 a single male Stonechat began a fortnight-long occupation by this charming species of the Vanbrugh Pits area of Blackheath, with at least three males and one female involved, bringing happiness to all the local wildlife-watchers. A patch tick for me, this was just slightly overdue as I am not aware of any other sightings during the past 100 years! As so many patch scarcities are fly-overs, it is nice when one remains to show off in full view, in this case posing picturesquely on the gorse. There are many recent records that are the first for some time, and one of the more enjoyable sides to working an under-watched, unremarkable patch is that you can update records and give a truer picture of what occurs and when.

At this time of year the species day-count can be double that of January's, and 'viz-migging' can contribute to this. The challenge here is to pick out the faint bird calls from the background soundtrack of helicopters, parakeets, traffic and planes! Sometimes thrushes can push through in impressive numbers, eg 800+ Fieldfares moving through on November 6th 2012. The humble Chaffinch can also provide a spectacle as they move up from Scandinavia via the low countries and SE England, eg 930 through in small groups on October 26th 2010. In the mix, if you can find them, are sometimes local rarities such as Hawfinch, which has flown over the Park in three of the last six years, while a Richard's Pipit flew over in 2005. Generally speaking the Park's situation tends to reflect the national or regional situation on a much smaller scale so, logically, it is worth monitoring influxes elsewhere to prepare for what might turn up. On October 28th 2015, for example, I was fortunate to see a Short-eared Owl flying over Greenwich Park and Blackheath, the first Park record and part of a large influx into southern England at the time. A more surprising phenomenon in recent years has been fairly large flocks of Brent Geese passing through occasionally in murky weather, such as 85+ on October 29th 2014, a fine but incongruous sight as they seemingly take a short cut from the Essex coast. In late October and into November, if you look up you may see migrating Starlings racing through in their thousands in tight, fast flocks (their collective wingbeats audible) and the humble Woodpigeon frequently provides a stunning but easily-missed finale to the migration season as flocks of thousands head south on clear mornings, such as the c4,000 over on October 30th 2013.

Mid-November to December is quieter, and it is a good time to look for the resident species and winterers. A Grey Wagtail may be around, enlivening rooftops with its lemon yellow rump and extravagantly long tail alongside its Pied cousins. The wintering Redwing flocks have settled in and the gull flocks of Blackheath may be worth a look - scarcer species have been recorded. Watching the 70+ Greenwich Park Jackdaws fly to roost in a nearby copse is a pleasant way to spend the moments before it gets dark. With luck, there may be some fire during the dying days of the year - one or two of the Firecrests that arrive most autumns sometimes remain over winter and these stripy gems are best located by their distinctive calls. You cannot say you have had a bad day if you have caught up with one of these beauties.

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CAN COMMON TERNS AND BLACK-HEADED GULLS CO-EXIST ON RAFTS?

GRAHAM WHITE & PAUL ROPER

The provision of floating rafts for nesting Common Terns has allowed successful colonies to develop on many inland waters in recent decades. In the Lee Valley, on the Hertfordshire/Essex boundary, Common Terns have bred since 1963. The history of their increase through the provision of purpose-built rafts is documented in Roper and Harris (2001). After the first raft was positioned at Rye Meads in 1972, rafts of a similar design have been used widely throughout inland waters, including at several other sites in the Lee Valley. Currently, Common Tern colonies are established on rafts at four main valley locations, at Amwell, Rye Meads, Fishers Green and Walthamstow.

The breeding of a pair of Black-headed Gulls on the rafts at Rye Meads in 2008 was an unexpected and, what seemed then, a rather exciting event. Little did we realise that by 2016 the number of nesting Black-headed Gulls in the Lee Valley would rise to a remarkable 470 pairs. This increase in gulls has coincided with a decline in Common Terns at some sites. There is a wide assumption that the two events are linked, with Black-headed Gulls 'pushing out' the Common Terns, but what are the facts of the matter? Can the two species co-exist on rafts?

Counts of Common Terns & Black-headed Gulls in the Lee Valley

Common Terns nest on rafts at four sites in the Lee Valley; Amwell Nature Reserve (from 1982), Rye Meads RSPB reserve (1972), Seventy Acres Lake at Cheshunt gravel pit, also known as Fishers Green (1986) and Walthamstow Reservoirs (1982). The totals at each site from 2000 to 2015 are shown in Figure 1. The combined populations of Common Terns peaked at 117 pairs in 2007 (see Figure 2, blue line) but then began a steady decline to a low point of 58 pairs in 2012 (a very poor year generally due to bad weather) before rising slightly to 67 pairs in 2015. In general terms, the populations at Rye Meads and Walthamstow have declined, while those at Amwell and Fishers Green have remained stable or increased (see Figure 1). The decline at Walthamstow has been particularly severe, with just four pairs in 2015. This decline is likely to be due primarily to the poor condition of the rafts. With no maintenance being undertaken in recent years, the rafts are now covered in vegetation. In addition, increasing populations of breeding Herring Gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Walthamstow are known to predate the terns. If Walthamstow is excluded from the total counts, the total at the other three sites has shown a more moderate decline from a peak of 75 pairs in 2007 to 63 in 2015 (see Figure 2, red line).

Black-headed Gulls started to nest on the rafts in 2008 (1 pair) and rapidly increased to 306 pairs by 2015 (see Figure 2, green line), with 183 pairs at Rye Meads, 69 at Fishers Green and 54 at Amwell. Only Walthamstow does not currently support any breeding Black-headed Gulls. One or two pairs nested at Walthamstow between 2011 and 2013 but they failed to establish beyond that date. It may well be that poor raft condition and predation by large gulls is affecting both terns and gulls.

Figure 1. The number of breeding pairs of Common Terns at the four Lee Valley locations, 2000-2015.

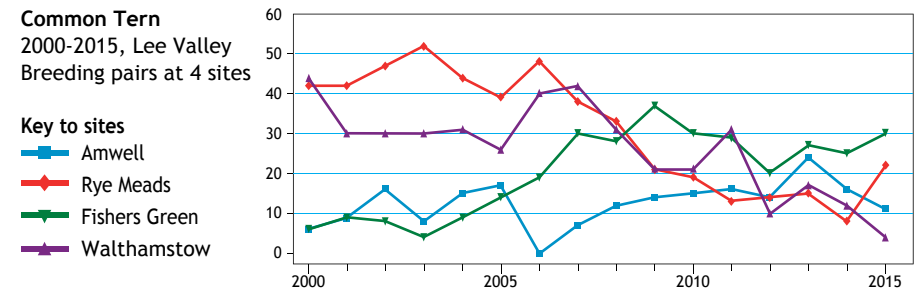
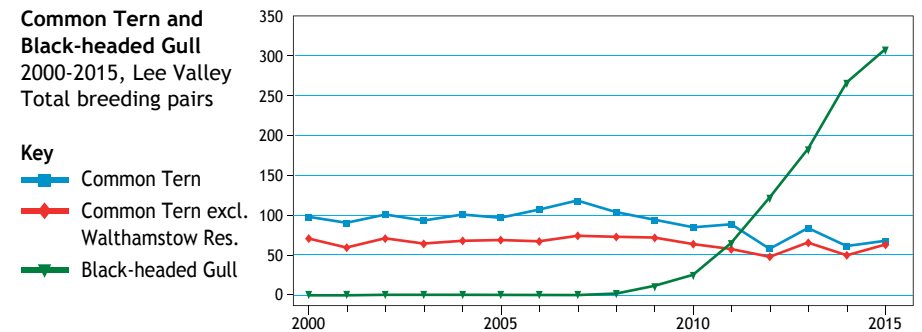


Figure 2. The total number of breeding pairs of Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls in the Lee Valley, 2000-2015.



Productivity

The number of fledged young Common Terns has been recorded at Rye Meads, Fishers Green and Amwell in most recent years, thus enabling productivity to be calculated (average number of fledged young per pair attempting to breed). This is shown in Table 1. At both Rye Meads and Fishers Green a small decline in productivity is evident after raft colonisation by Black-headed Gulls, but at Amwell the productivity is unchanged.

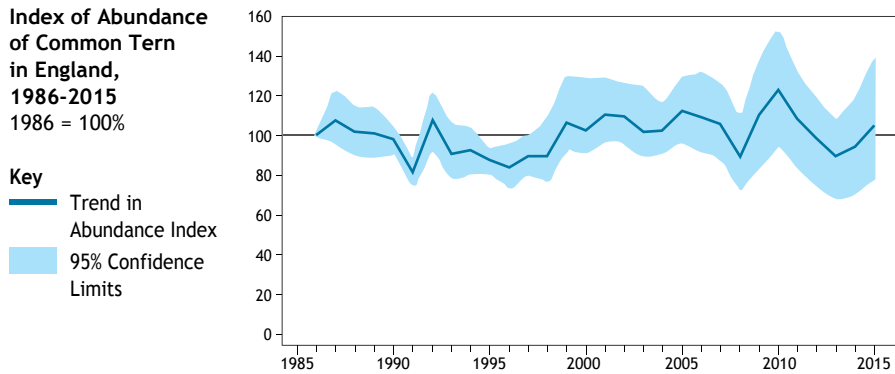
Table 1. Productivity of Common Terns at Lee Valley colonies before and after colonisation of rafts by Black-headed Gulls (average young fledged per pair).

	Productivity 2000-2015	Productivity before BHG	Productivity after BHG
Amwell	0.83	0.82	0.83
Rye Meads	1.17	1.26	1.03
Fishers Green	1.41	1.80	1.01

The national picture

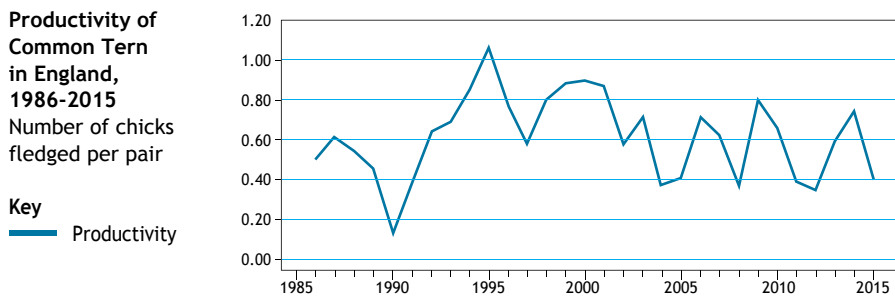
Data available on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) website shows that Common Tern numbers in the UK appeared to be following an upward trend from the early 1990s, albeit with some fluctuations, until 2006. However, in recent years a decline is obvious, but with an upward turn in 2015. In England, a fluctuating pattern is evident, with figures in 2015 similar to those in 2000. The BTO's Breeding Bird Survey does not record Common Tern well and has wide confidence limits but shows declines of 18% in England between 2008 and 2013.

Figure 3. Trend in abundance index (solid line) of Common Tern in England 1986-2015 with 95% confidence limits (shaded area). Taken from JNCC website, based on SMP data.



The productivity of Common Terns in England has fluctuated in recent decades, although a falling trend is evident since the mid-1990s (see Figure 4). It is noticeable that the productivity of terns on rafts in the Lee Valley is significantly higher than the national average.

Figure 4. Trend in productivity (no. of chicks fledged per pair) of Common Terns in England, 1986-2015. Taken from JNCC website, based on SMP data.



Comparison with other sites

At Berney Marshes RSPB reserve, platforms for nesting Common Terns have been constructed in Breydon Water. Around 200 pairs of terns nested on the platforms from 2000 until 2007, dropping slightly to 170-180 before significantly dropping to just below 100 from 2012. Black-headed Gulls first nested in 2006, increasing steadily to 97 in 2015 (see Figure 5).

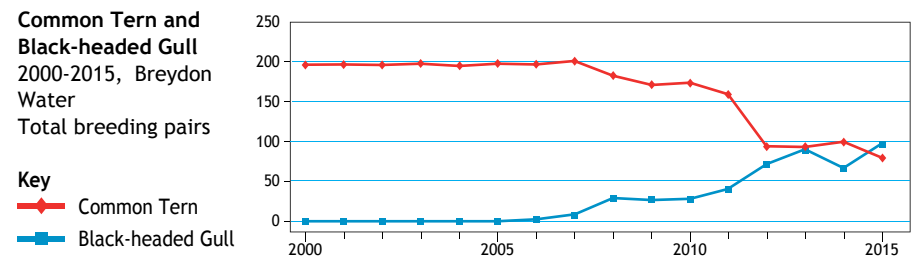
A feature of the platforms is that they are sub-divided by wooden battens into compartments, with generally one pair of birds occupying one compartment. There are 200 available compartments. Thus up to 2007, Common Terns occupied all the compartments and were at maximum capacity. As the gulls increased, near-maximum capacity was maintained but with fewer terns. After the number of terns dropped sharply in 2012, the rafts have remained slightly under capacity. The gulls and terns are generally randomly intermingled on the platforms rather than congregated in species groups.

The average productivity of Common Terns for six years prior to the arrival of Black-headed Gulls was 0.95 (range 0.5 to 1.3). The average productivity after the arrival of the gulls was 0.81 (range 0.54 to 1.17). Recently there has been concern about predation by Lesser Black-backed Gulls, but this is unquantified.

In recent years, Scroby Sands, an island off Great Yarmouth, has become increasingly suitable for nesting terns. In 2013, 250 pairs of Common Terns nested there. In 2012, the number of nesting pairs increased by 60 pairs, roughly matching the sudden decline on the Breydon platforms.

In conclusion, Black-headed Gulls colonising the platforms has reduced the available space for Common Terns. However, there is no evidence of predation as productivity has remained similar. What is unclear is whether the probable departure of c60 pairs of terns to Scroby Sands in 2012 was prompted by the favourable conditions at that site or the increasing competition for space at Breydon.

Figure 5. Counts (breeding pairs) of Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls on nesting platforms at Breydon Water, RSPB Berney Marshes, 2000-2015.



What can we learn from the ecological requirements of each species?

Colony selection by eight species of terns and gulls was studied by Fasola and Canova (1991). Each species was found to have specific habitat requirements and to avoid certain other species. Common Terns preferred short bare substrates with or without short vegetation, while Black-headed Gulls chose areas with longer vegetation, some with an element of bare ground. Thus although there was some overlap between the species it was small. The two species were happy to nest together but avoided larger gulls.

Where Black-headed Gulls nested on rafts in the UK, it had been noticed at several sites that they seemed to prefer to nest up against some form of 'edge' on the rafts; either the fencing around the margins or chick-protection shelters. To test this idea, a trial was undertaken at Rye Meads. In 2013, four of the existing 3m x 3m rafts were connected together and a new 6m x 6m square raft was constructed. The old rafts all had fencing around the margins, the new raft had edges sloping into the water instead of fencing (see top photo opposite). Both rafts were positioned at the same time and the settlement pattern of gulls and terns recorded.

The earlier-nesting Black-headed Gulls settled first in the four corners of the four old rafts, followed by a slow infilling. The new raft (see centre photo opposite) was settled last and by fewer birds. The first Common Terns (eight pairs) settled in the middle of the gulls on the old rafts despite the new raft being largely unused. Later arrivals (of both gulls and seven pairs of terns) settled on the new raft. Thus there was some evidence that the terns preferred to nest among the gulls rather than separate from them. In subsequent years, more gulls nested on the large raft but the smaller rafts with edges are still settled first.

Discussion

So has the colonisation of the Lee Valley rafts by Black-headed Gulls had any impact on the Common Terns? The population and productivity trends of Common Terns in the Lee Valley overall are not dissimilar from the national situation. There is no clear impact on productivity after the arrival of the gulls. Although productivity has declined at two sites, two poor years can be attributed to weather conditions, with the wet summer of

Ringing a Common Tern chick. (Paul Roper)



Top: Typical 3m square tern rafts at Rye Meads with fencing to enable the chicks to be ringed. Above: A new 6m square raft at Rye Meads with sloping edges. Left: An old raft at Walthamstow Reservoirs still with a few pairs of nesting Common Tern. (All photos, Graham White)



Tents were constructed on a raft in an attempt to discourage Black-headed Gulls - which nested in the gully between the tents instead! (Paul Roper)

2012 being particularly bad. The majority of the population decline in the Lee Valley can be attributed to the situation at Walthamstow Reservoirs. The poor raft conditions (see bottom photo opposite), and possibly predation by large gulls, are the key issues. These birds may have moved to other colonies in the London area.

There is some evidence that the terns actually prefer to nest among the gulls, and certainly don't avoid them, probably gaining some protection from predators. However, the major impact appears to be that with increasing numbers of gulls, there is simply less space on the rafts for the terns. With Black-headed Gull nesting earlier, much of the available space may be taken by the time the terns settle. Common Terns appear to be nesting later in recent years with unfledged chicks frequently remaining on the rafts long after the gulls have departed. The reasons for later nesting are unclear but food supply may be suspected.

Although there has been a clear decline in Common Terns at Rye Meads, this decline started before the arrival of Black-headed Gulls. Roper and Harris (2001) speculated that food supply may ultimately be the limiting resource for the terns rather than nesting areas. However, the increasing number of Black-headed Gulls now has the potential to limit the raft space available for Common Terns. In 2015, nearly half the terns attempted to nest on gravel islands rather than rafts. These birds all failed due to predation, contributing to overall poor productivity that year.

The two species appear to have slightly different nesting habitat requirements, with the gulls preferring to nest among sheltering vegetation rather than the bare areas chosen by terns. These requirements may be shown in the way each chooses nesting location on a raft; with gulls by the edges and terns in the more open areas. Such preferences may be exploited in the designs of new rafts.

The biggest threat for Common Terns in the Lee Valley may not in fact be Black-headed Gulls if there is sufficient nesting space. The slow but steady spread of nesting large gulls, notably Lesser Black-backed Gulls is of concern. They are known to predate both smaller species and are likely to have contributed to the decline at Walthamstow. In 2015, they also began nesting close to Rye Meads on nearby factory roofs.

Proposals for the 2016 season and their results

At the end of 2015, we suggested some actions that may help Common Terns in the Lee Valley. These were as follows:

- 1) Aim to build a new raft at each of the sites: Amwell, Rye Meads and Fishers Green. The existing rafts at Walthamstow require urgent restoration before the breeding season. Where possible, increase the amount of raft area for both terns and gulls, in order to reduce any competition for nesting space.
- 2) Increase the size of each individual raft so that the proportion of edge to centre is reduced, thereby favouring Common Terns. As Black-headed Gulls seem to prefer the edges and Common Terns the middle of the rafts, we should make the rafts more open. Between 3m and 6m square is suggested.
- 3) At each complex of rafts, at least one should be put in its final position after May 1st if possible. By this time, most gulls should have already have settled, allowing the additional space to be available for the incoming terns.

At Rye Meads, an additional 6m x 6m raft was constructed and positioned towards the end of May, after most Black-headed Gulls have settled. 2016 turned out to be a particularly poor year for Common Terns, with the valley total dropping to a low of 57 pairs. However, at Rye Meads, birds immediately began to settle on the new raft after it was positioned and a total of 27 pairs nested with a productivity of 1.2 young per pair. Elsewhere, nine pairs bred at Amwell, seven at Walthamstow and 11 at Fishers Green (where predation probably by mink reduced productivity).

Where sites have raft colonies of Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls, we suggest that following the above actions may help maintain Common Tern numbers.

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THE RISE AND FALL OF RUDDY DUCK IN THE LONDON AREA

ANDREW SELF

Background

The Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* is native to the Americas where it is present from southern Canada right down to Chile and Argentina, including parts of the West Indies. It is partially migratory, particularly in North America, but no vagrants have been proved to cross the Atlantic. It is a member of the stiff-tail genus of ducks with other representatives from this genus being found in Africa (Maccoa Duck); the Americas (Lake Duck); Australia (Blue-billed Duck); and Europe and Asia (White-headed Duck). There are three subspecies of Ruddy Duck, one of which (*ferruginea*) is sometimes classified as a separate species (Andean Duck).

Ecology

In the UK the Ruddy Duck typically congregated in large flocks on reservoirs during the winter, dispersing to smaller waters to breed (Hughes). They mostly feed and fly at night and can move long distances during cold weather when local waters begin to freeze over. They have been particularly successful in Britain as they have developed their own niche so are not in competition with other wildfowl. Ruddy Ducks can have a long breeding season so are able to re-lay or have a second brood, indeed ducklings have been seen as late as November. The male is a rich chestnut colour with a black head and white cheek, offset with a bright blue bill while the female is dull brown. The striking colour of the male, along with its curious bubbling display, has made it a very popular duck and most birders will mourn its extinction in the UK regardless of their feelings for the necessity of its demise.

Early colonisation

Being an attractive and charismatic duck, it was first imported into Britain during the 1930s for wildfowl collections. The Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge added a small number



Left: Male Ruddy Duck at Brent Reservoir, August 2003. (Andrew Self)
Right: Female Ruddy Duck with brood of five young at Brent Reservoir, October 2004. (Andrew Self)

of Ruddy Ducks to their collection in 1947 where they soon began to breed. The first Ruddy Duck at large was seen in 1953 at Higham, Norfolk and is believed to have escaped from Slimbridge during the winter of 1952/53 (Brown, Grice). In 1957, 20 unpinioned offspring at Slimbridge escaped and dispersed to the reservoirs in the Midlands and South West. The first breeding in the wild took place in 1960 at Chew Valley Lake. Breeding occurred on Chew Valley Lake again in 1961 and broods were also seen at Belvide and Gailey reservoirs in Staffordshire. By 1963 a total of 74 young had escaped from Slimbridge and with the offspring from this small breeding population, the Ruddy Duck began to increase and slowly spread across the country. There were around six breeding pairs in 1965 and this had increased to 25 pairs by 1972 and the self-sustaining population ensured that this species was duly added to the British List in 1971.

By this time a handful of birds had reached the London Area with the first one at Island Barn Reservoir in February 1958. This was followed by a drake that summered at Walthamstow Reservoirs in 1960. At least two birds were seen in the Lea Valley in 1963 and two years later there were multiple records, with a female at Walton Reservoirs on January 10th which then moved to Island Barn Reservoir later in the month and probably the same bird on Staines Reservoir between February 7th and March 6th. This individual then over-wintered at Walton in 1965/66. Surprisingly there were no further records in the London Area until 1971 when up to two birds were seen at three sites outside the breeding season.

The peak period

In 1975 the UK population had increased to 300-350 birds and had been increasing at a rate of 25 per cent per year, leading to a doubling of the population to about 770 in 1978/79 and again to 1,570 in 1980/81. Although the growth rate decreased to 15 per cent and the cold winter of 1981/82 curtailed the population, the overall increase continued, reaching 1,800 birds by 1983/84 (Lack). By the mid-1990s the breeding population was around 640-800 pairs and the total population had increased to a peak of about 6,000 birds in January 2001.



In 1979 there was a large increase in the numbers seen in the London Area due to cold weather, with up to 13 at Staines Reservoir and ten at Wraysbury Reservoir. Cold weather in January 1982 caused up to 90 birds to move into the London Area, with the peak being 20 at Walton Reservoirs. Later that year, the first record for Inner London was in Regent's Park on July 30th.

The first count of 100 was made on January 31st 1987 when 103 were on Walton Reservoirs; the following day there were at least 204 birds in the London Area. A large wintering population had become established during the 1980s and flocks regularly congregated on some of the larger reservoirs. By 1991 there were counts of over a hundred at both Hilfield Park and Staines Reservoirs and in 1993 the wintering population was about 400 birds.

During the summer of 1979 two drakes and a duck were present at one site in west London but there was no proof of breeding. The following year a pair bred for the first time in the London Area in the Colne Valley. A pair bred again in west London in 1983 and from then on breeding occurred annually. The breeding population increased very slowly and had reached just ten pairs by the start of the 1990s; this included seven pairs at Brent Reservoir which by now had become the favoured breeding site. Within six years the breeding population had increased to 25 pairs, a clear sign that the Ruddy Duck had successfully colonised the London Area. At the beginning of the 21st century the breeding population had risen to about 30 pairs.

The cull

The national population had started to spread to other European countries although the exact position was clouded by locally escaped birds on the near-Continent. Ruddy Ducks first reached Spain in 1983 and bred in 1991. Unfortunately, the same year one bred with a White-headed Duck. Although many Ruddy Ducks and 51 hybrid young were later shot in Spain, the presence of a large population of Ruddy Duck in Europe was considered to be a threat to the native White-headed Ducks which were already considered vulnerable having decreased to just 22 birds in Spain in 1977. Although the population had been increasing thanks to a conservation programme, this was now being threatened by the introduced Ruddy Duck. Pressure was put on the UK Government to reduce the British population of Ruddy Ducks that could potentially reach Spain. The Government and leading conservation



Some Ruddy Ducks with the White-headed Duck that was at Hilfield Park Res in January 2005. (Tony Blake)



Above: Displaying males at Hilfield Park Res in April 2010. (Tony Blake)
Left: Some of the last breeders with young at Hilfield in July 2012. (Tony Blake)



bodies agreed to a trial cull in some areas of the country. Although this did not initially affect the numbers in the London Area, which continued to increase, the trial cull was proved successful and was then extended to the whole country.

By 2003 the wintering population in the London Area had reached about 1,200 including a record count of 879 at Staines on December 22nd. This was more than a quarter of the UK population, which had now been reduced to 4,400. The effects of the national cull were soon noted in the London Area as the wintering numbers declined to fewer than 500 by December 2006. Large numbers were culled at the main wintering areas on Hilfield Park and Staines Reservoirs. This also led to a reduction in the breeding population - only 15 pairs bred in 2007. Targeted culls on the remaining birds meant that in 2011 none bred for the first time in the London Area since 1980 and only 13 birds remained in the Area by the end of the year, including a flock of eight at Brent Reservoir.

In 2012 a pair bred at Hilfield Park Reservoir and two pairs bred at Brent Reservoir; both sites were the subject of further culling in the winter. However a pair did attempt to breed at Brent Reservoir in 2013 but were unsuccessful, most probably due to inclement weather; this was the last recorded breeding attempt in the London Area and came 33 years after the first successful breeding.

Very few birds were reported during the year after culls in January 2013 and this remained the case until September 2014 when seven birds appeared at Brent Reservoir having presumably bred elsewhere. Some of these were culled and by the end of the year only three birds remained in the London Area, two at Brent Reservoir and a long-staying bird at St James's Park.

The end

In 2015 one remained in St James's Park but was not seen after August 26th. The pair at Brent Reservoir were present up to January 11th and then culled; one was seen at London Wetland Centre on March 30th and April 12th; and at Staines Reservoir, a drake was seen on January 27th and a female or immature was present on November 21st to 22nd. Odd birds may continue to appear although the national population is considered to have been virtually eliminated and the only ones in the London Area in 2016 were single birds at Staines Reservoir on January 27th and at Bowyers Water on November 17th while nationally, just two other Ruddy Ducks were recorded: at Cresswell Ponds, Northumberland Water and Rutland Water.

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Postscript: On Jan 21st 2016 two Ruddy Duck and a juv were at Staines Res. (Andrew Moon)



SLATY-BACKED GULL AT RAINHAM MARSHES, JANUARY 13TH 2011 – THE FIRST FOR LONDON

BASED ON THE ACCOUNT BY DOMINIC MITCHELL IN *BIRDWATCH* MAGAZINE

A Summary

The discovery and identification of London's first Slaty-backed Gull *Larus schistisagus* by Dominic Mitchell on January 13th 2011 was reported in *Birdwatch* magazine (*Birdwatch* 2011). This summary is included to confirm its approval by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC) as the first record not only for London but also for Britain.

Slaty-backed Gull is a Pacific species. Only one individual has been recorded previously in Europe, in both Lithuania (2008) and Latvia (2009). It is the only dark-mantled species within its range and, despite slight variation in its appearance, is classified as monotypic. An important identification feature in adult-type plumage is the so-called 'string-of-pearls' pattern in the mid-primaries (*Birdwatch* 2011, page 53).

The BOURC stated: "This well-documented record established the identification of this individual. Provenance as a wild bird was not an issue as the species is not kept in captivity and has been found in Europe before, as have a number of other north Pacific seabirds, including gulls, terns, auks and divers, demonstrating that vagrancy from this part of the world is possible. Thus it was straightforward to accept the species to Category A. It should be placed after Iceland Gull on the British list."

The reports in *Birdwatch* can be read by clicking on the images at: www.birdwatch.co.uk/categories/articleitem.asp?item1104. A full account of the discovery will be published in due course in the journal *British Birds*.

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Adult Slaty-backed Gull on the landfill site near Rainham Marshes, January 14th 2011. In total it was seen by hundreds of birders, and also visited Pitsea and Hanningfield, Essex, during its stay. It was last noted on February 26th 2011. (Dominic Mitchell - www.birdingetc.com)



WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN THE REGENT'S PARK

TONY DUCKETT

Introduction

The area that is now The Regent's Park lay at the southern edge of the ancient Middlesex Forest until the early 16th century. Then an ageing Henry VIII decided that he was in need of a hunting area closer to his Palace, so an area of 500 acres named Marylebone Park was created. On the death of Charles I in 1649 and the seizing of Crown land, major deforestation took place and by the time the Crown was restored very little woodland remained. It was in 1811 that the creation of the present-day Regent's Park was undertaken following plans drawn up by John Nash. The only major changes to Nash's original plans were the establishing of the Zoological Gardens (now ZSL) and the Botanical Society which developed the area that is now Queen Mary's Gardens.

Habitats

The Park up until the mid-1980s was typical urban parkland, with areas of formal garden; Queen Mary's Gardens, Avenue Gardens, English Gardens, St Johns Lodge (Secret Garden) and the flower borders by Clarence Gate. There are two lakes. Boating is allowed on the first one but rowers are restricted by chains or fencing to about half of it. The chained-off area gives waterfowl and the occasional wader somewhere to retreat into. The fenced-off sections at the northwest, southeast and northeast arms

Kestrel. (Tony Duckett)



also act as refuges for the birds on the lake. The northeast area, Longbridge Sanctuary, houses the Park's ornamental Waterfowl Collection. There are also six islands on the lake, the two on the main part of the lake being home to the Park's heronry. The second and much smaller lake has recently undergone a dramatic change from being an ornamental duck pond with some very large fish: it has now been made into an environmentally friendly lake with areas of marginal plants and a boardwalk.

There were large areas of amenity grassland which was kept short and offered very little to wildlife. The Park hosts a variety of sports throughout the year in the wide open areas, south of London Zoo, east of the Broadwalk on Gloucester and Cumberland Greens, with another area, Marylebone Green, bordering the Park's southern boundary. There is a small wooded area, 'Leaf Yard Wood', which was once part of the garden to the large but now demolished Holford House. The wood is not open to the public except on certain occasions: such as on April 30th 2011 when a Wryneck - the second Park record - spent a day there; and again on September 21st 2014 when the Park's first Yellow-browed Warbler spent the afternoon there.

My work, projects and observations in the Park

I joined The Royal Parks in 1977 as one of two assistants to the Senior Wildlife Officer in Regent's Park. At that time part of our duties involved looking after the Park's ornamental waterfowl, collecting and hatching their eggs and rearing ducklings, goslings and cygnets. In the autumn some of these juvenile birds were then swapped with aviculturists to help create what was at that time the best free-to-view collection in the United Kingdom with at least 90 species. Unfortunately the breeding has ceased but there is still a small collection of ducks and geese in the northeast arm of the lake. The presence of this collection has helped to attract other species of waterfowl that would not normally be expected on a park lake in the middle of the city. Species such as Gadwall, Northern Shoveler and Eurasian Wigeon - once nervy but regular visitors - are now reasonably tame, with the Shovelers feeding within two metres of people walking around the edge of the lake. Of the scarcer visitors that have turned up, we have had Ring-necked Duck (1978), Lesser Scaup (2003), a Greater Scaup that spent 15 years with the Scaup in the collection, Goosander, and a Smew that spent two winters with the birds in the collection. A drake Garganey summered with the birds in the collection,

Garganey in May 2009; this bird turned up in April 2009 and stayed throughout the summer. Amazingly, the same bird returned in April the following year. (Tony Duckett)

Editorial note:

Some records mentioned in this paper are new to the LNHS and have not therefore appeared in earlier LBRs.



Common Scoter; this pair spent a few minutes on the lake in mid-April 2015 before a rowing-boat came too close for comfort. (Tony Duckett)

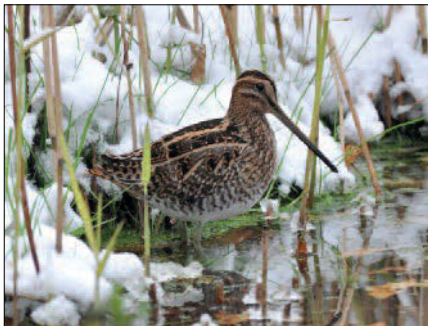


going into eclipse plumage before departing; he even returned the following year for a much shorter stay. The most surprising visitor in recent years was a pair of Common Scoter that dropped down on to the lake one sunny morning, April 12th 2015.

In 1980 I became the Senior Wildlife Officer and with my interests in birds and nature I started improving areas of the Park that either came under my control or that I felt offered the potential for encouraging more species into the Park. I was very lucky that the Park's management teams over the years have believed in me and my ideas that at the time went against much of how the Park was maintained. The areas that I targeted were normally in fenced-off areas with no public access, such as the Longbridge Sanctuary, Leaf Yard Wood, Cricket Pen, Wetland Pen and Chat Enclosure. These areas may have no public access but they are either quite open, or have plenty of gaps that allow easy viewing, or have a particular area (sun trap) on their edge that attracts birds.

I was able to have the mowing relaxed in areas bordering the sports pitches. We now have rough grassland linking the enclosed areas; this allows invertebrates, small mammals and amphibians the opportunity to spread into areas they would otherwise never have reached. Before this Kestrels had ceased breeding in the Park, largely due to the demise of the House Sparrow and the fact that there was no alternative food supply. The rough grassland areas have over time been colonised by insects, some small mammals and amphibians. This has resulted in the Park now hosting two pairs of Kestrel and one pair of Little Owls.

Below left: Common Snipe; this is one of four birds that dropped down into the Rail Ditch at the end of December 2010. Below right: Water Rail; this caged feeder allows the birds to feed without being disturbed by other birds. (Tony Duckett)



Above left: This is one of two Kestrel nest boxes that are successfully used in the Park. Above right: Little Owl; a pair have been breeding in the Park since 2007 and winter in an area of the Park where the male was first seen in 2003. (Tony Duckett)

Certain species of shrubs and trees were planted with the hope of enticing particular species of birds: alder and silver birch for Siskin and Lesser Redpoll; gorse out on the open spaces with the intention of attracting Stonechats. This bird was a scarce visitor to the Park, but now the 'Chat Bushes' (area shown on Bird Sightings Guide map) attract them annually.

In the past 13 years several small reedbeds have been constructed. The earlier ones were quite small, not very long, narrow, and positioned behind sheet piling. The Park's management were concerned that, because of the vigorous nature of phragmites, they might spread too much. This has not been the case and we have made bigger and better ones since at the northwest end of the lake. Our first substantial reed bed was constructed where the boathouse once stood (now on the opposite side of the lakes). The cost of constructing these beds has meant that the work is often spread over a couple of years. This first one has a section of reeds cut down every autumn in the hope of attracting Water Rails, which until this reedbed's construction had only been recorded twice before. They are almost annual now with up to three birds wintering; the occasional bird turns up also in the Wetland Pen but viewing is restricted.

These next two areas are to the north of the Park and are under-watched but well worth a look. The Regent's Canal between Charlbert Street Bridge and London Zoo is a mixture of mature trees and elm scrub. The sides are quite steep but it does attract a variety of parkland birds, migrants and the odd Kingfisher during the autumn and winter. To the north of the zoo lies Primrose Hill; habitat-wise it is not the best, but from its summit there are fantastic views over the capital. It was a favourite location in the 1950s and 1960s to watch visible migration over London. The area to the southwest of the view-point and bordering the underground reservoir is reasonably quiet and has some mature hawthorns and apple trees that attract migrants.

Status of the birds

Resident or breeding

The Park supports a healthy population of birds, with 50 species breeding within the Park's boundaries and a couple of others that breed every now and then. There are also

species that breed near by but feed in or over the Park: Peregrine Falcon, Common Tern and Grey Wagtail.

Annual passage migrants

Red Kite, Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Common Sandpiper, Whinchat, Stonechat, Northern Wheatear, Common Redstart, Wood Warbler, Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher.

Vagrants

Cory's Shearwater (recorded in 2016), Gannet, Common Crane, Black Kite, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Melodious Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler.

Birds: when and where to look

Being slightly further north than most of London's tourist attractions, the Park gives visitors the chance to get away from the hustle and bustle of life in the capital. The Park's position - you would think - is not ideal for attracting migrants; not being close to a river system or the large reservoirs and gravel pits that surround parts of London, we rely on birds following the large green parts of the capital. Predominantly in spring, birds fly from southwest London over Richmond Park, WWT Wetland Centre at Barnes, Hyde Park and then over the Park and on towards Hampstead Heath and Alexandra Palace before reaching the Lea Valley and a much richer eco-system. In the autumn it is a reverse of this for our earlier migrants - the warblers, chats, flycatchers, hirundines and raptors. This changes slightly when it comes to finches and thrushes: these families tend to head more east to west.

Yellow-legged Gull; birds of varying ages are seen on the lake during the year. (Tony Duckett)



As with most birding, the first two or three hours after day-break is normally the best time to visit. This is when our pair of Little Owls are slightly easier to see, particularly when they are feeding their young. They frequent the area east of the Ready Money Drinking Fountain, but have different roost sites during the winter period. Birders, some sceptical, are surprised when told that the list of birds recorded in the Park stands at an impressive 214 species.



Osprey. (Tony Duckett)

During the winter months a period of cold weather is needed to force the birds wintering in the United Kingdom or even on the continent to move in search of food, without which things can be very quiet in the Park. The Park is well known for its Grey Herons: this species has been breeding in the Park since 1968 on the two islands on the main lake. They will take advantage of the mild winters and in some years will be on eggs in early January. It is worth checking the gulls: four species are regular, and Yellow-legged Gulls are seen more frequently than Great Black-backed Gulls. Scarce waterfowl tend to be seen on the quieter part of the lake in the chained-off section.

The first sign that spring is on the way is when the first Meadow Pipits are seen and heard heading north in early March. Skywatching during the passage periods has shown that there are on occasions good numbers of raptors passing over London. In March, on days when there are plenty of warm updrafts, Red Kites from the Chilterns start to move and are seen a handful of times each year; on these days also, it is possible to see groups of Common Buzzards in the sky. Peak spring migration runs from early April through to mid-May. Things then slow down when the summer visitors - Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs, Reed Warblers and now almost annually Common Whitethroat - settle down to breed.

We start to see signs of departing passerines in late July with the first fresh-plumaged Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs turning up. The Park used to turn up Wood Warblers regularly in the autumn but the decline in their population has meant you have to look really hard to find any. From August, as well as raptors from the UK, birds from the continent boost those numbers with Osprey and Honey Buzzard being recorded annually.

There are times during the autumn, if the weather is favourable, when the true spectacle of migration can be observed. It involves Swallows and House Martins in the hundreds, sometimes thousands, heading south. Looking through binoculars, birds can be picked up as they approach Primrose Hill in the north; they then drop down, skimming low across the grass of the open spaces before departing to the southwest and over Baker Street.

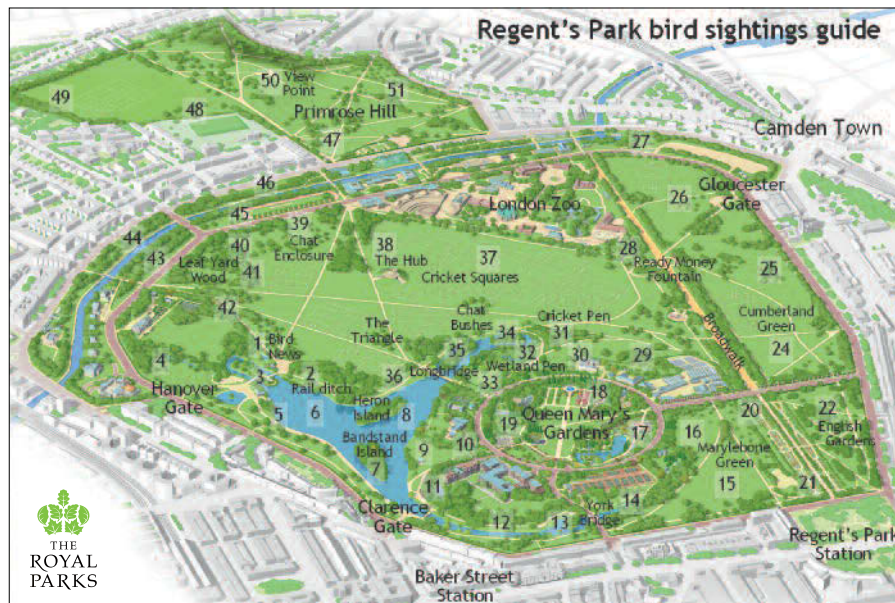
The Redwings, Fieldfares and finches are the next groups that allow you to witness migration as it happens. The first couple of hours after sunrise on a cool crisp morning in late September or early October are the best conditions for seeing this. These birds will have left continental Europe in the dark and are looking for somewhere to drop down and feed. In the 1960s, birders such as Ian Wallace would stand on the top of

Primrose Hill, from where you can see more of what is going on over London. I find it is best to stand in the middle of the Park, possibly by the Hub (café and changing room) looking towards the BT Tower. The movement can be on quite a broad front and stretch across the width of the Park and beyond. The end of the year can be a quiet period but cold weather can change all that: on January 24th 1978, at least 1,200 Skylarks were seen heading west - a phenomenon that is never likely to happen again.

How to get here and where to start

As parking can be expensive in the capital, a large number of people visiting the Park use public transport. The nearest Tube stations are Baker Street, Regent's Park and Great Portland Street. Baker Street is the best station to disembark from, and then a quick five-minute walk north along Baker Street sees you entering the Park through Clarence Gate. Starting from here you can take a circular walk that takes in all of the Park's key areas. Birds can turn up almost anywhere; however there are certain locations that are more favoured. This is because they offer the birds a chance to either feed, drink or shelter, but mainly they are in areas to which the public have no access (behind chains or fences). It does not mean that they are hidden; some enclosures can be walked around and can be looked into.

The map below is an aid for those people who follow @parksbirdlondon on Twitter or www.regentsparkbirds.blogspot.co.uk. On these two sites, details of bird sightings in the Park are often followed by an area number; for example, Common Redstart in the Chat Enclosure, area 39. (Courtesy, The Royal Parks)



A short walk

As we all know, birds can turn up anywhere. What follows is a short walk around the Park that takes in those areas that seem to attract our so-called less-common birds. (Birds that we might label as less common may, however, be common away from central London.) We will start the walk as if you had got off a bus or train and entered the Park at Clarence Gate.

I am sure that Grey Heron will be the first bird your eyes will be drawn to when you enter the Park at this point. That, and the large gatherings of Coot and Feral Pigeons, are all attracted to this spot for bread and similar types of food handed out by ill-informed members of the public. Grey Heron is a flagship species for the Park and one of the reasons why we have improved the habitat in some areas around the lake. We will not dwell here but make our way to Area 9, passing the Bandstand Island (Area 7) which in spring holds at least 14 pairs of herons, several of which have nests that are almost at eye level and allow you the opportunity to follow the life in the nest, from the pair bonding to when the young eventually leave more than 70 days later.

Area 9

Standing here on the edge of the lake, looking towards the Central London Mosque, gives you a chance to scan the lake for less-common species of waterfowl that visit the Park, eg Wigeon, Teal and Pintail. They are attracted to the area closer to 'Heron Island', opposite (herons first nested here in 1968), as it is far enough away from human activity to allow them to feel more relaxed. It is a good place to see our feral Mandarin Ducks and Red-crested Pochards. They both now breed in the Park, numbers increasing during the winter period to around 90. In spring at least one pair of Common Terns arrive, resting on and mating on the posts in the lake. They do not breed here, choosing to breed at Brent Reservoir (five miles north-west of the Park) but they fish the lake daily until any young have fledged. After heavy showers in May, August or September, it is worth checking the banks of these islands for any Common Sandpipers. At this point it is easier to go through the gulls, looking for something out of the ordinary: Mediterranean Gulls are scarce but Yellow-legged Gulls occur at certain times of the year. Vagrants seen here include Red-breasted Merganser, Lesser Scaup, Common Scoter (pair), Kittiwake and Black Tern.

This Kittiwake dropped in during March 2014, spending a couple of hours on the lake. (Tony Duckett)



Leaving the lake we head up the hill; the shrubbery on the left behind the fence is very good for common migrants, and Firecrest is fairly regular here. We then reach the Inner Circle, with Queen Mary's Rose Garden across the road. This walk does not take in the Rose Garden but - if you have time - it can be worth a look. A European Nightjar spent the day here on May 9th 2010, and it does attract migrants - particularly during the autumn when the shrubbery on the western side of the rose wheel can hold the commoner warblers and the odd Spotted Flycatcher. Follow the Inner Circle to the left, entering the Park at the next entrance. Turn right immediately and follow the path until you come to a small enclosure - The Cricket Pen.

Area 31 'The Cricket Pen'

This was the Park's first small enclosure, with its mixture of trees: pine, birch, alder and hornbeam. At the time it was not planted and fenced for the benefit of the Park's wildlife; this has happened in recent years. Resident parkland birds are drawn to the bird-feeding station that is sited here during the winter: Siskins, Brambling, Reed Bunting and Blackcap can sometimes be seen using the feeders. These birds in turn attract one of two pairs of Sparrowhawk that breed in the Park. The blackberry bushes - apart from encouraging Common Whitethroat to breed here - supply plenty of food for migrant warblers particularly during the autumn. Apart from the common species, Garden Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat are seen in small numbers and the trees

Clockwise from top left: Common Whitethroat. Common Redstarts find the hedges protecting the enclosures a great place to look for insects. Whinchats and Stonechats are drawn to the areas where gorse has been planted, particularly the 'Chat Bushes'. (Tony Duckett)



Clockwise from top left: Sometimes hard to see, the Park's second Yellow-browed Warbler was present for 11 days in October 2014. Pied Flycatchers in spring are very scarce, but autumn normally sees at least three birds turn up. Firecrest; this was one of up to four birds that were present during the winter of 2015-16. At the end of April 2011 this Wryneck was the last thing I was expecting to find in the Leaf Yard Wood. (Tony Duckett)

themselves regularly attract Common Redstart, Pied and Spotted Flycatcher and, if you are lucky, Wood Warbler. In the southeast corner of the pen, an elm thicket has proved a draw to resident and passage migrants. It can, if the weather has been bad, provide areas for birds to bathe and drink. In October 2014 the Park's second Yellow-browed Warbler spent 11 days here. The reedbed fringing the nearby island has breeding Reed Warbler, and another pair can be seen or heard by standing by the set of double gates looking into Area 32 (The Wetland Pen). This area, though not open to the public, has produced Green Sandpiper and Jack and Common Snipe as well as Water Rail.

Leave Area 31 by following the path round the end of the lake and cutting across the area of rough grassland, avoiding the wildflower patches. There are a couple of large gorse bushes (The Chat Bushes) that were planted to attract our rarest chats, the Whinchat and Stonechat. I am pleased to say that they are both now regularly found here.

Now we will head for the Hub (café and sports changing room) in area 37; this is a good place for some refreshments but mainly (weather permitting) a great place to scan the skies for diurnal bird movements, particularly during the autumn when large numbers of Swallows pass overhead. It is also a good spot for raptor-watching as you have 360-degree views. The sports fields close to the hub, particularly the Cricket Squares, is the best location for seeing Northern Wheatears, and occasionally wagtails and pipits. The latter two groups tend to move on quickly due to the disturbance from people and dogs.

Area 39 'Chat Enclosure'

Once refreshed, walk northwest to the small enclosure that was once part of a tennis and golf school. The area was left to regenerate and, over the past six years, has turned into a great place to see virtually all of the Park's top passerines: Tree Pipit, Whinchat, Common Redstart, Lesser Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, and Pied and Spotted Flycatcher. On September 29th 2016 the Park's third Yellow-browed Warbler spent two days in the area. There is a small drinking pool that helps draw the birds in, plus the fruit from blackberry bushes and the insects on the coppiced willows and the tall lime trees that are in and adjacent to the enclosure. There is an avenue of small fruit trees on the western edge that attract good numbers of thrushes during the autumn, sometimes joined by Redwings and Fieldfares, and on more than one occasion Ring Ouzels have been with them.

Area 40 & 41 'Leaf Yard Wood'

A short walk west brings you to area 40 and 41 (Leaf Yard Wood), not open to the public but once a top spot for migrants. It attracts a similar range of species to the 'Chat Enclosure' but being an area of mainly mature trees it can be harder to see the birds. Just before dawn or at dusk there is a chance of seeing and hearing Tawny Owls, and during the winter Woodcock can sometimes be seen leaving the shelter of the wood to feed in the rough grassland. There is a holm oak by the fence that regularly attracts Firecrests, with at least four birds being seen here in 2015. The open area with some small clumps of gorse can be good for migrants, feeding in the scrub by the fence. It is important that you stand back and watch, as that way you will not disturb the birds and they will come out in the open. As it is fairly sheltered and gets the early morning sun it is a favourite area for Spotted Flycatchers in the autumn.

Area 2 & 3

We then make our way to areas 2 and 3, Hanover Bridges and the Park's main areas of reedbed. The reedbed viewed just before you start to cross the first of the two bridges in early autumn has a cut area that has enabled visiting birders the chance to view up to three Water Rails. These birds are attracted to a feeding station that is positioned in the Rail Ditch if the weather takes a turn for the worse. In spring if you cross the first bridge and sit on the benches that are behind a small reedbed you will be rewarded with fantastic views of singing male Reed Warblers. At least ten pairs breed in the Park, and until the establishing of the reedbeds the species was just a passage migrant. From this vantage point you can watch the passage of hirundines, pipits and wagtails in spring and autumn. The more you visit, the greater the chance of something more exceptional, eg Osprey, Hobby, Whimbrel or Greenshank - all these have been seen from here in the past.

From here it is a short walk back along the edge of the lake to Clarence Gate and your starting point. On the way you will pass another reedbed; as well as breeding Reed Warbler, this hosted a pair of Sedge Warblers in 2015, though proof of a new breeding bird for the Park was not confirmed. Another scarce breeder, the Reed Bunting, has bred here in the past. Always keep an eye out as you walk alongside the lake: a Black Tern once spent several hours hawking insects over the lake. Kittiwakes have dropped in on a couple occasions and, while counting Red-crested Pochard in 2015, I observed a pair of Common Scoter drop in for a few minutes. You will pass the western side of the

Table 1. Earliest and latest dates of summer and winter visitors to the Park

Earliest	Summer visitors	Latest	Earliest	Summer Visitors	Latest
30/04/2006	Honey Buzzard	02/10/2000	15/03/1961	Wheatear	15/11/1994
23/03/1996	Osprey	22/09/2010	26/03/2007	Ring Ouzel	03/11/2006
24/03/2010	Hobby	02/11/1995	21/04/2013	Grasshopper Warbler	15/10/1973
28/03/1985	Common Sandpiper	18/11/2004	04/04/2016*	Sedge Warbler	18/09/1968
10/05/1966	Black Tern	15/09/1994	13/04/2012	Reed Warbler	06/10/1982
08/05/1978	Sandwich Tern	02/10/1986	05/04/2002	Garden Warbler	11/10/1984
22/04/1995	Common Tern	12/10/1995	12/04/2016*	Lesser Whitethroat	05/10/1967
24/04/2006	Arctic Tern	01/09/1994	09/04/2011	Common Whitethroat	05/10/1978
05/04/1982	Turtle Dove	05/11/1981	16/04/1951	Wood Warbler	18/09/1991
08/04/2011	Cuckoo	10/10/1955	11/03/1990	Willow Warbler	14/10/1981
09/05/2010	Nightjar		29/04/1966	Spotted Flycatcher	08/10/1976
18/04/2007	Swift	10/10/1985	09/04/1991	Pied Flycatcher	07/10/1986
15/03/1994	Sand Martin	12/11/1989			
01/04/1993	Swallow	30/11/1968	Earliest	Winter Visitors	Latest
16/03/1990	House Martin	10/11/1983	10/12/1962	Smew	21/05/2010
21/03/1963	Tree Pipit	*18/10/2016	30/10/2006	Jack Snipe	29/04/1999
03/04/2004	Yellow Wagtail	09/11/1967	15/09/1981	Fieldfare	28/04/1978
19/04/1985	Nightingale	30/09/1972	15/09/1981	Redwing	31/05/1995
07/04/2005	Common Redstart	06/10/1960	14/09/1997	Brambling	15/04/1967
15/04/2007	Whinchat	09/10/1980	04/09/2015	Siskin	21/04/1984

*subsequent to publication year

Bandstand Island and will once again be able to get good views of several of the Grey Heron nests, particularly during the first five months of the year.

Access & directions

The Park opens at approximately 5:30am every day of the year, with Primrose Hill being always open. There are slightly different closing times throughout, which can be found at the entrances or online.

The Regent's Park is easily reached by road or by tube. Parking on the Park roads is metered, but if visiting at a weekend you can park free of charge on the single yellow lines and meters just north of the Regent's Canal, but not in the residents' parking bays. The nearest stations are Regent's Park, Great Portland Street and Baker Street, the last being closest to the start of the walk. The nearest Network Rail station is Marylebone, situated five minutes' walk west of Baker Street station.

Further information:

www.regentsparkbirds.blogspot.co.uk

twitter @parksbirdlondon

<http://www.royalpark.org.uk/parks/the-regents-park>

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Readers may request a Checklist of species seen in the Park from the author.



Two Bearded Tits that had been seen at several waterbodies in the London area were seen at the Park in mid-February 2013. (Tony Duckett)

A BREEDING BIRD SURVEY OF EAST SHEEN COMMON

JAN WILCZUR

Introduction

East Sheen Common, also known as Sheen Common, is an area of public open space in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in south-west London (grid ref TQ 195 746). Designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance it is owned by the National Trust and leased to Richmond upon Thames Borough Council. The Common's 23 hectares comprise mainly woodland but there is also a cricket field, a football pitch, a bowling green and some hard tennis courts.

To the south of the Common is the large expanse of Richmond Park, from which it is separated by a high brick wall, although there is pedestrian access through Bog Gate. To the west is East Sheen Cemetery, beyond which are allotments and a school playing field. Close to the northern entrance to the Common is the A305 Sheen Road and to the east is a residential area with mature gardens. The Common also lies underneath a flight path to Heathrow Airport.

The Common is typical of some of the public open spaces in suburban London, being well-used by local residents for a variety of recreational purposes. The dense woodland is bisected by three wide tracks and a network of narrow paths.

Habitats

The 19 hectares of woodland is dominated by pedunculate oak and contains ash, beech, horse chestnut, London plane, Norway maple, silver birch and sycamore. A characteristic of the woodland is the dense shrub layer which consists mainly of holly. There is also some blackthorn, cherry laurel, elder, grey willow, hawthorn, hazel, rowan, whitebeam, wild cherry and yew. The understorey is mainly bramble, with ivy,

Sparrowhawk nest with young. (Jan Wilczur)



some honeysuckle and raspberry. In addition, there is a small seasonal pond and a small area of seasonally wet woodland.

History

East Sheen Common was once part of a large area of common land that existed before the enclosure of Richmond Park in 1637. The Common features on a 1768 map of Surrey by John Roque. In the 18th century, George III had a farm to the west of the Common, and King's Ride - one of the main tracks through the Common - harks back to the route from Kew Palace to the farm and Richmond Park. In 1845 the parish pound was moved to the Common, which remained in the ownership of the Earl Spencer, the Lord of the Manor. A shooting butt was built by subscription in 1860 for the use of the 9th Surrey Royal Volunteers Corps and was later used by the Inns of Court Volunteers. The East Sheen Common Preservation Society then purchased the freehold in 1880. In addition to the rifle range, previous uses of the Common included a ladies' golf course and a gravel extraction site, evidence of which can be seen in an area of uneven and damp ground in the woodland. All this suggests the Common was once more open in nature and indicators of this are remnants of gorse. In 1908 the Common was bought by the National Trust.

A famous visitor to the Common was the composer Gustav Holst who, according to his daughter Imogen, walked there 'in the hope of finding a little peace'.

The author first visited East Sheen Common in 2008 to survey the breeding birds as part of the British Trust for Ornithology's National Bird Atlas project. The density of singing birds was a surprise so a more detailed breeding bird survey was undertaken in 2011, the results of which are listed below. The survey consisted of four visits between late March and late April with an additional visit later in the spring. Each visit began at dawn or just after and lasted between 90 minutes and three-and-a-half hours. A territory was defined by at least the persistent presence of a singing male. A typical range of woodland species was found, including Song Thrush - a Red-listed species which is also a Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species for Richmond Borough. In total, 407 territories of 23 species were found.



Systematic List

Key

Species name in **bold** = breeding territories recorded, defined by at least a lingering singing male.

Species name in **bold italics** = either bred in the immediate vicinity of the Common or was regularly recorded during the breeding season.

Figures in brackets = numbers of territories.

Conservation status is indicated by the following:

Red = highest conservation priority because of severe decline in breeding numbers and/or contraction of breeding range.

Amber = medium conservation priority because of several criteria including moderate decline in breeding numbers and/or contraction of breeding range; a rare breeder nationally with fewer than 300 pairs.

Green = species not showing either of the above status are assumed to have this one, which refers to species that occur regularly in the UK and do not qualify under the criteria for the above classifications.

Introduced = not native to the UK and either escaped and bred in the wild or was deliberately released.

The results of the survey were compared with breeding bird data for England and the London area given in the Breeding Bird Survey Report 2011, covering the period 1995-2010 and published by the British Trust for Ornithology.

A small annex of one hectare, in the south-west corner of the Common, was not included in the survey. This was because, before the survey was started it was not clear if it was part of the Common.

Sparrowhawk (1): A pair bred successfully, fledging three young. The nest was rather easy to find as it was situated above one of the many narrow paths that run through the dense shrub-layer of mainly holly.

Woodpigeon (52): The third commonest species in the survey. Presumably this species took advantage of feeding opportunities in the immediate surrounds of the Common. The BTO Breeding Bird Survey Report showed a 62% population increase in the London area.

Tawny Owl (2): Two territorial males were recorded but no effort was made to establish if breeding had taken place.

Green Woodpecker (5): A small population of this ground-feeding woodpecker occupied the woodland edges. Feeding then, perhaps, in the adjoining cemetery and in the acid grassland of Richmond Park where there are plenty of ant-hills. This species, once Amber-listed and so of moderate conservation concern, has increased by a third in south-east England and by nearly a half nationally.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (14): Found at a very high density. Territories were concentrated in the southern half of the Common which is adjacent to Richmond Park. Here there are veteran oaks and much dead and decaying wood offering potential feeding sites. The cemetery and gardens, containing mature trees, also allowed birds to feed beyond the Common. The London population has doubled since 1995, in line with a similar rise in the English population.

Wren (58): Unsurprisingly, given the dense understorey, the second commonest species found in the survey. Numbers have increased in London by 41% although the English population is stable.

Dunnock (1) **Amber**: Given the dense nature of the woodland, the poor representation of this species was not a surprise. More birds seemed to occur in the adjoining gardens and cemetery.

Robin (64): The commonest species, finding the dense understorey to its liking - as with Wren. In London, the population has increased by 81%, a much larger degree than for that of the whole of England.

Blackbird (36): Another species occurring at a high density and probably spending much time feeding in the Cemetery and gardens surrounding the Common. The 22% decline in London is at odds with the national increase of 21%.

Song Thrush (4) **Red**: A small population of this threatened species occurs mainly in the southern half of the woodland. This site has some local significance given that this once widespread garden bird has all but disappeared from residential areas. The London population declined by a third while other regions showed an increase, resulting in a 15% increase for the whole of England.

Blackcap (25): The woodland habitat was apparently ideal for this species, although territories were concentrated in the western side of the Common. The high density was of a similar scale to those found in other woods in England. The species increased in England by 84% and the London population rose by 130%.

Chiffchaff (8): Evenly spaced across the woodland, this species occurred at a much lower density than Blackcap. It prefers woodland with a more open canopy and less dense shrub layer. No data was available for London but the 33% increase in the population of south-east England was far lower than the increases in the northern regions of England.

Goldcrest (5): Most territories were concentrated in the south-eastern part of the Common. The reason for this was not apparent.

Long-tailed Tit (2): There was a slight decline in national breeding numbers between 2010 and 2011 but probably not enough to explain this low figure. The dense stands of holly would appear to deter this species from using the woodland.

Blue Tit (51): The fourth most common species in the survey, similar in abundance to Great Tit. The English population has increased slightly since 1995 but the London population has increased by a third in the same period.

Great Tit (46): The fifth commonest species. The increase in the London population of 131% has far outstripped that of the 41% for England.

Coal Tit (2): Unsurprisingly scarce, given - apart from yew - the lack of conifers in the woodland. One territory was beside the cemetery that contains pines and cedar trees; the other was by the gardens where there are a few pines and ornamental conifers.

Nuthatch (2): Fortunately, a loud and vocal species and straightforward to locate in the dense woodland. Interestingly, the territories were located at the very northern and southern ends of the Common. The 48% increase in south-east England is only about half that for England as a whole.

Treecreeper (2): Unlike Nuthatch, far more quiet and unobtrusive. Both London and national populations appear to be fairly stable.

Jay (7): This and the following species were evenly distributed in the woodland. The populations of both England and London have increased slightly.

Magpie (6): Has increased in London by a fifth since 1995, although the English population is stable.

Carrion Crow (10): A surprisingly large figure but also evenly distributed through the woodland. Perhaps, like several species found in the survey, the Common is used for nesting while feeding mainly occurs in the surrounding area. The London population has increased by more than a half since 1995, a far greater rate of increase than nationally.

Chaffinch (4): Found at the edges of the Common and beside the football pitch that lies within the woodland. In London, the population has increased by a 157%, whereas elsewhere in England the rates of increase have been much lower.

Appendix

Other species recorded during the survey:

Ring-necked Parakeet, introduced: A few birds perched in treetops and were seen flying over but none within the woodland. Perhaps this species avoids dense closed canopy woodland? Abundant in the neighbouring Richmond Park; the London population has increased by 800% over the past 15 years.

Feral Pigeon, introduced: Small numbers present in the surrounding residential area and seen feeding on the cricket field.

Stock Dove: a few birds fed on the cricket field, presumably from Richmond Park where they are common.

Pied Wagtail: Up to two birds seen on the cricket field. May have bred near by.

Jackdaw: Abundant in the adjacent Richmond Park and occasionally seen flying over the Common.

Starling, Red: Small numbers fed on the cricket field, presumably birds breeding in the adjacent residential area. This species has undergone a severe national decline and no longer breeds in local woodlands.

Subsequent woodland management and surveys

In 2014 Richmond Council was awarded a grant by the Forestry Commission to manage the woodland at East Sheen Common. The aims were: to improve natural regeneration; encourage diverse ground vegetation; allow the development of full-crowned trees; maintain access to the majority of the site; and, in general, improve the amenity value of the Common. The management was to be carried out over five years, dividing the woodland into five blocks and removing 90% of the holly and most of the non-native trees and shrubs. A couple of woodland glades were also to be created. Apart from some small-scale thinning of the holly understorey and clearing of ditches, there had been virtually no management of the woodland for many years.

There was a short period of public consultation and then the first phase of the work was carried out in early 2015. After a few weeks of work by contractors using heavy machinery and burning cuttings in large bonfires, the result of which was the almost complete removal of the shrub layer, there was a public outcry. Local residents were concerned that the secluded nature of the woodland had been destroyed and that



Sheen Common woodland in February 2015, before and after clearance. (Jan Wilczur)

wildlife had suffered. After an emergency meeting between council officials and local residents, further clearance work was suspended.

The Friends of Sheen Common was formed after this meeting and a woodland sub-group of the Friends entered discussion with the Parks Department of Richmond Council on how management of the woodland should proceed.

Having previously surveyed the breeding birds of Richmond Park, the author was aware that the woods in the Park without a shrub layer were poor in species diversity. In comparison, those with a shrub layer contained far more territories and far more species. Suspecting that the cleared area of Sheen Common would now be similarly impoverished for birds, it was surveyed in spring 2015. The surrounding untouched woodland was also surveyed as a form of control. The results are given below:

Table 1. Number of territories of each species recorded before and after the clearance at East Sheen Common.

Species	Spring 2011 territories	Spring 2015 territories
Woodpigeon	6	0
Robin	5	0
Wren	4	1
Blackbird	2	0
Chiffchaff	2	0
Blackcap	4	0
Blue Tit	4	0
Great Tit	2	1
Jay	2	0
Total territories	31	2

The results were startling. In the original survey, the cleared area contained 31 territories of nine species. In the survey after the clearance, only two territories of two species were found. Thus 29 territories had been lost and seven species had disappeared from this area. The surrounding untouched woodland held a similar number of territories and species in comparison to the survey of 2011, indicating that the extreme loss of territories and species was due to the clearance and not to any other factors.

In the spring of 2016, the cleared area was surveyed again and only three territories of three species were found (Wren, Blue and Great Tit). Some bramble had regenerated since the clearance as had some holly - although in coppiced form; raspberry also became evident.

The Friends of Sheen Common recognised that the holly needed managing but proposed a more gradual approach- 'thinning' rather than 'clearing'- and removing only 30-50% of the holly. The concern was that, if 90% holly clearance continued across the rest of the Common, the effect on the birdlife and biodiversity would be disastrous. Would the woodland ever recover and, if so, would the same diversity of species and numbers of birds be restored? Holly is an important component of the shrub layer, providing nesting sites, feeding opportunities and year-round shelter given its evergreen nature. Clumps of holly may also provide roost sites for Tawny Owls, and Sparrowhawks favour nesting above them.

After negotiation with Richmond Council, a revised plan for the management of the woodland was formulated employing a small team of conservation volunteers using less intrusive methods. Work is due to recommence in early 2017.

This case illustrates the sensitivity required in managing urban green spaces for nature conservation. Managing authorities and conservation organisations would appear to benefit from wider consultation with local interests and with enthusiastic, knowledgeable, local natural historians. This apparently unremarkable, small, suburban woodland is clearly important for a range of the commoner breeding woodland birds, a few of which occur at particularly high density. In this respect, it provides a special place for people to enjoy.

Acknowledgements

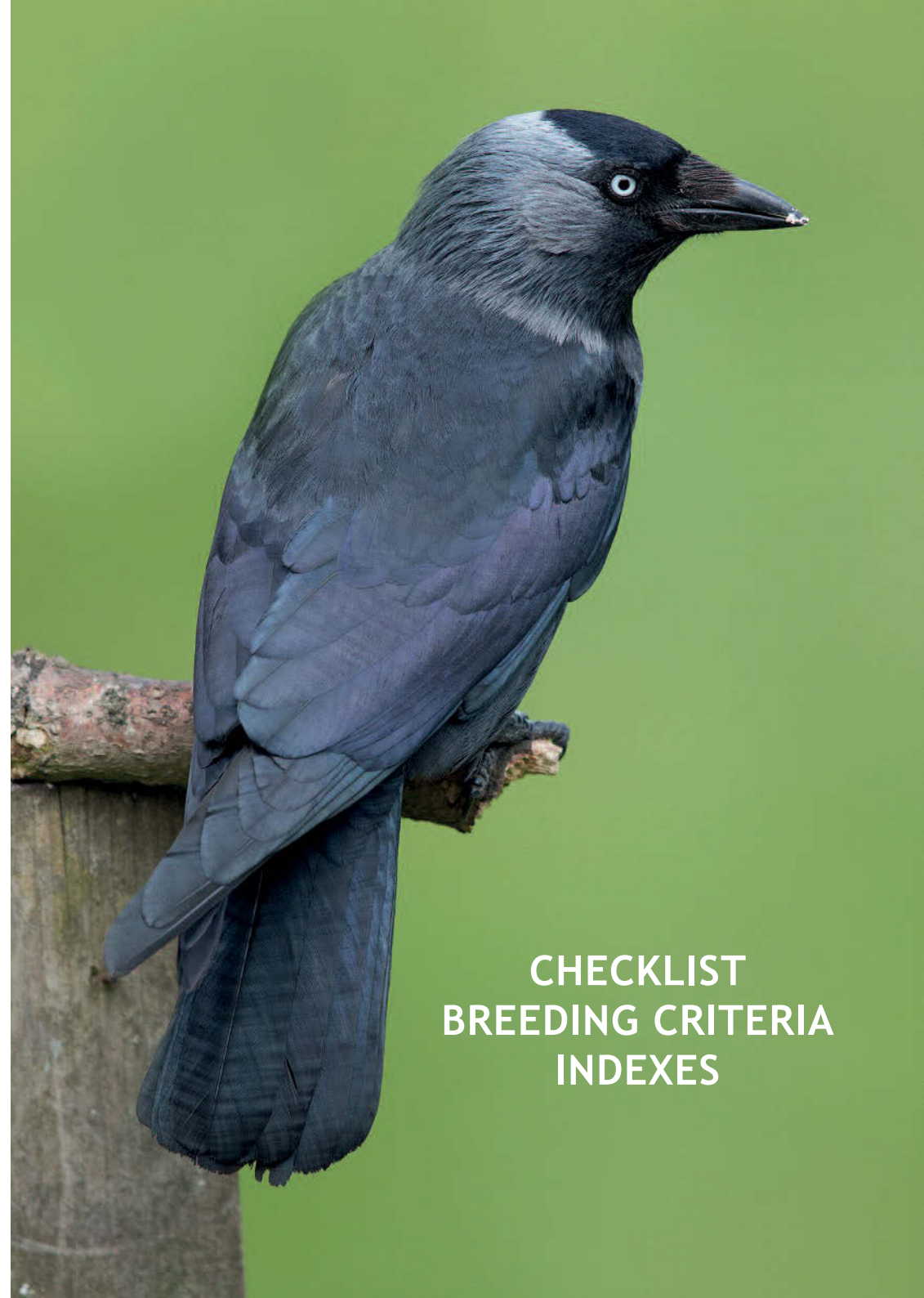
John Savage, the chair of the woodland group of the Friends of Sheen Common, and Rupert Kaye kindly commented on a draft of the paper.

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Errata: *LBR* 79 (2014): 232-238 - A Breeding Bird Survey of Barnes Common and Putney Lower Common, by the same author. Under [Systematic List](#), p235 & ff., Kestrel, Moorhen, Stock Dove and Kingfisher should have been in ***bold italic*** type; also, all the species under [Appendix](#), p238. The Papers Editor apologises for these errors.



CHECKLIST
 BREEDING CRITERIA
 INDEXES

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF THE LONDON AREA AND GUIDE TO CONTRIBUTORS OF RECORDS

The total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times is now 370, with the addition of Slaty-backed Gull. Of these, the 13 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, eg, out-of-season migrants. This guide does not apply to Inner London, where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed.

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

Key:

- 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

Previous page: Jackdaw. (Andrew Moon)

Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Snow Goose	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	A, D (unless obvious escape)
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
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 until 2017, when BBRC
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	A
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	BBRC until 2015, when A, D
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
Black Grouse*	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	A, D
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 away from Lower Thames
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 away from Essex marshes
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 away from Essex marshes
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 May-Sep records 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 until 2017, when A, D
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	A
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</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
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>	BBRC
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, W London reservoirs or Beddington
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, W London reservoirs or Beddington
Slaty-backed Gull	<i>Larus schistisagus</i>	BBRC
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	BBRC
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	A, D away from Lower Thames, W 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 away from Lower Thames
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	A, D
Black Guillemot*	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	A, D
Little Auk	<i>Alle alle</i>	A, D
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	A, D
Pallas's Sandgrouse	<i>Syrphantes paradoxus</i>	BBRC
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	MM, B, ST
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	MM, NR, B, ST
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	MM, B, 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
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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 until 2015, when BBRC

Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	BBRC until 2013, then A, D
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 until 2015, when BBRC
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	A
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	A
Buff-bellied Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	BBRC
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	A
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	BBRC until 2015, when A, D
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 luscinioides</i>	BBRC
Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	A, D until 2015, when BBRC
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 until 2015, when A, D
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>	BBRC if identified to subspecies, otherwise 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 until 2015, when A, D
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>Chloris chloris</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	MM, NR, B, P, ST
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	MM, NR, B, W
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	A, D
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	MM, NR, P, S
Mealy Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	A
Arctic Redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>	BBRC if identified to subspecies, otherwise 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 until 2015, when BBRC
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 Chair of the Editorial Board 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.

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.

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